



# 1964 Round 1 Sunday 5th April Leichhardt Oval



## Balmain 17

Keith BARNES (C)  
 Bob RIDLEY  
 Bill BISCHOFF  
 Col SANDERCOCK  
 Bob MARA  
 Doug MOORE  
 Laurie FAGAN  
 Peter PROVAN  
 Bob BOLAND  
 Graeme MacDOUGALL  
 Ken NOBLE  
 Dick WILSON  
 George PIPER

def.

## Western Suburbs 14

Don PARISH  
 John MOWBRAY  
 Gil MacDOUGALL  
 Rob McGUINNESS  
 Peter DIMOND  
 Roger BUTTENSCHAW  
 Don MALONE  
 Jim CODY  
 Don HALL  
 John HAYES  
 Denis MEANEY  
 Ken OWENS  
 Noel KELLY (c)  
 Ken BRAY



### Tries

Bill BISCHOFF  
 Bob MARA  
 George PIPER

John MOWBRAY  
 Ken OWENS

### Goals

Laurie FAGAN (4)

Don PARISH (2)  
 Ken BRAY (2)

### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back: K Barnes (c); three-quarters: R Ridley, W Bischoff, C Sandercock, R Mara; five-eighth: D Moore; half: L Fagan; forwards: P Provan, R Boland, G MacDougall, K Noble, R Wilson, G Piper

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: D Parish; three-quarters: J Mowbray, R McGuinness, G MacDougall, P Dimond; five-eighth: R Buttenshaw; half: D Malone; forwards: J Cody, J Hayes, D Hall, D Meaney, K Owens, N Kelly (c) **Referee: J Harris (as per program Rugby League News 4th/5th April 1964 + newspaper validation)**

Balmain Rugby League team scraped to a lucky 17-14 win over a 12-man Western Suburbs side at Leichhardt Oval yesterday. A try, three minutes from the finish, ended Wests' hopes of scoring a gallant win over a team they had outplayed for most of the gruelling match. Wests had to play with only 12 men for 54 minutes after referee Jack Harris ordered heavyweight prop Denis Meaney off the field. Meaney will appear before the League's judiciary committee tonight, charged with deliberate kicking. He was sent off 26 minutes after the start, following a melee near the Balmain line. Wests then led 4-3. A punch was thrown by a Balmain prop at a Wests' player on the ground, and Meaney rushed in. Balmain prop George Piper reeled back and fell to the ground clutching his back. In addition to the loss of Meaney, Wests had to replace full-back Don Parish (torn knee ligaments) at half-time. The match, a spirited bruising affair, kept the crowd of 14,400 excited when it seemed likely that Wests would overcome their handicap and score a well-earned win. ...Five minutes from the finish Balmain backs were caught off-side and from the penalty kick, wide of the posts, Balmain gained possession and scored. Balmain captain Keith Barnes came into the movement, broke the first line of defence and sent to centre Colin Sandercock. This slimly built newcomer to the centre position capped a fine match by racing down the sideline and, as he fell in a tackle, sent out a pass to Bob Mara who had come infield. Mara took the ball and with the Balmain fans now screaming, dived over for a try as two desperate tackles by Wests' defenders caught him. This gave Balmain a one point lead and the match was safe when Wests were caught off-side and half-back Laurie Fagan, who had taken over the goal-kicking from Keith Barnes, landed his fourth goal from five attempts. There were complaints after the match from both dressing rooms of referee Harris' handling of the game. He is one of the "new boys" brought up this season by the Referees' Appointments Board and some of his rulings led to confusion. He was lax with the off-side, particularly in the rucks, and missed several glaring forward passes – one late in the match which nearly resulted in a Balmain try. Wests led 7-3 at half-time after both teams had scored a try, Bischoff, for Balmain, after a break by Sandercock and a brilliant individual effort by Wests' winger John Mowbray. Ken Bray, who took Parish's place in the second half, set up a try for Wests after only eight minutes when he sliced through and hooker Ken Owens, backing-up, took an awkward pass to dive over. The turning point came eight minutes later when Piper fooled the Wests' defence with a dummy and raced 35 yards to score. This laxness in defence put Balmain within striking distance and ultimately proves Wests' downfall. **(Sydney Morning Herald 6th April 1964)**

**Notes:** Wests had had a large number of pre-season injuries but most of the injured, besides Kevin Smyth and Arthur Summons, resumed here. Ken Owens, ex-Randwick Rugby Union, made his debut. During the course of the game, however, Don Parish tore knee ligaments and was replaced by Ken Bray, who also injured his hand. Denis Meaney was sent off after 24 minutes so Wests had to battle for the rest of the match. Even so, they looked like winning until Balmain winger, Bob Mara, scored a late try. The referee, Jack Harris, was criticised heavily after the match. Right on full-time Peter Provan took the ball and went to ground in a voluntary tackle. Wests' officials were adamant they should have received a penalty. Most pundits considered that Wests were unlucky to lose this first match of the season.