



# 1955 Round 4 Saturday 23rd April Pratten Park



## Newtown 25

Gordon CLIFFORD  
 Ray PRESTON  
 Dick POOLE (c)  
 Brian CLAY  
 Kevin CONSIDINE  
 Ray KELLY  
 Bobby WHITTON  
 Peter RYAN  
 Henry HOLLOWAY  
 Frank NARVO  
 Les HAMPSON  
 Max KITE  
 Don STAIT

## def.

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

## Western Suburbs 8

Dick MURPHY  
 Bill BAILEY  
 Jack FITZGERALD  
 Jim PLATER  
 John THOMPSON  
 Bill BROWN  
 Keith HOLMAN (c)  
 Nev CHARLTON  
 Bill CARSON  
 Bill OWENS  
 Ron WATSON  
 Hec FARRELL  
 John HARRISON



**Tries**  
 Frank NARVO  
 Ray PRESTON  
 Ray KELLY

John HARRISON  
 Bill CARSON

**Goals** Gordon CLIFFORD (8)

Dick MURPHY (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: R Murphy; three-quarters: W Bailey, J Plater, J Fitzgerald, J Thompson; five-eighth: W Brown; half: K Holman (c); forwards: N Charlton, W Owens, W Carson, J Harrison, H Farrell, R Watson

**Newtown:** Full-back: G Clifford; three-quarters: K Considine, B Clay, R Poole (c), R Preston; five-eighth: R Kelly; half: R Whitton; forwards: P Ryan, F Narvo, H Holloway, L Hampson, M Kite, D Stait **Referee: C Brown (The Daily Mirror 23rd April 1955)**

Newtown Rugby League team yesterday played inspired football in the final 20 minutes to defeat Western Suburbs at Pratten Park. Newtown won 25-8 after having led 10-2 at half-time. Early in the second half Wests scored two quick tries and appeared likely to upset Newtown. Wests forwards Bill Carson and John Harrison barged through the Newtown defence to score. Both attempts at conversion by full-back Dick Murphy and lock Nev Charlton failed. The four missed points would have given Wests a 12-10 lead. Newtown pulled lock Peter Ryan out of the pack in a desperate effort to stop the Wests' rushes. Ryan did little tackling but strangely the Wests scoring burst stopped as soon as it started. Newtown then almost completely overwhelmed Wests, in a series of sweeping attacks. In the final 20 minutes winger Ray Preston, five-eighth Ray Kelly and second row Frank Narvo scored tries. Full-back Gordon Clifford kicked eight goals in the match, three in the final burst. An early injury to Wests captain, Keith Holman upset the team. Holman sprained the right ankle but played on with his boot tightly bound. Wests officials said he was in doubt for next Saturday's match against Balmain. In the first half there was nothing between the two teams. Clifford kicked five goals for Newtown, and Murphy one for Wests. The entire half developed into a hard slogging series of rucks between the two packs. Narvo was outstanding in the hard stuff for Newtown. ... Wests looked likely to upset Newtown early in the second half. After the team's two quick tries, Carson again nearly scored when he picked up a loose ball and ran 40 yards. His pass to centre Jim Plater was dropped, with the Newtown line wide open. .... Wests centre Jack Fitzgerald's heavy tackling stopped many Newtown attacks. **(The Daily Telegraph 24th April 1955)**

Once again, yesterday Newtown's trusty goal-kicker, Gordon Clifford, held the balance of power against Wests at Pratten Park, booting his team to a 25-8 victory. This accomplished all-round custodian landed 'em from all directions, piloting eight corker goals from 12 attempts. Clifford was the outstanding personality in the match, as he cleverly started the Bluebags on their way in scoring the most spectacular try of the game. It was only rarely that either team launched a constructive, cohesive attacking movement of note. Invariably, passes were slow, ill-directed, with players standing flat-footed and the backs lacking thrust and determination. Ray Preston finalised the only brilliant attacking movement after Clifford, Hampson, Holloway and Clay handled in turn in a movement that covered three parts of the length of the ground and brought the fans to their feet. Actually, the scores are not a true indication of the evenness of the game. Neither teams scored a try until late in the second half. Wests forwards crossed for the first two tries from closely concerted movements... Nevertheless, one would have needed to be a super optimist to have given Wests more than a rough chance at any stage of the game. The forwards monopolised play for the greater part of the game, with Neville Charlton standing out with a magnificent display. His handling, resolute running and cover defence were features. W Carson and J Harrison were always in the picture in outplaying the Bluebag pack. **(The Truth 24th April 1955)**

**Notes:** Keith Holman sprained his ankle early but bravely battled on. Wests never really recovered, although the forwards, led by Nev Charlton, toiled hard all day and finished on top of the Newtown pack. Bill Brown also had an excellent match. In the end, Gordon Clifford's eight goals was the difference in a game that was actually much tighter than the final score. Dick Murphy, who had previously played for St George, made his debut.