



1955 Round 5 Sunday 15th May Leichhardt Oval



Balmain 32

Jack FIFIELD (c)
George FIFIELD
Geoff HAWKEY
Terry McGOVERN
Les GELFIUS
Ron DALEY
Brian STAUNTON
Ron BATTYE
Neville WATT
Danny JOHNSTONE
Bill MARSH
Don SINCLAIR
Kevin HUMPHREYS

def.

Western Suburbs 10

John BREST
Barry OWEN
Jack FITZGERALD (c)
Jim PLATER
John THOMPSON
Keith DEACON
Bob TUCKER
Nev CHARLTON
Bill CARSON
Bill OWENS
John HARRISON
Hec FARRELL
Ron WATSON



Tries

Les GELFIUS (2)
Brian STAUNTON (2)
Ron DALEY
Bill MARSH
Terry McGOVERN
Noel RYAN

John HARRISON
Ron WATSON

Goals

Jack FIFIELD (4)

John BREST (1)
Nev CHARLTON (1)

Match Description

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

Balmain: Full-back: J Fifield; three-quarters: G Fifield, G Hawkey, T McGovern, E Bonser; five-eighth: R Daley; half: B Staunton; forwards: R Batty, N Watt, W Johnston, W Marsh, D Sinclair, K Humphreys **Referee: J O'Brien (as per program Rugby League News May 15th 1955) –**

Holman and Bailey did not play; played for City on Saturday previous day.

Referee Jack O'Brien ordered second-row Wests' forward, W Carson, from the field after 35 minutes play at Leichhardt Oval yesterday afternoon. Wests was beaten 32-10 by Balmain. West faced a hopeless task in the second half with two men short. Carson's offence was an alleged illegal tackle of W Marsh. Early in the second half W Owens, the other second-rower Wests forward, was carried off the field with an injured ankle. The game, for the most part, was of a poor standard. The depleted Wests team was inclined to play the man and not the ball. These methods brought injuries to the Wests' men rather than to Balmain players, who played the ball right throughout and won the match with ease. Injuries were so frequent that the game ended 15 to 20 minutes after the scheduled time. Bright work by B Staunton and P McGovern helped relieve the monotony of the game. N Charlton and J Harrison were the pick of the Wests' forwards. Balmain's goal-kicking was weak in the first half. Eight easy goals were missed, and none of the four first-half tries were converted. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 16th May 1955)**

Occasionally when a side loses a player through injury there is a clamour to have the replacement rule changed. Under the present rule no replacements are allowed. This operates in England and in all our football in New South Wales. Often the loss of a man provides a team with new life and even greater determination and results in a win which may not have been achieved otherwise. A team a man short always will fight harder than one at full strength because every man knows that there is just that extra effort required from him. Last Saturday at North Sydney Oval Manly lost hooker George Lenon with a shoulder injury before half-time and had a man less than Norths all the second half. The way they battled to hold out Norths helped make the game the attraction it was and the fact that they could win in the circumstances showed that there is not much wrong with the rule. Incidentally Roy Bull deserves a special mention for the game and a half he played. **(Rugby League News May 7-8th 1955)**

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Notes: This was a Sunday match played at Leichhardt Oval because the original match, scheduled on the 30th April had been washed out and Pratten Park was unavailable. The spectre of injuries again reared its head. Bill Owens was carried off on a stretcher with an injured ankle to be followed by Bill Carson who was sent off for an "illegal tackle." In a very poor quality match, Wests finished with only 11 men, for the second time in the season. The last three matches had produced injuries right across the playing squad. Keith Holman and Bill Bailey had played the previous day and both decided to not back up, being replaced by John Thompson and Bob Tucker. Note the opinion in Rugby League News on having no replacements. You'd almost think it was an advantage!!