



1954 Round 8 Saturday 22nd May Sports Ground



Newtown 12

Gordon CLIFFORD
Ray PRESTON
Dick POOLE
Col GEELAN (c)
Kevin CONSIDINE
Ray KELLY
Bobby WHITTON
Peter RYAN
Henry HOLLOWAY
Frank NARVO
Jim EVANS
Frank JOHNSON
Don STAIT

def.

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

Western Suburbs 4

George BAIN
John GIBSON
Jack FITZGERALD
Dev DINES
Barry OWEN
Don GRAHAM
Keith HOLMAN (c)
Nev CHARLTON
Doug SMITH
Bill OWENS
Max CALDWELL
Hec FARRELL
Eddie HOOPER



Tries Kevin CONSIDINE (2)

Goals Gordon CLIFFORD (3)

George BAIN (2)

Match Description

Newtown: Full-back: G Clifford; three-quarters: K Considine, R Poole, C Geelan, R Preston; five-eighth: R Kelly; half: R Whitton; forwards; P Ryan, H Holloway, F Narvo, D Stait, F Johnson, J Evans

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: J Frecklington, J Fitzgerald, D Dines, B Owen; five-eighth: D Graham; half: K Holman (capt); forwards: N Charlton, D Smith, W Owens, M Caldwell, H Farrell, E Hooper **Referee: D Lawler (The Daily Mirror 22nd May 1954)**

Australian Rugby League half-back, Keith Holman, was knocked-out and injured during the premiership match in which Newtown beat Western Suburbs 12-4 at the Sports Ground yesterday. N.S.W. Rugby League medical officer Dr. Len Greenberg later said: "Holman has slight concussion, but I think he will be fit enough to play next Saturday. The game, ragged and sometimes rugged, enabled Newtown to retain its unbeaten record. Holman, the Western Suburbs captain-coach, suffered slight concussion after he had crashed into opposing half Bob Whitton late in the second half. Holman had difficulty in recognising people immediately after the game and claimed that he did not know Western Suburbs had been beaten. The international half, who is expected to be one of Australia's hopes against the Englishmen this season, was not the only Wests man to suffer injury. Centre Dev Dines sustained broken ribs early in the second half and spent the rest of the game on the wing. He was useless in the position, but Newtown attackers and defenders deliberately treated him easily. Although Newtown scored two tries to nil, the result was in doubt to the last few minutes. Newtown led by one point, 5-4, with 10 minutes of the game left. First Newtown's fullback Gordon Clifford then Wests' George Bain missed penalty goals. It had been a bad day for Clifford, who is the second biggest scorer of the season. After landing an early goal he missed the next five when the ball became heavier. Then in the closing stages he kicked an easy penalty to give Newtown a 7-4 lead. This kick was the first score in the second half, and served to sting Wests into a final bid. Holman, despite his injury spearheaded the action when he got the ball from centre Jack Fitzgerald, and beat full-back Clifford with a short kick. The field was clear, but the ball bounced unfavourably and Holman failed to gather. Newtown turned the defence into attack and Considine took a short kick from near Wests' scrum base and twisted his way through the defence to run 30 yards for his second try. Considine, with Poole, proved the most impressive backs of the match. The pair had combined well for Considine's first try early in the game. Poole raced diagonally for Considine's wing and the winger took the ball for a strong 40 yards run along the line, beating two defenders. International centre and Newtown captain-coach Col Geelan was several times caught well offside by referee Darcy Lawler. He cost his side two points from a penalty goal. Speedy Newtown winger Ray Preston often came inside to seek the chances which did not normally come his way. He tackled vigorously, but was often caught out of position. Wests' winger Barry Owen impressed with his long runs in the first half, but he was restricted when moved into the centre later to replace the injured Dines. Attendance was 5,348. **(The Sun-Herald 23rd May 1954)**

Notes: This was a very willing match played on a very muddy pitch. The conditions meant a poor quality game with frequent dropped passes and, as the ball became heavier, poor goal-kicking as well. Keith Holman was knocked unconscious and was heavily concussed, not remembering much of the match afterwards. Don Graham stood out in a losing side. The program had John Thompson playing on the wing but the official team list in The Mirror had John Frecklington, a Reserve Grader, playing. However, John Frecklington does not appear in the Annual Report as having played First Grade and was not mentioned in any newspaper report, while John Gibson is listed as playing three matches, but only appearing in two First Grade team lists. The most likely explanation is that John Thompson was out, replaced by John Gibson. John Thompson was also missing in the next two matches so it appears he was out of this match as well, injured. In the month between Round 7 and Round 8 Wests had played a visiting Riverina team and the Possibles v Probables matches had also been played.