



1918 Round 9 Saturday 29th June Sydney Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 16

def.

Eastern Suburbs 9

Athol WHITE
 Dick VEST
 Paddy BURNS
 Herb GILBERT (c)
 Wally COLLINS
 Alex McPHERSON
 Alf BOSSI
 Harold LEDDY
 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
Reserve

Dan FLANNERY
 Wally MESSENGER
 Leslie CUBITT
 Rex NORMAN
 H KEANE
 Harry CAPLES
 Ray NORMAN
 Tom GLAZEBROOK
 Bob LINKLATER
 Jim DUFFY (c)
 Charlie LEES
 Sid PEARCE
 Robert WILLIAMS
 C BARKER

Tries

Wally COLLINS (2)
 Edward COURTNEY
 Jack REDMOND

Harry CAPLES
 Jim DUFFY
 Wally MESSENGER

Goals

Alex McPHERSON (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: A White, full-back; R Vest, H Gilbert (c), P Burns, W Collins, three-quarters; A McPherson, five-eighth; A Bossi, half-back; H J Leddy, J Redmond, W Joass, C W Prentice, W Palmer, E Courtney, forwards

Eastern Suburbs: D Flannery, full-back; H Keane (injured and replaced by C Barker), Rex Norman, L Cubitt, W Messenger, three-quarters; H Caples, five-eighth; Ray Norman, half-back; R Linklater, C Lees, R Williams, T Glazebrook, S Pearce, J Duffy (c), forwards **T McMahon, referee**

Western Suburbs opened with a breeze blowing diagonally, and favouring them..... Bossi, Burns, Gilbert and Vest figured in two or three bursts, and once Collins was thrown into touch in the corner..... Play worked to the centre, and Messenger had a long-range shot at goal right into the teeth of the wind. He failed. The Blacks worked smartly down-field, and from a breaking-up scrum in front of the scoring board Bossi whipped out to the right to McPherson to Gilbert, who flew diagonally across field, chopped out one defender, and whipped it to Collins, who dashed across near the Sheridan pavilion corner – a fine try. McPherson failed at goal. Keane (E.S.) who had been injured just prior to the movement, was relieved by Barker. Eastern Suburbs' backs had one or two opportunities, but after failing to finalise through faulty handling a try eventually came their way. Ray Norman secured in the loose inside half-way, in front of goal. He sent an overhead pass to Caples, who caught it in the midst of opponents. The flying five-eighth threw it out to Rex Norman, who kicked across field, and Messenger, following fast, grabbed it before White could return. Picking up, Messenger crossed in the northern stand corner. He failed at goal. 3 all. Western Suburbs quickly swung into their stride again.A long kick went to Barker, who fumbled, and the ball rolled behind the line. The wing three-quarters kicked from in-goal, and Burns, cleverly catching on the eastern boundary, flew along touch and passed in-field. The ball went to ground, and Bossi, picking up quickly, whipped it to Courtney, who flung himself across. McPherson failed. 6-3. A fumble by Messenger set W.S. moving goal-wards again. McPherson, obtaining, passed to Burns, to Collins, whose pace carried him over. McPherson a goal. W.S. 11-3Eastern Suburbs started the second half with more life, and the forwards were heeling much better. A short high punt found some E.S. forwards off-side, and McPherson kicked an easy goal. About ten minutes from time, after a scramble, Glazebrook picked up, passed to Williams, to Duffy, who scored in the south-west corner. Messenger again failed. 13-6. The Tricolour forwards came again. Williams picked up, passed out on the left to Glazebrook, to Rex Norman, who flew from beyond centre almost to the 25, where he was tackled. The ball was kicked over, and Gilbert after one or two ineffectual attempts secured, but his kick rebounded in goal. Caples chased and dived on the ball near the touch. Messenger failed in a good shot. 13-9 The Eastern Suburbs supporters were now very lively, as the Red, White and Blue looked like going over again, but play eventually worked down field, and in the corner near the members' stand Redmond toed away from the scrum over the line, where he flung himself on the ball. Western Suburbs winners, 16-9 (**The Sunday Times 30th June 1918**)

...Gilbert was Wests' best back, and White was also very sound. The outstanding feature in Wests' forward play was the ding-dong performance of Clarrie Prentice, who was out on his own. (**The Sydney Sportsman 7th July 1918**)

Notes: Wests had learnt how to win the close games and were equal competition leaders with Souths. The forwards were continuing their dominance with both Clarrie Prentice and Tedda Courtney playing blinders, while Gilbert was continuing his form. Wally Collins became the leading try-scorer with his two in this game. Note the reference to Wests as the Blacks. Because of war shortage, their jersey was now all black with a white crest.