

## Tom Stanton

..... played with Wests President's Cup team in 1927 and was graded by Wests the same year. It was a great year for Tom who not only played nine Third Grade and one Reserve Grade game but also made his first Grade debut in August with a single appearance when he replaced Frank McMillan. Tom clearly showed good form and was rewarded with selection in a Combined Third Grade team that year.

It was noted from the game day report in the Rugby League News, that he "filled the bill nicely. He shaped very impressively, with the coolness of a veteran. His running, handling and kicking were all passed by the critics, who predicted further improvement in him."

With the experience gained from his initial year, Tom was selected in Wests Reserve Grade team in 1928, and played seven games. He also played another First Grade game that season. The Evening News newspaper on 25 April 1928 noted that;

"Wests have a hot Reserve Grade team and some of the stars of the season should be full back, Stanton. He will find it hard to win a place in First Grade with McMillan there, but maybe the means of causing the rep player to show his best form."

In 1929 and 1930, Tom Stanton returned to play with Enfield Federals in the Western Suburbs junior rugby league competition. In 1931, he returned to Wests and played six Third Grade games. During his three seasons at Wests, Tom played two First Grade, eight Reserve Grade and fifteen Third Grade games. In all grades he kicked twelve goals.

Tom Stanton was just one of many good fullbacks that were vying for a place in Wests First Grade, but he ran up against the great Frank McMillan who dominated in that position between 1921 and 1935.

Tom Stanton lived the remainder of his life in the Sydney suburb of Enfield and died there in November 1970.