



1966 Round 9 Saturday 28th May Leichhardt Oval



Balmain 17

Keith BARNES (c)
 Paul CROSS
 Kevin YOW YEH
 Laurie MORASCHI
 Bob MARA
 Peter JONES
 David BOLTON
 Peter PROVAN
 Arthur BEETSON
 John SPENCER
 George PIPER
 Dick WILSON
 Bob BOLAND

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Dave BARSLEY
 John MOWBRAY
 Gil MacDOUGALL
 Roy FERGUSON
 John ELFORD
 Denis PITTARD
 Pat THOMAS
 Doug PAGE
 Bill HANSEN
 John HAYES
 Denis MEANEY (c)
 Noel THORNTON
 Brian KOWALD



Tries
 Peter JONES
 George PIPER
 John SPENCER

Goals
 Keith BARNES (4)

Dave BARSLEY (6)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: K Barnes (c); three-quarters: P Cross, K Yow Yeh, L Moraschi, B Mara; five-eighth: P Jones; half: D Bolton; forwards; P Provan, A Beetson, J Spencer, G Piper, R Wilson, R Boland

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Barsley; three-quarters: J Mowbray, R Ferguson, G MacDougall, J Elford; five-eighth: D Pittard; half; P Thomas; forwards: D Page, J Hayes, W Hansen, D Meaney (c), N Thornton, B Kowald **Referee: C Pearce (The Sun 28th May 1966)**

Balmain Rugby League team swept on to their ninth successive victory 17-12, over Western Suburbs, at Leichhardt Oval yesterday. Thus the "Tigers" will start the second half of the competition, after the three week break for representative football, with the impressive total of 18 points. Full-back Dave Barsley's neat goal-kicking (he landed six goals from 10 attempts and shaded Keith Barnes in this department) kept Wests in the picture. Wests led 8-4 at half-time and 10-9 after 12 minutes of the second half. Wests took a respectable share of the match honours through solid defence and some admirable handling, whereas Balmain was inclined to drop the ball in the first term. But the "Tigers", who habitually concede an interval lead, scored the three tries that came in the second half. Once again Balmain kept its goal-line intact. No try has been registered against Balmain in its last three matches. That is a defensive performance such as those St George supporters have proudly publicised in recent years. ... Wests' centre, Gil MacDougall, in his best game since he came back from England, set a strong standard in defence. In the first half, especially, he had splendid support in this direction from young centre Roy Ferguson. Still, Balmain should have made better use of their attacking ability in the first term. ... Some Balmain players, no doubt subject to selection "nerves" with Sydney teams being chosen tonight, handled loosely in this half. Several times the ball was forfeited to the keen Westerners, who did a good deal of the attacking. But shortly before the interval Balmain settled into positive attacking play. There was a sparkling rush, in which full-back Barnes, second-rower Arthur Beetson, centre Kevin Yow Yeh and left-winger Bobby Mara handled. Before the second half was far advanced, Balmain put on the pressure. The big forwards, Beetson, prop George Piper and hooker Dick Wilson, began to damage Wests' defence. Barnes coolly fiddled his way through the front-line; half-back David Bolton exploited his footwork, and his five-eighth, Peter Jones backed up smartly. The first try, early in this half, came when lock Peter Provan stole the ball from a Wests' man and young second-rower John Spencer fairly whizzed through a trio of defenders and scored near the posts. It was an amazing effort of propping and side-stepping from a forward. But one recalled that Spencer had begun his career as a full-back and had recently played centre in reserve grade. Barnes' conversion had Balmain 9-8, but a splendid goal from Barsley put Wests 10-9. The second try showed just what a football craftsman Keith Barnes is. Wests' inside men were breaching the five-yard rule; referee Pearce often preferred to play "advantage" and allow Balmain to retain the ball. Midway through this half, with Balmain still trailing, Barnes suddenly sliced through behind Wests' trespassing centres. Jones came up fast in support; Barnes served him the pass and Jones scored near the posts. Balmain's last try, which sealed the win, was scored by Piper, who crashed his huge frame across near the left wing. That followed a rush started at half-way by Beetson, who was joined by centre Moraschi and winger Mara. This game underlined the splendid potential of the rugged 16st Beetson. Sometimes he ran off short passes from Piper; on other occasions he scattered the defence with powerful bursts from loose play. Beetson was always prepared to pass to a "support." Beetson is strong and fiery. ... This, even though West's young five-eighth, Denis Pittard, played well, as also did his half-back, Pat Thomas. Doug Page, returning to play lock for Wests after six weeks out with a broken bone in a foot, was thorough in his "covering" tackles. .. **(The Sun-Herald 29th May 1966)**

Notes: Wests, still without Kelly, Cody, McGuinness and Dimond, led 8-4 at half-time and were well in the match. Led by a strong Keith Barnes display, Balmain finished strongly in the second half, as they had done in many of their wins in a so far unbeaten run to the end of the first round.