



# 1918 Round 8 Saturday 22nd June RAS Showground



## Western Suburbs 8

## def.

## Balmain 6

Athol WHITE  
 Dick VEST  
 Paddy BURNS  
 Herb GILBERT (c)  
 Wally COLLINS  
 Alex McPHERSON  
 Alf BOSSI  
 Joe REIDY  
 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**

George CHALLIS  
 George POTTER  
 Jack ROBINSON  
 Paddy CONAGHAN  
 R PROUST  
 Charles FRASER  
 Arthur HALLOWAY (c)  
 Reginald LATTA  
 Robert CRAIG  
 Bill SCHULTZ  
 Alf FRASER  
 Horrace WATT  
 R MILLER

### Tries

Wally COLLINS  
 Clarrie PRENTICE

George POTTER  
 R PROUST

### Goals

Alex McPHERSON (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 Bossi, half-back; C W Prentice, W Palmer, E Courtney, J Redmond, W Joass, J Reidy, forwards

**Balmain:** G Challis, full-back; R Proust, J Robinson, P Conaghan, G Potter, three-quarters; C Fraser, five-eighth; A Halloway (c); half-back; R Latta, R Miller, A Fraser, H Watts, R R Craig, W Schultz, forwards **Referee, Mr T McMahon**

Western Suburbs attacked strongly from the start, and for the first half-hour had Balmain defending.... West kept up the attack until finally a faulty kick by Wall brought a scrum well in Balmain territory. From the pass out Bossi secured, passed to McPherson, to Gilbert, who, running strongly, passed to Collins, who fell over in the corner. McPherson's kick went wide. Western Suburbs 3-0. Hard play followed and Gilbert brought the ball along the line in to the 'Main territory. From a scramble near the line, the ball rolled across and Prentice, diving, scored. McPherson made no mistake in the kick, thus kicking his 20th goal of the season. Western Suburbs 8-0. Half-time.

In the second term Balmain adopted different tactics. By short punting they repeatedly made ground, and Western Suburbs barrackers began to feel uneasy at the repeated attacks of the waterside suburb. .... Fraser took a long punt from White, and running well, placed Latta in a good position, he transferring to Proust, and the latter scored near the touch-line. Miller's kick failed. Western Suburbs 8-3.....Courtney was tackling hard and sure, and several times looked dangerous in dribbling rushes. Robinson started a rush from about half-way, and sending the leather to Conaghan, to Potter, the last-named scrambled across in the corner. Miller's kick failed. Western Suburbs 8-6. Balmain kept up the attack, and play was held up whilst White, the West full-back, received ambulance attention. ....Play became hard and fast, and Conaghan had to receive ambulance attention. .... Even play kept the spectators in a simmer of excitement during the last quarter of the game, but no further score resulted .... Final score 8-6. (**The Sunday Times 23rd June 1918**)

...Bossi gave it to McPherson, to Burns, to Gilbert, who set off at his top pace diagonally for the line, nursing Collins. Balmain could not tell what was his intent, to score himself or to give it to the wing man. Nearing the line, with tacklers on him, he whipped it out, and Collins, missed by Proust, dived over resolutely in the corner, Robinson just missing him and **coming into violent contact with the corner post, which temporarily disabled his right arm**.....the rubicund Courtney – Teddo to the crowd – is there as large as ever, prancing about like a two-year-old; bustling and tackling and forging ahead. Redmond, carrying less weight inside the belt, is like him, a goer, a bustler, and a hustler, a hard tackler, but a little more pace when it comes to sprinting for the chalk-mark would not be amiss. C W Prentice shaped well; he is younger and fast but does not eternally bustle like the old soldiers. Joass, one of the veterans, tuned up, played a solid game all through. He somersaulted and stood on his head with acrobatic écart as though he were a colt effervescing with physical vitality. Palmer and Reidy were also in the picture. **It was rumoured that Paddy McCue, vice-captain of the Kangaroos, had trained into good form, and was to play, but the score card did not reveal his name – not even among the emergencies.** (**Referee 26th June 1918**)

**Notes:** This was a very big win for Wests. Balmain had been premiers in previous years and were the competition leader so Wests became co-leaders, a position they had never previously held. Note the write-up on the form of Courtney, yet again, and the dominant role Jack Redmond was starting to play as his fitness had improved. Twenty goals in eight matches was a great effort by McPherson. Note the comment on the injury sustained by Robinson against the corner post; a bit harder than the present ones! Paddy McCue, the ex-Newtown champion and Kangaroo tourist had moved to Cronulla and was eligible to play for Wests. He hadn't played in 1917 and was apparently lacking fitness as he didn't play during this season but did play for Wests eventually in 1919.