

Claude McFayden

..... initially played rugby union with the Parramatta and Western Suburbs Clubs before joining Wests Rugby League Club in 1908 and playing First Grade until 1916.

Claude received an honor cap in 1915 for playing over fifty matches. He continued to play lower grades with Wests until 1918. He also became involved with the Wests Committee from 1909 and resigned from that role in 1918, to take up a position as Wests trainer until well into the 1930's.

Claude had a commitment to junior football and coached several junior teams to ultimate success. He was appointed as Wests Reserve Grade coach in 1942.

Claude McFayden may have been a boy from the bush, but he made the Western Suburbs District his home for all his adult life. He lived in Thomas St Croydon, from at least 1913, which was strategically placed between Pratten Park and St Lukes Oval where Wests played many of their early games.

He married local Burwood girl Theresa Dodd in 1911, and team mate Wal Barclay (Wests #55), who also lived in Thomas St Ashfield, was a witness at his wedding.



Claude McFayden (L) and Hector "Mick" Lee (R) became Wests Trainers after finishing their playing careers. The photo was taken at the opening of Lidcombe Oval (Wyatt Park) in June 1933.

After attending training with the Wests President's Cup team at Pratten Park, Claude McFayden died suddenly at his Croydon home in 1947. His contribution to the Wests Rugby League Club over decades could not be measured in gold. Claude McFayden is buried at Rookwood General Cemetery, Anglican Section 16, Grave 4146.