

## Jack Thompson

..... showed early promise as a rugby league player when he captained the undefeated Lidcombe B Grade team in 1925. The team had some very talented players and dominated the opposition scoring 240 points for with only 34 points against during the season. Jack's effort was rewarded with selection in the Western Districts President's Cup team in 1925.



### Lidcombe United Undefeated B Grade Premiers 1925

(Won 13 Games - 240 Points For and 34 Against)

**Back:** Sid Woodward, Clem O'Grady (VP), Bob Tripp (Patron & Pres), Ald Tom Campbell, Arthur Ross (Player & Sec)

**Middle:** Harry (Pinky) Brown, Reg Nunn, Mort Johnson, Jack Matterson, Les White, Jack Keating, Ike Munro, S Cragg

**Front:** Norm Moore, Dick Ellery, Fred Scoular (Player & Treas), Jack Thompson (C), Thomas (Tony) Redmond (VC),

J Donaldson, Les Boys,

**In Front:** Master Geoff Tripp, **Inset:** Phil Lake, E Murphy

In 1926, Jack Thompson continued to play with the Lidcombe Club and from there was selected in the Western Districts Combined A Grade team. He was also drafted by Wests for one Reserve Grade game in 1926. Jack played mostly in Wests third Grade team in 1927, but did play one First Grade game, making his debut from Third Grade when Jerry Brien

withdrew due to illness. The match that he played was a semi final loss to South Sydney.

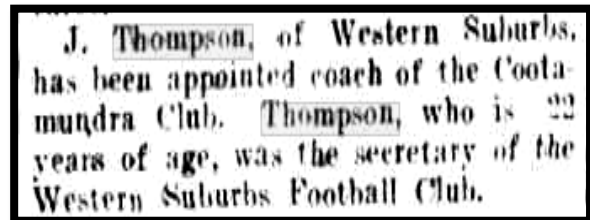
**J. Brien was out of Wests' side with the 'Hu last Saturday, and J. Thompson has been brought up from the thirds to take his place in the semi-final.**

Evening News 8 Sep 1927

1928 was a similar story for Jack. He played two First Grade games for Wests but was a regular in the lower grades. However 1929 was Jack's best season at Wests. He played eleven First Grade games and was a regular member of the First Grade team from the opening round. However he missed a few games towards the end of the season including the opportunity to play in a semi final.

Jack trialled with Wests in 1930 and played three lower grade games. He appears to have gone back to play in the Wests junior A Grade competition with the Granville Club, but details are sketchy and further information is needed to confirm. It is evident that Jack Thompson did not have a significant role with Wests in 1930, nevertheless the Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser gave him a glowing account in announcing his appointment as

Coach of the Cootamundra Rugby League team in 1931.



J. Thompson, of Western Suburbs, has been appointed coach of the Cootamundra Club. Thompson, who is 22 years of age, was the secretary of the Western Suburbs Football Club.

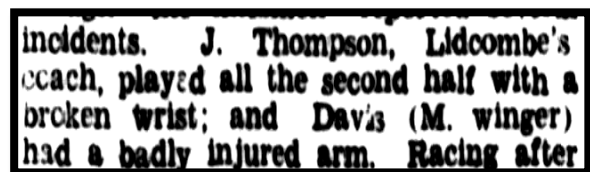
Daily Advertiser on 5 May 1931

Jack was a good addition to the Cootamundra team and brought to the Club Norm Tisdale a lower grade Wests player and brother of Harry Tisdale. The Cootamundra team had a mixed season, losing both of its Maher Cup challenges to Barmedman and having as many wins as losses in other competition games. One notable game in that season was a close win by Cootamundra over Young. Jack Kingston was the captain of Young and during the match was covered in blood. Jack Kingston had enough of the refereeing decisions and led the Young team in a walk-off before the final bell.

In 1932 Jack Thompson went across to the Young Club and took up the position of Player/Coach. He was also able to secure a position working at the local mill. Playing for Young in 1932 was Leo "Curly" Joyce, Wests player #262. Young had mixed results in 1932. It held the Eric Weissel Cup, but lost a close Maher Cup challenge against Tumut, its only Maher Cup match that year. More concerning was the state of its financial affairs which no doubt were affected by the impact of the Great Depression.

Jack Thompson created a favourable impression at Young in 1932 and was subsequently reappointed as Player/Coach in 1933. His form was very good early in the season but a recurrent knee injury ended his year mid season. He was forced to coach from the sideline as a result and had to watch his team lose its only Maher Cup challenge for the season. At the start of the 1934 season the Young Club was in financial difficulty and resolved that it would not engage any paid players that year.

Jack returned to Sydney and played with his junior club, Lidcombe. He captain-coached the A Grade team and Lidcombe made it through to the final of the Southern Districts junior rugby league competition, but in a preliminary final Jack broke his wrist.



incidents. J. Thompson, Lidcombe's coach, played all the second half with a broken wrist; and Davis (M. winger) had a badly injured arm. Racing after

The Biz 5 October 1934

Jack also coached the 1934 Southern Districts President's Cup team. Southern Districts went on to win the President's Cup by defeating Balmain by 14-2, thereby reversing the result of the 1930 President's Cup Final when Balmain defeated Southern Districts.

From the 1934 team, Bob Allison and Alex Patrick went on to play First Grade with Wests, and Jack Hancock, F Thorne and Tommy Kelly played lower grades. No doubt the experience and guidance from Jack Thompson assisted the team in securing the coveted trophy.



### **Southern Districts Winning President's Cup Squad 1934**

**Back:** W Tighe, R Smythe, T Parkes, Jack Thompson (Coach), Unknown, A Davis, J Wonson  
**Middle:** Phil Lake (Committee), G Hannan (Committee), A Patrick, Unknown, P Murphy, Unknown, Unknown, R Allison, H Gray (Treas), J Merrion (Committee)  
**Front:** A Glancy, Tommy Kelly, Arthur Ross (Sec), F Thorne, R Potts (Pres), W Bailey, A Jones  
**Unidentified Players:** Max Behan, L Connel, Jack Hancock, F Noland, K O'Born, E Thorne, H White

In 1935 Jack once more made a connection with Wests. He turned out in the trials and a report in the Daily Telegraph noted that he had been selected in the first team. It is not known why Jack Thompson did not continue playing in 1935, but no record has been found of him playing any rugby league from that time onward.

Jack Thompson lived all of his adult life at Lidcombe, NSW and died there in March 1985. He is buried at Rookwood Cemetery, Rookwood, NSW, Catholic 2 & 3, Lawn 4, Row 58.