



1954 Round 13 Saturday 3rd July Pratten Park



South Sydney 28

def.

Western Suburbs 18

Don MURDOCH
 Ian MOIR
 Martin GALLAGHER
 Kevin WOOLFE
 Les BRENNAN
 Johnny DOUGHERTY
 Ray MASON
 Les COWIE
 Jack RAYNER (c)
 Bernie PURCELL
 Denis DONOGHUE
 Ernie HAMMERTON
 Jim RICHARDS

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

George BAIN
 Ernie CHURCH
 Jack FITZGERALD (c)
 Dev DINES
 Barry OWEN
 Don GRAHAM
 Max GODFREY
 Nev CHARLTON
 Bill CARSON
 Bill OWENS
 Max CALDWELL
 Jim FLEMING
 John HARRISON



Tries

Ian MOIR (2)
 Les BRENNAN
 Les COWIE
 Jack RAYNER
 Bernie PURCELL

Max GODFREY
 Jack FITZGERALD

Goals

Bernie PURCELL (3)
 Don MURDOCH (2)

George BAIN (6)

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back: D Murdoch; three-quarters: L Brennan, K Woolfe, M Gallagher, I Moir; five-eighth: J Dougherty; half: R Mason; forwards: L Cowie, J Rayner (capt), B Purcell, J Richards, E Hammerton, D Donoghue

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: B Owen, J Fitzgerald, D Dines, E Church; five-eighth: D Graham; half: M Godfrey; forwards: N Charlton, W Owens, W Carson, J Harrison, J Fleming, M Caldwell **Referee: C Pearce (as per program Rugby League News 3rd July 1954)**

Scoring six tries to two, South Sydney Rugby League men comfortably beat Western Suburbs 28-18 at Pratten Park yesterday. Souths' six tries were all scored in the first half. Starting with a brilliant burst, Ian Moir, Souths' flying left winger, scored two dazzling tries in a matter of minutes. The tries by Les Brennan, Len Cowie, captain Jack Rayner and Bernie Purcell gave South a lead of 24-7 at half-time. Souths played listlessly after lemons and a try by Fitzgerald and four goals by full-back George Bain gave Wests' supporters some hope of a win. Bain brought up his 100 points for the season with six goals during the match. Souths' best forward was Purcell, who kicked three goals, but had to leave the field midway through the second half with a leg injury. Souths' centres Kevin Woolfe and Martin Gallagher cost their team many possible points by selfish hanging on. Fed a feast of the ball in the first half, Souths' wingers Brennan and Moir were starved during the second period. Don Murdoch was a capable replacement for Clive Churchill in the full-back position for Souths. Star forward for Wests was lock Neville Charlton, who received able support from second-rower Barry Owens. Souths' halves Ron Mason and John Dougherty looked better than their opponents Godfrey and Graham. Rayner played his typical rugged game for Souths, and Cowie was always dangerous with the loose ball. **(Truth 4th July 1954)**

South Sydney forward Bernie Purcell limped from the field 15 minutes from the end of the match against Western Suburbs at Pratten Park. He grimaced in pain from a severe knee injury and had to receive assistance to the dressing-rooms. South Sydney won 28-18 after leading 24-7 at half-time. Purcell had scored nine points from a try and three goals. He left the field after telling his captain Jack Rayner he could not carry on. Purcell twisted his knee when he was foolishly tackled by two Western Suburbs forwards long after referee C. Pearce's whistle had signalled a breach. He said in the dressing-room that another tackle might have put him out for the remainder of the season. South Sydney scored six tries in the first half, and seemed set for a "cricket score" win. Spectators were astounded when Western Suburbs took control of the match in the second half and allowed South Sydney only four points. These came from easy penalty kicks. South Sydney won all but six of the set scrums and Western Suburbs' backs were set an impossible task. South Sydney virtually won the match in the first 15 minutes of play when Moir (2) and Purcell scored three tries. Purcell's try, which opened the scoring, came from a disputed movement when winger Ian Moir appeared to throw a forward pass. Purcell gathered after the ball had bounced in front of Moir and went over Western Suburbs' line unopposed. For Western Suburbs, George Bain kicked six goals and Jack Fitzgerald and Max Godfrey scored tries. **(The Daily Telegraph 4th July 1954)**

Notes: Souths jumped to an early lead with three quick tries and Wests never recovered, although they did play strongly in the second half, holding Souths to four points. Nev Charlton maintained his excellent form but the back-line, without Holman, were very pedestrian. Jim Fleming was beaten badly again in the scrums and the lack of ball and the absence of Holman were telling factors.