



1917 Round 6 Saturday 9th June St Luke's Park



Western Suburbs 15

def.

Eastern Suburbs 2

Dick VEST
 Tom McCAULEY
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Pat CARROLL
 Alex McPHERSON
 George SWANSON
 Harold LEDDY
 William JOASS
 Frank HOLT
 Jack REDMOND
 Edward COURTNEY
 Charles ASHWORTH

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

Dan FLANNERY
 Wally MESSENGER
 Ray NORMAN
 Les CUBITT (c)
 R ADAMS
 Harry CAPLES
 T O'CONNOR
 W RAYMOND
 Bob LINKLATER
 Jim DUFFY
 Charlie LEES
 Sandy PEARCE
 Bob WILLIAMS

Tries Harold LEDDY
 Herb GILBERT
 Edward COURTNEY

Goals Alex McPHERSON (3) Ray NORMAN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: R Vest, full-back; T Boland, A Carroll, H Gilbert, C Prentice, three-quarters; A McPherson, five-eighth, Swanson, half-back; H Leddy, W Joass, C Ashworth, F Holt, E Courtney, J Redmond, forwards

Eastern Suburbs: D Flannery, full-back; W Messenger, R Norman, R Adams, L Cubitt, three-quarters; H Caples, five-eighth; T O'Connor, half-back; C Lees, S Pearce, W Raymond, J Duffy, R Williams, R Linklater, forwards **C Russell, referee (The Sunday Times 10th June 1917)**

...Boland started Western Suburbs with a strong rush, and Gilbert dashed across, but McPherson failed to convert. Then play was up and down field, each side holding the advantage alternatively. A penalty to Western Suburbs at the 25 enabled McPherson to increase the score to 5. Efforts by Eastern Suburbs were unavailing and at half-time Western Suburbs led by 5 points to nil.

Eastern Suburbs secured two points from a penalty goal by Norman. Prentice secured in the ruck in Eastern Suburbs' territory, and raced to the full-back before sending to Courtney, who battled across. McPherson added the extras. A sudden rush by Western Suburbs' forwards ended in Leddy adding another try, which McPherson converted from a difficult angle. There was no further scoring, and at full-time Western Suburbs led by 15 to 2. **(The Sun 9th June 1917)**

Western Suburbs' Expectationsthey have since gradually improved in this and other directions, thanks to the generalship of H Gilbert. That their recent successes, and the defeat of Eastern Suburbs in particular, have operated beneficially upon the side we have the assurance of Mr E McFayden, the hon, secretary, who writes me thus We have striven hard for nine long years to defeat Eastern Suburbs, and at last the tide has turned in our favour; In the last three matches the scores have been 12 tries and 8 goals (52 points) against the opponents 2 tries and 4 goals (14 points) which indicates a great improvement in the attack. This is attributed to Herb Gilbert's captaincy, for he has had difficulty in teaching the men, and showing them how defence can be turned into attack. Gilbert's own play at the present is reminiscent of what it was in the days prior to him going to England. .. Anyone who witnessed Tedda Courtney's dive over the line on Saturday must recognise that he still has plenty of dash left in him. It was the tit-bit of the match, thanks to Prentice, who fooled the would-be tacklers until coming to the full-back, when he transferred to Courtney who scored under the bar. McPherson is kicking well. Swanson, the half-back, is the smallest man playing first grade football, being well under 8st. **(Arrow 16th June 1917)**

....Both sides were not represented by their full strength, Easts being without Barker, McKellar and Male, while Wests had Ab White and Bossi on the injured list.it was their deadly tackling that beat Easts, coupled with the fine play and good skipper-ship of Captain Herb Gilbert. **(The Sydney Sportsman 13th June 1917)**

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Notes: This was a landmark match for Wests; three in a row and the first defeat ever of Eastern Suburbs. They were becoming a real football team and the reason was obvious; Herb Gilbert. Ernie McFayden's letter to the Arrow (published above) predicted a possible victory for Wests against Glebe the following week; a bold prediction, since Wests had never looked like beating Glebe. The Secretary was under no illusions as to why; Gilbert had been cajoling the men, showing them how to turn defence into attack. They had lost their first three games because of a lack of condition in the last ten minutes but under Gilbert they seemed to have finally realised the benefits of a rigid training regime. Athol White and Alf Bossi were in the original lists but were replaced by Dick Vest and George Swanson. The photos of George Swanson, Richard Swanson's brother, in the Archives back up McFayden's statement about his small size.