



1917 Round 13 Saturday 21st July Sydney Cricket Ground



Eastern Suburbs 14

def.

Western Suburbs 9

Dan FLANNERY
Wally MESSENGER
Leslie CUBITT (c)
Henry CAPLES
R ADAMS
Gordon WRIGHT
Ray NORMAN
W TUOU
Bob LINKLATER
Jim DUFFY
Charlie LEES
Sid PEARCE
Robert WILLIAMS

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

Athol WHITE
Tom McCAULEY
William MATTHEWS
Herb GILBERT (c)
Dick VEST
Alex McPHERSON
Alf BOSSI
Joe REIDY
Frank HOLT
Clarrie PRENTICEI
Jack REDMOND
Edward COURTNEY
William JOASS



Tries Leslie CUBITT (2)

Alf BOSSI

Goals Wally MESSENGER (4)

Alex McPHERSON (3)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: D Flannery, full-back; W Messenger, H Caples, L Cubitt, R Adams, three-quarters; D Wright, Ray Norman, halves; C Lees, R Williams, S Pearce, J Duffy, R Linklater, T Tjou, forwards

Western Suburbs: A White, full-back; S D Matthews, H Gilbert, T Boland, R Vest, three-quarters; A McPherson, A Bossi, halves; C W Prentice, W Joass, J Reidy, F Holt, E Courtney, J Redmond, forwards **Referee, Mr C Russell**

Eastern Suburbs had considerably the better of play in the opening stages, compelling the opposition to force on a number of occasions. Western Suburbs were working out when Wright cleverly intercepted, and after a good run, passed to Cubitt, who scored at the goal; Messenger converted. Soon afterwards the E.S. forwards heeled, and Norman passed to Wright, to Cubitt, who cleverly dodged White and scored his second try, which Messenger again converted. 10 to nil. Just before the interval, McPherson kicked a penalty goal. Half-time, Eastern Suburbs 10 to 2.

Western Suburbs were aggressive at the start of the second term, and McPherson kicked another penalty. They kept up the offensive, and Bossi, securing from the scrummage, dodged across; McPherson failing at goal. 10 to 7. E.S. again took a hand, and Messenger landed two penalty goals. Shortly before the finish McPherson kicked a penalty goal for Western Suburbs. Eastern Suburbs winner, 14 to 9. Joass retired in the second half with an injury to his arm. **(Sunday Time 22nd July 1917)**

Wests are not living up to the reputation they gained during the early stages of this years' competition. Their successes may have made them careless, but they never looked like having a chance on Saturday, Easts lobbed off with a good try by Les Cubitt, whose billiard table training has got him into the finest of condition. To show the first try was no fluke the "Hoboe" again came to light. Wally Messenger converted both of these tries, and Easts had a comfortable lead of 10-0. Merry McPherson raised a couple for Wests with a penalty goal. Puss Bossi got Wests' only try, but McPherson landed two more goals. Wally Messenger kept himself in the picture by getting two goals for Easts. Ranji Joass had to leave the arena with a damaged arm. It is a rare occasion for the dark gentleman to have to turn it in; but old age must be creeping on him. It is rumoured out in the fruit-pickers' district that Wests are lying low for the sinkers attached to the knock-out competition. It might be right, but Wests will have to do a lot better than they did on Saturday to have a chance. Dockem's team would give them a fair way to go the way they are playing lately. **(The Sydney Sportsman 25th July 1917)**

Notes: Ranji Joass injured his arm, putting him out of the last match against Glebe. Wests didn't seem to be playing as well as earlier and the comment in *The Sportsman* is interesting about Wests possibly running dead to be ready for the knock-out City Cup competition. Surely not! Easts seemed to have comprehensively out-played them in this game, although McPherson kept up his good kicking form. The reserves of Gagan, Dowsell and Carroll didn't play. The big news from this round was the forfeit of Glebe to Balmain. Glebe was still seething over having had competition points taken off them from a match against Annandale and also being forced to play at Birchgrove when they should have had a city match at The Cricket Ground. The administration reacted harshly and banned 14 players until 1919; top players too – S Pert, T Leggo, E Swinson, F Burge, A Gray, L Burge, D Brolly, C O'Donnell, M Scannell, A Johnston, H Angus, A B Burge, W Benson, W Butler. Sid Pert was a bit stiff; he was already serving a suspension and wouldn't have played anyway! It meant that Wests would play Glebe's reserve grade in the following round.