



1954 Round 14 Saturday 24th July Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 21

def.

Eastern Suburbs 10

George BAIN
 Dev DINES
 Ernie CHURCH
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Barry OWEN
 Don GRAHAM
 Keith HOLMAN (c)
 Nev CHARLTON
 Bill CARSON
 Bill OWENS
 Max CALDWELL
 Hec FARRELL
 John HARRISON

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

Barry RUSSELL
 Frank LAWRENCE
 Robert THOMAS (c)
 Kevin McDONALD
 Danny BYRNES
 Ken Van HEEKEREN
 Ron SUDLOW
 Ray CHRISTOPHER
 Kevin BYRNES
 Jim CAMPBELL
 Bill DOWSLEY
 Don SINCLAIR
 John BELL

Tries

Nev CHARLTON
 Bill OWENS
 Barry OWEN
 Keith HOLMAN
 Ernie CHURCH

Danny BYRNES
 Jim CAMPBELL

Goals

George BAIN (3)

Barry RUSSELL (2)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: D Russell; three-quarters: D Byrnes, K McDonald, R Thomas, F Lawrence; five-eighth: K Van Heekeren; half: R Sudlow; forwards: R Christopher, K Byrnes, J Campbell, W Dowsey, D Sinclair, J Bell

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: B Owen, E Church, J Fitzgerald, D Dines; five-eighth: D Graham; half: K Holman (c); forwards: N Charlton, W Carson, W Owens, J Harrison, H Farrell, M Caldwell **Referee: A Shiner (The Daily Mirror 24th July 1954)**

Prompt action by Rugby League referee Austin Shiner yesterday stopped an open brawl between Eastern Suburbs and Western Suburbs at the Sports Ground. Shiner sent off front-row forward Max Caldwell and hooker Hector Farrell (West) and second-row forward Kevin Byrnes and hooker Don Sinclair (East) for fighting. Western Suburbs won 21-7 after having led 10-2 at half-time. The game was very tame until 15 minutes from the final bell, when the players were sent off. Easts' centre Kev McDonald heavily tackled Wests' five-eighth Don Graham and injured his shoulder, causing Graham to leave the field. The tackle was legitimate, but appeared to put the players of both sides on edge. Shortly afterwards Easts' forward Bill Dowsley heavily tackled Wests and Kangaroo half Keith Holman. Holman did not have the ball at the time. Tempers on both sides flared, and Easts' forward Jim Campbell and Wests' forward Bill Carson were cautioned. In the next ruck punches were thrown. Caldwell and Byrnes were ordered off the field. Farrell and Sinclair followed shortly afterwards. A general brawl appeared certain but Shiner stopped play and issued a general caution to both teams. This had the desired effect and the players settled down to a calm finish. Holman fed his backs smartly, but his general play was below his best. Easts' forwards were out-rucked and gave a poor display. Wests were far superior on the day, scoring five tries to two by Easts. Lock Neville Charlton starred for West and constantly made openings for the backs. He scored a try between the posts after a 50-yard bumping run. Australian half-back Keith Holman scored a try when he fooled the defence 20 yds from the goal-line by a change of pace. **(The Daily Telegraph 25th July 1954)**

.... Until midway through the second half the game had been quiet and the standard of play low. But 20 minutes after halftime an Easts' player flattened Wests' five-eighth Don Graham as he got rid of the ball. Graham was carried off. Graham earlier was off the field with an injury. Graham's injury invoked retaliation and seldom was a player tackled without being "roughened up" at the same time. Keith Holman was bleeding at the mouth after the game. He lost much skin off his left cheekbone. Western Suburbs was easily the better side.) **(The Sun-Herald 25th July 1954)**

The return of Keith Holman and Hec Farrell brings Wests to full strength for the first time in weeks. Look out Easts!....Eddie Hooper has hung up his boots and jersey for the rest of the season. He will retain his position on our Committee – and his interest....Don Graham has football in his blood. An elder brother represented New South Wales in Rugby Union and a younger brother played full-back against England at Grafton. **(Rugby League News 24th July 1954)**

.....
Notes: The return of Hec Farrell and Keith Holman raised expectations of a good performance and they delivered the goods with a solid, if uninspiring, performance. The highlight of the match came when after a heavy tackle on Don Graham, who had to leave the field, mayhem broke out and eventually four were sent off: Max Caldwell and Hec Farrell for Wests and Kevin Byrnes and Don Sinclair for Easts. Nev Charlton continued his strong form and was the best player on the field. Don Graham was put out for the season with a broken clavicle.