1949 Round 16 Saturday 30th July Sports Ground

Western Suburbs 18   def.   South Sydney 13

Western Suburbs	Position	South Sydney
Bill KEATO	*Fullback*	Don MURDOCH
Dick McKELVEY	*Wing*	Alec TRACEY
Colin MAXWELL (c)	*Centre*	Norm SPILLANE
Jack WOODS	*Centre*	Ken BROGAN
Jack WALL	*Wing*	Len ALLMOND
Frank STANMORE	*Five-eighth*	Ken STEPHEN
Keith HOLMAN	*Half*	Des BRYAN
Peter McLEAN	*Lock*	Jack RAYNER (c)
Bill RAWLINSON	*Second Row*	Bernie PURCELL
Don MILTON	*Second Row*	Denis DONOGHUE
Jack WILLIAMS	*Front Row*	Jack MELVILLE
Bill HILLIARD	*Hooker*	Keith AITKEN
Vic WILLIAMS	*Front Row*	Norm NILSON

Tries	Keith HOLMAN	Des BRYAN (2)
	Peter McLEAN	Norm SPILLANE
	Frank STANMORE	
	Jack WALL	
Goals	Bill KEATO (3)	Bernie PURCELL (2)

Match Description
South Sydney: Full-back: D Murdoch; three-quarters: A Tracey, N Spillane, K Brogan, L Allmond; five-eighth: K Stephen; half: D Bryan; forwards: J Rayner (capt), B Purcell, D Donoghue, J Melville, K Aitken, N Nilson
Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: R McKelvey, C Maxwell (capt), J Wall, J Woods; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: K Holman; forwards; P McLean, D Milton, W Rawlinson, J Williams, W Hilliard, V Williams **Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News 3rd September 1949)**

Both South Sydney and Western Suburbs played five-men packs for most of the second half of yesterday's Rugby League game at the Sports Ground where Wests defended grandly in an 18-13 win. In a day of League upsets, Wests was the only team in the first four to win, and now shares third place with Balmain, with Parramatta only two points behind them. Souths' return to the five-pack that was a feature of its play in its heyday 20 years ago was prompted by a leg injury to second-rower Bernie Purcell late in the first half. …. Subsequently Wests pulled lock Peter McLean out of the pack. Wests deserved the narrow win, mainly because it capitalised its chances, while Souths frittered away many. Late in the day, when Souths threw the ball about in a thrilling effort to snatch at least a draw, half-back Des Bryan made a spectacular run from the base of a scrum outside the 25, beat the defence, and then passed to Ken Brogan, who lost the ball. Then centre three-quarter Spillane made the most brilliant sidestepping run of the match, beating man after man, only to see winger Allmond stopped a foot short of the line. ... Wests led 12-11 at the end of the first half, in which its forwards, with McLean, Rawlinson and Milton prominent, had been too vigorous for Souths. Midway through the second half Wests pulled away to lead 18-11, and then Souths launched attack after attack. Neither Holman nor Stanmore had as much latitude in the second half as in the first, although Stanmore scored one clever blind-side try. … Attendance was 16,785. **(The Sun 31st July 1949)**

In yesterday's match between Western Suburbs and South Sydney, missed chances by South Sydney's centres cost their team a win. The centres, Spillane and Brogan, missed two tries in a 15-minute sortie in the second half. Brogan, with an open line 15 yards ahead, dropped a simple pass. Spillane, with an overlap of two players on his left, cut back infield. During the same period, South Sydney lost the chance of another try when winger Allmond went over in the corner, but lost the ball. South Sydney had another chance to save the game after the final bell. Young full-back D. Murdoch, with support at half-way, decided to kick, rather than run with the ball. The failure of Spillane and Brogan may have been due to injuries. Spillane played throughout with a dislocated thumb. Brogan suffered a severe nose injury. West led 12-11 at half-time after tries by McLean and Holman, and three goals by Keato. For South, Bryan (2) and Spillane had scored tries, one of which Purcell had converted from touch. In the second half Stanmore and Wall scored tries for West, and Purcell goaled for South. Stanmore's try was the result of a magnificent solo effort from a set scrum in South's 25. In the match, Western Suburbs played with more method than South Sydney, and deserved its win. Western Suburbs' pack took a battering in the final stages. Wests' lock McLean and the halves, Holman and Stanmore, were always dangerous. McLean twisted an ankle late in the first half, and was lame for most of the second half. Before his injury, McLean had outplayed Rayner in attack and defence. Bryan shaded Holman. Attendance was 16,785. **(The Daily Telegraph 31st July 1949)**

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Notes: Jack Wall, who was to become a stalwart in 1950, made his debut, along with Bill Hilliard. This was a fast, open game and Wests' win took them to third on the table, in a day when the top four teams were all beaten. Both teams played a five man pack, allowing Don Milton to play one of his best games.