



1956 Round 5 Wednesday 25th April Pratten Park



South Sydney 14

def.

Western Suburbs 11

Clive CHURCHILL
 Ian MOIR
 Martin GALLAGHER
 Bob HONEYSETT
 Dale PUREN
 Johnny DOUGHERTY
 Col DONOHOE
 Les COWIE
 Jack RAYNER (c)
 Bernie PURCELL
 Denis DONOGHUE
 Ernie HAMMERTON
 Jim RICHARDS

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

Noel TREVENA
 Cliff SMAILLES
 Don MEEHAN
 Ian JOHNSTON
 Ernie HILLS
 Darcy HENRY
 Keith HOLMAN
 Kel O'SHEA (c)
 Bill CARSON
 Nev CHARLTON
 Mark PATCH
 Bede GOFF
 Ron WATSON



Tries Johnny DOUGHERTY
 Jack RAYNER

Ian JOHNSTON

Goals Bernie PURCELL (4)

Keith HOLMAN (4)

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back: C Churchill; three-quarters: I Moir, M Gallagher, B Honeysett, D Puren; five-eighth: J Dougherty; half: C Donohoe; forwards: L Cowie, B Purcell, J Rayner (c), J Richards, E Hammerton, D Donoghue

Western Suburbs: Full-back: N Trevena; three-quarters: C Smailles, D Meehan, I Johnston, E Hills; five-eighth: D Henry; half: K Holman; forwards: K O'Shea (c), W Carson, N Charlton, M Patch, B Goff, R Watson **Referee: C Pearce (The Sun 25th April 1956)**

South Sydney League team withstood a sustained second-half rally to defeat Western Suburbs at Pratten Park. Souths won 14-11 after an exciting match of hard tackling and dazzling attacking movements. Wests, which spent £4000 rebuilding its side this year, has now suffered three successive defeats. A record Pratten Park crowd of 12,411 saw Souths lead 14-3 at half-time. Souths did not score a point during the second half. Test half-back Keith Holman kicked four penalties, two from long range, during the second half. If given a chance early in the match Holman might have kicked Wests to victory. Replacement full-back Noel Trevena missed three simple kicks in the first 20 minutes. The South Sydney forwards, with their virile rucking and tight defence, dominated much of the first half. They frequently barged in line down the centre in an effort to soften Wests' defence. But Wests' defence, with O'Shea and Holman tackling vigorously, stood up well to the constant pressure. It limited Souths to two first-half tries. South Sydney scored in the first five minutes, when Johnny Dougherty went over in the corner after a movement in which seven players handled. Captain Jack Rayner scored Souths' other try four minutes from half-time. Souths' winger Dale Puren injured an ankle late in the match. **(Daily Telegraph 26th April 1956)**

South Sydney survived a great second half rally to beat Western Suburbs 14-11 before a record crowd of 12,400 at Pratten Park. It was West's third loss in five matches. South Sydney led 14-3 at half-time, but did not score a point in the second half. Test half Keith Holman gradually whittled South's lead down when he kicked four goals from five attempts. During a great rally in the second half Holman crossed Souths' line but was recalled for a forward pass. A section of the crowd near the try line hooted referee Cliff Pearce for the decision. With the score 14-6, front-row forward Mark Patch broke away, beat off two defenders and flick-passed to Holman, who twisted his way over the line. The Western Suburbs players looked amazed when Pearce ruled Holman off-side. Wests' coach "Duck" Walsh said later that the try should have been allowed. "Holman could not have been off-side when he received the ball, as Patch flicked it to him." Walsh added. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 26th April 1956)**

Keith Holman is a handy goal-kicker although never the No. 1 kicker in any side in which he plays. But he landed a beauty from half-way and against the breeze at Pratten Park last Saturday. Some of the crowd jeered when he placed the ball and, as generally happens in cases like that, the ball sailed straight over the bar.... Referee Fred Erickson was quick to use the new ruling that play must not be held up for minor matters such as bootlaces. When Wests' forward, Ron Watson, flopped down at Pratten Park, with a torn boot last Saturday, he looked surprised when the alert Erickson ordered play to continue. **(Rugby League News 28th April 1956)**

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Notes: Noel Trevena came in for the injured Bain, but missed three easy shots at goal early in the match. Wests played poorly in the first half but came home very strongly in the second half to just fail. Holman scored but was recalled for a forward pass which didn't please the locals at all. Mark Patch had another very strong match, while Holman's and O'Shea's defence was a feature.