



1935 Semi Final Saturday 7th September Cricket Ground



Eastern Suburbs 15

def.

Western Suburbs 10

Tom DOWLING
Fred TOTTEY
Dave BROWN (c)
Ross McKINNON
Rod O'LOAN
Ernie NORMAN
Viv THICKNESSE
Andy NORVAL
Henry PIERCE
Joe PIERCE
Max NIXON
Tom McLACHLAN
Ray STEHR

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

Jim SHARMAN
Vince SHEEHAN
Cliff PEARCE
Alan BRADY
Fred COMBER
Ron KNIGHT
Les MEAD
Bill McLEOD
Athol SMITH
Max GRAY
Alan BLAKE
Gordon PUGH
Vince CLEARY



Tries
Fred TOTTEY
Max NIXON
Ross McKINNON

Vince SHEEHAN
Fred COMBER

Goals
Ross McKINNON (3)

Les MEAD (2)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: T Dowling; three-quarters: R O'Loan, D Brown (capt), R McKinnon, F Tottey; halves: E Norman, V Thicknesse; forwards: A Norval, S Pearce, H Pierce, M Nixon, T McLachlan, R Stehr

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Sharman; three-quarters: V Sheehan, C Pearce (capt), A Brady, F Comber; halves: R Knight, L Mead; forwards: W McLeod, M Gray, A Smith, V Cleary, G Pugh, A Blake **Referee: T McMahon (Rugby League News 14th September 1935)**

When the record-breaker D Brown tore the muscles of a leg some 15 minutes after the start and had to be assisted from the field Eastern Suburbs suffered a severe blow and the spectators, many of whom had attended specially to see Brown in action, were bitterly disappointed. ... Western Suburbs had the chances but threw them away and so did not deserve to win. ... Western Suburbs has faced difficulties first through the decline and subsequent injury of McMillan and later through the departure of Hey and Ridley. The presence of a player with the penetrative power of Hey must have gained success against the weakened opposition. As it was, the youthful Knight, the substitute five eighth, and the useful Sheehan on the left wing, were better than the other Western backs. Mead failed as a goal kicker when the wind favoured him. Play did not commence until 3 45 pm, Western Suburbs having first use of the strong cold wind. Then Brown was injured and had to be assisted from the field, Norval moving to outside centre. Norval twice sent the opposition back but Western Suburbs threw away a try when from loose play Pugh, Cleary, Knight and Brady combined but near the line Brady, apparently not trusting the handling ability of the hooker Pugh, who was unmarked, threw the ball wildly infield and a defender gathered. Mead stuck a post with a penalty kick, the ball rebounding but soon afterwards the half-back, securing from a scrum, sent to the left winger Sheehan who dashed infield, cut through finely, and finished with a try behind the posts, Mead converting. There was an incident when Eastern Suburbs attacked strongly and the referee blew his whistle to give the side a penalty, Pearce, dropping the ball as he was about to cross the line. Dowling took the kick and when the touch judges disagreed 'no goal' was ruled. Just before halftime the Western backs handled well, Knight receiving a reverse pass from C Pearce, sending to Brady who passed to Comber and that winger ran strongly to cleverly beat Dowling and crossed for a try which Mead could not convert At the interval Western Suburbs led by eight points to nil.

Playing with the wind in the second half Eastern Suburbs soon made a counter-attack and Tottey was dangerous when Norman cross-kicked but Sharman gathered. Soon an excellent try was scored. S Pearce sent to Thicknesse who burst through smartly and near the line sent to Stehr, that forward sending Nixon across for the try. From out near the right wing McKinnon landed the goal, the ball first striking a post. Down at the other end Mead kicked a neat penalty goal and West led by 10 to five but Eastern Suburbs, although met by solid attacking attacked with fine determination. McKinnon reduced the deficit with a good penalty goal. Norman was twice stopped after strong dashes and when Thicknesse kicked over the line for Tottey, Sheehan was first to the ball. At last, about 10 minutes from the end Thicknesse made a brilliant run from a ruck and near the wing sent out to O'Loan who returned the ball infield to Norval. McKinnon ranged alongside for the final pass and amidst enthusiasm he scored a grand equalising try. The cheering was renewed when McKinnon converted with a beautiful kick A little later the victory was clinched when Tottey, after knocking on, kicked and followed on fast, scoring an unconverted try. Eastern Suburbs thus won by 15 points to 10. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 9th September 1935)**

Notes: This was a close, exciting game where Wests had their chances, especially when the legendary Dave Brown was forced off with a leg injury after fifteen minutes. East came home very strongly on the back of a strong second half breeze but Wests simply lacked the penetrative ability that Vic Hey would have provided. Mead also missed a number of shots at goal with the wind behind him in the first half. This was the end of a season where they were faced with multiple injuries and retirements of their biggest stars. It was a good effort to finish third overall.