

Ralph Davison

..... appeared in a news article in the Daily Telegraph in May 1944, although his surname was recorded as Davidson. It noted that he was a Police Instructor and had put the Wests players through a physical training session. R. Davison played with Wests in 1943 and 1944, so it was reasonable to conclude that this was the same person that assisted with Wests training in early 1944.

Ralph Davidson, police instructor, put the Western Suburbs players through 20 minutes' physical training drill. Mr. Lou Moses, Wests' secretary, said: "The physical jerks should make Western Suburbs the fittest team in Rugby League."

Daily Telegraph 5 May 1944

Ralph Davison was a Policeman living at Kings Rd Five Dock in 1943. It was therefore necessary to know more about Ralph Davison to determine what links he had to football and Wests.

Ralph Owen Davison was born in 1915 at Wetherill Park, NSW in Sydney's western suburbs. Ralph's parents were long-time residents of this suburb and Ralph grew up in this locality and resided there until he entered the Police Depot (Academy) at Redfern, NSW in 1937.

In 1936 Ralph Davison was recorded trialling with the Parramatta Rugby Union Club and subsequently playing with that Club that year. He was described as a 20 year old, 6ft 2ins tall and weighing 14 stone 9lbs. These were ideal physical attributes for a front row forward, a position that he played in later years with Wests.

It was also noted that it was his first season in football. Another player to trial with the Parramatta club that year was future Wests First Grade player, Jack Tisdale who had already played President's Cup rugby league.

Ralph Davison a youthful giant—6.2 and 14.9—is fast picking up the game, and club officials are of the opinion that he has a future as a forward.

Labor Daily 19 March 1936

Parramatta will field fine sides, and the selectors are in for a few headaches before the grade fifteens are finally chosen. All the grades should be strong. Among the "babies" offering are Davison, 20 years, 6ft. 2in., 14st. 9lb., and Loughurst, 18 years, 6ft., 14st. 7lb. Some of the new players to attract attention on Saturday last were Fred Stephens, a former St. George first-grade breakaway, Joek Tisdale, a President Cup League player of yast year, who is

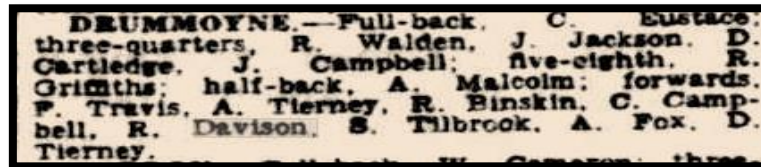
Cumberland Argus 19 March 1936

Another "baby" is Ralph Davison, of Smithfield, who is having his first season in football. Ralph is 6ft. 2in. and weighs 14.9.

The Biz 20 March 1936

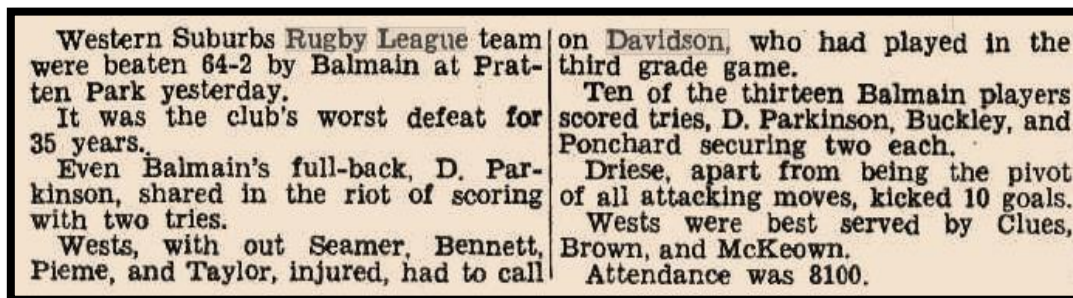
Newspaper reports in the following years were dominated by war events, so that recording of sports results was limited. Nevertheless, it was likely that Ralph Davison played rugby union with the NSW Police in a services competition in the late 1930's and by 1939 had moved across to play rugby union with the Western Suburbs Club.

In April 1940, Ralph Davison married and settled at Kings Rd Five Dock, NSW, where he lived for the remainder of his life. By 1942 Ralph was a regular member of the Drummoyne First Grade Rugby Union team but came across to play rugby league with Wests in 1943. He played five Third Grade and one Second Grade game with Wests in 1943.



SMH 1 July 1942

Ralph made his First Grade debut in round twelve of the 1944 season. He was a good Club man which was highlighted by a report in the Daily Telegraph in July 1944. After playing a full game in Third Grade, he was called on to play in First Grade due to injuries and withdrawals of a number of regular First Grade players. Wests suffered its biggest defeat in 35 years that day with a 2-64 loss to Balmain.



Daily Telegraph 30 July 1944

1944 Round 12 Saturday 29th July Pratten Park		
Balmain 64	def.	Western Suburbs 2
Dave PARKINSON	<i>Fullback</i>	Ron MARTIN
Arthur PATTON (c)	<i>Wing</i>	Bruce BROWN
Tom BOURKE	<i>Centre</i>	Jack BANNER
Pat DEVERY	<i>Centre</i>	Fred YANZ Jnr
Keith PARKINSON	<i>Wing</i>	Alf CARDY
Stan PONCHARD	<i>Five-eighth</i>	Jack RUSSELL
Frank DRIESE	<i>Half</i>	Pat BUGDEN (c)
Jack HAMPSTEAD	<i>Lock</i>	Arthur CLUES
Sid RYAN	<i>Second Row</i>	Ralph DAVISON
Athol SMITH	<i>Second Row</i>	George LUCAS
Colin CAMPBELL	<i>Front Row</i>	Len CLANCY
George WATT	<i>Hooker</i>	Neville SPENCE
Dawson BUCKLEY	<i>Front Row</i>	Fred McKEAN

Ralph Davison's First Grade Debut – Round Twelve 29 July 1944

Ralph held his position in the team the following week and in a significant turnaround defeated North Sydney 12-11.

In 1944, Ralph made three appearances in First Grade and ten in Third Grade. Wests were clearly building for the future and in that season the Third Grade team won the premiership. Ralph was a key member of the Third Grade team, playing through the finals series. Ralph played in the trials in 1945, however there is no record of him playing that season or beyond.



Western Suburbs DRLFC Third Grade Premiers 1944

Back: J Neil (President), W Wamlsey (3rd Grade Sec), W Spooner (Selector), J Edgar, J Knox (Coach), R Reimer, J O'Brien (Selector), L Lackey (Selector)

Middle: L Moses (Selector), F Morris, R Maloney, L. Rigby, E Dunn, J Woods, D Milton, W Rawlinson, R Liston (Timekeeper.)

Front Row: J Spooner, L Hoschke, K Ibbett, E Davies, J Rawlinson, D Thomas, B McLennon

In Front: V Smith, S Austin, R Topham, **Inset: Ralph Davison, K Fewtrell (Ball Boy)**

During his two seasons at Wests, Ralph played three First Grade, one Reserve Grade and fifteen Third Grade games for a total of nineteen games.

Surname	Forename	Year	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	Tries	Goals	Field Goals	Total Points
Davison	Ralph	1943		1					
Davison	Ralph	1943			5				
Davison	Ralph	1944	3						
Davison	Ralph	1944			10	1			3
Total			3	1	15	1			3

Ralph Davison's Playing Record at Wests

A news article was subsequently found in The Biz newspaper on 12 October 1960 which confirmed that R Davison who played for Wests in 1943 and 1944, was in fact Ralph Davison who was originally from Wetherill Park.



Biz 12 October 1960

Ralph Davison died at Five Dock, NSW in July 1993.