



1930 Round 2 Saturday 3rd May Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 12

def.

Balmain 8

Frank McMILLAN
 Alan BRADY
 Jim CRAIG (c)
 Cliff PEARCE
 Ray MORRIS
 Norm JOHNSON
 Les MEAD
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bill CARPENTER
 Bill BROGAN
 Frank SPILLANE
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES

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

Charlie RICHARDS
 Stan DONEGAN
 Cecil FIFIELD (c)
 Norm ROBINSON
 Jim DUCKWORTH
 Les MOORE
 Syd CHRISTENSEN
 Reg LATTA
 S MARTIN
 Jim PRITCHARD
 George MULLINS
 George BISHOP
 Wal MAIZEY

Tries Norm JOHNSON
 Alan BRADY

Syd CHRISTENSEN (2)

Goals Jim CRAIG (1)
 Les MEAD (1)
 Frank McMILLAN (1)

Syd CHRISTENSEN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back. F. McMillan: three-quarters, A. Brady, C. Pearce, J. Craig, R. Morris ; halves, N. Johnson. L. Mead; forwards, F. Matterson, F. Spillane, W. Carpenter, C. Rhodes, R. Lindfield, W. Brogan.

Balmain: Full-back, C. Richards ; three-quarters. S. Donegan, C. Fifield, N. Robinson. J. Duckworth; halves. L. Moore, S. Christenson; forwards. W. Maizey, G. Bishop, G. Mullins, S. Martin, J. Pritchard R. Latta **Referee, L. Deane**

Though the weather conditions did not promise good football, a big crowd of 3500 enthusiasts enjoyed a scintillating display in the first session at Pratten Park. An abnormal number of scrums were awarded, and of these, Wests easily won a majority. A penchant for lifting his feet before the ball was inserted by Bishop, cost his side many penalties. When in possession, Balmain adhered to the handling policy, whilst W.S. varied their play with stab kicks and short passing rushes. After thirty minutes' play, and despite the conditions, both sides revealed spectacular football. Though the leather was necessarily greasy and heavy, adroit handling featured the game. The forwards, particularly, played grandly, whilst the backs moved well. Western Suburbs early forged in the lead, and soon had 10 points in their favour. Balmain valiantly replied, and Christenson scored two tries in quick succession. The most spectacular try of the game was a penalty one. A movement initiated at the scrum base on Balmain's line, was dramatically turned into a try. Christenson gathered, and, by dint of brilliant dribbling, guarding, and safely advancing, carried the ball on his toes to within two yards of West's line. There he was obstructed by Brady, who deliberately pushed Christenson aside, and Referee Deane correctly awarded a try. In the second half, the contest resolved itself into a dour struggle, in which the forwards mainly participated. Both sides scored two tries, but goal kicking, though not always good, won the match for West. .

The outstanding player on the ground was McMillan. He never made a mistake throughout the afternoon, handling skilfully, and extricating his side from dangerous positions by startling play. Continual applause greeted his efforts, and his English reputation can be readily understood on yesterday's exhibition. Brady was safe on the wing, and showed a fair turn of speed, but Morris was inclined to mishandle, and overrun the ball. Both Craig and Pearce were sound in the centre. In the forwards, Spillane, Carpenter, and Rhodes were the best of a hard-working sextet. Spillane badly injured his eye, but played on, notwithstanding blood poured incessantly.

Scores : Western Suburbs 12 (Brady, Johnson tries. Craig. Mead, and McMillan goals). Balmain 8 (Christenson 2 tries and goal). Following the match an honour cap was presented to C. Fifield by the Western Suburbs Club, for having played in 55 club games for that team. (**Sunday Times 4th May 1930**)

Very few penalty tries are ever given, so Lal Deane's award to Christensen was a notable thing. Alan Brady should have been pole-axed for trying that illegal tackle on Christensen, but guess it was an act of desperation and it might have come off with a mere penalty on other refs. whom we know. (**Sydney Sportsman 6th May 1930**)

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Notes: Cecil Fifield, Kangaroo and ex-Wests player, returned as Captain of Balmain and Wests had a great gesture at the end of the match when they presented him with a cap for his service to the Magpies. This game was played in very poor conditions; mud and slush everywhere. Lindfield was again dominant in the scrums, allowing the Wests' forwards to get on top, although Dutchy Matterson sustained a severe cut over the eye. Frank McMillan was once again the best player on the field, repelling many of the Balmain attacks. Cliff Pearce also regained his form. The match was highlighted by a penalty try awarded to Syd Christensen after Alan Brady deliberately interfered with him as he was going for a loose ball.