



# 1918 Round 3 Saturday 25th May St Luke's Park



## Western Suburbs 5

def.

## Newtown 2

Athol WHITE  
 Dick VEST  
 Paddy BURNS  
 Herb GILBERT (c)  
 Wally COLLINS  
 Alex McPHERSON  
 Albert JOHNSTON  
 Harold LEDDY  
 Jack REDMOND  
 Clarrie PRENTICE  
 William JOASS  
 William PALMER  
 Edward COURTNEY

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

Ed RIGNEY  
 F SEYMOUR  
 William COCKBURN  
 P McGUIRE  
 Gordon BENNETT  
 William GILLESPIE  
 J LEONARD  
 George CLAMBACK  
 Reg FERGUSON  
 Jim McCUE  
 Eddie HILLIARD  
 Richard TOWNSEND  
 Felix RYAN



**Tries** Wally COLLINS

**Goals** Alex McPHERSON (1)

J LEONARD (1)

### Match Description

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

**Newtown:** E P Rigney, full-back; G Bennett, F Seymour, W Cockburn, P McGuire, three-quarters; W Gillespie, five-eighth; J Leonard, half-back; G H Clamback, R Townsend, R Ferguson, J McCue, F Ryan (c), E Hilliard, forwards **J T Black, referee;**

Ferguson started the game against a strong wind. ... Western Suburbs still attacked strongly, Gilbert marked in good position, but McPherson had an unsuccessful kick at goal. Both teams attacked in turn, but passing rushes were marred by faulty handling. Play was stopped on two occasions while Leonard was attended to for injuries. Newtown dribbled to WS. 25, where White took the ball from their feet, and with a strong kick put Western Suburbs in the attacking position. McPherson cleverly picked up and passed to Collins, who was held up on the line. Half-time sounded – no score.

Newtown attacked on resuming, but could not break through. Near centre the home team was penalised, and Leonard kicked a fine goal from ten yards inside half-way. Rigney returned Redmond's kick-off to Gilbert, who darted ahead, and, warding off several opponents, got near Newtown's line, where he short-punted, but Rigney knocked the ball into touch. Western Suburbs now livened up, and had the Blues on the defensive. From a scrum near the line Wests heeled to Johnson, to McPherson to Gilbert, who found the defence too good. Western Suburbs came again but could not get in. Collins blocked a kick from Cockburn, gathered in the ball and scored in the corner. McPherson converted. Western Suburbs 5, Newtown 2. The local side worked to Newtown's line, where Johnson wriggled across, but was held up. Full time sounded with the scores unaltered. **(The Sunday Times 29th May 1918)**

The Fruitpickers climbed a point ahead of the Bluebags on the competition table when they towelled them up on Saturday. Wests are certainly not fulfilling the great expectations they worked up during the practice games. The Blues are comparatively weak this season, so a five to two win isn't anything to write home about. Wests forwards won them the game; they got the ball from the scrum and in the open were a better combination than the backs. Lucky for Wests Herb Gilbert is striking form; he has been very onkus so far this season.

Cuddlesome Collins is back on his own wing again, and his play was greatly improved thereby. Fanny Durack would have gone balmy with envy if she had seen the dive Collo took when he scored his try. Vest proved a good investment on Boland's wing. Leave him, ye selectors, he'll do me. The small boys have a new name for Ricketty; it is now Butterfingers Johnson after Saturday's display. Gillespie and Leonard were the hardest workers on the Blues side, while McGuire also shone at intervals. Snowy Rigney as the custard onion of the sticks played his usual safe game, and was the thorn in Wests' side all the time. Jim McCue gave an imitation of a wild horse in a stable every time he saw one of the opposition on the ground (near the ball). Some referees are very lenient. **(The Sydney Sportsman 1st June 1918)**

.....

**Notes:** Wests were finally in to the winners' list after a very hard fought game, although Wests seemed to be on top for most of the match and were held up over the line twice. Again, too many passes were going to ground. Note the comment that Collins was now playing on his right wing and that Vest was playing well. Gilbert's lack of form in the first two matches may give an inkling to the comment about 'slackos' in the previous week's Sportsman.