

Tries

Goals

Ken BRAY (9)

John HAYES Dennis LAVERTY

Kevin LONGBOTTOM (4)

Arthur BRANNIGAN

Darrel CHAPMAN

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: K Bray; three-quarters: J Mowbray, P Dimond, G MacDougall, D Laverty; five-eighth: R McGuiness; half: D Malone; forwards: R Costello, J Hayes, D Page, D Meaney, K Owens, N Kelly (c)

South Sydney: Full-back: D Chapman; three-quarters: M Cleary, A Brannigan, K Longbottom, E Robinson; five-eighth: J Lisle (c); half: M Falla; forwards: R Coote, J Sattler, R McCarthy, R Powell, F Anderson, W Owen Referee: J Harris (as per program Rugby League News 2nd/3rd May 1964 + newspaper validation)

Western Suburbs Rugby League full-back Ken Bray yesterday landed nine goals to enable his team to upset South Sydney 27-20. Souths scored four tries to three in a dramatic match at Redfern Oval. Bray landed his nine goals from 13 attempts, several of them from difficult angles. Wests' victory lifted it out of the ruck in the premiership. Before yesterday's match, Wests, runner-up to St George in the last three premierships, had won only one of four competition matches. Wests yesterday played good, purposeful football and served notice that it is ready to again climb the League ladder. Although Wests scored a try less than Souths, it deserved victory. Applying non-stop pressure it bustled Souths into errors. Back-row forwards Ron Costello, John Hayes and Doug Page, five-eighth Bob McGuinness and centres Gil MacDougall and Peter Dimond played major roles in this strategy. MacDougall and Dimond played well up in defence, sometimes off-side, to harass Souths' inside backs. Souths often lost possession under the pressure. This was a great help to Wests, for it won possession from only 5 of the 18 set scrums. Souths were rattled under the pressure. This was evident when it let Wests' winger John Mowbray in for a try at a vital stage of the match midway through the second half. The try gave Wests a 20-12 lead. The ball was loose behind the goal-line and Souths' lock Ron Coote lashed out with his boot in an attempt to kick it dead as Mowbray shot onto the scene. Coote's boot missed the ball and Mowbray dived on to it. Coote's speculation kick in that position was a blot on an otherwise good performance. He had scored two superb tries in the first half. Souths took a battering from the rugged Wests' men. Wingers Mike Cleary and Eric Robinson, centre Arthur Brannigan, and secondrower Bob McCarthy received leg injuries. Souths' supporters in the crowd of 20,441 accused referee John Harris of leniency to Wests. They yelled to him to keep Wests "on side." They attributed much of the battering Souths took to Wests' "stand-up" tactics. They also angrily barracked a linesman for a doubtful decision which resulted in a penalty goal to Wests. Souths' centre Kevin Longbottom dropped out from the goal-line and the ball landed near the touchline. Observers argued whether the ball landed just in or out. The linesman signalled out. Under the new League rules a team is penalised for sending the ball out on the full from kick-offs. On this occasion the referee, acting on the linesman's decision, awarded Wests a penalty in front of the goalposts. Bray landed a goal from it. Longbottom might have been more deserving of the barracking. Knowing the rules, he should have made certain to keep the ball in the field of play rather than risk conceding an easy penalty to West. Souths were in front at only one stage of the match. Coote's second try in the 32nd minute gave it a 10-6 lead. Wests' lock Costello and second-rower John Hayes were the stars of the match. .. (Daily Telegraph May 4th 1964)

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Notes: Arthur Summons was out injured and Rob McGuinness moved to five-eighth with Ron Costello taking Cody's place at lock. Peter Dimond went into the centres and Denis Laverty again came into the team on the wing. John Hayes, who had been in great form all season, was the powerhouse forward in this match who took it up to the Souths' forwards. He scored the match-winning try with a long run down the wing. John Mowbray also continued his try-scoring ways and was the leading try-scorer at this stage, even though Wests had only won two out of five games. Doug Page debuted in the second row.