



1956 Round 4 Saturday 21st April Pratten Park



Eastern Suburbs 8

def.

Western Suburbs 6

Ron BOOTH
 John SELLGREN
 Brian GRANT
 Graham JONES
 Brian ALLSOP
 Noel PIDDING (c)
 Keith POWER
 Alan RIDLEY
 Bruce SULLIVAN
 John MUDGE
 Kevin HANSEN
 Ian MCCARTHY
 Bruce EDWARDS

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

George BAIN
 Cliff SMAILLES
 Noel HURLEY
 Ian JOHNSTON
 Ernie HILLS
 Darcy HENRY
 Keith HOLMAN
 Don MEEHAN
 Nev CHARLTON
 Kel O'SHEA (c)
 Ron WATSON
 Bede GOFF
 Bill OWENS



Tries

Goals Noel PIDDING (4)

Keith HOLMAN (3)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Booth; three-quarters: J Sellgren, B Grant, G Jones, B Allsop' five-eighth: N Pidding (c); half: K Power; forwards: A Ridley, B Sullivan, J Mudge, K Jansen, I McCarthy, B Edwards

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: C Smailles, N Hurley, I Johnston, E Hills; five-eighth: D Henry; half: K Holman; forwards: D Meehan, K O'Shea (c), N Charlton, W Owens, B Goff, R Watson **Referee: F Erickson (The Sun 21st April 1956)**

Eastern Suburbs Rugby League team yesterday snatched a shock, last-minute win over glamour team Western Suburbs at Pratten Park. Easts won 8-6 after the score at half-time was 2-2. The game was one of the most thrilling of the season. Right up to Noel Pidding's dramatic winning goal the match provided spectacular non-stop attacking football. It was Easts' first win this season and the £4000 Wests' side's second successive defeat. In a match of fluctuating fortunes: * Wests' winger Ernie Hills ran 50 yards across field and was pushed out as he dived for a try. * Easts' winger Brian Allsop crossed the Wests' line but was recalled for a forward pass. *Easts' centre Brian Grant had the ball knocked from his hands as he dived for a try. Easts were a distinct outstanding team on the day. Despite the absence of star players Tony Paskins and Ferris Ashton, Easts played brilliant, attacking football. The attack and defence of the Easts' forwards was clearly superior to the Wests glamour forwards. Young East lock Alan Ridley was far superior to his rival, Don Meehan. Ridley's defence was a highlight of an incident-packed match. One of the surprising features of the match was the ordinary showing of brilliant Wests' test halves, Keith Holman and Darcy Henry. Easts' Keith Power and international Noel Pidding more than matched them on the day. Reserve-grade centre Graham Jones made a brilliant first-grade debut in place of Paskins. Wests finished the game with Test forward Kel O'Shea and five-eighth Henry groggy. O'Shea injured his right shoulder and was in great pain after the match. **(The Daily Telegraph 22nd April 1956)**

The gem-studded Western Suburbs team had its second successive loss when beaten by Eastern Suburbs at Pratten Park yesterday.... Neither side scored a try. It was Eastern Suburbs' first win of the season....Wests never looked like a premiership winning side. The defence was sloppy, the handling poor, and team work practically non-existent. Only Wests players to come out with unsullied reputations were half, Keith Holman, second-row Kel O'Shea, and five-eighth, Darcy Henry. These three bore the brunt of the team's defence and attack. Western Suburbs' officials and club coach, "Duck" Walsh, were bitterly disappointed. Walsh told the players at half-time that their tackling in the first half was the worst he had seen. He said Western Suburbs' form was too poor to be true. "Last week we did everything right, this week everything wrong", said Walsh. Wests were undoubtedly handicapped by the absence of captain Harry Wells from the centre. Substitute Noel Hurley did not play up to expectations. Holman was brought on as a kicker after the regular man, George Bain, had failed with three easy attempts. During the second half Easts had most of the play, and only great tackling by Holman and O'Shea kept the line intact. Players from both teams crossed in the early part of the second half but referee F Erikson ruled each "no try." The first came after a Western Suburbs passing movement. **(The Sun-Herald 22nd April 1956)**

Mark Patch and Don Meehan are two of Wests' lesser-known importations who are making their presence felt in every match. Patch has been outstanding and not merely because of his snowy hair. Meehan, the Ipswich lock, has done well despite a tendency to hang on to the ball, possibly in his eagerness to come good here. He should have no worries in that regard and once he starts snapping the ball out, he will be a force in the competition. **(Rugby League News 14th April 1956)**

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Notes: Mark Patch was out injured, replaced by Bill Owens, while Noel Hurley made his debut, replacing Harry Wells. This was a poor performance by Wests and "Duck" Walsh got stuck into them at half-time for their poor tackling. The loss of Harry Wells in the centre made a big difference to their performance.