



# 1913 Round 7 Saturday 28th June Birchgrove Oval



## Western Suburbs 7

Harry CLARK  
 Claude McFAYDEN  
 Henry NAYLOR  
 Harold BISSETT  
 Charles ROTHWELL  
 Ray STEWARD  
 George GAGAN  
 William FOORD  
 William JOASS  
 Stan CARR  
 Albert BURDUS  
 Westley EASTERBROOK  
 Edward COURTNEY (c)

## def.

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

## Balmain 5

Charles FRASER  
 Ernie HUCKER  
 A WHEATLEY  
 George WHEATLEY  
 H MURPHY  
 Anthony HARRINGTON  
 Len SAWYER  
 Frank MOORE  
 Robert CRAIG  
 John WOODWARD  
 George CUMMINS  
 Horace BALKWELL  
 William NOBLE (c)  
 Robert GRAVES

**Tries** William FOORD Ernie HUCKER

**Goals** William FOORD (2) George CUMMINS (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Fullback, H Clark; three-quarters, C McFayden, H Naylor, H V Bissett, C Rothwell; halves, S Gagen, R. Steward; forwards, E Courtney (c), W Easterbrook, A Burdus, S Carr, W Joass, W Foord

**Balmain:** Fullback, C Fraser; three-quarters, E Hucker, A Wheatley, G Wheatley, H Murphy; halves, A Harrington, A Sawyer; forwards, W Noble (c), R Craig, H Baulkwell, G Cummins, J Woodward, F Moore **Referee, Mr H Millington.**

Playing fast, fearless football the Western Suburbs' forwards proved too good for Balmain at Birchgrove. Though play could not be termed brilliant, the spectators witnessed a game in which there was much to admire, and in which the pace and the dogged endeavour of Western Suburbs, and the sterling defence of the Balmain backs were the bright features. Balmain were particularly unfortunate on the score of accidents, Sawyer, a second-grader, who was working the scrums in lieu of Johnson (disabled), being seriously hurt early in the first half, and was carried off the field with concussion. Graves was brought into requisition, and Craig dropped out of the forwards and figured behind the home's pack.

Balmain opened the score as a result of a fine kick by Cummins from 40 yards out, but this early reverse did not disconcert Western Suburbs, as soon afterwards they notched five points. They were pressing, when Fraser tried to clear by a low kick, but the ball was blocked and rebounded over the line and Foord scored. The same player added the extras. Western Suburbs 5 to 2.

Balmain were displaying the better combination, but the strenuous tackling and persistency of the Black and White forwards were proving too much for them. However, they kept up the attack, and Fraser, cleverly fielding a speculator, raced goal-wards, with a bunch of forwards in attendance. The full-back, when nearing the line, sent the ball to Moore, who sent out a long pass to Hucker, and the ex-South Sydneyite scored. Craig failed at goal. Five points all. The pace became lively, with forward play predominating, until Foord kicked a penalty goal after the ball had struck the post and dropped over the bar. At half-time Western Suburbs led by 7 points to 3.

After the interval Fraser came up to the stand-off half position, and Harrington became custodian. Play was very exciting, but the superb tackling nipped in the bud any efforts to gain ground. Balmain were endeavouring to gain the upper hand, and their backs initiated rush after rush. One of these onslaughts were very fine, but A Wheatley was grassed when he looked a likely scorer. Baulkwell was injured at this stage, and retired temporarily. With this effective hooker out of the way the Black and White forwards were dominating the scrums, besides outplaying their opponents in the loose. Fraser in his new position was putting in solid work, but even his resource could not help his side to victory, the score being 7 to 5 in favour of the Westerners. **(Sydney Morning Herald 30th June 1913)**

Mr Millington (referee) told Courtney not to ask why Wests were penalised. If Tedda was not a good boy he would send him off! **(Sydney Sportsman 2nd July 1913)**

**Notes:** Two in a row for Wests looked promising. Harold Bissett received another good write-up for his dazzling foot-work. Even in 1913 the referees apparently didn't like to be questioned! This is a good example of why it is difficult to accurately predict positions on the field from team lists. The forward order as listed is not reliable. Baulkwell is not listed as a hooker but is specifically named in that position. Tedda Courtney, for example, often is noted as playing out of the front row position. This was an excellent defensive effort.