



1917 Round 8 Saturday 23rd June St Luke's Park



Western Suburbs 16

def.

South Sydney 11

Athol WHITE
 Dick VEST
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Pat CARROLL
 Alex McPHERSON
 Alf BOSSI
 George GAGAN
 Harold LEDDY
 Frank HOLT
 Jack REDMOND
 Edward COURTNEY
 William JOASS

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

J KEARNS
 Gordon VAUGHAN
 C PHELPS
 Clarrie HORDER
 Harold HORDER
 Alfred BLAIR
 George McGOWAN (c)
 Rex NORMAN
 William OXFORD
 Eddie HILLIARD
 Bill GROVES
 Owen McCARTHY
 George LUCAS

Tries Frank HOLT (2)
 Herb GILBERT
 Alex McPHERSON

Gordon VAUGHAN

Goals Alex McPHERSON (2)

George LUCAS (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, A White; three-quarters, R Vest, H Gilbert, A Carroll, C W Prentice; halves, A McPherson, G Gagan, A Bossi (**Note**); forwards, H J Leddy, E Courtney, W Joass, F Holt, J Redmond

South Sydney: Full-back, J Kearns; three-quarters, H Horder, C Horder, C Phelps, G Vaughan; halves, A Blair, R Norman, G McGowan (captain); forwards, W Groves, O McCarthy, E Hilliard, A Oxford, G Lucas **Referee: T McMahon**

Gilbert set the ball rolling against a strong wind, and in charging for South Sydney's line, Courtney was forced out in the corner, when within an ace of scoring. From a free at mid-field, Lucas drew first blood for Souths with a fine kick. South Sydney 2 Western Suburbs nil. Wests immediately retaliated with a brilliant burst, which ended in Holt running over. No goal resulted. Western Suburbs 3 Souths 2. Holt again distinguished himself by following up, and taking a pass at the right time, and diving across. McPherson added the extras. At this stage a South Sydney player was ordered off the field. Play now became exceedingly fast, and Lucas kicked a penalty goal for South Sydney. Western Suburbs 8 South Sydney 4. McPherson, shortly afterwards, brought down the house by dribbling the leather past several of his opponents, and over the line. He fell on the ball and scored. The kick at goal failed. Western Suburbs 11 South Sydney 4 Lucas again added to Souths score by kicking his third goal. Western Suburbs 11 South Sydney 6.

Shortly after resuming Wests urged menacingly, and Gilbert, receiving the ball when going at top speed, put in a magnificent run along the wing, but was knocked out in the corner.... On resuming, Wests had play in their opponents territory for some time. Vaughan, gathering a long pass, scored in a handy position. Lucas converted, Western Suburbs 11 South Sydney 11. Wests strove hard in the last few minutes. Gilbert received a good pass, and, running strongly, put the game beyond doubt. Macpherson goaled. Western Suburbs 16 South Sydney 11. These were the final scores. **(The Evening News 23rd June 1917)**

One of the heroes of the week's football is A McPherson, the nimble and by no means big man who plays as five-eighth for Western Suburbs. He was slippery in the attack against South Sydney on Saturday; no one in the side playing a bigger individual part in piling up the points than he did, not even skipper H Gilbert. On Monday, at the Sydney Cricket Ground, he was the star performer in the play which culminated in Gilbert getting Western Suburbs' only try against Newtown. He deluded the Newtown backs in a sort of Percy Bush way, just as he had done those of South Sydney, and then running straight with plenty of pace, made no mistake in forwarding the pass to the support. A clever, nippy brainy player is McPherson; also, a very good goal-kicker, as he has shown several times this season..... **(Arrow 30th June 1917)**

Harold Horder had been sent off when the score was 3 to 2. He was downed and lying on his back, with two opponents on top of him. One man was roughing his face, as his head lay on the turf. Horder went off with a smile of surprise, and he was not the only one surprised..... **(The Sunday Times 24th June 1917)**

.....
Notes: This was another significant game for Wests. It was now five in a row and they'd beaten Eastern Suburbs, Glebe and South Sydney in succession, a feat not dreamed of previously. Note the write-up above extolling the form of Alex (Barny) McPherson. He was having a significant influence as was Gilbert. Athol White returned from injury putting Vest on the wing (Tom McCauley had been carrying an injury anyway). Souths' performance was outstanding with Harold Horder their star in a dubious send-off, their hooker, McCarthy, injured and having to play half the match with 11 men. A win was a win, however!!