



1931 Round 8 Saturday 4th July Sydney Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 10

def.

St George 5

Frank McMILLAN (c)
 Alan RIDLEY
 Norm JOHNSON
 Cecil ANDERTON
 Harold RIGBY
 Harry CAMERON
 Jack ROSA
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bert GREEN
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Charlie WRENCH
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES

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

Stan ROBINSON
 Joe BRENNAN
 Sid LOUDEN
 George WARD
 Fred GARDNER
 Harry KADWELL (c)
 P DAVIES
 Reg SCHUMAN
 John BRIERLEY
 Joe SHARP
 Reg PHIPPS
 Arthur JUSTICE
 Charlie HYLAND

Tries

Cecil ANDERTON
 Alan RIDLEY

Harry KADWELL

Goals

Charlie CORNWELL (2)

Joe BRENNAN (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F. McMillan; three-quarters. A. Ridley. C. Anderton, N. Johnson, H Rigby; halves. R. Cameron, J. Rosa; forwards. F. Matterson. B. Green, C. Cornwell. C. Wrench. C. Rhodes. R. Lindfield.

St. George: Full-back. F. Robinson, three-quarters, J. Brennan. S. Loudon. G Ward, F. Gardiner; halves. H. Kadwell, P Davis; forwards, J. Brierley, R. Schuman. J Sharp, C. Hyland, R. Phipps, A. Justice **Referee: L. Deane. (The Sun 4th July 1931)**

Although the play was not high class, Western Suburbs deserved to be congratulated, for the team made an excellent recovery in the second half, and was playing without five interstate representatives, while St, George had only one man at Brisbane. In the first half Western Suburbs won the scrummages by two to one, and although Lindfield's superiority over Justice was not so pronounced in the second period, the winners enjoyed the advantage in penalty kicks throughout the game. McMillan fielded brilliantly, and kicked strongly, but neither he nor the other backs seemed keen to trust the makeshift combination in orthodox attacking movements. St. George's substitute full-back, Robinson, was kept busy, and played a fine part. The play for the most part was in St. George's territory, but occasional dashes were made by the Illawarra backs, and the only try in this half came after a scrum close to West's line, Kadwell dashing through brilliantly for the score, and Brennan adding a great goal. Thus, Western Suburbs faced a five points' deficit in the second half, but eventually the team wore down the opposition. Confidence came with the first try, scored in the right corner by Ridley, who juggled the ball after taking the pass from Johnson. The latter, after Cameron and Rosa had handled, hesitated, and then shot through, surprising the defence and sending Ridley across. Western Suburbs continued to play more attractively, and Cameron, who had been caught in possession many times in the first spell, led many attacks. He received a lot of assistance from Matterson, who had broken quickly from the pack to join in rushes in the opening half, but now was actually an extra half-back. The five-eighth, Rosa, ran strongly, cutting past an opponent. In the movement which led to the second try. Anderton, served with the ball by Johnson, hurled himself across the line near the left corner. Cornwell kicked a grand goal, and later kicked another good one when Sharpe, a big forward who had rendered fine service in the first half, but now occasionally was round the scrum too quickly, was penalised. Kadwell tried his hardest, but St. George could not make any impression, and near the end, Wrench, one of Western Suburbs' substitute forwards, just missed scoring after Robinson had failed to gather from a kick. The scorers were:-For the winners: Ridley and Anderton, tries; Cornwell converted one try and also kicked a penalty goal. For St. George: Kadwell, a try, converted by Brennan. **(Sydney Morning Herald 6th July 1931)**

Johnno Rhodes, the big front-row forward of Wests, showed of what iron stuff he is made of in the match against Balmain. In a head collision with Cec Anderton, he received a very deep gash over his left eye, and was advised to leave the field by Webby Neil, and by the ambulance official to go to hospital and have some stitched inserted. Johnno insisted on the latter placing some plaster over the wound, and with a headgear attached he resumed his place on the field and played with seemingly more dash than when the injury was incurred. **(Rugby League News 4th July 1931)**

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Notes: Wests played again with a considerably weakened team but were still able to win. Bert Green (ex-Newtown) came in for Bill Ryan who had injured himself, as an apprentice, during the week at work. McMillan went back to full-back, where he starred, and Norm Johnson went into the centre. Charlie Wrench was still replacing Bill Brogan and, at 21, was playing very strongly. Cecil Anderton played with an injured leg which kept him in doubt up until just before the match, but he still scored the winning try. Johnno Rhodes' toughness had never been in doubt but the Rugby League News article emphasised his courage. Frank Spillane, who had been out of action for a long time, made his comeback in Third Grade.