



1954 Round 9 Sunday 6th June Lidcombe Oval



Balmain 28

def.

Western Suburbs 10

Jack DAVIS
 George FIFIELD
 Jack FIFIELD (c)
 Bill GARVIN
 Les GELFIUS
 Ron DALEY
 Bob CRICHTON
 Neville WATT
 John MACKENZIE
 Bill MARSH
 Jack MOON
 Clarrie JEFFRIES
 Ron PROUDFOOT

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

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



Tries

Les GELFIUS (2)
 Bob CRICHTON
 Jack DAVIS
 John MACKENZIE
 Neville WATT

Max CALDWELL
 Don GRAHAM

Goals

Jack DAVIS (5)

George BAIN (2)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: J Davis; three-quarters: G Fifield, J Fifield (capt), W Garvin, L Gelfius; five-eighth: R Daley; half: R Crichton; forwards: N Watt, W Marsh, J Mackenzie, J Moon, C Jeffries, R Proudfoot

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: B Owen, J Fitzgerald, J Gibson, D Dines; five-eighth: D Graham; K Holman (c); forwards: N Charlton, D Smith, W Owens, M Caldwell, H Farrell, E Hooper **Referee: D Lawler (as per program Rugby League News June 5-6th 1954)**

Balmain Rugby League full-back Joe Davis yesterday scored a spectacular try against Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval. Balmain won, 28-10, after leading, 8-7, at halftime. Davis' try was the only bright patch in a ragged match. When winger Les Gelfius raced away on his own 25 Davis followed him to halfway. Gelfius, who had scored two tries earlier, passed to Davis, who cut between two centres. Davis is a slow runner and zig-zagged towards the corner. He beat a few tackles and scored wide out. Yesterday's match was so dull that more than half the spectators walked out before it ended. Tackling and passing of both teams was pathetic. Balmain centre Billo Garvin tackled poorly but made many strong runs. Balmain half Bobby Crichton played well and was nippy in attack. Wests' best player was lock Nev Charlton. He worked tirelessly in defence but received little support. Wests' was handicapped in the second half when it lost five-eighth Don Graham. Graham was groggy after a tackle and was carried off. **(The Daily Telegraph 7th June 1954)**

Keith Holman, Clive Churchill and Roy Bull were the first three test players picked by the man on the hill for today's Australian side. But in 1950 Holman was a surprising choice after never having represented his State or even having played Sydney Firsts or Seconds. Under Vic Hey's astute coaching and with his own natural ability Holman quickly tightened his grip on the position. He has reached the stage now where he is compared with the greatest half-backs the code has known. He is as modest as any youngster just entering third grade but behind his quietness there is a keen determination and an eager desire to succeed. He is the ideal Test type, revelling in hard play and rising to the occasion. He is a fierce tackler for his weight and is a clever and versatile player in attack. Holman, an orphan, has had to battle his way up in the world but he has always had plenty of friends because of his sincere manner. In football he learned the game at De La Salle school, Surry Hills, with Bernie Purcell and Jack Troy who were Test team-mates in 1950. He joined the RAAF and was stationed at Ipswich where he played football. He then went to Dubbo where Eric Bennett picked him as a coming star and sent him to Wests after he had unsuccessfully tried out with two other clubs. Jack Drewes gave Holman much valuable advice early in his grade career and he has never looked back. In only his Second test, in Brisbane in 1950, Keith was awarded a trophy for being the best player in the Australian team. In 1951 French coach Bob Samatan said when the team was leaving that Holman was Australia's greatest Test player and he has been the most successful player in the Sunday Herald competition for the fairest and best club players in recent years. **(Rugby League News June 12th 1954)**

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Notes: This was a Sunday match as NSW played England the previous day. Keith Holman backed up after being a dominant player in the Test. It was a very poor quality match where Don Graham added to the casualty list, being knocked out and heavily concussed. Nev Charlton was a standout in a losing team. The opinion piece on Keith Holman in Rugby League News says it all - an outstanding champion, both player and man.