



1949 Round 7 Saturday 21st May Pratten Park



South Sydney 13

def.

Western Suburbs 6

Clive CHURCHILL
 Len ALLMOND
 Howard HALLETT
 Eddie TRACEY
 Norm SPILLANE
 Ken BROGAN
 Des BRYAN
 Les COWIE
 Jack RAYNER (c)
 Bernie PURCELL
 Jack MELVILLE
 Keith AITKEN
 Norm NILSON

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

Bill KEATO
 Jack WOODS
 Jack FITZGERALD
 Col MAXWELL (c)
 Col HUDSON
 Frank STANMORE
 Keith HOLMAN
 Bill RAWLINSON
 Don MILTON
 Kevin HANSEN
 George LOVELL
 Alan HORNERY
 Jim SEERY



Tries

Len ALLMOND
 Bernie PURCELL
 Eddie TRACEY

Goals

Bernie PURCELL (2)

Bill KEATO (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: C Hudson, C Maxwell (capt), J Fitzgerald, J Woods; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: K Holman; forwards; W Rawlinson, D Milton, K Hansen, J Seery, A Hornery, G Lovell

South Sydney: Full-back: C Churchill; three-quarters: L Allmond, H Hallett, E Tracey, N Spillane; five-eighth: K Brogan; half: D Bryan; forwards: L Cowie, J Rayner (capt), B Purcell, K Melville, K Aitken, N Nilson **Referee: J O'Brien (Rugby League News 28th May 1949)**

Skilful Western Suburbs Rugby League back, Eric Bennett, today withdrew from the team which played South Sydney after a last-minute switch by selectors. Bennett was chosen as a centre-three-quarter, with Kangaroo captain Col Maxwell on the wing. Today the selectors announced Maxwell would go into the centre, and Bennett would go on to the wing. Bennett already this season has played full-back, centre three-quarter, and five-eighth, without questioning the selectors' decisions. "I have no hard feelings about the matter but I don't intend playing on the wing, because I could not do either myself or the club justice," said Bennett. Bennett, who recently played his 100th game for Wests, has been the club's best back this season. Rugby League supporters will agree that his decision not to play on the wing is wise. He is a heady player who tackles particularly well but is not as pacy as the average winger. The average follower of the game would interpret Bennett's switch to the wing as a sign that he was not wanted in the team. Bennett attended this afternoon's game at Pratten Park and said that he would continue to train, and would be eligible for selection in future matches, but not as a winger. His replacement, Maxwell, returned to the side today after missing three matches through injury. **(The Sun 21st May 1949)**

A brilliant display by Kangaroo fullback, Clive Churchill, assisted materially in South Sydney's 13-6 win against Western Suburbs at Pratten Park. A crowd of 4600 watched the match. Churchill played purposeful football and rarely made an error with his well-placed kicks. He handled the greasy ball as serenely as though conditions were ideal, and, at the latter part of the game, when Wests were attacking the South Sydney line, he made several dodging runs, almost to half-way. He also tackled well, and his tackling not only stopped a try in one movement just before half-time, but led to one by Souths. Stanmore had beaten several other players effortlessly, but Churchill took him full on, and the impact was so great that the ball catapulted out of Stanmore's hands. Souths dashed away with it and, after a temporary halt, Rayner set them going again. In a succession of quick exchanges, Tracey, Brogan and Allmond handled for Allmond to cross in the corner. That gave Souths their half-time lead of 5-2. Wests had several scoring chances. Nearing half-time Stanmore made a fine run, but ignored Hudson and turned infield, where he was tackled by Churchill. In the second half, Fitzgerald missed several passes when tries were probable. Hansen, in a weakened Western Suburbs pack, made several long runs that raised the hopes of local supporters. ... **(The Sun 22nd May 1949)**

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Notes: This match was played in pouring rain and the handling of the greasy ball by the Wests' backs was quite poor. Bill Horder and Peter McLean were both late withdrawals due to injuries. There was a sensation before the match when Eric Bennett withdrew because he refused to play on the wing. Selectors had moved him from centre to the wing to accommodate Col Maxwell's return. Bennett said he couldn't do the position justice and refused to play. Brilliant performances by Clive Churchill and ex-Wests player, Bernie Purcell, made it difficult for a disrupted Wests team. Stanmore, who was Wests' best, bombed a try and Col Hudson also dropped a try-scoring pass.