



1949 Round 14 Saturday 16th July Sports Ground



Balmain 17

Jack DAVIS
 Robert LULHAM
 Kevin HARMEY
 Harold GWYER
 Leo NOSWORTHY
 Tom LAWLER
 Bill SNEDDON
 John CAMPBELL
 Fred De BELIN (c)
 Sid RYAN
 Jim THOMSON
 Ken FOGARTY
 Jack SPENCER

def.

Western Suburbs 7

Bill KEATO
 Dick McKELVEY
 Colin MAXWELL (c)
 Jack WOODS
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Frank STANMORE
 Keith HOLMAN
 Peter McLEAN
 Don MILTON
 Kevin HANSEN
 George LOVELL
 Alan HORNERY
 Bill HORDER



Tries Fred De BELIN
 Harold GWYER
 Kevin HARMEY

Peter McLEAN

Goals Jack DAVIS (4)

Bill KEATO (2)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: J Davis; three-quarters: R Lulham, K Harmey, L Nosworthy, H Gwyer; five-eighth: T Lawler half: W Sneddon; forwards: J Campbell, F De Belin (capt), S Ryan, J Spencer, K Fogarty, J Thomson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: R McKelvey, C Maxwell (capt), J Fitzgerald, J Woods; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: K Holman; forwards; P McLean, D Milton, K Hansen, W Horder, A Hornery, G Lovell **Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News 27th August 1949)**

The Balmain anti-tank regiment functioned very efficiently against Western Suburbs in the League match of the day at the Sports Ground yesterday, enabling the side to win decisively 17-7. Last week the bulky and mobile Western Suburbs forwards steam-rolled their St. George opponents and enabled the team to score a surprise win. They tried the same tactics on Balmain yesterday, but the results were vastly different. They found themselves effectively stopped by a rugged defence that never wilted and finally it was the Wests' forwards whose play took on a loose and ragged air. This battle of the forwards, which the Balmain six won in every department but the set scrums, was undoubtedly the deciding factor in the match. But the winning pack does not get all the credit. The Balmain backs, with the minor share of the ball, showed out finely in a number of attacking moves and all defended as grimly as the forwards. Balmain's tactics were to prevent giant forwards Hansen, Horder and Co: from bashing their way through, and the players were also determined not to let the slippery half-back Holman runabout, as he has in recent matches. They accomplished all these things, and, when the chances came, attacked very effectively themselves. Wests, down 8-2 at half-time, looked like making a very interesting finish of it until well in the second half, particularly when Balmain full-back Davis was uncertain with the sun in his eyes, but faded out and finished a well beaten side. As usual, the team got a great share of the ball from the scrums, Hornery winning them 27-16, but faulty handling, no doubt caused by the vigorous Balmain' tackling, nullified many movements. Holman, who has been the attacking star of the team's recent matches, found it difficult to penetrate, and Stanmore, who tackled finely, had the same problem. Stanmore kicked with good judgment, but Woods overdid it. Lock forward McLean, who scored the team's only try by barging over, did a lot of solid defensive work, and Milton and Hornery kept up the pressure. Hansen made some runs late in the game, but usually went too far and Horder was below his best form. Wests opened the attack, and the early play was mostly in Balmain territory. But it was Balmain who scored first. Keato kicked a penalty from in front for Wests, but missed with three others and a field-goal attempt before half-time. Balmain's second-half try was the best of the match. It went right along the back line. Nosworthy broke through and sent a beautifully timed pass to Lulham. Keato got to Lulham, but the winger got the ball inside to Harmey, who scored. Davis kicked the goal to make it 13-2. Then Wests, after storming the Balmain line for some minutes, managed to pierce the defence and McLean got his try. McKelvey was forced out in the corner soon after from a blind-side move, and from this point the, West offensive began to peter out. Davis got two more goals to complete the Balmain scoring. **(The Sun 17th July 1949)**

Notes: Athol Smith, Balmain coach, came up with a set of tactics to stifle the brilliant play of Hansen and Holman and they worked. Fred De Belin took on Kevin Hansen every time he tried one of his crashing runs through the ruck and while Hornery won the scrums 27-13, Holman and Stanmore were bottled up effectively, especially by Lawler. Dick McKelvey had a try disallowed when he supposedly hit the corner post but the fierce tackling made it difficult to reproduce the form of the previous week against St George