



1934 Round 9 Saturday 30th June Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 6

def.

South Sydney 0

Frank McMILLAN (c)
 Vince SHEEHAN
 Stan TANCRED
 Alan BRADY
 Ray HINES
 Vic HEY
 Les MEAD
 Frank SPONBERG
 Max GRAY
 Jack McCONNELL
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Alan BLAKE

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

Les McDONALD
 Harry FINCH
 Jack LENNOX
 Harry EYERS
 Fred BLANN
 Percy WILLIAMS
 Arthur DEAN
 Jack WHY
 Frank O'CONNOR
 George TREWEEK (c)
 Eric LEWIS
 Charlie FENNELL
 Frank CURRAN



Tries

Goals Les MEAD (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: F McMillan (capt); three-quarters: R Hines, S Tancred, A Brady, V Sheehan; halves: L Mead, V Hey; forwards: F Sponberg, J McConnell, M Gray, A Blake, R Lindfield, C Cornwell
South Sydney: Full-back: L McDonald; three-quarters: F Blann, H Eyers, J Lennox, H Finch; halves: P Williams, A Dean, J Why; forwards: E Lewis, C Fennell, F Curran, F O'Connor, G Treweek (capt) **Referee: L Baggott (Rugby League News 7th July 1934)**

Mead was easily the star in a game that was spoiled by mud and slush and in which even the 'Kangaroos,' used to the heavy grounds of England, could not turn up trumps. In everything the stocky little half from Wests was magnificent, his handling off the ground was uncanny, and he exploited real wet weather tactics with clever little low kicks that had Souths running for cover. Percy Williams, Mead's rival, also got in some good work that way, but his backs were not classy enough to really worry Wests, though they had many chances and were territorially more prominent than the Magpies. Thrills were absent throughout, most of the second half was waged in the mud patch in the centre of the field, and towards the end it was almost impossible to say who had the ball. Frank O'Connor, the muddiest of them all, seemed to enjoy the proceedings, and wherever the mud was thickest there was Frank. Wests won the game 6-0, three goals from the accurate toe of Mead, but the real thing that came out on top on the day was just plain MUD. Not a single try was scored. Imagine that, with two teams like Wests and Souths in action. It didn't seem possible. Nor were there many occasions on which tries seemed on the cards. There was one thrilling moment in the second half when McDonald, faced with a horde of charging Westerners, saved brilliantly off their toes, set sail up-field and made a lot of ground. He'd changed the run of things absolutely, and it seemed that Souths were about to stage one of their late runs. Almost as soon as it started Souths were in a ton of bother for McDonald, apparently hearing a call for the ball, and not recognising an enemy covered in mud, in the half light, passed the ball true into the hands of alert McConnell. Wests' Mac, camouflaged as an aboriginal, with even his flaming hair blackened with the mud, sailed for Souths' line and then shot out a pass to Tancred, who seemed home and dried until a defender raced up and grabbed him. Down he went, but he reached out to put the ball over the line, only to be penalised for not playing it. He'd made two actions of trying for that try. That was really the only thrill of the game, and you can bet there wasn't a sorry man in either team when the final bell went with Wests 6-0 winners after leading 4-0 at lemons, before a crowd of 10,258. Outside Mead and Williams, the only backs to get into the news were 'Peter Pan' McMillan, whom the weather did not worry, Jack Why, who did well, and winger Blann, who was a trier all the way. The forwards had a trying time burrowing in the mud, and we'd say that Souths' five had the edge on Wests' six with McConnell, Sponberg, Curran, O'Connor and Lewis the best of the bunch. **(Truth 1st July 1934)**

Cliff Pearce, having had the plaster removed from his injured leg, is now making a rapid recovery and should be able to shortly discard his crutches. The success of his team mates has been a splendid tonic to the genial centre, who would rather be in the hurly-burly of play than filling the role of spectator. **(Rugby League News 7th July 1934)**

Notes: This match was played in heavy, blinding rain, with the centre a quagmire. Mead was an absolute standout, dominating all aspects of play. Jack McConnell was also very prominent and McMillan played his usual brilliant heavy conditions game. The match deteriorated into a forward struggle where Souths' constant penalties enabled Mead to kick the three winning penalty goals. The above article showed the difficulties Cliff Pearce had had with a badly broken leg which put him out for the entire season. Wests now had a four point lead in the Premiership.