1958 Round 16 Saturday 2nd August Pratten Park

Western Suburbs 23   def.   Balmain 15

Western Suburbs	Position	Balmain
Darcy RUSSELL (c)	*Fullback*	Frank DRAKE
John THOMPSON	*Wing*	Des HORNE
Don MALONE	*Centre*	Jack ALLEYNE
Peter DIMOND	*Centre*	Geoff HAWKEY
Bernie KELLY	*Wing*	Clarrie RUMPH
Darcy HENRY	*Five-eighth*	Billy BISCHOFF
Keith HOLMAN	*Half*	Ron CLIFFORD
Doug JONES	*Lock*	Kevin SMYTH
Bill CARSON	*Second Row*	Billy TONKIN
Kel O'SHEA	*Second Row*	Danny JOHNSTON
Mark PATCH	*Front Row*	Nev WATT
Bede GOFF	*Hooker*	Johnny O'BRIEN
Nev CHARLTON	*Front Row*	Billy MARSH (c)

Tries	Bede GOFF	Neville WATT
	Keith HOLMAN	Clarrie RUMPH
	Darcy HENRY	Frank DRAKE
	Peter DIMOND	
	Kel O'SHEA	
Goals	Darcy RUSSELL (4)	Ron CLIFFORD (1)
		Bill TONKIN (1)
		Neville WATT (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: F Drake; three-quarters: D Horne, J Alleyne, J Sinclair, C Rumph; five-eighth: W Bischoff; half: R Clifford; forwards: K Smyth, D Johnston, W Tonkin, W Marsh, J O'Brien, N Watt

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Russell; three-quarters: J Thompson, D Malone, P Dimond, B Kelly; five-eighth: D Henry; half: K Holman; forwards: D Jones, K O'Shea, W Carson, N Charlton, B Goff, M Patch   **Referee: D Lawler   (The Sun 2nd August 1958)**

Rugby League Test half-back Keith Holman rallied Western Suburbs when it was in danger of losing to a vastly improved Balmain team yesterday at Pratten Park. West won 23-15. Holman set up two tries when Wests trailed 12-7 five minutes after half-time. Holman burst through to put Wests in position for the first with a swerving 30 yards' run. Holman scored the second himself by kicking ahead on the half-way line, toeing the ball again inside Balmain's 25, and beating Balmain players to the ball as it bounced over the line. This try put Wests in front for the first time since Kel O'Shea scored wide out in the twelfth minute of play. Balmain outplayed Wests for long periods in the first half, and only desperate cover prevented it scoring enough tries to ensure a win. …. Balmain's effort was all the more praiseworthy because of Wests' hooker Bede Goff's dominance in the scrums. Goff, an under-rated forward in loose play, scored a try, almost scored another, and won 31 scrums to 11. Wests' captain Darcy Russell kicked four goals which lifted his points to this season to 160 – 18 short of Billy Keato's club record. …. Tonkin, an ungainly character when kicking for goals, surprised when he kicked one from a yard inside half-way three minutes after the interval. This was the crucial stage of the match for West. Holman met it with a typically belligerent, heady display studded with hammering tackles. Goff's try, which clinched Wests' comeback, came from a penalty a yard from Balmain's line. The tiny hooker barged over with team-mate Charlton on his back. … **(Sunday Telegraph 3rd August 1958)**

Once again Keith Holman, with a typical brilliant burst, came to the rescue of his side and enabled Wests to defeat Balmain at Pratten Park yesterday by 23 points to 15. Balmain, playing superior football, were leading 10 points to seven at half-time. Then a magnificent goal by Bill Tonkin from just inside half-way on the resumption of play had Wests in real trouble. Holman met this challenge with a glittering burst down the middle, which finished inches from the try-line. From the play-the-ball, Henry scored in the corner for Wests. Within minutes Holman was at it again. He toed a loose ball through and beat winger Des Horne to the bounce, notching a try which was converted by Russell. Wests were out of the woods, with a 15-12 lead. Despite this effort, however, it was Peter Dimond who finally put the seal on Balmain's chance of victory. Balmain were attacking strongly with Billy Tonkin in the forefront. Dimond took the ball out of Tonkin's hands and careered away in a 70 yards race to a try in the corner. Russell's gaol from touch put the issue beyond doubt. Balmain played better team football on the whole while Wests' game featured a succession of individual efforts. Hooker Goff once again won a feast of the ball for Wests with a three to one margin. … Goal-kicking full-back Barnes was sadly missed for Balmain, who tried three kickers but with little success. Half Clifford did extremely well for Balmain, particularly in the first half. As play went yesterday, Balmain would have 'won' with a reliable goal kicker. **(Truth 3rd August 1958)**

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Notes: The dominance of Holman and Goff was the feature of this match. Goff scored a try, almost scored another, and won 31 scrums to 11. Holman was completely dominant. Down 10-7 at half-time, Holman had two brilliant bursts which brought tries and finally Peter Dimond sealed the match with a 50-yard try down the sideline.