



1970 Round 5 Sunday 26th April Sports Ground



Balmain 24

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Bob SMITHIES
 Olaf PRATTL
 Alan FITZGIBBON
 Wayne THOMPSON
 Len KILLEEN
 Peter JONES
 Keith OUTTEN
 John SPENCER
 Arthur BEETSON
 Geoff CONNELL
 Barry McTAGGART
 Peter BOULTON
 Garry LEO

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

Garry WESTON
 Don ROGERS
 Roy FERGUSON
 Derek BROUWER
 Peter FLANDERS
 Tom RAUDONIKIS
 John MAXWELL
 Rod SMITH
 John BAKER
 Barry BRYANT
 John ARMSTRONG
 Ken STONESTREET (c)
 Tony ANTUNAC



Tries

Geoff CONNELL
 Len KILLEEN
 Barry McTAGGART
 Wayne THOMPSON

John MAXWELL
 Don ROGERS

Goals

Len KILLEEN (6)

Peter FLANDERS (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Weston; three-quarters: D Rogers, R Ferguson, D Brouwer, P Flanders; five-eighth: T Raudonikis; half: J Maxwell; forwards: R Smith, J Baker, B Bryant, J Armstrong, K Stonestreet (c), A Antunac
Balmain: Full-back: R Smithies; three-quarters: O Pratl, A Fitzgibbon, W Thompson, L Killeen; five-eighth: P Jones; half: K Outten; forwards: J Spencer, A Beetson, G Connell, B McTaggart, P Boulton, G Leo **Referee: K Page (Rugby League Week 2nd May 1970)**

Balmain Rugby League coach Leo Nosworthy yesterday labelled his team a "disgrace" in a scathing attack after they had defeated Western Suburbs at Sydney Sports Ground. Nosworthy said, after watching his team scramble to a 24-12 win, "That was a shocking exhibition. I had thought the team was getting back to form, but they disappointed me greatly today. They didn't play as a team They played as individuals. They won the premiership last year through playing as a team, but they seem to have abandoned that now. A lot of work has still to be done to get back to what they were last season." Nosworthy's half-time talk yesterday must have been strong, judging by his outburst after the match. Balmain played their only real football of the match in the first 20 minutes after half-time. They rushed on 20 points in 20 minutes after having trailed 2-7 in a miserable first-half performance. The Balmain players, obviously spurred by a blast from Nosworthy at the interval, played some good constructive football in this period. Front-rower Gary Leo showed the way through a shaky Wests' defence "up the middle." Balmain rattled up four quick tries, capitalising on Wests' mistakes. But they failed to go on with the good work, and lapsed back into the doldrums in the last 20 minutes. ... Wests, playing strictly to instructions from coach Ron Watson, did well enough in the first half. They gained the lead close to half-time with a spectacular try by winger Don Rogers after smart lead-up work by second-rower Baker and half-back Maxwell. Wests' downfall came when they disregarded Watson's instructions in the second half. The forwards fanned wide from rucks and left gaps up the middle. "I emphasised to the forwards at half-time that Balmain would play up the middle in the second half and that they must play tight," Watson said later. ... **(Daily Telegraph 27th April 1970)**

..... The man of the match was obviously Leo who, because of his mobility, must enter big match selection calculations. Second-rower Geoff Connell, lock John Spencer and prop Barry McTaggart all appreciated the scouting tactics of Wests' pack in the second half. Artie Beetson was one Balmain forward on whom Wests concentrated. The Tiger hooker Peter Boulton won the scrums and had a good game in the loose. Wests played resolutely enough in the first half with their forwards staying in close and tackling well. They won the toss and ran with the wind and sun in the first half and had these handicaps against them after half-time. But faulty forward positioning in defence was their big trouble, and not the elements. From leading 7-2 at half-time Wests were down 15-7 despite a lucky save when Beetson was over the line and could not ground the ball in the first 10 minutes after resumption. Two minutes later Killeen kicked a penalty goal for 17-7 and it was all over as quickly as that. From then, they were playing out time with Balmain getting to 24-9 before Johnny Maxwell ran from a scrum to score Wests' second try. Wests' first-half try was a spectacular one from their own 25 with second-rower John Baker galloping ahead and when tackled getting the ball to Maxwell, who sent winger Don Rogers away on a smart dash to the line. Balmain forwards started to run as soon as the second half was under way and Spencer made the break for McTaggart's try eight minutes after half-time for 10-7. **(The Sun 27th April 1970)**

Notes: This was another poor performance by Wests. The wingers, Flanders and Rogers, both played very well, Rogers scoring a great try after a John Baker break. Wests' lack of depth was being shown up and there were worrying gaps in the Wests' middle defence.