

Edward Stapleton

..... came to Sydney from Bathurst with his parents in 1918, and they settled in the Sydney suburb of Ashfield. The family was active in the local Catholic community. Edward Stapleton joined Wests in 1919, and during that season and the next played in Reserve Grade. Edward did play in the City Cup competition with Wests First Grade team in 1919.

Edward played in the Reserve Grade team in 1920, but in 1921, he made his First Grade debut, playing First Grade in six of the eight competition games and seven of the eight City Cup games that Wests contested. However, after playing one Reserve Grade game in 1922, Edward went back to Bathurst where he played, alongside his brother John, with the Bathurst Waratah Club.

Edward returned to Sydney in 1923 and rejoined Wests where he played fifteen of the sixteen competition matches in First Grade, as well as the one City Cup game that Wests contested. He also played every First Grade competition and City Cup games in 1924.

In 1925, Edward had the honor of being captain of the Wests First Grade team and once again played every match that season. Wests had a good year finishing in second position on the competition table behind Premiers, South Sydney. Edward played First Grade in round one of the 1926 season and followed up with a Reserve Grade match, but that was the last record of him playing Grade football.

During his career, Edward played forty one First Grade and fourteen City Cup matches with Wests. He also played eleven Reserve Grade games but this does not include games played before 1920 where records are scant. He also played for Metropolis (Sydney) in 1923 and Possibles v Probables games in 1924 and 1925. Edward Stapleton was presented with an Honor Cap at Wests Annual General Meeting in March 1927.

Edward Stapleton made the most of his recognition as a player and Wests captain. In 1926 and 1927, he was endorsing Macmur football boots. He wasn't the first football player to endorse products, but he appears to have been the first Wests player to have done so.

MR. E. STAPLETON, Captain Western Suburbs,
Rugby League Team, says :—"While the



FOOTBALL BOOT

is lighter than the usual make, it feels more SOLID on the foot. It is the three points, FIT, LIGHTNESS, and SOLIDARITY, which makes it—**THE BEST FOOTBALL BOOT on the MARKET.**"



Stocked in HALF SIZES to ensure PERFECT Fitting
Manufactured by McMURTRIE & CO., LTD.

Arrow 30 April 1927

Edward Stapleton maintained his connection with the Western Suburbs District until shortly before his death. He had, in recent times, moved to Randwick in Sydney's eastern suburbs and true to his faith had attended mass on the morning of his death. He died at Randwick in April 1941, just short of his 45th birthday.

James Edward Stapleton's Obituary was published in the Catholic Press on 10 April 1941 and read as follows:

"The death occurred on the 16th ult. of Mr James Edward Stapleton, of Coogee Bay Road, Randwick. Mr Stapleton who was born at Newcastle in 1896, was educated at the Patrician Brothers School, Bathurst. He was a son of the George Stapleton, for many years a police sergeant at Bathurst. In 1918 Mr Stapleton left Bathurst and came to live at Ashfield. He later moved to Haberfield, and for the last 18 months was residing at Randwick.

Mr Stapleton was employed by Kennedy and Bird, the well known City builders. Deceased who was well known in Rugby League football circles, was at one time captain of the Waratah Football Club at Bathurst and later captained the First Grade team from Western Suburbs. Mr Stapleton was a member of the A.H.C. Guild at Ashfield, where he had taken an active part in the branch's activities."