

Jack Kelly

..... played with the Fairfield Rugby League Club, in the Southern Districts area of the Western Suburbs junior league. In the late 1920's and early 1930's Fairfield was producing any number of very good rugby league players including the Hey brothers and Max Gray.

The local newspaper, The Fairfield Biz was a great supporter of rugby league in the district and provided detailed match reports on local teams as well as reports on the fortunes of Wests. It would also follow local players that were in Wests teams and report on the player's progress.

The Biz newspaper in 1930 filed the following report on Jack Kelly;

"Jack Kelly, who injured his ankle in the trial match against St George, is now fit to take the field again. This young player's career has been brilliant. In one season he graduated from Third Grade to a prominent position in First Grade matches. Throughout, his play has been characterised by that most important essential of the 'good sport,' the readiness at all times to cede a chance for personal aggrandisement in the endeavour to ensure the ultimate success of the team. In the coming season Jack should do well."

Jack Kelly was with Wests between 1928 and 1931 and during that time he played three First Grade, fifteen Reserve Grade, and twenty seven Third Grade games. In his last season with Wests he was the captain of the Third Grade team. In his four seasons at Wests, Jack Kelly scored thirteen tries in all grades for a tally of thirty nine points.

Jack Kelly was a Compositor (Printer) by trade and due to work commitments could only train one night per week. This was further compounded when he moved to the suburb of Botany in 1931. He was no longer residentially qualified for Wests, and there was some speculation that he would play for South Sydney. There is no record of him playing with Souths.

Jack Kelly lived the remainder of his life at Botany, where he died in November 1995. His memorial is at the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, Matraville, NSW, at the Babcock Gardens and Petal Border, Garden R 12, Position 102.