



1948 Round 14 Saturday 24th July Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 37

def.

North Sydney 5

Bill KEATO
Pat LEAL
Lindsay RODDA
Eric BENNETT
Col HUDSON
Frank STANMORE
Neville HOGAN
Peter McLEAN
Bernie PURCELL
Kevin HANSEN
Bill HORDER
Alan HORNER
Jack WALSH (c)

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

Bill MIDDLETON
Alf AUSTIN
Keith MIDDLETON
W O'BRIEN
Allan LAWSON
John SULLIVAN
Max SULLIVAN
John OLIVE
Len WILLAN (c)
Harry SYKES
Joe CASEY
Ron PRIEST
A FORBES

Tries

Pat LEAL (2)
Col HUDSON (2)
Kevin HANSEN
Bill HORDER
Alan HORNER
Bill KEATO
Lindsay RODDA

Alf AUSTIN

Goals

Bill KEATO (4)
Bernie PURCELL (1)

Bill MIDDLETON (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: C Hudson, L Rodda, E Bennett, P Leal; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: N Hogan; forwards: P McLean, B Purcell, K Hansen, J Walsh, A Hornery, W Horder

North Sydney: Full-back: W Middleton; three-quarters: A Austin, A Lawson, K Middleton, W O'Brien; five-eighth: J Sullivan; half: M Sullivan; forwards: J Olive, L Willan(c), H Sykes, J Casey, R Priest, A Forbes **Referee: A Oxford (Rugby League News 14th August 1948)**

In a hard, fierce game in which blows were struck, Western Suburbs beat North Sydney- 37-5 yesterday. Wests thus retains its competition lead. Just before half-time a scrum packed down near touch at half-way. Before the ball entered, Casey's head came up and a right-hand punch lifted him in the air and draped him unconscious against his teammates. When they broke up he fell to the ground unconscious. While he was being revived, Referee Aub. Oxford cautioned Walsh. The referee ruled that Casey had contributed to the incident and cautioned him when he came round. A feature of the game was the display of Wests' winger, Col Hudson, who stepped up from third grade and scored two good tries. **(The Sun 25th July 1948)**

In one of the fiercest forward battles seen for years, Wests walloped Norths 37-5 at Pratten Park yesterday. About 15 minutes before halftime a scrum went down on Norths' 25 and suddenly heads came up and Casey (Norths) was knocked clean out. Both Wests' captain, J. Walsh and Norths' forward, J. Casey, were cautioned twice by referee. A. Oxford. A few minutes after these incidents, the game was slightly out of control when the forwards broke from a scrum and exchanged punches. Ref. Oxford astounded the crowd when he sent off the two hookers Hornery (Wests) and Priest (Norths). Best Wests' backs were Stanmore, Bennett and Hudson; forwards Walsh, Purcell and Hansen. Outstanding for Norths were Austin, Lawson, K. Middleton in the backs, Casey, Willan, and Olive in the forwards. **(Truth 25th July 1948)**

Bill Keato's try on Saturday was the result of brilliant backing up. Billy has struck his best form and he will be a tower of strength to us in the hard games to come.....lock forward, Peter McLean, is doing a grand job in his position, his backing up and ability to stop the opposing halves from running being outstanding...on his display on Saturday last, Kevin Hansen must be rated as one of the unlucky ones not to be in the team for England. Kevin has now fully recovered from the injury received in the trial games which kept him out of the big games early in the season. **(Rugby League News 31st July 1948)**

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Notes: Norths fielded a depleted side and the tactics seemed to be to put on the biff. In one of the most ferocious forward clashes seen in years, numerous cautions were handed out. Jack Walsh and Casey had a running battle where each was cautioned three times and then, in the middle of a scrum, Casey was knocked unconscious. Jack Walsh was cautioned and then, when Casey regained consciousness, he was cautioned as well!! Pat Leal continued his try-scoring spree and Col Hudson, who made his debut from thirds, impressed with two tries. Both hookers, Hornery and Priest, were sent off late in the game after another scrum ended in a brawl.