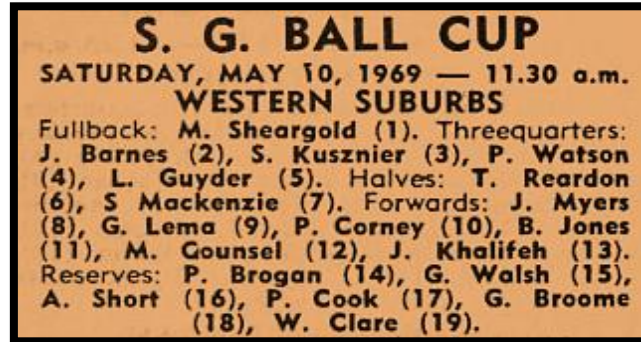


Jim Myers

..... was selected for Wests S G Ball team in 1969. The team was competitive but played without luck. Nevertheless, the experience provided a great platform which would bring success over the next few years.



Wests S G Ball Cup Team 1969

Jim remained with the Berala Bears in 1970 and along with future Wests team mates Trevor Reardon and Steve Blyth took all before them being undefeated in their age division.



Berala Bears JRLFC D Grade Reserve – Undefeated Premiers 1970

(269 Points For, 25 Against – 65 Tries For, 3 Against – 37 Goals For, 8 Against)

Back: G Myers (Manager), K Liddle, S Blyth, P Braine, T Graham, C Davies, B Jones, P Mullins, J Sommerville, P McGrath (Coach)

Middle: R Baker, G Roberts, I Stevenson, J Myers (C), T Reardon (VC), S Kuszniek, J Summers, P Cook

Front: G Dowling, G Roberts (Ball Boy), L Watson

However, Jim soon linked up with the powerful Concord United junior Club. Contemporaries of Jim at Concord included future First Grade players Mick Liubinskas and Steve Rigney. While playing with Concord, Jim was selected for the Wests Jersey Flegg Cup team in 1972 and was appointed as captain of the team.



Western Suburbs Jersey Flegg Cup Team - Finalists 1972

(Played 6, Won 5, Lost 1 - Points: For 85 Against 47)

Back: H Burns (President), S Swan (Manager), S Coghlan (Secretary), B Jones, C Davies, M Liubinskas, A Brown (Coach), A Spencer, S Rigney, S Blyth, D Ewings (Trainer), E Jackman (Selector), W Roberts (Treasurer), W Ginn (Rep Selector)

Sitting: G Roberts, T Reardon, S Wilkinson, J Rolston, J Myers (C), S McKenzie, R Spicer, G Edwards, P Campbell

Front: N Clinch, G Gardner, M Brown (Ball Boy), S Rigney (Sand Boy), C Brennan, N Bennett

Absent: R Giteau

RESULTS

v St George Won 10-7 (Tries: S Rigney, J Myers, Goals: J Myers S McKenzie)

v Parramatta Won 12-2 (Tries: J Myers, T Reardon, Goals: J Myers, S McKenzie f.g.)

v Eastern Suburbs Won 28-8 (Tries: T Reardon 3, J Myers, N Clinch, G Edwards, Goals: S McKenzie 2, P Campbell 2, J Myers)

v Penrith Won 17-13 (Tries: T Reardon, C Brennan, S Rigney, Goals: S McKenzie 3, J Myers)

v Canterbury Bankstown (Semi Final) Won 13-2 (Tries: G Gardner, R Giteau, G Edwards, Goals: J Myers, S McKenzie)

v South Sydney (Final) Lost 5-15 (Tries T Reardon, Goals: S McKenzie)

The 1972 Jersey Flegg team went through the preliminary rounds undefeated and then met South Sydney in the Final. It was a tough match which spilled out with some feeling after the final siren. Trevor Reardon of Wests scored the only try of the match after good lead up work by Jim Myers. However Wests were effectively penalised out of the game with Souths points coming from seven goals and a field goal to take a 15-5 win.

Members of Wests 1972 Jersey Flegg team that would go on and play First grade included captain, Jim Myers, Trevor Reardon, Ron Giteau, Steve Blyth, Steve Rigney, Geoff Gardner and Mick Liubinskas.

FLEGG MEMORIAL CUP			
Copyright. 12.45 p.m. 30 mins. each way.			
SOUTH SYDNEY (Red and Green) Coach: RAY STIG		WESTERN SUBURBS (Black and White) Coach: A. BROWN	
1—S. LOUGHNAN		1—J. ROBERTS	
2—P. HICKEY	J. BERNE— 3	2—A. SPENCER	T. REARDON— 3
4—B. ROWAN	G. BULTITUDE— 5	4—R. GITEAU	G. EDWARDS—16
6—B. WALL (C)	W. SMITH— 7	7—S. MCKENZIE	G. GARDINER—14
8—C. MORAGHAN	J. HARRIOTT— 9	8—J. MYERS (C)	S. BLYTH—10
10—W. GRIFFIN	D. WILSON—11	17—R. SPICER	S. RIGNEY—11
12—S. MAGNUS	B. JONES—13	18—C. BRENNAN	M. LIUBINAKAS—13
D. Woods (14), S. Westaway (15), G. Loughnan (16), R. Hartley (17), M. Stores (18), G. Sommerville (19), G. Martin (20).		N. Clinch (5), B. Jones (9), C. Davies (15), J. Rolston (6), P. Campbell (12), N. Bennett (19), S. Wilkinson (20).	

Wests Jersey Flegg Cup Team 1972

Jim was clearly an influential player in the Jersey Flegg team. He was described in Wests 1972 Annual Report as follows;

“James Myers formerly played with the Berala Club but is now playing with Concord C Grade. Jim is a big fast boy with flawless cover defence and an uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time. He was lock and captain of the Jersey Flegg team. I am sure that this boy has a great future in rugby league.”

Jim was one of three players awarded an educational scholarship by Wests in 1972. The others were fifteen year old Peter Lema from the S G Ball team and the other player was Neil Bennett from the Jersey Flegg team and now Archivist at Wests Archive. Neil was young enough to go on and captain the Wests 1973 Jersey Flegg team.

In discussing this period with Jim, there was a back story which paints an interesting picture. Jim was educated at Christian Brothers Lewisham. The school has a proud history of nurturing rugby league players, many of whom have played for Wests.

The alumni also includes many who have gone on to occupy the most influential positions in rugby league. One of these was Canterbury Bankstown’s Chief Executive and recruiter extraordinaire, Peter “Bullfrog” Moore. Peter, over a twenty five year period had brought many great players to the Canterbury club. However, on occasion one or two slipped through the net, much to the chagrin of Moore.

Jim Myers not only demonstrated his ability playing rugby league, but he also participated in pro running during the off season. Moore had been keeping an eye on him and as a result of Jim’s performance in the Flegg team he was offered the opportunity, with a cash incentive, to trial with Canterbury. The weekend in question was a problem for Jim as he had a prior commitment to be in Coonabarabran in the central west of NSW.

Moore was not to be rebuffed and expressed his displeasure to Jim as there was nothing more important than Moore’s Bulldogs. Canterbury was not the only Club interested in Jim, so when Wests awarded him an educational scholarship, it was an easy decision for a Wests tragic to remain with the Club. Ironically, Peter Moore was renowned for introducing scholarships to young up and coming players to make their transition into premiership rugby league that little bit easier. Jim Myers was one that got away.

Jim was graded with Wests in 1972 after he completed his Jersey Flegg duties. He played five Third Grade games at the back end of the season. He started the 1973 season in under 23’s, moved up to Reserve Grade, and then in round twelve, he made his First Grade debut in a match against North Sydney when he was called on as a replacement for an injured Barry Bryant, late in the game.

WESTERN SUBURBS		1973 Round 12 Sunday 10th June North Sydney Oval		WESTERN SUBURBS	
	Western Suburbs 20	def.		North Sydney 11	
	Tony FORD	<i>Fullback</i>		Barry GLASGOW	
	Stephen SATTERLY	<i>Wing</i>		Bruce WARWICK	
	Stephen KNIGHT	<i>Centre</i>		Mal McLACHLIN	
	Robbie PARKER	<i>Centre</i>		Keith HARRIS	
	Russell MULLINS	<i>Wing</i>		George VARELLA	
	Neville SINCLAIR	<i>Five-eighth</i>		Tim PICKUP	
	Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	<i>Half</i>		Keith OUTTEN	
	John BAKER	<i>Lock</i>		Eddie HEATLEY	
	Geoff FOSTER	<i>Second Row</i>		Mick HEALEY	
	Barry BRYANT	<i>Second Row</i>		Bruce WALKER (c)	
	Jim CODY	<i>Front Row</i>		Dave COOPER	
	Shane DAY	<i>Hooker</i>		Bruce FOYE	
	John O'BRYAN	<i>Front Row</i>		Steve WINTER	
	Terry MULLINS	<i>Replacement</i>		Rex MURPHY	
	Jim MYERS	<i>Replacement</i>		Phil GIERSCH	

Jim Myers First Grade Debut – Round Twelve 10 June 1973

With Barry Bryant still injured, Jim was selected in Wests First Grade run on team the following week against Parramatta.

WESTERN SUBURBS		1973 Round 13 Sunday 17th June Lidcombe Oval		WESTERN SUBURBS	
Western Suburbs 12		def.	Parramatta 9		
Tony FORD	<i>Fullback</i>	Mike LEARY			
Stephen SATTERLY	<i>Wing</i>	Phil JELLEY			
Stephen KNIGHT	<i>Centre</i>	Ron GRAHAM			
Robbie PARKER	<i>Centre</i>	Brian BENNETT			
Allan ASHMORE	<i>Wing</i>	Terry SCURFIELD			
Neville SINCLAIR	<i>Five-eighth</i>	John KOLC			
Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)	<i>Half</i>	Terry REYNOLDS			
John BAKER	<i>Lock</i>	Bob JAY			
Geoff FOSTER	<i>Second Row</i>	John VINCENT			
Jim MYERS	<i>Second Row</i>	Keith CAMPBELL			
John O'BRYAN	<i>Front Row</i>	Tony CHARLTON			
Shane DAY	<i>Hooker</i>	John McMARTIN			
Jim CODY	<i>Front Row</i>	Bob O'REILLY (c)			
	<i>Replacement</i>	John WILSON			

Jim Myers first full game in First Grade – Round Thirteen 17 June 1973

The Wests Archive web site has recorded the action from that game;

Led by a fiery Jim Cody, the Wests' pack, with newcomers, Geoff Foster and Jim Myers, gave a ferocious tackling display to allow Wests to overcome a 5-7 deficit. In a very gruelling match with numerous forward clashes, especially with Bob O'Reilly and Cody and Foster, Wests sealed the match with a Ford penalty two minutes from the end. Raudonikis played his usual high quality game.

Source: westsarchives.com.au

1974 was a good year for Wests with the First Grade team making the finals for the first time in a decade. It was a good year for Jim Myers. He played in the First Grade team in the Pre Season Cup competition then spent some time in Reserve Grade before making a return to First Grade mid-year.

Wests were seeing the benefit from a group of young juniors now making their way into First Grade. More than half of the 1974 First Grade squad were eligible to play in under 23's.

Jim was a replacement for the minor semi final against 1973 premiers, Manly Warringah. In a tense match Wests defeated the Manly side to end their season. Wests met Eastern Suburbs the following week to contest the preliminary final. Easts overcame Wests in the second half and went on to be 1974 premiers.



Jim Myers in action against Canterbury 1974

Jim's career as a teacher was developing and from 1975 until 1977 he spent much of his time playing in the Wests Reserve Grade and under 23's teams. Around this time he became involved with the Teachers Rugby League Club and coached them to some success in the University Cup competition.

By 1977, Jim's teaching job had him relocate to the NSW Central Coast. He played two Reserve Grade and five under 23's games with Wests that year.

The following year Jim played with the Ourimbah Magpies and in 1979 he joined the Erina Eagles where he remained until 1981. Erina Eagles won the Central Coast premiership in 1981.

Jim returned to Wests in 1982 and played six Third Grade games. He remained on the Central Coast but retired from playing. During his seven seasons at Wests, Jim played eighteen First Grade, forty six Reserve Grade, eleven Third Grade, thirty six Under 23's and two Pre Season Cup games for a total of one hundred and thirteen games in all grades.

He also scored seventeen tries and kicked twenty eight goals in all grades for a tally of one hundred and twenty four points.

Surname	Forename	Year	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	U/23's	Pre-Season Cup	Tries	Goals	Field Goals	Total Points
Myers	Jim	1972			5			2			6
Myers	Jim	1973	6								
Myers	Jim	1973		15				3			9
Myers	Jim	1973				4					
Myers	Jim	1974	12					1			3
Myers	Jim	1974		10							
Myers	Jim	1974				2					
Myers	Jim	1974					1				
Myers	Jim	1975		5					1		2
Myers	Jim	1975				17		6	28		74
Myers	Jim	1975					1				
Myers	Jim	1976		14				2	2		10
Myers	Jim	1976				8		3	4		17
Myers	Jim	1977		2							
Myers	Jim	1977				5					
Myers	Jim	1982			6			1			3
Total			18	46	11	36	2	18	35		124

Jim Myer's Playing Record at Wests

After retiring from rugby league, Jim became involved with surf lifesaving. He is a Life Member of Surf Life Saving Central Coast.

While he thought that he had put rugby league behind him, Jim once more pulled on the boots in his late 30's to coach and help out the Erina Eagles lower grades. It was his last hurrah in the game and these days he enjoys the game from the side line, particularly when catching up with old mates and when he can, watching the Wests Magpies playing at Lidcombe Oval.

Jim is a member of the Pratten Park Magpies and is a regular at the Annual Reunions.