



# 1939 Round 1 Saturday 22nd April Pratten Park



## North Sydney 15

def.

## Western Suburbs 8

Jack GRUBB  
 Grantley BENNETT  
 Fred DHU  
 Arch CRIPPIN  
 Dave McERLANE  
 J MEYER  
 Rex HARRISON (c)  
 Jackie FISHER  
 Bruce McPHAIL  
 Gerald SCULLY  
 Bill BREWER  
 Leo REILLY  
 Harry MCKINNON

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

Jim SHARMAN  
 Fred BABER  
 Oswald MITCHELL  
 Colin FEWTRELL  
 Bill PURCELL  
 Cal LYNCH  
 Albert McGUINESS  
 Don GULLIVER  
 Edward MEWTON  
 Fred McKEAN  
 Don MURRAY  
 Ken LOCK  
 Jack PIPER



**Tries** Fred DHU (2)  
 Jackie FISHER

Colin FEWTRELL  
 Albert McGUINESS

**Goals** Rex HARRISON (3)

Jim SHARMAN (1)

### Match Description

**North Sydney:** Full-back: J Grubb; three-quarters: G Bennett, F Dhu, A Crippin, D McErlane; halves: J Meyer, R Harrison; forwards: J Fisher, R McPhail, G Scully, R McKinnon, L Reilly, W Brewer

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Sharman (capt); three-quarters: W Purcell, G Mitchell, C Fewtrell, F Baber; halves: C Lynch, A McGuiness; forwards: D Gulliver, E Mewton, F McKean, D Murray, K Lock, J Piper **Referee: J McGauley (Rugby League News April 29th 1939)**

... Western Suburbs commenced the game from the southern end into the wind, and rushed into enemy territory. ... A strong run by Mitchell gained ground for Wests, but Harrison regained it with a raking kick. Offside in a scrum by Norths enabled Sharman to put his side on the offensive again, and Gulliver then broke through and carried the ball to Norths' 25. A scrum infringement gave Western Suburbs a second penalty. Mitchell missed with the kick. Western Suburbs were doing all of the attacking now. From a scrum in North Sydney's half, the ball went from McGuiness to Mitchell, to Fewtrell, to Baber, who was stopped five yards from the goal-line. .... Baber was nearly over, just afterwards, when he received from Fewtrell, but Grubb stopped him near the touchline. Harrison made a wonderful run to halfway where he short-punted after which Sharman "stiff-armed" him. Mitchell was injured in the movement and had to retire. From the penalty Harrison landed a goal and the score was Western Suburbs 2, North Sydney nil. Mitchell resumed his position after five minutes. Later a penalty relieved Western Suburbs momentarily, but North Sydney kept up a consistent attack, which was soon rewarded by a score. Meyer got the bail, sent to Grippen who, when stopped, passed perfectly to Fisher, who sailed over in the corner. Harrison's kick hit the upright and North Sydney led 5-nil. North Sydney again went to the attack with a succession of back movements and were not long in increasing their tally. The ball came out to Dhu, who flew through to score near the posts. Harrison converted. North Sydney 10, Western Suburbs nil. After Harrison failed with a penalty kick, his side continued to attack strongly. North Sydney was still attacking when half-time came. Half-time scores: North Sydney, 10, Western Suburbs nil.

Mitchell, with an injured knee, did not return to the field, Gulliver dropping back. .... Fisher was injured and had to leave the field permanently, apparently suffering from mild concussion, .... When North Sydney drop-kicked out just after, Fewtrell gathered to go through and score. Lynch failed at goal, and North Sydney was in front 10 to 3. .... A penalty enabled Sharman to drop-kick a goal. North Sydney 10, Western Suburbs 5. .... Dhu scored magnificently after McErlane and Constable threw to half-way. Harrison converted. North Sydney 15, Western Suburbs 5. Mewton gathered the ball, to go ahead and send on to Purcell, who, however, was forced into touch. McGuinness went across from a ruck to score wide out. Smith missed the goal just as the full-time bell went, and North Sydney had won 15-8. **(The Sun April 22nd 1939)**

Bad luck in regards to accidents is still dogging our footsteps, as Jack Schuback, that sterling front row forward, is out of action on account of a sprained ankle; Max Gray, lock forward, who has returned from three seasons in the country, where he coached Cowra to Maher Cup victory last season, is out with a twisted knee, sustained against Canterbury-Bankstown a fortnight ago. Vice-Captain Stan Simpson is hors de combat with a fractured rib.....the two selected centres Colin Fewtrell and Don Peel, were both unable to take the field on Saturday last, owing to illness. **(Rugby League News April 22nd 1939)**

Snowy McKean played his initial grade game on Saturday; he certainly takes matters seriously and once he grips them they stay gripped. He is filling the position of Stan Simpson who was injured. Here's hoping he is successful. Rather a big job. **(Rugby League News April 25th 1939)**

**Notes:** Wests had already been significantly affected by injuries in Trial matches, losing Stan Simpson for example. The loss of Athol Smith, Wests' best forward, to Balmain was also extremely significant. Oswald Mitchell, on debut, injured his knee and had to leave the field. Fred McKean also made his debut. This was a keenly contested match but the writing was on the wall that this was going to be a long season.