



1918 Round 1 Saturday 11th May Sydney Cricket Ground



Balmain 16

George CHALLIS
 Claude POTTER
 Jack ROBINSON
 Charles FRASER
 R PROUST
 George ROBINSON
 Arthur HALLOWAY (c)
 Reginald LATTA
 Edward BURNICLE
 Bill SCHULTZ
 Alf FRASER
 G KENSEY
 R MILLER
 Jim BRASSIL
 Billy RYAN

def.

Western Suburbs 13

Athol WHITE
 Tom McCAULEY
 Paddy BURNS
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Wally COLLINS
 Alex McPHERSON
 Albert JOHNSTON
 Harold LEDDY
 Jack REDMOND
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Edward COURTNEY
 William PALMER
 William JOASS



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

Tries

Jim BRASSIL (2)
 George ROBINSON
 Billy RYAN

Paddy BURNS
 Edward COURTNEY
 Tom McCAULEY (Penalty try)

Goals

Charles FRASER (2)

Alex McPHERSON (2)

Match Description

Balmain: G Challis (retired injured, replaced by J Brassil) full-back; R Proust, C Fraser, J Robinson, G Potter, three-quarters; G Robinson, five-eighth; A Halloway (capt), half-back; R Latta, E Burnicle, W Schultz (retired injured, replaced by W Ryan), A Fraser, R Miller, C Hensey, forwards. C Fraser took full-back, and Brassil played in the three-quarter line.

Western Suburbs: A White, full-back; T Boland, P Burns, H Gilbert (capt), W Collins, three-quarters; A McPherson, five-eighth, A Johnson, half-back; H J Leddy, J Redmond, W Joass, E Courtney, W Palmer, C W Prentice, forwards **Referee, Mr T McMahon**

Western Suburbs were soon attacking strongly ... After a scramble Balmain were penalised under the bar, and McPherson scored an easy goal. W.S. 2 to nil. Western Suburbs played sparkling football. Western Suburbs' first try was scored by Courtney after a race with Challis, who failed to gather the ball as it flew from the ruck. McPherson added the goal. W.S. 7 to nil. In the first spell Schultz and Challis retired through injuries, Ryan and Brassil taking their places respectively. The reserves subsequently distinguished themselves by scoring nine of Balmain's points. P Burns, who previously played with Newtown, scored a neat try after taking a short pass from Boland near the line, where play had centred for some time. McPherson failed at goal. W.S 10 to nil. In one bout Boland cleverly fielded a long pass out by Johnson, and ran fast along the wing. As he met Fraser he short-punted and beat the Balmain man. After a sharp sprint the W.S. winger won, and scored a good individual try. McPherson failed at goal. W.S. 13 to nil. The ball was knocked on near goal – but as Fraser had interfered with Boland the try was merited. Half-time.Robinson worked the scrum, and Halloway played five-eighth. Balmain opened the second half by scoring a try. The forwards hustled their way to the line, and Brassil, dashing in, got it, and scored, for Fraser to convert. W.S. 13 to 5. The influence of the breeze on the game was apparent. With it, Black and Yellow completely turned the tables. By sparkling and exciting football, which thrilled the spectators, Balmain again scored, Brassil picking up after the ball had been rushed to the line, and ran over and scored in a good position. Fraser again converted. W.S. 13 to 10.....Ryan soon equalised the score with a try from a rush, started at half-way by C Fraser, who was the outstanding back on the side. Excitement ran high when from a scrum a few yards from the corner Robinson, half-back, secured the ball and wriggled through the pack, scoring the winning try in an excellent game. Balmain 16, Western Suburbs 13. **(The Sunday Times 12th May 1918)**

Collins, the former blue-bag, missed a pass that would have made all the difference to the final scores. He had no-one to beat if he got his fingers on the leather. McPherson was the best back on the losing side. ... **(The Sydney Sportsman 18th May 1918)**

Notes: This was an exciting game that Wests let get away. They should have scored more points with the wind in the first half, according to all reports, but Balmain were the Premiers for good reason. It looked like Wally Collins dropped a pass that would have won the game. Tom McCauley (**not Ted Boland**) was awarded a penalty try after interference by Fraser. Wests couldn't have known it, of course, but this game would cost them the premiership. Paddy Burns (ex-Newtown), who played one game in 1917 and was severely injured, was back and ready to star. Wally Collins (the leading try scorer for Newtown in 1917) and Albert (Ricketty) Johnston, the Balmain five-eighth, had both played for Wests in the 1917 City Cup and were star additions. William Palmer had played for Annandale, sometimes erroneously called Walter and confused with Ernest Palmer who played in 1910. He filled in the hooker role, leaving Tedda Courtney a bit more room. Claude Potter, who had come from Balmain in 1917 to Wests, returned home and played on the wing.