

1980

David Howell took over as Captain Coach in 1980, while South champion, John Anderson was appointed Reserve Grade Captain / Coach. The Third Grade coach was Bob Haydon. West came within 1 point – yes one point, of being Major Premiers in all 3 grades (with West losing to Cessnock by 1 point in Reserve Grade). In First Grade West 17 def Cessnock 13. The West team was 1. Robert Wharton (4 goals). 2. Dean Lance (2 tries) 3. Owen Wallace 4. Tim Lawrence 5. Mal Graham 6. Brad Finnigan 7. Bob Paton 8. David Howell 9. Steve Smith 10. Mick Wallace (try) 11. Geoff Coburn 12. Bob Haydon and 13 Steve Poulton. In



Third Grade West 26 def Cessnock 11. The winning West side was 1. Chris Wright (try) 2. Glenn Frew 3. Rob Christie 4. Ian Thompson 5. Neville Freund (try) 6. “Fish” Taylor (try) 7. Grahame Morrissey 8. Doug Farr 9. Richard Hamment 10. Paul Ferry (try) 11. Ian Ross (try and 3 goals) 12. Dennis Duncan (c) 13. Gary Broadhead. Four West players – David Howell, Steve Smith, Owen Wallace and Ken Groves were selected in the Newcastle rep side. On the debit side - from the 1980 AGM Booklet (West v Waratah – Rd 10) *“What a sad blow it was for Allan Dagwell (pictured – Centenary Dinner 2010) to receive a serious injury that ended his playing career. It is beyond comprehension the manner in which Allan received his injury, as he was one of the cleanest players to have played the code. At the time Allan received his injury, he was playing his 301st First Grade game for the club, and in doing so Allan has not only made history in the annals of the club, but has created a record that may never be surpassed.”*

(It is better not to tell what happened ..let’s just say... a very unfortunate incident.)

The 3 significant newcomers to the club in 1980 were Brad Finnigan (Young) and Steve Poulton (Lakes). John Anderson was Captain/ Coach of Reserve Grade but was injured in the 2nd last competition game. Had John been able to play in the Reserve Grade Grand Final (again from the AGM Booklet) *“the result would have been reversed”*. So after a very successful 1980 season West looked forward to 1981.

<i>Pre Season</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>
Round 1	Macquarie	Won 27 - 5	Rd 4 – Maitland	Lost 12 - 9
Round 2	South	Won 16 - 15		
Round 3	Central	Lost 18 - 17	<i>Play Off for 3rd – West 15 Central 10</i>	
<i>Competition</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Reserves</i>	<i>Thirds</i>
Round 1	Waratah	Won 11 - 5	Lost 19 - 14	Lost 14 - 11
Round 2	Lakes	Won 16 - 8	Won 21 - 0	Won 20 - 0
Round 3	Kurri	4 all Draw	Won 11 - 0	Won 8 - 7
Round 4	Central	Won 19 - 11	Lost 22 - 21	Won 11 - 5
Round 5	North	Won 20 - 12	Won 24 - 11	Won 10 - 3
Round 6	Macquarie	Won 27 - 18	Won 19 - 17	Lost 22 - 10
Round 7	Cessnock	Lost 25 - 10	Won 22 - 14	11 all Draw
Round 8	Maitland	Won 28 - 10	Won 21 - 13	14 all Draw
Round 9	South	14 all Draw	Won 21 - 8	Won 15 - 7
Round 10	Waratah	Won 30 - 5	Won 20 - 17	Won 15 - 8
Round 11	Lakes	Won 30 - 12	Won 35 - 17	Won 21 - 10
Round 12	Kurri	Lost 22 - 6	Won 19 - 13	Won 31 - 8
Round 13	Central	Lost 18 - 6	Won 18 - 9	Won 13 - 9
Round 14	North	Won 11 - 5	Won 27 - 12	Won 29 - 15
Round 15	Macquarie	Won 21 - 11	Won 36 - 8	13 all Draw
Round 16	Cessnock	16 all Draw	Lost 31 - 18	Won 20 - 12
Round 17	Maitland	Won 31 - 16	Lost 22 - 13	Won 25 - 11
Round 18	South	Won 19 - 4	Won 69 - 2	Lost 18 - 9
Prelim Semi	Cessnock	Won 22 - 16	Waratah 32 West 14	West 38 Macq 18
Minor Semi			West 24 Maitland 10	
Major Semi	Kurri	Won 19 - 9		Cess 16 West 8
Final			West 17 Waratah 13	West 21 Macq 19
GRAND FINAL	West 17 def Cessnock 13		Cessnock 15 West 14	West 26 Cess 11