



1949 Semi Final Saturday 27th August Cricket Ground



Balmain 20

Jack McCULLOUGH
 Bob LULHAM
 Kevin HARMEY
 Leo NOSWORTHY
 Harold GWYER
 Tom LAWLER
 Bill SNEDDON
 John CAMPBELL
 Fred De BELIN (c)
 Sid RYAN
 Jim THOMSON
 Ken FOGARTY
 Jack SPENCER

def.

Western Suburbs 13

Bill KEATO
 Jack WALL
 Colin MAXWELL (c)
 Jack WOODS
 Dick McKELVEY
 Frank STANMORE
 Keith HOLMAN
 Peter McLEAN
 Don MILTON
 Kevin HANSEN
 Jack WILLIAMS
 Bill HILLIARD
 Bill HORDER



Tries

Fred De BELIN
 Harold GWYER
 Bob LULHAM
 Leo NOSWORTHY

Don MILTON
 Frank STANMORE
 Jack WOODS

Goals

Bob LULHAM (3)
 Jack SPENCER (1)

Bill KEATO (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: R McKelvey, C Maxwell (capt), J Wall, J Woods; five-eighth: F Stanmore; half: K Holman; forwards: P McLean, D Milton, K Hansen, V Williams, W Hilliard, Bill Horder

Balmain: Full-back: J McCullough; three-quarters: R Lulham, K Harmey, L Nosworthy, H Gwyer; five-eighth: T Lawler; half: W Sneddon; forwards: J Campbell, F De Belin (capt), S Ryan, J Spencer, K Fogarty, J Thomson **Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News 3rd September 1949)**

.....The game, at S.C.G., attracted a crowd of 38,000. Balmain's stirring finish completely intoxicated the big crowd that was ready to acclaim Western Suburbs the winners. With only 60 seconds to go, Wests had the game in the bag with a lead of 13 points to 10. The crowd were slowly moving out of the ground like an army of well-satisfied ants wending their way home with the forage from a grand afternoon's entertainment. It was all over bar the shouting! Then suddenly something happened that fairly stunned the Western supporters. Lawler, Balmain five-eighth, gathered the ball near Wests' 25 line. With tigerish aggression he ran helter-skelter towards Bob Lulham's wing, where awaited Balmain's last hope of snatching the game from the fire. At once the Balmain backs fanned out in readiness for the big hop-over. Lawler shot the ball to Harmey, who passed superbly to Nosworthy, who with unerring aim and an almost imploring look, sent the ball on to Lulham just as he was gathering speed before taking the last hurdle. Lulham gathered the ball and in a do-or-die race down the wing he ran into Keato, Wests' full-back. The impact stopped him momentarily, but, realising he was free, Lulham fairly threw himself across in the corner to score a brilliant try. This made the score 13-all. The crowd awaited Lulham's kick at goal with breathless silence. The kick just failed to get up, and the final bell rang with the scores at 13-all.... The game had been resumed only a few minutes when Balmain settled the issue with a scintillating try which Lawler again began after he passed to Harmey near Wests' 25 line. Harmey sent to Gwyer, who turned infield, propped, and scored between the posts. Lulham converted to give Balmain the lead 18-13. Only 10 minutes now remained. The Tigers had the game sewn up. They clawed and chewed and clawed and chewed at their dying opponents like a triumphant cat that has a mouse at its mercy. They closed the game up. Wests put all they had into those last five minutes, boots' n'all. They fell to pieces before the tight tactics of their opponents who played all over them, and they shuffled off the field at the ringing down of the curtain, sad at heart, sore of limb, and weary of body. Looking at the game critically, one confesses that Western Suburbs were unlucky to lose. In the first 80 minutes of the game they played consistently the better and more constructive football. Their forwards combined effectively with the backs, and the pivot of nearly every movement down field was the brilliant Frank Stanmore who scored one of the most stirring tries seen on Sydney Cricket Ground for many a day. Unfortunately, Stanmore injured his shoulder late in the first half, and he was virtually a passenger in the second half when he played on the wing for about 10 minutes with his left arm hanging limply by his side. Stanmore, at five-eighth, until injured, was their best player. Woods in cover defence was strong, and Maxwell at times showed out well. Attendance, 38,209. **(Truth 28th August 1949)**

Notes: Wests were very unlucky to lose this semi-final. They led 13-10 until a minute before full-time where, after two penalties, Balmain were able to get into Wests' territory and score a try in the corner. Previously, Bill Keato had had an off-day, only kicking two goals from many attempts and Wests should have had a match-winning lead. In the end, their condition ran out, although Stanmore, who had been the best player on the field, and Maxwell, both ended up carrying injuries. Jack Woods had a brilliant game and was always dangerous in attack. Wests really should have been going to the final against St George.