



1962 Round 18 Saturday 18th August Cricket Ground



St George 18

Kevin McDONALD
 Eddie LUMSDEN
 Reg GASNIER
 Johnny RILEY
 Johnny GREAVES
 Johnny RAPER
 George EVANS
 Elton RASMUSSEN
 Norm PROVAN (c)
 Kevin RYAN
 Monty PORTER
 Ian WALSH
 Bill WILSON

def.

Western Suburbs 10

Don PARISH
 Dave BARSLEY
 Gil MacDOUGALL
 Fred NORDEN
 Peter DIMOND
 Don MALONE
 Arthur SUMMONS
 Kevin SMYTH
 Kel O'SHEA (c)
 Bill CARSON
 Denis MEANEY
 Noel KELLY
 Brian HENDERSON
 Jim CODY



Tries Eddie LUMSDEN (2)
 Elton RASMUSSEN
 Reg GASNIER

Kel O'SHEA
 Don PARISH

Goals Kevin McDONALD (3)

Don PARISH (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Parish; three-quarters: D Barsley, G MacDougall, F Norden, P Dimond; five-eighth: D Malone; half: A Summons; forwards: K Smyth, K O'Shea (c), W Carson, D Meaney, N Kelly, B Henderson

St George: Full-back: K McDonald; three-quarters: E Lumsden, R Gasnier, J Riley, J Greaves; five-eighth: J Raper; half: G Evans; forwards: E Rasmussen, N Provan (c), K Ryan, W Wilson, I Walsh, M Porter **Referee: C Pearce (The Sun 18th August 1962)**

St George answered criticism of being "over the hill" with an 18-10 victory over Western Suburbs at the Cricket Ground yesterday. The triumph gave the Dragons the Rugby League minor premiership and a prize of £250 for the honour. It was the season's largest crowd of 33,949. The previous best was 32,020 in the first round when Saints also beat Wests, 20-12. Wests yesterday was unfortunate to lose their pugnacious forward Kel O'Shea for the second half with a ruptured blood vessel in the ankle. Bill Carson played with a broken hand after the first 15 minutes. O'Shea was replaced by Jim Cody. In recent weeks St George have been paraded as something like a worn-out blizzard after their six successive premierships. But yesterday their forwards, in particular, recaptured all their vigour against which the Western opposition looked merely like a sneeze in the open field. Mustering all their well-known gristle, the St George forwards ground their way through the ranks and dominated the game except for the first 10 minutes. Wests, on the other hand, appeared to have been living in a glass-house. Twenty minutes before full-time St George were leading by the slender margin of 13-10. But by that time St George were moving with a fluidity in attack that betokened the shape of things to come. From being a team with still a chance of winning, Wests somersaulted into the kindergarten. With 18 minutes to go St George took the lead 16-10 after big Elton Rasmussen gate-crashed through Carson, Kelly and Malone to score the try that clinched the match. Wests then fell to pieces and Saints so much dominated the game that their decisive victory was acknowledged by the crowd that began slowly to dribble itself away from the scene. The only time Wests really looked like a winning team was in the first 10 minutes when they enjoyed a doubtful lead of 2-0. During that period St George's framework was on the wobble. It couldn't stand up to the pulverising attack of the Wests' players who stormed the line with a virility that hemmed their opponents inside their own 25 line. Saints looked to be "over the hill". But it was an illusion. Four minutes after this period Gasnier took an overhead pass from Ryan and skirted the defence to dive over in the corner to put Saints ahead 3-2. True enough, Wests shone momentarily again six minutes later when O'Shea gave a "don't argue" push to Wilson and Rasmussen before swerving past full-back McDonald to score near the posts. This put Wests ahead 5-3. ... Four minutes before half-time the St George machine functioned as of yore when Raper flick-passed inside to Gasnier who cross-kicked for winger Lumsden to score while the opposition looked on, flummoxed at the sudden turn of events. This gave St George a half-time lead of 10-7 and thereafter the Mighty Saints never looked back. ... Wests looked beaten to a frazzle. They were chopping and changing their scrum base, first Summons and then Malone took turns at playing scrum-half. It was schoolboy stuff which actually was the reason for their failure. Wests' scrum base, usually so powerful, was about as potent as dill-water. But Wests still maintained a passing interest in the result when Don Parish took a pass from Cody at half-way, side-stepped McDonald and raced on for 50 yards to score in the corner. St George led 13-10. That was the end, however. **(Sunday Mirror 19th August 1962)**

Notes: This was a ferocious match with lots of injuries to Wests' players. Kevin Smyth was battered from pillar to post and required two stitches above the eye while Bill Carson played with a broken wrist after 15 minutes and O'Shea was forced off with a burst blood vessel in the ankle. He was replaced by Jim Cody. Arthur Summons also had a "shocker" so Wests were up against it for most of the match. They went into the semi-finals as a bruised and battered team.