



Brian Stanbridge

Who is the most successful Player / Coach in West's History?

Well, it's Brian Stanbridge. Brian won 7 Premierships – five Third Grade from 1966 to 1970 as a Player / Coach and Reserve Grade in 1971 and 1972 as a Coach.

Brian transferred from Kurri to West in 1965, and West won Third Grade with Brian an integral part of the team scoring 115 points.

In 1966, with Brian in charge, West won the Third Grade Grand Final with a whopping 41 – 0 over Kurri in a delayed game at District Park. In this year Brian scored 166 points with 2 tries and 80 goals. 1967 saw West Thirds beaten 11 – 2 in the Major Semi Final, but earned the right to meet Norths in the Grand Final with a win in the final 19 – 2 over Souths. West then went on to defeat North 16 – 10 in the Grand Final. In 1968 – another Premiership, and a hat trick for Brian (170 points from 2 tries and 82 goals). The team was undefeated in 1969. Brian played every game and scored 134 points from 67 goals.

In 1970 Brian was again appointed Captain / Coach of Third Grade, but when chosen in First Grade for the first game of the season (to replace an injured John Raper) he suffered a badly broken jaw, which unfortunately ended his playing career. Nevertheless, the team won the Grand Final with a hard fought win over arch rivals Maitland.

Brian was appointed Reserve Grade Coach for the 1971 and 1972 seasons, and West were Grand Final winners on both occasions. Brian coached West Reserves to the semi finals 1973 and the Grand Final in 1976 to end a spectacular playing and coaching career with West.

Brian Stanbridge records for West reads

First Grade – 1 game

Reserve Grade – 16 games, 2 tries, 59 goals, and 126 points

Third Grade – 89 games, 14 tries, 318 goals, 692 points

Total – 106 games, 16 tries, 377 goals, 818 points

Brian is the 5th highest point scorer in the club behind Scott Bradley (1992 – 2000, 1 896 points), Brian Warby (1958 – 1972, 1 316 points), Kevin Hodgson (1959 – 1968, 1 074 points) and Brett Cullen (1995 – 2004, 922 points).

He is the highest points scorer in Third Grade, scoring exactly twice as many points as the second placed Wayne Nichols (1965 – 1970) who scored 346 points.

Brian won Major Premierships in 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972.

Brian Stanbridge – wonderful clubman, great coach, very good footballer, champion person, WEST LEGEND!