

SCANLEN'S FOOTBALL GUM

BOB HEFFERNAN

Although lacking in weight and the giant physique so handy for a successful forward, determined, resourceful Bob Heffernan has given Eastern Suburbs great service. Heffernan plays mainly in the second-row but has filled every position in the pack, except hooker, when Easts were in trouble because of injuries. Bob is a speedy mover who often makes openings by being at the right spot at the right time. He is a familiar figure in East's pack because of his headguard.

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MICHAEL CLEARY

A magnificent all-round athlete who can run as fast as any Australian has ever done. Cleary was a brilliant Rugby Union winger who toured South Africa with the Wallabies in 1961. In 1962 he switched to Rugby League and within a few matches proved himself a match-winner. He played League as an amateur for two seasons but on selection for the 1963 Kangaroo team for England he relinquished his amateur status. On tour he was a spectacular success playing alongside centres who used his great speed—he can run 9.6 secs. for 100 yds.

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PETER PROVAN

Of the fine players who have unluckily missed international selection in postwar Rugby League, Peter Provan has probably been the most unfortunate of all. He missed selection in the 1956 Australian team when, at the age of 19, he was rated Sydney's most spectacular forward. Peter Provan is faster than his brother Norm, backs up superbly and is a masterly cover defender. Johnny Raper has stood in his way whenever representative teams have been picked since 1956 and it was Raper's presence in the St. George side that compelled Peter to switch to Balmain in 1961.

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JIM LISLE

Learned most of his football tricks playing around Northern N.S.W. country districts. He was chosen for the Australian Rugby Union teams that played New Zealand and toured that country in 1960 and 1961. He switched to League, joining South Sydney, but a leg injury kept him out of Souths' team for all but one match before the representative teams were chosen in 1962. Despite injuries which kept him out of Test and grade matches for most of the 1963 season, he was chosen for the Kangaroo team for England and France, where his ability to play centre as well as five-eighth was invaluable.

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DON PARISH

A clever, speedy winger, centre and full-back from the N.S.W. country town of Dubbo, plays mainly as full-back, a position which suits his quick wits and ability to accelerate quickly. Laying the ball down on the lace for his kicks, he can land goals from wide angles. If he could add stronger tackling to his brilliant running and crafty footwork, he would have a better chance of ousting brilliant rival full-backs, Les Johns and Ken Thornett, from Test football. Many thought Parish unlucky to miss selection in the 1963 Kangaroos. He will be in the forefront of Wests' 1964 premiership bid.

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DARRELL CHAPMAN

Darrell Chapman is a school-master who in one season came out of the Gunnedah district competition to gain Kangaroo team selection. He first attracted attention playing for a Country Group team against the visiting New Zealanders in 1959. Chapman went to England at the end of that season and did well both as a full-back and centre. He joined South Sydney on his return from that tour, but has never quite fulfilled his great potential. He remains a fine clubman, however, at a time when Sydney has a magnificent array of full-backs.

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NOEL KELLY

In 1961, he switched to the Western Suburbs club in Sydney. Knee trouble kept him out of representative football until 1963 when he played in City Firsts for N.S.W. against Queensland, Sydney and N.S.W. against New Zealand, in two Tests against South Africa. It is a great tribute to Kelly's ability that he was able to make such a great return to Test football with the 1963-64 Kangaroo team in England and France. Here is a really tough forward, a constructive, bullocking player as occasion demands. Kelly is 5 ft. 11 ins., 14 st. and married.

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