



# 1909 Round 8 Saturday 10th July RAS Showground



## Western Suburbs 7

Tom PHELAN  
 Percy FRANKS  
 Claude McFAYDEN  
 James SPEIRS  
 Bill MEDCALF  
 Harry FLETCHER  
 Raymond GORMLEY  
 Ted MEAD (c)  
 Horace HERINGTON  
 Samuel SHAW  
 Alexander McCALLUM  
 Harry THOMSON  
 Robert ELLIS

## def.

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

## North Sydney 3

Bill WHITFIELD  
 W MAHER  
 Aney MORRIS  
 Albert BROOMHAM  
 A TIPPER  
 Selby McFARLANE  
 Os DEANE  
 J HUGGINS  
 A STEVENS  
 Arthur BOLLARD  
 Joe KENDALL  
 C SANDOW  
 S KING

**Tries** James SPEIRS

Os DEANE

**Goals** Bill MEDCALF (2)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** T. Phelan, full-back ; P. Franks, C McFadgen, Medcalf, J. Spears three-quarters ; R. Gormley, five - eighth ; E. Fletcher, half ; R. Ellis, T. Shaw, McCallum, Thompson, E. Meade, J. Herrington, forwards

**North Sydney:** W. Whitfield, full-back ; S. Banks, A. Morris, A. Broomham, A. Tipper, three-quarters ; S. McFarlane, five-eighth ; O. Dean. half ; S. King, H. Sandow, J. Kendall, A. Bollard, A. Stevens, E. Boland, forwards. **Mr. Bill Finegan, referee.**

The teams were half-an-hour late in appearing, Wests having some difficulty in getting their thirteen together. West won the toss and defended the northern end, even play following for five minutes. Spears, picking up. sprinted goal-wards and grounded the ball over the line. Medcalf added the goal points. West 5 to nil.

North Sydney were getting the ball from the scrum, but failed to make much headway, the passing being erratic. Clever passing by the Suburbs carried play to their opponents' territory, but good tackling by Norths saved a score. For picking the ball out of the scrum West were penalised. McFarlane had a shot at goal which failed. The ball was then worked to the other end of the ground, but the Suburbs' forwards kicked too hard, which' gave Whitfield a chance to force. Following the kick out Norths attacked, and a neat passing bout between the three-quarters saw Dean score their first try, which McFarlane failed to convert. Western Suburbs 5 to 3. Infringements were frequent, and the game ragged and unattractive. The antics of some of the players, too, were highly amusing, and in a measure compensated for the moderate display of football. Western Suburbs were successful in warding off further attacks by the Northerners, the scene of play at half-time being neutral territory. North Sydney had the better of the game for a quarter of an hour after re-starting. Play, however, was still loose and disjointed. Thompson, whom the onlookers appropriately dubbed the 'Baby Elephant,' was sent off the field, and thus the centre of attraction was gone. North Sydney were penalised for illegal interference by Banks, McFadgen, for Western Suburbs kicking a nice goal, which made the scores 7 to 3 in their favour. Norths tried hard to get in the lead, and were within an ace of getting over several times. Try as they would, they could not pierce the defence, Western Suburbs winning an unattractive game by 7 points to 3. **(Sunday Times July 11th 1909)**

The Western Suburbs-North Sydney match, timed to commence at 2 o'clock, did not start till 2.23, the former having difficulty in getting a team together. They were, however, too good; and won by 7 to 3 after one of the tamest displays of First Grade football seen on the ground. It was in reality a farce, the capers some of the players cut, and particularly Thompson, a man of immense proportions, who was eventually sent off, being ludicrous. Medcalf and Shaw showed best form for the winners, whilst Dean, Broomham and Bollard were the best of the losing side. **(Notes from Sunday Times July 11th 1909)**

Wests found it hard to raise a two o'clock team and had to press Tommo Thompson (who has been a jack of all sides this season) into service. Tommo is a great success with the hoodlum section of the crowd, and played up to a nicety, and finished getting bounced off the field for having a smack" **(Sportsman 14th July 1909)**

**Notes:** The game was delayed for half an hour as Wests tried to get a team together, not for the first time (see the notes on the previous game against Newcastle). Harry Thomson (called the 'Baby Elephant') was sent off for Wests. He was obviously a huge man. Harry Thomson had played for Easts in 1908 and was playing for Souths in 1909. Alexander McCallum, similarly, was playing for Souths. It's obvious that both were roped in to play for Wests. From the Sportsman comment it wasn't the first time Thomson had filled in for other teams. Bill Medcalf started his illustrious goal-kicking career.