



LEAGUE NEWS

No. 23

Price 5c

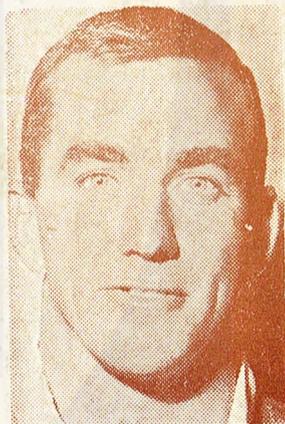
AUGUST 26, 1967



JOHN HOBBY

TODAY'S CAPTAINS

JACK GILL



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ENTERTAINING SEASON ENDS TODAY

The most entertaining season the Newcastle Rugby Football League has experienced comes to a close this afternoon.

The four tackle and the tap kick rules have revitalised League and given the spectators the fast and open game that keeps interest sustained until the final whistle.

Even in the semi-finals and final during the past two weeks play has not been of the dour type, but in the reverse, and patrons have been more than satisfied with movements that keep the game see sawing from one end of the field to the other.

Today's match is expected to be tough and hard between Western Suburbs and Northern Suburbs — the two top teams in the competition — and again fans can expect a grand finale.

In two competition games and the major semi-final West has won on two occasions. In their first clash North won by the good margin of 23 points to 6, but West turned the tables in the second game to win on the bell by 8 points to 7.

The major semi-final was all West when the side scored two tries and notched five goals to North's one try and two goals.

The two combinations favour the ball moving freely in the back line and although West appears to be better equipped in some positions North has the tenacity to prove an obstacle.

West meets Lakes in the reserve grade grand final. Lakes was the only team to inflict defeat on West this season and a keen tussle should result.

North, making its initial appearance, in a third grade grand final goes in against the minor premier West and these two teams should spark off an afternoon of grand football.



2NX

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AROUND THE CLUBS

West front rowers Rob Davies and Neil Gibson, are also tough men who ask for no quarter, give none. This pair are two of West's longest campaigners, and no doubt will strive to enter the winner's circle once more.

Phil Radford showed his usual brand of courage when he continued on after receiving a badly cut head which necessitated 7 stitches after. "Radish" is only a youngster and has a fine future in Rugby League in the Lakes Club.

West First Grade captain-coach John Hobby, is quietly confident of success in today's Grand Final against North. This team has come good at the right time, which is a mixture of youth and experience, the necessary ingredients in a team to contest Grand Finals.

Geoff Pickering, Lake's young half in Reserves, had the misfortune to break a bone in his wrist in the final and will miss today's game against West. "Pickles" one of our most improved players will be a force next season.

West second rowers, Dennis Rowston and Ray "Wagga" Johnson are both tough campaigners, who over the years have brought glory to themselves and no doubt will again today.

North 3rd grade will be looking for a repetition of form that their two "Big Guns" Peter Smith and Kelvin Sweetman displayed against West in the semi-final. The same performance by these two robust centres could help pave the way for victory.

One person who will be anxiously awaiting the results of the senior and third grade matches on Saturday is Mr. Jack Thomas, former secretary of Northern Suburbs who is now residing in England. We hope that the results of the Saturday matches will be pleasing news for Jack.

Today marks the end of North's front rower Bill "Bags" Owen playing career. Bill has been a tower of strength for North throughout his playing career, and North supporters are hoping that Bill can retire in a blaze of glory, by beating West today. Win or lose, thanks for a job well done, Bill.

West's three grade teams have once again reached the Grand Finals. This is a true testimony of the club's great depth. To the players, officials, selectors and everyone connected in any official capacity, congratulations in the true spirit of "West is Best."

No doubt North's 5/8 Les Perry, will be striving to win the Craven A award again on Saturday, as Les has won it in the Semi-Final and Final and to win it 3 times in a row would be a feat rarely seen again.

West centre pairing of Bob Hensby and John Coates must pose as a problem for North. Smart halves Mick Gallagher, Wayne Hore, together with elusive fullback Geoff Spruce, are all capable footballers. With fine wingers, Mick Alchin and Peter Holmes always prominent.

West hooker Allan Buman, will also play an important role in today's game. His ability to give his team a good share of ball, and his shrewd distribution will have a big bearing on the final result.

NEWCASTLE LEAGUES CLUB

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Saturday, August 26: 8 p.m. CABARET with Bert Carr and his band. Com-pere Ken Potts. Guest artist, Joan Livermore.

Sunday, August 27: 10.30 a.m. K.O. SNOOKER TOURNAMENT; 8 p.m., Film "SON OF A GUNFIGHTER", Russ Tamblin, Kieron Moore.

Thursday, August 31: MIXED BOWLS Competition, draw for partner, 7.45.

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GRAND FINAL

Saturday, 26th August, 1967

NORTHERN SUBURBS v. WESTERN SUBURBS

Northern Suburbs

Royal Blue and Sky Blue Bars

Full-back:

1—Doug ELLIS x

Three-quarters:

2—Ray BUTLER

3—Doug McMANUS

Don NEWTON—5

Ray HUNTER—4

Halves:

6—Les PERRY

Brian ASKIE—7 IT

Forwards:

8—Jack GILL

9—Bill MATTINGLEY

Karl HUTCHINSON—10

11—Dennis NICHOLS

Bill OWENS—13

12—Allan JONES

Referee: N. Spohr

Western Suburbs

Red and Green

Full-back:

1—Geoff SPRUCE

Three-quarters:

2—Mick ALCHIN

3—Bob HENSBY

Peter HOLMES—5

John COOTES—4 IT

Halves:

6—Wayne HORE

Mick GALLAGHER—7

Forwards:

8—John HOBBY

9—Dennis ROWSTON

Ray JOHNSON—10

11—Neil GIBSON

Rob DAVIES—13

12—Alan BUMAN

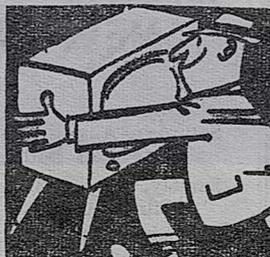
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