



1937 Round 9 Saturday 19th June Sports Ground



Eastern Suburbs 23

def.

Western Suburbs 5

Tom DOWLING
 Rod O'LOAN
 Ross McKINNON
 Jack BEATON
 Fred TOTTEY
 Ernie NORMAN
 Viv THICKNESSE (c)
 Andy NORVAL
 Henry PIERCE
 Joe PEARCE
 Jack COOTE
 Tom McLACHLAN
 Ray STEHR

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

Jim SHARMAN
 Ray HINES
 Stan TANCRED
 Cliff PEARCE (c)
 Adrian GLEESON
 Albert McGUINNESS
 Les MEAD
 Don MURRAY
 Ray GILLAM
 Don GULLIVER
 Athol SMITH
 Ken LOCK
 Herbert HAAR



Tries Henry PIERCE (3)
 Ross McKINNON
 Joe PEARCE

Don MURRAY

Goals Jack BEATON (4)

Les MEAD (1)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back: T Dowling; three-quarters: R O'Loan, R McKinnon, J Beaton, F Tottey; halves: E Norman, V Thicknesse (capt); forwards: A Norval, S Pearce, H Pierce, J Coote, T McLachlan, R Stehr

Western Suburbs: Full-back: J Sharman; three-quarters: R Hines, C Pearce (capt), S Tancred, A Gleeson; halves: A McGuinness, L Mead; forwards: D Murray, R Gillam, D Gulliver, H Haar, K Lock, A Smith **Referee: T McMahon (Rugby League News 26th June 1937)**

Conditions at the Sydney Sports Ground were so bad that at times it seemed that the match between Eastern Suburbs and Western Suburbs would be abandoned. The playing field, recognised as one of the best wet weather grounds in Sydney, was practically covered with water when the teams appeared for the main game. It was quickly churned up, but so heavily did rain continue to fall that pools reformed, and at the close the ground still resembled a lake. The crowd of 1599 hardy enthusiasts who witnessed the match was treated to the spectacle of players washing themselves in undisturbed pools when mud affected their eyes. During a lull, a Western Suburbs man gave an exhibition of "duck diving" which would have been acclaimed on any surfing beach. Despite all this, the game was splendidly contested, with Eastern Suburbs scoring the majority of its points in the closing stages. Western Suburbs had slightly the better of the first half, which ended with the scores at five points all.

Easts scored immediately play was resumed, and when Wests rallied, a close finish seemed likely. The Easterners, however, lasted better, and during the final 20 minutes were continually attacking. During this period it was extremely difficult to discern the players, but one man who stood out was the Eastern Suburbs second-row forward, H. Pierce. He had opened the scoring in the first half, and he added two more tries, the result of clever handling and running. The manner in which he adapted himself to the conditions made Pierce the leading player in the game, but there were others who revelled in the heavy going, and by their fine work maintained interest in the contest. The full-backs, Dowling (Eastern Suburbs) and Sharman (Western Suburbs) gave remarkable exhibitions of catching and kicking the greasy ball, and their kicking duels, which might have become tiresome on a fine day, were enjoyed, so cleverly did they perform. L. Mead enhanced his prospects of Inclusion in the Australian team for England by his display behind the Western Suburbs pack. Mead's exploitation of the short kick from the scrum base was instrumental in putting his team on the attack during the first half, but he did not receive so much support from his tired forwards in the concluding stages. **(The Sydney Morning Herald 21st June 1937)**

When Easts beat Wests at the Sydney Sports Ground yesterday, the Tricolors completed two successive competitions undefeated. This is a record of which we are all justly proud. But members, and I am sure followers of the victorious team have only one regret, for this game marked 'finis' to the career of Viv. Thicknesse in a code to which he has become such an ornament. 'Thicko' will be missed, not only for his brilliant football and quick humour, but above all, for his gracious sportsmanship. Harry Pierce played the game of his life, and swam underwater for three tries. Mouse Mead was in everything, and darted through the waves like the proverbial Bondi shark. Full-backs Jim Sharman and Tom Dowling carried out every 'rescue' with the greatest of credit. Even Ref. Tom McMahon 'decided' to take a dip at the finish. Jim Sharman 'persuaded' him with a flying tackle. **(Truth 20th June 1937)**

Notes: Stan Tancred was back from injury for this match. This was played after a month of Country matches. This win meant that Easts were Premiers in a shortened competition and were undefeated for two seasons. Les Mead was the best Wests' player in a losing team.