



# 1956 Round 15 Saturday 21st July Cricket Ground



## Western Suburbs 23

def.

## Balmain 9

George BAIN  
Cliff SMAILLES  
Peter HARGREAVES  
Don MEEHAN  
Ernie HILLS  
Ian JOHNSTON  
Pat DALEY  
Nev CHARLTON  
Kel O'SHEA (c)  
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**

Norm SWAIN  
Arthur LORIMER  
Kevin MOSMAN  
Jack ALLEYNE  
Les GELFIUS  
Alan MASON  
Brian STAUNTON (c)  
Gus GRAY  
Maurie GRIFFITHS  
Jake MOSES  
Bob HEANEY  
Nev WATT  
Jack MOON

**Tries** Ian JOHNSTON (3)

Terry McGOVERN

**Goals** George BAIN (7)

Maurie GRIFFITHS (3)

### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back: N Swain; three-quarters: A Lorimer, K Mosman, J Alleyne, L Gelfius; five-eighth: A Mason; half: B Staunton (c); forwards: G Gray, M Griffiths, J Moses, B Heaney, N Watt, J Moon

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: E Hills, P Hargreaves, D Meehan, C Smailles; five-eighth: I Johnston; half: P Daley; forwards: N Charlton, W Carson, K O'Shea, M Patch, J Fleming, R Watson **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 21st July 1956)**

Western Suburbs defeated competition leader Balmain 23-9, at Sydney Cricket Ground.....Wests yesterday played solidly and outclassed Balmain. Wests' five-eighth, Ian Johnston, answered the League selectors, who last Saturday omitted him from the State team. Johnston scored Wests' three tries. He was also the big power in Wests' general play. Johnston's tries were not individual efforts. In each try he worked himself into position to take the final pass after another player had made the opening. Johnston currently is the State's form five-eighth. He should have been in the State team which played Queensland in Brisbane yesterday. After the match Wests' coach Jack Walsh commented: "Johnston must get into the Australian Kangaroos to tour England and France. In recent weeks he has outplayed every five-eighth he has met." Wests yesterday got the run of play throughout its match with Balmain. During the first half Balmain made several inspired sorties. Half-back Brian Staunton, hooker Nev Watt, and five-eighth Alan Mason crossed the line, but referee Darcy Lawler disallowed them tries. He ruled Staunton and Watt had taken forward passes and that Mason had lost the ball before touching down. These decisions were correct. But they seemed to make the Balmain players dispirited. .... Wests' hefty forwards Mark Patch and Kel O'Shea revelled in the looseness and repeatedly got the ball away to open up play. **(Sunday Telegraph 22nd July 1956)**

A spectator threw a punch at referee Darcy Lawler in the Members' Stand after the Rugby League match between Western Suburbs and Balmain at the SCG yesterday. The incident occurred on the stairs leading up to the referee's dressing room. Western Suburbs won the match 23-9, after leading 12-2 at half-time. Feeling against Lawler was high after he disallowed four tries by Balmain players during the match. Three times he recalled players in the first half and once early in the second half. .... A section of the crowd bitterly resented Lawler's rulings and hooted him as he left the field at half-time and again at full-time. One group of youths sitting in the M A Noble Stand called out to Lawler after the match: "Don't come into the Balmain district, Lawler." Wests brightened its chances of qualifying for the semi-finals with the smashing win. Defeat of Newtown, South Sydney and Balmain in yesterday's grade round has greatly strengthened Wests' chances of qualifying for the semi-finals. ... Wests, without three of its star players, never looked in danger of defeat. It mastered Balmain in every department of the game and looked more like a team leading the competition than Balmain. The three Wests players who missed yesterday's grade round were half-back Keith Holman and centres Darcy Wells and Harry Wells. .... Hooker Neville Watt gave his team a 19-13 share of the ball from the scrums, but the backs could do little with it. The match became so one-sided that many of the crowd of 16,786 began to leave 20 minutes before the end of the match. Seven minutes from the end of play only a few hundred people were scattered over the hill section. Wests' five-eighth Ian Johnston further embarrassed the State selectors with a grand game yesterday. Johnston played an outstanding game in both attack and defence. He scored three tries. Johnston scored his first try after a 40 yard run and his second after a 35-yard dash. His third try, seven minutes from the end of play, sealed Balmain's fate. Reserve half Peter Daley, and centres Peter Hargreaves and Don Meehan fitted into the West pattern without hitch and were not disgraced by their Balmain opponents. **(Sun-Herald 22nd July 1956)**

**Notes:** This was an excellent win, considering that Harry Wells, Darcy Henry and Keith Holman were out fulfilling rep duties. Referee Darcy Lawler disallowed four Balmain tries and was assaulted in the Members' Stand after the match. George Bain found his kicking boots, kicking seven out of ten, which was a major factor in the match. Ian Johnston, who had been left out of the State side, stuck it to the selectors with a best-on-ground performance. The three reserves, Daley, Meehan and Hargreaves all played well.