

## Arthur Mendel

..... did not maintain his initial impact in First Grade, as he only played another three First Grade games in 1923 and 1924. Wests had plenty of options to fill the halves positions in the 1920's and so making the First Grade team was quite competitive. However Arthur proved to be a reliable Reserve grade player and over the period 1923 to 1926, he played twenty four Reserve Grade games for Wests.

The Arrow newspaper on 15 May 1925 noted that; "Arthur Mendel, five-eighth for Wests, is one of the brightest reserve halves seen for some time. With a turn of speed, he combines good handling, fearless tackling and clever running. He was at his best when surrounded by the opposition, whence he extracted himself with ease and coolness, On this form his attack is masterly, and his adroit break through unequalled by many playing in a similar position for a higher grade."

There is no record of Arthur Mendel playing Grade football after 1926 and he doesn't appear in any news reports until 1931. It is likely that with the Great Depression taking a heavy toll on employment in the early 1930's, Arthur used his rugby league skills to find employment as a paid player/coach.

In 1931, Arthur applied for the position of player/coach for the Wingham Rugby League team along with sixteen others. He was the successful candidate and was offered 2 pounds 10 shillings per week and free board during the football season. Arthur had a successful season with the Wingham Club. with the A and B teams winning their respective competitions and defending the Central Cafe Cup against all comers in the District. The Wingham Club was very satisfied with Arthur as coach and the improvement he made to the playing standards of the Club.

possession of this league. This cup team produced some exciting football, and earned the praise and support of the sporting public generally. The splendid record of the team, and the improved football of the players, reflect great credit on the coaching abilities of Mr. Mendel. Your executive look forward

Northern Champion 23 March 1932

Arthur was invited to coach Wingham again in 1932, but unfortunately had to decline. He did help Wingham with selecting a replacement Coach in 1932, and kept in contact with the Club over the years.

The President in opening the proceedings, explained the object of the meeting. A letter had been sent to Mr. A. S. Mendel, "coach" of the Wingham Reserve Grade Cup team last season, to see if he would accept the position again this year. He then read a letter which had been received from Mr. Mendel. In his letter he stated he did not think he would be able to accept the position, and wished the Wingham Club the best of success. Mr. W. R. Maltland

Manning River Times 17 February 1932

Arthur Mendel lived all of his life in the Five Dock area, and he died there in March 1990.