

1975

Dennis Ward continued as Captain Coach in 1975 – and, yes, a third consecutive Grand for Dennis Ward, and a third loss. On this occasion West again lost to Lakes 30 – 17. However, an accolade to Dennis Ward – 3 Grand Finals in 3 years was a great achievement. Reserve Grade under Coach Greg Norgard defeated Lakes 12 -10. The West team was 1. K Hemsworth (3 goals) 2. V Cronin 3. G Norgard 4. G Owen 5. N Freund 6. T Murphy 7. F Frasca 8. J Beecher 9. D Farr 10. L Scott 11. W Aoake 12. B Coughlin 13. K Hutchinson. *Please note: West Reserves won the first game of the season 18 – 4 over Central but lost the 2 points for playing an unregistered player and the Grand Final try scorers are missing (perhaps someone can help).* Third Grade under new Coach Jeff Savage, had a big win against North in the major semi final but were defeated 16 – 9 by North in the decider. Players who first appeared in West’s Grade teams in 1975 included local juniors Bill Carrig, Laurie Rixon and Barry Snushall. Dennis Duncan came to West from West Wyalong and became a long term player and official with the club. Doug Farr came from South Newcastle, Terry Stevens (originally from South Grafton) came from the Sydney Roosters and Ron Sparks followed Dennis Ward from Manly. Another newcomer was a Bob McCarthy “lookalike” – indeed it was Bob’s brother Rick McCarthy who a valuable acquisition to the club. However the most colourful character to join West in 1975 was Sammy Aoake. Sammy came from New Zealand in 1969 and played Rugby Union before linking with South and Kurri. He joined West in 1975 and several clubs after West (he spent many seasons with Windale 2nd Division). Officially Sammy (2011 photo) played 18 seasons of Rugby League, but unofficially...who knows? Sammy Aoake will always be one of the great characters of Newcastle Rugby League. (*Sammy Aoake – First played for West in 1975 – Last played in 1987 – 89 games in total*)



<i>Pre Season</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>
Round 1	South	Lost 8 - 3	Rd 4 - Macquarie	Won 21 - 5
Round 2	Waratah	Lost 16 - 2	Rd 5 - Central	Won 16 - 5
Round 3	Lakes	5 all Draw	Semi - Cessnock	Won 33 - 14
<i>Pre Season Final – West 27 def South 11</i>				
<i>Competition</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Reserves</i>	<i>Thirds</i>
Round 1	Central	Lost 16 - 7	Won 18 – 4 ##	Won 16 - 5
Round 2	North	Won 34 - 9	Won 17 - 12	Won 17 - 5
Round 3	Kurri	16 all Draw	Won 17 - 2	Won 17 - 8
Round 4	Waratah	Won 13 - 7	Won 36 - 0	Won 33 - 0
Round 5	Macquarie	Lost 23 - 15	Won 19 - 8	Won 19 - 5
Round 6	South	Won 32 - 17	Won 25 - 8	Lost 13 - 12
Round 7	Cessnock	Won 16 - 13	Lost 21 - 13	Won 23 - 0
Round 8	Lakes	Won 14 - 4	Won 28 - 7	Won 32 - 5
Round 9	Maitland	Won 17 - 10	Lost 14 - 10	Lost 19 - 10
Round 10	Central	Won 12 - 2	Won 23 - 0	Won 19 - 8
Round 11	North	Lost 35 - 14	Won 24 – 3	Lost 13 - 10
Round 12	Kurri	Won 22 - 12	Won 19 - 7	Lost 20 - 5
Round 13	Waratah	Won 38 - 12	Won 28 - 6	Won 35 - 0
Round 14	Macquarie	Lost 17 - 12	Won 21 - 10	Won 24 - 4
Round 15	Cessnock	Lost 34 - 12	Won 15 - 5	Lost 12 - 8
Round 16	Lakes	Won 31 - 14	Lost 13 - 7	Won 17 - 11
Round 17	Maitland	Won 18 - 12	Won 23 - 19	Won 24 - 14
Round 18	South	Won 16 - 13	Won 31 - 3	Won 44 - 2
Major Semi	Lakes	Lost 28 - 9	West 25 Mait 16	North 27 West 9
Final	North	Won 23 - 12		West 28 Mait 19
GRAND FINAL	Lakes 30	West 17	West 12 def Lakes 10	North 16 West 9