



1918 Round 12 Saturday 20th July Sydney Cricket Ground



South Sydney 11

def.

Western Suburbs 3

Howard HALLETT (c)
 Harold HORDER
 Bill ROWLEY
 Clarrie HORDER
 Vince SHEEHAN
 Alfred BLAIR
 George McGOWAN
 George MOORE
 Harold HOLMES
 Bill GROVES
 Arthur OXFORD
 Claud O'DONNELL
 John KERWICK

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

Dick VEST
 Tom McCAULEY
 Paddy BURNS
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Wally COLLINS
 Alf BOSSI
 Albert JOHNSTON
 Harold LEDDY
 Jack REDMOND
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Edward COURTNEY
 William PALMER
 William JOASS



Tries Clarrie HORDER (2)
 Bill GROVES

Edward COURTNEY

Goals Arthur OXFORD (1)

Match Description

South Sydney: H Hallett, full-back; H Horder, V Sheehan, W R Rowley, C Horder, three-quarters; A Blair, five-eighth; G McGowan, half-back; J Kerwick, EW T Groves, H Holmes, A Oxford, C O'Donnell and G Moore, forwards

Western Suburbs: R Vest, full-back; T Boland, P Burns, H Gilbert, W Collins, three-quarters; A Johnson, five-eighth; A Bossi, half-back; H J Leddy, W Joass, J Redmond, E Courtney, W Palmer, C W Prentice, forwards **T McMahan, referee**

... Back to centre Wests worked, and there C Horder secured and sent a low punt across the eastern touch, where Boland allowed the ball to bounce, enabling Sheehan to gather it in at the 25, and passed in to C Horder, who had backed up. The latter flew over about ten yards from the corner. A fine kick by Oxford increased the score.....A little while later South Sydney were penalised outside the 25, but Redmond's shot, admirably directed, fell short.....Western Suburbs felt the loss of White at full-back, where Vest was uncertain, especially in the gathering of the ball off the ground..... From a scrum McGowan secured, and, darting around, almost ferreted his way acrossSouth Sydney were far and away the better scrummagers now.....Holmes took Gilbert's drop out and punted well into the 25. O'Donnell and he followed up, and the former securing, passed to Groves, who scored in a fair position. Oxford failed at goal, and half-time sounded. South Sydney 8-0. Western Suburbs were being let down by the uncertainty of their backs. The absence of McPherson was felt, and the handling generally was patchy.

Resuming, with practically no wind, South Sydney again took the offensive. Western Suburbs' forwards were, as usual, playing finely, and preventing the Red and Green backs taking full advantage of the many opportunities they were receiving from the scrum, but they were carrying the side.....Play worked across towards centre, where Joass picked up, but in wriggling from a tackle passed forward to Moore, who whipped it to C Horder. Darting across towards the scoring-board corner he found Collins hanging off for a pass to H Horder, and, grasping the opening, he flew across. Hallett's shot left the score 11 to nil in favour of South Sydney..... From near centre the ball was kicked to Hallett, who fumbled, and in trying to regain it he toed it almost to the line. Bossi, coming up fast, overran the ball, but Courtney, who arrived next, made no error. Gathering it in he dropped over with two opponents trying to hold him back. Redmond failed at goal..... In some close work near the W.S. 25 Vest sustained an injury to his head, and play was resumed without him ...The difference between the sides lay in South Sydney's superiority in the scrums and the general poor back play by Western Suburbs. The latter weakness was largely due to the absence of White and McPherson. **(The Sunday Times 21st July 1918)**

W Joass was the ubiquitous forward for Wests last week. He played with the old St George Club in the Rugby Union way back in the days that are dark. Joass must have saved Wests from try-getting inroads at least six times on Saturday. Against this he gave the pass to C Horder, when the wiry one scored so softly for Souths. **(Arrow 26th July 1918)**

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Notes: Wests were thoroughly outplayed in this game which eventually decided the Premiership but there were some legitimate excuses. McPherson had strained tendons below the right knee in the previous game and his goal-kicking and kicking in general was missed; Redmond missed all shots at goal. Also, Athol White had been in the team list on the Friday so was a late withdrawal, Vest going to full-back and Alf Bossi coming into five-eighth; the first time Bossi and Johnstone had combined; it didn't go well. The reserves of Reidy and Holt didn't get a game, although it is interesting to note that Holt, a very good forward, was playing Seconds – it speaks to the strength of the Wests' pack. Vest was also forced to retire injured near the end of the game. This game set a new record for attendance 27,000-28,000 depending on reports with gate takings of £802. This was a long way from some of the original games in front of 200 fans. Wests had certainly arrived as a force.