

Gordon Pugh

..... made steady progress representing Country Seconds and Group Eleven in 1932 and 1933, but 1934 was his break out year. The Western Champion newspaper on 27 April 1934, reported on a match in which the Parkes team were playing. It recorded; "In the first half questions were asked as to who was 'raking'. In the second half Gordon Pugh made it quite plain who was 'raking' by winning two out of every three scrums. He's quite a handy man in the open too, is Gordon Pugh."

In 1934, Gordon was selected for Country Firsts to Play City Firsts and then NSW Firsts to play against Queensland Firsts in a night match. A major incident occurred as a result of the selection of Ray Stehr from Mudgee and Gordon Pugh from Parkes.

Both players were banned by their Clubs from playing in the interstate match and were threatened with termination of their contracts if they did. The Clubs had no authority to challenge the selection of the players by the NSW Rugby League, and the players took their place in the representative team.

Gordon Pugh was caught in the middle of a dispute between the President of the Parkes Club and the NSW Rugby League. The Parkes President said that he had been insulted by the NSW Rugby League in that Parkes was not granted a representative match in the town that year.

There is little information as to how this was resolved but by late July 1934 Gordon Pugh had left the Parkes Rugby League Club and joined the strong Leeton Club based in the NSW Riverina.



Parkes Rugby League - 1933

Back L to R: E Dwyer, J Reid, L Davis, H Pierce, J Cooper, F Loughrey, Seated: G Pugh, F Townsend, L O'Donnell, J Alleyne (Coach), A Baker, F Riles, R Wethered Front: F Heraghty (Mascot)

It was a good move by Gordon as he was selected in a Combined Country team to play a Combined City team as the final match of the season. He was able to showcase his abilities and in 1935 he was graded with Wests. Gordon played eleven First Grade and five Reserve Grade games with Wests in 1935. A news article appeared in the Daily Advertiser on 27 April 1935 indicating that Wests had gained G. Pugh brother of J. Pugh, a grand footballer who died at Cowra in 1932. This article is not correct. The player that died was Keith Pugh

from Tumut, He had a younger brother by the name of Gordon who was born in 1917 and therefore far too young to have been the Wests player.

George, on Anzac Day. Western Suburbs have added two other fine players to their ranks in G. Pugh, a brother to that grand footballer, J. Pugh, who died at Cowra several years ago, and R. Eaton, from North Sydney.

Daily Advertiser 27 April 1935

Gordon Pugh retired from Grade rugby league at the end of the 1935 season but kept himself active. He returned to his home town of Stockton, a northern suburb of Newcastle, NSW. In 1938 it was reported in the Newcastle Sun that Gordon had taken up hockey as his winter sport and was showing the same vigour has he did when playing rugby league.

WHEN he retired from Rugby League, Gordon Pugh, of Stockton, adopted hockey as his winter sport. Playing with Eastern Suburbs several seasons ago, Pugh was outstanding in an excellent pack of forwards. He infuses his football dash into hockey and is improving rapidly.

Newcastle Sun 8 June 1938

In 1939, Gordon had moved to the town of Bendemeer situated between Tamworth and Armidale. He had taken up rugby league once more and was playing for the local Bendemeer Ruby League team. Bendemeer was not a noted team in the New England district, but Gordon's reputation and ability was well known. When the New England representative team was scheduled to meet a strong Newcastle team in July, Gordon was selected in his customary role of hooker. He was reported to have played well but New England was defeated in a close game 23-25.

Pugh is a Bendemeer player, who represented the State as hooker some years ago. Pearson and Starr have

Pugh, the veteran rake from Bendemeer, played a large part in New England's good showing on Sunday. That he broke about even with the opposition in the fight for the ball is very much to the credit of himself and his pack. Pugh also did his share of tackling and bustling. Barry Sull-

Armidale Express 21 July 1939

Gordon Pugh enlisted with the Army Citizen Military Forces for service in World War Two. After the War, he lived at Redfern, NSW, and died there in March 1967. He is buried at the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, Matraville, NSW, Plot A5D - Anglican FM, Position 75.

In Loving Memory Of
MY DEAR HUSBAND & OUR FATHER
JOHN GORDON PUGH
DIED 5TH MARCH 1967
AGED 61 YEARS
AND OUR BELOVED MOTHER
VIOLET MAY GRAHAM
DIED 10TH NOV. 2006
AGED 88 YEARS
ALWAYS REMEMBERED - NEVER FORGOTTEN