



# 1955 Round 2 Monday 11th April Cricket Ground



## Western Suburbs 32

def.

## Eastern Suburbs 19

John BREST  
 Bill BAILEY  
 Jim PLATER  
 Jack FITZGERALD  
 John THOMPSON  
 Bill BROWN  
 Keith HOLMAN (c)  
 Jim MCKENZIE  
 Bill CARSON  
 Bill OWENS  
 John HARRISON  
 Hec FARRELL  
 Ron WATSON

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

Ellis BRIDGE  
 Nev HAYES  
 Ray THOMAS  
 Maurice KERMOND  
 Noel PIDDING (c)  
 Brian ALLSOP  
 Reg CURRAN  
 Ray HYDE  
 Ferris ASHTON  
 John GIBSON  
 George KEMPSHALL  
 Maurie OBRIEN  
 Kevin WILSON

### Tries

John THOMPSON (2)  
 John BREST  
 Keith HOLMAN  
 Jim MCKENZIE  
 Ron WATSON

Nev HAYES  
 Ray THOMAS  
 Jack GIBSON

### Goals

John BREST (5)  
 Keith HOLMAN (2)

Noel PIDDING (5)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Brest; three-quarters: W Bailey, J Plater, J Fitzgerald, D Collier, J Thompson; five-eighth: W Brown; half: K Holman (c); forwards: J McKenzie, W Owens, W Carson, J Harrison, H Farrell, R Watson

**Eastern Suburbs:** Full-back: E Bridge; three-quarters: N Hayes, R Thomas, M Kermond, N Pidding (c); five-eighth: B Allsop; half: R Curran; forwards: R Hyde, J Gibson, F Ashton, G Kempshall, M O'Brien, K Wilson **Referee: C Brown (The Daily Mirror 11th April 1955)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday defeated Eastern Suburbs with a sensational point-a-minute finish. Wests added 13 points in the last 13 minutes to win 32-19 at Sydney Cricket Ground. The match provided one of the most dramatic climaxes at Sydney Cricket Ground in recent years. During the closing stages Easts narrowly missed a try which may have swung the result its way. When Wests were leading 22-19, nine minutes from the end, referee Cliff Brown disallowed Easts international forward Ferris Ashton a try. Easts' Test winger Noel Pidding, trapped 20 yards from the corner, cross-kicked. Ashton, backing up down the centre of the field, gathered up the ball and crossed the line near the goalposts. It was an easy position for Pidding to convert and Easts would have had a 24-22 lead. But Referee Brown disallowed the try. He ruled Ashton off-side and penalised him. Spectators in the crowd of 17,856 booed the decision. .... Many League fans who had been in line with the kick, were divided in opinions on the "off-side" ruling. Some of them said it was a hairline decision. It is unlikely that Easts could have held the lead if the referee had allowed Ashton a try. Wests really was too dominating at that stage. Wests played good football throughout. But it can thank Australia's Test half Keith Holman for it all. Holman stood out as a master craftsman. He capitalised on every chance. During the first half Easts forwards surprisingly played wide. So Holman led Wests in "down-the-middle" tactics, which paved the way for Wests to lead 12-10 at the interval. Midway through the second half Wests was down 15-19 and looked like losing. In this crisis Holman took charge of Wests' shots at goal instead of the usual kicker John Brest. Holman landed two goals to square the score at 19 all. Later Holman scored a try which clinched Wests' victory. Another feature was the cover defence of Wests' new winger, Bill Bailey. Bailey, who left the field to have five stitches inserted in a badly cut head was at his best when he returned. Three times he cut across the field to save likely Easts tries on the opposite wing. .... **(The Daily Telegraph 12th April 1955)**

...Wests forwards impressed in the close work, with the vigorous Ron Watson outstanding. He bulldozed his way through for a try. But the forwards must overcome any tendency to wildness. Promoted lock forward Jim McKenzie backed up splendidly, and he retains his post for next Saturday. Yesterday he took the place of Pat Hyde (injured), while John Harrison replaced front-rower Nev Charlton (septic forehead). Wests' newcomers – fullback Brest (Port Macquarie), centre Jim Plater (Tamworth) and winger Bill Bailey (from Workington club, England) all did well. **(Sydney Morning Herald April 12th 1955)**

.....

**Notes:** Jim McKenzie (for Pat Hyde) and John Harrison (for Nev Charlton) were both promoted and Jack Fitzgerald was back in the centres. In a whirlwind finish Wests scored 13 points in the last 13 minutes. Keith Holman was back to his outstanding best in a much improved display by Wests although a disputed no-try ruling against Easts took a bit of gloss off the actually convincing win. English winger Bill Bailey stood out in defence as well as attack.