



1955 Round 18 Saturday 20th August Pratten Park



North Sydney 31

def.

Western Suburbs 9

Alan ARKEY
 Peter O'BRIEN
 George MARTIN
 Bob SULLIVAN (c)
 Horrie TOOLE
 Don BURGE
 Jim GILLON
 Peter DIVERSI
 Don EVENDEN
 Col LAY
 Cec WATERS
 Norm STRONG
 Lloyd HUDSON

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

Noel TREVENA
 John THOMPSON
 Bill CARSON
 Don GRAHAM
 Kevin THOMPSON
 Bill BROWN
 Bob TUCKER
 Nev CHARLTON (c)
 Bill OWENS
 Monty PORTER
 Ron WATSON
 Bede GOFF
 John HARRISON



Tries

Peter DIVERSI (2)
 Bob SULLIVAN
 Don EVENDEN
 George MARTIN
 Alan ARKEY
 Don BURGE

John THOMPSON
 Kevin THOMPSON
 Bill CARSON

Goals

Alan ARKEY (5)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: N Trevena; three-quarters: J Thompson, W Carson, D Graham, K Thompson; five-eighth: W Brown; half: R Tucker; forwards: N Charlton, W Owens, M Porter, R Watson, B Goff, J Harrison

North Sydney: Full-back: A Arkey; three-quarters: H Toole, G Martin, R Sullivan (c), P O'Brien; five-eighth: D Burge; half: J Gillon; forwards: P Diversi, C Lay, D Evenden, L Hudson, N Strong, C Waters **Referee: J O'Brien (The Daily Mirror 20th August 1955)**

North Sydney overwhelmed Western Suburbs in a ragged game at Pratten Park yesterday. North won 31-9 after having led 23-3 at half-time. Norths needed to win this game to remain in the race for the semi-finals. But all hopes disappointed as a result of South's defeat of St George at the SCG. Norths took control of the game from the start and quickly asserted its superiority. It scored four minutes after play started, when Evenden scored after a cross-kick by winger O'Brien. This was followed shortly after with a brilliant try by full-back Alan Arkey. Joining in a backline movement, Arkey received a reverse pass from centre Sullivan. He side-stepped three tackles and then out-spiced the opposition in a 60-yard dash. Norths added three more tries before half-time to lead 23-3. Peter Diversi (two tries) and George Martin (one) were favoured by the bounce following cross kicks. The highlight of the game was the try scored in the second half by North's captain, Bob Sullivan. A movement started by Evenden travelled the length of the field. It was handled by Waters and Diversi before Sullivan finished it off with a 30-yard dash to score. Wests gave a very poor display. Its defence was feeble, Norths having little trouble in evading Wests' collar-stud tackling. Its players continually lost the ball when tackled thus allowing Norths to turn defence into attack. Bad handling in attack, and wild passing, halted many movements. Don Burge, North's five-eighth, was the best player on the field. He varied his play well and frequently set his side attacking with brilliant burst. He scored a great try late in the game when he left the defence standing with a weaving 30-yard run. Bob Sullivan gave a fine display in the centre for Norths, and was always dangerous in attack. Norths' best forward was second-rower Don Evenden, whose crashing runs opened up play for the backline. Full-back Noel Trevena was Wests' outstanding player, and gave a faultless display. Nev Charlton and Pat Hyde were the best of the forwards. **(Sunday Telegraph 21st August 1955)**

A convincing 31-9 victory by Norths over Wests at Pratten yesterday proved of little use to the Harborsiders in their quest for a League semi-final possie. Both teams can now call it a day and pack their togs in mothballs for the season. The Shoremen turned on some fire-works in their final flutter, playing startling football, giving the pill the air, and then some. Spearhead of their repeated attacking sorties goalwards was Bobby Sullivan, who played a true captain's part throughout. Alan Arkey as last line of defence, was outstanding in the first stanza, but his football deteriorated at the closing stages. Stand-off half D Burge did many clever things but at times was indecisive in attack. Peter Diversi shone in the loose, scoring two opportunist tries but his cover defence was patchy. N Trevena displayed his versatility as scrum half. Of the remainder W Carson, R Tucker (backs), N Charlton particularly, W Owens and J Harrison were most conspicuous in the pack. **(Truth 21st August 1955)**

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Notes: Noel Trevena moved to full-back for the final match of the season, with Bob Tucker again being called up to half. North Sydney, needing to win, to possibly make the semis, threw the ball about and scored some spectacular tries. Noel Trevena, like the previous game, played a superb match, and, fittingly, Nev Charlton was the best, yet again, of the Wests' forwards.