



1956 Round 17 Saturday 4th August Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 17

def.

Manly-Warringah 12



George BAIN
 Don COLLIER
 Harry WELLS
 Darcy HENRY
 Peter HARGREAVES
 Ian JOHNSTON
 Keith HOLMAN (c)
 Bill OWENS
 Kel O'SHEA
 Bill CARSON
 Mark PATCH
 Jim FLEMING
 Ron WATSON

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

Ron WILLEY
 Ray RITCHIE
 Johnny HOBBS
 Rees DUNCAN
 Johnny TENISON
 Kevin DIETT
 Peter BURKE
 George HUNTER
 Jack HUBBARD
 Rex MOSSOP
 Erwin NOFFZ
 Kevin SCHUBERT
 Roy BULL (c)

Tries Keith HOLMAN (2)
 Ian JOHNSTON

Peter BURKE
 Johnny TENISON

Goals George BAIN (4)

Ron WILLEY (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: D Collier, H Wells, D Henry, P Hargreaves; five-eighth: I Johnston; half: K Holman (c); forwards: W Owens, K O'Shea, W Carson, M Patch, J Fleming, R Watson

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: R Willey; three-quarters: R Ritchie, J Hobbs, R Duncan, J Tenison; five-eighth: K Diett; half: P Burke; forwards: G Hunter, J Hubbard, R Mossop, E Noffz, K Schubert, R Bull (c) **Referee: C Brown (The Sun 4th August 1956)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League team won its sixth successive match to maintain a slender chance of making the semi-finals. Wests battered Manly-Warringah to a 17-12 defeat on a muddy field at Pratten Park. ... Yesterday Wests, without lock Nev Charlton and winger Ernie Hills, always had the edge on Manly. It was a hard fought game with both sets of backs waiting for handling mistakes on which to capitalise. Test half-back Keith Holman was the "man of the match" and proved the inspiration of the Wests' attack. Holman's cover defence was magnificent. His opportunism brought him two splendid tries. Wests' five-eighth Ian Johnston and centre Harry Wells also improved their chances of English tour selection. Holman scored the first of his two tries two minutes from the interval with an intercept. Bain failed to convert and West led 14-0 at half-time. Manly, with the advantage of a stiff breeze, showed improved form in the second half. Elusive half-back Peter Burke ran the blind to score three minutes after the resumption. Holman sealed Manly's fate 20 minutes from the end with a great try after winger Hargreaves had made good ground. ... **(The Daily Telegraph 5th August 1956)**

Wests downed Manly at Pratten Park by 17 points to 12 after holding a commanding 14-0 lead. Neither side displayed form worthy of a semi-final effort. Kev Schubert stood out as a host. He repeatedly handed his uncoordinated backs a feast of the pill, and why they failed dismally to enjoy the party had everyone guessing. Loose, school-boy passing enabled Keith Holman, who collected a brace of tries, Harry Wells and Ian Johnston to pick up the "crumbs" like champagne from the cupboard. The losers' forwards, led by Rex Mossop, who showed outstanding form, were a successful tight pack, but when Roy Bull buckled with a bent knee, things went haywire for the Brookvale boys. Keith Holman again showed his undoubted class, but was challenged for supremacy by young Peter Burke, who stood out as the most constructive back on the field. The winners' forwards, led by Kel O'Shea, despite the loss of possession, gave a grand display. **(Truth 5th August 1956)**

Western Suburbs kept alive its chance of qualifying for the Rugby League semi-finals with a convincing 17-12 win over Manly at Pratten Park. West is now in fifth position on 18 points – two points behind Newtown. To qualify for the semi-finals West must win next Saturday and Newtown must be beaten. This would necessitate a play-off between West and Newton for fourth place. Yesterday Wests played tough, hard football and did not give Manly a chance. The Manly team appeared disjointed and at no stage seemed any threat to Wests. But the Manly team was handicapped when captain Roy Bull injured his left leg in the first seven minutes of play and was a "passenger" for the rest of the match. Bull could not run at all and stayed on the field only for his scrum work. **(Sun-Herald 5th August 1956)**

Test half-back Keith Holman has won "The Sun-Herald" best and fairest Rugby League player contest for the current season. It is the fourth time Holman has won the contest.....Holman will receive a trophy and £150 for his win..... **(Sun-Herald 5th August 1956)**

Notes: This was a ferocious forward battle, which was eventually won by the Wests' pack. This allowed Holman to be the best player on the field. His three points in the competition meant that he won the Sun-Herald best and Fairest competition for the fourth time. Kel O'Shea led the forwards on most of their charges and this enabled Wests to be a chance of playing Newtown for fourth spot the following week if Wests won and Newtown lost.