

Jack McConnell

... was graded at Wests in 1930 after he finished his President's Cup duties and played one Third Grade and five Reserve Grade matches to see out the season . He spent two seasons in the lower grades and played three Reserve Grade games for Wests in 1932 before taking on a player/coach position at North Tamworth, in northern NSW.

The year away from Sydney football helped Jack's game mature and so when he arrived back at Wests in 1933 he played the one Reserve Grade game and then was elevated to First Grade and played the next twelve games in the top team.

After a good start in 1933, Wests finished with the wooden spoon after the Club lost a number of players to the 1933-34 Kangaroo tour. However, Jack gave it his all and took his good form into the 1934 season by being an integral part of the premiership winning team.

The Sun Newspaper in May 1933, wrote the following about Jack McConnell; "Big and lusty - he stands over six feet and weighs 12st. 7lb. - Jack McConnell has given a lot of needed life to the Western Suburbs pack, according to all accounts. Playing in the second row against Newtown on Saturday, he was declared to have been one of the finest forwards on the ground. "

Jack was one of three Wests players that played every game in 1934, and it is unfortunate that he could not continue playing with Wests. His time at Wests had come to an end as Canterbury Bankstown entered the Sydney competition in 1935. Like a number of other Wests players Jack had to go across to the new Club as he was living at Bankstown and therefore was residentially qualified to play in the Canterbury Bankstown District. During his time at Wests, Jack played twenty nine First Grade, twenty one Reserve Grade and four Third Grade games.

Jack McConnell played two seasons with Canterbury Bankstown. 1935 was somewhat of a repeat of the 1933 season with Wests, as the new Club finished second last on the competition ladder and suffered some significant losses as it struggled through the year. 1936 was a much better year for Canterbury Bankstown, with the team finishing second on the competition ladder and making the semi finals in only its second season. This was Jack McConnell's last First Grade match.

Jack McConnell enlisted with the AIF in February 1942 for service in the Second World War and was posted to the 1st Australian Ordnance Store Company. He served in New Guinea from October 1944. The tropical conditions caused Jack to suffer from dermatitis and he was air evacuated back to Australia in February 1945. He was discharged from the Army in November 1945.



Jack McConnell 1942

Jack McConnell lived much of his early life at Bankstown NSW. He died in November 1985 and his memorial is at the Woronora Memorial Park, Sutherland, Palm Ct Services Wall of Memory, C3,0014.

