

Allan Ashmore

.... had his first stint with the Canberra Western Districts Rugby Union Club between 1969 and 1971. It was in 1971 that he came to the fore, being selected for the ACT representative team that played Australian Services, South Australia and South Africa. He also played for NSW Country against Victoria.



Allan Ashmore (West's Canberra) partly obscured tackling a Royals opponent



Allan Ashmore in full flight (West's Canberra)



Allan Ashmore crash tacking an opponent into touch (West's Canberra)

Allan was a prominent rugby union player in the Australian Capital Territory rugby union competition by the end of 1971. However, early in 1972 he had other plans and tested his ability as a rugby league player. He trialed with Wests in the pre-season, playing under the name of Aitken. Allan adapted to the new code quite well and was offered a two year contract by Wests.

However, he was unable to immediately come to Sydney due to work commitments and so Wests permitted him to train in Canberra during the week and pay for travel and accommodation to enable him to play on weekends.

'MYSTERY MAN' IS ROBUST WINGER

Wests' "mystery" winger of last weekend, "A. Aiken", who went on for the second half in first grade against Newtown and scored two tries, turned out to be Allan Ashmore, a Rugby Union player from Canberra.

Ashmore, who has played in combined country teams, was recommended to Wests and they invited him down for a trial.

They have snapped him up on a two-year contract, with an option.

He is being given a run in the second half against Souths "firsts" at Lidcombe Oval this Friday night, after a half in the reserve grade trial.

Ashmore is 22 and weighs about 13½ stone.

He is said to resemble Peter Dimond in style — an aggressive player, who runs hard and tackles well.

RLN 10,11,12 March 1972

Ashmore

The Sydney rugby league club Western Suburbs has agreed to sign on the Canberra rugby union winger Allan Ashmore on a two-year contract.

Ashmore, 22, played for the West Canberra rugby team for four seasons to last year, and made the NSW Country teams last season.

He has been playing under an assumed name in Sydney for several weeks, and scored two tries for Western Suburbs against Newtown in a pre-season match last Friday night.

Ashmore has applied for a transfer to Sydney within the Department of Works. Until this is approved, the Sydney club will pay his travelling expenses to Sydney and return each weekend and pay for his accommodation. He will train on his own in Canberra.

After playing two pre-season Wills Cup games, Allan started the 1972 premiership competition in Reserve Grade. He then made his First Grade debut in a round four match against Canterbury Bankstown at Lidcombe Oval.

FIRST GRADE: LIDCOMBE OVAL
 COPYRIGHT Sunday, 16th April, 1972 — 2.30 p.m.

WESTS (Black and White) Coach: DON PARISH	CANTERBURY (Blue and White) Coach: BOB HAGAN
1—Russell MULLINS	Fullbacks: Gary DOWLING— 1
2—Don ROGERS	Threequarters: John RHODES— 2
3—Stephen KNIGHT	Alan BURWELL— 3
4—Stephen SATTERLY	Peter Van GULIK— 4
5—Alan ASHMORE	John GREAVES (C)— 5
6—John HEYWARD	Five-eighths: Ray STRUDWICK— 6
7—Tom RAUDONIKIS (C)	Halves: Phil YOUNG— 7
8—John BAKER	Forwards: Ron RAPER— 8
9—John ELFORD	Neville HORNERY— 9
10—Olaf PRATTL	Mick TRYPAS—10
11—John O'BRYAN	Ron COSTELLO—11
12—Jim CROUCHER	Greg PURCELL—12
13—John WALKER	Dennis MANTEIT—13

Allan Ashmore's First Grade Debut with Wests – Round Four – 16 April 1972

Wests Archive web site has recorded an account of this game and it noted that;

“Wests’ selectors took the axe to the normal team, dropping for the first time Ken Stonestreet and Barry Bryant, as well as Tony Ford, Brian Winney (making way for the previously injured John Heyward) and Russ Johnstone. Allan Ashmore, (ex-Canberra rugby union who had played under the name of Aitken in the trials), debuted on the wing, along with Stephen Satterly (ex-Balmain), in the centres.

Jim Croucher, who had played a lot as Reserve Grade hooker, replaced Ken Stonestreet, and scored the winning try in the last ten minutes, nobody cheering more loudly than Stonestreet himself from the sidelines. Russell Mullins went to full-back and had a strong match in a very rugged game of football. Wests played with a lot of spirit to record their first win of the season.”

Source: westsarchives.com.au

Allan played in Wests First Grade team up until the round thirteen game against Parramatta. He was married the week after and with a honey moon and establishing a new home in Centennial Park, he struggled to dislodge the incumbent wingers, Russell Mullins and Don Rogers until the final competition round.



Miss Sandra Crilley and Mr Allan Ashmore were married at All Saints' Church, Ainslie, on Saturday. The bride is the daughter of Mr and Mrs R. C. Crilley, of Downer, and the bridegroom is the son of Mr and Mrs B. K. Ashmore, of Queensland. The couple will honeymoon at Thredbo before making their home at Centennial Park, in Sydney.

In the pre-season of 1973, Allan played in all four Wills Cup matches. However he didn't come into the First Grade team until round five of the premiership when Wests were up against Canterbury. Wests suffered a resounding defeat but Allan held his First Grade spot until round nine. Allan played one more First Grade game for Wests in 1973.

During his two seasons at Wests, Allan Ashmore played fifteen First Grade, twenty five Reserve Grade and six Pre Season Cup matches for a total of forty six matches in all grades. He scored sixteen tries in all grades for a tally of forty eight points.

Surname	Forename	Year	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	Pre-Season Cup	Tries	Goals	Field Goals	Total Points
Ashmore	Allan	1972	9			4			12
Ashmore	Allan	1972		12		3			9
Ashmore	Allan	1972			2	2			6
Ashmore	Allan	1973	6			1			3
Ashmore	Allan	1973		13		6			18
Ashmore	Allan	1973			4				
Total			15	25	6	16			48

Allan returned to Canberra in 1974. He played with the Lakes United Rugby League Club that year but injury impacted his season early on. He also maintained his interest in rugby union but due to his defection to rugby league, he received a two year playing ban from the Union authorities.

Lakes, however, have been heartened by the return after injury of centre Alan Ashmore. Ashmore, formerly a rugby union player with Western Districts and the ACT, came to Lakes United this season after a stint with Western Suburbs in Sydney. He looked very impressive in his debut with the Sharks and was unlucky to be sidelined in his first game with a knee injury.

11 July Canberra Times 1974

Nevertheless Allan became involved in the administration of the Canberra Wests Rugby Union Club in 1974. He became a selector in 1975 but did not play that year in anticipation of serving out his ban which would be lifted in 1976.

and Alan Ashmore is an attacking unit. Ashmore's return is of great interest. A former ACT representative, he is back from the wilderness and after a couple of seasons of non-playing devotion to the club, is reinstated and training harder than most of the younger men.

Canberra Times 10 April 1976

Alan Ashmore, the former ACT representative rugby wing-three-quarter who subsequently played rugby league for Wests in Sydney, then served out a two-year wait before returning to the amateur code, is relishing his return and has regained a place in Wests' first-grade team.

Canberra Times 27 April 1976

Allan returned to play rugby union with Canberra Wests in 1976. He also became Vice President of the ACT Rugby Union that year. His father, Bernie Ashmore had also moved to Canberra and was Secretary of the Canberra Western Districts Rugby Union Club.



Wests Andy Aiken breaks down mid field with an Easts player in pursuit. Allan Ashmore moves in to support. Did Allan borrow Andy Aiken's name when he played under the assumed name of Aiken when he trialed with Wests in 1972?

Allan Ashmore played First Grade rugby union up until 1979 and then joined the coaching and refereeing ranks during the 1980's. He eventually moved back to Queensland and settled in the town of Maryborough.