

1938 Round 10 Saturday 16th July Leichhardt Oval

Balmain 32 def. Western Suburbs 8

George BARR **Fullback** Jim SHARMAN Sid GOODWIN Fred BABER Wing Frank HYDE (c) Cal LYNCH Centre Jim DUCKWORTH Centre Colin FEWTRELL Bill PURCELL Cliff McDONALD Wing William BISCHOFF Five-eighth **BILL KEATO** Jack PIDCOCK Half Albert McGUINESS Jack REDMAN Lock Don MURRAY **BILL JOHNSON** Second Row Stan SIMPSON Jack GORMAN Second Row Don GULLIVER Dave MANNING Front Row Jack SCHUBACK **George WATT** Hooker Ken LOCK Front Row **Dawson BUCKLEY** Athol SMITH

Tries Cliff McDONALD (4) Ken LOCK

Jack REDMAN (2) Dawson BUCKLEY Bill JOHNSON

Goals Bill JOHNSON (3) Stan SIMPSON (1)

Sid GOODWIN (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: G Barr; three-quarters: S Goodwin, J Duckworth, F Hyde, C McDonald; halves: W Bischoff, J Pidcock; forwards: J Redman, J Gorman, W Johnson, D Manning, G Watt, D Buckley

Albert McGUINESS

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Sharman; three-quarters: W Purcell, C Fewtrell, C Lynch, F Baber; halves: W Keato, A McGuiness; forwards: D Murray, D Gulliver, S Simpson, J Schuback, K Lock, A Smith Referee: R Musgrave (Rugby League News June 27th 1938)

Displaying rare dash and fine co-operation, Balmain easily beat Western Suburbs at Leichhardt Oval by a margin of 24 points, after holding a lead at half-time by 10 points to 5. During the initial period, the play was very keenly contested, rugged defence being an outstanding feature. Western Suburbs showed to advantage early and made the opening score. Balmain, by fine defensive work, especially by the backs, successfully checked subsequent raids by the opposition, and the upper hand was eventually gained. A determined burst by Redman, who went over the line in Sharman's tackle, gained the first Balmain try. Johnson equalled the scores with a fine kick from near the touchline. Later, a fast run by Goodwin, in which Redman co-operated culminated in Buckley scoring in a handy position for Johnson to add the goal. The second half was definitely dominated by Balmain. Clever tactics paved the way for continuous success. McDonald registered four tries. Some of them were practically "gifts" for all he had to do was accept a pass. However, it was a creditable effort on his part, because he received a very nasty knock in the first half, and was off the field for some time. Bischoff, the Balmain half-back, varied his methods well and always had the backs moving at their top. ... Late in the match Western Suburbs was making a strong final effort, and Smith was tackled by Barr close to the line. A scuffle ensued on the ground between these two players, and both were ordered from the field by the referee. Western Suburbs' inferior showing was surprising after the good form that had been shown against Newtown and South Sydney in recent matches.... (The Sydney Morning Herald July 18th 1938)

Recent improvement in their play and strengthening of their team filled Wests' supporters with fond hopes of revenge for that 57-11 first round annihilation by Balmain. It was not to be. 'Mains won, 32-8. Early play promised well, and Wests, holding their own comfortably in all departments, brought up first try. The advantage was lost shortly after, in spite of magnificent attempts by Keats, Lynch and McGuiness to score. (Truth July 17th 1938)

Followers of the "Magpies" will be pleased to learn of the notice by the State selectors of at least two of our players C Lynch and Athol Smith and would like to have seen J Sharman given an opportunity of proving his ability behind a good side....it is very pleasing to see Bill Purcell coming back to the form displayed some two seasons back. Against South Sydney, Bill made one dash that brought the spectators to their feet. (Rugby League News July 9th 1938)

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Notes: Even though Wests were soundly beaten on the day it marked the debut in First Grade of Bill Keato. His value as a goal-kicker was obviously not yet fully recognised, although he had been kicking goals in Reserve Grade. Athol Smith, who along with Cal Lynch had been selected in the City v Country matches, was sent off late in the match after a wrestle with the Balmain full-back, Barr. Balmain had now scored over eighty points against Wests in two matches.

