



1948 Round 3 Saturday 24th April Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 10

def.

South Sydney 8

Wally TEBBUTT
Pat LEAL
Colin MAXWELL
Eric BENNETT
Fred YANZ Jnr
Frank STANMORE
Neville HOGAN
Peter McLEAN
Bernie PURCELL
Don MILTON
Jack WALSH (c)
Alan HORNER
Jim SEERY

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

Clive CHURCHILL
John GRAVES
Barry REDDING
Eric ANDERSON
Len ALLMOND
Jim HUNT
Ken BROGAN
Les COWIE
Jack RAYNER (c)
Ian VERENDER
William MULLANE
Keith AITKEN
Jack MELVILLE

Tries

Eric BENNETT
Fred YANZ Jnr

Len ALLMOND
Eric ANDERSON

Goals

Wally TEBBUTT (2)

Clive CHURCHILL (1)

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back: C Churchill; three-quarters: J Graves, E Anderson, B Redding, L Allmond; five-eighth: J Hunt; half: K Brogan; forwards: L Cowie, J Rayner, I Verender, W Mullane, K Aitken, J Melville

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Tebbutt; three-quarters: P Leal, C Maxwell, E Bennett, F Yanz; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: N Hogan; forwards: P McLean, D Milton, B Powell, J Seery, A Hornery, J Walsh (c) **Referee: T McMahon (Rugby League News 8th May 1948)**

Western Suburbs and South Sydney made the welkin ring with the full-throated roar from 23,856 Rugby League spectators yesterday on Sydney Cricket Ground when Wests won a thrilling game by the narrow margin of 10 points to 8. The game scintillated with snappy passing bursts, with powerful offensive and counteroffensive from kick-off to final bell, and time after time the crowd on the hill was lifted to its feet in its frenzy of excitement as players of either team raced for the line. The dying stages of the game were reminiscent of the golden age of the Rabbitohs of South Sydney when their followers would inspire the players with their orchestrated chant of 'Souths, Souths, Souths,' in staccato waves of cheering. Yesterday in the fading light, with Souths down 10 points to 8, the crowd rose to them during a last-minute desperate assault on the Western line. They crushed through in the rucks. They almost bashed through in the loose. They threw the ball from man to man in penetrating assaults in which as many as 10 players sometimes handled. But the Western defence, with big Jack Walsh, J. Seery and P. McLean in the forwards, and C. Maxwell, Eric Bennett, F. Stanmore and N. Hogan in the backs, stood the test of those bulldozing assaults, and Wests retained their slender lead to win the game by two points. Even so, Souths might have snatched the game out of the fire during that pulsating assault, had Brogan kicked the two penalty goals from positions near the 25 line. They were easy kicks. That last-minute storming of the line by Souths was one of the greatest tonics the Rugby League code has had for years, and it badly needed such a tonic in view of the anaemic displays the crowd has seen this season on Sydney Cricket Ground. Wests made full contribution to a scintillating game that was studded with gems of passing in which the individual was only a link in the chain of penetration towards the enemy's line. Wests went on to the field with one intention yesterday, to play Rugby League football as it should be played. They kept the game moving. They kept it open. They went forward, not across the field. Their centres Eric Bennett and C. Maxwell fed their wingers, and their wingers Yanz and Leal rose to the occasion. Even their forwards, noted for their powerful bottling up of the game, caught on the infection, and, headed by their captain, Jack Walsh, they combined in sweeping passing bursts that thrilled the crowd. Mention of the Western centres feeding their wingers, reminds one perhaps that the absence of this capacity with the two South centres cost them the game. In Maxwell, Western Suburbs has the outstanding centre in Rugby League football. Strongly -built, he is the ideal centre with that forgotten football sense of most centres that the shortest distance between, two points on the football field is a straight line that runs up and down the ground, not across it. One of the surprises of the match was the grand display of F. Yanz on the wing. Yanz scored a brilliant try yesterday when he gathered a pass from Seery, near halfway, and completely fooled the opposition with his change of pace to the extent that he caught full-back Churchill napping and ran right through him to score. This was football deluxe. **(Truth 25th April 1948)**

Notes: This was regarded as the best game of the season so far; a very fast and open game that was in doubt to the final bell. Early on, the great Clive Churchill saved a certain try with a crashing tackle on Neville Hogan and similar defence was employed by Wests late in the game as they repelled attack after attack on their line from a rampaging Souths. Jack Walsh was heroic in these clashes, making tackle after tackle, carrying a dislocated shoulder. Colin Maxwell had again demonstrated his brilliance; he was now regarded as the best centre in the game, a hard straight runner and punishing defender. They would have to back up for a Monday game against Manly, needing to find a replacement for Walsh.