

# 1945



WEST SENIORS, 1945 — DEFEATED IN FINAL BY SOUTH 14-13  
 G. (Salty) Watt, W. (Spot) Tarrant, G. Sanderson, R. Alderson, R. Buckley, A. Steel, K. Owens, M. Carroll, C. Probert, A. Russell, Ken Banks, J. G. Wilson, T. Marsh, Bill Craig, Fred Webbsman, Arthur Ward, H. Jones, St Davis, Scotch, J. Hain, Pat Kirby, Alan Maddison, Os Screen, C (Bo) Anderson, G. (Nick) Freeman, R. Snushall, M. Masceod (Ball Boy).

**W**est made the First Grade final only to be defeated 14 – 13 by South, although they scored 3 tries to 2. Minor Premiers Kurri then defeated South 7 – 4 in the Grand Final. In the State Cup West raised eyebrows when they defeated the South Sydney Rabbitohs 10 -2 in the first round. West were then beaten by Eastern Suburbs Roosters 32 – 18 in the second round.

The defeated West team in the final was O Screen, J Hain, R Snushall, A Maddison, R Percival, C “Bo” Anderson, M Freeman, P Kirby, K Owens, C Probert, R Buckley, K Banks and G Sanderson. West Under 18’s continued to impress. From the Newcastle Morning Herald *“Many spectators who saw the game at District Park last week predict a very fine future for Ian Johnson who plays in the centre position. This lad is an outstanding footballer and his handling and tackling are something many older players could well take a pattern off. In addition he is an excellent goal kick.”* (Johnson was selected from Parramatta in 1949 to represent Australia on a tour of New Zealand.)

Round	Opponent	Result
1 – 21 April	Cessnock	Won 20 - 9
2 – 28 April	North	Won 7 - 5
3 – 5 May	South	Won 34 - 4
4 – 12 May	Maitland	Won 21 - 13
5 – 19 May	Central	Lost 22 - 6
6 – 26 May	Waratah	Lost 35 - 20
7 – 2 June	Kurri	Lost 26 - 16
8 – 16 June	Cessnock	Lost 8 - 0
9 – 23 June	North	Won 16 - 14
10 – 30 June	South	12 all draw
11 – 7 July	Maitland	Won 23 - 2
12 – 14 July	Central	Won 35 - 2
13 – 28 July	Waratah	Won 11 - 5
14 – 4 August	Kurri	Lost 33 - 2
11 August – Play off for 4th		West 19 def Cessnock 8
25 August – Semi Final		West 8 def Waratah 7
1 September – Final		South 14 def West 13

## 1946

West came within one game of ending their first grade drought when they made it through to the Grand Final only to be beaten by Minor Premiers South 11 – 3 in the Grand Final. West beat Kurri in the semi final, then beat South in the final. As South were Minor Premiers they were allowed to challenge West in the Grand Final but alas.....One bright feature of the 1946 season was that West qualified for the semi finals in all 3 grades – almost



WEST SENIORS, 1946  
Back Row: O. Screen, J. Redman, A. Peattie, R. Snushall, A. Kentish, G. Maddison, J. Rodgers, T. Pittman. Front Row: I. Johnston, Mick Freeman, Dr. W. Gunther, C. Maxwell, Dr. A. E. Harker, G. Sanderson, Horrie Banks.

unheard of by West in the 1940's (but certainly commonplace from the 1960's onwards). West's Grand Final team was O Screen, R Snushall, C Maxwell (Try), I Johnson, J Redman, H Banks, G Freeman, A Peattie, T Pittman, G Maddison, A Kentish, G Sanderson and J Rodgers. West also gained more players in the Newcastle team that played the Englishmen than any other club. All 3 West representatives (Ossie Screen, Tom Pittman and Alan Maddison) played "colossal" football and helped Newcastle to a thrilling 18 – 13 win. (See Newcastle Team photo below) In other games in 1946 West defeated Northern Group by over 40 points in a game played at Bellingen on 15 June. On 17 June West defeated Urunga at Urunga and on 1 September Armidale defeated West 32 – 5 at Armidale. Also, on 21 July there was a special Testimonial game at District Park to honour Ossie Screen from West and Dave "Doody" Woods from South. West won this Testimonial game by 24 – 11.

Round	Opponent	Result
1 – 13 April	Cessnock	Won 13 - 0
2 – 20 April	South	Won 14 - 12
3 – 25 April	Maitland	Won 14 - 11
4 – 4 May	Waratah	9 all draw
5 – 11 May	North	Lost 12 - 2
6 – 18 May	Kurri	Won 17 - 6
7 – 25 May	Central	Won 12 - 4
8 – 1 June	Cessnock	Won 20 - 7
9 – 8 June	South	Lost 12 - 11
10 – 22 June	Waratah	Lost 9 - 6
11 – 29 June	North	Won 23 - 5
12 – 6 July	Kurri	Lost 23 - 2
13 – 13 July	Central	Won 18 - 2
14 – 20 July	Maitland	Won 49 - 16
3 August – Semi Final		West 35 def Kurri 4
10 August - Final		West 24 def South 9
<b>17 August – Grand Final</b>		<b>South 11 def West 3</b>



## 1947

In 1947 Lakes United entered the competition to make 9 teams and a bye. Lakes created some kind of record by taking out the First Grade Minor and Major Premierships in their first year. West shared the Minor Premiership with Lakes but were beaten 14 – 13 in the Minor Premiership play off. Five of Lakes players were former West players, but all games between West and Lakes were played in great spirit. West failed to make the Grand Final in First Grade, but they were semi finalist in all 3 grades, and they did win the Club Championship – a forerunner of things to come. West’s team in the 1947 final when they were defeated by North was I Johnson, K Hahn, A Maddison, C Maxwell, R Snushall, H Banks, M Brogden, C Anderson, A Webster, J Rodgers, A Kentish, K Banks and R Mann. Ken Banks made his return to West in 1947 after a season with St George, and Mick Brogden, son of former West player (and government bus driver) Perc Brogden, made his First Grade debut. (Do you remember Mick’s brother Fred, and Fred’s wife Marge Presland, who worked in Paynes butcher shop in Regent Street, New Lambton for many, many years?) During May of 1947 West played away games against Kempsey and Werris Creek.



WEST SENIORS, 1947

Standing: W. Heaney, A. Ward, Horrie Banks, Jack Bell, Ken Banks, Mick Brogden, Max Carroll, R. Sushall, J. J. (Mo) Wilson, Ian Johnston, Bill Craig, Kev Hahn, Si Davis, G. (Mick) Freeman, Tom Scott, Stewart Banks. Front Row: H. Jones, Alan Maddison, C. (Bo) Anderson, Alan Webster, Col Maxwell, R. Mann, A. Kentish, J. Rodgers, G. Watt. M. Mascord (Ballboy).

Round	Opponent	Result
1 – 12 April	South	Lost 12 - 5
2 – 19 April	Kurri	Won 9 - 5
3 – 26 April	Cessnock	Won 17 - 5

4 – 3 May	North	Lost 28 - 12
5 – 10 May	Bye	
6 – 17 May	Waratah	Won 22 - 7
7 – 24 May	Maitland	Won 11 - 2
8 – 14/16 June	Central	Won 30 - 19
9 – 21 June	Lakes	Won 25 - 10
10 – 28 June	South	Won 11 - 3
11 – 5 July	Kurri	Won 12 - 7
12 – 12 July	Cessnock	Won 42 - 10
13 – 19 July	North	Won 7 - 0
14 – 26 July	Bye	
15 – 2 August	Waratah	Won 25 - 0
16 – 9 August	Maitland	Won 37 - 6
17 – 16 August	Central	Won 11 - 5
18 – 23 August	Lakes	Lost 18 - 7
30 August – Minor Prem Playoff		Lakes 14 def West 13
7 September – Semi Final		West 7 def Kurri 4
<b>13 September - Final</b>		<b>North 15 def West 4</b>

## 1948



**I**n 1948 West were semifinalist in First Grade only to be beaten 12 – 7. The West team in the semi final was J De Courcey, T Sullivan (2 goals), A Maddison, C Anderson, K Hahn (Try), D Lewis, W Harding, G Maddison, R Walker, J Rodgers, K Banks, A Webster and D Hardy. West also made the Reserve Grade final only to

be beaten by North 13 – 9, with Mr Jerry Lane being the referee. In the May Day challenge matches West defeated North (Sydney) by 21 – 15 on 9 May. West also played North at District Park on 18 July in a Testimonial match for Jim “Jewboy” Rodgers from West and Allan Russell from North. Some sidelights from the year included the farewelling of Col Maxwell and Keith Froome prior to sailing with the Australian Kangaroo team to England. Also, Kevin Hahn scored 17 tries in the season and (Australian cricketer) Jim De Courcey proved himself a worthy replacement for Ian Johnson at fullback. There was one great West name in the West third grade

team that was defeated by Stockton in the semi final. One of the West players was a certain *“Glen Maloney”* – now departed, but now known as *“Mr West”*. Now the big statement. *Glen Maloney was the most influential person in the history of the Western Suburbs RLFC – Discuss!*

Round	Opponent	Result
1 – 10 April	Central	Won 14 - 4
2 – 17 April	Maitland	Won 32 - 5
3 – 26 April	Bye	
4 – 15 May	Cessnock	Won 13 - 7
5 – 22 May	South	Lost 18 - 9
6 – 29 May	North	Lost 24 - 5
7 – 5 June	Waratah	Won 50 - 7
8 – 12 June	Lakes	Won 15 - 10
9 – 19 June	Kurri	Won 5 - 4
10 – 26 June	Central	Lost 5 - 4
11 – 3 July	Maitland	Won 28 - 9
12 – 10 July	Bye	
13 – 17 July	Cessnock	Won 42 - 0
14 – 24 July	South	4 all draw
15 – 31 July	North	Lost 12 - 6
16 – 7 August	Waratah	Won 18 - 10
17 – 14 August	Lakes	Won 27 - 13
18 – 21 August	Kurri	Lost 21 - 5
28 August – Semi Final		North 12 def West 7
<b>18 September – Grand Final</b>		<b>North 5 def Kurri 4</b>



## 1949

**W**ell 1949? – not a good year. First Grade – won 4, lost 10, drew 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> last. Reserve Grade – won 3, lost 12, drew 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> - last. Third Grade – won 2, lost 14 – last. West also came 2<sup>nd</sup> last in the Club Championship, beating last placed Maitland by just 6 points. The First Grade Final was won by Minor Premiers Central 28 – 15 over Maitland, in a game refereed by Harry Gillard. Glen Maloney became Assistant Secretary. Ossie Screen coached Cardiff, Reserve Grade 5/8, and “Charger” Walls, transferred back to Jesmond. .... But there was other news. Secretary Jack Wilson and Assistant Secretary Glen Maloney were both presented with girls ... Lorraine Wilson and Susan Maloney ... what, no boys! Terry Sullivan returned to West from Warialda. Peter Gosper, brother of Olympian Terry

Gosper, showed plenty of pace on the wing. But for those of us who can remember, the best news was that Waratah abattoir worker, Big John L (John Lightfoot) came to West from Waratah. What an impressive physique, what a man. John went on to play First Grade for Newtown from 1952 to 1955, eventually returning to West in 1956. Also, Don Bentlin came to West from Cardiff. This impressive footballer came as a centre, was played at 5/8 and later became an outstanding West fullback.

Round	Opponent	Result
1 – 23 April	Lakes	Lost 22 - 11
2 – 25 April	South	Lost 24 - 11
3 – 30 April	Kurri	Lost 29 - 7
4 – 7 May	North	Won 18 - 17
5 – 14 May	Waratah	Lost 41 - 7
6 – 21 May	Cessnock	Won 5 - 0
7 – 4 June	Maitland	Won 18 - 12
8 – 11 June	Bye	
9 – 13 June	Central	Lost 20 - 5
10 – 2 July	South	12 all draw
11 – 9 July	Lakes	16 all draw
12 – 18 July	Kurri	Lost 24 - 10
13 – 23 July	North	Lost 11 - 5
14 – 30 July	Waratah	Lost 25 - 17
15 – 6 August	Cessnock	Lost 27 - 13
16 – 13 August	Maitland	Won 32 - 14
17 – 20 August	Bye	
18 – 27 August	Central	Lost 26 - 6
<b>1 October - Final</b>		<b>Central 28 def Kurri 15</b>