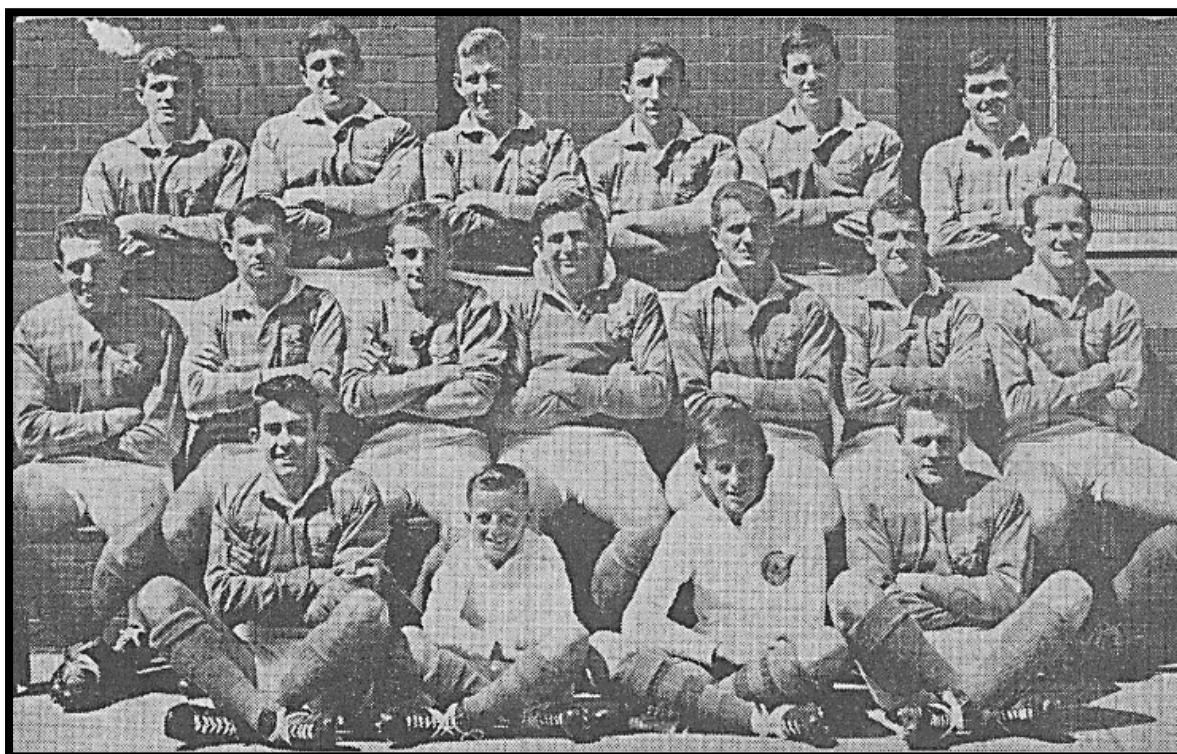


Russell Johnstone

..... played with the Parramatta Third Grade team in 1964. He and Parramatta had a successful year with the Third Grade team taking out the 1964 premiership. Parramatta overcame a strong St George team that had won the minor premiership and contained future First Grade player, Warren Ryan and future Wests player, Brian Winney.

THIRD GRADE	
ST. GEORGE v. PARRAMATTA	
St. George — Fullback: A. McKean. Threequarters: P. Fitzgerald, B. Slade, W. Ryan, W. Walsh. Five-eighth: K. Dixon. Half-back: B. Winney. Forwards: A. Harris, R. Vial, B. Norwood, G. Dove, R. Bignolde, T. Fanning. B. Slade was injured and replaced by K. McDonald.	Parramatta — Fullback: J. Wicks. Threequarters: P. Delaney, R. Smith, K. Stewart, J. Poulos. Five-eighth: E. Gillon. Half-back: G. McCalla. Forwards: K. Cluff, P. Linde, R. Johnstone, V. Collins, R. Workman, M. Johnston.
Parramatta 14 (P. Linde and P. Delaney tries, J. Wicks 4 goals). St. George 4 (K. McDonald 2 goals).	
Referee: L. Bruyeres. Touch Judges: W. Kelly, G. Hedger.	

Third Grade Grand Final 1964 Parramatta v St George



Parramatta DRLFC Third Grade Premiers 1964

Back: Rod Smith, Russell Johnstone, Peter Linde, Vic Collins, John Ringk, Jim Poulos
Middle: Ken Cluff, Ken Stewart, Garrie McCalla, Matt Johnston (C), Ron Workman, Mick Dennis, Peter Delaney
Front: Ernie Gillon, Garry Irving (Deputy Ball Boy), Brian Gillett (Ball Boy), John Wicks

Russ played with Parramatta from 1964 until 1966 but didn't play a First Grade premiership match during that time. However he did play two pre-season Cup games in the First Grade team in 1966. He debuted in the round one match against Manly Warringah.

PRESEASON CUP 1966					
GAME 1					
Parramatta EELS			6 – 14	Manly Warringah SEA EAGLES	
TEAMS					
Ken THORNETT (c)	1	FB	1	Bob BATTY	
Arch BROWN	2	W	2	Nick YAKICH	
Barry RUSHWORTH	3	C	3	George McTAGGART	
Fred PICKUP	4	C	4	Alec TENNANT	
Gabe VERY	5	W	5	Fred YAKICH	
Gerry EDSER	6	FE	6	Bob FULTON	
Ern GILLON	7	HB	7	Frank STANTON	
Ron LYNCH	8	L	8	Bill BRADSTREET	
Ted HEINRICH	9	2R	9	John MORGAN	
Russell JOHNSTONE	10	2R	10	Ken DAY (c)	
Brian HAMBLY	11	FR	11	Mick VEIVERS	
Billy RAYNER	12	HK	12	Fred JONES	
Lindsay ARMOUR	13	FR	13	Bill HAMILTON	
Ken THORNETT		HC		Wally O'CONNELL	

Round One Pre Season Cup Match 1966 – Paramatta v Manly Warringah

In 1967, Penrith was admitted into the Sydney premiership competition and Russ Johnstone returned home to play with his district club. His first match with Penrith was a pre-season Cup game where he came off the bench against his former club, Parramatta. Penrith had a narrow 6-5 win.

Russ made his First Grade debut with Penrith against Manly Warringah in round three of the 1967 season.

NSWRFL 1967					
ROUND 3					
Manly Warringah SEA EAGLES			17 – 8	Penrith PANTHERS	
TEAMS					
Ron MURRAY	1	FB	1	Bill TONKIN	
Les HANIGAN	2	W	2	Bob LANDERS	
Alec TENNANT	3	C	3	Ern GILLON	
Peter GALLAGHER	4	C	4	Wayne PECKHAM	
Mick BRYANT	5	W	5	David APPLEBEE	
Bob FULTON	6	FE	6	Grahame MORAN	
Garry TOOLE	7	HB	7	Laurie FAGAN (c)	
Bill BRADSTREET	8	L	8	Russell JOHNSTONE	
John MORGAN	9	2R	9	Wal CRUST	
Mick SIMMONS	10	2R	10	Bill McCALL	
Mick VEIVERS	11	FR	11	Geoff WALDIE	
Fred JONES	12	HK	12	Ron WORKMAN	
Ken DAY (c)	13	FR	13	Barry HARRIS	
Wally O'CONNELL		HC		Leo TREVENA	

Russ Johnstone's First Grade Debut – Round Three 1967



Penrith DRLFC First Grade Team 1967

Back: Russ Johnstone, Barry Harris, Bob Landers, Geoff Waldie
 Middle: Bill McCall, Wayne Peckham, Tony Brown, Ron Workman, David Applebee
 Front: Ern Gillon, Laurie Fagan, Graham Moran, Tommy Wilson

In round four of the premierships, Penrith celebrated its entry into the Sydney rugby league competition with the official opening of Penrith Park. Penrith rose to the occasion and defeated St George 24-12. Russ Johnstone scored one of Penrith's four tries in this famous win.



Penrith Rugby League First Grade 1967

The Penrith Team that defeated St George at the official unveiling of Penrith Park – Round Four 1967
Back: Bill McCall, Russ Johnstone, Geoff Waldie, Bob Landers, Barry Harris, Graham Moran, Leo Trevena (Coach)
Front: Dave Applebee, Maurie Raper, Ron Workman, Wayne Peckham, Laurie Fagan, Ernie Gillon, Tom Wilson

Russ played with Penrith from 1967 until the start of the 1971 season. During his time with Penrith he played thirty four First Grade games and five Pre Season Cup games. His time at Penrith had its ups and downs. When he was playing well there was no one better but his form was inconsistent and with the effect of injuries he found himself in and out of Penrith's top team.

RUSSELL JOHNSTONE, Penrith's giant second row forward, seems to reserve his big days for the really major occasions.

One such was last Sunday's clash with Balmain. Penrith's Panthers wanted very much to win; and big Russ turned it on—a nonstop exhibition marked by strength and purpose.

Another such occasion was last year at Penrith when the Panthers also downed St. George.

If he could sustain that "big game" form Russ could be a power in League.

He is known as a player of "moods;" but it's a fact that injuries have cramped his career.

This year, for example, he missed several rounds, and in others he played lower grade. Last week's match was his first with the "seniors" for many weeks, and only his second this season.

RLN 17, 18 August 1968

He started the 1971 season with Penrith, playing one pre-season Cup game against St George then the following week, for the first round of the premiership competition, he was selected in Penrith's Third Grade team. In the Third Grade team were future First Grade players, Tim Sheens and Zac Olejarnik. It was the last game that Russ played for Penrith. On 9 May 1971, Russ played his first game with Wests.

THIRD GRADE—6.30 p.m.	
PENRITH (Brown and White) Coach: TOM WILSON	
Fullbacks:	
1— R. WALTON	
Threequarters:	
2— R. MICHAEL	R. CARRIGE —3
4— T. WILSON (C)	G. NELSON —5
Halves:	
6— Z. OLEJARNIK	P. RYAN —7
Forwards:	
8— D. WINNACOTT	G. IVES —9
10— T. SHEENS	R. JOHNSTONE —11
12— R. GOODSSELL	D. GOLDMAN —13
Reserves:	
B. Delaney, J. Ryan, J. Dillon, D. Coffey, P. Convery, S. Snell, P. Gwyane, G. Lords, B. Fornari, A. Powell, J. Roberts, F. Longhurst.	

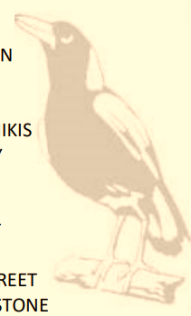
26 March 1971

RESERVE GRADE—1.15 p.m.	
WESTERN SUBURBS (Black and White)	
Coach: JOHN HAYES	
Fullback:	
14— R. MULLINS	
Threequarters:	
15— P. CAPPER —3	N. HURFORD —16
17— R. FERGUSON	G. SQUIRES —18
Halves:	
19— J. STEWART	J. MAXWELL —20
Forwards:	
21— R. SINCLAIR	K. TIMBS (C) —22
13— A. ANTUNAC	S. WINTER —24
25— B. BOSS	R. JOHNSTONE —26

9 May 1971

Within a fortnight Russ was playing in Wests First Grade team. He made his First Grade debut with Wests on 23 May 1971. It wasn't Wests finest game as the Sydney Morning Herald reported the following day;

Wests have fallen to their lowest ebb in recent times and only five-eighth Tom Raudonikis and stand-in prop Russell Johnstone earned their appearance money. Raudonikis continually probed the defence, but support was almost non-existent. (SMH 24th May 1971)

WESTERN SUBURBS		1971 Round 9 Sunday 23rd May Kogarah Oval		WESTERN SUBURBS	
St George 14		def.	Western Suburbs 8		
Dennis PRESTON	<i>Fullback</i>	Tony FORD			
Stan GORTON	<i>Wing</i>	Don ROGERS			
Geoff CARR	<i>Centre</i>	Roy FERGUSON			
Kevin O'SULLIVAN	<i>Centre</i>	Tim MURPHY			
Ken BATTY	<i>Wing</i>	John ELFORD			
Tony BRANSON	<i>Five-eighth</i>	Tom RAUDONIKIS			
Mark SCHULMAN	<i>Half</i>	Brian WINNEY			
Graeme SAMS	<i>Lock</i>	Rod SMITH			
Barry BEATH	<i>Second Row</i>	John BAKER			
Peter FITZGERALD	<i>Second Row</i>	Barry BRYANT			
Brian NORTON	<i>Front Row</i>	Jim CODY (c)			
Col RASMUSSEN	<i>Hooker</i>	Ken STONESTREET			
Apisai TOGA	<i>Front Row</i>	Russell JOHNSTONE			
Paul MILLS	<i>Replacement</i>	Jon CLARK			
Phil HAWTHORNE	<i>Replacement</i>	George SKEERS			

Russ Johnstone's First Grade Debut with Wests – Round Nine 1971

Russ made an impression in this game and became a regular member of the First Grade team that year.

In 1972 he started the season playing the Wills Cup pre-season games and then was selected in the First Grade team or played off the bench in the first five rounds of the competition. He then played a number of lower grade games but did not see out the season.

Russ played his last season with Wests in 1973. He played five First Grade games, the last being recorded in round seven. There is no further record of him playing grade rugby league.

During his time at Wests, Russ Johnstone played twenty two First Grade, five Reserve Grade, one Third Grade, four Pre Season Cup and three Endeavour Cup games for a total of thirty five games. He scored seven tries in all grades for a total of twenty one points.

Surname	Forename	Year	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	Pre-Season Cup	Endeavour Cup	Tries	Goals	Field Goals	Total Points
Johnstone	Russell	1971	13					4			12
Johnstone	Russell	1971		2				1			3
Johnstone	Russell	1971					3				
Johnstone	Russell	1972	4								
Johnstone	Russell	1972		3				1			3
Johnstone	Russell	1972			1			1			3
Johnstone	Russell	1972				4					
Johnstone	Russell	1973	5								
Total			22	5	1	4	3	7			21

Russell Johnstone's Playing Record at Wests

Russ Johnstone had a successful career as a Police Officer. He lived in the Penrith district but later on moved to the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. He died in the town of Eudlo, Queensland in February 2004 and his memorial is at the Nambour Garden Lawn Cemetery, Sunshine Coast, Queensland.