



## 1956 Round 14 Saturday 14th July Redfern Oval



### Western Suburbs 12

def.

### South Sydney 3

George BAIN  
Cliff SMAILLES  
Harry WELLS  
Darcy HENRY  
Ernie HILLS  
Ian JOHNSTON  
Keith HOLMAN (c)  
Nev CHARLTON  
Kel O'SHEA  
Bill CARSON  
Mark PATCH  
Jim FLEMING  
Ron WATSON

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

Don MURDOCH  
Ian MOIR  
Martin GALLAGHER  
Frank LLOYD  
Kevin TURNER  
John DOUGHERTY  
Col DONOHOE  
Les COWIE  
Bernie PURCELL  
Jack RAYNER (c)  
Jimmy RICHARDS  
Ernie HAMMERTON  
Bob MOON

#### Tries

Nev CHARLTON  
Kel O'SHEA

Jack RAYNER

#### Goals

George BAIN (3)

#### Match Description

**South Sydney:** Full-back: D Murdoch; three-quarters: I Moir, M Gallagher, F Lloyd, K Turner; five-eighth: J Dougherty; half: C Donohoe; forwards: L Cowie, B Purcell, J Rayner (c), J Richards, E Hammerton, B Moon

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: E Hills, H Wells, D Henry, C Smailes; five-eighth: I Johnston; half: K Holman (c); forwards: N Charlton, W Carson, K O'Shea, M Patch, J Fleming, R Watson **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 14th July 1956)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday defeated competition leader South Sydney 12-3 in a hard match at Redfern Oval. Wests led 5-0 at half-time. Wests' win was its fifth in six matches. Wests is out of semi-final calculations because of indifferent early-season form. Yesterday Wests' forwards unmercifully battered a determined South Sydney pack into defeat. The match was one of the hardest in Sydney club football this season. Almost every South Sydney player showed signs of the gruelling match. Tough second-rower Bernie Purcell was taken to South Sydney Hospital with a fractured cheek-bone. Purcell suffered the injury late in the second half, but after receiving ambulance attention he resumed play. After the match Purcell was in a daze in the dressing-room and ambulance officers carried him out on a stretcher. Burly front-rower Jimmy Richards received a broken nose. Captain-Coach Jack Rayner reopened a deep gash above the left eye in the first half. He finished the match with his head bandaged. Wests always held a slight edge and thoroughly deserved its win. Wests' pack outplayed Souths' forwards after a hard struggle, while the backs always appeared dangerous. Wests' five-eighth Ian Johnston, lock Nev Charlton, and centre Harry Wells all enhanced their claims for State selection. Johnston overshadowed his opponent John Dougherty. His resourceful dashes often regained Wests the initiative. Wells gave Wests' supporters a glimpse of the "real Wells" for the first time this season. He defended stoutly and several crashing centre-field runs were reminiscent of the Wells of the 1954 Test series against England. Wests' full-back George Bain kicked an easy penalty three minutes after the start. There was no further score until five minutes before half-time although both teams attacked constantly. Then Wests' second-rower Kel O'Shea pounced on a loose ball 15 yards from Souths' line. He gave the ball out to Holman, but Holman found his way to the line barred by a wall of defenders. Holman wheeled around quickly, and O'Shea, backing up, took the pass to cross near the posts. Wests scored a similar try midway through the second half when O'Shea, Johnston and Charlton combined to send Charlton over the line. Souths replied with a characteristic Rayner try. Five-eighth Dougherty ran wide on the blind. He was tackled but played the ball quickly for Rayner to pick up and score wide out. The constant pressure of the Wests forwards then began to tell, and following two penalty goals to full-back Bain, West was on top near the end. **(Sunday Telegraph 15th July 1956)**

Western Suburbs' million dollar babies struck the jackpot yesterday when they easily defeated Souths 12-3 in a rather ragged League match at Redfern Oval. The Magpies fought hard from the opening whistle and never allowed Souths to hit top stride. Their brick-wall defence repeatedly smashed many of Souths' best movements. Their backline was far too rugged for the Rabbitohs. Souths tried hard to bridge the gap but failed to match Wests, who were relentless in attack. .... Test half, Keith Holman, swung West's attack from one side of the field to the other, and he always had our boys in two minds with his clever variation of tactics. Holman spoilt an otherwise good display from behind the scrum by back-chatting referee, Darcy Lawler. Keith is much too experienced a player to be guilty of such a silly breach. .... O'Shea played one of his best games. His backing-up was terrific, and the Magpies scored two tries from his tireless work. However, I thought the main destroyer for Wests was Harry Wells. Harry had a rather quiet first half, but he went like a rocket after the break and bashed his way through our centres with powerful runs. .... **(Truth 15th July 1956)**

**Notes:** Wests, with an unchanged team, were finally starting to hit their straps. Harry Wells found his top form in the second half, while Kel O'Shea was in devastating form, setting up two tries. George Bain kicked three good goals in his comeback match.