



1920 Round 15 Wednesday 1st September S.C.G



Balmain 16

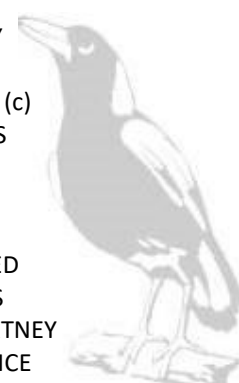
def.

Western Suburbs 8

G PROUST
 Jack ROBINSON
 Charles FRASER
 Jim CRAIG
 Jimmy LOVE
 Arthur HALLOWAY (c)
 George ROBINSON
 Bill SCHULTZ
 Horace WATT
 Mick RUSSELL
 Edward CUMMINGS
 Reginald LATTA
 Alf FRASER

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

Athol WHITE
 Bill CONNELLY
 Paddy BURNS
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Wally COLLINS
 Frank GRAY
 Alf BOSSI
 Harold LEDDY
 Harry TANCRED
 William JOASS
 Edward COURTNEY
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Clarrie TYE



Tries
 Charles FRASER
 Reginald LATTA
 Jimmy LOVE
 Mick RUSSELL

Wally COLLINS (2)

Goals
 Jim CRAIG (1)
 Charles FRASER (1)

Bill CONNELLY (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back, White; three-quarters, Collins, Gilbert, Burns, Connelly; halves, Gray, Bossi; forwards Redmond, Prentice, Courtney, Tancred (sent off in second half), Joass, Leddy

Balmain: Full-back, Proust; three-quarters, Love, Craig, C Fraser, J Robinson; halves, G Robinson, Halloway; forwards, Russell, Watts, Schultz, A Fraser, Cummins, Latta **Referee: T McMahon (The Referee 8th September 1920)**

Western Suburbs surprised by scoring a try five minutes after the start, The halves combined well, and Bossi opened up play for the three-quarters, who showed some splendid passing, with the result that Collins scored a try. Western Suburbs 3 to nil. Gray was exceptionally smart in the five-eighth position for Western Suburbs. Balmain were kept on the defensive by the fast dashes of the opposing forwards. Courtney was nearly over, but Proust relieved. Balmain showed better form as the game advanced, but their handling was bad. Love, after several fine attempts finally got over. Craig missed the goal, and at the interval the scores were three all.

Within a few minutes after play was resumed Collins scored his second try in the corner. Western Suburbs 6 to 3. Balmain soon transferred play to their opponents' 25, and after some hard struggling Western Suburbs obtained relief through a penalty kick. Tancred was sent off the field at this stage. Balmain then contrived to maintain the offensive. C Fraser and G Robinson put in some tricky work, but stern tackling by the Western Suburbs backs held Balmain off until Proust started an attack with a fine run. Shaking off several opponents he passed to J Robinson, who cut in-field and sent to Cummings to Latta, who scored a clever try. Six points all. A minute later C Fraser, dodging splendidly, crossed for another try. This was converted by Craig, and Balmain led by 11 to 6. C Fraser was conspicuous in attacks by Balmain. Russell forced his way over for a try, and then C Fraser kicked a goal from a mark taken by himself. Balmain, 16 to 6. Western Suburbs made spirited rushes, but they could only add a goal from a free, Connolly putting the ball over. Balmain won by 16 to 8. **(Sydney Morning Herald 2nd September 1920)**

Western Suburbs, at their top, might easily have been the best of the lot. For a long time, they were hardly second to any other, but when they lost a few of the backs, notably McGowan and Farnsworth, they fell away a good deal. As a scoring combination, there has been nothing wanting with Wests, who have some slippery backs, though these, as a combination, are inclined to brilliancy one day and mediocrity the next. There are too many forwards who have been playing for very many years. Tancred is now their best forward, and a few more with his life and continuous effort would tone up the play a good deal. Wests have suffered from having to play backs in different positions, White, for instance, taking places from scrum-half to full-back. Next season this club will have to give the cream of the younger players places in the team, or fall back a bit in the advance they have been making since H Gilbert took charge of the team. **(The Referee 8th September 1920)**

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Notes: This match decided that Balmain were Premiers and the competition was suspended to go straight to the City Cup matches on Saturday (where Wests had a bye). Bill Connolly made his only, and last, appearance for Wests in 1920, kicking a late goal. Some records have the score as 16-6 but all newspaper reports have Connolly kicking the goal. Gray again starred, but the team was again disjointed. Harry Tancred's send-off seems to have significantly affected the result, as Wests were on top at the time. *The Referee's* analysis of the season seems correct; the continual loss of McGowan, Dick Vest and Viv Farnsworth to Representative duties significantly affected their form.