



1918 Round 2 Saturday 18th May Sydney Cricket Ground



Eastern Suburbs 8

def.

Western Suburbs 2

Dan FLANNERY
H KEANE
Wally MESSENGER
Rex NORMAN
Gordon WRIGHT
Harry CAPLES
Ray NORMAN
W TIJOU
Bob LINLLATER
Jim DUFFY (c)
Charlie LEES
F MORAN
Robert WILLIAMS

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
Alex McPHERSON
Albert JOHNSTON
Harold LEDDY
Jack REDMOND
Clarrie PRENTICE
Edward COURTNEY
William PALMER
William JOASS



Tries Gordon WRIGHT (2)

Goals Wally MESSENGER (1)

Alex McPHERSON (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: R Vest, full-back; T Boland, H Gilbert (capt), P Burns, W Collins, three-quarters; A McPherson, five-eighth; A Johnson, half; C W Prentice, W Palmer, E Courtney, W Joass, H J Leddy, forwards

Eastern Suburbs: D Flannery, full-back; G Wright, W Messenger, Rex Norman, H Keane, three-quarters; H Caples, five-eighth; Ray Norman, half; C Lees, F Moran, R Williams, W Tijou, R Linklater, J Duffy, forwards **A Farrow, referee**

Wests kicked off facing the sun, and Easts immediately assumed the aggressive. From a good position Messenger landed a penalty. Easts maintained a steady attack, and at length Messenger broke through nicely and passed to Wright who scored in the corner. The visiting forwards carried play to Easts' territory, where Gilbert put in a useful run. Easts remained on the defensive until Messenger relieved with a fine punt. Wests' forwards were playing a strong game, and again invaded Easts' territory, but despite every effort failed to penetrate the defence. In front of the posts Wests were awarded a penalty, which McPherson negotiated. Interesting play followed until half-time, but the scores remained unaltered.

The game opened hard and fast after the interval. Wests attacked strongly but did not gain any points. The Tricolours' backs made a succession of attacks, but the defenders tackled ably. Wests came with a great rush, and Johnson broke through, but on the line he passed to Courtney, who knocked on and thus lost what appeared a sure try. Again, the visitors attacked, but at the critical moment Boland knocked on. From a scrum near centre Ray Norman initiated a concerted effort, and the ball was finally handled by Wright, who crossed in the corner and scored between the posts. The game now sparkled, each side displaying good condition. Wests continued play to Easts' territory, but failed to cross when prospects looked good. For the remainder of the game play was of a high standard, E.S. winning 8 to 2. **(The Sunday Times 19th May 1918)**

...While on the subject the same trouble is causing a lot of dissatisfaction in the Western Suburbs Club. There are a couple of players back and forward, who, on their showing so far this season, are fit and proper subjects for the toeball scrap heap. Good lads are standing down while these old birds, who don't care a hang whether they train or not, bob up, and season after season lob in on their rep. Surely the club officials are as able to notice these things as the public? **(The Sydney Sportsman 25th May 1918)**

Talking of language...an example was made of a third-grader on Monday, who received the salutary sentence of the "rest of the season" **(after the first match!)** for questioning whether a referee's parents were legally bound in wedlock. **(The Sydney Sportsman 18th May 1918)**

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Notes: This was another game that Wests should have won. The final pass that would have led to a certain try was put down on a number of occasions after good breaks by the backs. McCauley, the lightning fast winger, appeared to not have sticky hands. This was the second season where McCauley played under the name Ted Boland. Some official records have Messenger and Wright scoring a try each but all newspaper reports have the flying winger Gordon Wright scoring both tries, the second a sensational team try apparently. The passes started to stick after this game as Wests went on an unprecedented winning streak. The comment in the Sportsman seemed to be aimed at either Tedda Courtney or Ranji Joass which seems strange considering their good form, although Ranji had never been considered a good trainer. How times have changed; not many Third Graders would get a season suspension for questioning the referee's parentage!