



1919 Round 9 Saturday 26th July RAS Showground



Western Suburbs 21

def.

Balmain 18

Athol WHITE
 Dick VEST
 Paddy BURNS
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Wally COLLINS
 Alex McPHERSON
 George McGOWAN
 Clarrie TYE
 Joe REIDY
 William JOASS
 Jack REDMOND
 Clarrie PRENTICE
 Edward COURTNEY

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

Lyall WALL
 George POTTER
 Jack ROBINSON
 Charles FRASER
 Paddy CONAGHAN
 George ROBINSON
 Arthur HALLOWAY (c)
 Reginald LATTA
 Mick RUSSELL
 Bill SCHULTZ
 Alf FRASER
 Horace WATT
 Edward CUMMINGS

Tries

Clarrie TYE
 Wally COLLINS
 Edward COURTNEY

Alf FRASER
 Mick RUSSELL

Goals

Alex McPHERSON (5)
 A WHITE (1 field goal)

Charles FRASER (3)
 Lyall WALL (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: A White, full-back; W Collins, H Gilbert (c), P Burns, R Vest, three-quarters; A McPherson, five-eighth; G McGowan, half; C Tye, W Joass, C Prentice, J Reidy, E Courtney and J Redmond, forwards.

Balmain: L Wall, full-back; J Robinson, P Conaghan, C Fraser, G Potter, three-quarters; G Robinson, five-eighth; A Halloway (c), half; E Cummings, H Watts, W Schultz, M Russell, A Fraser and R Latta, forwards **Referee, Mr T McMahan**

Balmain kicked off from the southern end and attacked after securing from a scrum. J Robinson was well blocked after dodging well, and C Fraser was upended, but from a free the latter notched first score. Balmain 2-0. Wests were kept under pressure, and C Fraser sent the ball over the line – a badly judged kick. Wall had a couple of shots at goal but they lacked power. In attempting to clear, Gilbert and Collins overran the ball, and Conaghan dashed into the opening. His pass to Fraser was not taken cleanly, and though Balmain players surrounded the goal it looked as though they would lose the chance through fumbling. At length Russell picked up and scored between the posts. C Fraser converted. Balmain 7-0. Immediately afterwards McPherson kicked from a free. Balmain 7-2. Wall next put the extra pound behind a kick from close to half-way line, and scored a fine goal. Balmain 9-2. For off-side in a scrum, Wests were again penalised and Wall added another goal. Balmain 11-2. Wests were plainly up against it. A desperate dash by Gilbert was stopped by C Fraser. Some stirring play by Wests followed. Gilbert, wearing a bandage on one knee, sent out to Vest, in to Gilbert again, the ball was sent inwards to Burns. Courtney, backing up splendidly, took a pass and ran straight and sturdily for the line. Defenders closed in, but although tackled, the veteran forward practically pushed the ball over and scored. McPherson converted, and Wests' tally looked much better. Balmain 11-7..... McPherson once missed the goal from an easy position, but made amends a little later with a sure kick. Balmain 11-9. Conaghan, C Fraser and Potter made a combined dash, the first-named kicking hard over the line. Wests, however, battled earnestly. McGowan came along the right wing and passed to Joass, who, when blocked, shied the ball in towards Tye, who obtained and struggled across. McPherson a goal, and Wests led 14-11 at the interval.

..... Play continued to be very even, tackling sure and vimful. From a struggle near the line, however, A Fraser scored and C Fraser kicked the goal. Balmain 16 to 14. Pressure by Wests and Balmain were defending on their line. A free to Wests and McPherson soon equalised. 16 all. The pace was hot, and the ball coming out to White, Wests' full-back sent the crowd into ecstasies by driving the ball over the bar with a magnificently-judged drop-kick. Wests again in the lead, 18-16. A number of frees were recorded against both teams, and from one – for off-side while the ball was in the scrum – Wall kicked a fine goal. Scores equal again at 18. Wests had altered their back formation by bringing Reidy out as an extra five-eighth, Vest going in as centre, and McGowan taking the left wing. Burns worked the scrum. McGowan, it appears, had injured his shoulder. Balmain put all their weight in, and Conaghan actually crossed, but was recalled. Then Wests scored a great try, McPherson setting Vest moving, and after some beautiful passing, Collins got over, Wests winning just on time 21-18. **(The Sunday Times 27th July 1919)**

Notes: This was Wests' best win of the season. Balmain were undefeated and heading to a Premiership, but Wests' win put them up to third and injected some intense crowd interest. White's field goal was a beauty from all accounts, taken only a few yards across half-way, and a few yards from the right wing. It was White's best performance since his sub-par performance against New Zealand. The win was made better by the fact of Joass' head injury and McGowan's arm injury. They were able to adjust well and score a thrilling last-minute win.