



1943 Round 14 Saturday 31st July Pratten Park



Balmain 10

Charlie MILLAR
 Arthur PATTON
 Tom BOURKE
 Alf HALL
 Jack HAMPSTEAD
 Frank DRIESE
 Gil BOX
 Dawson BUCKLEY
 George WATT (c)
 Jack SPENCER
 Athol SMITH
 E BENNETT
 Sid RYAN

def.

Western Suburbs 5

Ron MARTIN
 Jack WHITEHURST (c)
 Bruce BROWN
 Bob ANDREWS
 Stan ISENHUTH
 Eric BENNETT
 Albert McGUINNESS
 Arthur CLUES
 Jack WOODS
 George LUCAS
 Ron CAMPBELL
 Neville SPENCE
 Fred FAYERS



Tries Arthur PATTON
 Tom BOURKE

Eric BENNETT

Goals Arthur PATTON (2)

Bob ANDREWS (1)

Match Description

Balmain: Full-back: C Millar; three-quarters: A Patton, T Bourke, A Hall, J Hampstead; halves: F Driese, G Box; forwards: A Smith, S Ryan, E Bennett, J Spencer, G Watt (capt), D Buckley

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Martin; three-quarters: J Whitehurst, B Brown, R Andrews, E Bennett; halves: S Eisenhuth, A McGuinness (capt); forwards: A Clues, J Woods, G Lucas, R Campbell, N Spence, F Fayers **Referee: A Shiner (Rugby League News 14th August 1943)**

Balmain Rugby League captain George Watt protested to referee Shiner on Western Suburbs players' "dangerously" spiked boots at Pratten Park yesterday. Balmain player Frank Driese had his ankle badly cut. The referee immediately inspected Wests' boots, but took no action. Balmain played throughout the second half without Driese, and won 10-5. Driese's boots were considerably ripped, and a first-aid attendant reported that at least two stitches would be needed in his ankle wounds. Abe Hall also exhibited badly cut boots. Arthur Patton won the game for Balmain with a brilliant try and two remarkable goals. Patton, who said he never fancied himself as a goal-kicker, landed his two goals from three shots from half-way. His third shot missed by inches. Wests, however, had a chance to even the scores as the final bell rang. Eisenhuth, who became full-back after the interval, went through Balmain, and sent Lucas over, in the corner. The crowd heckled the referee when he ruled Lucas bounced the ball. Angry spectators continued the demonstration near the grandstand as the referee left the field. Lucas said after the game: "I fell on the ball, and there was no doubt I scored a try." Several Western Suburbs' officials held an impromptu meeting after the game, but decided to "suppress their views." **(The Daily Telegraph 1st August 1943)**

Balmain hung on to their minor premiership chance by downing Western Suburbs 10-5, at Pratten Park. They led by 6 -nil at half-time, and although handicapped by the loss of Driese, five-eighth, in the second period, were able to withstand determined bids made by the 'Magpies.' Driese met with a peculiar injury a few minutes before the interval. His left boot was slashed open in several places and his instep bore two deep lacerations. He was removed to Western Suburbs Hospital for further attention after ambulance officers had rendered first-aid. George Watt, Balmain's captain, directed referee Shiner's attention to the incident and requested an examination of the sprigs worn by the Western team. Later it was reported that nails which held the sprigs in place had probably worked loose and caused the injury. Features of the game were Patton's magnificent goals from near the halfway mark, the sound defensive work of Millar at full-back and the tireless energy exhibition by another colt, Ryan, in the forwards. Wests' best exponents were McGuinness, Brown, Bennett and Eisenhuth (backs) and Lucas and Clues (forwards). Eric Bennett made a reappearance at five -eighth after being out for most of the season through injuries. **(Truth 1st August 1943)**

I have received word of several of our players who are on active service, namely: J Piper, W Keato, J Russell, R Johnson, D Rogers, C Lynch and W Morris. All are well and wish to be remembered to their many friends. **(Rugby League News 25th September 1943)**

Notes: Eric Bennett made a reappearance after a long period out with injury. Wests' sprigs were inspected by the referee after a serious cut to a Balmain player's ankle but it was actually a loose nail in his boot that caused the injury. Stan Eisenhuth went to full-back in the second half and set up what appeared to be a drawing try by George Lucas, but it was recalled by the referee, almost causing a riot amongst Wests' supporters. The note in Rugby League News emphasised the number of players that Wests had on active service.