



1961 Round 5 Saturday 6th May Cricket Ground



St George 12

def.

Western Suburbs 9

Brian GRAHAM
 John KING
 Geoff WEEKES
 Johnny RILEY
 Eddie LUMSDEN
 Dave BROWN
 Bobby BUGDEN
 Brian CLAY
 Monty PORTER
 Norm PROVAN (c)
 Kevin RYAN
 Peter ARMSTRONG
 Bill WILSON

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

Don PARISH
 Joe RYAN
 Harry WELLS (c)
 Bill BROWN
 Peter DIMOND
 Keith HOLMAN
 Arthur SUMMONS
 Kevin SMYTH
 Kel O'SHEA
 John HAYES
 Denis MEANEY
 John ROCHESTER
 Nev CHARLTON



Tries Brian CLAY
 Eddie LUMSDEN

Peter DIMOND

Goals Brian GRAHAM (3)

Don PARISH (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Parish; three-quarters: J Ryan, H Wells (c), W Brown, P Dimond; five-eighth: K Holman; half: A Summons; forwards: K Smyth, J Hayes, K O'Shea, D Meaney, J Rochester, N Charlton

St George: Full-back: B Graham; three-quarters: E Lumsden, J Riley, G Weekes, J King; five-eighth: D Brown; half: R Bugden; forwards: B Clay, N Provan (c), M Porter, W Wilson, P Armstrong, K Ryan **Referee: D Lawler (Daily Mirror 6th May 1961)**

St George Rugby League team yesterday ended Western Suburbs' winning run with a 12-9 victory at Sydney Cricket Ground. The season's biggest crowd of 26,114 cheered St George lock Brian Clay from the field. Clay, making his first appearance for three weeks, was the big man in St George's victory. His punishing defence broke up many dangerous Wests' moves. He was also an inspiration in attack. St George recast its team because of the withdrawal of injured stars centre Reg Gasnier and lock John Raper. ... Wests had the advantage of a stiff southerly wind in the first half. St George, playing in close formation, attacked from the outset. The raid produced five points after only five minutes' play. A Wests' player mulled a pass five yards in front of the goal post. St George five-eighth Brown snapped up the loose ball and sent Clay over to score between the goalposts. Full-back Brian Graham converted the try. Three minutes later second-rower Kel O'Shea got through a ruck in midfield and spearheaded a Wests' raid. The raid produced a penalty goal which full-back Don Parish landed from 30 yards in front of the posts. Wests humbled the great St George pack in scoring a try in 15 minutes. Front-rower Nev Charlton went right through the St George forwards in a mid-field ruck. Second-rower Kel O'Shea and front-rower Denis Meaney went with him. The three Wests' forwards, in a passing burst, spredeagled the St George defence. Meaney finally got the ball out to winger Peter Dimond, who scored. Parish converted the try and Wests led 7-5. St George evened the score 7-all with a penalty goal which Graham kicked three minutes later. St George forwards were unusually loose at this period of the match. Wests' forwards were getting away from them. Full-back Graham gained a 9-7 lead for St George with a brilliant penalty goal in the 27th minute. He landed the goal from an acute angle off the touchline against the wind. His low driving kick just cleared the crossbar. No kick could have been more difficult. St George forwards tightened after Dimond's try and dominated most of the play until half-time. ... Hooker Peter Armstrong contributed greatly to St George's domination. He defeated Wests' hooker, Johnny Rochester, 10-2 in the battle for possession in the first half. He won the last six scrums. Wests began the second half with a stroke of bad luck. Full-back Parish's shot at goal from a scrum penalty 40 yards out, struck the crossbar. This was a magnificent kick into the wind. ... Wests, in an inspired 10-minute raid, tested the St George defence. Lock Clay and second-rower Provan were magnificent in this defence, particularly in cover work. After a five minute respite winger Dimond led Wests back into the attack with a dashing burst down the right flank to the corner. Parish evened the score, 9-all, with a penalty goal after 17 minutes' play in the second half. ... St George regained the lead with a snap try, three minutes later. Half-back Bugden snapped up the ball which had rolled loose from a mulled piece of Wests' work, on the blind side of a scrum 20 yards from the line. Bugden tossed the ball to winger Lumsden who scored in the corner. The try which Graham failed to convert gave St George a 12-9 lead. West's full-back Parish tried a neat piece of work when his team was under pressure in the 30th minute of the second half. Second-rower Hayes got through from his own 25-yard area, and Parish went with him. Parish stab-kicked behind the St George rear defence to Dimond's wing. But Dimond could not reach the ball before it crossed the touchline. If he had been able to do so, a try would almost certainly have resulted. ... **(Sunday Telegraph 7th May 1961)**

Notes: St George were without Gasnier and Raper and Brian Clay moved to lock, where he played a great game. Promoted hooker John Rochester lost the scrums heavily and lack of possession was becoming a significant issue for Wests. Even so, it was very close game which Wests could have easily won if they had held their passes. Wells and Charlton were the standouts for Wests.