



1949 Round 3 Monday 25th April Cricket Ground



Newtown 41

def.

Western Suburbs 17

Oriel KENNERSON
 John TROY
 Raymond PRESTON
 Mick MULLANE
 Horrie KESSEY
 Russell MADDEN
 Keith FROOME
 Bill EDWARDS
 Herb NARVO
 T MATTHEWS
 Alf GIBBS
 Frank JOHNSON
 Frank FARRELL (c)

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

Bill KEATO
 Col HUDSON
 Colin MAXWELL (c)
 Eric BENNETT
 Jack WOODS
 George BAIN
 Keith HOLMAN
 Peter McLEAN
 Don MILTON
 Kevin HANSEN
 Jim SEERY
 William BROWN
 Bill HORDER



Tries

Keith FROOME (2)
 Bill EDWARDS (2)
 Horrie KESSEY
 Mick MULLANE
 Herb NARVO
 Ray PRESTON
 Jack TROY

Bill HORDER
 Peter McLEAN
 Col HUDSON

Goals

Oriel KENNERSON (4)
 Keith FROOME (3)

Bill KEATO (4)

Match Description

Newtown: Full-back: O Kennerson; three-quarters: J Troy, M Mullane, R Preston, H Kessey; five-eighth: R Madden; half: K Froome; forwards: W Edwards, H Narvo, T Matthews, F Farrell (capt), F Johnson, A Gibbs

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: C Hudson, E Bennett, C Maxwell (capt), J Woods; five-eighth: G Bain; half: K Holman; forwards; P McLean, D Milton, K Hansen, J Seery, W Brown, W Horder **Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News April 30th 1949)**

Newtown Rugby League team yesterday made a sensational recovery at Sydney Cricket Ground to defeat Western Suburbs 41-17. Newtown's score was the biggest in a first-grade match in Sydney since Balmain defeated Parramatta 47-14 on August 2, 1947. Wests yesterday gained a 12-nil lead during the first 15 minutes of play, and at half-time led 17-16. In a whirlwind scoring burst in the second half, Newtown added 25 points to nil. Wests collapsed because its captain, Kangaroo Col Maxwell, suffered a probable chipped right ankle a minute before half-time, and was useless for the remainder of the match, * Its young forwards tried to fight with Newtown's veterans, rather than play them at football, *It was under instructions to depart from its traditional close game to brighten play to please spectators, *Newtown won the scrums at the rate of three to one, and Wests' defence was run to a standstill during the second half. After the match Newtown's former international forward Herb Narvo said: "Wests sacrificed an excellent chance to win because of the tendency of its forwards to fight rather than play football." Almost every time I was tackled I felt a punch on the ribs." Maxwell, who was in great pain in the dressing-room, said: "Wests paid a penalty for trying to play spectacular football to rehabilitate Rugby League." During each of the two previous main League matches thousands of spectators left the ground disgusted at drab play. West's "brighter-play" plans caught Newtown unprepared early in yesterday's match, and in the first 15 minutes forwards Peter McLean and Bill Horder crashed through the defence to score tries. Full-back Bill Keato, who was playing his first competition match of the season, also kicked three goals. Throughout the remainder of the match, Newtown's captain-coach (Frank Farrell) vociferously "drove" his players. The response was constant and before half-time Kangaroo half-back Keith Froome scored two clever tries from blind-side moves, and State lock-forward Bill Edwards and winger Horrie Kessey one each. In one of Froome's tries he deceived two Wests' defenders with side-steps in a 40-yards run down the line. Froome and Kennerson also kicked a goal each. During this period of Newtown's recovery, West winger Col Hudson scored an easy try which Keato converted to retain the lead for their team. Towards the end 16-stone second-row forward Kevin Hansen played almost a lone hand in Wests' team. Newtown players Jack Troy, Narvo, Mick Mullane, Ron Preston, and Edwards added tries, and Kennerson kicked three goals and Froome two. The attendance, 31,058, was a record for this season. **(The Daily Telegraph 26th April 1949)**

Notes: This was an Anzac Day, Monday, match where Wests led 17-16 at half-time. The signs were ominous however, because Col Maxwell had a feared broken ankle and hobbled around the field in the second half. Newtown were able to capitalise and ran away in the second half, scoring 25 unanswered points. Frank Stanmore was also out with a broken toe, replaced by George (Bitzer) Bain who becomes a key player in the 50's. Subsequent X-rays showed that Maxwell had only sustained a severe sprain.