



1917 Round 2 Saturday 19th May Erskineville Oval



Newtown 10

Percy LUSCOMBE
 George BAIN
 W LOCHRIN
 William COCKBURN
 Wally COLLINS
 William GILLESPIE
 J LEONARD
 Dan KELLY
 Richard TOWNSEND
 E FRANKS
 Edward BURDETT
 Reg FERGUSON
 Felix RYAN (c)
 Arthur BEED

def.

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

Western Suburbs 5

Athol WHITE
 Tom McCAULEY
 Pat CARROLL
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Dick VEST
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Alf BOSSI
 Harold LEDDY
 Frank HOLT
 Albert BURDUS
 Edward COURTNEY
 Jack REDMOND
 William JOASS



Tries Edward BURDETT
 William GILLESPIE

Dick VEST

Goals J LEONARD (1)
 George BAIN (1 field goal)

Athol WHITE (1)

Match Description

Newtown: P Luscombe, full-back (injured, replaced by Beed); W Collins, G Bain, W Lochrin, W Cockburn, three-quarters; W Gillespie, five-eighth; J Leonard, half-back; D Kelly, E Burdett, E Franks, F Ryan (c), W Ferguson, R Townsend, forwards

Western Suburbs: A White, full-back; T McCauley, A Carroll, H Gilbert (c), R Vest, three-quarters; C W Prentice, five-eighth; A Bossi, half-back; H J Leddy, W Joass, A Burdus, F Holt, E Courtney, J Redmond, forwards **A Farrow, referee**

Play started at a lively pace. The Blue forwards came away with the ball at toe. Gillespie joined in, and picking up, short-punted. A race for the line ensued, and the five-eighth was interfered with, but Burdett, who was handy, scored. Bain failed at goal. Newtown 3 to nil. Brilliant passing by Prentice, Gilbert and McCauley carried play to Newtown's twenty-five. There Prentice secured again, and after beating an opponent, passed to Gilbert, to Vest, who showed pace and scored in a good position. White kicked the goal. Western Suburbs 5 to 3. Beed, a Second Grade player, took the place of Luscombe, who retired with an injured leg.

Western Suburbs looked like outclassing their opponents rather badly when the second spell had advanced a few minutes. Forwards and backs, with Joass and Gilbert prominent, worked together with a will. But lack of condition was soon manifest, and the Blue forwards came at the visitors time and again until they found a hole in the defence. Bossi secured from a scrum, and could only manage to kick; but the ball went into Gillespie's arms, and the five-eighth dashed across and scored a snappy try. Leonard converted. Newtown 8 to 5. Leonard, the half-back, received a heavy kick, and was out of action for some time. The ambulance men were absent. Hard knocks and consequent stoppages were frequent, and the players had to do their best under the circumstances. Shortly before full-time, Bain dropped a neat goal from the field near the twenty five. Newtown 10 to 5. **(Sunday Times 20th May 1917)**

Western Suburbs looked chock full of confidence when they took the field, and with the breeze at their backs and the sun blazing in their opponents' eyes, they galloped about for the first ten minutes like thirteen dashed little racehorses. All of a sudden like, the pudden was hustled back to Annie White at full-back, she, standing there dreaming of home and mother, or something, came back to earth as Ranji Joass did an Annette Kellerman dive in a vain endeavour to prevent the ball going over the line, and had the mortification of seeing young Ponk Burdett (Carpenter's boss) touch down. Ponk went out with the full intention of making amends for his misdeed of the previous Saturday against Balmain. The milk producers from the country soon got their own back, and a bit more, Vest getting a good try and young Anne converted.....**(The Sydney Sportsman 23rd May 1917)**

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Notes: Many accounts have Wests as the better team in this match but they still found a way to lose. Again, there were comments about lack of condition in the final minutes, so the fitness level was obviously affecting the performance of a very good team on paper. Injuries were already affecting team combination with Peter Burns, the Newtown recruit, out for the season with a broken leg, replaced by Dick Vest and Clarrie Prentice going from the centres to five-eighth. This was not the first time that the pace of Vest was commented upon. McPherson, Wests' best goal-kicker, was in Second Grade and kicked two goals. The field goal by Bain in the dying stages was a beauty apparently.