



1954 Round 5 Monday 19th April Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 14

drew with

Eastern Suburbs 14



George BAIN
 John THOMPSON
 Dev DINES (c)
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Barry OWEN
 Don GRAHAM
 Bob TUCKER
 Nev CHARLTON
 Doug SMITH
 Bill OWENS
 Max CALDWELL
 Jim FLEMING
 Eddie HOOPER

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

Ron BOOTH
 Kevin DOYLE
 Robert THOMAS
 Kevin McDONALD
 Danny BYRNES
 Ray TAYLOR
 Charlie COOKSLEY
 Ray HYDE
 Ferris ASHTON (c)
 John GIBSON
 Bill DOWSLEY
 Ray ARMSTRONG
 Alan WILSON

Tries Nev CHARLTON
 Jack FITZGERALD

Kevin DOYLE
 Robert THOMAS

Goals George BAIN (4)

Ron BOOTH (4)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Booth; three-quarters: K Doyle, R Thomas, K McDonald, D Byrnes; five-eighth: R Taylor; half: C Cooksley; forwards: R Hyde, F Ashton (capt), J Gibson, W Dowsley, R Armstrong, A Wilson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: J Thompson, J Fitzgerald, D Dines, B Owen; five-eighth: D Graham; half: R Tucker; forwards: N Charlton, D Smith, W Owens, M Caldwell, J Fleming, E Hooper **Referee: A Shiner (as per program Rugby League News 19th April 1954)**

Frequent penalties marred the Rugby League game between Eastern Suburbs and Western Suburbs at Pratten Park yesterday. The match ended in a 14 all draw after Easts had led for most of the match. There were four penalties from scrums in the first four minutes, from which Easts gained an early lead. Each team had opportunities to win, but lack of support and bad handling ended most promising moves. Players were often out of position, and too frequently forwards got in the way of the backs. Wests badly missed hooker Farrell, and Easts had the advantage in the scrums. But Wests found a good substitute for Keith Holman in 17-year-old R. Tucker, who gave an outstanding display as half-back. Wests' forwards worked tirelessly, with K. Caldwell doing a great deal of dour tackling in defence. Easts made a valiant effort late in the second half to snatch victory, but opportunities were lost because movements lacked finish. Right on full time Easts had a further chance when a Wests forward was penalised for off-side play, but Booth's kick at goal missed. **(Sydney Morning Herald 20th April 1954)**

A late try enabled Eastern Suburbs to draw with Western Suburbs yesterday at Pratten Park. Easts drew with Wests, 14-14, after having led 9-5 at half-time. Centre Ray Thomas scored the vital try five minutes before the end of play. Full-back Ron Booth converted. Thomas scored the try after half-back Charlie Cooksley had passed to him. He raced over at the corner and forced his way through to score between the posts. Wests fought back, and twice centre Dev Dines was pulled down just short of the line. Outstanding player for West was 17-year-old halfback Ronnie Tucker. Tucker combined well with Graham and his three-quarter. Easts' captain, Kangaroo Ferris Ashton played soundly in second -row. Easts was a much improved team yesterday. The return of lock-forward Ray Hyde and five-eighth Ron Taylor strengthened the attack. Wests' lock Nev Charlton scored one of the best tries of the match. Play had been in progress only three minutes, with Easts leading 2-0, when Taylor dropped a pass near the half-way mark. Charlton scooped up the ball on the run and dashed 40 yards without being touched to score between the posts. In the reserve grade game Easts half-back Paul Pyers broke his left ankle while diving over to score a try. **(The Daily Telegraph 20th April 1954)**

We cannot help mentioning the fact that although we have no fancy names outside of two or three in our first grade team we have up to date given a good account of ourselves and under the capable leadership of Keith Holman we hope to rise above the dreaded wooden-spooner position this year.....Winger Jack Thompson, a convert from Rugby Union, has proved a success on the wing and with experience, Jack will be a big gain to our club.....Great clubman and good player Jack Fitzgerald is playing better football than ever. Jack has played with the club for some years and we hope that when his playing days are over he will continue his interest in the club. **(Rugby League News 19th April 1954)**

Notes: Wests were unlucky to draw this match with Easts scoring a converted try in the last five minutes. Nev Charlton, whose form was becoming more impressive each game, scored a great 40 yard try, displaying surprising pace for a forward. Bob Tucker, the 17 year old substituting for Keith Holman, had a much improved match and was regarded as the best player on the field. The Club Secretary obviously also had a big opinion of the form of John Thompson and Jack Fitzgerald.