



# 1966 Round 15 Sunday 21st August Sports Ground



## Western Suburbs 12

def.

## Balmain 7

Ken BRAY  
 John MOWBRAY  
 Peter DIMOND  
 Gil MacDOUGALL  
 John ELFORD  
 Rob McGUINNESS  
 Pat THOMAS  
 Barry BRYANT  
 John HAYES  
 Jim CODY  
 Denis MEANEY  
 Noel THORNTON  
 Noel KELLY (c)

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

Keith BARNES (c)  
 Sid WILLIAMS  
 Kevin YOW YEH  
 Laurie MORASCHI  
 Harold BROWNE  
 Jim BONUS  
 Dave BOLTON  
 Peter PROVAN  
 John SPENCER  
 Dennis TUTTY  
 George PIPER  
 Bob BOLAND  
 Arthur BEETSON  
 Geoff CONNELL

**Tries** Barry BRYANT  
 Peter DIMOND

Harold BROWNE

**Goals** Ken BRAY (3)

Jim BONUS (2)

### Match Description

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: K Bray; three-quarters: J Mowbray, P Dimond, G MacDougall, J Elford; five-eighth: R McGuinness; half; P Thomas; forwards: B Bryant, J Hayes, J Cody, D Meaney, N Thornton, N Kelly (c)

**Balmain:** Full-back: K Barnes (c); three-quarters: S Williams, K Yow Yeh, L Moraschi, H Browne; five-eighth: J Bonus; half: D Bolton; forwards: P Provan, J Spencer, D Tutty, G Piper, R Boland, A Beetson **Referee: W Kelly (as per program Rugby League News 20th/21st August 1966)**

A lionhearted Western Suburbs Rugby League team, playing a man short for more than three quarters of the match, yesterday kept their premiership chances flickering with a grim victory over Balmain. Wests defeated Balmain 12-7 at Sydney Sports Ground. Wests win puts them equal with Newtown in fourth place in the premiership. Wests and Newtown will meet in a play-off for fourth spot in the semi-finals. ... In yesterday's match referee Bill Kelly ordered Wests' Captain-Coach Noel Kelly from the field 18 minutes after the start. Noel Kelly will appear before the NSW Judiciary committee tonight on a charge of deliberate punching. Wests' win, without star Test prop Kelly for most of the match, was full of merit. Wests' 12 men outplayed Balmain's 13 in every department. ... Balmain were very shoddy yesterday. Adding to their misfortunes, they lost winger Hal Brown for the remainder of the season. Browne dislocated his shoulder in the closing stages of the game. ... Wests dominated possession yesterday with a great exhibition of handling and a 12-6 margin in the scrums. With Wests having only a five-man pack for most of the match, it was obvious that Balmain missed the services of hooker Dick Wilson. ... Two snap tries for Wests within a space of two minutes in the first half put the skids under Balmain. Lock Barry Bryant dashed around a ruck and stepped inside the defence in a weaving run to score the first try. Test centre Peter Dimond snapped up the second try six minutes before half-time when he took an intercept from Balmain Test forward Arthur Beetson to go over in the same position. Wests led 10-2 at half-time. Wests had command for most of the second half. **(Daily Telegraph 22nd August 1966)**

Western Suburbs, playing a man short for 63 minutes, yesterday battled its way into a Rugby League semi-final play-off.... Referee Bill Kelly ordered Noel Kelly off after a play-the-ball incident involving Balmain half Dave Bolton.... fortunately for Wests the remaining 12 players lifted their games and, aided by a huge share of possession, humbled the out-of-form Balmain team.....in the spirited play, five-eighth Bob McGuinness, lock Barry Bryant and prop Denis Meaney had inspiring games. McGuinness, a late inclusion in the side, had one of his best games for the club and on numerous occasions split the defence with fine runs. Bryant, a red-headed National Service trainee, showed outstanding potential. Meaney made many relieving bursts when play became "tight" in the second half.....Bryant made the defence look commonplace when he stepped past three would-be tacklers in a 20-yard run to score under the posts.....then with Balmain in possession, prop Arthur Beetson attempted a one-handed pass to centre Kevin Yow Yeh. Dimond intercepted the pass and raced through to score..... **(Sydney Morning Herald 22nd August 1966)**

**Notes:** In a remarkable performance, Wests had won their last four matches against Easts, Newtown (1st), St George and now Balmain (2nd) to qualify for a play-off for fourth against Newtown on the Tuesday. In a year where Wests had lost up to half their team at times to injury it was, in fact, one of Wests' best efforts. This win was even more gritty, considering Noel Kelly was sent off after 18 minutes but the Wests pack, led by Denis Meaney and a resurgent Barry Bryant completely dominated the Balmain pack which included Arthur Beetson. Noel Thornton's dominance of the scrums 12-6 was also a major factor. Wests finished the match bruised and battered, with serious injury doubts about Jim Cody and John Elford. To back up two days later was a big task. This was a deferred match from Round 15, played as the last match in the premiership rounds.