

Harold Holmes

..... made his one and only First Grade appearance for Wests in round five of the 1917 season. He came off the bench and scored a try in Wests 11-6 win over Annandale. It is likely that he played a lot more lower grade games but these were not widely recorded at the time.

It was Harold's first season of rugby league and no doubt, he was making the transition across to the new code.

Holmes, who has been figuring as a back for Newtown this year, will probably be able to go back to his old position in the forwards again to-day, and his re-appearance in the position should be interesting. There are few more promising forwards, and his back-field experience should help him a lot.

Arrow 15 July 1916

In 1918 Harold moved across to the South Sydney club. He was selected in the First Grade team in round two and played every game for the remainder of the season. While he started in the second row, he soon found himself as the regular hooker for Souths. Souths won the premiership that year.

Harold had another successful year with Souths in 1919, playing eleven First Grade and one City Cup matches. The following year, Harold once again turned out with Souths but it was not his best season, making four appearances including one off the bench. He was playing in the front row during his last season at Souths.

In 1921, Harold left Souths and joined up with Eastern Suburbs. He was back to his best form playing in the second row and at hooker. He played all but one game in First Grade and Easts were runners-up in the premiership that year.

He had another good year with Easts in 1922, playing all games in First Grade. It was the same again for Harold in 1923 but this time, Easts took out the premiership defeating his former team, South Sydney in the grand final. Harold Holmes retired at the end of the 1924 season.

Soon after his retirement, Harold Holmes moved to the Sydney suburb of Lakemba in what would be the Canterbury Bankstown rugby league district. By 1935 Canterbury had been admitted into the Sydney First Grade competition and Harold became a member of the Canterbury General Committee in 1935. Harold became Canterbury's Third Grade Coach in 1937, working in conjunction with George Mason, former Wests player, who was Canterbury's First Grade Coach that year.

Harold's interest in rugby league continued when his son, Len Holmes, became Canterbury Bankstown First Grade player no. 116. Len Holmes played one hundred and one First Grade games for Canterbury between 1945 and 1953. Len also represented City and NSW.



Len Holmes

Harold Holmes lived at Lakemba NSW and died there in August 1954. He is buried at Rookwood Cemetery, Anglican Section 12, Row 17, Grave 2312.