1959 Round 4 Sunday 12th April Redfern Oval

South Sydney 19   def.   Western Suburbs 18

South Sydney	Position	Western Suburbs
Billy BENNETT	*Fullback*	Darcy RUSSELL (c)
Eric SLADDEN	*Wing*	Ian MOIR
John PORTER	*Centre*	Harry WELLS
Arthur LANG	*Centre*	Peter DIMOND
Dale PUREN	*Wing*	Bernie KELLY
Geoff SMITH	*Five-eighth*	Darcy HENRY
Col DONOHOE	*Half*	Keith HOLMAN
John SHEARER	*Lock*	Kel O'SHEA
Fred NELSON	*Second Row*	Ray McDERMOTT
John COTTEE	*Second Row*	Bill CARSON
Tom COCKING	*Front Row*	Mark PATCH
Brian MURRAY	*Hooker*	Bede GOFF
Bernie PURCELL (c)	*Front Row*	Nev CHARLTON

Tries	Dale PUREN (2)	Peter DIMOND (2)
	Billy BENNETT	Ian MOIR (2)
Goals	Bernie PURCELL (5)	Darcy RUSSELL (3)

Match Description
South Sydney: Full-back: B Bennett; three-quarters: E Sladden, J Porter, A Lang, D Puren; five-eighth: G Smith; half: C Donohoe; forwards: J Shearer, F Nelson, J Cottee, T Cocking, B Murray, B Purcell (c)
Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Russell (c); three-quarters: I Moir, H Wells, P Dimond, B Kelly; five-eighth: D Henry; half: K Holman; forwards: K O'Shea, R McDermott, W Carson, M Patch, B Goff, N Charlton   **Referee: C Brown   (as per program + newspaper confirmations)**

South Sydney Rugby League captain Bernie Purcell kicked a sharply angled 35-yard goal to give his team a sensational 19-18 win over Western Suburbs at Redfern Oval yesterday. A record crowd for the ground – 20,706 – saw referee Cliff Brown award the goal after the touch-judges had disagreed whether the goal was "good." Wests staged a fight-back in the second half after trailing 5-17 at half-time. Wests, in this half, scored three tries to snatch an 18-17 lead minutes before the end of play. Urged on by the excited crowd, Souths staged one of its last minute efforts and took play into the Wests' territory for one of the few occasions in the second half. Front-row forward Neville Charlton was caught off-side and 10 yards in from the touch-line Purcell calmly lined up the kick. There was a roar as touch judge J Parkinson put his flag up and R McMillan waved "no –goal". Souths' players leapt in the air and club supporters let out a tremendous roar as referee Brown unhesitatingly indicated the kick was good. Three times during its spirited rally, Wests lost what would have been match-winning tries. *Centre Harry Wells, after a great run by halfback Keith Holman, sent a forward pass to Peter Dimond *Second-row forward Bill Carson spread-eagled the Souths' defence with a long run but was tackled into touch over the tryline by Eric Sladden *Holman, when practically clear of the defence, had the ball knocked from his grasp 15 yards from the line. Souths' supporters claimed that Peter Dimond was lucky to be awarded his first try. They claim that Souths' players prevented Dimond from forcing the ball. Brown was right near the group of players and after watching for half-a-minute he signalled a try. Wests' second half play was a great improvement on its shoddy first half display, when three glaring errors gave South tries. The errors came after the team had started the match in electrifying fashion by sending Ian Moir in for a try in the opening minute of play. But within a minute Souths had equalised when left winger Dale Puren kicked on a dropped pass by winger Bernie Kelly, to score wide out. After 22 minutes play Wests' five-eighth Darcy Henry sent a pass to Kelly, but Puren intercepted and went over for his second try. Six minutes later Souths was in again when Wests' forward Mark Patch dropped the ball. It was scooped up by an alert Souths' forward, passed to Puren, who drew the full-back Russell and sent to full-back Bennett, who shot over for a try. It was a different story in the second half, with Wests running with a strong breeze. Ten minutes after the start of the half, Dimond, moved from centre to the wing at half-time, brushed off some weak tackles and went over for a try. Coach Vic Hey decided on the change after Dimond had been off the field for several minutes in the first half with an injured ankle. Souths, with its forwards and backs tackling desperately, fought to keep Wests out. Eight minutes from the end of play Russell came up into play to send Dimond across field. He passed to Moir, who went brilliantly for this second try. A few minutes later Patch, with a fine piece of work, lobbed a pass over a team-mate's head to Dimond, who went over for his second try to give West its short-lived 18-17 lead. … West's half Keith Holman suffered from double vision in the first half, following a heavy knock. Yesterday's crowd paid a record gate of £2,558. **(The Sun-Herald 13th April 1959)**

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Notes: Jack Bowman was out injured and Ray McDermott made his debut. This was regarded as the best club match since the war and had a sensational finish. Nev Charlton gave away a late penalty and Bernie Purcell kicked a disputed 35-yard goal into a strong southerly wind. The touch judges were one-up, one-down but the referee made a hometown decision to award the gaol, although Darcy Russell thought that it definitely was a goal. Wests blew three tries in the last 10 minutes, so must be considered unlucky to lose. Keith Holman suffered yet another bout of concussion and this definitely affected the overall attack.