

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Parish; three-quarters: J Ryan, H Wells (c), W Brown, P Dimond; five-eighth: W Martin; half: A Summons; forwards: K Smyth, J Hayes, K O'Shea, D Meaney, W Carson, N Charlton

South Sydney: Full-back: A Flockton; three-quarters: E Robinson, A Lang, R Richardson, E Sladden; five-eighth: B Wallace; half: W Stokes; forwards: J Gudgeon, F Nelson, M Cross, T Cocking, B Murray, C Gibson Referee: C Pearce (The Sun 25th April 1961)

A shock scoring burst only 10 minutes from full-time gave Western Suburbs Rugby League team a win against South Sydney. Wests defeated South 17-9 on a heavy field at Redfern Oval. Souths had held Wests for so long spectators were tipping it to add to the victory it scored over Manly-Warringah last Saturday. With nearly 30 minutes of the second half gone South led 7-5. But two converted tries within five minutes gave Wests an iron-grip on the game. From then Souths had no chance. Bustling winger Peter Dimond scored the two snap tries that turned the game Wests' way. Dimond's first try was little better than a "fluke", but it helped demoralise Souths. Wests' lock Kevin Smythe had taken play deep into Souths' territory before passing to half-back Arthur Summons. Summons ran a few yards and let the ball go blindly when South winger Eric Robinson moved across. Dimond was running behind Summons but he had no chance of grabbing the ball. He stretched out his foot, tapped the ball into the air, and gathered it to score between the posts. A minute later Dimond scored again, wide out, after centre Harry Wells burst through from a scrum near half-way. Dimond's part in Souths' downfall was a shock to many spectators who earlier had hooted the winger. Spectators hooted in the first half when young South half Billy Stokes injured himself tackling Dimond. The loyal home-crowd accused Dimond of dirty play, but Dimond was not to blame for Stokes' injury. Centre Harry Wells played a real captain's part in Wests' tactics of letting the inexperienced South players run themselves out of breath with 10 minutes of the game left. When Wests unleashed its power Souths' players were exhausted. Souths did well to hold the big Wests' forwards for so long on the heavy ground. Wests had advantages of size and speed over South in all departments. **(Daily Telegraph 26th April 1961)**

Two snap tries by winger Peter Dimond in the closing stages enabled Western Suburbs to beat South Sydney 17-9 in a ragged match at Redfern Oval yesterday. Dimond scored the tries less than 5 minutes apart, after Souths had led 7-5 about 10 minutes from the end. Until then, there had been little between each side. Poor handling in slippery conditions robbed the match of brilliance. Dimond's first try was a lucky one for Wests. He had taken a wild pass from Arthur Summons on his boot at top speed, and the ball bounced up into his hands just as he reached Souths' tryline. Soon after Don Parish had converted the try, Wests were again on the attack. Centre Harry Wells found an opening on the half-way and positioned Dimond who raced 30 yards down the sideline to score in the corner. Souths were without centre Ron Taylor and prop Russell Addison, and half Billy Stokes was off the field for 15 minutes of the first half with an arm injury. Wests were best served by Billy Martin, Harry Wells, Kel O'Shea and Peter Dimond, and Souths' best players were Bob Wallace, Fred Nelson and Alan Flockton. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 26th April 1961)**

Notes: Played on a very heavy field, Wests nevertheless scored some excellent tries. One of Dimond's tries was a remarkable effort, coming off his foot at top speed, straight into his hands. Wells again was a standout, but once again, in the boggy conditions, the forwards took control and Souths were a very tired lot by the final bell. Leading 7-5 with 10 minutes to go, Souths simply ran out of puff.

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