

WESTS' ROUGH LEAGUE FINAL

Two players sent off when fists fly

By former Australian Rugby League captain LEN SMITH

MINOR premiers Western Suburbs, showing better condition in the second half, scored four tries in the last 10 minutes to beat South Sydney 22-12 in the 1952 Rugby League grand final at Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

The game was marred by much illegal play just before half-time and 10 minutes after the interval. Souths prop Brian Orrock and Wests hooker Hec Farrell were sent off.

Referee's cautions

Several other players of both sides received cautions from referee George Bishop.

The game was rugged and hard, and held the interest of the crowd of 41,000 until near the end, when Wests took control.

Just before half-time Souths second-row forward Ken Macreadie was cautioned after a scrum broke up and Western Suburbs hooker Hec Farrell was left lying on the ground.

As the half-time bell rang forwards of both teams were milling around and a free-for-all was likely.

When the teams came back on the field after half-time it was obvious certain players were to be marked.

When the second scrum packed down Souths hooker Ernie Hammerton reeled out of the pack and collapsed on the ground.

First scorers

Western Suburbs: G. Bain goal. South Sydney: J. Graves goal.

In the next scrum there was a flurry of boots and fists and referee George Bishop immediately sent off Orrock and Farrell.

Wests' captain Peter McLean finished the match with a probable dislocation of the left shoulder, which he said he received early in the game.

Throughout the game both packs of forwards kicked wildly in play-the-ball movements.

Rough play extended to the three-quarters who illegally held opponents in tackles and made several late second tackles.

Western Suburbs concentrated more on playing the ball than the man. Souths, with a major share of the ball, made

little use of it, and their backs were often caught flat-footed.

Wests would have won by a much greater margin had their full-back George Bain kicked a couple of easy penalty goals.

At half-time Souths led 7-5. After Wests' hooker Farrell was sent off Souths won most of the scrums and had every chance to win.

But they made too many mistakes and seemed to lack condition to play out the full 80 minutes.

The win for Wests was a triumph for captain Peter McLean, who was playing his last game, coach Tom McMahon, who coached a premier-ship team at his first attempt, and former international forward Ray Stehr, who assisted in the coaching of the forwards this week.

Condition counts

Souths scored first when Graves landed an easy penalty after Dines was offside following a scrum.

Shortly after, Wests won a scrum just outside Souths 25 and were awarded a penalty for offside, for Bain to equal the score.

Souths won the first clean scrum and centre Threlfo easily beat Ratcliff, in-passed to Macreadie, who ran over for a try, but Bishop ruled a forward pass.

Souths went to the front when Graves kicked another penalty then Wests scored the first try when Trevena threw a pass to Lowe from a play-the-ball movement.

Lowe ran strongly, sent a pass to Fitzgerald, who just grounded the ball before knocking over the corner flag.

Souths scored just before half-time, when from a scrum just outside Wests 25, Spencer beat Ratcliff, then passed to Smalles to score.

Wests went to the lead after Trevena had cut through and in-passed to Schofield.

Schofield was tackled a few yards from the line by Smalles, but getting up quickly played the ball over the line, and racing through, fell on it for a try. Bain kicked the goal and Wests led 10-7.

Macreadie forced his way over for another try. Graves converted, and with 15 minutes to go Souths led 12-10.

From then on Wests' better condition told and they took complete control of the game.

Bain started a movement from his own 25, beat several tackles before sending to Dines. Seven Wests' players handled the ball, then

Dines threw a pass on the ground for Bain to kick through, follow on, and touch down just before the ball went over the dead-ball line.

Trevena made the next try when he shot around the blind side, ran to Souths' full-back Murdoch, and in-passed for McLean to score.

Trevena made the last try when he again cut through and Dines, picking up a pass on his fingerups went over to make the score 22-12.

Wests were by far the better team and thoroughly deserved their win.

They scored six tries to two and ran Souths off their legs although they lost the scrums.

Trevena, Wests' half-back, was the best player on the field and was well supported by Watson and Don Schofield.

Western Suburbs 22 (D. Schofield 2, G. Bain, J. Fitzgerald, P. McLean, D. Dines tries, G. Bain, 2 goals) beat South Sydney 12 (K. Macreadie, C. Smalles, tries, J. Graves, 3 goals).



Western Suburbs District Rugby League Football Club Premiers 1952. Back row: J. Fitzgerald, D. Dines, K. Hansen, W. Horder, C. Ratcliff, H. Farrell. Front row: R. Watson, C. Lowe, W. Callinan, P. McLean (capt.), G. Bain, D. Schofield, L. Trevena. Ball boy: P. Rowan.