

Herbert Haar

.... was playing at Leeton when he became mates with Jack Schuback (Wests #348). The two men were playing in trials in the Southern Division for selection in a Divisional team to play the English tourists.

Jack Schuback fractured his leg and was unavailable for selection, while Herb Haar went on and played in the Southern Division team against England. Herb Haar shared accommodation with Jack Schuback at Leeton and then again when they both came to Sydney and played with Wests in 1937.

The Newcastle Sun newspaper reported on 23 April 1937 that; "Western Suburbs front row forwards Haar and Schuback are great mates. It is said of them as they live together, that it is a case of first up best dressed.

When they were at Leeton they were room-mates and upon Schuback's departure for Bega, it was found that he had taken some of Haar's apparel, but had left some of his own behind, so that the arrangement was perfectly satisfactory. They are again room-mates in the Western Suburbs district so that a similar state of affairs has been renewed."

Like Jack Schuback, Herb Haar didn't initially intend to play with Wests. He was brought to Sydney by the Canterbury Bankstown Club, who paid for his train fare and offered to pay him three pounds per week until suitable employment could be found. Herb Haar trained and trialed with Canterbury for about a month, however no suitable employment had been found and it was reported that he was likely to return to Leeton.

It is not clear how Wests became aware of Haar's situation and what if any influence Jack Schuback had, but Wests swooped and secured Herb Haar for the season. Reports say that he initially boarded with Les Mead, but the electoral roll of 1937 indicates that Herb Haar was living at the home of Ted Mead, at 12 King St Ashfield.

Incidentally, Jack Schuback was at 13 King St Ashfield, according to the 1937 electoral roll. At some point, Herb Haar and Jack Schuback moved in together and were once again house buddies. Canterbury's expenses were subsequently repaid and that closed the saga.

Herb Haar played only a couple of games in the 1938 season but was recorded training and boxing in Jimmy Sharman's tent at the Royal Easter Show in 1938. He was described as having a great physique and weighing over 14 stone. As his football career declined, he appeared to take up a greater involvement in boxing.



Daily Telegraph 18 April 1938

"Tiny" Haar has challenged heavy-weight boxers Ray Stehr and Les McNabb.

Three years ago Haar, who came from the Riverina yesterday, was a Western Suburbs Rugby League forward.

He retired from football to fight, and won the Riverina heavyweight title.

Spars With Richards

Haar boxed with Ron Richards at McQuillan's gymnasium yesterday afternoon.

He kept the champion moving.

Richards was working out for his return fight with Young Frisco at Sydney Stadium on Monday.

Daily Telegraph 10 December 1941

Redfern gymnasium proprietor Dick Kerr has two leading footballers—Jack Arnold (6ft. 3ins. tall, and weighing 17-0) and Herb Haar (14-0)—training for fights with McNabb, Ray Stehr, Herb Narvo, or Frank Price, if any of these huskies will lock horns with them.

Australian Worker 11 February 1942

Herbert Haar enlisted with the AIF for service in the Second World War He served with Z Special Unit based in Western Australia. After the War, Herb Haar remained in Sydney where he was employed as a Fireman.

HERB Haar, one of the finest forwards ever produced in Wagga, is spending a holiday in Wagga.
A fireman in Sydney, Haar weighs nearly 18 stone. He has given up football.

Daily Advertiser 5 February 1947

Herbert Haar in the early 1960's returned to The Rock and lived the remainder of his life in that district. He died in 1985 at The Rock, NSW and is buried at The Rock Cemetery, NSW Plot Anglican 1.