



1959 Semi-Final Saturday 1st August Cricket Ground



St George 35

def.

Western Suburbs 25

Brian GRAHAM
 Brian MESSITER
 Reg GASNIER
 Johnny RILEY
 Eddie LUMSDEN
 Brian CLAY
 Bobby BUGDEN
 John RAPER
 Monty PORTER
 Norm PROVAN
 Harry BATH
 Ken KEARNEY (c)
 Bill WILSON

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

Darcy RUSSELL
 Ian MOIR
 Harry WELLS
 Dick POOLE (c)
 Darcy HENRY
 Roger BUTTENSCHAW
 Keith HOLMAN
 Jack BOWMAN
 Kel O'SHEA
 Bill CARSON
 Mark PATCH
 Bede GOFF
 Nev CHARLTON



Tries

Reg GASNIER (2)
 Bobby BUGDEN
 Brian CLAY
 Eddie LUMSDEN
 John RAPER
 Johnny RILEY

Dick POOLE (2)
 Jack BOWMAN
 Kel O'SHEA
 Darcy RUSSELL

Goals

Harry BATH (7)

Darcy RUSSELL (5)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: B Graham; three-quarters: E Lumsden, J Riley, R Gasnier, B Messiter; five-eighth: B Clay; half: R Bugden; forwards: J Raper, N Provan, M Porter, W Wilson, K Kearney (c), H Bath

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Russell; three-quarters: I Moir, R Poole (c), H Wells, D Henry; five-eighth: R Buttenschaw; half: K Holman; forwards: J Bowman, W Carson, K O'Shea, M Patch, B Goff, N Charlton **Referee: D Lawler (The Sun 1st August 1959)**

Western Suburbs, without injured second-row forward Kel O'Shea throughout the second half, went down gallantly to defeat by St George, 35-25, in a spectacular and memorable Rugby League second semi-final at the SCG yesterday. ... It seemed that the outcome of this great semi-final had been decided when, with the scores 10-all after 25 minutes' play, lanky Kel O'Shea had his left collarbone dislocated. But they were level 15-all at half-time, Wests having unluckily missed another try when the disabled O'Shea could not hold a pass. ... The outstanding players in a match in which many players lifted their form were full-back Darcy Russell and St George's centre, Reg Gasnier. Russell gave a phenomenal full-back display in attack and defence. He was Wests' inspiration in the second half, in which he scored his sixth try of the season after a glorious run. This great game, following on his consistent work throughout the competition, should get Russell into the Kangaroo touring team, more so as he is a fine goal-kicker. Gasnier, youthful Test star, in a classical effort, bamboozled Wests' defence with this speed "off the mark" and his clever variations. He was a menace to Wests throughout the match. He scored two tries and "made" three others. Twelve tries were scored and all were converted. Harry Bath kicked seven goals from nine attempts and Russell kicked five goals from six attempts. Each player topped 200 points for the season. Bath, 203 points, leads Russell by one point. St George's embattled veteran captain-coach, hooker Ken Kearney, paid this tribute to Wests – "They were great the way they fought back after losing O'Shea. I thought we had it well won long before the second half was over, but they came back at us and kept us going right to the end." But Wests came out of this game somewhat bruised and with a tough game with Manly looming up, there will be some anxiety in the camp until the fitness of all players is checked. O'Shea will not play again this season. Prop forwards Mark Patch and Nev Charlton, both of whom played splendidly yesterday, have injuries. Patch looks to have another "corked" leg. Examination early in the week will decide his prospects. Charlton will have a wrist X-rayed tomorrow. He is hopeful that there is no serious injury. Wests' coach, Vic Hey, said, "We must have had a wonderful chance of toppling them if O'Shea had not been hurt." O'Shea had scored first try of the match. After 25 minutes he was taken off the field to have his shoulder strapped. Returning after a few minutes, he stood out of the scrum. But with his left arm disabled he was not of much use. Five minutes before the interval, when right winger Darcy Henry made a fine effort, O'Shea expertly backed-up inside Henry. But O'Shea, when clear, could not hold the pass with his left hand. But Wests forwards – front-rower Charlton, Goff and Patch, and second-rowers Bowman and Carson – put up a great show. Darcy Russell moved up into the backs for many attacks. So, Wests kept gloriously in the game. ... Keith Holman played a very strong game. He made some good runs, and he gave swift passes. ... **(Sun-Herald 2nd August 1959)**

Notes: Wests were right in this match until Kel O'Shea dislocated his shoulder and Wests had 12 men for half the match. All the players rose to the occasion and this was a performance of great courage. Darcy Russell played his best game so far for Wests, continually turning back the lightning attacks of St George. Patch and Charlton both finished the match with worrying injuries, needing to be fit for the final against Manly. Playing behind a battling pack, Keith Holman still had an outstanding game.