

Tom Watkins

.... was recorded as T. Watkins in the Wests Master List and in newspapers of the time. He played one First Grade game for Wests but prior to that played for the Western Suburbs Rugby Union Club. He consistently played in the position of half or five eighth, so was likely to be of a smaller build.

A search of public records revealed that there were two Watkins men who could be player #17. One was Sydney Watkins of Ashfield and the other was Thomas William S. Watkins of Burwood. Both men were born in 1885 and both had a father with the name of Edward John Watkins. This has created some confusion on Ancestry sites and so careful consideration had to be given to the available facts.

A review of the military record for Sydney Watkins indicates that he was 5ft. 9 inches tall and 134 lbs. in weight. While this is not a large person by today's standards, he would have been considered of average to above average build for his time.

On the other hand, the public record for Thomas William S. Watkins indicated that he was 5ft. 1 or 2 inches tall and of slight build. He would have had a typical build for a half back of that time.

Tom Watkins lived his life in the western Sydney suburb of Burwood. He was diagnosed with Meningitis and died at the early age of 36 in August 1921.