

## Young Peter

Every so often a pretty unassuming footballer arrives at the club...does his thing...and it is only after a few years that you think...what an asset to the club. Young Peter is one of those players. Why “Young” Peter ...pretty obvious really...Peter hails from Young. He was born in Leeton, moved to Young when he was 12 months old, then played for the Young Tigers as an Under 10, and then the Young Cherrypickers from U 12’s to First Grade. Now Pete can “play a bit”. He has of now (Sep 2014) played 135 games for West, with 132 of those in First Grade. He has played in 4 winning First Grade Grand Final sides...2008 West 12 def Cessnock 10, 2012 West 16 def Cessnock 14, 2013 West 21 def Kurri 8, 2014 West 22 def Cessnock 8. Josh Leeson (Newcastle Herald League Reporter) summed it up pretty well when he selected Peter in his 2014 “Team of the Year”. His No 12 was Peter Mannion (West)...*After years of consistent performances Mannion has finally received his rewards this season with selection in the Newcastle Rebels and NSW Country teams. Mannion is one of the best “edge runners” in the competition and was a constant threat to rival defensive lines*...So it was West who brought the best out of Peter?...well he could play a bit when he came. Peter (pictured as a “Cherrypicker” U 18) was Captain of Group 9 and Riverina Under 18’s, and played NSW Country U 18’s. Then he went to West Tigers where he played Jersey Flegg and Premier League in 2004 and 2005, In 2006 his uncle Steve Prest (1984 FG Grand Final, No 8 S Prest, West 10 def Lakes 2) suggested?...well told really...Peter to come to West. There are many attributes to Peter, but 3 stand out. Although he is as “tough as they come”, I can never remember him being as much as cautioned for foul play..”Play Hard, Play Fair” his Grandfather from Wombat..(Where’s Wombat?...Google it..it might surprise you) always told him, and it was good to see the “Wombat Grandparents” at the 2014 Grand Final.



Another thing that impresses me about Peter (and I even asked him about this)...is when the opposition kicks the ball downfield, and we need a forward back there to “take it up”, it nearly always is Peter Mannion who is back there first to “take the ball up”. When asked about this Peter shrugged his shoulders a little bit, and said

something like “It’s just what I do..I like to get back there..it’s just part of my job”. The 3<sup>rd</sup>...for some reason, “fingers crossed”, Peter very rarely succumbs to injury. He’s an international player...no, really he is...in 2011 he played for Saint Gaudens in France, and also played in America!

Peter is not the most famous Young player to play for West. that honour belongs to David Howell ....but after 4 Grand Final wins...any more?...*Peter is very nearly of the “Chook” status.*

