

David Watson

..... moved on to the Western Suburbs Rugby Union Club and was the second highest try scorer in First Grade in 1911. He was described in the Sun newspaper in July 1911 as a "player of much promise."

The Westerners' 30 tries were obtained as follows:—Dean 9 (including four of the five scored against Eastern Suburbs), Watson 5, H. Prentice 3, C. Prentice 2, A. Prentice 2, Webster 2, Anderson 2, W. C. Prentice, Alderson, Sully, Barker, and illegal interference 1 each.

The Sun 22 September 1911

Dave didn't remain with the Western Suburbs Club. He moved to the Newtown Rugby Union Club in 1912 where he showed some form in the First Grade team early in the season. However, by the end of the season he was playing with the Newtown Second Grade team.

D. Watson, the ex-Western Suburbs three-quarter, is now almost up to the form he displayed with his old club, when he got the opportunity. Dunbar can pack his grip

Sydney Sportsman 22 May 1912

Dave Watson, who played with Western Suburbs last season, is proving an acquisition to Newtown as centre three-quarter.

The Sun 24 May 1912

Dave Watson, a prominent member of Western Suburbs last season, has proved an acquisition to Newtown Seconds. Playing at centre three-quarter on Saturday, he was always aggressive, and scored a try, the result of good heady tactics.

The Sun 30 August 1912

In 1913, Dave returned to the Western Suburbs district and played rugby league with Wests. He was one of a number of prominent recruits that joined the Club that season. However Dave did not play any First Grade football in 1913.

Western Suburbs had a number of recruits to choose from. S. Carr, from the Union team, signalled his entry in League football by getting a kick on the melon that necessitated three stitches.
O. Poord, also a flywhite, will strip next Saturday, as will Dave Watson, from Newtown.
Johnno Slantz, the bold Kogarah fire fighter, couldn't leave his long-haired chum, with Voltaire Molesworth cruising around, so watched the game from the pavilion; he will be a big asset to Wests if he strikes form.
Collier is sitting on the fence dividing South from West; he might fall over either side.

Sydney Sportsman 9 April 1913

Dave Watson did play two First Grade games for Wests in 1914. He made his First Grade debut against Glebe in round seven and then played the following round eight match against Newtown. Wests had been disrupted by a number of injuries during this period and new players were brought into the side to try and strike a combination.

1914 Round 7 Saturday 20th June Wentworth Park			
Glebe 23	def.	Western Suburbs 2	
Dugald McGREGOR	<i>Fullback</i>	Harry CLARK	
Fred SAUNDERS	<i>Wing</i>	Henry McILLMURRAY	
Tom LEGGO	<i>Centre</i>	Ephraim MISON	
Mick SCANNELL	<i>Centre</i>	Henry NAYLOR	
Dave GARLICK	<i>Wing</i>	David WATSON	
Alec BOLEWSKI	<i>Five-eighth</i>	George GAGAN	
Chris McKIVAT (c)	<i>Half</i>	Cecil FOORD	
Frank BURGE	<i>Lock</i>	Arthur GILLET	
Albert GRAY	<i>Second Row</i>	Martin ANDERSEN	
Alby BURGE	<i>Second Row</i>	Clarrie TYE	
Dan KELLY	<i>Front Row</i>	Fred LANE	
Jack BARTLEY	<i>Hooker</i>	William JOASS	
Jack KNIGHT	<i>Front Row</i>	Edward COURTNEY (c)	
Jack REDMOND	<i>Reserve</i>		

Dave Watson's First Grade debut with Wests

David Watson enlisted with the AIF in December 1915 and was posted to the 5th Reinforcements, 2nd Remount Unit embarking from Sydney in April 1916. He disembarked in Egypt at the end of May 1916.

His role in the Remount Unit was to "break in" horses for cavalry and general transport duties. While he was not in the front line, the job had its dangers. He was hospitalised with pelvic and internal injuries after falling from a horse in October 1916.

In January 1917 there was another incident where a horse fell back on him, rendering David in an unconscious condition and causing him to have an epileptic seizure. As there had been some history with that condition, David was medically discharged and arrangements were made for his return home. David Watson returned to Sydney in February 1917.

There is no further record of David playing First Grade rugby league beyond 1914. It is likely that he tried to make a comeback after he returned from the First World War. A player by the name of Watson was recorded in Reserve Grade.

Dave Watson married in 1923 and lived in the western suburbs district until he moved to the Blue Mountains later in his life. He died at Leura, NSW in 1966.