



# 1969 Round 8 Saturday 17th May Cricket Ground



## Balmain 13

Bob SMITHIES  
 Terry PARKER  
 Syd WILLIAMS  
 Hal BROWNE  
 Len KILLEEN  
 David BOLTON  
 Keith OUTTEN  
 Peter PROVAN (c)  
 Olaf PRATTL  
 John SPENCER  
 Barry McTAGGART  
 John CRAWFORD  
 Gary LEO

def.

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

## Western Suburbs 4

Tony FORD  
 Frank TAGG  
 Roy FERGUSON  
 Barry GLASGOW  
 Don ROGERS  
 Tim MURPHY  
 Bruce BEER  
 John BAKER  
 Jim CODY  
 Barry BRYANT  
 Doug WALKADEN  
 Ken STONESTREET  
 Noel KELLY (c)



**Tries** Peter PROVAN

**Goals** Len KILLEEN (3)  
 Dave BOLTON (1)  
 Dave BOLTON (1) Field goal

Barry GLASGOW (1)  
 Barry GLASGOW (1) Field goal

### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back: R Smithies; three-quarters: T Parker, S Williams, H Browne, L Killeen; five-eighth: D Bolton; half: K Outten; forwards: P Provan (c), O Pratl. J Spencer, B McTaggart, J Crawford, G Leo

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: D Rogers, B Glasgow, R Ferguson, F Tagg; five-eighth: T Murphy; half: B Beer; forwards: J Baker, J Cody, Bryant, N Kelly (c), K Stonestreet, D Walkaden **Referee: A Neville (The Sun 16th May 1969)**

Balmain looked bad. Western Suburbs were hopeless. That was the sorry 80-minute spectacle provided for the crowd of 22,538 as Balmain forged to the premiership lead with an unspectacular 13-4 victory over Wests at the SCG yesterday. What had whetted the appetites of a thirsty public with the promise of champagne football turned flat and sour. Balmain had the shock of their poor performance eased somewhat with two consoling premiership points but for Wests nothing to soften the blow. Ned Kelly's lads thoroughly disgraced themselves with as poor an effort handed out at the SCG this season. Through hooker Ken Stonestreet Wests won the ball 22-7 but possession was repeatedly squandered through ridiculous passing and novice-style handling. Balmain was also loose with these fundamentals and added to the woes of its effort with players running or being thrown over the sideline. Arthur Neville, referee for the big game, didn't help matters along as he caned both sides with penalties which wound up in favour of Balmain 17-16. Thirty-three penalties and 29 scrums in a match just don't allow good football. But even these halts to play fail to condone the Z grade standard dished out at top prices to a Rugby League public. It took exactly 38 minutes of boredom before Balmain opened the score with a smartly snapped field goal by former English Test star Dave Bolton. Then just before the break, Bolton landed a penalty when Len Killeen was unable to take the shot after receiving a heavy knock. On resuming the standard of play failed to improve and Wests reduced the leeway to 4-2 with a field goal by prolific Barry Glasgow. Then Killeen, who'd missed four shots in the first half and was treated for rib damage during the break, found form and banged over three goals in the second session. Glasgow landed his only penalty from six attempts in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute of this half. The only try of the game, captured by Balmain skipper Peter Provan, came midway through the second half when the rangy lock dived across next to the posts from the dummy half position. Gary Leo, the prop, had been grounded only an inch short of the line as he did the lead up work for the score. Afterwards the joke-makers abounded in both dressing rooms as officials of Wests and Balmain made tongue in cheek excuses. In the Balmain room someone laughingly claimed the absence of top League administrators was because they were at the front of the ground refunding turnstile takings to the disappointed crowd. Another said Saturday afternoon would be reserved for the flicks if many more dreary games were served up. For Balmain excuses could be offered as they battled the 3-1 possession glut and, under the circumstances, the side did well to win by nine points. But Wests gave nothing in their effort to bridge the club's gap to the leaders in the premiership race. Time after time scoring chances were squandered as players decked the ball or simply allowed Balmain rivals to take it from their hands in tackles. "Bad luck," someone offered in condolence to Wests' President Eddie Hooper after the match. "Bad what?" he replied. "Just bloody bad," another voice chimed in. **(Sunday Mirror 18th May 1969)**

**Notes:** This was a very poor quality match with both sides handling badly and lots of penalties flowing from the whistle of referee, Arthur Neville. Ken Stonestreet again dominated the scrums 22-7 but time and again Wests dropped the ball when in scoring positions. Don Rogers had a crucial try disallowed but he was adamant that he hadn't bounced the ball as claimed by the referee. It didn't help that Barry Glasgow also had an off day with the boot, kicking only one of six attempts in the second half.