



1935 Round 3 Saturday 4th May Cricket Ground



Eastern Suburbs 23

def.

Western Suburbs 16

Tom DOWLING
 Jack BEATON
 Dave BROWN (c)
 Ross MCKINNON
 Rod O'LOAN
 Ernie NORMAN
 Viv THICKNESSE
 Andy NORVAL
 Henry PIERCE
 Joe PEARCE
 Max NIXON
 Tom McLACHLAN
 Ray STEHR

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

Jim SHARMAN
 Vince SHEEHAN
 Stan TANCRED
 Alan BRADY
 Alan RIDLEY
 Vic HEY
 Les MEAD
 Jack KINGSTON
 Athol SMITH
 Max GRAY
 Ron EATON
 Gordon PUGH
 Vince CLEARY



Tries

Henry PIERCE (2)
 Jack BEATON
 Max NIXON
 Rod O'LOAN

Alan RIDLEY
 Vince SHEEHAN

Goals

Tom DOWLING (2)
 Dave BROWN (1)
 Jack BEATON (1)

Les MEAD (4)
 Vince CLEARY (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Sharman; three-quarters: A Ridley, A Brady, S Tancred, V Sheehan; halves: V Hey, L Mead (capt); forwards: J Kingston, A Smith, M Gray, V Cleary, G Pugh, R Eaton

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: T Dowling; three-quarters: J Beaton, D Brown (capt), R McKinnon, R O'Loan; halves: E Norman, V Thicknesse; forwards: A Norval, S Pearce, H Pierce, M Nixon, T McLachlan, R Stehr **Referee: L Deane (Rugby League News 1st June 1935)**

Before a crowd of 24,495 – one of the biggest club match gatherings in recent years – the eagerly awaited Eastern Suburbs-Western Suburbs fixture more than fulfilled expectations. Replete with thrilling incidents throughout, it will be long remembered by those who attended, and it must be classed among the outstanding grade games in the history of the code. A fast pace was maintained. A vital factor was Eastern Suburbs' superiority in the scrums and with this advantage the fast-moving Eastern backs simply could not be denied. Nevertheless, Western Suburbs, last season's premier team, was great in defeat, and it was a tribute to its defence that the opposing three-quarter line was kept from scoring in the second half. The game had been in progress only a few minutes when Western Suburbs opened the scoring. It was Hey who broke through, after receiving from Mead, when a ruck took place at the East 25 yards line, and the five-eighth sent to Brady, to Ridley, who crossed unopposed. Mead goaled. ... Then followed the outstanding scoring effort of the day – a great try by Beaton. Hemmed in close to the touch-line, Beaton, who was confronted by the opposing winger, Sheehan, and the full-back, Sharman, both his former team mates at St Joseph's College, sped past the former and then swerved inside Sharman to cross for a try that stamped him as a flank man of real class. Eastern Suburbs continued to press, but Mead kicked a penalty goal, to give Western Suburbs a further lead, and then West came back to the attack, to score again. A long kick by a Western Suburbs forward resulted in a great race across the line, Sheehan beating Norval and diving on the ball for a try when less than a yard from touch-in-goal. Mead kicked his third goal, and it was the last Western Suburbs' score in this half, Eastern Suburbs practically taking charge for the remainder of the play.Thicknesse made no mistake when he cut through from a scrum, giving H Pierce an easy passage across the line. As the half-time bell rang, Dowling kicked Eastern Suburbs' first goal and only one point separated the teams.

Eastern Suburbs took the lead as a result of Nixon's first try, after Brady had failed to gather Sharman's pass. Brown goaled, and when Cleary kicked a penalty goal for Western Suburbs, Eastern Suburbs led by two points – 16 to 14. The margin remained the same after Dowling and Mead had added penalty goals, and tremendous excitement prevailed as Western Suburbs, with Mead and Sheehan prominent, attacked strongly. After a penalty had relieved East, several Western backs handled before the error that enabled S Pearce to send Nixon across again occurred. Beaton's conversion clinched the match for Eastern Suburbs. Because of the one-sided nature of the scrum exchanges, the Mead-Hey v Thicknesse-Norman contest lacked the expected sensations, but in the actual clashes honours were perhaps with the Western pair, who proved a very solid combination on the day. Western Suburbs forwards battled gamely, but Pugh, who has failed to perform up to his reputation of last year, was a disappointment as "hooker". **(The Sydney Morning Herald 6th May 1935)**

Notes: Stan Tancred was back in the centres after a serious bout of boils and Vince Cleary came into the front row, replacing Alan Blake. A huge crowd watched one of the best club games seen for many years. Wests significantly missed the possession which used to be given by Lindfield. In previous matches that possession allowed Mead and Hey to dominate.