



1945 Round 6 Saturday 26th May Cricket Ground



Western Suburbs 13

def.

Eastern Suburbs 9

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

Rod CHAPMAN
 Johnny SMITH
 Paul TIERNEY
 Johnny HUNTER
 Lionel COOPER
 Wally O'CONNELL
 Sel LISLE
 Dick DUNN
 Bert ROLLASON
 Sid HOBSON
 Jack ARNOLD
 George WATT
 Ray STEHR (c)

Tries Fred YANZ Jnr (2)
 Jack WALSH

George WATT

Goals Ken IBBETT (1)
 Jack RUSSELL (1)

Dick DUNN (3)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Chapman; three-quarters: J. Smith, P Tierney, J Hunter, L. Cooper; halves, W O'Connell, S. Lisle; forwards: R. Dunn, B. Rollason, S. Hobson, J Arnold. G. Watt. R. Stehr

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R. Johnston; three-quarters. F. Yanz, C. Maxwell, R. Andrews, J. Snare; halves: E. Bennett. J. Russel; forwards: A. Clues, K. Ibbett, C. Peime, J. Walsh, R. Waldron, W Taylor. **Referee: G Bishop (Rugby League News 18th June 1945)**

Fielding its best side for a number of years Western Suburbs downed the previously unbeaten Eastern Suburbs League side by 13 to 9 at the SCG this afternoon. Forwards of both sides engaged in a strenuous struggle before a record crowd for the season of 40,293. The ball, with its smearing of mud, was difficult to handle, but even so there were some spectacular passing movements by both sides. About 36,000 saw the game open, exceeding the previous record for the season of 33, 216, Lisle kicked off and Wests were immediately defending. Suddenly a pass shot up from the ground to Walsh, who bolted down the blind side and scored. Ibbett's kick was high, but wide, and Wests led 3-0. ... Then came an extraordinary try to Wests. The ball was kicked down towards the Easts tryline, and Yanz flew after it. The ball went over Hunter's head and bounced back again in the direction of Yanz, who gathered it in, and nobody had a chance of stopping him in his 20 yards burst. Ibbett kicked this goal right dead in the centre over the crossbar, and Western Suburbs led 8-nil. Easts stayed in the Wests' 25 and from a little way outside it Dunn took a penalty kick from wide out, and the score was Western Suburbs 8-2. A penalty to Eastern Suburbs a little outside Wests 25 and Dunn placed the ball upright in the old Lomas style to loft it over the heads of two Western Suburbs men on the mark, but Wests were still in front. 8-4 ... Watt won the ball from the scrum and scored the try himself. It happened after the scrum had broken up, Stehr got the ball, tossed it on the blind-side to Smith, who passed back inside to Watt, and he staggered through forwards, carrying several with him as he went over the line. Dunn missed the goal and the scores were: Wests 8-7. At this exhilarating stage of the game a couple of fights broke out in the hill enclosure at the northern end of the ground. Half-time Scores: Wests 8, Easts 7.

..... Stehr now was of little use to his club, being unable to keep up with the movements. Johnston's deep kicking swung the game the other way right down into Easts territory. The best move of the game came when, from halfway, Peime, Snare, Clues and Snare again handled, but then Andrews got the ball, cut down the field only a few yards inside the touchline, through the defence, and to Yanz, and the winger raced over. Ibbett failed with his kick and Wests led 11-7. ... Inside the Wests' 25 and practically straight in front of the goal, was given a penalty kick and Dunn landed a simple goal. Western Suburbs 11-9. Western Suburbs increased its lead when Russell had a penalty kick from an angle just beyond Easts' 25. It was a good goal and Wests led 13-9. **(The Sun 26th May 1945)**

Bruce Brown wishes to be remembered to all his friends in Western Suburbs. Bruce is stationed on an island somewhere in the Pacific, and states that another old player in Stan Simpson is also on the island. **(Rugby League News 18th June 1945)**

Notes: This was Easts first loss of the season and a win that announced that Wests were a genuine contender. It was a rugged forward clash, with Jack Walsh right in the thick of it, many good judges saying it was his best game ever. Dick Johnson also reinforced his reputation as the best full-back in League. It was a close game right to the finish, with Easts blowing a try two minutes from the end. Wests, however, were the better team and deserved to win. A reminder that the war was still going on was the note from a very good winger and prolific try scorer in Bruce Brown, who was on an island somewhere in the Pacific.