

WALGETT MIDGETS

WERE STARS OF TAMWORTH RUGBY CARNIVAL

The Walgett Central School 4 st. 7 lb. football team had an extremely popular win at the Tamworth Peel Boys' Football Carnival during the winter. This team consisted of aboriginal and white lads—a wonderful example of assimilation and understanding.

The following are two reports dealing with the team. The first is written by Mr. A. King, Sportsmaster of Walgett Central School while the second is an extract from the "Northern Daily Leader", Tamworth.

George Rose, Danny Rose, Trevor Hall, Billy Cargill, Alan Simpson, Arthur McBride, Alf Beale, David Morgan and Stanley Sullivan were among some of the members of the Walgett Central School 4 st. 7 lb. football team that played in Division 2 weight division at the Peel School Football Carnival held at Tamworth this year.



The Rugby wizards, Walgett's 4 st. 7 lb. team

After travelling 240 miles, the longest distance any one team had to travel, the boys bunked down at Tamworth Showground for Friday night. The night being fairly cool, most of the boys found it warmer by sleeping two to a bed. In several cases in the same beds were aboriginal and white boys sleeping peacefully side by side. This closeness and togetherness set the foundation for an excellent team spirit.

After breakfast the boys prepared for their first match which was against Aberdeen Convent. In this game George Rose, playing half-back, scored two tries with well-timed runs from the scrum. The boys finally won this game 12 points to nil.

Our second game against Werris Creek was a tough one. With good service from scrums, hard running by the Rose brothers and tigerish tackling by Arthur

McBride and David Morgan, Walgett won 6 points to nil, George Rose scoring one try.

This win entitled Walgett to meet St. Xaviers Convent of Gunnedah in the final.

This final game saw Alan Simpson move into the forwards where he, Alf Beale and Billy Cargill combined into a hard, bustling front row.

At half-time, the scores were even at 3 points all. Our try being scored by George Rose.

About five minutes from the end Alf Beale was rewarded for his good forward play when he took a good intercept and scored the match winning try.

It was a good win and a real pleasure to see the boys combine the way they did. Everyone was thrilled.

However, the captain, Danny Rose, was in store for another thrill. After being presented with the cup at the end of the carnival, Danny was called back to sit on Jack Wilkinson's shoulder. Jack Wilkinson was one of the English forwards then touring Australia with the Great Britain Rugby League team. The local newspaper reporter then photographed the two footballers.

What a great day it had been for the Walgett boys.

EXTRACT FROM TAMWORTH PRESS

"Though Tamworth won the main division of the programme, it was probably the barefooted Walgett midgets who won the hearts of the crowd.

It's Walgett's ball again

