



1917 Round 5 Monday 4th June St Luke's Park



Western Suburbs 11

def.

Annandale 6

Athol WHITE
 Tom McCAULEY
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Pat CARROLL
 George GAGAN
 Alf BOSSI
 Harold LEDDY
 Tom DOWSELL
 Frank HOLT
 Jack REDMOND
 Edward COURTNEY
 Charles ASHWORTH
 Harold HOLMES
 William MATTHEWS

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

W BUIST
 R GOUGH
 S PARKER
 W GODDARD
 F WELLINGTON
 G JOLLY
 George CHALLIS
 Walter HADDOCK (c)
 Thomas DAGG
 G EVES
 Robert STUART
 Walter PALMER
 Peter COLL

Tries

Alf BOSSI
 Edward COURTNEY
 Harold HOLMES

Walter HADDOCK
 Peter COLL

Goals

Athol WHITE (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, A White; three-quarters, T Boland, C W Prentice, H Gilbert, A Carroll; halves, Gagan and Bossi; forwards, H J Leddy, Dowsell, Holt, E Courtney, Ashworth and J Redmond

Annandale: full-back, W Buist; three-quarters, W Goddard, S Parker, R Gough, F Wellington; halves, G Jolley, G Challis; forwards, R Stuart, G Evers, T Dagg, P Coll, W Haddock and Palmer **Referee, W Neill**

The local men immediately attacked, Carroll secured, and after a good run, passed to Gagan to Courtney, who crossed and scored. Gagan failed at goal. Western Suburbs 3 to nil. Western Suburbs kept up the pressure, and had the maroon and gold constantly in trouble. Boland sprinted along the wing with a try ahead but was recalled for a forward pass. White was upset after he had got rid of the ball, and the full-back kicked a penalty goal. Western Suburbs 5 to nil. The maroon and gold made a strong effort to break down the lead, and Haddock, forcing his way over from the ruck, scored. Challis failed at goal. Western Suburbs 5 to 3. White received a heavy kick on the head in going down on the ball, and left the field, **Matthews** taking his place. Just before the half-time whistle, Bossi scored, making the score: Western Suburbs 8 to 3.

Immediately after re-starting, the local forwards carried all before them, and a rush by Leddy, Courtney, and Holmes ended in the last-named scoring. Redmond failed at goal. Western Suburbs 11 to 3. Bossi, with a bad cut under the eye, and Wellington, of Annandale, with a cut on the chin, both left the field. The final scores were: Western Suburbs 11, Annandale 6. (**Evening News 4th June 1917**)

Two wins on top of one another look as if Wests have at last struck form. Annandale journeyed out to St Luke's. and although they put up a good fight, they couldn't land the bacon. Gagan, the returned soldier, made his first appearance for Wests, and a couple of new ones were among the forwards in Ashworth and Dowsell. Annandale played the ubiquitous George Challis at half. George is qualifying for an all-round posy right enough. Young Courtney, Wests' promising junior, scored the first try for the fruit-pickers. Ab White kicked a penalty goal and for his cleverness got a boot in the melon that sent him wobbling, **Matthews** coming on in his place. Puss Bossi, the Rockdale Rooster, got a good try just before half-time. Fish Haddock, the drake fancier, scored for the 'Dales. During the second spell Bossi, of Wests, and Wellington, of Annandale, both had to leave the field on account of severe cuts. Each side scored another try and Wests won by 11 to 6 (**The Sydney Sportsman (6th June 1917)**)

Letter in **Arrow 9th June 1917** "H Gilbert playing like the champion that he is, was easily the best man on the field."

Notes: Two in a row for Wests and their condition was obviously improving. Gilbert was again a standout. There was some confusion in the records over the reserves for this match. All records had Harold Holmes scoring a try but all newspapers had D Mathews (a Second Grader) coming on to replace Athol White. It appears that Holmes came on to replace Alf Bossi but wasn't mentioned. William D. Matthews, listed in later games in 1917 as S D Mathews and W D Mathews, is in the 1917 team photo as D Mathews but comparison with 1919 Second Grade and 1919 City Cup photos show that D Mathews, was actually William Denham Matthews in all cases. Charles Ashworth played his first game for Wests and Tom Dowsell made another First Grade appearance since 1910, after regularly playing Second Grade. It also marked George Gagan's return since last playing in 1914 and serving in WW1.