



1939 Round 2 Saturday 25th April Sports Ground



South Sydney 8

def.

Western Suburbs 6

Dick JOHNSON
 Harold THOMSON
 Fred FELSCH (c)
 Alan TUOHEY
 Ray HINES
 Alan SCHAFFER
 Alan QUINLIVAN
 Ray BYRNE
 Johnny BROWN
 George KILHAM
 Jack WALSH
 Percy FAIRALL
 Jim ARMSTRONG

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

Jim SHARMAN (c)
 Fred BABER
 Bill KEATO
 Colin FEWTRELL
 Bill PURCELL
 Cal LYNCH
 Albert McGUINNESS
 Don GULLIVER
 Fred McKEAN
 Edward MEWTON
 Don MURRAY
 Ken LOCK
 Jack PIPER



Tries Ray BYRNE
 Alan TUOHEY

Goals Fred FELSCH (1) Bill KEATO (3)

Match Description

South Sydney: Full-back: R Johnson; three-quarters: H Thompson, A Tuohy, F Felsch (capt), R Hines; halves: A Schafer, A Quinlivan; forwards: R Byrne, J Brown, G Kilham, J Armstrong, P Fairall, P Walsh

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Sharman (capt); three-quarters: W Purcell, W Keato, C Fewtrell, F Baber; halves: C Lynch, A McGuinness; forwards: D Gulliver, E Mewton, F McKean, D Murray, K Lock, J Piper **Referee: A Davis (Rugby League News 27th April 1939)**

Only 3000 people saw the game begin at the Sports Ground. Souths went to the attack after McGuinness opened the game. Sharman could not find touch, and a scrum went down deep in Wests' territory. Felsch carried the ball through, and Purcell tried to run it out. Good work by Sharman and play was 10 yards from Souths' line. Wests again won the scrum and the ball swept truly from McGuinness to Lynch, to Keato, to Fewtrell, but the defence was sound and the ball came to earth near the goal posts. Felsch was offside there and Keato made no mistake. Western Suburbs 2, South Sydney nil. The lead was short-lived. The sun baffled Sharman with a high kick; and a free in Wests' 25 gave Felsch a chance to redeem himself. South Sydney 2, Western Suburbs 2. It was ragged football but then came a grand individual effort by Tuohy. Felsch gave him the ball, and Tuohy gave Wests no chance with a dazzling run to score 35 yards' out. Felsch missed the kick. South Sydney 5, Western Suburbs 2. Lock continued to beat Fairall for the ball, but Fairall started Souths' next scoring movement when he heeled near the Western 25. Schafer shot through smartly and dummed his way to Sharman. He reversed to Byrne, who just reached the line. Felsch made a feeble effort at goal. Half-time scores: South Sydney 8. Western Suburbs 2.

Wests began the second spell with kicking. A free-kick to Wests saw Keato miss from well out. Quinlivan was away from the halfway mark. Thompson made ground and the ball came infield, but with the line at his mercy Armstrong could not reach the ball. In a second, the game swung to the opposite end but this time it was Piper who found himself in the open, an undefended field ahead, but not enough pace. From a scrum near the Souths line McGuinness went round the blind-side, and a clever short pass almost saw the South defence penetrated. From a free, Keato kicked a glorious goal. South Sydney 8, Western Suburbs 4. Gulliver was next to set Wests moving, and a free gave Keato another chance from the side line. He was equal to it. Souths 8, Wests 6. It was all Western Suburbs now. Fewtrell kicked through and then a Southern kick was charged down, but still Wests could not score. A grand flying-tackle by Lock kept Souths hemmed in, however, and then Baber went within inches of scoring down the left wing. Murray was cautioned and as the final bell was ringing a scrum went down. Murray was again in trouble and was sent off, a second from the end. **(The Sun 25th April 1939)**

Bad luck befell the captain of the Reserve Grade, Jack Tisdale, in the match against South Sydney on Anzac Day, when he had the misfortune to have two ribs badly bruised. Jack will be hors-de-combat for a couple of weeks. **(Sportsman 6th May 1939)**

Notes: The reference to the Reserve Grade captain, Jack Tisdale, being injured showed the problem befalling the club. Even so, this was a very good performance by Wests who powered home and most probably should have won. Don Murray was sent off in the last few minutes after repeated infringements. Ex-Wests star winger, Ray Hines, was back from Newcastle but unfortunately was playing for Souths! The three goals by Bill Keato were the first he kicked for the club in First Grade, one of them from the sideline. This was a portent of the big scores to come in an illustrious career.