



1948 Round 5 Saturday 1st May Cricket Ground



North Sydney 6

def.

Western Suburbs 4

Allan LAWSON
 Alf AUSTIN
 Reg ANGUS
 Reg JAMES
 K DAVIES
 Vince EMERY
 Johnny ROBIN
 John OLIVE
 Len WILLAN
 Cec WATERS
 Joe CASEY
 Harvey WORT
 Neville HAND (c)

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

Wally TEBBUTT
 Pat LEAL
 Eric BENNETT
 Colin MAXWELL
 Mick THORNTON
 Frank STANMORE
 Neville HOGAN
 Peter McLEAN
 Bernie PURCELL
 Bill HORDER
 Don MILTON
 Alan HORNER
 Jim SEERY



Tries

Goals

Allan LAWSON (2)
 Johnny ROBIN (1)

Wally TEBBUTT (2)

Match Description

North Sydney: Full-back: A Lawson; three-quarters: A Austin, R James, K Davies, R Angus; five-eighth: R Emery; half: J Robin; forwards: J Olive, L Willan, C Waters, J Casey, H Wort, N Hand (c)

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Tebbutt; three-quarters: P Leal, C Maxwell, E Bennett, M Thornton; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: N Hogan; forwards: P McLean, W Horder, B Purcell, J Seery, A Horner, D Milton **Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News 19th May 1948)**

With icy-cold rain belting down in blinding torrents, and the boots of players churning the field into a mass of mud, on the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday, North Sydney League side kicked its way to victory against Western Suburbs by 6 points to 4. Neither side crossed the other's line. Altogether it was an amazing display of fine weather football (!) under conditions in which phoney mud wrestlers would have wallowed in pantomimic ebullience to the intense delight of the onlookers. Players of both teams skidded through the mud pools with the certainty of ski champions, kept the game open with short, snappy bursts, and threw the ball about with the abandon of school-kids playing Bung Rules. This remarkable type of dry weather football on a mud heap appealed to the crowd of 17,435 who either squeezed together like sardines under the shelter of the pavilions or stood out in the rain with umbrellas. The football looked all right from an Australian point of view. But oh the mistakes those players made! Passes were dropped when players were moving onwards to the line when they only had to hold on and score. They dropped veritable sitters which in ordinary circumstances would have put them out for life. But still the crowd cheered! A still more remarkable feature about this type of game was that officials and club selectors were mightily pleased with it. Spectacular? Yes. But oh, that handling! That dropsy! It relegated the game to J grade football with tomnoddy tactics on a wet ground that would have asphyxiated the Englishmen with laughter had they seen it. Definitely West's bad handling was the weak point in their armour. Hogan at half-back was a crackerjack, while Maxwell's penetrating bursts were invariably pulled up by Bennett's failure to hold the ball. Their best forwards were J Seery and B. Purcell. **(Truth 2nd May 1948)**

Our win over Manly and St George's defeat by Newtown leaves us on top in the First Grade. That is not bad considering we have not finished any game with a full side... Bill Keato, Jack Walsh, Bill Brown and Kevin Hansen, are all on the road to recovery from their injuries and will be available for games during the break in the competition.... Colin Maxwell and Eric Bennett have proved themselves two of the best centres we have seen in Sydney football for many years. Both these players must be well in the running for higher honours... Frank Stanmore is now showing the form that won him a place in Newcastle representative teams last year. Frank has the two qualifications so necessary in a class five-eighth. He is just as good in defence as he is in attack....Bill Horder, a nephew of Harold Horder, got his big opportunity in First Grade against Manly and did an extra good job. Bill is only a youngster, and has the ability to make a name for himself in Rugby League as great as that of his uncle. **(Rugby League News 1st May 1948)**

Notes: Mick Thornton came in for the injured Yanz in a match that was played in blinding rain and on an SCG mud-heap. Every kick at goal required the ball to be cleaned of mud. Amazingly, there was an attempt to throw the ball about, particularly by Wests. Bennett said after the match that they just couldn't get through the Norths' forwards in the conditions and tried to go around them. It would have worked too if Bennett had been able to hold on to two passes late in the match that would have both produced tries. Bill Horder impressed again and seemed to revel in the heavy conditions. Wally Tebbutt had a chance to equal the scores after the bell but the heavy ball just fell short.