



1917 Round 4 Saturday 2nd June St Luke's Park



Western Suburbs 26

def.

North Sydney 6

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

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

G GRAY
 C EMELHENZ
 Ted TAPLIN
 Owen SHERRETT
 G SMITH
 Os DEANE (c)
 Ernie TATE
 J BROWN
 Charles HURLSTONE
 A BULLOCK
 Stan LLOYD
 J KENNY
 Jack McCARTHUR



Tries Herb GILBERT (3)
 Clarrie PRENTICE (2)
 Tom McCAULEY

Goals Alex McPHERSON (2)
 Athol WHITE (2)

G GRAY (3) 1 field goal

Match Description

Western Suburbs: A White, full-back; T Boland, H Gilbert (c), C W Prentice, A Carroll, three-quarters; A McPherson, five-eighth; A Bossi, half-back; H J Leddy, W Joass, H Lee, A Burdus, E Courtney, J Redmond, forwards

North Sydney: G Gray, full-back; G Smith, E Taplin, D Sherritt, Emelhenz, three-quarters; O Deane, five-eighth; E Tate, half-back; J Brown, S Lloyd, J McArthur, J Kenny, C Thurlstone, R Bullock, forwards. **C Russell, referee**

North Sydney opened up a strong forward attack and soon drew blood with a neat goal from the field by G Gray, who kicked consistently throughout the afternoon. He scored all the points for his side. He also figured in the early match, in which he kicked three goals. Western Suburbs' backs combined well, and led by Gilbert they did many fine things. Bossi, Courtney and Gilbert participated in the local men's first try. Boland, after putting in a strong run, scored a second try as a result of good combination. Western Suburbs showed better form than their opponents, and there was little doubt when the half-time whistle sounded on which side the superiority lay. North Sydney made some fine bursts but their wing three-quarter, G Smith, was not reliable.

Early in the second half, Lee was sent off the field. Gilbert and Carroll did a lot of attractive work in the second spell. In fact, all the local back division showed out well and two tries each came quickly to Gilbert and Prentice. In the closing stages, the visiting backs threw the ball about, but their efforts were of no avail. **(The Sunday Times 3rd June 1917)**

Gray drop-kicked a goal two minutes after the kick-off. Then North Sydney forced. Western Suburbs' aggressive tactics were successful. Bossi intercepted at North Sydney's 25, passed out to Courtney, to Gilbert, who crossed over. White failed at goal. North Sydney now livened up. Western Suburbs were penalised, and Gray added his second goal. From the kick-out Western Suburbs were awarded a penalty for interference and Redmond's kick missed by inches. In North Sydney's 25, Bossi secured from a scrum and passed to Gilbert to Boland who ran in and scored near the posts. McPherson added the extras, and shortly after kicked another goal from a penalty. Burdus retired hurt, and Holt took his place. At half-time the scores were : Western Suburbs 10, North Sydney 4. On resuming Wests attacked hotly. Bossi secured from a scrum in North Sydney's 25, whipped the ball across to Gilbert, to Carroll, and again to Gilbert, who crossed in. McPherson failed at goal. Further tries for Western Suburbs were secured by Prentice (2) and Gilbert, and White kicked two goals. Gray also kicked a goal for North Sydney. The final scores were: Western Suburbs 26, **North Sydney 6. (The Sun 2nd June 1917)**

...Michael Lee, Wests' merry magger got a saloon passage by the referee for "doin' nuffin" as usual. **(The Sydney Sportsman 6th June 1917)**

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Notes: This was Wests' first win of the season and highlighted the impressive and improving form of Herb Gilbert. Alex 'Barney' McPherson came up from Second Grade and played well. Claude Potter (who came from Balmain and played in the first round, scored two tries in Seconds). Hector Lee was sent off (note the sarcastic comment in *The Sportsman*) and received a one week suspension. This was the biggest win against Norths since they first clashed in 1908.