

“Thank you Peter” – Peter Perkins – by Slim Hunter

(Peter Perkins- 120 games – 1971 to 1976)

We say thanks to Peter Perkins, that he chose to play with West
For the football he has given us, has always been his best
Right from his Hamilton Marist days, in every sport he played
There's always been a challenge, and an effort to be made
To represent in every sport, that he ever chose to play
Is a very fine achievement, for anyone to say
The secret of his sport success, needs no imagination
Just watch him on the football field...it's sheer determination
For your talents...”Thank you Peter”, you've always played the game
When the football starts next season, may we see you once again?



Slim Hunter 13 August 1973



“Our Daggy” – Allan Dagwell - by Slim Hunter

(Allan Dagwell – 332 games – 1966 to 1980)

Ripley hasn't heard, about Allan Dagwell's feat
Of the many games he's played for us, which I can't see being beat
Three hundred plus is the tally, that's a mighty score to chase
When the scrum goes down...the ball goes in, that's a mighty score to chase

Allan packs down in style, with a minimum of fuss
He's here to stay “forever”, he'll always be “one of us”
So keep up the good work Allan, you've friends like the work you've done
West are always happy to claim you... to us, you'll always be No 1!

Slim Hunter 19 April 1979

“Cheers to Ron” – Ron Bailey – by Slim Hunter

(Ron Bailey – 108 games – 1974 to 1983)

No matter where you play the game, there comes a big event
You achieve a particular sort of fame, when you are picked to represent
Your club gets satisfaction, and that pleasure never fades
When the player who has made it, has come up through the grades

To every lad in rugby league, you can see the way it's done
You need great dedication, mixed with a dose of fun
Just remember Ronnie Bailey, to him the credits due
And if Ronnie made it this time, the next one could be you!

Slim Hunter 6 April 1977



1974 Season - by Slim Hunter

It's been a long, long season, with lots of pains and aches
And it's been a mighty effort, you can guess how much it takes
It's the same for every football club, that puts a team "on the green"
And to get them to the finals, is every clubman's dream

Then when the chips are really down, the grand final comes in view
Then you really start to wonder, will you make that final two
Now the worry days are over, we're entitled to the rest
And the boys who played the game for us, they all gave of their best

To the lads who made it possible, we wish you lots of fun
We'd like to say a big "THANK YOU", for the mighty job you done!

Slim Hunter 2 October 1974 (1974 First Grade Grand Final – Lakes 7 def West 2)



“Big Bold “Cass” – Gary “Cass” Whitmore – by Slim Hunter

(Gary Whitmore 97 games – 1966 to 1974)

Up at the front, where the going gets rough
You've got to be big, and you've got to be rough
*To come on the burst, at the top of your stride
Run hard...run straight, at the unfortunate other side*
When you're slammed on your back, it's no time for crying
You get back on your feet, and keep on trying
*That's "Cass" as we know him, that's the style of his game
No matter which grade, it's always the same*
He puts on the gear, the boots and the socks
He plays the game hard, until he's ready to drop
*So keep going "Cass" ...give 'em your best
Any time, any grade.....just stick with West!*



Slim Hunter 30 July 1974

“Grumpy” – Wayne “Grumpy” Evans – by Slim Hunter

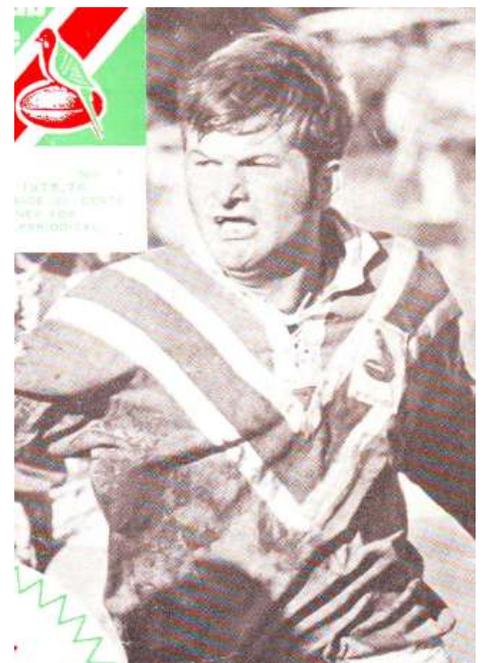
(Wayne Evans – 150 games – 1970 to 1980)

I've been looking through the records, to find a player's name
Who could make a front on tackle, as good as our friend Wayne
*Good "Evans"it took a lot of thought....and then I put pen to paper
And the closest I could come up with, was a bloke called Johnny Raper*

But Wayne to me is a beauty, he'd be one of the very best
And my opinion, of course, ain't biased, because he plays for West
*The thing that really gets me, there is only one thing we can say
Whatever the grade or position, "Grumps" really likes to play*

There's a rumour that he's finished
Perhaps a solution can be found
*We want him on the paddock
We want him every round!*

Slim Hunter 7 November 1975



“Sherman” – Peter Burt – by Slim Hunter

(Peter Burt – 95 games – 1972 to 1984)

Physical fitness in a player, is something to be seen
And take a look at Peter Burt, you'll see just what I mean
*In eighty minutes on the field, in any kind of weather
Pete will showcase all his talents...he'll put them all together
In defence you cannot fault him, in attack we have to thank.....
.....his ability to forge ahead, just like a **Sherman** tank
The coach will say that fitness pays, it shows out on the green
And I suggest..... look out for Pete.....on the local footy scene.*

Slim Hunter 5 April 1976



“Mr Dedication” – Greg Owen – by Slim Hunter

(Greg Owen – 91 games – 1972 to 1976)

At some time in your life, there comes...that moment of truth
That the peak of your life, was the days of your youth
*It is then you remember, if you'd only been keen
You'd have been at the top, in your chosen sports scene*

If you had your time over, and know....what you're knowin'
It's a hundred to one, you'd be another Greg Owen
*From his earliest days, he had the right inspiration
For there's no one could doubt, this lad's dedication*

From schoolboys to juniors, to grade and then rep
For a lad in his teens, 'twas a mighty big step
*He's a model to all, who play sport for a game
That if you give all you've got, you could end up the same*

So here's luck to you Greg, and this I believe
There's no goal in the game, that you cannot achieve.

Slim Hunter 12 February 1975



*Greg Owen
Captain
Newcastle Boys Junior High School
1970
Under 14's
Premiers – Defeated Maitland Boys High in the Final*

“The Quiet One” – Terry Stevens – by Slim Hunter

(Terry Stevens – 98 games – 1975 to 1979)

If you want to back a winner, you can't expect more than evens
Get set, before it gets too late, place your bets on Terry Stevens
You'll get a good run for your money, he's great at “stopping attacks”
And when the team starts moving forward, he's between the forwards and the backs
His fitness is amazing, he tackles all the best
So put half your dough on Terry Stevens.... what's left... “just put it all on West!”

Slim Hunter 12 August 1976



What's in a name if it's “Wright” – Robert “Jackie” Wright – by Slim Hunter

(Robert “Jackie” Wright – 127 games – 1973 to 1980)

They say “lights shine bright”, and say “right is right”
But the only “wright” we know is “Jackie”
He came to this club, from a team in the scrub
The same year we got “Kenny Blackie*”

He said with a laugh....I only play half
And here's something I must relate
Dennis Ward is at seven and West in “seventh heaven”
Jackie Wright, we'd like you five eight

As a “Banks#” bred boy should, he said that he would
He did it as part of his duty
So he gave it a go, and the records will show
As a five eight he was really a beauty

When we lost Dennis Ward, “Jack” got his reward
When they put him in charge of the pack
He's the Captain as well, and the critics will tell
Of the future ahead for our “Jack”

He's called “Robert” at home, but when he's out on his own
He's “Jack” to his mates here at West
And when he's out on the green, where his talents are seen
We all reckon... he likes “Jackie” the best

Slim Hunter 7 June 1976

(# Jackie's mother Jessie, was a sister to the famous Marjoribanks brothers – Bob, Hughie, Jock, Stuart, Jim “Bunty”, Wally, Kenny, Horrie and Alan.

“ Kenny Blackie refers to Ken Blackwell – see next poem)*



“K.B ” – Ken Blackwell – by Slim Hunter

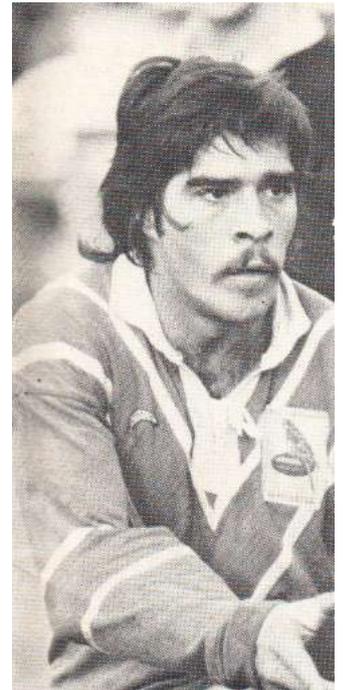
(Ken Blackwell – 89 games – 1973 to 1980)

From Under eight to West seniors, is a lot of league to play
But Ken set out to do it, and in the Blackwell way
*Many kids play rugby league, and many “could have been”
Many seemed to change their heart, in the early teens*

But when they really love the game, and keep playing ‘til they’re men
They seem to have the dedication, that produces blokes like Ken
*He’ll kick you goals, he’ll score you tries, his defence will stand the test
And when the game gets rugged, he will stand up with the best*

There’s no position that he favours, I’ve often heard him say
I only want a jumper mate, and know I’m picked to play
*He’s a West man all his football life, and I’ll say this once “agen”
I wish we had a lot more blokes, that played the game like Ken*

Slim Hunter 18 November 1976



“Born to Stay” – Gary Dagwell – by Slim Hunter

(Gary Dagwell – 72 games – 1967 to 1976)

If you want to buy a racehorse, I’ve often heard it said
That the first thing that you look for, is where the thing was bred
*It’s the same with almost any sport, no matter what you do
Be it soccer, league or Aussie Rules, you’ll find it just as true*

Take the case of Gary Dagwell, there’s no doubt he always tries
But his success in playing rugby league, comes as no surprise
*If you look into the background, of this dedicated lad
You would see that it was something, that started with his dad*

For in spite of all adversity, and no matter what the toll
To be a first class league man, was his one and only goal
*As a clubman, Gary’s made it, he simply **could not fail**
We’re right back where we started...the breeding tells the tale*

Slim Hunter 17 June 1973

