

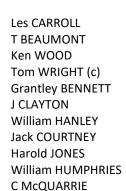
1931 Round 2 Saturday 2nd May Pratten Park

North Sydney 19

def.

Fullback

Western Suburbs 16



Joe BAIRD

Harold CROWLEY

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

Frank McMILLAN (c)
Alan RIDLEY
Vince HUGHES
Cliff PEARCE
Ray MORRIS
Jack ROSA
Harry OWEN
Frank MATTERSON
Bill CARPENTER
Charlie CORNWELL
Bill BROGAN
Bob LINDFIELD

Cecil RHODES

T BEAUMONT BIll BROGAN
Grantley BENNETT Frank MATTERSON
Ken WOOD Ray MORRIS
Cliff PEARCE

Goals Les CARROLL (4) Harry OWEN (2)
Tom WRIGHT (1)

Match Description

Tries

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F. McMillan; three-quarters, A. Ridley, C. Pearce, V. Hughes, R. Morris; halves, J. Rose. H. Owen; forwards, F. Matterson, W. Carpenter. C. Cornwall, C. Rhodes. W. Brogan, R. Lindfield.

North Sydney: Full-back, L. Carroll; three-quarters, T. Beaumont, K. Wood, T. Wright, G. Bennett: halves, J. Clayton, W. Hanley; forwards, J. Courtney, H. Jones, W. Humphries. C. McQuarrle. H. Crowley, J. Baird. Referee W. Neill (The Sun 2nd May 1931)

North Sydney deserved their success. Throughout they persistently crowded their opponents movements, quickly took advantage of every opening and strongly maintained their defence while the ball was in play Those tactics disconcerted their opponents and generally broke up early their passing movement. North Sydney opened well and quickly carried play Into their opponents' territory where Carroll kicked a good penalty goal from the sideline. Continuing to keep their opponents on the defensive they made several unsuccessful efforts to break through. Then Hanley secured and sent to Clayton to Wright who after beating a few opponents passed to Wood who raced over the line under the cross bar. Western Suburbs immediately attacked and throwing the ball around nicely brought play well Into North Sydney's quarter when Pearce finished off a good movement by scoring. Shortly afterwards North Sydney responded with another try, Beaumont starring. They had the better of exchanges for the remainder of the half the half-time scores being 12-6 in their favour.

The second half provided many exciting incidents. It was apparent that Western Suburbs wanted quickly to overtake their opponents' total and strongly attacked from the whistle. However, North Sydney defended splendidly and putting every opening to good advantage frequently placed Western Suburbs on the defensive Play shifted from one end of the field to the other with surprising quickness and often when one side appeared likely to score a mistake would see play brought well into their own quarter. Excitement was at fever heat when, with the scores at 14-11, the Western Suburbs half back Rosa got over the line but in trying to get behind the posts was tackled and lost possession of the ball. Western Suburbs continued to maintain their attacks but when it appeared evident to the large crowd that North Sydney could not be expected to do more than prevent their opponents from scoring the North Shore players came with a great rush which was splendidly finished off by Bennett racing over the line in the corner and placing down under the crossbar. ... (The Sydney Morning Herald 4th May 1931)

The most disappointed man after the match last Saturday was Jack Rosa, who after being safely across the line with his team behind in the scores at 14-11, tried to improve his position, with the result that the ball was knocked out of his possession, and what might have been a winning advantage lost........ (Rugby League News May 9th 1931)

Wests may be classed as a trifle unlucky without detracting from the merit of Norths' win. Rosa, the five-eighth, crossed the line in the final stages, but lost possession of the ball. Hughes, who replaced Sherwood in the centres, was patchy and spoilt many movements. (Referee 6th May 1931)

Notes: Frank Matterson was back from injury and replaced Bert Green. Captain of Second Grade, Vince Hughes, also came in, replacing Sherwood. All reports praised the performance of Harry Owen, with high expectations of Representative honours to follow. Wests were expected to win this game so the loss was a big surprise, although Wests certainly looked to be unlucky, with Jack Rosa crossing for a try but having the ball knocked out as he tried to improve his position.

WESTERN