



1931 Semi Final Saturday 29th August Sports Ground



Western Suburbs 10

def.

Eastern Suburbs 8

Clyde CANT
 Alan BRADY
 Ken SHERWOOD
 Cliff PEARCE
 Alan RIDLEY
 Harry CAMERON
 Harry OWEN
 Frank MATTERSON
 Charlie CORNWELL
 Bert GREEN
 Bill BROGAN (c)
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Cecil RHODES

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

Billy HONG
 Hilton DELANEY
 Dave BROWN
 Jack LYNCH
 Fred TOTTEY
 Ernie NORMAN
 Norm POPE (C)
 Bill DWYER
 Joe PEARCE
 Max NIXON
 Perc ATKINSON
 Dick BROWN
 Ray STEHR

Tries Alan RIDLEY
 Ken SHERWOOD

Norm POPE (2)

Goals Clyde CANT (2)

Jack LYNCH (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: C Cant; three-quarters, A Ridley, C Pearce, K Sherwood, A Brady; halves, H Cameron, H Owen; forwards, F Matterson, C Cornwell, B Green, W Brogan (capt), C Rhodes, R Lindfield

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back, W Hong; three-quarters, H Delaney, D Brown, J Lynch, F Tottey; halves, E Norman, N Pope (capt); forwards, W Dyer, S Pearce, M Nixon, P Atkinson, R Stehr, R Brown **Referee: W Neill. (Rugby League News 12th September 1931)**

Eastern Suburbs were favoured by the wind in the first half and scored all the eight points registered in that session but so well did Western Suburbs shape that most unbiased onlookers were prepared to say that the minor premiers lead would not prove big enough. There was a thrill a few minutes after the start when Wests winger Ridley over-ran the ball from a kick by Cameron and Norman snapped it up sending Delaney away. Had Nixon accepted Delaney's transfer a try would have been scored but the tall forward could not hold the ball. The first try came when Easts half back Pope after a ruck had Lynch and Delaney supporting but went through on his own brushing aside the full back Cant and beating Ridley's effort to stop him. D Brown missed the difficult kick from near the left wing and on several occasions he narrowly missed penalty, goals the strong wind being difficult to judge. The second try came not long afterwards following a weak kick against the wind by Matterson. From the ensuing scrum the ball was heeled to Pope who worked a good move with his five-eighth Norman receiving a reverse pass and going across for his second try this one close to the right corner flag. Again, Brown missed the goal. Matterson and Ridley were prominent in Wests' attacks and then Pearce and Cameron combined well but Lynch kicked a neat penalty goal to make the scores Eastern Suburbs 8, Western Suburbs 0. Western Suburbs, headed by the veteran Brogan and with Owen playing particularly well, rallied strongly and it was at this stage that the hooker Lindfield struck a successful patch. ...

From the start of the second half Wests forwards were superior in the scrums and as the backs greatly assisted by Matterson were moving well tries appeared probable ... However, Cant kicked a penalty goal giving Wests their first points and following two strong bursts which were ended by passes being dropped Ridley broke through the defence on the right wing and ran round some yards but Cant failed to convert. ... Cant's penalty goal brought Wests to within a point of Easts seven to eight. Easts suffered a further reverse when Pope suffered a head injury. After four minutes he resumed but was groggy and Norman continued to play half with D Brown at five eighth and S Pearce as an extra centre. Owen was almost across from a scrum and then Wests three quarters handled splendidly. C Pearce gave the ball out to Brady on the left wing who was crowded but managed to pass to Sherwood who dived in most determined fashion, scoring what proved to be the winning try. Wests led by 10 points to eight and held that lead to the finish ... Cant, a Rugby Union exponent who was playing his first game with Wests' senior side, had a gruelling test. He began shakily but improved, and his catching of the ball in the second half was first class. The winners' three quarters ran in their customary determined fashion but dropped passes robbed them of tries. Owen had an excellent day and was given sterling support by Cameron and Matterson. Brogan ably led the forwards, and Rhodes and Green tackled well while Cornwell was in many attacking movements. ... **(The Sydney Morning Herald 31st August 1931)**

R Lindfield's hooking was of such great value to Wests that it was the determining factor.. **(Referee 2nd September 1931)**

Notes: This was a big win against the odds and the form. Clyde Cant (ex-Manly RU) went straight to full-back and, after an early injury, continued to improve during the match. Owen and Brogan both starred but it was Lindfield's dominance in the scrums in his 100th match for the club that was decisive. Easts ran with a strong westerly in the first half but Wests came storming back from an 8-0 deficit to win strongly and got the right to play Souths in the Final, the winner to take on Easts in the Grand Final.