



1954 Round 17 Saturday 14th August Cricket Ground



Newtown 37

Ray ALDRICH
 Ray PRESTON
 Dick POOLE
 Brian CLAY
 Kevin CONSIDINE
 Ray KELLY
 Bobby WHITTON
 Peter RYAN
 Henry HOLLOWAY
 Frank NARVO
 Jim EVANS
 Frank JOHNSON (c)
 Don STAIT

def.

Western Suburbs 10

George BAIN
 Ernie CHURCH
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Joe LESLIE
 Barry OWEN
 Bill LOWE
 Keith HOLMAN (c)
 Nev CHARLTON
 Bill CARSON
 Bill OWENS
 Max CALDWELL
 Jim FLEMING
 John HARRISON



Tries

Kevin CONSIDINE (3)
 Ray PRESTON (3)
 Brian CLAY
 Peter RYAN
 Bobby WHITTON

George BAIN
 Bill CARSON

Goals

Ray ALDRICH (5)

George BAIN (2)

Match Description

Newtown: Full-Back: R Aldrich; three-quarters: K Considine, R Poole, B Clay, P Preston; five-eighth: P Kelly; half: R Whitton; forwards: P Ryan, H Holloway, F Narvo, D Stait, F Johnson, J Evans

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: B Owen, J Fitzgerald, J Leslie, E Church; five-eighth: B Lowe; half: K Holman; forwards: N Charlton, W Owens, W Carson, M Caldwell, J Fleming, J Harrison **Referee: C Brown (The Daily Mirror 14th August 1954)**

Newtown's left winger Ray Preston yesterday made a try-scoring record for a season in the Rugby League premiership when he took his tally to 30 tries, by scoring three tries against Western Suburbs at S.C.G. Previous record was 28 tries by Balmain winger Bobby Lulham in 1947. Newtown cakewalked through to a 37-10 win over West, who gave a wretched display. Many of the season's smallest S.C.G. crowd (10,405) had left the ground before the match ended..... Kevin Considine, on Newtown's right wing, also scored three tries yesterday. This was evidence of good lead-up work by the inside men, and in this respect stocky 20-year-old centre Brian Clay was outstanding. Wests had no answer to the cleverness and variety of Clay (Poole, his partner, had a comparatively quiet day), nor to the speed and elusiveness of Preston and the dash of Considine. The inexperience of many Wests' players was in evidence. But that was no alibi for the miserable attempts to stop some of the Newtown attacks in the second half. Too much was thrown upon the more experienced players, half-back Keith Holman, lock-forward Nev Charlton and full-back George Bain. Holman lacked his usual touch; Charlton did a lot of solid work; Bain began with neat line-kicking but fell away badly, then recovered late in the game and backed up to score a try. Promoted 19-year-old hooker Jim Fleming won the last seven scrums in the first half to get level with Frank Johnson; but Johnson swamped him in the second half and finished the game 28-22. Newtown had been 15-2 at half-time after having the breeze, but the penalties, 11-2, had helped Wests. In the second half, they were 6-3 to Wests. The performance was somewhat flattering to Newtown, and supporters of the club certainly won't be taking South Sydney cheaply. The forwards worked hard, but they could not take control of play and they lacked mobility. However, the combination of the backs - a determined and smart set - was impressive. Let's hope that Newtown, with a share of the ball from scrums, will not sacrifice this attacking skill by dull "spotting." Col Geelan's leg injury is likely to continue to keep him out of calculations. In any case, Clay is playing so well in attack, besides doing his work in defence, that he could not again be relegated. Half-back Ron Whitton's game was not as well balanced as it can be, and he received a couple of cautions. **(The Sun-Herald 15th August 1954)**

Holman is a great player. We all know that. But yesterday, behind a pack of forwards who had about as much backbone as a snake has hips. Holman was two-a-penny. The strength of a halfback is the strength of his supports, and yesterday his supports were on stilts. **(Truth 15th August 1954)**

.....
Notes: Wests were completely out-played in this match and there were few bright spots. Bill Lowe, recalled to replace the injured Don Graham, had a good game and Nev Charlton continued his good form. Jim Fleming, the 19 year old in for Hec Farrell, more than held his own against the experienced Frank Johnson. George Bain again only kicked 2 from 6 and both tries were scored late when Newtown took the foot off the pedal.