

1998

NEWCASTLE RUGBY LEAGUE
GRAND FINAL DAY
23rd AUGUST 1998.



With his 1997 success behind him Tony Price began his 3rd season as Captain / Coach in First Grade. Geoff Gidley went “up one notch” to coach Reserve Grade while the “West Wyalong Wonder”, Dennis Duncan took over the coaching duties with the Under 20’s. Nearly another “Golden Year” with all teams in the Grand Final. First Grade defeated South by 51 to 14 in the Grand Final. The winning West team was 1. Scott Bradley (9 goals / 9 attempts) 2. Brett Cullen (try) 3. Gavin Cook (2 tries) 4. Les Smith (try) 5. Shane Johnson (try) 6. Paul Skovgaard 7. Tony Price (2 tries, 1 FG) 13. Anthony Pauling 12. Adam

Frost 11. Tony Hutton 10. Stuart Collins 9. Ryan Dagwell 8. Andrew Weir 14. Michael Barwick (try) 15. Andrew Taylor and 18. Matt Lee. Under 20’s were **undefeated** during the season and defeated South 36 to 6 in the Grand Final. The winning West team was 1. Kurt Stallworthy (try and 4 goals) 2. Ben Newman 3. Adam Delaney (2 tries) 4. Wayne March 5. Adam Considine (2 tries) 6. Steve Doherty 7. Brock Wills (try) 13. Nathan Kelly 12. Craig Milne 11. Nathan Parker 10. Justin Alexander 9. Scott Collins 8. Daniel McCarney (try) 14. Ben Burling 15. Matt Brogan 16. Nigel Craig and 17. Adam Gidley. Players who first played Grade for West in 1998 included West juniors, Shane Johnson and Nathan Parker, Gavin Cook from Dubbo and Kurt Stallworthy from Muswellbrook.

Scott Bradley was awarded the trophy for the “Clubman of the Year” and the “Most Outstanding Player” trophies were awarded to Brett Cullen (Firsts), Matt Lee (Reserves) and Steve Doherty (Under 20’s). It most probably is not hard to see why Brett Cullen won his award. Brett scored 40 First Grade tries in 1998! *Scott Bradley (pictured right 2010) deserves special mention. He is the leading points scorer in West’s history (1 896) and was selected fullback in West’s “Team of the Century” in 2010.*



Competition	Opponent	Result	Reserves	Under 20's
Round 1	Maitland	Won 42 - 0	Won 32 - 18	Won 30 - 10
Round 2	N N'son B	Won 56 - 0	Won 58 - 0	Won 46 - 18
Round 3	Lakes	Lost 25 - 20	Won 26 - 6	Won 20 - 16
Round 4	Waratah	Won 44 - 16	Won 52 - 4	Won 24 - 16
Round 5	Cessnock	Won 12 - 8	Won 28 - 8	Won 44 - 6
Round 6	South	Lost 24 - 14	Lost 14 - 10	Won 44 - 8
Round 7	Macquarie	Won 40 - 0	Won 44 - 8	Won 56 - 0
Round 8	Central	Won 50 - 6	Won 30 - 13	Won 44 - 4
Round 9	Kurri	Won 32 - 12	Lost 22 - 14	Won 38 - 12
Round 10	Maitland	Won 22 - 12	20 all Draw	Won 42 - 24
Round 11	Nth N Bay	Won 54 - 12	Won 98 - 6	Won 54 - 14
Round 12	Lakes	Won 32 - 10	Won 22 - 10	Won 30 - 14
Round 13	Waratah	Lost 38 - 20	Won 48 - 10	Won 26 - 6
Round 14	Cessnock	Won 64 - 10	Won 30 - 12	Won 54 - 4
Round 15	South	Won 30 - 28	Lost 16 - 12	Won 42 - 6
Round 16	Macquarie	Won 36 - 18	Won 26 - 10	Won 60 - 4
Round 17	Central	Won 98 - 6	Won 58 - 10	Won 80 - 6
Round 18	Kurri	Won 46 - 0	Won 10 - 6	Won 78 - 0
Qualifying Semi			Kurri 18 West 4	
Minor Semi Final			West 11 Cessnock 6	
Major Semi Final	South	Lost 22 - 20		West 28 South 20
Final	Lakes	Won 24 - 10	West 22 Kurri 6	
GRAND FINAL	West 51	South 14	South 17 West 12	West 36 South 6

Tony Price



Tony Price started his Rugby League career with Central Charlestown before moving to Rugby Union. He returned to Central Charlestown and played Under 18's, and won the Under 18's "Player of the Year".

Following that success Tony moved onto grade at Central where John Anderson was the coach. He played mostly Reserve Grade that year, with the occasional game in First Grade.

Tony, and brother Greg, shifted from Central to West in 1988. Tony quickly established himself as a regular First

Grader at West.

In 1992 Tony was the half back in Neil Baker's team that defeated Lakes 33 – 0 in the Grand Final. This team was awarded the "Clayton Cup" for the "Best Performing Team in Country NSW". Only one other club in Newcastle has won the "Clayton Cup" – Maitland in 1956.

Tony played with the Balmain Tigers in 1995, but returned to West in 1996 to begin a four year term as First Grade Captain / Coach. The disappointment of losing the 1996 Grand Final to Lakes, was more than offset by Premiership wins in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

In 1991 Tony was awarded the trophy for the "Newcastle Player of the Year". In 1992 he was "Newcastle Rep Player of the Year". Tony represented Newcastle on more than 20 occasions, he played against the British Lions in 1992 and, in that year, he was "Man of the Match" when Country beat City for the first time in 17 years.

The 1999 Grand Final was marred by an "unfortunate" on field incident involving Tony (*read next year's summary*). It was thought that this would be the end of Toni's career with West - and most people think it was. However, Tony returned to West to "help out" Reserve Grade in 2002, and played 4 games.

So, in summary, Tony Price 1988 to 1999 (excl 1995) – 4 Premierships (1992, 1997, 1998, 1999), 3 Premierships as Captain / Coach, 240 Grade games (2nd only to Allan Dagwell with 332), 115 tries (behind Garth Ross (235), Brett Cullen (230), Peter Jenner (156) and Todd Mulville (115), 222 First Grade games (2nd only to Allan Dagwell with 301), numerous representative honours and twice Newcastle Rugby League "Player of the Year".....just "Priceless" as far as West is concerned...and he's still involved with West today (*June 2014*).

