



1918 Round 10 Saturday 6th July Wentworth Park



Western Suburbs 21

def.

Newtown 4

Athol WHITE
 Tom McCAULEY
 Dick VEST
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Wally COLLINS
 Alex McPHERSON
 Alf BOSSI
 Harold LEDDY
 Jack REDMOND
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 William JOASS
 William PALMER
 Edward COURTNEY

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

Arthur BEED
 George BAIN (c)
 William COCKBURN
 W LAWRENCE
 Paul BOYS
 Percy LUSCOMBE
 J LEONARD
 Eddie HILLIARD
 Henry DEEBLE
 E FRANKS
 Thomas DAGG
 Richard TOWNSEND
 Felix RYAN

Tries

William JOASS
 Edward COURTNEY
 Jack REDMOND
 Harold LEDDY
 Alex McPHERSON

Goals

Alex McPHERSON (3)

George BAIN (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: A White, full-back; W Collins, H Gilbert (c), R Vest, T Boland, three-quarters; A Bossi, five-eighth; A McPherson, half-back; E Courtney, W Palmer, C W Prentice, J Redmond, W Joass, H J Leddy, forwards

Newtown: A H Beed, full-back; W Cockburn, G Bain (c), W Lawrence, P Boys, three-quarters; P Luscombe, five-eighth; J Leonard, half-back; E Hilliard, F Ryan, H Deeble, E Franks, T Dagg, R Townsend, forwards **C Russell, referee**

After an interchange of kicks Wests forced from a long kick, materially assisted by the wind. The Blacks forwards were playing a superb game, always keeping on the ball. They were persistent in the attacks, and heeling from a scrum, Bossi secured, passed to Courtney, who improved his position by scoring. McPherson converted. Western Suburbs 5 to nil. In a few minutes the Blacks were over again. Bossi broke through from the scrum, and enabled Joass to register a second try. Western Suburbs 8 to nil. Wests, displaying great form, maintained the pressure, but at length were driven back and Bain kicked a penalty goal. Western Suburbs 8 to 2. Courtney then tackled Beed with the ball mid-way between centre and the 25; Redmond secured, and, after eluding several tackles, scored in the corner. McPherson converted. Western Suburbs 13 to 2. After close play in Newtown territory McPherson secured in the ruck and scored between the posts. He easily converted. Western Suburbs 18 to 2. Half-time.

Play restarted at a lively pace. After a while White sustained an injury to his leg, and was carried off the field, Vest dropping to full-back. In a good position, the Blues were awarded a penalty, and Bain goaled. Western Suburbs 18 to 4. After even play the Blacks slackened perceptibly in their efforts, probably owing to a depleted side, but they tackled magnificently. Just at the finish Wests' forwards came with a great rush. Leddy secured and dashed over. Western Suburbs 21 to 4 (**The Sunday Times 7th July 1918**)

The disadvantages that the side has had to contend with can easily be imagined when the immense territory that embraces Wests' district is traced on the map. It takes in the whole of the Illawarra line, and also out on the other line from Annandale boundary. Some will argue this gives them greater scope for selection, but this is counteracted in the difficulty of getting the side together for training. It shows wonderful enthusiasm on the part of men like Rick Johnson, Herb Gilbert, Bossi, Holt and a number of others who live as far out as Kogarah and even to Oatley, who have to race home from Sydney after a hard day's work, and then come right back to town and journey out to Ashfield to the training quarters, and then get home afterwards. This little stunt twice a week surely deserves the reward that is coming the Fruit-pickers way now. (**The Sydney Sportsman 29th June 1918**)

Notes: The Friday list had Paddy Burns in the team with T Boland, J Reidy, F Holt and A Johnston as reserves so Tom McCauley (as Ted Boland) was called up late. It is interesting that this match was played at a neutral ground, Glebe's home ground of Wentworth Park. This was the first time Wests had beaten Newtown twice in a season. The forwards were once again dominant and the defence, the best in the League, again kept a team try-less. Athol White had had a few injury problems in the last few games and was carried off on a stretcher. The comments in *The Sportsman* shed some light on the life of a footballer in these times, compared to the modern player. They worked all day, travelled home, then travelled again to get to training and to get from say, Kogarah, to Ashfield was no small trip – in and out to Sydney by train. They were dedicated men.