



1956 Round 16 Saturday 28th July Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 27

def.

St George 21

George BAIN
 Peter HARGREAVES
 Harry WELLS
 Darcy HENRY
 Ernie HILLS
 Ian JOHNSTON
 Keith HOLMAN (c)
 Geoff JURD
 Kel O'SHEA
 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

Doug FLEMING
 Ross KITE
 Geoff WEEKES
 Kevin O'BRIEN
 Tommy RYAN
 Peter CARROLL
 Bob BUGDEN
 Peter PROVAN
 Norm PROVAN
 Harry MELVILLE
 Bryan ORROCK
 Ken KEARNEY (c)
 Kevin BROWN

Tries

Ron WATSON
 Kel O'SHEA
 Keith HOLMAN
 Ernie HILLS
 Bill CARSON

Kevin O'BRIEN (2)
 Bobby BUGDEN
 Ross KITE
 Tommy RYAN

Goals

George BAIN (6)

Doug FLEMING (3) One field goal

Match Description

St George: Full-back: D Fleming; three-quarters: R Kite, G Weekes, K O'Brien, T Ryan; five-eighth: P Carroll; half: B Bugden; forwards: P Provan, N Provan, H Melville, B Orrock, K Kearney (c), K Brown

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: E Hills, H Wells, D Henry, P Hargreaves; five-eighth: I Johnston; half: K Holman (c); forwards: G Jurd, W Carson, K O'Shea, M Patch, J Fleming, R Watson **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 28th July 1956)**

St George Rugby League players and supporters yesterday angrily disputed two tries referee Darcy Lawler awarded Western Suburbs. Wests defeated a 12-man St George team, 27-21, at Sydney Cricket Ground. St George lock Peter Provan broke his left leg 10 minutes before half-time. Provan, who had been playing an outstanding game, was carried from the field on a stretcher and admitted to St Vincent's Hospital. Wests' front-rower Ron Watson and second-rower Kel O'Shea scored the tries which St George disputed. These tries, which full-back George Bain converted, gave Wests 10 points. St George players claimed Watson had bumped referee Lawler when going over the line for his try. They said Lawler should have ruled "dead ball" and ordered a five-yard scrum. St George players and supporters claimed O'Shea had made three movements in a tackle to cross the line. Often Wests' half-back appeared not to put the ball into the scrums. On these occasions he appeared to bang the ball against the outside forwards' legs, catch it, and run. Lawler also several times missed off-side play by Wests. Spectators in the crowd of 26,378 several times hooted Lawler. Wests, mainly because of its forwards and Holman, came to light in the closing stages. Patch and O'Shea led the forwards in vigorous sorties. Wests scored 10 points in the last seven minutes to win the match. O'Shea and Holman scored the tries, which full-back Bain converted. **(Sunday Telegraph 29th July 1956)**

... It was a bitterly hard game. The heat was on from the kick-off, and play became almost venomous in its virility. Stiff arms were let loose in the rucks. Players ploughed through with knee-action, and tackling was settled with open and snide punching. St George set the pace a cracker. They played "powerhouse" football designed to blow up the Western works among the forwards. That was their plan of campaign and it nearly came off. With a blistering counter-attack and in a spirit of never-say-die Wests battered the soul-case out of the Dragon Killers to score the two tries that won the match. It was a smasher that intoxicated friend and foe on the SCG hill. Big Kel O'Shea led the united action with a bash-barge through the rucks near the line. From a ruck, Carson scored near the posts, but St George still retained the lead 21-17. The fight was on. Holman refused to take a kick at goal right between the posts. Wests didn't bother to close up the game. They were looking for blood and were determined to get it. Then came the two victory tries. Once again, Kel O'Shea, working like a galley slave in the heat of battle, barged over for the first try, and amid terrific roars, Bain converted, giving Wests the lead 22-21. Holman kicked through after a scrum, followed on fast, won the race for the ball and touched down for a splendid try near the corner. The crowd howled its head off in delight as Bain's fine kick increased West's lead by 27-21 as the full-time bell sounded..... **(Truth 29th July 1956)**

Notes: This was an exciting match-of-the day, bathed in controversy. Wests stormed home to win but St George bitterly disputed two of the tries. Jim Fleming set the foundation with a 19-13 scrum win over Test hooker Ken Kearney. It was a rugged match, with a number of minor concussions. Holman, as usual, tackled himself to a stand-still. The loss of Peter Provan with a broken leg was a significant benefit for Wests, who nevertheless deserved this crucial win. Geoff Jurd debuted for Wests