



1937 Round 1 Saturday 17th April North Sydney Oval



Western Suburbs 10

def.

North Sydney 5

Jim SHARMAN
 Adrian GLEESON
 Ron KNIGHT
 Cliff PEARCE (c)
 Ray HINES
 Albert McGUINNESS
 Jack KNOX*
 Don MURRAY
 Ray GILLAM
 Don GULLIVER
 Athol SMITH
 Edward MURPHY
 Herbert HAAR

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

Doug DEITZ
 Grantley BENNETT
 Laurie WARD (c)
 Jack McDONOUGH
 Arch CRIPPIN
 Rex HARRISON
 Roy THOMPSON
 N MCKENZIE
 J KIRBY
 Sid HARMER
 Bill BREWER
 Fred NOLAN
 Harry MCKINNON

Tries Albert McGUINNESS
 Jim SHARMAN

Laurie WARD

Goals Albert McGUINNESS (1)
 Jim SHARMAN (1) Field Goal

Roy THOMPSON (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: J Sharman; three-quarters: A Gleeson, C Pearce (capt), R Knight, R Hines; halves: A McGuinness, J Knox; forwards: D Murray, R Gillam, D Gulliver, A Smith, E Murphy, H Haar

North Sydney: Full-back: D Deitz; three-quarters: G Bennett, L Ward (capt), J McDonough, A Crippin; halves: R Harrison, R Thompson; forwards: N McKenzie, S Harmer, J Kirby, R McKinnon, F Nolan, W Brewer **Referee: P Lee (Rugby League News 17th April 1937)**

A crowd of 6000 at North Sydney Oval saw Western Suburbs gain a meritorious victory over North Sydney, after a closely contested match. Deprived of possession from the scrums, the Western Suburbs forwards and inside backs presented such a solid defence that North Sydney was rarely dangerous in combined movements. North Sydney's captain, Ward, tried valiantly to rally his backs, but he himself had the attentions of the opposing skipper, Pearce, with which to contend. An injury to his back subdued Ward in the second half, but just before the close, he came into prominence again in a great dash which almost saved the game for North Sydney. He reached the full-back only to see his pass fumbled by a forward, who had come through in support. North Sydney led at half-time by three points to two, and Thompson increased the advantage with a penalty goal, soon after resuming. Then Sharman, who had opened West's score with a neat field goal, and scored a try from his position of full-back, by following through after kicking, and claiming possession when Deitz failed to take the ball. McGuinness appeared to take the ball from Crippin near North Sydney's line, when he scored the final try.The new hooker, Murphy, although beaten for the ball by Nolan, did well in general play, and another country gain in Gulliver gave a fine display. Haar improved on his trial match efforts, and Murray, Gillam, and Smith all tackled soundly. McGuinness and Knox, who replaced the injured halves, Mead and White, performed well, although given few chances to set their three-quarters moving. Pearce played splendidly as ever in the centre, and Sharman, after an uncertain start, gave a bright exhibition. ... **(The Sydney Morning Herald 19th April 1937)**

Don Gulliver was regarded as a certainty for the First Grade side after his game with the Reserves in the last official trial..... Don, who has not yet reached his majority, made every post a winner in the match last Saturday, and good judges remarked how fortunate Wests have been keen to secure such a good type of young player. He played against the Englishmen at Parkes last season, and will be keen to meet them in England should it be his good fortune to gain selection. **(Rugby League News 24th April 1937)**

Pat White was absent from Wests firsts last Saturday week, owing to an injured knee, and Jack Knox was brought up from the Reserves to fill the bill. He did it well, and must be congratulated on his game. Last season Jack played with the Third Grade side and, prior to playing grade football, he was a member of the Homebush Club affiliated with the Western Suburbs Junior League. **(Rugby League News 26th April 1937)**

Herb Haar, who represented the Southern Districts against the Englishmen last season and joined with Western Suburbs this year, has now struck great form. Herb is good front-row forward, and a fine rucker. Wests are pleased to have his services. **(Rugby League News May 1st 1937)**

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Notes: This was an unusual season with the Kangaroos leaving for the tour of England. This meant the Premiership would be decided in eight matches and the second round would be a resurrected City Cup concept. New imports included Don Gulliver from Dubbo, Herb Haar from Leeton, Jack Knox and Adrian Gleeson from the Reserves and the mysterious Edward Murphy from Maitland who played this one match and then returned to Maitland. He mysteriously didn't appear in the Annual Report but definitely played in this match. Cliff Pearce led a very strong early performance and this was a good win to open the season. *Jack Knox, for a yet undetermined reason, played in the early 1940s as Jack Grahame.