



1961 Round 13 Saturday 15th July North Sydney Oval



North Sydney 13

def.

Western Suburbs 10

Brian CARLSON (c)
 Ken IRVINE
 Paul HATTON
 Mick MAHER
 Doug BLINKHORN
 Dave HOLMAN
 Mick CASEY
 Barry LEVIDO
 John BROWN
 John POLLARD
 Harold BLINKHORN
 Norm STRONG
 Ron POTTER

Fullback
Wing
Centre
Centre
Wing
Five-eighth
Half
Lock
Second Row
Second Row
Front Row
Hooker
Front Row

Harry WELLS (c)
 Dave BARSLEY
 Fred NORDEN
 Bill BROWN
 Peter DIMOND
 Roger BUTTENSCHAW
 Keith HOLMAN
 Kevin SMYTH
 Bill CARSON
 John HAYES
 Denis MEANEY
 Noel KELLY
 Nev CHARLTON



Tries Mick MAHER

Roger BUTTENSCHAW (2)

Goals Brian CARLSON (5)

Keith HOLMAN (2)

Match Description

North Sydney: Full-back: B Carlson (c); three-quarters: K Irvine, P Hatton, M Maher, D Blinkhorn; five-eighth: D Holman; half: M Casey; forwards: B Levido, J Brown, J Pollard, H Blinkhorn, N Strong, R Potter

Western Suburbs: Full-back: H Wells (c); three-quarters: D Barsley, F Norden, W Brown, P Dimond; five-eighth: R Buttenschaw; half: K Holman; forwards: K Smyth, J Hayes, W Carson, D Meaney, N Kelly, N Charlton **Referee: K Parkinson (The Sun 15th July 1961)**

North Sydney Rugby League team, after four straight losses, yesterday toppled competition leader Western Suburbs 13-10 at North Sydney Oval. North's win brings it right into semi-final calculations. Full-back Brian Carlson engineered North's win six minutes from the end when he put a penalty kick high in the air for centre Mick Maher to score a try. Norths trailed 6-10 before Carlson took the penalty kick 30 yards from Wests' line. Carlson kicked to speedy Ken Irvine's wing, but the wind upset his calculations and the ball floated in towards the goalposts. Wests' full-back Harry Wells had the kick covered until the ball hit an upright. Wells got the ball but could not hold it. Centre Maher, with Irvine alongside him, flashed up and dived on the ball for a try. Carlson took an easy kick for the winning conversion. ... Wests had the attacking power to win yesterday's game. But Norths stayed in the fight with sound bustling tactics that forced Wests into error. Wests appeared certain to win when it led 10-4 with three-quarters of the game gone. Carlson missed a number of easy penalty goal attempts, but he landed two midway through the second half to keep North's chances alive. Luck favoured North in the fateful high kick that brought about Maher's try. ... Both teams were under strength yesterday. Wests had O'Shea, Summons and Parish out. Cuneo and May were missing from Norths' line-up. Wests' five-eighth Roger Buttenschaw, who came into the team because of Summons' illness, was one of the best players on the ground. Buttenschaw and half-back Keith Holman were much too solid for the Norths' scrum-base combination of Mick Casey and Dave Holman. Wests lost little through O'Shea's absence. Replacement Bill Carson stood out among the forwards. Carson rarely was far from the ball. Wests took an early 5-0 lead after Holman kicked a penalty goal and Buttenschaw snapped up a dropped pass to score a try. Carlson kicked a penalty goal near half-time to make the score 5-2. Buttenschaw and lock-forward Kevin Smythe combined well for Buttenschaw to score his second try mid-way through the second half. Harry Wells, a regular full-back for Wests these days, had his best game for some weeks. Wells, playing more as a third centre than as a full-back, made a lot of ground with his running. Referee Keith Parkinson, deputising for injured Cliff Brown, gave Wests' hooker Noel Kelly plenty of attention in the scrums. Kelly was quieter than usual in the open. .. Wests' supporters claimed referee Parkinson robbed their team of a try when he penalised hooker Kelly after he had crossed the line. Kelly was well inside the three-yard limit in the play-the-ball, and Parkinson hardly could have ruled otherwise. **(Sunday Telegraph 16th July 1961)**

A freak bounce from an "up and under" by North Sydney captain, Brian Carlson, glanced off the goalposts, enabling Norths' centre, Mick Maher, to score the try which led to Norths' surprise 13-10 win over Wests at North Sydney Oval.....They continued to keep the game alive even after the final bell, by throwing the ball about speedily before a Wests' player was finally caught in possession. It was a sensational finish to a match that was otherwise scrappy. **(Sun-Herald 16th July 1961)**

Notes: This was a big upset with Wests short-priced favourites to win this match. Wests had a reshuffled team, with Wells again going to full-back and Norden into the centre, Holman moving back to half and Roger Buttenschaw going to five-eighth. Don Parish was a late withdrawal with chicken-pox he had apparently picked up on the New Zealand tour. It sent shivers through the whole touring team. In the end, Wests were beaten by a very lucky 'up and under' which Wells had covered until it hit the goal-post, rebounding straight in Mick Maher's arms. Noel Kelly also had a try disallowed for being off-side.