



1970 Round 16 Sunday 12th July Sports Ground



Balmain 16

Bob SMITHIES
 George RUEBNER
 Olaf PRATTL
 Terry PARKER
 Len KILLEEN
 Keith OUTTEN
 David BOLTON (c)
 John SPENCER
 Arthur BEETSON
 Joe WALSH
 Barry McTAGGART
 Peter BOULTON
 Garry LEO

def.

Western Suburbs 13

Peter FLANDERS
 Don ROGERS
 Roy FERGUSON (c)
 Tim MURPHY
 John ELFORD
 Tom RAUDONIKIS
 Ivan JONES
 Rod SMITH
 John BAKER
 Kevin TIMBS
 John ARMSTRONG
 Ken STONESTREET
 Jim CODY
 Steve WINTER



Tries

George RUEBNER
 John SPENCER

John ELFORD
 Rod SMITH
 Kevin TIMBS

Goals

Len KILLEEN (4)
 Dave BOLTON (1) Field goal

Peter FLANDERS (2)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: R Smithies; three-quarters: G Ruebner, O Pratl, T Parker, L Killeen; five-eighth: K Outten; half: D Bolton (c); forwards: J Spencer, A Beetson, J Walsh, B McTaggart, P Boulton, G Leo

Western Suburbs: Full-back: P Flanders; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Ferguson (c), T Murphy, J Elford; five-eighth: T Raudonikis; half: I Jones; forwards: R Smith, J Baker, K Timbs, J Armstrong, K Stonestreet, J Cody **Referee: K Holman (Rugby League Week 18th July 1970)**

Balmain Rugby league Test forward Arthur Beetson was sent off in the first half of yesterday's match with Western Suburbs at Sydney Sports Ground. Balmain won a dour battle 16-13. Beetson will face a charge of making a stiff-arm tackle when the League Judiciary Committee meets tonight. The incident occurred in the 35th minute, only one minute after referee Keith Holman had cautioned Beetson for apparently butting. Beetson was playing his first game since he was ordered from the field in the Third Test against England last Saturday week. Balmain came to life after Beetson's dismissal. A penalty goal by winger Len Killeen four minutes later gave Balmain a 10-8 lead at half-time. Dropped passes, knock-ons and frequent penalties produced a low standard game for the 6,444 spectators. Both team coaches were obviously disappointed with their team's performances. Wests' attack, spearheaded by five-eighth Tom Raudonikis and full-back Peter Flanders gave Wests their initiative in the first half. Flanders set up the opening try with a burst from Balmain's 25-yard line. Then front-rower John Armstrong and five-eighth Raudonikis handled before winger John Elford scored in the corner. Killeen kept Balmain in the game with penalty goals. He landed two goals from near the half-way line for a tally of four from eight attempts. Winger George Ruebner and lock John Spencer scored Balmain's tries in the second half. Wests struck back 11 minutes from full-time when front-rower Armstrong broke through to send second-rower Kevin Timbs over between the posts. Flanders' conversion narrowed the gap to 16-13, but Balmain's defence held to keep their faint hope of reaching the semi-finals. Killeen, Spencer and second-rower Joe Walsh were Balmain's best players. Full-back Flanders, centre Roy Ferguson, five-eighth Raudonikis, lock Rod Smith and second-rower John Baker were Wests' best. **(Daily Telegraph 13th July 1970)**

All that was missing were the Teddy Bears. This was "picnic" football and the paying public of 6,444 should have been refunded their money. Still the football enthusiast can expect similar "picnics" until the end of the premiership season – in six weeks' time. Teams such as Wests and Balmain who are out of the semi-final picture have little to enthuse over. Just as well Balmain didn't have their "premiers playing here" sign hanging out the front. Once inside, nobody would have believed it. Wests' tactics were hard to fathom against a 12-man side. They persisted in packing down a six-man pack although the Tigers got by with four. Lock Rod Smith should have roved out in the backs where there were gaping holes in the Wests' attack. Centre and captain Roy Ferguson had a "shocker." He was constantly out of position when his scrum won the ball. There was often a gap of 25-30 yards between him and the inside centre Tim Murphy. The forwards, especially prop John Armstrong and second-rower Kevin Timbs stood out with their strong purposeful running. Timbs is a likely prospect. He has an exciting attacking flair and this overcomes a slight weakness in defence. Former Souths' half Ivan Jones did not disgrace himself. It was the outside backs who were all at sea. Perhaps the burden of captancy is too big a burden for Ferguson. **(Rugby League Week 18th July 1970)**

Notes: John Maxwell was injured and was replaced by Ivan Jones, who had been playing Reserve Grade since being a high profile transfer from Souths. Kevin Timbs was still replacing the suspended Bryant and had a very strong game, as did Tom Raudonikis. Arthur Beetson was sent off in the 36th minute so Wests played against 12 men in the second half. Roy Ferguson had an unusually poor game.