



1937 Round 7 Saturday 15th May Pratten Park



Western Suburbs 20

def.

St George 17

Jim SHARMAN
 Ron KNIGHT
 Jack KNOX
 Cliff PEARCE (c)
 Ray HINES
 Albert McGUINNESS
 Les MEAD
 Don MURRAY
 Ray GILLAM
 Don GULLIVER
 Athol SMITH
 Ken LOCK
 Herbert HAAR

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

Jack WEDGWOOD
 Dick O'CONNOR
 Cyril HOLT
 Jack LYNCH
 Ernest RANIER
 Les McWILLIAMS
 Norm POPE
 Jim RUTHERFORD
 Mick CROWE
 Charles RICE
 Tom HAYWOOD
 Percy FAIRALL (c)
 Len KELLY

Tries

Cliff PEARCE (2)

Les McWILLIAMS
 Dick O'CONNOR
 Jim RUTHERFORD

Goals

Ron KNIGHT (5)
 Les MEAD (1)
 Jim SHARMAN (1) Field Goal

Cyril HOLT (4)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Sharman; three-quarters: R Knight, C Pearce, J Knox, R Hines; halves: A McGuinness, L Mead; forwards: D Murray, R Gillam, D Gulliver, A Smith, K Lock, H Haar

St George: Full-back: J Wedgewood; three-quarters: R O'Connor, C Holt, J Lynch, E Rainier; halves: L McWilliams, N Pope; forwards: J Rutherford, C Rice, M Crowe, T Haywood, P Fairall (capt), L Kelly **Referee: L Deane (Rugby League News 5th June 1937)**

Behind three points at half-time and being beaten pointless for the ball from scrums, didn't mean a thing to Western Suburbs against St. George, at Pratten Park yesterday. The Magpie forwards simply changed their mode of play. Breaking quickly from scrums with three-quarters Pearce, Knox and five-eighth 'Podgy' McGuinness standing well up on St. George 'backs,' Wests added eleven points during the second half, running out ultimate winners by 20 points to 17. Out on his own like the lone country pub was Wests' full-back Jimmy Sharman. Handling and kicking with judgment that was superb, he was definitely the destroying angel as far as St. George's hopes were concerned. Saints' shining light was Norm Pope, who failed to receive the necessary cooperation from five-eighth Luke McWilliams. And what the Western centres, Pearce and Knox did to Holt and Lynch was a shame. Pocket Hercules Perc Fairall the Dragon-killers' standard bearer raked the ears off Wests' hooker K. Lock. **(Truth 16th May 1937)**

Despite the fact that St. George scored three tries to two, Western Suburbs displayed better team-work, more especially during the second term. Behind at the interval, 12 points to 9, Wests gradually built up a comfortable lead of eight points. Just on full-time. St. George added a converted try. Fairall was hooking well for St. George, and enabled Pope to open up play, with the result that their opponents were frequently on the defensive. St. George looked the better team until half-time, although several chances of scoring were lost either through bad handling or lack of finish. However, after the spell Western Suburbs, with a determined offensive, reduced the deficiency and this apparently disorganised the St. George men who committed a number of inexcusable breaches. Pearce, who was seen to advantage, crossed over for his second try, and fine forward dashes, headed by Gulliver. Smith, and Gillam, cut holes in the defence. Knight was in good kicking form, and the frequent illegalities by St. George were really responsible for the margin in points. Illegal Interference jolted the play time and again. The full-backs, Sharman (West) and Wedgewood gave polished displays, and their pleasing efforts won them frequent applause. The winners' best backs were Sharman and Pearce; while their forwards who were the better set, all combined well, with Gulliver and Smith a little above the others. ... The attendance was poor-not more than 2000. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 17th May 1937)**

Strong candidates for representative honours this season include Jim Sharman, who gave a magnificent display against St George; Jim is a model of consistency; Don Gulliver, a youthful forward from Dubbo, an improved player; Herb Haar, big, fast and heady; Ray Hines, a polished winger. **(Rugby League News 12th June 1937)**

Notes: This was an excellent performance by Wests. Ken Lock was being beaten soundly in the scrums and the lack of ball meant they had to do a lot of defending. This was a rare occurrence for Wests; to win a game with superior goal-kicking. Ron Knight was very accurate for once and Sharman kicked another good field goal. Cliff Pearce was back to his best, making a lot of breaks, even considering the limited possession.