



1931 Round 5 Saturday 23rd May Sydney Sports Ground



Eastern Suburbs 25

def.

Western Suburbs 16

Billy HONG
 Hilton DELANEY
 Dave BROWN
 Jack LYNCH
 Fred TOTTEY
 Ernie NORMAN
 Norm POPE (c)
 Les ROGERS
 Joe PEARCE
 Max NIXON
 Perc ATKINSON
 Dick BROWN
 Ray STEHR

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

Frank McMILLAN (c)
 Alan BRADY
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Cliff PEARCE
 Ray MORRIS
 Jack ROSA
 Harry OWEN
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bill CARPENTER
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bill BROGAN
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES



Tries Hilton DELANEY (2)
 Dave BROWN
 Jack LYNCH
 Joe PEARCE
 Les ROGERS
 Dick BROWN

Frank McMILLAN
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Ray MORRIS
 Cliff PEARCE

Goals Jack LYNCH (2)

Harry OWEN (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F. McMillan; three-quarters, A. Brady, C. Pearce, K. Sherwood, R. Morris; halves, H. Owen, J. Rosa; forwards, F. Matterson, W. Carpenter. C. Cornwall. C Rhodes. R Lindfield W. Brogan.

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back W. Hong; three-quarters, H. Delaney, D. Brown, J. Lynch, F. Tottey; halves, E. Norman, N. Pope; forwards, L. Rogers. S. Pearce. M. Nixon, P. Atkinson, R. Brown. R. Stehr **Referee: L. Deane (The Sun 23rd May 1931)**

Everything gave promise of good football on Saturday, Both teams had beaten South Sydney in fast and open games, and while Easts were determined to hold their lead in the competition. Wests were equally determined to catch up those two points dropped in the second round to North Sydney. Then there was the added fact that each man was striving for a place in the State team to meet Queensland, for every League footballer carries a light blue jersey in the kit. And what a wonder game it proved to be. Only athletes trained to the minute could have withstood the terrific pace of the game, and it was the youth, superior speed, and stamina that won the game for Easts. The centre of the play changed from one end to the other in bewildering speed. One moment Wests were nearly in – the next the flying tricolours were threatening the Western Suburbs' goal line. It was champagne football. It was that extra speed in both defence and attack that kept Easts' record intact. With the enthusiasm of youth, they threw everything into the game, took risks that youth will, and then tackled like men possessed to keep the solid and determined Westerners out. Easts' display against South Sydney stamped them as a first-class side, but their win on Saturday and the manner in which they won stamped them as champions. Pearce, Rosa, and Sherwood made holes in the defence three weeks ago, but Easts, except for one or two lapses, stopped all that. Pope, when the ball was lost, shot out from the scrum base to tackle Rosa, while Brown, Lynch, and Norman were equally as deadly. The big lapse was when Brown and Lynch hung off to let Pearce in. And now to the game. The opening was sensational, as indeed was the finish. In the first ten minutes Easts crossed Wests' line on three occasions. All the result of speed and daring. Then Wests came with two tries, both converted, and led for the only stage in the game. Wests' tries were both scored after close forward play, but Easts' were all started from well out, the first when Pope intercepted a pass from Pearce when Wests' backs looked dangerous, transferred to Rogers, for that player to score after a fifty yard burst. All Easts' tries were thrillers. At Half-time Easts led 14-10. A few minutes before the bell Carpenter, the solid Western forward, left the field with a broken finger, and Wests played through the second half with five forwards against Easts' fiery six – a big handicap. Throughout the second half Easts were on top, and although McMillan tried to slow the game up with long kicks into the open, his efforts were of no avail, and with ten minutes to go Easts led 25-10. Wests came again in those last stages, and Morris went over after a great run, and just as the final bell went McMillan dashed over from a short punt from a free kick. Thus ended a great game. **(Referee 27th May 1931)**

Notes: This was the match of the season so far, played before a crowd of over 20,000. Easts were unbeaten and Wests were trying to make up lost ground. By all accounts it was a high class, high speed game, where the pace took its toll near the end. There were two turning points for Wests. Firstly, Bill Carpenter was forced off with a broken finger and a badly split webbing. Wests became very disadvantaged in the forwards, although Lindfield still did his usual trick of winning the scrums. The other was when Cliff Pearce broke into the clear and looked certain to score but was run down by a lightning fast Norm Pope. Wests were now four points behind Easts on the table.