



1954 Round 16 Saturday 7th August Pratten Park



St George 19

Kevin O'BRIEN
 Ross KITE
 Keith GITTOES
 Mervyn LEES
 Kevin HOLE
 Billy McNAMARA
 Jack BAXTER
 Sid PERT
 Norm PROVAN
 Billy WILSON
 Kevin BROWN
 Ken KEARNEY (c)
 Bryan ORROCK

def.

Western Suburbs 7

George BAIN
 Barry OWEN
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Joe LESLIE
 Ernie CHURCH
 Dev DINES
 Keith HOLMAN (c)
 Keith LENNARD
 Nev CHARLTON
 Bill CARSON
 John HARRISON
 Bill OWENS
 Doug SMITH



Tries Kevin HOLE (2)
 Merv LEES (2)
 Kevin O'BRIEN

Dev DINES

Goals Ross KITE (2)

Keith HOLMAN (1)
George BAIN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: B Owen, J Fitzgerald, J Leslie, E Church; five-eighth: D Dines; half: K Holman (c); forwards: K Lennard, N Charlton, W Carson, J Harrison, W Owens, D Smith

St George: Full-back: K O'Brien; three-quarters: R Kite, K Gittoes, M Lees, K Hole; five-eighth: W McNamara; half: J Baxter; forwards: S Pert, N Provan, W Wilson, B Orrock, K Kearney, K Brown **Referee: C Pearce (The Daily Mirror 7th August 1954)**

Western Suburbs had a bad day in three departments when it went down 7-19 to St. George in the Rugby League match at Pratten Park yesterday. * Star goal-kicker George Bain missed seven of his eight attempts at goal. *St. George and Test hooker Ken Kearney won the scrums at a rate of three to one, in the second half by 19 to 4. *Wests' captain-coach, Keith Holman, decided not to take two easy kicks at goal midway through the second half when his side was down 5-13, but pressing strongly. Holman instead preferred to short kick the ball and set his players in action for a possible try. Twice this move failed and then Holman changed his tactics, giving Bain an easy kick for penalty goal but Bain missed. Despite St. George's five tries to Wests' one, the match was territorially in Wests' favour. Four of St. George's tries were started well within the side's own half. Free handling by both teams retained interest until the last 10 minutes, when St. George took control with quick tries by winger Kevin Hole and centre Merv Lees. Hole, who scored two tries, had a tooth knocked out during the second half. **(The Sun-Herald 8th August 1954)**

Playing with great brilliance after lemons following a woeful League display in the first stanza, Saints overwhelmed Wests to win by 19 to seven at Pratten Park. A jack-blunt pep talk by captain coach and international, Ken Kearney, at lemons, had the desired effect, for Saints' football, both back and forwards, rose to great heights. The fruit-pickers flattered their supporters with their breezy quick bustling tactics in the first stanza that at times rattled Saints' inside backs and forwards. However, they completely phutted out in the second half and have now blotted their copy-book for the season. The spearhead and brains behind all Saints' attacking manoeuvres was centre Merv Lee. He was in brilliant attacking vein throughout, cutting holes in the defence by brilliant constructive football, and in addition raced over for two corker tries besides making another. Norm Provan was the outstanding forward of the match. Mobile, speedy, and resourceful, he gave a non-stop display of robust football. Custodian K. O'Brien further enhanced his reputation with a great game, scoring a fine try besides making another, and handling and kicking judiciously throughout. K. Hole, who scored a brace of tries, gave an intelligent exhibition on the flank. Sid Pert shone at lock-forward, being nippy and versatile. K. Brown and K. Carney were also well in the picture throughout. For the losers Neville Charlton was the most energetic and enterprising player of the day. Playing mostly as an extra back, he made many spectacular bursts but lacked support. Of the remainder, K, Holman, D. Dines, J. Leslie (backs), K. Lennard, D. Smith (forwards), were the most conspicuous for the locals. **(Truth 8th August 1954)**

Notes: Wests tried hard in this game but George Bain's off-day with the boot (only 1/8) made it difficult to come back. Billy Owens also lost the scrums heavily and every time Wests launched raids there was a missed goal or a scrum loss against the feed. Led by Ken Kearney, St George were able to win but never really got on top.