



1956 Round 3 Saturday 14th April Cricket Ground



Newtown 17

Gordon CLIFFORD
 Ray PRESTON
 Dick POOLE (c)
 Laurie McMAHON
 Kevin CONSIDINE
 Ray KELLY
 Bobby WHITTON
 Peter RYAN
 Frank NARVO
 Mick KELLY
 Les HAMPSON
 Greg ELLIS
 Don STAIT

def.

Western Suburbs 8

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



Tries

Gordon CLIFFORD
 Kevin CONSIDINE
 Dick POOLE

Ian JOHNSTON
 Don MEEHAN

Goals

Gordon CLIFFORD (4)

George BAIN (1)

Match Description

Newtown: Full-back: G Clifford; three-quarters: R Preston, D Poole, L McMahon, K Considine; five-eighth: R Kelly; half: R Whitton; forwards: P Ryan, F Narvo, M Kelly, D Stait, G Ellis, L Hampson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: C Smailles, H Wells, I Johnston, E Hills; five-eighth: D Henry; half: P Daley; forwards: D Meehan, K O'Shea, N Charlton, M Patch, B Goff, R Watson **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 14th April 1956)**

Western Suburbs' £4000 re-built Rugby League team yesterday had its first defeat after a remarkable battle two men short. Newtown was only able to clinch a 17-8 win with a converted try scored while playing on borrowed time at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Wests lost centre Harry Wells 11 minutes after the start and second-rower Kel O'Shea midway through the second half. Wells pulled a muscle in his left thigh and may be out of football for a fortnight. Referee Darcy Lawler ordered O'Shea and Newtown front-rower Don Stait from the field for punching. The loss of Wells and O'Shea was a big blow to West. They are Test players. Wests, playing with only four forwards for the last 20 minutes, put up a great fight. Spectators in the member's enclosure stood and clapped the Wests' players from the field. Referee Darcy Lawler, a Test referee, gave his poorest exhibition. His decision to order O'Shea and Stait from the field was ridiculous. Their "scuffle" would not have upset an old maids' afternoon tea party. The two players shook hands as they left the field. Lawler ignored the three-yard play-the-ball rule so much that it became a farce. His interpretation of the rule appeared to be that "players are privileged to stand anywhere."

Most spectators expected the depleted West team to fade during the second half. But Wests' forwards took the initiative. For the first 15 minutes of the second half they bombarded Newtown's 25. The sortie produced a try which centre Ian Johnston scored. The move started when half-back Peter Daley ran from the scrum base 20 yards from the line. Five-eighth Darcy Henry joined in and cleverly ran Johnston into position to score the try. After O'Shea and Stait were ordered from the field, Newtown began to regain its grip. Newtown centre, Dicky Poole and half-back Bobby Whitton gave Wests' defence a torrid time with spirited bursts. At this time Wests were playing only three forwards in the scrums. Another forward, Nev Charlton, stood just wide of the scrum to harass Newtown half-back Whitton. As is often the case when only three forwards are in a scrum, Wests got the big share of the ball from Newtown's five forwards. Those four Wests' forwards never gave up. Front-rower Mark Patch was outstanding. He did the work of three men. **(Sunday Telegraph 15th April 1956)**

.....Wests' coach Jack Walsh said: "I'm proud of the Wests team. Wells' early withdrawal threw tremendous responsibility on the other players. The second half rallies by our depleted pack are something to remember.... Keith Holman watched the game from the Wests' dressing room. Because of Wells' injury he will play next Saturday. **(Sun-Herald 15th April 1956)**

Keith Holman suffered a freak injury last Saturday, and cannot remember when he did it. He went down sharply on one knee and burst a blood vessel behind his knee. Will be back next week, says Lou. **(Rugby League News 14th April 1956)**

.....
Notes: Holman was out injured for this match with a ruptured blood vessel behind the knee and Pat Daley made his debut. Harry Wells was injured early and then Kel O'Shea was sent off, so Wests played a lot of the match with only 11 men. They battled bravely right to the finish in an impressive, gutsy display. Right in the thick of it were both Nev Charlton and Mark Patch, in stirring forward displays.