



1950 Round 17 Saturday 19th August Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 14

def.

Eastern Suburbs 7

Bill KEATO
Jack WALL
Dev DINES
Jack WOODS
Jack LACKEY
Frank STANMORE (c)
Leo TREVENA
Peter McLEAN
Don MILTON
Kevin HANSEN
Bill HORDER
Alan HORNERY
Jack WILLIAMS

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

Darcy RUSSELL
Wally McDONALD
Ken SAWYER
Alan COOK
Mick PHELAN
Bob BANKS
Ken McCAFFERY
W SULLIVAN
Brian HOLMES
Vince SOORLEY (c)
Ferris ASHTON
Laurie HAND
Reg BEATH

Tries Don MILTON
Leo TREVENA

Bob BANKS

Goals Bill KEATO (4) One field goal

Alan COOK (2)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: D Russell; three-quarters: W McDonald, A Cook, K Sawyer, J Phelan; five-eighth: R Banks; half: K McCaffery; forwards: W Sullivan, V Soorley (c), B Holmes, F Ashton, L Hand, R Beath

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: J Wall, D Dines, J Woods, J Lackey; five-eighth: F Stanmore (c); half: L Trevena; forwards: P McLean, D Milton, K Hansen, J Williams, A Hornery, W Horder **Referee: A Oxford (Rugby League News 2nd September 1950)**

Rugby League's champion goal-kickers Billy Keato (Western Suburbs) and Joe Jorgenson (Balmain) have planned a contest for £10 a side. They will stage the contest on the day of the Western Suburbs v Balmain clash in the competition finals. Champions both, Keato and Jorgenson are completely dissimilar characters.

JORGENSON: He places the ball on a mound — a style he introduced himself. He claims that kicking off a mound ensures plenty of elevation. Jorgenson never worries about goal-kicking between matches. If Jorgenson fails narrowly with his first kick, you can bet that he'll be on the mark for the rest of the match. Jorgenson never smiles during a match. Generally he's a sad looking fellow, whom you'd think had all the worries of the world on his shoulders. Jorgenson, who is 28 years old, has had a colourful football career. He captained Australia against England in the 1946 Test series, and, with 74 points, he is New South Wales' fifth highest scorer in matches against Queensland.

KEATO: Uses the old-fashioned style of kicking the ball from a divot. He claims the walls of the divot are a guide for the ball. Keato is a fanatic in goal-kicking. He practises for hours, supervises the inflation of balls he uses, and nurses his boots with the care a mother would give her baby. If Keato lands a goal from his first attempt he will go on kicking them all day. A keen statistician, he'll tell you he has kicked 475 goals in first grade for Wests. Keato is a happy fellow, always laughing and with not a care in the world — except his goal-kicking. Keato, who is 29 years old, developed a mania for kicking goals as a child playing in the backyard. He has never risen to great heights as a footballer. **(The Daily Telegraph 20th August 1950)**

A perfect field goal by full-back Bill Keato clinched victory for Western Suburbs against Eastern Suburbs yesterday at Pratten Park. Western Suburbs won 14-7 after having led 10-0 at half-time. Keato kicked his field goal when West led 12-7, 12 minutes from the final bell. Easts had reduced its 0-10 leeway to 7-10 after 20 minutes' play in the second half. Then Keato kicked a goal from a penalty, giving West a 12-7 lead. A minute later, the ball was kicked to Keato 40 yards from the goal. Keato steadied himself and, as Easts forwards rushed at him, drop-kicked the perfect goal. The ball cleared the bar by six feet, and hit the fence at the back of the field. The kick was remarkable for its accuracy and distance because Keato "dropped" the ball while standing in a mud-patch. ... Just before half-time, Don Milton also scored for Wests after the ball had been loose in the Easts' goal for a few seconds. Several East officials claimed their forward Vic Soorley had forced before Milton touched down. Most of the second half was played in a heavy rainstorm. Des Dines played his best game in grade. ... The failure of Kangaroo Bob Dimond in the reserve-grade game was a blow to the West selectors. Dimond played at his own request to convince the Wests' selectors he had recovered from a pulled leg muscle which had kept him out of the last two games. Dimond was slow and indecisive. **(The Daily Telegraph 20th August 1950)**

Notes: This was a poor quality game but it was a vital win for Wests who ensured their semi-final appearance. Wests dropped the ball on many occasions, twice when scoring tries. The match was played in pouring rain in the second half, which made Keato's match-winning field goal five minutes from time even more remarkable. He kicked it from 40 yards out in the middle of a mud patch. As can be seen, a goal-kicking match was arranged versus champion Balmain goal-kicker, Joe Jorgenson with a £10 winner take-all prize. Alan Hornery continued his scrum dominance, winning then 37-16 while Leo Trevena, taking advantage of this glut of possession, filled in very capably for Keith Holman. Bob Dimond tried a comeback from injury in Reserve Grade but didn't go well.