



1948 Round 17 Saturday 14th August Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 20

def.

St George 18

Bill KEATO
 Col HUDSON
 Lindsay RODDA
 Eric BENNETT
 Pat LEAL
 Frank STANMORE
 Neville HOGAN
 Bernie PURCELL
 Don MILTON
 Kevin HANSEN
 Bill HORDER
 William BROWN
 Jack WALSH (c)

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

Noel PIDDING
 Matthew McCOY (c)
 Kevin HARMEY
 Tom BRIGGS
 F SHEPPARD
 Ken MCKENZIE
 Noel HILL
 George JARDINE
 Ross FIELDER
 Charlie BANKS
 Vince SOORLEY
 Frank FACER
 Jack MUNN

Tries

Kevin HANSEN
 Neville HOGAN
 Pat LEAL
 Frank STANMORE

Tom BRIGGS
 Kevin HARMEY
 George JARDINE
 F SHEPPARD

Goals

Bill KEATO (4)

Ken MCKENZIE (3)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: N Pidding; three-quarters: K Harmey, T Briggs, M McCoy (c), F Sheppard; five-eighth: K McKenzie; half: N Hill; forwards: G Jardine, R Fielder, C Banks, V Soorley, F Facer, J Munn

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: C Hudson, L Rodda, E Bennett, P Leal; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: N Hogan; forwards B Purcell, D Milton, K Hansen, J Walsh (c), W Brown, W Horder **Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News 4th September 1948)**

Western Suburbs yesterday won the Rugby League first-grade minor premiership for the first time since 1934. West defeated St. George 20-18 at Pratten Park. Other matches yesterday decided the four teams for the semi-finals—Western Suburbs, Newtown, Balmain, and St. George. Although there is another round of matches to be played before the semi-finals, those teams have such a commanding lead in points that they cannot be displaced. Canterbury-Bankstown, the only other team with a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals, was surprisingly beaten by South Sydney, 22-16, at Redfern Oval. Wests celebrated its success with "small beers" in the dressing-room at Pratten Park. Players drank toasts to themselves and to Balmain. Balmain's 17-9 defeat of Newtown, which had been only two points behind Wests, clinched the minor premiership for West. West began its match against St. George determinedly, and scored eight points in the first 10 minutes while running into a strong wind. Wests' captain (Jack Walsh) had won the toss, and had surprisingly decided to run against the wind. The match was hard, and one of the best of the season. Many players were injured, but because the match was vital to both teams they refused to quit. West lock-forward Bernie Purcell, suffering from concussion, was carried from the field on a stretcher, but walked back 15 minutes later. Wests' winger Pat Leal limped badly because of a wrenched knee. St. George winger Fred Shepherd refused to go farther than the touch-line to have a pulled shoulder muscle treated. St. George forward Charlie Banks received a knock on the head and completed the match in a daze. Wests monopolised the early stages of the match. Leal and Stanmore scored tries, and Keato kicked a goal. St. George fought back, and at half-time led 10-8. Winger Shepherd, who was playing his initial first-grade match, scored St. George's first try. He revealed good pace when he received the ball with an overlap 30 yards out. Tom Briggs (centre) scored St. George's other try in the first half, after Ken McKenzie (five-eighth) had cleverly made an opening 35 yards out. Briggs went through the opening, side-stepped full-back Keato, and scored wide out. McKenzie converted Briggs' try, and a minute before half-time kicked a penalty goal. Early in the game McKenzie had failed with several easy kicks. Five minutes after the resumption, giant forward Kevin Hanson regained the lead for Wests with a brilliant try after a 35-yard run. Hanson fended off two tacklers early in the run, but as he gathered speed St. George defenders kept out of his way. Keato converted the try, which was scored between the goal-posts. St. George fought back again, and evened the scores, 13-all, when winger Kevin Harmey scored the best try of the match after he had side-stepped six defenders in a 40-yard run. Wests increased its score to 20 points within 10 minutes. Hogan scored a try and Keato kicked two goals. During the last 10 minutes players tired and the game became ragged. After the bell, St. George lock George Jardine scored a lucky try between the goalposts after one of his teammates had made an opening from a rebound kick. St. George half-back Noel Hill and Wests' forward Kevin Hanson were the stars of the match. Former international forward Herb Narvo said Hill was one of the toughest half-backs he had seen for many years. Attendance was 8400. **(The Daily Telegraph 15th August 1948)**

Notes: In a very fast-paced game Kevin Hansen and Frank Stanmore demonstrated that they were in rare form. They held Wests together when St George threw everything at them. The hard ground caused many injuries. Bernie Purcell went off on a stretcher with concussion but came back on fifteen minutes later. Pat Leal also wrenched his knee.