

Fred Yanz

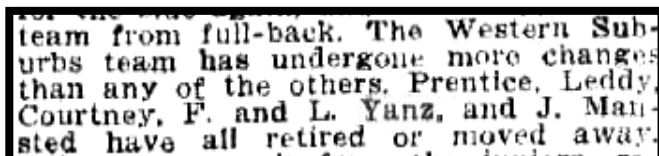
..... was a member of the 1920 Auburn A Grade team, which achieved premiership honors and had any number of talented players within its ranks. Many of these players formed what was to be the Wests Third Grade team in 1921. Both of the Yanz brothers played in that team, but records are quite limited, so the total number of games that Fred Yanz played in 1921 cannot be confirmed.

Frank McMillan had already played a number of First Grade games at fullback in 1921. However it was Fred Yanz that played in that position for the first nine rounds in 1922. It was not that Fred Yanz was preferred over Frank McMillan, it was that Frank did not play during the first half of the season. Frank when he returned in round ten immediately went to fullback and Fred Yanz moved to the centres.

The two players were physically different, with Frank McMillan picking up the nickname of "Skinny", while Fred Yanz was much more solid and may have been a better fit for the centres. Wests were just fortunate to have two very fine young players in their squad. Fred played twelve First Grade games in 1922.

Fred had another good year in 1923, playing fifteen of the sixteen competition games in First Grade as well as a City Cup match. He had moved from the centres to play on the wing with a couple of games at fullback. The move worked well with Fred scoring eight tries for the season. More importantly Fred's form was such that he was selected in the 1923 Metropolis team to tour Queensland.

Fred missed only the one game in 1924. He had reverted to the centres for most of the season and his prospects looked good for the 1925 season. However in May 1925 a news item appeared in the Daily Telegraph noting the loss of a number of Wests experienced player due to retirement or the players moving away. Fred and Lou Yanz were two of these players. It must have come as a surprise to all as Fred Yanz was only twenty three years old, was a very talented footballer and had a good future ahead of him.



team from full-back. The Western Suburbs team has undergone more changes than any of the others. Prentice, Leddy, Courtney, F. and L. Yanz, and J. Mansfield have all retired or moved away.

Daily Telegraph 2 May 1925

Fred did not play in 1925, but he had a change of mind, and once again took to the playing field in 1926. The break in his playing career did not help him greatly as he had to make his way back through Reserve Grade, before finally being selected for First Grade by the end of the season. He did not play again in 1927, but returned again in 1928 to play four matches.

There is no record of Fred Yanz playing Grade football after 1928. During his time at Wests he played forty two First Grade, ten Reserve Grade and six City Cup games.

Fred Yanz lived most of his life in the Auburn - Lidcombe area but moved to Emu Plains in the outer western suburbs of Sydney in the 1960's, where he died in February 1972.