



# 1917 Round 9 Monday 25th June Sydney Cricket Ground



## Newtown 19

Ed RIGNEY  
 George BAIN  
 W LAWRENCE  
 Henry BROWN  
 Wally COLLINS  
 William GILLESPIE  
 J LEONARD  
 Dan KELLY  
 Jim McCUE  
 E FRANKS  
 Anthony MARTIN  
 Reg FERGUSON  
 Felix RYAN (c)

def.

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

## Western Suburbs 5

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



**Tries** Wally COLLINS  
 E FRANKS  
 Felix RYAN

Herb GILBERT

**Goals** George BAIN (5)

Alex McPHERSON (1)

### Match Description

**Newtown:** Full-back, E P Rigney; three-quarters, W Collins, G Bain, Lawrence, H G Brown; halves, W Gillespie, J Leonard; forwards, D Kelly, R Ferguson, F Ryan, E Franks, J McCue, T Martin

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back, A White; three-quarters, R Vest, H Gilbert, A Carroll, C W Prentice; halves, McPherson, Bossi; forwards, H J Leddy, E Courtney, W Joass, F Holt, J Redmond, H Lee **Referee, T Dickinson**

Six thousand spectators were present when Wests started the game playing off against a strong wind. .... Bain started the scores by getting a goal from a penalty right in front of the posts. Newtown 2 Western Suburbs nil. Wests, however, were not to be denied, and McPherson, picking up in the loose, made a grand run down the field beating three or four of the opposition, and when nearing Newtown's line he passed to Gilbert, who, after a grand dash scored near the posts. McPherson added the extras. Western Suburbs 5 Newtown 2. Some fierce struggling followed on Wests' line, relief to the defenders through a force but Leonard from a penalty right in front of Wests' goal got the ball over the bar. Western Suburbs 5 Newtown 4. These were the half-time scores. Almost immediately following the resumption, Leonard kicked over Wests' line, and Ryan followed on quickly touched down. Bain added the extras. Newtown 9, Western Suburbs 5. From a penalty in a handy position, Bain landed another penalty goal. Final scores were Newtown 19, Western Suburbs 5. **(Evening News 25th June 1917)**

Mr E McFayden, hon. Secretary of Western Suburbs warriors, gives the club views....." The defeat on Monday by Newtown cannot be said to be a reversal of form shown in previous matches, but is attributed to the state of the ground after the rain. Western Suburbs players, not allowing for the conditions, frequently made the mistake of trying to open up the game instead of toeing the ball through, hence the result..... Boland, the flying winger, who has been nursing an injury for some weeks, is again available, and therefore Wests expect to be at full strength. **(Arrow 30th June 1917)**

The Suburbs did fairly at times, but the lack of finish in their scrummage organisation was their undoing. It was clearly shown in the manner in which the back row forward packed in. The Newtown man, J McCue, got his head in between the two men in front of him and locking them together pushed solidly against both, thus getting his weight evenly on to the lock in the front row. In the W.S. scrummage the back row man was H J Leddy, who had his head on the outside, and tried to push in that lonely position. Skipper Gilbert has worked wonders with this team, but he will have to get the general scrummaging toned up a bit. It is a mistake to monkey about with the five pack when there are six stalwart men available..... Western Suburbs possessed a fair to good chance of downing Newtown up to the rain beginning to make things unpleasant. .... **(The Referee 27th June 1917)**

**Notes:** According to the Secretary, Ern McFayden, this game was lost when the rain came and the team didn't adapt to the conditions. They certainly were on top early before the rain so there may be some merit to his argument. Wests persisted with the five man pack apparently and The Referee was again scathing of the tactic. The criticism of their scrummaging is interesting but the Newtown pack was becoming a very formidable combination. They had beaten the previously unbeaten Balmain on the preceding Saturday, also apparently on the strength of their forward play. Their captain Felix Ryan was a future Australian player. Herb Gilbert again played strongly, scoring his sixth try of the season.