



## 1952 Round 16 Saturday 9th August Sports Ground



### North Sydney 19

def.

### Western Suburbs 14

Alan ARKEY  
John McCLEAN  
George MARTIN  
Vince EMERY  
Peter O'BRIEN  
Robert SULLIVAN (c)  
Jim GILLON  
Peter DIVERSI  
Ben HASLAM  
Don EVENDON  
Cec WATERS  
Norm STRONG  
Lloyd HUDSON

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

George BAIN  
Jack FITZGERALD  
Gerry LOWE  
Col RATCLIFF  
Bill CALLINAN  
Ron SMITH  
Leo TREVENA  
Peter McLEAN (c)  
Ron WATSON  
Don SCHOFIELD  
Kevin HANSEN  
Bede GOFF  
Bill HORDER



**Tries**  
Vince EMERY  
Ben HASLAM  
George MARTIN

Kevin HANSEN  
Leo TREVENA

**Goals**  
Alan ARKEY (4)  
Peter DIVERSI (1)

George BAIN (4)

#### Match Description

**North Sydney:** Full-back: A Arkey; three-quarters: J McClean, G Martin, V Emery, P O'Brien; five-eighth: R Sullivan (c); half: J Gillon; forwards: F Diversi, D Evenden, B Haslam, L Hudson, N Strong, C Waters

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: W Callinan, C Ratcliffe, G Lowe, J Fitzgerald; five-eighth: R Smith; half: L Trevena; forwards: P McLean (c), D Schofield, R Watson, K Hansen, B Goff, W Horder **Referee: A Oxford (Rugby League News 30th August 1952)**

North Sydney beat the Rugby League leader, Western Suburbs, 19-14, at the Sports Ground yesterday, and so survived in the struggle to get into the semi-final four. Norths had to fight hard. Former New Zealand centre George Martin's determined try 17 minutes from the end proved a winning score. But the defeat of Wests did that team no material damage, because Manly was downed by Newtown, and Wests remains four points ahead of Manly, Souths, and St. George, with two rounds remaining. .... Yesterday's Sports Ground match on a firm field produced a good struggle for the crowd of 12,000. Wests, even though it retained its grip on the minor title, suffered a loss in prestige because the back division showed little constructive work in attack and the forwards Jacked mobility. Norths did not make the most of its good share of the ball and the use of the strong wind blowing downfield in the second half. But it played with some purpose and determination, and deserved the win. An injury to Wests' centre Colin Ratcliff made that player ineffective. His left knee "filled" early in the game. He played on, but he will have to rest from next Saturday's round. Wests' half-time lead of 14-8 did not look big enough, as Norths had won the first half scrums by two to one and was to have the wind in the second spell. Two goals by full-back Alan Arkey reduced North's deficit. Then Martin's great effort roused North supporters. The ball came from a ruck just inside half-way to Martin, who dashed between two defenders. He had his left winger McClean trailing him, but with no certainty of scoring. Martin, on reaching full-back Bain, went straight through a high tickle and finished with a spectacular dive for the corner. Arkey's great kick added the goal and the only other score was a remarkable long range goal from a wide angle by Norths' young lock Peter Diversi. There was a thrill near the finish when Wests battled for a try and goal that would have meant a draw. Trevena centred a penalty to the goal posts and Arkey dangerously knocked back the ball to Diversi who managed to force. When Wests led 14-10 in the second half a touch judge went in to report an infringement which would have meant a penalty to Wests in North's 25 yard area. But Referee Oxford had not noticed his colleague, and had already ordered a drop out from Wests' 25 yard line. Norths immediately pressed and gained a penalty goal. The scrums told a tale. North's recently promoted hooker, Norm Strong, led 8-1 in the second half and although Wests won the last four or five scrums the match had then been lost. Wests best work was in defence. .... First clever but light five-eighth Ron Smith kicked for the corner after a scrum. This led to a struggle near North's line, and burly Kevin Hansen dummied to pass and then burst through for a try. On the second occasion, Bain, who had been tackled with the ball, cleverly "dribbled" it, re-gathered and found the line. From the scrum, winger Fitzgerald, who had moved infield, returned the ball to Smith, and lock-forward McLean sent it on to Trevena. That halfback had backed up splendidly for the try, and the movement indicated that he might have been dangerous with a better share of the ball. .... **(The Sunday Herald 10th August 1952)**

**Notes:** This was a shock loss for Wests but North Sydney by all accounts played brilliantly. The two centres, Lowe and Ratcliff, were unexpectedly fragile in defence, although Col Ratcliff injured a knee early and it continued to 'blow up' during the match. Peter McLean missed scoring a try under the posts in the last minute by only inches. The loss still didn't affect Wests' premiership chances but was an important win for Norths who remained in the semi-finals race.