



1954 Round 7 Saturday 26th April Kogarah Oval



St George 24

def.

Western Suburbs 12

Kevin O'BRIEN
Geoff WEEKES
Jim PYNE
Mervyn LEES
Ross KITE
Alan STAUNTON
Jack BAXTER
Norm PROVAN
Ray THOMPSON
Bob SMITH
Brian ORROCK
Ken KEARNEY (c)
Kevin BROWN

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

George BAIN
Kevin OWENS
Dev DINES
Bruce BURNETT
Barry OWEN
Don GRAHAM
Keith HOLMAN (c)
Nev CHARLTON
Bill CARSON
Bill OWENS
Max CALDWELL
Hec FARRELL
Doug SMITH



Tries Ross KITE (2)
Kevin BROWN
Merv LEES

Dev DINES
Keith HOLMAN

Goals Kevin O'BRIEN (4)
Ross KITE (2)

George BAIN (3)

Match Description

St George: Full-back: K O'Brien; three-quarters: G Weekes, J Pyne, M Lees, R Kite' five-eighth: A Staunton; half: J Baxter; forwards: N Provan, R Thompson, R Smith, B Orrock, K Kearney (capt), K Brown

Western Suburbs: Full-back: G Bain; three-quarters: K Owens, B Burnett, D Dines, B Owen; five-eighth: D Graham; half: K Holman (capt); forwards: N Charlton, W Carson, W Owens, M Caldwell, H Farrell, D Smith **Referee: J O'Brien (The Daily Mirror 26th April 1954)**

St. George Rugby League team yesterday survived a battering in the second half to defeat Western Suburbs at Kogarah Oval. St. George won 24-12, after having led 19-2 at half-time. In the first half St. George outclassed Wests in every department of the game. But in the second half Wests' fierce rallies surprised St. George, and had it defending desperately for 30 minutes. Feeble handling cost Wests three certain tries in the second half. Many times half-back Keith Holman penetrated the defence, and had his passes dropped. It was Saturday all over again for Holman. Late in the second half he tired of seeing his movements marred by poor handling. Holman then tried on his own, and scored a brilliant try near the bell. Wests' only other try came when centre Dev Dines picked up a dropped pass near the St. George line. St. George deserved its win. Despite losing the scrums 23-13, the forwards, especially lock Norm Provan, played well. Provan, playing in his natural, position, gave a flawless, non-stop performance. His fierce tackling and surprising speed demoralised the Wests centres. In the first half he crashed through three tackles, ran 30 yards, and passed to Ken Brown, who scored. **(The Daily Telegraph 27th April 1954)**

Wests won the toss and ran against a strong breeze. A kicking duel between the full-backs ended when O'Brien cross-kicked to Weekes and the ball went into touch at half-way. Weekes was cautioned for tackling Dines after he had kicked and Bain was wide with a kick from near touch on the 25. Baxter dodged ahead from a ruck on the Wests 25 and sent Lees racing over between the posts. Kite converted. St. George 5-nil. Staunton was injured and taken to the line and Lees played five-eighth with Provan in the centre until Staunton returned with his right wrist heavily bandaged. St. George pressed until a penalty helped Wests back toward half-way. From a scrum there Staunton went the blind side, flicked a pass behind him as Kite came infield and Kite sprinted over. Kite also converted. St. George 10-nil. St. George went 80 yards in a great move, in which Staunton followed a short kick, gathered and sent to Pyne, to Lees, to Kite, who was stopped inside Wests' 25. Carson, Dines and Caldwell took Wests to St. George's 25, and then Burnett made a smart dash. From 45 yards out Bain kicked a penalty goal. St George 10-2. A scrum penalty saw Kearney call up O'Brien as kicker and the full-back landed the goal from near touch. St George 12-2. Provan injured a shoulder but continued. Then Provan made a dash to send Brown over between the posts. O'Brien converted. St George 17, W. Subs 2.After the half-time bell had gone, O'Brien kicked his third goal, this time from 45 yards out. St. George 19-2. Half-time scores: St George 19, Western Suburbs 2. Farrell almost hustled his way over and after the touch judges disagreed on a kick by Bain, referee O'Brien awarded a goal. St George 19-4. Thompson made a charge and near halfway Kite flashed up on the inside to take a pass at top speed and sprint over between the posts. O'Brien converted. St. George 24-4. A dropped pass was swooped on by Dines 10 yards from the St. George line, and he strode in for an easy try. Bain converted. St. George 24-9. **(The Sun 26th April 1954)**

Notes: This was a significant match, marking the debut of the great Bill Carson who would go on to play over 100 matches. Wests were down 19-2 at half-time and 24-4 early in the second half but they stormed home to put St George under real pressure. In this period they bombed three tries, all dropped passes after Holman breaks. Keith Holman replicated his game from the Saturday and was again the best player on the ground.