



1966 4th Place Play-off Tuesday 23rd August Sports Ground



Newtown 20

Brian GRAHAM
 Dick QUINN
 Ross BULLOCK
 Bob KEYES
 Bob LANIGAN
 Bob CARNEGIE
 Peter NOBBS
 Les BOYLE
 Graham WILSON
 Paul CUNEO
 Bruce OLIVE
 Clarrie JEFFREYS
 Paul QUINN (c)

def.

Western Suburbs 5

Ken BRAY
 John MOWBRAY
 Gil MacDOUGALL
 Peter DIMOND
 John ELFORD
 Rob McGUINNESS
 Pat THOMAS
 Barry BRYANT
 John HAYES
 Glen BROWN
 Denis MEANEY (c)
 Noel THORNTON
 Alan ALLISON



Tries Bob CARNEGIE (2)
 Paul CUNEO
 Bob LANIGAN

Noel THORNTON

Goals Bob LANIGAN (4)

Ken BRAY (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: K Bray; three-quarters: J Mowbray, P Dimond, G MacDougall, J Elford; five-eighth: R McGuinness; half: P Thomas; forwards: B Bryant, J Hayes, G Brown, D Meaney, N Thornton, A Allison

Newtown: Full-back: B Graham; three-quarters: R Quinn, R Bullock, R Keyes, R Lanigan; five-eighth: R Carnegie; half: P Nobbs; forwards: L Boyle, G Wilson, P Cuneo, B Olive, C Jeffreys, P Quinn (c) **Referee: W Kelly (The Sun 23rd August 1966 + newspaper validation)**

Newtown yesterday beat Western Suburbs 20-5 in the play-off for fourth position and qualified to meet Manly-Warringah in the first Rugby League semi-final on Saturday. The match at the Sports Ground was disappointing as a spectacle, with a very scraggy first half. Nevertheless, it was a solid performance by the Newtown players, who scored four tries to Wests' one. ... Dick Poole, in his first season as coach of Newtown (he had played for Newtown and later for Wests) was overwhelmed with congratulations yesterday on having had his team battle through to the major fixtures. Wests' player-coach, Noel Kelly, under suspension, yesterday was a disconsolate figure; he had had to watch his team play drably for much of the time. Wests sorely missed Kelly's constructive play around rucks and his cleverness in the scrums. It also missed the fiery tackling of second-rower Jim Cody, out through injury. Newtown's feast of the ball through veteran hooker Clarrie Jeffreys' 10-3 scrum success in the first half was a decisive factor, even though the team led only 5-nil at half-time. The consistent pressure took toll on Wests' physical strength and morale; but Wests did unwind a spirited rally in the second spell after being down 15-nil. The first half had produced a good deal of scruffing and vicious high tackling; some Wests' men seemed to become desperate as scrums were lost. But Wests still held Newtown to a penalty goal by winger Bob Lanigan and a try by Paul Cuneo (after a burst by the other second-rower Graham Wilson had put his team into an attacking position). But before the second half was far advanced Newtown five-eighth Bob Carnegie rushed on two tries within six minutes. Wests looked washed-up, with centres Gil MacDougall and Peter Dimond unimpressive and some of the forwards missing tackles. But they won a series of scrums and 14 minutes from the end hooker Noel Thornton ran hard for a try, going through limping full-back Graham's tackle. Half-back Pat Thomas was Wests' smartest back. But Glen Brown and Alan Allison were not good enough substitutes for Cody and Kelly. ...**(Sydney Morning Herald 24th August 1966)**

Newtown Rugby League team yesterday unceremoniously trundled Western Suburbs out of the premiership. Newtown defeated Wests 20-5 at Sydney Sports Ground in a one-sided play-off for fourth place in the competition.....Two snap tries in the first 11 minutes after half-time sealed Wests' fate. ..."After Sunday's match against Balmain, our mob were jaded enough when the game started," Kelly said. "At half-time we were really exhausted. I don't care what the score was. I thought Wests did well enough to even raise a gallop in the second half, when they looked pretty good for a while." With 14 minutes of the match left, Wests' hooker Noel Thornton ran 30 yards through three or four defenders to score.....Yesterday's game had a fiery start, a mass caution coming from referee Bill Kelly as early as the second minute.....Wests sorely missed the toughness of captain Noel Kelly and second-rower Jim Cody in the heavy going around the rucks. Hooker Noel Thornton and lock Barry Bryant did more than their fair share of work, but Newtown had too much of the ball to be denied..... **(Daily Telegraph 24th August 1966)**

Notes: The toll of backing-up from the torrid Sunday clash against Balmain and the loss of Noel Kelly (suspended) and Jim Cody (injured) was too much to overcome for a plucky Wests' side. Down 15-0, they rallied and for a time looked to be in the match but as Noel Kelly said, they were exhausted by half-time and, with a significant deficit in the scrums, couldn't hold on to finish off an injury-plagued season.