



1971 Round 6 Sunday 2nd May Sydney Sports Ground



Eastern Suburbs 31

def.

Western Suburbs 20

Allan McKEAN
 Mike CLEARY
 John BRASS (c)
 Mark HARRIS
 Bill MULLINS
 John BALLESTY
 Kevin JUNEE
 Barry REILLY
 Kevin GOLDSPIK
 Louis NEUMANN
 Jim MORGAN
 Kel BROWN
 Arthur BEETSON
 John PEARD

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

Tony FORD
 Don ROGERS
 John ELFORD
 Tim MURPHY
 Wayne MERRY
 John MAXWELL
 Tom RAUDONIKIS
 Rod SMITH
 John BAKER
 Barry BRYANT
 George SKEERS
 Ken STONESTREET
 Jim CODY (c)



Tries

John PEARD (2)
 Arthur BEETSON
 Mike CLEARY
 Mark HARRIS
 Kevin JUNEE
 Louis NEUMANN

Ken STONESTREET
 Don ROGERS
 Barry BRYANT
 John BAKER

Goals

Allan McKEAN (5)

Tony FORD (4)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: A McKean; three-quarters: M Cleary, J Brass (c), M Harris, W Mullins; five-eighth: J Ballesty; half: K Junee; forwards: B Reilly, K Goldspink, L Neumann, J Morgan, K Brown, A Beetson

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, J Elford, T Murphy, W Merry; five-eighth: J Maxwell; half: T Raudonikis; forwards: R Smith, B Bryant, J Baker, J Cody (c), K Stonestreet, G Skeers **Referee: J Farrelly (Rugby League Week 8th May 1971)**

A half-time tirade from Rugby League coach Don Furner sparked Eastern Suburbs to a 31-20 win over Western Suburbs at Sydney Sports Ground yesterday. Furner blasted Easts for a shocking first-half performance. Wests over-ran Easts in the first half and led 12-3 at half-time. "I told the team at half-time I was disgusted with their efforts," Furner said after the match. "I said it was a waste of time training three nights a week if they were not going to do what I wanted on the field." Furner's criticism stirred the players. Easts scored eight points in the first seven minutes of the second half. Centre Mark Harris broke Wests' defence inside his own half and went on to score in the corner after three minutes. Four minutes later, front-rower Arthur Beetson scored between the posts. Full-back Alan McKean's conversion took Easts to within one point of Wests, 11-12. From then on, tries came freely as both teams showed little inclination to tackle. Eleven tries were scored in the match. Beetson was Easts' star. Beetson scored a try and played a key role in three others. His understanding with half-back Kevin Junee worried Wests' defence. Junee shadowed Beetson in open play, using his sharp burst of speed to capitalise on breaks the big front-rower made. Ironically, Easts revival coincided with the replacement of captain John Brass. Brass was carried from the field at half-time with an ankle injury. X-rays taken at hospital after the match showed he had torn ligaments. He is expected to be out of football for three weeks. Reserve-grade five-eighth John Peard replaced Brass, and regular five-eighth John Ballesty moved to the centre. Easts' backline flowed much more smoothly with Peard at five-eighth. He scored two tries in a bright display. Easts' defence, particularly in the first half, was shocking. Wests were determined in their early efforts but gradually wilted in the second half. **(Daily Telegraph 3rd May 1971)**

.. Easts' players came out and in the third, seventh and 16th minutes of the second half scored tries which virtually sealed the game. They became slipshod when leading 16-12 and let Barry Bryant take an easy passage for a converted try under the posts. But the spirit Furner was looking for re-appeared and Easts shrugged off Wests' challenge for two more quick tries by John Peard and the game. Peard came on at half-time for Captain John Brass who suffered torn ankle ligaments. At first it was feared Brass had a fracture, but X-rays taken last night showed no break. He will be out for several weeks. Despite their runaway second-half score, club officials are not carried away with the win. The two teams produced some terrible defence and 11 tries were scored in a far too loose game of Rugby League. **(Sydney Morning Herald 3rd May 1971)**

Notes: In a high-scoring game, Arthur Beetson was the difference. Wests played strongly in the first half, but with Beetson running riot, Easts piled on 28 points in the second half. Steve Winter was originally selected but was replaced by George Skeers, while Dick Timbs was also replaced by Wayne Merry. Only Barry Bryant could hold his head high in a very poor second-half performance.