



1966 Round 5 Saturday 30th April Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 24

def.

North Sydney 19

Dave BARSLEY
John ELFORD
Gil MacDOUGALL
Rob McGUINNESS (c)
John MOWBRAY
Denis PITTARD
Pat THOMAS
Jim CODY
John HAYES
Bill HANSEN
Denis MEANEY
Noel THORNTON
Alan ALLISON

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

Fred GRIFFITHS (c)
Ken IRVINE
Denis CUBIS
George AMBRUM
Frank OLSON
Len DIETT
Dinny O'BRYAN
Eric BARNES
John GUDGEON
Paul HANCOCK
Lloyd WEIER
Ross WARNER
Harry RAVEN

Tries

Denis PITTARD
John MOWBRAY
Jim CODY
Dave BARSLEY

Fred GRIFFITHS
Ken IRVINE
Harry RAVEN

Goals

Dave BARSLEY (6)

Fred GRIFFITHS (5)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: D Barsley; three-quarters: J Elford, R McGuinness, G MacDougall, J Mowbray; five-eighth: D Pittard; half: P Thomas; forwards: J Cody, J Hayes, W Hansen, D Meaney, N Thornton, Alan Allison

North Sydney: Full-back: F Griffiths (c); three-quarters: K Irvine, D Cubis, G Ambrum, F Olson; five-eighth: L Diett; half; D O'Bryan; forwards: E Barnes, P Hancock, J Gudgeon, L Weier, R Warner, H Raven **Referee: L Samuelson (The Sun 30th April 1966)**

Western Suburbs, playing with grim determination, made the most of a meagre supply of the ball to win a well-deserved victory against North Sydney yesterday. It was a hard-earned win for Wests, for it took the field at Pratten Park yesterday without the services of Noel Kelly, the team captain and prop. The scores see-sawed for most of the game but towards the end of the second half there was no holding the Magpies. North Sydney's hooker, Ross Warner, won the scrums 8-4 but Norths' inability to keep possession was the deciding factor. Early in the first half the Wests' defence had a lot of holes in it and it appeared Norths were going to have an easy day. But Dave Barsley, Wests' fullback had other ideas. Barsley's try, 10 minutes after the start of the first half, was a gem. It made the rest of the team pull itself together. Barsley cut out about five North Sydney defenders with one side-step to race 40 yards to the line. The Wests team was always snappier in attack and the backs seemed to have a much better understanding with the forwards than Norths. Every time a Wests' forward made a break, he had his backs with him so Wests were always a danger to Norths when in possession. In contrast, the Norths' forwards, Paul Hancock in particular, often made breaks only to have to go to ground with the ball because of lack of support. Fred Griffiths, Norths' captain-coach, was continually trying to rally his team and was rewarded by a try. In the first half Griffiths crossed the line but he was unable to touch down for a try. He finished the game with five goals, not a bad tally, considering the blustery conditions. Jim Cody, second-rower, and Denis Meaney, prop, played leading parts in Wests' victory. Cody was everywhere and his try, halfway through the second half, was a study in determination. Cody burst through with a bullocking run when he got a pass 20 yards out from Norths' line. He tackled his heart out but was still going flat out at the end of the game. Meaney played his usual bustling, hard-running game and his passing was immaculate. He continually got his backs moving with probing runs. Rob McGuinness and Gil MacDougall, Wests' centres, outplayed their North Sydney rivals, George Ambrum and Denis Cubis. MacDougall showed exceptional attacking ability and the try John Mowbray scored was due to his quick thinking. Len Diett, Norths' five-eighth, believes Pratten Park is a hoodoo ground for him. Yesterday Diett had his hand broken in a tackle. The last time he played Wests at Pratten he had a number of teeth knocked out and his jaw broken. After yesterday's game Wests must be rated a great chance of playing on the Cricket Ground next week against its arch-rivals, St George. Only at one stage of yesterday's game did North Sydney have command of the game. That was when Griffiths scored and converted his try to give his team a 14-12 lead. From then on Wests were on top. Denis Pittard, Wests' five-eighth, showed a ton of promise by taking the ball on the burst and scoring a classy try. **(Sunday Mirror 1st May 1966)**

Notes: This was a very good and unexpected win. Noel Kelly was a late withdrawal, replaced by Alan Allison, and John Elford had already come up to replace Dick Pickett on the wing. Jim Cody rose to the backs-to-the-wall occasion and was simply outstanding, leading the forward charges shoulder to shoulder with Denis Meaney, who had his best game of the season. Cody was also very punishing in defence. Barsley scored an inspirational try when needed and Pittard's try was a gem of determined running through five Norths' forwards.