



# 1956 Round 2 Saturday 7th April Cricket Ground



## Western Suburbs 10

def.

## North Sydney 9

George BAIN  
Cliff SMAILLES  
Harry WELLS (c)  
Ian JOHNSTON  
Ernie HILLS  
Darcy HENRY  
Keith HOLMAN  
Don MEEHAN  
Kel O'SHEA  
Nev CHARLTON  
Mark PATCH  
Bede GOFF  
Ron WATSON

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

Alan ARKEY  
Tom PIERCE  
Norm TWIGHT  
Neville BROGAN  
Horrie TOOLE  
Alf MADDEN  
Jimmy GILLON  
Barry FRASER  
Col LAY  
Bernie CUNEO  
Don EVENDEN (c)  
Norm STRONG  
Jack BLINKHORN

### Tries

Darcy HENRY  
Harry WELLS

Tom PIERCE

### Goals

George BAIN (2)

Alan ARKEY (3) One field goal

### Match Description

**North Sydney:** Full-back: A Arkey; three-quarters: T Pierce, N Twight, N Brogan, H Toole; five-eighth: A Madden; half: J Gillon; forwards: B Fraser, C Lay, B Cuneo, D Evenden (c), N Strong, J Blinkhorn

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: C Smailles, H Wells (c), I Johnston, E Hills; five-eighth: D Henry; half: K Holman; forwards: D Meehan, K O'Shea, N Charlton, M Patch, B Goff, R Watson **Referee: C Pearce (as per program Rugby League News 7th April 1956)**

North Sydney Rugby League players yesterday hotly disputed a referee's decision which cost them a win. Western Suburbs defeated North 10-9 at Sydney Cricket Ground. The referee, Col Pearce, overruled a linesman who had signalled a goal to Norths. Norths' winger Tom Pierce had scored a try wide out three minutes from the end, reducing Wests' lead from 10-6 to 10-9. Full-back Alan Arkey took the kick at goal. One linesman signalled a goal, the other no-goal. Referee Pearce, who had become the arbiter, ruled no-goal. Many spectators behind the goal-posts, in the crowd of 24,433, hooted the decision. A goal would have given Norths an 11-10 win over Wests' £4000 rebuilt team of stars. After the match Arkey said: "In my opinion the ball was six inches to a foot inside the goalpost. The linesman at that post signalled a goal. The other linesman signalled no-goal. I was surprised when the referee overruled the linesman who was in the better position to see." Former North full-back Fred Bulgin said: "It is astonishing to think that a referee should overrule the linesman at the goal-post in question." Wests' captain Harry Wells said: "I was right behind the goal-post. In my opinion the ball swung late and passed inches outside the goal-post." Pierce's try provided a sensational finish to an uninspiring game. A few minutes earlier Pierce had made a spectacular save. Wests' Test five-eighth Darcy Henry had shot into the open after centre Harry Wells had spread-eagled North's defence with a 40-yard burst down the middle of the field. Henry was 10 yards from scoring between the goal-posts. Pierce, a professional sprinter, dashed across the field and dived five yards to get Henry's ankles. Even hard-boiled old players like former Test star Frank Burge, who usually sit unemotionally through a match, joined in the applause. Bad handling marred the match. Players blamed "unusually light" footballs for the bad handling. .... Wests played the more determined football. Its forwards were dominant and centre Harry Wells was the best player on the field. North forwards were inclined to "hang off" Wells who became a danger each time he got the ball. Norths, playing with a stiff south-west breeze, led 6-2 at half-time. Arkey had kicked two goals and a field goal to a goal by West full-back George Bain. Henry and Wells scored two tries for Wests mid-way through the second-half. Henry's try was brilliant. Skirting the touchline in a 40 yard run he twice side-stepped tackles by Pierce and North lock Barry Fraser. Pierce refused to give up. He came at Henry a third time but Henry beat his diving tackle to score inches in from the corner. Wests and Norths will be hard to beat when the competition settles down. Norths will get a big boost next Saturday when Trevor Allen joins the team. **(Sunday Telegraph 8th April 1956)**

...In my opinion, those who played the most useful football for Wests were O'Shea, Watson and Patch. The backs Wells and Henry were spasmodically effective. The full-back Bain was more dangerous to his own team than Norths. For Norths, I thought the hooking of Strong was the sheet-anchor. Evenden and Cuneo played hard in the forwards. Madden at five-eighth and Arkey at full-back also played well. **(Truth 8th April 1956)**

**Notes:** This was a very poor standard match and the players blamed the balls. It was also a disputed match where North Sydney players reckoned they kicked a winning goal which was disallowed by Col Pearce after a one-up, one-down linesmen decision. Harry Wells, however, said he had a good sight and it was definitely no-goal. Darcy Henry and Harry Wells also displayed their class with strong performances. Mark Patch also demonstrated what a strong forward he was likely to be during the season.