



1948 Round 15 Saturday 31st July Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 22

def.

Balmain 0

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

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

Dave PARKINSON
 Leo NOSWORTHY
 Tom BOURKE (c)
 George WILLIAMS
 Mitchell WALLACE
 Tom LAWLER
 Stan PONCHARD
 Gene BARAKAT
 Sid RYAN
 Pat MADDEN
 Jack SPENCER
 Bob CRANE
 Hilton KIDD

Tries Lindsay RODDA (2)
 Eric BENNETT
 Pat LEAL

Goals Bernie PURCELL (5)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: E Worne; 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, W Brown, W Horder

Balmain: Full-back: D Parkinson; three-quarters: L Noseworthy, G Williams, T Bourke (c), M Wallace; five-eighth: T Lawler; half: S Ponchard; forwards: G Barakat, S Ryan, F Madden, J Spencer, R Crane, H Kidd **Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News 21st August 1948)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League captain, Jack Walsh, played in yesterday's 22-nil defeat of Balmain at the SCG with a piece of glass in his foot. How he managed to give such a tough exhibition, astonished a doctor who examined him. The wound was so tender afterwards he could hardly put his foot on the ground. Walsh is in the glass business and got the injury at work. His father-in-law, Sid Godfrey, former Australian-boxing champion, tried on Friday night to get the foot right.Sensational incident was the sudden whipping of defence into a try-scoring attack by Lin Rodda, Western Suburbs' centre. Down in the Western Suburbs 25, Balmain half, Stan Ponchard, running with the ball, was trying to find a crevice in the defence. Swinging his arms, he whirled the ball wide, Rodda stepped in to seize it and career away for a try. Bill Brown, Western Suburbs hooker, won the ball in the scrums 40-29. That, allied with Balmain looseness around the scrum base and freedom in running for Western Suburbs forwards Hansen, Walsh and Horder, caused the Balmain ruin. ... **(The Sun 1st August 1948)**

Last season's premier team Balmain yesterday was "whitewashed" in a first grade Rugby League match for the first time in 19 years. Western Suburbs defeated Balmain 22-nil at Sydney Cricket Ground. Mr. Harold Matthews said it was the first time Balmain had failed to score since he was appointed club secretary in 1929. Although Balmain won the set scrums 25-23, Western Suburbs forwards dominated the loose rucks and crowded Balmain's inside backs. McLean was instrumental in smashing Balmain's attack. His display was one of the best by a lock -forward this year. McLean was most outstanding in the second half, after Balmain had transferred George Williams to five-eighth in place of Lawler. He at no time failed to tackle Williams when that player moved with the ball. ... Early in the second half Leal became the main menace to Balmain. He frequently changed defence into attack with strong runs down the touchline. Balmain's defeat was inevitable after Leal's try, which gave Western Suburbs a 7-nil lead. Western Suburbs then penetrated Balmain's defence almost at-will. ... Rodda's first try was the best of the match. He snapped up a loose pass by Ponchard, and ran 80 yards to score near the goal posts. Wallace raced across field and tackled Rodda on the try-line. ... Attendance was 21,171. **(The Daily Telegraph 1st August 1948)**

Owing to an attack of malaria, Bill Keato was unable to play last Saturday. Eric Worne, who was called upon to fill the position. Played an outstanding game. Eric has a great future in front of him..... Jim Seery and Jack Lackey have recovered from their injuries and resume playing today. With Don Milton OK again, our reserve grade side will certainly have a galaxy of stars in their team. **(Rugby League News 7th August 1948)**

Notes: Bill Keato, remarkably, was out with a sudden bout of malaria, obviously a legacy from his war service, and he was replaced by Eric Worne, debuting in First Grade. William Brown was back after concussion and won the scrums 40-29. Wests only led 4-0 at half-time but Leal and Rodda put on a dazzling display in the second half to run rings around their rivals, even though Eric Bennett was being closely watched by Tom Bourke. Jack Walsh showed his toughness by leading a rampaging pack, even though he had a piece of glass in his foot. It was the first time Balmain had been held pointless for 19 years.