



1919 Round 2 Saturday 17th May Sydney Cricket Ground



Balmain 15

Lyall WALL
 George POTTER
 Jack ROBINSON
 Charles FRASER
 Paddy CONAGHAN
 George ROBINSON
 Arthur HALLOWAY (c)
 Reginald LATTA
 Mick RUSSELL
 Bill SCHULTZ
 Alf FRASER
 Horace WATT
 R MILLER

def.

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

Western Suburbs 2

Athol WHITE
 Dick VEST
 Paddy BURNS
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 William MATTHEWS
 Alex McPHERSON
 George McGOWAN
 Clarrie TYE
 Paddy McCUE
 William JOASS
 Edward COURTNEY
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Westley EASTERBROOK



Tries Jack ROBINSON
George ROBINSON
Paddy CONAGHAN (Penalty Try)

Goals R MILLER (2) Alex McPHERSON (1)
Lyall WALL (1)

Match Description

Balmain: L Wall, full-back; J Robinson, C Fraser, P Conaghan, J Potter, three-quarters; G Robinson, five-eighth; A Halloway (c), half; R Miller, H Watts, W Schultz, M Russell, A Fraser, R Latta, forwards

Western Suburbs: A White, full-back; W Matthews, P Burns, H Gilbert (c), R Vest, three-quarters; A McPherson, five-eighth; G McGowan, half; C Tye, W Joass, C Prentice, W Easterbrook, E Courtney, P McCue, forwards **Mr T McMahan, referee**

Balmain kicked off from Paddington end. The full-backs exchanged kicks and a series of scrums followed in an exceptionally heavy downpour of rain. It came down in sheets..... Wests pushed their opponents back, and from a free McPherson landed the first score. A new ball had just been previously requisitioned and the Blacks took advantage of it. A rush by Balmain resulted in a free from which Miller equalised the scores; 2 all. The Blacks were now on the defensive, and after a fruitless shot by Miller, G Robinson snapped up near the line and worked his way across in nippy style. Miller missed the goal. Balmain 5-2. Balmain were awarded several frees for infringements by Wests, Miller having kicks at goal without success. Tye and Easterbrook were conspicuous among Wests' forwards just before half-time. Balmain 5-2.

The Balmain players appeared to be more careful of themselves than their opponents, for most of them changed their jerseys during the interval. Balmain pressed hard with the wind behind them, and a kick by Latta seemed to be sending the ball over the line for an easy touchdown. White, however, stopped it, and attempted to kick out but the ball was blocked. J Robinson picked up, and twisting completely around, scored a fine try. Miller missed. Balmain 8-2. The Blacks were hard pressed and a long kick saw White, who slipped, in difficulties on the line. Conaghan had followed up, and had a certain try in view, but was interfered with. Latta, coming from behind, touched the ball down over the line, but referee McMahan rightly gave Conaghan a penalty try. Miller was successful on this occasion. Balmain 13-2. Another rally by Balmain brought forth applause, and a few minutes later White and Latta had a race for the ball, the former touching down in time. The rain was holding off in the second half, though fast running was precarious. Wests were again attracting the referee's attention by breaking the laws, and from one offence Wall kicked a goal – a splendid left foot shot. Balmain 15-2. The heaviest shower of the day fell near the close, the players being almost blotted from view..... Balmain, 15-2 at the final whistle. **(The Sunday Times 18th May 1919)**

P. A. McCue, the Wallaby forward, appeared for Western Suburbs against Balmain, taking the place left vacant through the illness of J Redmond. He looked well, but it might take a match or two for him to drop into the combination of the team.... **(Referee 21st May 1919)**

Notes: This was a game significantly affected by the heavy rain and Balmain adapted to the conditions much better than Wests. Paddy McCue, ex-Wallaby, made his long-awaited debut for Wests after moving to Cronulla and taking a year off helping a war widow through fund-raising. He was obviously short of a run. William Matthews continued to appear as W Matthews but there was a direct reference to him coming up from Seconds. The archives have a Second-Grade photo of the 1919 Second Grade team and a D Mathews is there and he is definitely the same player that is in the 1917 team photo (where he appears in various programs as S.D. Matthews, W.D Matthews and W Mathews) However, subsequent analysis of the 1919 City Cup photo and other Archive records establish that D Mathews and W Matthews are definitely the same person and he is William Denham Matthews. He happened to be a prolific try scorer in Second Grade (8 tries in the season) and filled in very capably when called up to Firsts.