



1961 Round 14 Saturday 22nd July Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 16

def.

St George 13

Fred NORDEN
 Dave BARSLEY
 Peter DIMOND
 Bill BROWN
 John MOWBRAY
 Roger BUTTENSCHAW
 Keith HOLMAN (c)
 Kevin SMYTH
 Bill CARSON
 Kel O'SHEA
 Denis MEANEY
 Noel KELLY
 Mark PATCH

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

Brian GRAHAM
 Geoff WEEKES
 John RILEY
 Dave BROWN
 Johnny KING
 Johnny STATHERS
 Bob BUGDEN
 Brian CLAY
 Norm PROVAN
 Kevin RYAN
 Bill WILSON (c)
 Peter ARMSTRONG
 Kevin BROWN

Tries Dave BARSLEY (2)

Dave BROWN
 Johnny KING
 Kevin RYAN

Goals Keith HOLMAN (5)

Brian GRAHAM (2)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: B Graham; three-quarters: G Weekes, J Riley, D Brown, J King; five-eighth: J Stathers; half: R Bugden; forwards: B Clay, N Provan, K Ryan, W Wilson (c), P Armstrong, K Brown

Western Suburbs: Full-back: F Norden; three-quarters: D Barsley, W Brown, P Dimond, J Mowbray; five-eighth: R Buttenshaw; half: K Holman (c); forwards: K Smyth, K O'Shea, W Carson, D Meaney, N Kelly, M Patch **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 22nd July 1961)**

In a tense he-man struggle of Rugby League football yesterday, Western Suburbs defeated the mighty St George by 16 points to 13 at the Sydney Cricket Ground. ... Cautions for over-indulgence in brawn were handed out by Darcy Lawler, the referee. The game excelled as a spectacle. It held the crowd's interest from kick-off to final bell. The crowd was very much in Test match mood. It hooted the first appearance of both teams and referee as they marched onto the field. But the hoots became an orchestration of applause for the full 80 minutes of play. The game was waged in one continual roar from the 27,000 full-throated fans. Western Suburbs fully merited their impressive victory, even if the difference in points was small. But the full-time bell was sweet music to the Western Suburbs partisans. The game sparkled with speed. Dashing raid after raid was engineered by one side, then the other. Five of these movements were capped off by brilliant tries scored by Dave Barsley (2) of Wests, and Johnny King, Kevin Ryan and Dave Brown of St George. The team that scored the most tries lost the game. It was the goal-kicking of Keith Holman that made the difference. He kicked five goals from six attempts. Four of these goals were kid kicks in front, and the fifth was a superb goal near the touchline. At all times the struggle was hard. It was fast and open. Big, rollicking forwards gate-crashed through the rucks, bowling over everything in their path until they reached the wide open spaces when some anaemic tackle brought them to earth. After 22 minutes St George stormed the Western line like commandos. Bobby Bugden shot through the ranks, sent to Brown, on to Riley. But Riley lost the ball in the tackle. Barsley, Wests' winger saw his chance. Picking up the loose ball, he raced through to score a try at the very time his team was defending. .. The last five minutes of the first half produced champagne football. Bobby Bugden played the blind-side from a scrum success, and sent to Norm Provan. The big fellow bolted towards the line. He positioned Kevin Ryan, who knocked off Holman, and then set himself to bulldoze through full-back Fred Norden. It was a grand try and gave St George the lead, 8-7. St George incurred a scrum penalty in front of goal, and Holman's kick gave Wests a half-time lead of 9-8. Barsley collapsed walking on to the field after resumption, and received medical attention on the side-line. The Saints bombarded the line for 10 minutes, yet it was Wests who added another two points to their tally. O'Shea found the line with a penalty punt, 50 yards down near the corner where Holman kicked a very fine goal. Wests 11-8. Then came the try of the match. Provan made the run through, splitting the defence in two. He passed to Riley who, after skirting the touch-line, sent inside to Brown who scored. The best player on the field in my opinion was Wests' full-back Fred Norden. Norm Provan, Kevin Ryan and Bobby Bugden excelled for St George. **(Sunday Mirror 23rd July 1961)**

Notes: Don Parish, Harry Wells, John Hayes and Nev Charlton were all playing for NSW in Queensland while St George were missing Reg Gasnier. Mark Patch, remarkably, came back to First Grade because of the re-shuffle. This was the first defeat of St George since the 1958 semi-final and Barsley and Norden were the stars who made it happen. This was a typically ferocious game with a very large number of cautions handed out. Dave Barsley collapsed after the match, having great difficulty in breathing due, unusually, to a severe throat cramp.