



# 1935 Round 6 Saturday 18th May Cricket Ground



## Western Suburbs 20

def.

## Balmain 13

Frank McMILLAN (c)  
 Vince SHEEHAN  
 Ron KNIGHT  
 Alan BRADY  
 Alan RIDLEY  
 Vic HEY  
 Les MEAD  
 Bob ALLISON  
 Max GRAY  
 Athol SMITH  
 Jack SPILLANE  
 Gordon PUGH  
 Vince CLEARY

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

Herbert WOODBRY  
 Sid GOODWIN  
 Jack REDMAN  
 Gordon SYKES  
 George FRANKLAND  
 Joe BUSCH (c)  
 Syd CHRISTENSEN  
 Stephen COOPER  
 Edmund BEAVER  
 Norm COX  
 Michael PACE  
 George BISHOP  
 Bill JOHNSON

**Tries** Alan RIDLEY (2)  
 Alan BRADY  
 Ron KNIGHT

Joe BUSCH

**Goals** Les MEAD (4)

Syd CHRISTENSEN (5)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: F McMillan (capt); three-quarters: A Ridley, A Brady, R Knight, V Sheehan; halves: V Hey, L Mead; forwards: R Allison, M Gray, A Smith, J Spillane, G Pugh, V Cleary

**Balmain:** Full-back: H Woodbry; three-quarters: S Goodwin, J Redman, G Sykes, G Frankland; halves: J Busch (capt), S Christensen; forwards: S Cooper, E Beaver, N Cox, W Johnson, G Bishop, M Pace **Referee: L Deane (The Rugby League News 15th June 1935)**

With 22,917 fans roaring themselves hoarse right to the last gasp, 'Chimpy' Busch, against Wests, failed to lead Balmain to victory for the first time this season, but a rip-roaring second half, packed with hectic action, featured an amazing 'come-back' by Balmain, just when Wests looked like grinding them into the dust, and lost them no friends..... A third time Wests desperately set themselves to keep out the invaders as Busch sailed away again. But this time Busch, only partly stopped by defenders who had their eyes on the way the little half would pass the ball more than on the wily one himself, swung towards the line to dive over amidst indescribable enthusiasm. The unerring toe of Christensen landed the extras, and not so long afterwards landed a penalty goal which made Wests only 20-13 to the good. After that it was the survival of the fittest. Wonderful football, tigerish attack met by equally sterling defence, but the Balmain backs appeared to have grown weary after their torrid tasks and once, when Goodwin looked to have a great chance of scoring, he was so tired that all he could do was to look for someone to whom he could pass. So the end came with Wests victors 20-13, but the story of the game was bound up in those hectic minutes of the second half; when Balmain battled for their unbeaten record. Balmain lost the game because they had not the pace of their rivals in the backs. Both of Ridley's splendid tries were made possible by his extra toe. Balmain defenders were in position each time to stop him, but he outpaced them. Perhaps the best effort put over by Ridley in this, his best season, was his second try, when he was actually downed by Woodbry, but was not effectively stopped and was able to rise and get into his stride in a split second, outpace another defender and run round nearly to the posts for a try. .... Then things grew very dismal for Balmain. In quick succession Wests scored a brace. First up Spillane scooted down the wing, drew the defence and sent Ridley away to outpace man after man until he placed the ball under the bar. Later Ridley dittoed that effort in the manner already described, and with Mead's unerring toe in action for the extra points each time, Wests had the handy lead of 12-2. Balmain had a chance to snap out of it when Christensen grubber-kicked across field after making ground, but the bounce went Knight's way, and he saved, though tackled at the corner flag by Goodwin, who grabbed the ball when it was played and nearly dived through. But the tear bucket was brought out when Busch went right down the field in brilliant fashion to Wests' 25, where he transferred to Sykes, with Goodwin alongside. A clean pass and take was all that was wanted but Sykes sent the ball at Goodwin's feet and an absolute certainty was lost. Before the half-time whistle blew Christensen added a couple of goals, but Wests had last say when Knight scored his spectacular try and they took their refreshers with Wests 15-6. Nobody wanted to be on Balmain when Vic Hey started his tricks and ran Alan Brady into possie for a brilliant try. Wests' lead had now grown to 18-6. A goal by Mead and it looked as if Balmain were in for a father of a hiding, but just as the fans were starting to yell 'Take 'em off' Balmain got their second wind, sailed into it, and as already described, ran the tally to Wests 20-13 before the death and gave fans a wonderful exhibition of grit and form. **(Truth 19th May 1935)**

**Notes:** Frank McMillan had been back in training and remarkably made a comeback after retiring at the end of the 1934 season. He wasn't at his best but the side obviously played better with him there. Jack Spillane made his First Grade debut after coming across from University but being injured in Trial games. He had played lower grades for Wests in 1929-31. Bob Allison also made his debut, replacing Jack Kingston. Pugh's winning of a more than a fair share in the scrums was a deciding factor as Balmain came back hard at Wests in the closing stages. Wests were coming off a bye in Round 5.