



1955 Round 3 Saturday 16th April Cricket Ground



Manly-Warringah 46

def.

Western Suburbs 0

Angus KELLOCK
Johnny TENISON
Bill LLOYD
John HOBBS
Eddie LUMSDEN
Rees DUNCAN
Kevin DIETT
George HUNTER
Bob GRIMM
Martin JACKSON
Glenn THORPE
George LENON
Roy BULL (c)

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

John BREST
Bill BAILEY
Jack FITZGERALD
Jim PLATER
John THOMPSON
Bill BROWN
Keith HOLMAN (c)
Jim MCKENZIE
Bill CARSON
Bill OWENS
Nev CHARLTON
Hec FARRELL
Ron WATSON



Tries

Johnny TENISON (3)
Martin JACKSON (2)
Roy BULL
Eddie LUMSDEN
John HOBBS
Bob GRIMM
Rees DUNCAN

Goals

Angus KELLOCK (8)

Match Description

Manly-Warringah: Full-back: A Kellock; three-quarters: J Tenison, W Lloyd, J Hobbs, E Lumsden' five-eighth: R Duncan; half: K Diett; forwards: G Hunter, R Grimm, M Jackson, G Thorpe, G Lenon, R Bull (c)

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Brest; three-quarters: W Bailey, J Plater, J Fitzgerald, J Thompson; five-eighth: W Brown; half: K Holman (c); forwards: J McKenzie, W Owens, W Carson, N Charlton, H Farrell, R Watson **Referee: J O'Brien (The Daily Mirror 16th April 1955)**

Western Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday experienced the "blackest" day in its history when Manly-Warringah routed it 46-0 at Sydney Cricket Ground. Wests, previously undefeated, finished the match with only 10 men. It had two players injured during the first 11 minutes. The injured were: * Lock Jim McKenzie badly ruptured leg ligaments and muscles * Full-back John Brest badly jarred thigh muscles * Centre Jim Plater, torn chest muscles. During the early matches yesterday Wests lost reserve grader Barry Perry with a broken ankle and third-grader Joe Leslie with a broken arm. Ambulances took McKenzie, Perry and Leslie to St Vincent's Hospital. A doctor said McKenzie's leg injury was the worst case of its type he had seen. He said McKenzie probably would not be able to play again this season. Some Wests officials said they feared McKenzie would never play again. Brest was injured three minutes after the start and McKenzie eight minutes later. During this period Manly piled up an 8-0 lead. McKenzie was carried from the field on a stretcher. Brest and Plater, who was injured late in the first half, continued into the second half. Plater left the field nine minutes after half-time, and Brest 15 minutes from the end. Brest tried to see the match through. But he was taking such a thrashing that Wests' Secretary, Mr Lou Moses, finally walked out to the touchline and beckoned him off the field. Some spectators criticised Mr Moses' action. A doctor advised Mr Moses to withdraw Brest to save him from possible serious injury. Almost throughout the second half Wests struggled on with only three men in the scrum. Wests finished the match with second-rower Bill Owens at full-back and the other second-rower, Bill Carson, on the left wing. Billy Bailey switched from the left wing to the centre to try to bolster the defence. Midway through the second half the game became a travesty. Hundreds of people in the crowd of 11,181 began to leave the ground early in the second half. Wests officials sat glumly as the promising young team they had built around Test half-back Keith Holman sank deeper and deeper into the mire. The injuries during the first 11 minutes sealed Wests' fate. Manly showed out as a really classy team which will bother every side in the competition. Manly's coach, former Test star Pat Devery who last year returned to Sydney after seven seasons in England commented: "We promoted a lot of youngsters to first grade this season, and the team is just settling down. I'm trying to bring some English ideas into the Manly team." **(The Daily Telegraph 17th April 1955)**

...Wests was saved from an even heavier rout yesterday by Hec Farrell's success in the scrums. As often happens, the three-man pack won its share of the ball. Referee J O'Brien did not relax from a firm interpretation of the rules, even when Wests were overwhelmed. Penalties were 14-all. Wests' men were gallant losers. Holman kept them going and they strove to stem the tide of tries. Holman refused some probable penalty goals late in the match, preferring to keep play moving.

(The Sun Herald 17th April 1955)

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Notes: On paper this looks like a thrashing but this "black Saturday", as it was described, was actually a gutsy effort. Brest, Plater and McKenzie were all injured; Jim McKenzie a season ending serious leg injury. In fact, he didn't play again until 1957. Wests finished the game with ten men but, driven on by Keith Holman, they kept going right to the end, even winning the scrums with a three-man pack.