

Cec Anderton

..... played thirteen Reserve Grade games for Wests in 1930. It was a successful year for Wests with the First Grade team winning its first premiership, and so the atmosphere in the Club would have been at an all time high. Cec would need to wait until 1931 before he once again made the First Grade team. Playing in a more familiar position in the three-quarters, Cec played four First Grade and six Reserve Grade games that year.

Cec was selected by Wests to play in a Reserve Grade semi final against St George in 1931 and he was also picked as a reserve for the First Grade team. However the Rugby League Management Committee ruled that, as he had played in First Grade in one of the last three matches prior to the semi finals, he was not eligible for the Reserve Grade team. Jack Peterson (former Wests player) and J. Tait both of South Sydney suffered the same fate.

By 1932 the Great Depression was having an impact, with many men out of work. Those rugby league players that were not retained to remain in Sydney, often sought opportunities to play and coach in country towns. While Cec Anderton trialled with Wests at the start of the season, he was one the men that "went bush" and was fortunate to link up with the strong Cootamundra Club in the south west of NSW.

Cec played in two of the three Maher Cup games Cootamundra contested in 1932, and joined noted players such as Dave Hey, Wests player #248, and future Wests players, Jack Kingston, Wests #323, and Ern "Snowy" Martin, Wests # 353.

In 1933, Cec Anderton returned to Wests and played two Reserve Grade games before being promoted to First Grade for the second half of the season. Unfortunately for Cec, it was a difficult time for Wests as they had lost a number of players to the 1933-34 Kangaroo tour, and they had eight successive losses to finish the season and take out the wooden spoon. Cec Anderton played in seven of those losses, and the one that he missed was due to unavailability because of injury.

The 1934 season brought new opportunities for both Wests and Cec Anderton. He successfully applied for a Player/Coach position at East Tamworth and Wests gave him a clearance accordingly. Cec led the East Tamworth team to premiership success, and represented Group 4 and Northern Division during the year.

Cec once again returned to Wests in 1935 and appeared in the trials at the start of the season with an indication that he would be trialling for the First Grade fullback position. He was selected in Third Grade for the start of the competition but had not arranged a clearance from the East Tamworth Club who he played with in 1934. The Country Rugby League suspended Cec Anderton and a

C. Anderton, one of the centres, was a Western Suburbs reserve-grader last season, and since coming to Tamworth has given some great displays, improving with each match.

number of other players for not fulfilling their obligations.

C. Anderton will play full-back for Wests' firsts in one half against Newtown, at Pratten Park on Saturday, and then return to the centre, while Jim Sharman is tried at full-back. F. Martin will be full-back for the reserves.

Daily Telegraph 10 April 1935

The issue raised by the Country Rugby League appeared to be resolved, however Cec decided that he would return to Tamworth to continue playing there, and because he had now played a competition match with Wests, he now needed a clearance from Wests which was refused.

Wests were very cautious about losing players to Country teams, and as premiers were a target to have players poached. The matter came to a head when Jack Kingston wanted a release after only a few games. Cec Anderton was caught in the middle of this impasse but eventually received a clearance along with P. Smith (probably Patrick Smith), a Wests lower grade player, so both could play in the Tamworth district.

CLEARANCE GRANTED.
C. Anderton and P. Smith appealed against the action of the Western Suburbs Club in withholding clearances from them. The committee decided that the players should be granted their clearances.

SMH 11 June 1935

Cec Anderton had a number of successful seasons playing in Tamworth. In fact he made his home in Tamworth and was involved with rugby league in the town up until the Second World War. Cec represented Tamworth on a number of occasions and when he enlisted with the AIF for service in the Second World War in 1939, he and fellow West Tamworth player, E. Bennett were given a fine send off by members of their Club at the West Tamworth Sports Ground.

C. Anderton and E. Bennett, West Tamworth Rugby League footballers, now members of the Second A.I.F. were entertained when on leave from their regiment by members of their club, at the West Tamworth Sports Ground before their return to Ingleburn. A tribute to their sportsmanship was paid by Father Carroll, who presented each with a razor on behalf of the club.

Daily Examiner 2 January 1940

Later in 1940, news was received from Palestine in the Middle East, where Cec Anderton was stationed that a number of the former West Tamworth players were doing well and had a chance of being selected in the Battalion team. The teams were being coached by Cec Anderton.

Local supporters will be interested to hear that several members of last year's team are doing well in Palestine. In a letter to a friend Corporal Laurie McHugh said that some of them had good chances of selection in the battalion team. The teams are being coached by E. Anderton, who was responsible for much of the West Tamworth Club's success. Many have

Armidale Express 19 April 1940

It is not clear what Cec Anderton did after the War, as the next public record found was a notice of his death at Katoomba, NSW in March 1975.