



1914 Round 6 Saturday 13th June Birchgrove Oval



Western Suburbs 5

Harry CLARK
 Ephraim MISON
 Henry NAYLOR
 Cecil FOORD
 Henry McILLMURRAY
 Ray STEWARD
 George GAGAN
 Westley EASTERBROOK
 Martin ANDERSEN
 Clarrie TYE
 William JOASS
 Fred LANE
 Edward COURTNEY (c)

def.

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

Balmain 4

Lyall WALL
 Jack ROBINSON
 Charles FRASER (c)
 P BURNS
 Walter WINNING
 W GREEN
 Albert JOHNSTON
 Robert CRAIG
 Bill SCHULTZ
 George CUMMINS
 Jack BLINCO
 Horace BALKWELL
 Frank MOORE
 Anthony HARRINGTON

Tries Henry NAYLOR

Goals George GAGAN (1)

Charles FRASER (1)
 Lyall WALL (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, H Clarke; three-quarters, H McIlmurray, C Foord, H Naylor, E Mison; halves, R Steward, G Gagen; forwards, E Courtney (Capt), F Lane, W Joass, M E Anderson, C Tye, W Easterbrook

Balmain: Full-back, L Wall; three-quarters, J Robinson, W Winning, C Fraser (Capt), P Burns; halves, W Green, A Johnson; forwards, J Blinco, H Balkwell, W Schultz, F Moore, G Cummins, R Craig **Referee, Mr E Shaw**

Balmain played without W Kelly, the state's centre three-quarter, who stood down owing to a family bereavement. Courtney's kick-off nearly had the Balmain men in difficulties as Joass blocked Robinson's return, but Craig saved opportunely. Play was rather devoid of incident for some time, and hovered in neutral territory where heavy scrummaging and loose ruck work were the features. Once Fraser brightened up the play by a fine run, but was well smothered, just as he threatened danger. Balmain so far had not displayed the dash that marked their successes against Newtown and Glebe; they seemed to be in a lethargic condition, both forward and back. Now and then they displayed fair ideas of combination but their three-quarters worked along the old orthodox lines, and consequently went down before their opponents' defence. Western Suburbs were playing their usual steady game, being generally content with the effective work of their forwards, although on one occasion they gave a delightful tit-bit of passing, the ball travelling from man to man with machine-like precision. However, Courtney, the last man to handle the ball, lost possession, and Balmain forced. Green, of Balmain, was now injured, and was replaced by Harrington. Play quietened down again until Wall kicked a penalty goal for Balmain, who led at the interval by 2 points to nil.

A marked improvement was noticeable in the combination of both teams when the game was resumed, and the play as a whole became interesting. Balmain soon added to their first-half score, as Fraser kicked a penalty after his forwards, notably Craig and Schultz, had worked the play into a handy position. Western Suburbs immediately sparked up, and had Balmain defending like Trojans. Western Suburbs, however, were too determined, and after a long rally which was capped by a nice concerted movement initiated by Gagan, Naylor scored, and Gagan goaled. Western Suburbs 5, Balmain 4. The play now became exciting, and Balmain's supporters urged them on, but they failed to make an impression on the Western Suburbs' defence, which, during the closing stages of the game, was remarkably sound. The final scores gave Western Suburbs a well-earned victory by 5 points to 4. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 15th June 1914)**

"It was a particularly "nutty" passing movement initiated by Steward from a scrum. He sent to Gagen who found Naylor, to Foord, to McIlmurray, back to Naylor, who got over. But the man who did the chief damage was Foord who cut through beautifully and practically made the try assured before passing. Gagen's kick which gave Wests the lead was a capital shot.....For the winners, Courtney played grandly and was easily the best forward on the field. **(The Saturday Referee and the Arrow 20th June 1914)**

Notes: This was a big upset as Balmain had been in cracking form, beating Newtown and Glebe in their previous matches, W Kelly, Balmain's best player and coach didn't play due to the death of his mother in NZ and all the players wore black armbands. The Wests' try was apparently a cracker, after a rapid backline movement. This was the same team that played the week before so the stability was paying off. Note the comment on Tedda Courtney. It is remarkable how many times he was noted as the outstanding forward or player on the field.