



1954 Round 3 Saturday 10th April Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 20

def.

Manly-Warringah 9



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

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

Alan BATTY
Ron ROWLES
Jack HOBBS
Rees DUNCAN
Gordon WILLOUGHBY
Brian STAUNTON
Reg CURRAN
George HUNTER
Martin JACKSON
Jack HUBBARD
Kevin FLEMING
Kevin SCHUBERT
Roy BULL (c)

Tries Keith HOLMAN
Barry OWEN

Jack HOBBS

Goals George BAIN (5)
Keith HOLMAN (2)

Ron ROWLES (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: B Owen, D Dines, J Fitzgerald, K Owens; five-eight: D Graham; half: K Holman; forwards: K Charlton, D Smith, W Owens, M Caldwell, H Farrell, E Hooper

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: A Batty; three-quarters: R Rowles, J Hobbs, R Duncan, G Willoughby; five-eighth: B Staunton; half: R Curran; forwards: G Hunter, M Jackson, J Hubbard, R Bull (c), K Schubert, K Fleming **Referee: C Pearce (The Daily Mirror 10th April 1954)**

A total of five Rugby League players were sent off in two matches yesterday. Hec Farrell (West) and Kevin Fleming and Roy Bull (Manly) were ordered off in the match at Pratten Park. ... Wests won its sensational game, 20-9. Play was hard with many infringements. From a melee shortly before half-time, referee Col. Pearce picked out Farrell and Fleming and sent them off, allegedly for fighting. There was a sensation one minute later when Pearce sent off international forward and Manly captain, Roy Bull, for alleged indiscriminate kicking. Bull had been cautioned twice previously over tackles. There was an amazing spectacle in the second half after Manly's centre, John Hobbs, had been knocked out. Ambulance men rushed to his assistance and two of them tried to get him to the side-line. Hobbs resisted and teammates had to remove him. When told he could not play again, he fought to get back on to the field. Club secretary, Mr. Jack Munro, president, Mr. Cec. White, Forbes Carlile, and four other Manly club officials finally got him away. When Hobbs was examined by a doctor, it was found that he had concussion. He was taken to Western Suburbs Hospital. When play was resumed in the second half, both teams packed down with three men only in the scrum. Manly, with three men off, had little alternative, but there were constant protests by Manly supporters because Wests' three-man scrum left nine men in the backs. The rules provide that if more than eight shall play in the backs and the team wins the ball from the scrum it shall be penalised. Wests did win the ball from scrums on some occasions and were never penalised, and a section of the crowd shouted out at referee Pearce. **(The Sun-Herald 11th April 1954)**

Referee Col Pearce allowed Wests a nine-man backline in the second stanza, which former international referee George Bishop stated was contrary to the rules. After the game, Manly officials said they would not request a replay. Referee Pearce was counted out during the second half, and the situation was momentarily ugly after the game. ... Playing three short, Manly were overwhelmed in the second half, with Wests' custodian, George Bain, landing five goals. Two players stood out, firstly Keith Holman for his leadership and ability to turn Wests' defence into attack. Second was Manly custodian Alan Batty for his safe handling and kicking and cool-headedness against overwhelming odds. **(Truth 11th April 1954)**

Bill Owens made a good impression in his first game in the top grade last Saturday. Bill has had a quick rise as he played juniors last year. His brother Kevin playing on the wing is also a junior of last year and shows promise of developing into a really good winger. **(Rugby League News April 17th 1954)**

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Notes: Bill Owens made his debut in a very rough match. There were many cautions and eventually Hec Farrell and Kevin Fleming were sent off for fighting, followed closely by Manly Captain, Roy Bull, for "indiscriminate kicking". There was a remarkable incident when Jack Hobbs, Manly centre, was concussed by a heavy tackle but became very belligerent when an ambulance official tried to get him off. It took seven Manly officials to force him off and get him to hospital. When it came to the football, Holman was again a driving force and Wests scored two good tries, including one by Holman himself.