



# 1919 Round 11 Saturday 9th August Sydney Cricket Ground



**Eastern Suburbs 5**

**def.**

**Western Suburbs 0**

W FREEMAN  
Wally MESSENGER  
Leslie CUBITT  
Ray NORMAN (c)  
Gordon WRIGHT  
Harry CAPLES  
Sid KAUFMAN  
Bob LINKLATER  
Reg FARNELL  
Jim DUFFY  
Jack WATKINS  
Sid PEARCE  
Robert BATCHELOR

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

Athol WHITE  
Dick VEST  
Paddy BURNS  
Herb GILBERT (c)  
Wally COLLINS  
Alex McPHERSON  
George McGOWAN  
Clarrie TYE  
Joe REIDY  
William JOASS  
Jack REDMOND  
Clarrie PRENTICE  
Edward COURTNEY



**Tries** Leslie CUBITT

**Goals** Wally MESSENGER (1)

### Match Description

**Eastern Suburbs:** Full-back, Freeman; three-quarters, Messenger, Cubitt, Norman, Wright; halves, Caples, Kaufman; forwards, Bachelor, Farnell, Pearce, Linklater, Watkins, Duffy

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back, White; three-quarters, Collins, Gilbert, Burn, Vest; halves, McPherson, McGowan; forwards, Tye, Reidy, Joass, Courtney, Prentice, Redmond **Referee: Mr T McMahon**

.... On two occasions Freeman let his side down, but his three-quarters covered him. McPherson had a shot at goal from a penalty and hit the post. Messenger, Norman and Cubitt brought the ball back again into Western Suburbs' 25. Gilbert and Collins with long kicks transferred play to half-way. Another penalty kick was taken by McPherson and landed under the bar. Cubitt forced. Western Suburbs were using the wind judiciously and kept Eastern Suburbs hemmed in. Messenger followed fast from a long kick and forced White out at centre. Eastern Suburbs now livened up from a scrum near mid-field, and Cubitt, cutting in, beat McPherson. He dummied twice and then swerved in towards Western Suburbs' goal and scored behind the posts. Messenger kicked an easy goal. Eastern Suburbs 5, Western Suburbs nil.

Eastern Suburbs opened up in the second spell with a strong rush to the line, and twice forced Western Suburbs. Caples gathered the second kick-out after severely beating Gilbert and Burns was tackled in Western Suburbs' 25. Western Suburbs were not done yet. McPherson, Gilbert and Burns handled the ball to Eastern Suburbs' 25, then Joass, Redmond, and Collins in the van dribbled further ahead. The ball went out near the corner. Messenger drove them back again to the 25, where Caples was awarded a penalty, and he sent the ball out at half-way. Final scores: Eastern Suburbs 5 points, Western Suburbs nil. **(The Sun 9th August 1919)**

...For instance, it has been determined that the ball must go into the scrummage, must be rolled in, and must not be kicked out where it is put in. This means that the advantage law will not apply to the scrummage matters to which it has been applied this season to the exasperation of the interested public.....In the Caples movement the Western backs fell short of the defensive form they had been showing, and continued to show after it. They swallowed the dummies in the run, like hungry fish grabbing the bait. Never again did they fall to it. But the mischief had been done... **(Arrow 15th August 1919)**

Scrumms were innumerable, and the forwards and both scrum halves all vied with one another to see who could get penalised first. Myrtle McGowan won easily and it is a wonder that Tom McMahon did not send him off the field, so flagrantly did he disobey his orders to put the ball in properly. When it did occasionally go in, the front row of either side would be standing on one leg like a lot of farmyard hens, and toot would go the whistle....**(The Sydney Sportsman 13th August 1919)**

..On resuming, Courtney appeared with his head in bandages... **(Evening News 9th August 1919)**

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**Notes:** This was another very close encounter where McPherson missed two easy shots at goal. From the Sportsman description, it was a game marred by many scrum penalties. Easts blew a certain try by a forward pass and the 75 yard run by Caples was the deciding factor. Wests had their chances late to equalise but the ball went to ground too often. Note the change to the scrum rule as outlined in The Arrow. Who'd have thought that half-backs and props had been cheating in the scrums, not rolling the ball in properly and props unfairly kicking the ball out?!! Just one rule change in a century of attempts to clean up scrummaging. Courtney was obviously the worse for wear but a head cut wouldn't stop Tedda.