



1954 Round 2 Saturday 3rd April North Sydney Oval



North Sydney 28

def.

Western Suburbs 22

Alan ARKEY
 Peter O'BRIEN
 George MARTIN (c)
 Keith MIDDLETON
 Jack PLATER
 Ormonde SMALL
 Jim GILLON
 Peter DIVERSI
 Ben HASLAM
 Col LAY
 Don EVENDEN
 Norm STRONG
 Cec WATERS

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

George BAIN
 Kevin OWENS
 Dev DINES
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Barry OWEN
 Bill LOWE
 Keith HOLMAN (c)
 Nev CHARLTON
 Doug SMITH
 Brian OGLE
 Max CALDWELL
 Hec FARRELL
 Eddie HOOPER



Tries

Don EVENDEN
 Jim GILLON
 George MARTIN
 Peter O'BRIEN
 Jack PLATER
 Ormonde SMALL

Nev CHARLTON
 Dev DINES
 Keith HOLMAN
 Bill LOWE

Goals

Alan ARKEY (5)

George BAIN (4)
 Keith HOLMAN (1)

Match Description

North Sydney: Full-back: A Arkey; three-quarters: P O'Brien, K Middleton, G Martin, J Plater; five-eighth: O Small; half: J Gillon; forwards: P Diversi, B Haslam, C Lay, D Evenden, N Strong, C Waters

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: K Owens, J Fitzgerald, D Dines, B Owen; five-eighth: B Lowe; half: K Holman; forwards: N Charlton, D Smith, B Ogle, M Caldwell, H Farrell, E Hooper **Referee: J O'Brien (The Sun 3rd April 1954)**

A freak run of injuries yesterday probably cost Western Suburbs Rugby League team a win over North Sydney. Norths defeated Wests 28-22 at North Sydney Oval. Wests' captain-coach Keith Holman criticised the side for not backing-up when Norths led 20-9 at half-time. Under Holman's driving tactics, Wests staged a dramatic second-half rally. In the first five minutes, Wests' centre Dev Dines ran 50 yards and passed to winger K. Owens. Owens swerved to the wing, drew the defence, and reverse-passed to Dines, who scored between the goal posts. Wests attacked strongly and scored three snap tries. But almost immediately: * Full-back George Bain was knocked unconscious and was off the field for 10 minutes. * Centre Dev Dines was also knocked out and received a nose injury * Winger B. Owen received a gashed mouth. Bain said after the match he could not remember playing most of the second half. After the run of injuries, Wests collapsed, and North Sydney was not troubled to win. Norths played a more solid game than Wests, and were superior in defence. Half-back Jimmy Gillon and centre George Martin were outstanding for North. Attendance at the match was 7700. **(The Daily Telegraph 4th April 1954)**

..... Hooker Hec Farrell celebrated his return to Wests pack by winning the first half scrums 11 to eight and the second half seven to five. Wests weak link was five-eighth Bruce Lowe, who was making his initial first grade appearance. Lowe lacked experience to take advantage of Keith Holman's brilliant work from the scrum base, and inside backs, Dines and Fitzgerald were pressed for room. Norths strength, despite loss of the scrums, was in the forwards. All six played well and often gained possession to send their backs racing. Best were big Don Evenden and Col Lay who were always where the going was toughest. Peter Diversi made a welcome return, playing solidly and giving his young halves plenty of cover. George Martin and Keith Middleton displayed understanding in the centres while wingers O'Brien and Plater took every chance which came their way. Both fullbacks, Alan Arkey (Norths) and George Bain (Wests), were in good form. Honours went to Arkey. For Wests, Holman showed out with a gem of a try in the first half. Holman was an inspiration to the side in their desperate battle to make up the leeway in the second half. Best of Wests forwards were lock Neville Charlton, who marred a good effort by giving away the last penalty, which sealed the game for Norths, with Hooper and Ogle also giving good service. **(Truth 4th April 1954)**

Notes: The injury-plagued 1953 season was revisited in this game. George Bain and Dev Dines were both knocked unconscious and Barry Owen had a badly gashed mouth. When the injuries came, Norths dashed to a 23-9 lead but to their credit Wests stormed back to get within one point. Hec Farrell was back from injury and won the scrums well. Bill Lowe came in for the injured Don Graham (leg) but didn't support Keith Holman, who had another blinder, very well.