

## Jack Matterson

..... was graded with Wests in 1927 and remained with the Club until 1930 before following his older brothers, Frank and Neil Matterson to the NSW central west, to play rugby league as professional players. This was the time of the Great Depression, when many men were out of work. Country teams were keen to take on city rugby league players to boost their ranks and many city players took up the opportunity.

Jack Matterson took up a position as player/coach in 1931 with the Taralga Rugby League team, based near Goulburn NSW. He was well regarded by the Taralga Club but the following season he teamed up with his brother Frank at Dubbo. The Mattersons had a successful season at Dubbo, but in August 1932, Frank Matterson who was the Dubbo coach, abruptly decided to return Sydney and Jack went with him. There was no explanation as to why this occurred.

The following season, the Mattersons were back in the central west and along with older brother Neil, they were all engaged as paid rugby league players with the Condobolin rugby league team. The Mattersons were once again successful, responsible for winning many games with the Condobolin Club. Frank Matterson was the team's player/coach.



Matterson Bros. Neil, Frank, "Chat", Jack and Alf. Neil, Frank and Jack played First Grade with Wests

The Mattersons resided at the Imperial Hotel, Condobolin when a very unfortunate incident occurred. Frank and Jack Matterson's former Club, Dubbo, was in need of boosting their playing ranks before the end of the 1933 season, and so contacted Frank Matterson at Condobolin in August 1933 to see whether he, his brothers and a couple of other Condobolin players would come across and play out the season at Dubbo. After giving some thought to the proposition, Frank, Neil and Jack Matterson along with former Easts player, J. Denny Lane agreed to immediately leave for Dubbo.

They were waiting at the Imperial Hotel for a vehicle from Dubbo on the evening that they were to leave. However, some of the locals resented the fact that the Matterson brothers and Denny Lane were leaving to play with Dubbo and this resentment boiled over into a brawl in the hotel. It was reported that Frank Matterson, who had his arm in a sling from a broken collarbone, was attacked. This escalated the brawl which moved from the hotel to the street.

During the brawl a man by the name of Robert Morton, a lower grade Condobolin footballer, fell and died as a result of injuries received. There were conflicting accounts of what actually happened, and these accounts varied depending on which side the witness supported. Some accounts said that Morton fell as a result of a punch from Jack Matterson while others indicated that Morton slipped and fell. Morton was wearing his dancing pumps, having come across from the dance being held across the road to join the melee.

Jack Matterson was charged with manslaughter and appeared in the Quarter Sessions at Parkes in December 1933. The evidence against Jack Matterson was not strong with conflicting accounts. The jury returned within 20 minutes with a not guilty verdict. It appeared that the deceased slipped and hit his head on the kerb.

In 1934 Jack Matterson moved on and played with the Inverell Rugby League Club.

Jack Matterson died as a result of an accident in March 1942. He was accidentally run down by a train while crossing the rail lines at Homebush. He is interred at Rookwood Cemetery, in the Catholic Mortuary 2, Section 16, Plot 2098.