



1945 Round 9 Saturday 30th June Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 18

def.

North Sydney 12

Dick JOHNSON
 Jack SNARE
 Colin MAXWELL
 Eric BENNETT
 Joe FAWKNER
 Jack RUSSELL
 Roy DREVES
 Arthur CLUES
 Cliff PEIME
 Jack WALSH (c)
 Jim SEERY
 Ray WALDON
 Wal TAYLOR

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

Doug DEITZ
 Johnny BLISS
 Frank COLLINS
 Cyril McMAHON
 Jack GRUBB
 Rex HARRISON (c)
 Johnny McLACHLAN
 Bill McLEAN
 R PEARSON
 Ken BENNETT
 Harry McKINNON
 Frank FACER
 Laurie DORAN

Tries

Joe FAWKNER (2)
 Jack SNARE (2)

Bill McLEAN
 Cyril McMAHON

Goals

Dick JOHNSON (2)
 Jack RUSSELL (1)

Doug DEITZ (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Johnson; three-quarters: J Snare, C Maxwell, E Bennett, J Fawkner; halves: R Dreves, J Russell; forwards: A Clues, C Peime, J Walsh, J Seery, R Waldron, W Taylor

North Sydney: Full-back: D Deitz; three-quarters: J Bliss, C McMahon, A J Collins, J Grubb; halves: R Harrison, J McLachlan; forwards: W McLean, R Pearson, K Bennett, R McKinnon, F Facer, L Doran **Referee: J O'Brien (The Sun 30th June 1945)**

Western Suburbs winger, Fawkner, scored two tries yesterday while suffering from slight concussion. Fawkner was knocked unconscious midway through the first half of the game against North Sydney at Pratten Park. The two tries he scored in the thrilling second half gave his team its 18-12 win. Ambulance men and Wests' head masseur, Billy Kelly, worked strenuously to get him back on the field for the second half. With the scores five-all at half-time, Wests badly needed him. Fawkner had the speed to finish off a brilliant move to give Wests a 12-10 advantage in the last 15 minutes. On the bell, he dribbled the ball over the line to score, and put the issue beyond doubt. Fawkner was playing his second grade game in three years. Wests should have had a more comfortable win. Clues, Russell, Maxwell, and Johnson missed numerous easy shots at goal. Play fluctuated from end to end in the second half. Fierce tackling by both teams saved likely tries. Best player on the field was Wests' five-eighth, Eric Bennett. Clues, Peime, and Walsh were the pick of Wests' pack. McMahon stood out in a brilliant display for Norths. His try was the best of the day. Bliss aroused the ire of both spectators and the referee by his unnecessary tackling after the whistle. McLean and Pearson stood out among a hard-working pack of forwards. **(The Daily Telegraph 1st July 1945)**

Staging one of the most thrilling and exciting finishes for years; Wests snatched an 18 points to 12 victory from Norths practically on the post, yesterday, at Pratten Park. Each team played scintillating football during the last 20 minutes and with fortunes fluctuating, the 8000 fans got a wonderful trot for their money. The display after lemons was a distinct contrast to the first stanza when Referee J. O'Brien blew a merry tune on his tooter, handing out penalties and speakeasies to all and sundry. The Shoremen owe their defeat to their weakness in defence, particularly the inside backs, while the forwards rarely functioned as a team. Eric Bennett, who played as centre early, but changed to five-eighth, was the best player on ground. He was the pivot of all attacking movements, displayed great football intuition and ubiquity in both defence and attack. W. Suburbs' flank men, J. Snare and J. Fawkner were both dashing and resourceful. It proves how well Wests' inside backs performed their tasks for both wingers to score a brace of fine tries. Col. Maxwell was a tower of strength in defence, while Dick Johnson was a safe and reliable custodian. A. Clues, who started shakily, improved as the pace was on, and with C. Peime and J. Walsh was racing about like a back in the closing stages. J. Bliss was Norths' outstanding player, often tackling three men in some of Wests' attacking sorties and always on the lookout for the least semblance of an opening. **(Truth 1st July 1945)**

Notes: This was an exciting match decided close to the bell when Joe Fawkner scored his second try. It was a remarkable effort as he had been knocked unconscious in the first half and came back on in the second half, obviously suffering concussion, but still scored two tries. Not a bad effort for a man playing his first game in Firsts since 1942! Eric Bennett was back to his brilliant best, easily the best player on the field. Col Maxwell enhanced his reputation as the best defender in Rugby League with another ferocious tackling display. Ray Waldon played, so obviously wasn't suspended from the week before.