



# 1943 Round 1 Saturday 24th April Leichhardt Oval



## Balmain 13

def.

## Western Suburbs 9

Hec DAY  
 Arthur PATTON  
 Merv DENTON  
 Jack WINCHESTER  
 Johnny BLISS  
 Gil BOX  
 George ENDYCOTT  
 Dawson BUCKLEY  
 Tom FRENEY  
 Jack SPENCER  
 Athol SMITH  
 E BENNETT  
 Jack HAMPSTEAD

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

Dick JOHNSON  
 Bruce BROWN  
 Jack WHITEHURST  
 Stan EISENHUTH  
 Henry MARTIN  
 Eric BENNETT  
 Albert McGUINESS (c)  
 Arthur CLUES  
 Gerald BEGLEY  
 Ron CAMPBELL  
 Wal TAYLOR  
 William BROWN  
 Fred McKEAN



**Tries** Johnny BLISS  
 Jack HAMPSTEAD  
 Arthur PATTON

Arthur CLUES (2)  
 Eric BENNETT

**Goals** Merv DENTON (2)

### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back: H Day; three-quarters: A Patton, J Winchester, M Denton, J Bliss; halves: G Box, G Endycott; forwards: D Buckley, T Freney, J Spencer, A Smith, E Bennett, J Hampstead

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: R Johnson; three-quarters: B Brown, J Whitehurst, S Isenhuth, H Martin; halves: E J Bennett, A McGuinness; forwards: A Clues, J Begley, R Campbell, F McKean, W Brown, W Taylor **Referee: A Oxford (Rugby League News 1st May 1943)**

Attendance was estimated at 4500. Balmain opened with a passing rush which took play into West's 25. A. Patton ran well and gained ground, but Wests got out of trouble with a free. Wests attacked and A. McGuinness, securing from a scrum, went to B. Brown, who in-passed to A. Clues, who scored. E. Bennett missed the goal. Wests 3-nil. A dropped pass by R. Johnson, who had come up to make the extra back, saw J. Hampstead pick up to score an easy try. M. Denton converted. Balmain 5-3. Balmain attacked solidly. M. Denton sent a long pass to A. Patton, who beat both B. Brown and R. Johnston and scored in the corner. G. Endycott missed the goal. Balmain 8, Wests 3. From loose play, J. Bliss picked up and scored under the post for M. Denton to goal. Balmain 13, Wests 3. Half-time scores: Balmain 13, Western Suburbs 3.

Wests reduced the leeway when McGuinness sent E. Bennett over. Bennett failed to convert the try. Balmain 13, Wests 3. A. McGuinness, picking up in the loose, sent to J. Begley, to A. Clues, who scored, but failed to convert. Balmain 13, Wests 9. Balmain were awarded a free right in front of the post, but the trickiness of the wind caused M. Denton to miss. With only minutes to go, McKean missed from within the twenty-five. **(The Sun 24th April 1943)**

Balmain's 'canaries,' ably led by Merv Denton, played like fighting cocks to hold off determined bids by Wests at Leichhardt yesterday. They won 13-9. Each side scored three tries, but two good goals by Denton, who was the inspiration, clinched victory for Balmain. Patton and Winchester also did well. Isenhuth and Bennett were the stars of Wests' backs. Clues, with two tries to his credit, was always prominent in the forwards. Arthur Oxford's tootling—he recalled what appeared to be two legitimate tries—earned outspoken dissent. **(Truth 25th April 1943)**

Bad handling and failure to use the wind to advantage cost Western Suburbs in their game 13-9 against Balmain, at Leichhardt Oval yesterday. Two tries were lost through knock-ons. Referee Oxford repeatedly penalised Wests when they were in a winning position, mostly for scrum breaches. With Western Suburbs winning a greater share of the scrums, McGuinness (Wests' half) kept his backs moving, but too many passes were misjudged. ... Clues and McKean were the pick of Wests' pack, and Martin the best back. **(The Daily Telegraph 25th April 1943)**

Owing to war conditions, the traditional black and white jersey has had to go for the duration, and our colours will be all black....a gain to our team, which will please our many followers, is Dick Johnson, State full-back, who is showing rare form....two newcomers to Rugby League included in our First side are A Clues, lock, and J Begley, second row. Both these men are young, and we have great hopes of them developing into top-class players...J Whitehurst, who showed great promise in 1941, is again with us, and his inclusion has added extra strength to our three-quarter line....another new face is that of S Isenhuth, a centre from Tamworth, and, on his form in the trials, should be an outstanding gain to our team. **(Rugby League News 24th April 1943)**

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**Notes:** The start of the new year meant an influx of new players: Dick Johnson (ex-Souths and NSW full-back), Jack Whitehurst returning to the club and the debuts of Gerald Begley, Stan Eisenhuth and the mighty Arthur Clues. This was a very close fought game which was basically decided by Wests' errors. Two of Balmain's tries were scored from dropped passes. Wests were playing in all black jerseys due to war-time restrictions.