



# 1939 Round 4 Saturday 6th May Pratten Park



## Balmain 15

Hec DAY  
 Sid GOODWIN (c)  
 Frank HYDE  
 Jack McVICAR  
 Jack WINCHESTER  
 William BISCHOFF  
 Jim QUEALEY  
 Jack REDMAN  
 Bill JOHNSON  
 Athol SMITH  
 Dave MANNING  
 George WATT  
 Dawson BUCKLEY

def.

## Western Suburbs 10

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



**Tries**  
 Sid GOODWIN  
 Jack REDMAN  
 Frank HYDE

Albert McGUINNESS  
 Bill PURCELL

**Goals**  
 Hec DAY (2)  
 Bill JOHNSON (1)

Bill KEATO (2)

### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back: H Day; three-quarters: S Goodwin (capt), F Hyde, J McVicar, J Winchester; halves: W Bischoff, J Quealey; forwards: J Redman, A Smith, W Johnson, D Buckley, G Watt, D Manning

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: J Sharman; three-quarters: W Purcell, W Keato, C Fewtrell, F Baber; halves: C Lynch, A McGuinness (capt); forwards: D Gulliver, E Mewton, F McKean, D Murray, K Lock, J Piper **Referee: J McCauley (Rugby League News 20th May 1939)**

Balmain ran with the wind and Western Suburbs attacked immediately. Bischoff was dropped in his own 25. Balmain was penalised but Keato's kick struck an upright. Western Suburbs forwards forged down-field and swarmed over the Balmain line. McGuinness slipped on the ball and crossed with men clinging to him. Keato converted and Western Suburbs led by 5-0 a few minutes after the game began. Balmain was not kept out for long, levelling the scores after the ball had swept across to Goodwin, who raced over, Johnson kicking a splendid goal. Western Suburbs 5, Balmain 5. Fewtrell put his side in a good position with a fast straight run and Keato had a penalty shot from the 25, kicking a fine goal. Western Suburbs 7, Balmain 5. Purcell kicked into touch on the full, but Keato gained a lot of ground with a kick down the centre of the field. Wests had a chance, but Purcell could not hold the slippery ball. Keato took another penalty kick, but the heavy ball fell just short of the cross-bar. Wests was in a predicament when Buckley and Winchester toed the ball through, but they failed to skate onto the ball over the line. Balmain was throwing the ball about in Wests' 25 and handling it fairly well. After Keato had failed with another penalty effort, Sharman sent his comrades well into the Balmain 25 with a low line kick. McKean broke up a dangerous Balmain attack with a galloping run straight down the centre of the field. He won back a lot of territory from Balmain attackers then passed to Murray, Mewton, on to Purcell, who again failed to hold the ball when a try seemed certain. Day got Balmain out of some trouble with a hard run and a stab-kick, and Balmain maintained a long attack, helped by the monotonous winning of the ball from the scrums. At last Balmain succeeded when Bischoff passed from the scrum base over Quealey's head to Hyde, to cut through for an excellent try. Johnson failed with the kick, but Balmain led by 8-7. Half-time scores: Balmain 8, Western Suburbs 7.

It was not long before Western Suburbs was attacking, Piper, Mewton and then Sharman making vigorous efforts to get through. Western Suburbs was starting to win scrums, and McGuinness sent Lynch across. Mewton and Gulliver were unlucky not to score after Goodwin had mishandled the ball, but it slewed about and eluded them. McGuinness short-kicked through, and Baber was over, but was recalled for a breach. A penalty and a series of long kicks by Day temporarily relieved Balmain. Keato had a long penalty kick, and Hyde knocked on in the goal-mouth. Western Suburbs swept the ball across the three-quarter line to Purcell, who again failed to hold the ball when a try looked assured. McVicar made a long run to relieve Balmain but his pass to Hyde was wild. Hyde toed the ball downfield and beat Sharman but Sharman stopped his progress by moving into him. Western Suburbs were penalised. Day kicked an easy goal, and Balmain led by 10-7..... Balmain scored mainly through the efforts of Johnson, who ran Redman into position for the try. Day converted and Balmain led by 15-7. The Western Suburbs' total rose when McGuinness passed to Fewtrell, to Purcell, who this time held the ball and scored. Keato's kick failed and the scores were: Balmain 15, Western Suburbs 10. **(The Sun 6th May 1939)**

**Notes:** Albert McGuinness took over the captaincy for this match and it turned out to be a close encounter where, yet again, Wests blew a number of chances to score. Jim Sharman again played very well at full-back and it is worth noting that Wests' best forward of 1938, Athol Smith, was in the Balmain side. This would certainly have been a contributing factor to the narrow defeat.