



# 1961 Round 4 Saturday 29th April Cricket Ground



## Western Suburbs 15

def.

## North Sydney 12

Don PARISH  
 Joe RYAN  
 Harry WELLS (c)  
 Bill BROWN  
 Peter DIMOND  
 Bill MARTIN  
 Arthur SUMMONS  
 Kevin SMYTH  
 John HAYES  
 Kel O'SHEA  
 Denis MEANEY  
 Jim CHAPMAN  
 Nev CHARLTON

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

Brian CARLSON (c)  
 Ken IRVINE  
 Clive STEPHENS  
 Paul CUNEO  
 Dale PUREN  
 Dave HOLMAN  
 Ray LOVE  
 Barry LEVIDO  
 Ed MAY  
 John BROWN  
 Harold BLINKHORN  
 Norm STRONG  
 Bill TEASDELL

**Tries** Harry WELLS (2)  
 Peter DIMOND

Ken IRVINE  
 Brian CARLSON

**Goals** Don PARISH (3)

Brian CARLSON (3)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: D Parish; three-quarters: J Ryan, H Wells (c), W Brown, P Dimond; five-eighth: W Martin; half: A Summons; forwards: K Smyth, J Hayes, K O'Shea, D Meaney, J Chapman, N Charlton

**North Sydney:** Full-back: B Carlson (c); three-quarters: K Irvine, P Cuneo, C Stephens, D Puren; five-eighth: D Holman; half: R Love; forwards: B Levido, J Brown, E May, H Blinkhorn, N Strong, B Teasdel **Referee: C Pearce (The Sun 29th April 1961)**

Western Suburbs yesterday took the lead in the Rugby League competition with a 15-12 victory over North Sydney in a thrill-studded match at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Wests survived by the merest of margins – an inch. In the closing stages when Wests were fighting to resist a do-or-die Norths, Ray Love, Norths' half-back, struggled in a tackle to plant the ball just an inch short of the try-line. A try would have given Norths a 15-all draw or a 17-15 victory if full-back Brian Carlson had converted it. After the match Love lamented: "If only I had been blessed with longer arms." A crowd of 14,414 which saw the brightest match of the season, stood and applauded both teams off the field. After the first score which gave Norths a 3-0 lead the margin between the teams only once exceeded three points. The scores were level twice – 7-all at half-time and 10-all. In a thrill-studded match: \*Test centre Harry Wells scored two of Wests' three tries and started a sweeping raid which produced the other one, scored by winger Peter Dimond \* Test winger Ken Irvine, who is a State professional sprint champion, demonstrated his great speed in a 60-yard dash to score Norths' second try \* Test utility back Brian Carlson failed to convert Irvine's try with the simplest of kicks which would have given Norths a 12-10 lead \*Norths' hooker Norm Strong gave his team a tremendous advantage by winning possession from the scrums 24-7. Wells, who was a continual menace to Norths' defence, finished the match with a badly swollen and bruised shoulder. The injury put him in doubt for Wests' match against St George next Saturday. Wells suffered the injury in a clash with Norths' half-back Love 16 minutes from the end. Love ducked a high tackle and struck Wells' shoulder with this head. The impact knocked out Love. Referee Col Pearce cautioned Wells as Love lay on the ground receiving first-aid treatment. Wells grasped at his injured shoulder as he listened to the caution. Wells later said Pearce had accused him of having thrown a stiff-arm tackle at Love. "Stiff-arm tackle be blown," Wells told me and pointed to his badly bruised shoulder. ....Veteran hooker Strong was the inspiration behind Norths' forwards' improved form. Aside from winning a feast of the ball, Strong kept rallying the forwards whenever Wests applied pressure. The stage was set for a good second half when the teams resumed at 7-all. Three second half tries which kept the scores see-sawing were magnificent. Wells scored the first of them after four minutes in the second half when second-rower Kel O'Shea, playing wide of a ruck, positioned him for a 20-yard dash to the corner. This try gave Wests a 10-7 lead. Ten minutes later Irvine gave a demonstration of his great speed in a 60-yard dash to score a try which evened the score at 10-all. The crowd stood and screamed in delight as Irvine left Wests' winger Joe Ryan and full-back Don Parish standing with sheer speed. Wests' next try, which gave it a 15-10 lead 11 minutes from the end, was the best of the match. Wells sparked the raid with a burst from Wests' 25-yard area. A splendid display of backing-up and passing which followed left Norths' defenders sprawling on the turf in Wests' 80-yard route to the try-line. Centre Bill Brown and five-eighth Bill Martin had the ball in turn and got through down the middle. Peter Dimond moved across from the right wing and got the ball from Martin to complete the try. Brown had been the "big man" in the raid. He had been the "big man" in most of Wests' other raids too. In the closing stages full-back Carlson chimed into Norths' do-or-die effort to reach the try-line. He aimed either to get through himself or make an overlap for his winger. But Wests' defence, particularly in the forwards, was too solid .. **(Sunday Telegraph 30th April 1961)**

**Notes:** Bill Carson was out injured, again replaced by Jim Chapman, who was thrashed in the scrums 24-7. Harry Wells continued his great form, being particularly strong in defence. Hayes, Charlton and O'Shea also continued their strong forward charges. In the end, Wests were lucky to hold on with Norths missing a winning try by inches. Wests' last try, scored by Wells, was a great 80-yard team effort.