

Owen Kilpatrick....a true West man...

.... who had an eventful afternoon on 12 July 1969....at Kurri....

Owen Kilpatrick was born in Armidale and shifted to New Lambton in 1942.

He enjoyed his junior footy with West, and was a good footballer in these years.



Indeed in 1960 he was a member of West's victorious Under 18 team (coached by Don McDougall) who defeated North in the Grand Final.

Then he went on to play Under 20's for two seasons, before playing Rugby Union with Merewether Carlton in 1963.

Owen returned to West in 1964 and played eight seasons with West, retiring from football after the 1971 season.

In total Owen played 135 games for West, with 59 of those in First Grade. Over all grades Owen scored 80 tries and kicked 4 goals.

In 1971, Owen, still a West player, was appointed to the Board of Directors of West Leagues Club, and he took over as Chairman of the Board (from Kevin McDougall...Don's brother) in 2006.

Owen is "right at the top of the tree" when assessing those people who have given a lifetime of service to the Rosellas...

...so he certainly deserves the accolade of "WEST LEGEND – OWEN KILPATRICK".

...but what happened on 12 July 1969 at Kurri?

....well that's on the next page.

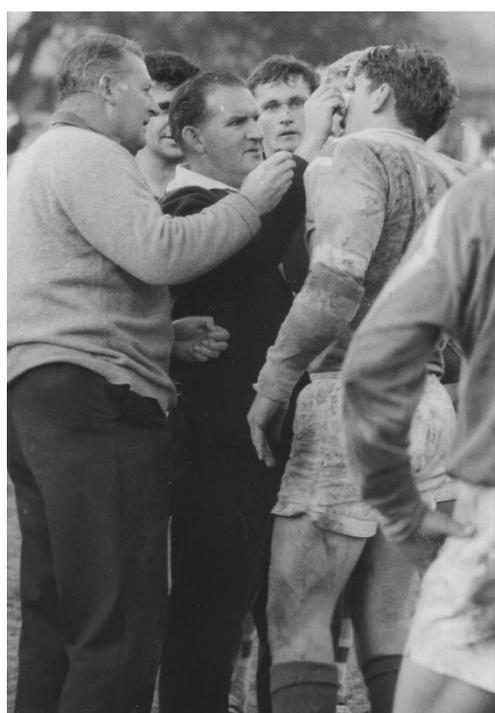


When asked about this incident at Kurri on 12 July 1969 Owen said.....



Well you've got to remember that this was nearly 50 years ago...and I don't have a clear image of the incident in my mind.

But I do recall that Gary Sullivan from Kurri was running hard at me and trying to run over me...



...and I was just as determined to stop him in his tracks....

..I think he may have stumbled into me somehow....

..however I did manage to stop him in his tracks...

...all I can recall now is that I stopped him....he went down...he was treated on the fieldand then I got sent off

When asked about the smile on his face in the last photo, Owen said ...

...I think that I was amused by a comment from the Kurri crowd

...and I was thinking about the old rhyme "STICKS and stones etc"



Gary Sullivan moved to Sydney in 1970 to play with Newtown, He was then selected to play for Australia in 1970 and 1972.

Later Sullivan became a notorious armed robber, and was once on Australia's "10 Most Wanted" list.