

Newcastle Rugby Football League

Presents First Grade Final

Northern Suburbs v. Western Suburbs



Newcastle
Sports Ground

◆
Saturday
13th September
1947
◆



E. EYRE (Captain)
Northern Suburbs.



C. MAXWELL (Captain)
Western Suburbs.

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. . . TEAMS . . .

WESTERN SUBURBS.

Ian Johnston (full-back): Last season this talented young player was promoted straight from Juniors to centre for the First Grade team which won the Final against South Newcastle. Sound in all departments of the game, Johnston became one of the best local full-backs this season, following the retirement of Ossie Screen. Johnston is also a well known cricketer.

Ross Snushall (right wing): This winger is one of the fastest runners in the game here. He represented Combined Country in 1945. Once Snushall gets a chance to make a run at the line there are few who can reach him. On his day he can be a real match-winner.

Kev Hahn (left wing): A big, burly runner of the Crossley type, Hahn joined West Club this season when he came to live in Newcastle after being a star winger in Wollongong. Very hard to stop when in full flight, Hahn is now one of the best wingers in Newcastle.

Allan Maddison (centre): This player has had a good deal of experience in first-class football and is still widely regarded as the district's "copybook" centre, despite his lack of weight. Maddison, who represented against England last season, is noted for his good handling and low tackling.

Col Maxwell (centre): Captain and coach this season, following his success in similar jobs last season, when he took West to the Grand Final, only to see South Newcastle turn the tables. Maxwell has been playing first grade football for 10 years, having starred in Sydney during the war years. Maxwell, who runs and tackles very hard, rarely fails to take the eye during a game.

Horry Banks (five-eighth): Before he joined the Services, this heady player was a star with the Waratah-Mayfield Club and represented Newcastle. This season he made the Combined Country Seconds Team. A good player, Banks is a brilliant defender, too, specialising in the flying tackle.

Mick Freeman (half-back): This player relies on much the same orthodox but busy game as his opponent of to-day, Bruce Stokes. Freeman, too, is a hard worker and can do his share of tackling when the pressure is on the defence.

"Bo" Anderson (lock forward): He has been one of the most consistent players in the West team, despite his lack of weight. Versatile, Anderson was a five-eighth in 1945; a lock last season and a centre this season, until Maddison was recently re-instated in the centre. Anderson's value lies in his ability to penetrate the defence.

Jim Rodgers (second row): Known to every League fan under the nickname of "Jewboy," this

big forward will tell you that he is only happy on the field when the going is tough. Rodgers has been a West mainstay for many seasons now.

Allan Webster (second row): Another of those players who have returned to the game here after a break caused by Service duties, Webster has played his part well this season, when it is considered that he was called upon to fill the vacancy caused by Tom Pittman's transfer to Newtown Club.

Arthur Kentish (front row): Like Rodgers, he was a first grader with West before the war and was always a prominent player right from his junior days. Early this season Kentish was recovering from a rather severe illness but is now back near the form which made him outstanding last season.

Ken Banks (centre-forward): A brother of Horry Banks, the five-eighth, and a member of a family famous in Newcastle football tradition, Ken is an astute "dummy-half" and has had many close hooking duels with Bob Crane.

Ron Mann (front row): This big forward was a Soccer player until he made a start in the League code with the Lake Macquarie Club last season. This is his first season with West and his first in senior grade. Mann has tremendous speed in the open and is always a potential scorer of surprises.

NORTHERN SUBURBS.

Les Gilbert (full-back): He was a star with Waratah-Mayfield Club before joining the Services, where he found time to play some football, occasionally helping his club out while on leave. Gilbert became qualified for North this season and represented Combined Country Firsts. His strong points are handling, tackling and clever running.

Des Ratley (left wing): This Stockton "flyer" is only young in first grade but has already represented with Newcastle teams. His early form this winter was below his best, but last Saturday at New Lambton Oval, Ratley returned to top form.

Ron Crossley (right wing): Was full-back with Central Club last season, but became qualified for North this year, showing his versatility by starring as a winger. He is the district's most spectacular goal kicker and North is looking for more goals to-day from this big winger.

Ken Robertson (centre): This player has been identified with North for a number of seasons now, although he has played some football in Sydney and last year coached with success at Cootamundra. Robertson is noted for his deadly tackling and hard

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running. At present he is playing his best football in years.

Jack ("Doody") Wood: This tall young player is only in his second season of first grade football, but is now showing that he is learning rapidly with experience. A safe tackler, he is noted most for his speed off the mark and ability to take advantage of the loose ball.

Charlie Smith (five-eighth): Like Wood, this young player came into North's first grade team last season, after showing to great advantage in reserves. He is not a heavily built player but has the ability to take knocks and still be there to get through an opening.

Bruce Stokes (half-back): North also discovered this player in the Stockton district, where he is a well-known surfer in summer. Stokes is in his second season of big football. He plays a sound, orthodox game and is a tiger for hard work.

Jack Hutchinson (lock forward): One of the most experienced players in the team, Hutchinson reached top honours last year when he played for Australia in a test match against the Englishmen. Tall and rangy, he is at his best in attack, using a good fend when meeting tacklers. Hutchinson has also shown that he can mix it in the close play.

Ernie Eyre (second row): Eyre is the team captain. He has played more than 100 first grade games with North and sets the example by his consistency in the forward work. Eyre is a particularly sound tackler and keeps fit in summer as a member of Newcastle Surf Club.

Reg Narvo (second row): Younger brother of the famous Herb Narvo, the inspiration of North in pre-war years, Reg also plays in second row. Like Gilbert, Hutchinson and others, he played the game in the Services. Narvo represented Newcastle this season.

Charlie Gill (front row): This tall, muscular prop forward is noted for his speed when taking part in movements in the open, but when the game calls for it he can delve into the close play with great effect. Often considered unlucky not to have been selected for high representative honours.

Bob Crane (centre-forward): Has only had a couple of first grade seasons but has been one of the leading hookers in the district since his success for Newcastle against the Englishmen last year. This season he played for Combined Country Firsts.

Doug McGaw (front row): This burly forward and his black headgear are always seen where the play is heaviest. McGaw has had much experience during his playing career, and showed last Saturday that he is as good as ever.

The Team Coaches.

NORTHERN SUBURBS.

Max Bailey's name is as much a household word among League followers in Newcastle as such players as Wally Prigg, Jimmy Gibbs and Rees Duncan, to quote a few of the district's stars of the past. Max Bailey, too, was a fine player, some 20 years ago, representing the State and Newcastle as a lock forward.

His first playing club was North and to North he returned last season as team coach. North just missed the semi-finals last year, but Max Bailey gained wide fame when Newcastle's team, which he coached, beat England again at the Sports Ground. Max had coached the winning Newcastle side in 1936, and so he became the only man to coach two country teams to successive victories over the men in white.

Bailey's first thought is always towards the physical fitness of his team. That accomplished he gets down to the finer points of the game.

WESTERN SUBURBS.

Colin Maxwell, some details of whose career are to be found in the detailed paragraphs about to-day's players in this issue, is the player-coach of Western Suburbs.

Maxwell has succeeded with West during the past two seasons, since his discharge from the R.A.A.F., because as a centre three-quarter, he has the ability to inspire the team by his personal example as a player. When Maxwell is on the field, the West players themselves will tell you that they play much better.

Apart from his inspiration as a leader on the field of play, Maxwell has a sound knowledge of the way team tactics can be varied and utilised to capitalise on the apparent weaknesses of an opposing side. Maxwell's years of experience in big football have taught him much. He is still able to play a very hard game of football. His team mates are quick to appreciate that point.

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The Minor Premiers.

LAKES UNITED

Everybody connected with the Rugby League code in Newcastle, whether they are officials of a particular club, or are usually very strong supporters of a club, is unanimous in praising the achievement of the newly formed Lakes United district in gaining the minor premiership this season.

Granted first grade status only at the beginning of this year, the Lakes Club had to start, as

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it were, right from scratch, in building up a team and organising club support in the Lake Macquarie area, and districts down to Gosford, using Belmont as a headquarters.

Many of the Lakes players were new to the atmosphere of first grade football, but that only makes their achievements the more praiseworthy. To win the minor premiership, Lakes had to beat Western Suburbs twice, the second time before a crowd of 10,000 people.

In the semi-final last Saturday, Lakes met Northern Suburbs in their most devastating mood, and the Lakes team was by no means disgraced to lose after a thrilling game.

The minor premiers will meet the winner of to-day's final in a grand final and so still have their chance to take out the major honours for the season. Whether the team wins or loses, the Lakes district has come to stay in Newcastle Rugby League, and the code is now richer for many fine players and thousands of new supporters.

Consistent teamwork is the secret of any team's success in football and Lakes has plenty of it. Still, the public has its favourites and among the Lakes stars who will be seen in action again in the grand final will be such fine players as the coach and half-back, Jim Scoular; five-eighth, Ron Golden; full-back, Bert Sharpe, of Wyong; and crowd-pleasing Belmont forwards, like Albert Paul, Max Foster and Co.

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NORTHERN SUBURBS.

Congratulations are once again extended to our three teams for their treble success of last week, and also for the wonderful display of football they produced. It was of the highest order.

The Senior Team in particular gave a display that was comparable with our great teams of the past. Their defence, when the Lakes hurled attack after attack on our line in the first half, was magnificent, and was perhaps the turning-point of the game in our favor.

To select any player for special mention would be unfair, but it would be equally unfair, however, not to comment on, firstly, Ken Robertson, who

played the greatest game of his long career and gave a classical example of centre three-quarter play. It was the best seen in Newcastle for many years.

Secondly, Les Gilbert, our full-back, who played perfectly. His catching and kicking was flawless. This combined with the able manner in which he ran his backs into position, and was a highlight of the game.

In the Reserve Grade side we witnessed another brilliant exhibition of Bill McKenzie. This lad, who is only 20, scored four tries and made another. Possibly the most pleasing feature of his game was that he gave the intercepts away.

Well boys, to-day is that day of the year when we expect to witness football of the highest degree. So, the best of good luck to you all, and "Northern Suburbs expects that every man this day will give of his best."

—RANDOM.

WESTERN SUBURBS.

For the third year in succession we are playing in the final, but so far, without successfully collecting the major honours. Against South last year we won the final but lost the grand final to that team, whereas, if we win against North to-day, we will play Lakes in the grand final.

Although we defeated North at our last meeting we realise that they will be a tough nut to crack and it will require the very best form of every man in the team to assure us of success.

We are confident that we can win this game, but whatever the outcome we look to a hard, fast, and clean game that will be a credit to the League code and will provide one of the highlights of our sesqui-centenary celebrations.

One of the outstanding players against Kurri last Sunday was centre three-quarter, Alan Maddison, whose fast moving attacking runs and tigerish defence were reminiscent of his displays last season when he represented against England. Nice going, Alan!

Also playing at the top of his form is coach, Colin Maxwell, surely the hardest running, hardest tackling centre in the game, whose constructive football and cover defence is to be commended.

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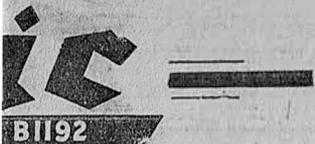
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Ncle. Sports Ground—3.15 p.m. Sat., 13th Sept., 1947.



FIRST GRADE FINAL.

NORTHERN SUBURBS v. WESTERN SUBURBS



NORTHERN SUBURBS.

(Colours—Royal Blue)

Full-Back:

1—L. GILBERT

Three-Quarters:

11—R. CROSSLEY
 3—K. ROBERTSON

J. WOOD—2
 D. RATLEY—5

Halves:

6—C. SMITH

B. STOKES—7

Forwards:

8—J. HUTCHINSON
 9—E. EYRE R. NARVO—10
 11—C. GILL 12—R. CRANE D. McGAW—13

WESTERN SUBURBS.

(Colours—Green, Red V)

Full-Back:

1—I. JOHNSTON

Three-Quarters:

15—R. SNUSHALL C. MAXWELL—3
 16—A. MADDISON K. HAHN—2

Halves:

6—H. BANKS

M. BROGDEN—20

Forwards:

4—C. ANDERSON
 9—A. WEBSTER J. RODGERS—10
 13—R. MANN 12—K. BANKS A. KENTISH—11

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