



1918 Round 5 Monday 3rd June Sydney Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 14

def.

South Sydney 9

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
Reserve

Howard HALLETT (c)
 Harold HORDER
 Peter CRUISE
 Dave LINDSAY
 Les ARTHUR
 Alfred BLAIR
 George McGOWAN
 George MOORE
 Claud O'DONNELL
 Arthur OXFORD
 Bill GROVES
 Harold HOLMES
 John KERWICK
 Jim DAVIS

Tries Wally COLLINS
 Athol WHITE

Les ARTHUR

Goals Alex McPHERSON (4)

Harold HORDER (3)

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back, H Hallett; three-quarters, H Horder, Cruise, R Lindsay, L Arthur; halves, A Blair, G McGowan; forwards, Oxford, C O'Donnell, W Groves, H Holmes, G Moore, J Kerwick

Western Suburbs: Full-back, A White; three-quarters, R Vest, H Gilbert, P Burns, W Collins; halves, A McPherson, A Johnson; forwards, H J Leddy, J Redmond, W Joass, C W Prentice, W Palmer and E Courtney **Referee, T McMahon (The Evening News 3rd June 1918)**

Twelve thousand enthusiasts, mostly South Sydneyites, watched a great battle at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Monday. It is not too much to say that quite 90 per cent of the crowd expected South Sydney to comfortably defeat Western Suburbs, and they had good reason to think that way on for prior to the battle....With the breeze throughout the first half, Souths were under the whip, the backs finding the rushes of the Westerners very difficult to stop. The absence of the two centre three-quarters who had played so ably against Eastern Suburbs was felt.....Western Suburbs, with the wind, put on 14 to nil, tries being got by full-back White and Collins and four goals by McPherson, who also hit the post in another effort. The White try was very neat. He punted when pressed on his own side of half-way by a yard or two, and following up, fielded the ball on the extreme left wing after the bounce had beaten Hallett. He sprinted on and over in the corner, and then ran around to score at the posts. This was the kick by which McPherson hit the post, an easy one. Collins' try was a fine bit of work by the backs, with Gilbert making a very strong finishing run, and giving it to the wing man near goal, with H Horder grabbing the latter as he went over. Western Suburbs went very close to scoring several other tries, one extra fine burst of top pace combination sending Collins over to the cheers of thousands, but the referee ruled the final pass as forward. In several cases the W.S. men dribbled the ball over only to see it forced down. They ought to have picked up in some of the positions close to the line. One of McPherson's goals was from a mark by White.

In the second half South Sydney tried to get on top of them by sheer pace, but they could not do it. They had a burst of 9 points scoring, Horder leading off with a brilliant left-foot goal from the right wing and close to half-way. Next, from a free kick placed at half-way in the centre, he scored again. Their next try was a very fine try by Arthur, now playing on the right wing.....a beautiful kick by Horder made it 9 points. From this point to the close the Western Suburbs forwards, again got on top of their opponents, and came through the backs by keeping the ball at their feet as a rule.....It is the finest all-round football I have ever seen Western Suburbs show.....the entire team seems to have sharpened up.....Souths were licked in the forwards all round, and this time they had not the backs to make up the difference.....there was no fluke about it..... **(Referee 5th June 1918)**

South Sydney were a very sore side after Saturday's game, and a couple of good three-quarters in Toreador Rowley and Spot Horder were unable to strip through Saturdayitis. Wests, on the other hand, seemed as if the other game had whetted their appetite for more, and they fairly and squarely beat the Southerners in every department of the game. **(The Sydney Sportsman 8th June 1918)**

Notes: This was the defining game for Wests after 10 years of competition. It was a real coming of age as they took on the might of South Sydney and outpaced and outplayed them. The forwards were dominant, with Courtney, yet again, starring. Souths had both their centres out and Gilbert was able to cause havoc to the two young replacements. McPherson was also showing that he was maturing greatly as a footballer and becoming a gun goal kicker. They were able to back up very well after a hard fought game on the Saturday. Note Harold Holmes, who played one first grade for Wests in 1917 (and numerous Second Grade games), had moved to Souths and was able to get into First Grade.