



1938 Round 11 Saturday 23rd July Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 19

def.

Canterbury-Bankstown 9



Jim SHARMAN
 Fred BABER
 Cec FIFIELD (c)
 Colin FEWTRELL
 Bill PURCELL
 Albert McGUINNESS
 Cal LYNCH
 Don MURRAY
 Stan SIMPSON
 Don GULLIVER
 Jack SCHUBACK
 Ken LOCK
 Athol SMITH

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

Tom KIRK
 Edgar NEWHAM
 Jim CHAMPION
 Aub MITCHELL
 Joe GARTNER (c)
 Roy McCARTER
 Ted ANDERSON
 Frank SPONBERG
 Roy McCALLUM
 Jim McCORMACK
 Jim DICKERSON
 Eddie BURNS
 Harry GRIFFIN

Tries

Fred BABER
 Colin FEWTRELL
 Don GULLIVER
 Stan SIMPSON
 Athol SMITH

Aub MITCHELL

Goals

Stan SIMPSON (2)

Tom KIRK (2)
 Ted ANDERSON (1)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Sharman; three-quarters: F Baber, C Fewtrell, C Fifield, W Purcell; halves: C Lynch, A McGuinness; forwards: D Murray, D Gulliver, S Simpson, J Schuback, K Lock, A Smith

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: T Kirk; three-quarters: E Newham, A Mitchell, J Champion, J Gartner (capt); halves: R McCarter, E Anderson; forwards: F Sponberg, R McCallum, J McCormack, H Griffen, E Burns, J Dickinson **Referee: P Lee (Rugby League News July 30th 1938)**

Superb combination of robust forwards and hard-running backs was responsible for Western Suburbs defeating Canterbury-Bankstown by 19 points to 9 at Pratten Park. The last-minute decision of the former international C Fifield to play for Western Suburbs, after announcing his retirement, appeared to upset Canterbury-Bankstown. The competition leaders watched Fifield closely and he always had three or four opponents near him when he received the ball. That meant opportunities for his team-mates. The Western Suburbs forwards played exceptionally well in the open and figured in a number of scoring moves. The backs ran with determination and defended stoutly when Canterbury was pressing in the closing stages. The Western Suburbs winger, Baber, gave an excellent display. His straight running enabled him to capitalise his speed to the utmost. Full-back Sharman displayed initiative. He took a number of risks at critical moments and was rewarded for his enterprise. Canterbury missed their hooker, Kirkaldy, who was in Brisbane with the State team but its performance was below recent efforts. Five-eighth, Anderson, was injured in a heavy tackle in the first few minutes, and subsequently was very subdued. The ball seldom travelled to the centres when Canterbury won a scrum. The Canterbury scrum-half, McCarter played finely in the last 20 minutes but was very orthodox in his methods earlier in the game. The wingers, Gartner and Newham did exceptionally well with their limited opportunities. Mitchell scored a fine try. He also saw little of the ball. Kirk, the full-back, was enterprising in attack, but was weak in defence when busted. McCallum and Burns were the pick of a hard-working Canterbury pack of forwards. **(The Sydney Morning Herald July 25th 1938)**

Three of the five tries on Saturday were scored by forwards, two of which necessitated a long run. The try by Stan Simpson was a beautiful movement, coming from Wests' own line, the ball travelled from one to the other. Fullback Sharman was up in it; he also received and delivered his pass, making the extra man, which left a clear field ahead for Stan's pace to be tested...Athol Smith's try was also one that had to run for, but Smith's speed is well known to all and sundry, as he has played on the wing on several occasions. The forwards collectively played wonderful football....Freddy Baber was 100% on his previous display. Unaccustomed to the position, he kept on leaving the wing open, but not so this week: he scored a nice try with a dandy straight run....the other winger, Bill Purcell, showed that he is gradually coming back to his form very determined when in possession of the ball. **(Rugby League News July 30th 1938)**

Notes: This was a huge upset; considering Canterbury went on to win their first premiership. Cecil Fifield had announced his retirement before the game but decided to play anyway. He received a lot of attention from Canterbury players, opening up the field for the other backs. Fred Baber had a blinder and Simpson's try was a length of the field effort. This was easily Wests' best win of the season.