

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Worne; three-quarters: C Hudson, E Bennett, C Maxwell (capt), J Woods; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: K Holman; forwards; P McLean, D Milton, K Hansen, J Seery, W Brown, W Horder

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: R Willey; three-quarters: F Flynn, J Tutill, A Halpin, J Simmonds; five-eighth: J Collins; B Hopkins (capt); forwards: L Holmes, J English, C De Belle, K Charlton, D Sinclair, E Burns Referee: T McMahon (Rugby League News April 23-25th 1949)

A young Rugby League player in his first first-grade match, yesterday kicked his team to victory. He is Western Suburbs full-back, 19-year-old Don Worne. Western Suburbs beat Canterbury-Bankstown 21-19 after having led 19-6 at half-time. Worne kicked six goals, the last- and match decider- a minute before full-time. Worne was Western Suburbs fullback in last season's President's Cup series. During the game: * Canterbury added 10 points in nine minutes after half-time, * West five-eighth Frank Stanmore received a severe cut over an eye, *Canterbury winger J. Simmonds was knocked out with a tackle, * Eddie Burns (Canterbury) and Eric Bennett (West) scored "tries" that were disallowed, * Bruce Hopkins and L. Holmes (Canterbury) received leg injuries. Canterbury centre A. Halpin played throughout with an injured arm that caused him intense pain whenever he was tackled. His forearm was swollen to twice its normal size at the end of the game. In the first half Wests' lock McLean scored two of his team's three tries. McLean had to be called out of the pack at times to support the centres. His cover defence and backing-up were sound. Soon after half-time, Bruce Hopkins kicked his fourth goal, and in an inspired nine minutes, Canterbury scored 10 points and trailed 16-19. Ten minutes from the end, Flynn brought the scores level with a try just inside the touch-line. Then Worne kicked the match-winning goal shortly after having missed with a difficult kick. Attendance was 6798. **(The Daily Telegraph 17th April 1949)**

A goal from a penalty by D. Worne a few minutes before the final bell gave Wests a well-earned two-point win over Canterbury-Bankstown at Pratten Park yesterday. After a vigorous opening by the Berries, Wests rallied in the second part of the first half and ran to a handy 19-6 lead. However, Canterbury staged a vigorous comeback after the change and with ten minutes to play had overhauled the home team and waged fierce football with the score at 19 all. A foolish play-the-ball infringement then gave Worne the match winning goal. The Berries missed several opportunities when brilliant passing movements lost their sparkle as faulty handling allowed the locals to turn these concerted attacks. Poor passing also was responsible for the visitors' lack of ability to score tries until the latter part of the game. Of the comparatively evenly matched packs, Kev Hansen was the most conspicuous. He dominated the rucks and showed plenty of speed when in the clear. He received splendid support from lock Peter McLean, whose two grand tries capped a worthy performance. Full-back D. Worne's six goals were a matchwinning feature. And his safe handling and tackling in defence rated him as the winner's best player. Frank Stanmore also worked hard and showed to advantage with his initiative around the scrums, and support in attack. Eddie Burns and Len Holmes were the backbone of the Berries' pack, and they gave their side a fair share of the ball. Skipper Bruce Hopkins played soundly at half without being brilliant. He kicked four goals and was always a source of worry to West's defences. Halpin and Flynn were others in the Canterbury team who showed out without getting much support. **(Truth 17th April 1949)**

Notes: This was a very fast, open game where debutant's Don Worne's six goals was the key factor. He kicked the match-winning goal with two minutes to go in a dazzling debut. Peter McLean was outstanding and played a lot of the game as an extra centre, scoring two good tries. Frank Stanmore (broken toe) and Col Maxwell were both injured but stayed on the field as passengers. Kevin Hansen was again noted as the best forward on the field.

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