



1945 Round 5 Saturday 19th May Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 18

def.

Newtown 14

Dick JOHNSON
Jack SNARE
Bob ANDREWS
Colin MAXWELL
Fred YANZ Jnr
Eric BENNETT
Jack RUSSELL
Arthur CLUES
Ken IBBETT
Cliff PEIME
Jack WALSH (c)
Ray WALDON
Wal TAYLOR

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

Tom KIRK
Norm JACOBSON
Sid GOODWIN
J FRAZER
Bill RABY
Pat BUGDEN
Tom NEVIN
Charles CAHILL
Herb NARVO
Keith PHILLIPS
Frank FARRELL (c)
Noel MULLIGAN
Gordon McLENNAN

Tries

Fred YANZ Jnr (2)
Bob ANDREWS
Jack RUSSELL

Charles CAHILL
Bill RABY

Goals

Ken IBBETT (2)
Bob ANDREWS (1)

Tom KIRK (3)
Bill RABY (1) Field Goal

Match Description

Newtown: Full-back: T Kirk; three-quarters: N Jacobson, S Goodwin, J Fraser, W Raby; halves: P Bugden, T Nevin; forwards: C Cahill, H Narvo, K Phillips, F Farrell, N Mulligan, G McLennan

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Johnson; three-quarters: J Snare, R Andrews, C Maxwell, F Yanz; halves: E Bennett, J Russell; forwards: A Clues, K Ibbett, C Peime, J Walsh, R Waldron, W Taylor **Referee: T McMahon (Rugby League News 2nd June 1945)**

Eric Bennett, Western Suburbs five-eighth, believes the presence of his wife and two small sons at the S.C.G. yesterday helped in his team's 18-14 victory over Newtown. Bennett contends, the moral support of his family, who were watching him for the first time in Sydney, gave him inspiration and enabled him to overcome his Sydney Cricket Ground hoodoo. Mrs. Bennett and the two small sons made the trip from Bathurst to see the game. The lads had been promised a trip to the Zoo by Wests' secretary, Lou Moses, if the side succeeded. Bennett said after the game: "I've never played well at the S.C.G. Something has always gone wrong." "With the missus and kids barracking today I simply could not let them down." Apart from one stage 15 minutes from time, when Newtown, as a result of a field goal and try by Raby, got within four points of Wests, Newtown never looked like winning. Wests decided to take Newtown on at their own steam-roller tactics in the forwards, and Maxwell, under, special instructions, stopped tank-runner Goodwin, before he got into his stride. Youthful winger Yanz beat McKinley for pace in scoring his two tries. A lucky bounce of the ball, which struck his wrist and then flew to his arms, gave him his first score. Keen anticipation provided with his second touch-down. Kirk (N.) had been hustled, and Yanz, in Harold Horder fashion, scouted near touch. Wests should have had the game sewn up at the half-time bell. Wests' players claimed that C. Peime scored a try under the posts as the half-time bell clanged. Early, in the second half Wests' half, J. Russell, ran like a rabbit from halfway. Andrews' kick hit the posts. Then came a typical backing-up try by Cahill. Newtown, down four points, began to fight. Ibbett kicked an easy goal and Kirk missed sitters. Then came a magnificent field goal by Raby. Andrews scored after a clever dribbling rush, and as the crowd commenced to leave the ground Raby went over under the posts following a high punt by Narvo. Wests hung on tenaciously in the final 10 minutes. They stormed the Newtown citadel for seven minutes. I regard the match as the best contest of the year. **(The Daily Telegraph 20th May 1945)**

League fans gave Wests a great welcome to the S.C.G. yesterday after a long, long absence, and the Westerners did the rest. They bottled the Blues, led from the jump, and won well, 18-14. It's been a long time between drinks for the Magpies, but they made their marble good. ... 'Duck'- Walsh led his ruckers on like a bunch of bull terriers. ... Waldron out-raked Mulligan and gave Wests' backs a glut of the pigskin. ...**(Truth 20th May 1945)**

Jack Russell played one of the outstanding games of his career on Saturday. His try was a gem, so much so that Mr Abrahams, a keen supporter, presented him with a £5 war bond....Jack Walsh is certainly a player above the ordinary, his bumping runs on Saturday always made ground. Jack's leadership has been an inspiration to the team. **(Rugby League News 26th May 1945)**

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Notes: Even though this was a ferocious forward clash, it was still a fast, open game. Ray Waldon won the scrums convincingly, giving Russell and Bennett lots of chances to set the backs going. Fred Yanz scored two brilliant tries, but Cliff Peime had one disallowed which most good judges thought was a try. Three in a row and Wests were back in business.