



1941 Round 1 Saturday 19th April Leichhardt Oval



Western Suburbs 15

def.

Balmain 5

Bill KEATO
 Bruce BROWN
 Jack WHITEHURST
 Norm PARKINSON
 Colin FEWTRELL
 Jack GRAHAME/KNOX
 Albert McGUINNESS
 Jim RUTHERFORD (c)
 Tom SLATTERY
 Jack HUXLEY
 Jack SCHUBACK
 Ken LOCK
 Jack PIPER

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

Hec DAY
 Sid GOODWIN
 Frank HYDE (c)
 Jack WINCHESTER
 Arthur PATTON
 Gil BOX
 Jim QUEALEY
 Johnny BROWN
 Bill JOHNSON
 Athol SMITH
 Dawson BUCKLEY
 A BOWREY
 Frank GRIFFITHS

Tries Norm PARKINSON
 Albert McGUINNESS
 Colin FEWTRELL

Arthur PATTON

Goals Bill KEATO (2)
 Albert McGUINNESS (1)

Bill JOHNSON (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: W Keato; three-quarters: B Brown, J Whitehurst, N Parkinson, C Fewtrell; halves: J Grahame, A McGuinness; forwards: J Schuback, J Piper, K Lock, J Huxley, T Slattery, J Rutherford (capt)

Balmain: Full-back: H Day; three-quarters: S Goodwin, F Hyde (capt), J Winchester, A Patton; halves: G Box, J Quealey; forwards: J Brown, W Johnson, A Smith, F Griffiths, A Bowrey, D Buckley **Referee: J McGauley (Rugby League News 25th April 1941)**

.... McGuinness was working hard behind the Western Suburbs pack. Western Suburbs' forwards were now packing better and were winning the majority of the ball from the scrums and rucks. Patton scored a brilliant try for Balmain. Day drop-kicked for goal, but the ball was charged down to Patton. He snapped up the ball and, although tackled, rolled over for a try. Quealey missed the kick from an easy position. Balmain 5, Western Suburbs 2. Balmain was now attacking strongly, the ball going from wing to wing, with Western Suburbs defending strongly. Half-time came with the score unaltered. Half-time scores: Balmain 5, Western Suburbs 2. A sensation occurred when Goodwin and Piper exchanged punches. Both were sent off. ... Western Suburbs increased its score when Fewtrell crossed a corner. Keato kicked a grand goal. Western Suburbs 15, Balmain 5. Hyde was again injured, and left the field. **(The Sun 19th April 1941)**

Before Wests brilliantly defeated Balmain 15-5 at Leichhardt Oval, a free fight threatened to develop. Half way through the second half Goodman (Balmain) and Piper (Wests) traded punches. It looked as if several forwards would join in, but referee McGauley promptly restored order by sending Goodwin and Piper off the field. Balmain led 5-2 at half-time. Johnson kicked a penalty goal and Patton intercepted and flew in to score. West's two points came from a penalty goal by Keato. Balmain missed two "sitter" tries in the second half. Patton lost the ball when over the line, and Bowrey dropped an easy pass under the posts. Nevertheless, Wests played dazzling football, and brilliant tries by McGuinness and Fewtrell put the result beyond doubt. McGuinness was again Wests' star back. He overshadowed his vis-a-vis, Box. Fewtrell, Whitehurst, and Grahame were best of the other backs. Schuback, Locke, and Slattery were the pick of a sterling pack of forwards. Best player on the field was Hec. Day, Balmain fullback. He played faultlessly until he tired towards the end of the game. Hyde was injured early and became a "passenger." Quealey was much below his best form. The attendance was about 5000. **(The Daily Telegraph 20th April 1941)**

The new players in the side acquitted themselves creditably and Captain Jim Rutherford at the interval rectified certain errors that were being made; consequently, Wests played together more as a team in the second half. **(Rugby League News 25th April 1941)** Although the club had the misfortune to lose the graded centre forward, E Mewton, through injuries, we are particularly fortunate in having a very capable replacement in Ken Lock. Ken played an exceptionally good game on Saturday against Balmain, besides gaining a major portion of the ball from the scrums....Front-row forward Jack Piper is a serious loss to the side, he having incurred the referee's displeasure last Saturday and has been suspended for one match. **(Rugby League News 26th April 1941)**

Notes: This was a good start to the season with another revamped team. Jim Rutherford (ex-St George) came in as captain, while Jack Huxley (ex-Newtown and recently the bush), Tom Slattery and Norm Parkinson also made debuts. Slattery made a good impression with his speed in setting up Parkinson's try. Ken Lock, back in the hooking position, won the scrums well and allowed "Podgy" McGuinness to continue his great form from 1940. Balmain missed a couple of easy chances in the second half but Wests scored a couple of brilliant tries. Sid Goodwin and Jack Piper had a big punch-up in the second half which almost erupted into an all-in brawl but the referee solved the problem by sending them both off. Piper received a one match suspension. Jack Knox continued to play under the name Jack Grahame.