



1917 Round 3 Saturday 26th May Birchgrove Oval



Balmain 21

def.

Western Suburbs 0

Lyall WALL
 Jim CRAIG
 Jack ROBINSON
 Charles FRASER
 Jim BRASSILL
 Albert JOHNSTON
 Arthur HALLOWAY (c)
 Robert CRAIG
 Reginald LATTA
 Bill SCHULTZ
 Alf FRASER
 Horrace WATT
 R MILLER

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

Athol WHITE
 Tom McCAULEY
 Pat CARROLL
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Dick VEST
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Alf BOSSI
 Harold LEDDY
 Frank HOLT
 Hector LEE
 Edward COURTNEY
 Jack REDMOND
 William JOASS



Tries Jack ROBINSON (2)
 Robert CRAIG
 Alf FRASER
 Reginald LATTA

Goals Lyall WALL (2)
 R MILLER (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back, L Wall; three-quarters, J Brassill, C Fraser, J Robinson, J Craig; halves, A Johnston, A Hallway; forwards, W Schultz, R Latta, H Watts, A Fraser, R Craig, R Miller
Western Suburbs: Full-back, A White; three-quarters, T Boland, A Carroll, H Gilbert, R Vest; halves, C W Prentice, A Bossi forwards, J Redmond, E Courtney, W Joass, F Holt, H Lee, H J Leddy **Referee: C Russell**

About 4000 spectators saw R Craig kick off for Balmain. ... The first ten minutes of play was in favour of Wests; they were getting the ball more often and their forwards were very keen. Balmain's turn came at last, and a fierce rally in Wests' 25 saw Johnston pick up and the ball passed through many hands, until R Craig secured and scored. C Fraser missed the goal. Balmain 3 to nil. The score put Wests on their metal, and their hard tackling held 'Mains at bay for a considerable time. Halloway scooped up from a scrum and the ball travelled along the quarter-line, and Johnston, securing, broke through, and scored. Miller's kick went wide. Balmain 6 to nil.

For ten minutes after the change of ends Wests forced 'Mains back, ... Finally, C Fraser flashed along the line from a little past half-way, and passed to Robinson, who scored. Wall added the extras. Balmain 11 to nil. Almost immediately, Mains went through the Wests, with Latta in the van, and he managed to get over. Wall's kick was again sure. Balmain 16 to nil. Keeping up the pressure, A Fraser took a pass close to the line, and scored. Miller added the extras. The whistle then blew. Balmain 21; Western Suburbs nil. **(The Evening News 26th May 1917)**

Tony Redmond, Wests' piano player, must have thought he was on the battlefield again when he saw the claret flowing from a lovely cut over the eye. Tony was game 'un to continue. Puss Bossi, Wests' half-back, is wondering why he does not get the same protection from his forwards as other halves get, especially Halloway, of Balmain. So Long Leddy must have thought he was going to the clouds when he was picked up by a Balmain forward; he was surprised when he struck Mother Earth again. If Herb Gilbert, the filbert, doesn't have visions of the Balmain captain in his sleep, he must have a wonderful constitution. The Western captain found himself legs up with the local captain every time he handled the ball. Tedda Courtney was the pick of Wests' forwards. This wonderful forward, like our old friend, Cakey Craig, seems to improve with age. Both players seem like playing forever. A White, Wests' full-back, is the only player with any life in him, the others seem to be thinking of home and mother instead of playing football. **(The Sydney Sportsman 30th May 1917)**

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Notes: This was a very high class Balmain team, the Premiers for the previous two years and unbeaten so far in 1917. Wests were again very competitive but ran out of condition. The team was about to click however for an unprecedented run of wins. McPherson at five-eighth and Albert Burdus in the forwards were originally listed to play but Clarrie Prentice came off the wing to play five-eighth and Frank Holt came in to replace Burdus. It is worth noting that Henry Naylor was listed as a reserve for this match. Like Claude McFayden he was giving great service to the club in Second Grade. Note again the comment on Tedda Courtney; he was truly mercurial. This was the first game where Tom McCauley was listed in the programs as T (Ted) Boland. The full story of why Tom McCauley played for two seasons under an assumed name is covered fully in an article (The Cost of Amateurism – the Tom McCauley story) published on the Prattenparkmagpies website.