



1932 Round 2 Saturday 23rd April Birchgrove Oval



Western Suburbs 19

def.

Balmain 8

Frank McMILLAN
 Alan BRADY
 Ray MORRIS
 Cliff PEARCE
 Alan RIDLEY
 Jack McGLINN
 Les MEAD
 Bert GREEN
 Bill RYAN
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bill BROGAN (c)
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES

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

Arthur TOBY
 Harold MATTHEWS
 T COX
 Andy NICOL
 Dan LITTLE
 E FULHAM (c)
 George FRANKLAND
 Mal FALLON
 S MARTIN
 Arthur ROBERTS
 C De VALLE
 Horrie BAULKWELL
 George MULLINS



Tries Alan RIDLEY (3)
 Cliff PEARCE
 Bill RYAN

T COX
 E FULHAM

Goals Les MEAD (2)

George MULLINS (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: F McMillan; three-quarters: A Brady, C Pearce, R Morris, A Ridley; halves: L Mead, J McGlinn; forwards: B Green, W Ryan, C Cornwell, C Rhodes, R Lindfield, W Brogan (capt)

Balmain: Full-back: A Toby; three-quarters: H Matthews, A Nicol, T Cox, D Little; halves: E Fulham (capt), G Frankland; forwards: A Roberts, S Martin, M Fallon, G Mullins, H Baulkwell, C De Valle **Referee: L Deane (Rugby League News 30th April 1932)**

Although Balmain, through vigorous attacking and good combination led by 8 points to 3 at halftime, the team failed to score in the second half. The winners' margin should have been much larger but many penalty kicks, some of them in easy positions, were missed. At the same time the spectators were treated to a thrilling display of football which enabled them to overlook the depressing weather conditions. Balmain continued the attack on resuming and for a time Western Suburbs was on the defence. Then the black and white backs got moving, and figured in one of the finest pieces of play of the afternoon. The ball came to Ridley from a scrum on the wing. From Ridley it went to McGlinn to Pearce who scrambled across near the corner flag. Cornwell again failed to goal. Shortly afterwards Balmain was penalised for a scrum breach and Mead kicked a goal from a difficult angle. This made the scores level and the large crowd was excited. The local players flattered their supporters for a time by penning Western Suburbs, but the defence held. Ridley again thrilled with a strong run along the wing almost from his own line to inside Balmain's half way before Toby stopped him. Mead secured from the ruck and sent to McGlinn to Pearce again to McGlinn who had run around, then to Ridley who scored near the goalpost. Ryan missed an easy goal. Western Suburbs' next score came in a manner similar to the first. A long kick by McMillan went to Toby who, when tackled by Rhodes, lost the ball. Ryan picked up and ran in and Mead converted. The final try was also spectacular. Brogan sent the ball from the ruck to McGlinn who short kicked Morris, took the ball on his toe across the line, where Ridley dropped on it and scored his third try. Ryan's kick at goal was unsuccessful. While the winners as a whole played soundly the most outstanding figure was Brogan, who was ubiquitous. Wherever there was a rush to be started or an opposing rush to be stopped he was always handy and his hard tackling put an end to many a move. Ridley Mead and Pearce were splendid among the back division and Rhodes, Ryan (who played in place of Spillane, injured on the previous Saturday) and Lindfield among the forwards, McMillan as always, safe at full back and his well-placed kicking was a factor in his team success. Willie Toby was not as successful in taking the ball his kicking and tackling were sure. Matthews, Cox and Little were conspicuous in the three-quarter line while the halves Fulham and Frankland, performed excellently De Valle Baulkwell and Mullins were the best of the forwards. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 23rd April 1932)**

Brogan led his men by example, and did not ask them to do anything he would not do himself. He was a tower of strength, and continually started the backs with passes from the rucks. He was well supported by Ryan, whose quick breaking from the scrum enabled him to do a power of work. Rhodes has schooled himself not to offend against the off-side rule, and his long legs helped him to nip many a Balmain move in the bud. **(Truth 24th April 1932)**

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Notes: Although played in rain and on a heavy ground the play was often fast and exciting. Bob Lindfield was back and duly dominated in the scrums. Bill Ryan came in for the injured Frank Spillane. Wests ran away in the second half with some heavy tackling and judicious line kicking. McMillan was again relishing the heavy conditions. Brogan was a very dominant force in the forwards and was easily the best player on the field. The feature of this match, however, was the poor goal-kicking again of Wests. For example, Charlie Cornwell missed a conversion in front after Ridley's first try. There was no doubt that if Wests had a leading goal-kicker they would have been significant premiership contenders in all of these seasons.