



## 1949 Round 4 Saturday 30th April Pratten Park



### Western Suburbs 26

def.

### St George 14

Bill KEATO  
Col HUDSON  
Jack LACKEY  
Jack WOODS  
George BAIN  
Eric BENNETT (c)  
Keith HOLMAN  
Peter McLEAN  
Don MILTON  
Kevin HANSEN  
Jim SEERY  
Alan HORNERY  
Bill HORDER

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

Noel PIDDING  
Matthew McCOY  
Ronald ROBERTS  
Doug McRITCHIE  
Kevin HARMEY  
Norman HAWKE (c)  
Noel HILL  
Billy WILSON  
George JARDINE  
Ross FIELDER  
Jack MUNN  
Frank FACER  
Jack HOLLAND

#### Tries

Bill HORDER (2)  
Don MILTON  
Keith HOLMAN

Ronald ROBERTS (2)

#### Goals

Bill KEATO (7)

Matthew McCOY (4)

#### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: C Hudson, J Woods, J Lackey, G Bain; five-eighth: E Bennett (capt); half: K Holman; forwards: P McLean, D Milton, K Hansen, J Seery, A Hornery, W Horder

**St George:** Full-back: N Pidding; three-quarters: R Roberts, D McRitchie, M McCoy, K Harmey; five-eighth: J Hawke (capt); half: N Hill; forwards: W Wilson, G Jardine, R Fielder, J Munn, F Facer, J Holland **Referee: B Clune (Rugby League News 7th May 1949)**

Veteran five-eighth Eric Bennett celebrated his 100th match with Western Suburbs yesterday by leading the side to a shock 26-14 win over -St. George before a near-record crowd of 10,441. Bennett shared the triumphs of the win with forwards Kevin Hansen, Billy Horder and Don Milton. That trio wore down the St. George pack and Bennett saw that a big share of the ball supplied by Hornery was judiciously employed. Big Wests' front-row forward Jim Seery finished the game with a gash above his left eye that required three stitches and Horder had a bruised shoulder. St. George, who on paper looked easy winners, failed to win the scrums and were always battling. Only once, at 7-5, did they lead, and in the closing stages the continual buffeting the forwards had taken was beginning to show. Easily the best forward on the ground was Hansen, who ran vigorously and seldom yielded to the tackle of any one opponent. Generally, he bumped two or three out of his way before being pulled up. On the form he showed yesterday Hansen must make the rep teams this year. Horder ran with great dash and his second try revealed flaws in the St. George defence when he ran in unopposed to score from a loose ruck. Milton, lacking Hansen's weight, played to the same technique, however, and made the tacklers work hard to stop him. It is doubtful whether Bennett has ever played a more valuable game for Wests. He held the side together and his cleverly judged kicks for the line made tremendous difference to his side's efforts. Time and again Bennett would change the entire trend of play by finding the line. Backing up all the Wests endeavours was the able kicking of Billy Keato, who landed seven goals. Woods was one of the best of the winning backs, trying hard and playing his best game to date. .... **(The Sun 1st May 1949)**

Western Suburbs staged a reversal of form to overwhelm St. George 26-14 in a fast and vigorous game at Pratten Park. Wests' superiority on the day was evident after the change, and Saints' lack of ability to win the ball from the scrums was a decisive factor. The vigorous clashes of the packs lost their sting when Wests' hooker raked the ball out with monotonous regularity thus giving the three-quarter line a wealth of opportunities, which, however, were not all utilised to the fullest extent. Without detracting from Wests' sound win, several poor passes and faulty handling at times caused a loss of momentum to many sparkling movements. This spoiled an otherwise polished display by the home side. .... Kevin Hansen, Wests' second row forward, was easily the best man in the game, and he laid a solid foundation for a claim in future Test teams. He gave the pack all the help it needed, and once in the open showed plenty of speed and initiative. His untiring efforts were a major factor in his team's success. Another of the hard working pack to show to advantage was W. Horder who scored two splendid tries. His 'bull dozing' runs repeatedly lifted West out of difficulties. Bill Keato's seven goals was a commendable effort, and his defence was always safe. C. Hudson also played a big part for West. .... **(Truth 1st May 1949)**

**Notes:** There was a need for a total re-shuffle for this match. Col Maxwell was out and George Bain went to the wing, Eric Bennett to five-eighth, Jack Lackey back in and Alan Hornery in, replacing the injured Bill Brown. Hornery won a glut of ball, enabling Bennett, who was playing his hundredth match, to take total control and set the backs going. In a very fast and hard-tackling match, this was considered an upset win. Jim Seery needed three stitches in a cut above the eye but the feature was, yet again, the performance of Kevin Hansen. He was now considered a strong chance to make the Australian team.