



1956 Round 18 Saturday 11th August Cumberland Oval



Western Suburbs 16

def.

Parramatta 15

George BAIN
Peter HARGREAVES
Harry WELLS
Darcy HENRY
Ernie HILLS
Ian JOHNSTON
Keith HOLMAN (c)
Nev CHARLTON
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

Jack GRAHAM
Ray BURKE
Peter THOMPSON
Alvin KIRKLAND
Ken COLES
Graham LAIRD
Don TOSH
Ken SLATTERY (c)
Kevin COCKS
Bruce MANN
Roy FISHER
Bill RAYNER
Alan CAMERON

Tries

Bill CARSON
Ian JOHNSTON

Ray BURKE
Alan CAMERON
Alvin KIRKLAND

Goals

George BAIN (5)

Graham LAIRD (2)
Kevin COCKS (1)

Match Description

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

Parramatta: Full-back: J Graham; three-quarters: R Burke, A Kirkland, P Thompson, K Coles; five-eighth: G Laird; half: D Tosh; Forwards: K Slattery (c), B Mann, K Cocks, R Fisher, W Rayner, A Cameron **Referee: K Parkinson (The Sun 11th August 1956)**

A missed penalty goal by Parramatta five-eighth Graham Laird yesterday kept alive Western Suburbs' chances of participating in the semi-finals. Wests defeated Parramatta 16-15, in a gruelling match at Cumberland Oval. Wests' victory and Newtown's surprise loss to North Sydney yesterday means a play-off between Western Suburbs and Newtown for the fourth semi-final position. Three minutes from the end of play yesterday Parramatta received a disputed penalty 15 yards from Wests' line directly in front of the goal posts. Referee K Parkinson had penalised Wests' forwards for being off-side in a loose ruck. Laird took the kick nonchalantly, and the ball rebounded off an upright back into the field of play. Wests' centre Harry Wells caught the rebound and retained possession for West. Wests did not lose possession in the remaining three minutes of play to clinch the match. It was a hard, spirited game with the backlines of both sides taking a terrific battering. Wests' forwards, piloted by Test star Kel O'Shea, gained the initiative in the 10 minutes before half-time. Following a series of determined forward sorties second-rower Bill Carson crashed his way over from a ruck on the Parramatta line. Full-back George Bain converted the try and later kicked a penalty goal to reduce Parramatta's half-time lead to three points. Bain added another penalty three minutes after the start of the second half, but Parramatta hit back immediately, and winger Ray Burke scored a splendid try, which Laird converted. Wests threw everything into a do-or-die assault on the Parramatta line. Half-back Keith Holman twisted and turned through a wall of defenders to take a pass and score near the post. Bain converted, and six minutes from full-time he kicked an angled 35-yard penalty goal to give Wests a 16-15 lead. It was the first time West had led during the match. The final 10 minutes produced rugged football, but each side's defenders held tight. Then came Laird's missed penalty right on full-time, which would have given Parramatta an unexpected one-point victory. **(The Sunday Telegraph 12th August 1956)**

A penalty goal attempt by Graham Laird to give Parramatta a win over Western Suburbs RL at Cumberland Oval yesterday hit an upright and bounced back into play, Wests beat Parramatta by 16 points to 15 and will play-off against Newtown for the last place in the four semi-finals. Wests were behind 10-0 but managed to bridge the gap by half-time to trail 7-10. The goal-kicking of G Bain and vigorous efforts by Keith Holman enabled Wests to hit the front 16-15. Parramatta was awarded a penalty in front of Wests' posts with minutes left to play. G Laird, who had played a magnificent game, took the kick. The ball flew straight, hit a post and bounced back. W Rayner gave Parramatta backs a two-to-one share of the ball and Parramatta scored two brilliant tries in the first half. Wests played as a team of individuals. Holman, O'Shea and Carson had to work hard for a Wests' win. Kirkland was superior to Wells and Henry in the centre. **(Sun-Herald 12th August 1956)**

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Notes: Wests were very lucky to win this match. Having hit the lead 16-15, Wests gave away a silly penalty right in front of the posts three minutes from the end. Inexplicably, five-eighth Graham Laird missed the shot, the ball rebounding into Harry Wells' arms. Kel O'Shea led the forwards in a rugged last 10 minutes to regain the lead. Although the Sunday Telegraph account had Holman scoring Wests' last try all other accounts had Ian Johnston scoring, including all recorded scores. With Newtown being beaten in an upset by North Sydney, Wests would now play Newtown on Tuesday at Redfern Oval in a play-off for fourth place.