



Another good year for West, although for the first time since 2006 West failed to win a Grand Final. Dean Botham replaced Craig Miller as First Grade Coach, while Gary Thorogood (Reserves), Paul McLaren (Opens) and Brett Pennell (under19's) were appointed as the lower grade coaches. (Yep, Under 23's GONE!! – replaced by Open Grade from 2008...it's just a revolving door of names!). West were Club Champions again – the 39<sup>th</sup> win from the 55 seasons since the Mal Woolford trophy started in 1961. First and Reserve Grade were Minor Premiers – with First Grade being beaten 18 – 12 by Macquarie in the Final, and Reserve Grade unlucky losers to Lakes in the Grand Final. The Grand Finals were played at Hunter Stadium (the Knights home ground), returning to where West won the 1981, 1982 and 1984 Grand Finals at the International Sports Centre. New players to West in 2015 included hooker Chris Knight, from South, Chris Knight is the son of speedy 1980's West winger, Mitchell Knight. Others were Joel Brown from Cessnock, Willis Alatini (New Zealand), Reg Saunders (Redcliffe) and Luke Single (Bathurst). West junior, centre Cameron Moran, returned from the Gold Coast and won the award for Most Tries in the season (12 in Reserve Grade). The 'Most Outstanding Player' was won by Mark Taufua (First Grade), Mitch



Casey (Reserve Grade), Jack Geddes (Open Grade) and Daniel Masiang (under 19's). Special Mention should be made of Steve Gordon (100+ First Grade games – pictured left) and David Dryden (120 Grade games – pictured right)) for achieving Life Membership of the Football Club, and for the long term player, and now trainer, Brendan Barber, for winning the award for "Clubman of the Year". So what will 2016 bring??? – Don't really know as this was written in Oct 2015...but you just never, never, know.....

Round	Opponent	First	Reserves	Opens	Under 19's
1	Cessnock (a)	Lost 34 - 18	Won 38 - 6	Won 34 - 24	16 all Draw
2	South (h)	Won 22 - 16	Won 28 - 10	Lost 36 - 4	Won 28 - 10
3	Kurri (h)	Won 25 - 19	Lost 19 - 18	Won 52 - 6	Won 32 - 10
4	Macquarie (a)	Won 15 - 8	Won 44 - 16	Won 24 - 16	10 all Draw
5	Lakes (a)	Lost 26 - 18	Won 20 - 12	Lost 24 - 16	Won 44 - 4
6	Maitland (a)	Won 30 - 18	Won 34 - 16	Won 22 - 12	Lost 28 - 18
7	Central (h)	Won 24 - 0	Won 26 - 22	Won 36 - 14	Won 18 - 12
8	Cessnock (h)	Won 20 - 14	Lost 10 - 6	Won 35 - 18	Won by forfeit
9	South (a)	Won 20 - 10	Lost 14 - 6	Lost 28 - 10	Won 20 - 10
10	Lakes (h)	Lost 12 - 6	Won 24 - 6	Won 26 - 16	Lost 18 - 14
11	Kurri (a)	Won 25 - 20	Won 39 - 0	Lost 32 - 30	Lost 24 - 15
12	Macquarie (h)	Won 26 - 18	Won 32 - 12	Won 66 - 10	Won 26 - 18
13	Maitland (h)	Won 34 - 12	Won 22 - 14	Won 34 - 12	Won 30 - 6
14	Central (a)	Won 44 - 10	Won 52 - 16	Won 38 - 16	Won 20 - 16
<b>Elim Semi</b>	Central			Lost 28 - 16	
<b>Qual Semi</b>	Central				Lost 20 - 10
<b>Minor Semi</b>	Kurri				Won 22 - 14
<b>Major Semi</b>	Lakes	Lost 20 - 14	Lost 26 - 16		
<b>Final</b>		West 12 Macq 18	West 14 South 6		
<b>GR FINAL</b>	<b>Lakes 24 def Macquarie 18</b>		<b>West 18 Lakes 19</b>	<b>KK 16 Sth 6</b>	<b>CC 14 Mait 12</b>

## Jermaine Ale – “likes the 3 R’s”

Jermaine Ale was a Waratah junior who played at Waratah until Under 11’s, when the “Cheetahs” ran out of players...so Jermaine became a **“Rosella”**. He arrived at West Under 12’s and played with the likes of Nathan Hinton, Noel Tupuo, Colin Clarke, Shane Morrissey and Adam Bettridge. Steve Bettridge coached the team to success in Under 12’s and 13’s. Jermaine represented in the Knights Harold Matthews (Under 16’s) when he was just 15. This team won the Grand Final and some of his team mates were Greg Bird, Michael Ennis and Brad



Tighe. At the age of 17 Jermaine played with the Knights SG Ball Team (Under 18’s) for 2 years. As a 17 yo he was selected in the NSW Under 17 team that played Queensland, and then was selected in the Australian Schoolboys team that toured England, with current West Secretary, Michael McEntyre being the coach. Jermaine played in both test in England, and a further test in France. In 2003, upon his return to Australia, Jermaine joined the **“Roosters”**. Jermaine was a member of the Roosters winning Jersey Flegg side, and team mates included Jamie Soward, Steve Meredith, Michael Lett and Danny Williams.

In 2005 Jermaine signed with the Canberra **“Raiders”**, and played in the capital for 2 years. Jermaine played mainly Reserve Grade but made 4 appearances with the Raiders First Grade side. His daughter, Jatali, was born in Canberra, and a Christmas visit to Newcastle prompted Jermaine to rejoin the Rosellas in 2007. At the time of writing, October 2015, Jermaine has played 142 games for West, with 129 of those being in First Grade. His 102 tries place him 12<sup>th</sup> on the West “try scoring” record. So Jermaine has played with the Rosellas, the Roosters and the Raiders, but he is most at home at Harker Oval every second weekend during the winter months, accompanied by his ever growing family. Well played Jermaine!

