

Match Description

Glebe: D Brolly, full-back; A Wright, T Leggo (C), M Scannell, H Bolewski, three-quarters; E Gallagher, five-eighth; A Butler, half-back; H Angus, A B Burge, E Swinton, C O'Donnell, L Burge and S Pet, forwards

Western Suburbs: R Vest, full-back; T Boland, C W Prentice, H Gilbert (c), A Carroll, three-quarters; A McPherson, five-eighth; A Bossi, halfback; H J Leddy, H Lee, F Holt, J Redmond, E Courtney and W Joass, forwards **A Farrow referee**

Play opened at a smart pace, and though a very serviceable southerly favoured the Reds, Western Suburbs quite held their own for some time. ... Play worked out, and matters were even until Bossi secured from a scrum near centre and passed to McPherson, who beat an opponent and sent it again to Bossi, on to Leddy, who ran from the 25 and scored a fine try. McPherson failed at goal. WS 3 to nil. Glebe attacked and in some close work Wright sustained an injury to his shoulder and was relieved by Ogle. The game continued very fast, with Wests handling cleanly and quite holding their own with the Reds. Half-time, Western Suburbs 3 to nil.

There were a few bright bursts at the commencement of play of the second half. ... In a twinkling the Black and White were moving goalwards, only to be blocked as much by their own patchy handling as the tackling of Glebe. The game was entertaining with each side displaying plenty of pace. Glebe were clearly feeling the absence of F Burge. Western Suburbs' backs carried play from outside Glebe's 25 to half-way near the Western touch, where the ball went to Carroll, and after a run of about 15 yards he was tackled and played the ball back to Bossi, who whipped it out McPherson to Gilbert, on to Boland. The last-named sent it rather high to Prentice, who had cleverly backed up, and he ran from the 25 line and scored in a fair position. McPherson failed at goal. WS 5 to nil. The Reds commenced to attack hotly, and were moving goal-wards when a pass from Angus, who was figuring as an extra back, was intercepted by Redmond, and the forward flew from his own 25 to half-way, where he punted and Scannell caught the ball near the line. Carroll, who appeared to be off-side, prevented Scannell from kicking, and eventually tackled him. Redmond, coming up fast, got the ball between Scannell and the goal-line, but he was immediately downed. The home team was penalised here, and McPherson, kicking a goal, the visitors led 8 to nil. Glebe sparkled now, and played a stronger game than at any time previously. A B Burge, Scannell and Angus, by neat passing, put them in a good position, then, from a scrum, Butler whipped it to Gallagher, on to Leggo, on to Scannell, who raced from the 25 and scored between the posts. A Burge converted. WS 8 to 5. Play continued interesting but there was no further score. **(The Sunday Times 17th June 1917)**

....... The rise of Western Suburbs is the most popular feature of the campaign, and if they keep on winning until they tackle Balmain a second time, the battle promises to eclipse in public interest anything yet presented to the crowds this season. (Arrow 26th June 1917)

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Notes: The landmarks kept coming for Wests. Not only was this the first time they had ever defeated Glebe it was also at Wentworth Park. Glebe were missing their captain and star, Frank Burge, who had broken his arm in the previous match against Balmain but nevertheless Wests were convincing winners. Jack (Tony) Redmond was finally starting to hit his straps. Remember that he had spent a considerable amount of time in an English hospital recovering from war wounds. Wests had now won four in a row and were serious contenders. Alf Bossi returned after injury, forcing Swanson back to Second Grade. Hector Lee returned after suspension and Dick Vest was still starring at full-back, replacing an injured Athol White.