



1945 Semi Final Saturday 18th August Cricket Ground



Eastern Suburbs 28

def.

Western Suburbs 13

Ray PRATT
Lionel COOPER
Paul TIERNEY
Ken FOSTER
Johnny HUNTER
Wally O'CONNELL
Sel LISLE
Dick DUNN
Jack ARNOLD
Sid HOBSON
Wally REES
George WATT
Ray STEHR (c)

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

Dick JOHNSON
Jack SNARE
Arthur CLUES
Bob ANDREWS
Alf CARDY
Colin MAXWELL
Jack RUSSELL
Don MILTON
Jim SEERY
Cliff PEIME
Jack WALSH (c)
Ray WALDON
Wal TAYLOR



Tries Paul TIERNEY (3)
Lionel COOPER (2)
Dick DUNN

Arthur CLUES
Colin MAXWELL
Jack SNARE

Goals Dick DUNN (5)

Bob ANDREWS (2)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Johnson; three-quarters: J Snare, A Clues, R Andrews, A Cardy; halves: R Maxwell, J Russell; forwards: D Milton, J Seery, C Peime, J Walsh, R Waldron, W Taylor

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: R Pratt; three-quarters: L Cooper, P Tierney, K Foster, J Hunter; halves: W O'Connell, S Lisle; forwards: R Dunn, J Arnold, S Hobson, W Rees, G Watt, R Stehr **Referee: T McMahon (Rugby League News 25th August 1945)**

Walsh's elephantine battering barges had Easts wobbly in the early stages of the Easts-Wests Leagues semi at the Cricket Ground yesterday. At the spell the Westerners looked like going places. Then Lisle, Easts' half, went to town and made things hum. He cut more holes in Wests' defence than you'd find in a colander and paved the way for a grand Easts win 28-13. Bennett's non-appearance was a bombshell for Wests. Maxwell took his posy and Clues went into the centre. This meant robbing Peter to pay Paul. Clues wasn't so hot as a centre, and Milton was too slow to nab Lisle. Lisle woke up to the barrage on O'Connell and began to scintillate in devastating solo runs. His rocket-like thrusts opened Wests' backs like a concertina, and Tierney, who played a whale of a game, and Dunn, followed him like bloodhounds. That's why Tierney was able to flash across for a trio of tries. He used his head and found the empty spaces vacated by Clues and Andrews. Twice Maxwell and Andrews allowed themselves to be drawn by O'Connell, and Tierney flashed through on the inside, took the pill at his top and planted it beneath the bar. Walsh's early dash was devastating. Later it became methodless barging where it didn't pay. He was done like Sunday's roast at the finish. Cooper pleased Easts' fans by a return to his best form. He ran strongly and brushed aside weak tackles. Seery's attempt to stop his opening try brought tears to Wests' supporters. Maxwell was too close to the scrum to show his best. Once he slipped outside of Andrews and paved the way for Clues to cross. It was a fine run. Pity there were not more. ... Snare showed a fine turn of speed in his one real dash, when he ran round Foster to score. He should have been given more of the play. Johnson is a catch and kick fullback. He ran more than usual yesterday, but lacks the zip to start a real three-quarter run. True, he did make the opening for Maxwell to score, but he made a mess of many other attempts. A little more devil in his one attempt to go over would most likely have added to the score. His tackling was very feeble. ... Russell played splendidly until the second half, when he was outclassed by Lisle. He deserved a better fate with his snappy grubber kicks. Too frequently he was blocked by obstructionist tactics. The forwards staged a battle of giants for most of the game. Walsh bumped 'em all big and small, but it's about time the opposition took a tumble, went low and saved themselves a tumble. It's a mug's game standing up to the two-ton tony's but they can't run without legs. Waldron hooked well and played well and George Watt, though a little fiery at times, must be given the palm for a fine ninety minutes' display. He's on the ball as if attached by a string. (Truth 19th August 1945)

Clues said after the game "I'm through with the three-quarter job. I'm too far away from the play. I readily filled a breach, but for the last time." (The Daily Telegraph 19th August 1945)

Notes: The last-minute withdrawal of Eric Bennett, who missed the train from Bathurst, caused a major reshuffle. Arthur Clues went to centre and said after the game, "Never again." Col Maxwell went into five-eighth, Don Milton to lock and Jim Seery to the second row. The movement of Clues was of particular significance as he wasn't close enough to stifle the brilliant Easts' half, Sel Lisle, who was able to run riot in the second half. It was a rugged forward clash, with Walsh right in the thick of it but the reshuffle certainly made it difficult for cohesion. Wests had beaten Easts in both rounds of the premiership so the loss was particularly galling.