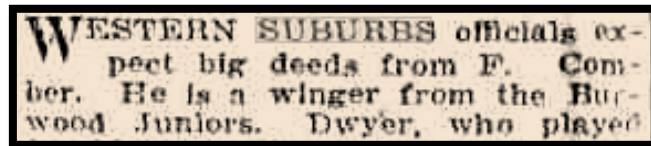


Fred Comber

..... in 1931 competed at the Electric Light Athletic Carnival at Kurri Kurri against a strong field of local and Sydney runners. He won the 75 yards Kurri Gift Handicap sprint race. He also competed in the Western Suburbs Junior League Knockout Carnival in July 1931. He ran third in the League Championship sprint against some of the best in the district.

An article in the local newspaper in 1932 noted that "big deeds" were expected of the winger from Burwood Juniors.



WESTERN SUBURBS officials expect big deeds from F. Comber. He is a winger from the Burwood Juniors. Dwyer, who played

Fred Comber first came to prominence in a Reserve Grade match in 1934. The Labor Daily newspaper described him as a coming champion reporting that he made some notable dashes. "It was fitting that he should run half the length of the field just on the bell and score a brilliant try for his side. He flashed in to the open in amazing style, and the fans waited eagerly as he sped towards 'Buller' Spillane. There was never any doubt in Comber's mind. He merely cut infield and raced away from the South Sydney veteran."

Fred received his chance to play regularly in First grade in 1935. The Rugby League News in that year wrote the following article about him; "Fred Comber, playing in Alan Ridley's stead, showed a rare turn of speed in outdistancing 'Yappy' Gardner, when scoring the sole try for Wests. Nature has not been too kind in supplying Comber with bodily bulk, but in other attributes that go to make a successful footballer, the auburn-thatched winger has nothing to complain about."

The Rugby League News article noted that Fred Comber did not have the powerful build of a Ray Hines but he used his speed to great effect. An article in the Referee Newspaper on 12 September 1935 demonstrated how he played; "Brady sent it to Comber on the right wing. In an instant he was moving like a lightning streak, clear of everyone save Dowling, whom he beat by pace to speed on, and score on the right wing in good position after a fifty yards run.

Speed appeared to be a natural attribute in the Comber family. Fred's sister, Eunice, was a very good sprinter, competing with the Western Suburbs Athletic Club.

Fred Comber retired from grade rugby league in 1938. During his time at Wests he played ten First Grade, forty three Reserve Grade and ten Third Grade games. He scored forty two tries in all grades for a tally of one hundred and twenty six points.

After the war Fred Comber and his family moved to Wentworthville, west of Parramatta, where he continued his trade of butchering. Around 1980 he moved to The Oaks on the outskirts of Sydney where he became a Pastoralist. Fred Comber died at the Oaks, NSW in September 2008 at the grand age of ninety nine.