



# 1955 Round 1 Saturday 2nd April Pratten Park



**Western Suburbs 17**

**def.**

**Canterbury-Bankstown 8**

John BREST  
 John THOMPSON  
 Jim PLATER  
 Don COLLIER  
 Bill BAILEY  
 Bill BROWN  
 Keith HOLMAN (c)  
 Pat HYDE  
 Bill CARSON  
 Bill OWENS  
 Nev CHARLTON  
 Hec FARRELL  
 Ron WATSON

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

Fred DUNN  
 Allan SCHWEBEL  
 Bill MILLER  
 Reg FREEBODY  
 Graham BARCLAY  
 Ray GARTNER (c)  
 Mike McGEE  
 Nick EVANS  
 Barry NELSON  
 Jack BOWMAN  
 Mick KEEVERS  
 Fred ANDERSON  
 Jack WILLIAMS

**Tries** Bill BAILEY

Jack BOWMAN  
Reg FREEBODY

**Goals** John BREST (7)

Nick EVANS (1)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Brest; three-quarters: W Bailey, J Plater, D Collier, J Thompson; five-eighth: W Brown; half: K Holman (c); forwards: P Hyde, W Owens, W Carson, N Charlton, H Farrell, R Watson

**Canterbury-Bankstown:** Full-back: F Dunn; three-quarters: G Barclay, W Miller, A Schwebel, R Freebody; five-eighth: R Gartner (c), half: M McGee; forwards: N Evans, B Nelson, J Bowman, J Williams, F Anderson, A Keevers **Referee: A Shiner (The Daily Mirror 2nd April 1955)**

In a game badly jarred by frequent penalties and scrums, Western Suburbs beat Canterbury-Bankstown, 17-8, in the opening round of the Rugby League at Pratten Park yesterday. The star performer of the match was referee, Austin Shiner, who beat a 36 penalties and 32 scrums tattoo on his whistle during the afternoon. There was not one single constructive football play throughout the 80 minutes of the match and Wests won because of better goal-kicking. Wests new full-back, John Brest, of Port Macquarie, recommended to the club by former star, Alan Brady, kicked seven goals from ten attempts, while Fred Dunn, Bill Miller and Nick Evans could land only one from 11 attempts for Canterbury. Neither side yet possesses a back of real penetrating ability, the best yesterday being Wests; young five-eighth, Bill Brown, who at least was constantly on the lookout for the openings. Canterbury's imported half-back, Mick McGee, from Berry, could develop. He had plenty of chances to open up the attack, but seldom fired the ball fast enough to his supports. His defence, however, was top rate. Wests skipper, Keith Holman, still showing the effects of a recent flu bout, was content to jog along, whilst the pick of the rival forwards were Hyde, Carson, Charlton (Wests), Bowman, Williams, Keevers (Canterbury) **(Truth 3rd April 1955)**

..... Wests best were forwards Ron Watson and Bill Carson, who were tireless in their efforts. International Keith Holman (Wests) was suffering from an attack of flu and was most subdued. Hookers Hec Farrell (Wests) and Fred Anderson (Canterbury) had a great hooking duel and finished 16 all in the scrums **(The Daily Telegraph 3rd April 1955)**

Our many followers will be pleased to know Ron Watson will be with the club next season. Ron who is still a young man has been in the country and he is confident of showing everyone that he is an improved player since last playing for Wests. Ron will play in the front row..... Another newcomer to our Club next year will be Monty Porter, a second rower from Tamworth. Monty, who is only 19 years old and fourteen stone, is a likely prospect. Monty played for the North Coast against England and was rated the best forward on the field. **(Rugby League News January 1955)** .... Former Western Suburbs centre Dev Dines has signed to play at Maitland this year. Dines originally came from the Newcastle area and will be quite at home at Maitland. **(Rugby League News March 1955)** ... One big gain is Orange second-rower Ron Potter who is reputed to be one of the best forwards to come out of the West. Ron played against Sydney in Country Firsts last year, and is a very likely type.... We have another very promising player in Port Macquarie full-back John Brest. John carries the recommendations of our old star Alan Brady who knows his footballers..... Don Collier could easily be one of the centres of the season. Don showed great promise in 1953, but a wrist injury set him back. Last season he played with the Waterside Workers, and showed such good form that he is back with us again. **(Rugby League News March 1955)**

**Notes:** There were a large number of new players across all grades. In this match winger, Bill Bailey, who had been trialling with English club Workington, Jim Plater (ex-Tamworth), Pat Hyde (ex-Balmain), and John Brest from Port Macquarie made their debuts, while Ron Watson came back from the country straight into the front row and played a very strong match. Bill Bailey, in particular, demonstrated his great potential with some good runs off limited opportunities. Bill Brown justified the big opinion of him with a best-on-ground performance. The game however was disjointed, with numerous penalties and scrums and in the end John Brest's goal-kicking made the difference.