



1951 Round 17 Saturday 18th August Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 27

def.

St George 18

Don WORNE
 George BAIN
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Keith CULLEN
 Bob DIMOND
 Dev DINES
 Keith HOLMAN
 Peter McLEAN (c)
 Arthur COLLINSON
 Peter LONG
 Eddie HOOPER
 Alan HORNER
 Don STAIT

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

Noel PIDDING
 Bruce BURGESS
 Jack HAWKE (c)
 Matthew McCOY
 Ron ROBERTS
 Frank BAKER
 Peter CARROLL
 Noel MULLIGAN
 Norm PROVAN
 Harry MELVILLE
 Jack HOLLAND
 Neville GOSSON
 Bob BOWER

Tries

Bob DIMOND (2)
 George BAIN
 Arthur COLLINSON
 Jack FITZGERALD

Frank BAKER
 Bruce BURGESS
 Jack HOLLAND
 Matthew McCOY

Goals

Don WORNE (6)

Noel PIDDING (3)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: N Pidding; three-quarters: R Roberts, M McCoy, J Hawke (c), B Burgess; five-eighth: F Baker; half: P Carroll; forwards: N Mulligan, N Provan, H Melville, J Holland, N Gosson, R Bower

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Worne; three-quarters: R Dimond, J Fitzgerald, K Cullen, G Bain; five-eighth: D Dines; half: K Holman; forwards: P McLean (c), P Long, A Collinson, E Hooper, A Hornery, D Stait **Referee: J O'Brien (Rugby League News 8th September 1951)**

West's halfback Keith Holman starred in Western Suburbs 27-18 win against St. George at the Cricket Ground yesterday, a win that the team's place in the League semi-finals reasonably certain. But the win was mainly due to the fact that one team was slightly less scrappy than the other and neither looks very likely to topple minor premiers South Sydney. Holman, in addition to being the bright boy of the West attack, also did a tremendous amount in defence, in sharp distinction to most other players on the ground. The Test half-back is in fine and confident form and is living up to the high regard the Frenchmen have for him. The West display was scrappy, to put it mildly. The team ran to a 13-0 lead in the first 25 minutes, and in that time made the most of the chances against a woefully ragged St. George defence. Then the West's defenders lapsed and St. George added eight points, a tally that would have been increased but for players hanging on to the ball at critical times in attacking moves. On the form just before interval, West's 13-8 lead didn't look over-healthy, but a couple of penalty goals by Worne — he kicked six goals in all — kept the team ahead 17-15, with 13 minutes to go. Western Suburbs' officials were jubilant over the win, but it wasn't as impressive as all that. The team had bad defensive lapses that would be very costly against a team like South Sydney, and too much was left to Holman and lock McLean to close these gaps. Both played extremely good games, and the return of the latter has meant much to West. West had a sick man in centre Cullen in the second half, and he moved out to the wing, where he did as well as his groggy condition permitted. The other deficiency in the West's performance was the lack of any real imagination in attack, a lack that extended also to St. George. West five-eighth Dines was sore from a kick in the back. He will be x-rayed, but it is not thought that the injury is serious. The attendance was 21,076. **(The Sun 19th August 1951)**

West's captain and lock, Peter McLean, said after yesterday's match: "The boys never failed to rally whenever danger of defeat threatened them." We finished the match with two cripples." A team that can get through against St. George under such difficulties will be hard for any team to beat." West's five-eighth Dev Dines suffered a spinal injury and centre Keith Cullen a twisted ankle. Dines will be X-rayed tomorrow. **(The Daily Telegraph 19th August 1951)**

One factor that has stood out in our last few matches has been the manner in which Peter McLean has handled the team. Peter makes an ideal captain, as he is not only a grand player but he has at all times has the confidence of his players. **(Rugby League News 25th August 1951)**

Notes: This was a critical win, which almost ensured Wests would make the semis. It was a very scrappy match but the forward clashes were very willing. The first try to Jack Fitzgerald was the result of a barnstorming run by Don Stait, who had cemented his First Grade spot. Bob Dimond was back in dazzling form, scoring a brilliant side-stepping try and then a second try after a 70 yard run-away. Peter McLean also had a great game and Don Worne brought up his 100 points for the season (111 after this game); a good effort for his first season. Keith Cullen was a second half passenger with a twisted ankle, while Dev Dines took a late heavy knock. The star, however, was Keith Holman who overcame the previous week's concussion to dominate in attack and defence.