



1931 Round 3 Saturday 9th May Sydney Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 17

def.

South Sydney 15

Frank McMILLAN (c)
 Alan RIDLEY
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Cliff PEARCE
 Ray MORRIS
 Jack ROSA
 Harry OWEN
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bill CARPENTER
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bill BROGAN
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES

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

Alan RIGHTON
 Benny WEARING
 Pat MAHER
 Harry EYERS
 Reg WILLIAMS
 Jackie JONES
 Harold JOHNSTON
 Sid HARRIS
 Frank O'CONNOR
 George TREWEEKE
 Eddie ROOT
 Tom McLACHLAN
 Dave WATSON (c)

Tries

Alan RIDLEY (2)
 Ray MORRIS

Benny WEARING (2)
 Reg WILLIAMS

Goals

Frank McMILLAN (4)

Benny WEARING (2)
 Jackie JONES (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F. McMillan; three-quarters, A. Ridley, C. Pearce, K. Sherwood, R. Morris; halves, J. Rosa, H. Owen; forwards, F. Matterson, G. Cornwell, W. Carpenter, W. Brogan, C. Rhodes, R. Lindfield.

South Sydney: Full-back, A. Righton; three-quarters, B. Wearing, H. Evers, P. Maher, R. Williams; halves, J. Jones, H.F. Johnson, S. Harris; forwards, F. O Connor, G. Treweeke, D. Watson, E. Root, T. McLachlan **Referee: L. Deane. (The Sun 9th May 1931)**

Although the winning margin was only the odd goal and although the match probably would have been drawn had Wearing not just failed to add the extra two points to his last try, Western Suburbs was the better team on the day and deserved their success. It was a triumph for the six forward pack against South Sydney's five formation. Not only did the Western Suburbs men secure a good share of the ball from the scrums but the lock forward Matterson broke free quickly and was of material assistance to his backs in the passing movements whereas South Sydney's back line frequently appeared to be crowded. On the top of that the passing of the South Sydney men even in the second half when they recovered grandly lacked snap and the defence of Western Suburbs was always high class. Souths also had to defend grimly as their opponents displayed their usual determination in attempting to break through. The man who succeeded in piercing the defence more than any other player was the five-eighth Rosa whose dashes led to opportunities for the big wingers Ridley and Morris. When South Sydney led by seven points to nil before the opening half was well advanced the crowd of over 15 000 looked for a Western Suburbs recovery which was effected in such a manner that the side led by 12 to 7 at the interval.

West's took charge of matters for a time in the second half leading 15- 7 and 17-10 but South Sydney made a gallant effort which had the crowd greatly excited. At the end West's were pressing hard, McMillan twice falling with penalty shots. In a hard fought game, the veteran Western Suburbs and "Kangaroo" front row forward Brogan shone out as the star. He gave a magnificent all round display. He was a great rucker and frequently opened up the play and joined in with his backs, while his smothering tackles worried the South backs, particularly the half back Jones who could do little with the ball. The cool and experienced McMillan handled his team well and Rosa was the best of a fine lot of backs. Ridley showed a return to form but an injured leg caused him to limp badly during the last quarter of an hour. In the first half, Ridley and Morris scored tries for West's, McMillan converting one try and kicking two penalty goals while South Sydney's points came from a try by Wearing converted by Jones and a penalty goal by Wearing. In the second half Ridley scored a try and McMillan kicked a penalty goal for the winners and Wearing and Williams tries and Wearing a penalty goal were Souths additional scorers **(The Sydney Morning Herald 11th May 1931)**

Strategy played a big part in the victory. McMillan, with long raking kicks into the open spaces, repeatedly gained ground, and at the same time sent the South's forwards back.....Another big factor was the magnificent form of West's six forwards led by Brogan, who played one of the finest games of his career. Time and again he started the backs moving from the rucks while in defence he picked his man unerringly. **(Referee 13th May 1931)**

Notes: This was a match of the two best teams, played in front of a big crowd, and it didn't disappoint. It became a tight thrilling contest in the last ten minutes and West's were able to prevail as the best team on the day. Bill Brogan was absolutely outstanding, having perhaps his best game ever for West's. McMillan's kicking was also a large factor in the win, his line kicking driving Souths back and also kicking a magnificent goal from near half-way. Lindfield was injured during the match but it wasn't severe.