

CARGO FOOTBALL TEAM 1950's



**Cargo's Strongest Team**

**Standing (Lto R) : John Middleton, Stu Middleton, John Fisher, Doug Fisher, Joe Kelly, Jim Sullivan, Neville Sargent, Jack Middleton, Ned Kelly, Henry Sargent, Max Fields, Max Sargent, Cyril Mitchell**  
**Seated : Mick Fisher, Bill Cain, Fisher (junior), Dan Seale**

After World War II, Group football took control and the number of challenges fell away. When the group made the rule that only Group 11 teams could play for the Cup, the larger centres lost interest. Cup football was not to be played on most Sundays during the season and the main support came from the Group 11 2nd Division Clubs.

Once again the Cup was withdrawn from play and only competition matches were played in the years, 1948, 49, 50 and 51. In 1946, Son Hodge, Cec Slattery (Senior) and Jack Grant (son of George) were in the group side.

In 1952, Canowindra moved that cup challenges again be allowed, but the group dismissed the motion.

### 1953

In 1953, the Jack Hore Cup was back in play and it was a successful year for Canowindra. Players in the 1953 team were Arthur Sargent, Denny Clyburn, Nev Henderson, Dick Westwood, Bill Rue, Barry Grant, Eugene Marsh, John Marsh, Dick Marsh, Col Delaney, Jack Butler, Morris McClintock, Jack Newland, George Carpenter, Allan Green, Owen Kelly, Erroll Thurtell and Joe Jorgenson, the captain-coach.

In the first game of the season against Cargo, Canowindra lost 11-10. Cargo then defeated Tullamore 9-2, and Cumnock 4-3 before Canowindra regained the Cup from Cargo on 27 June 1953.

The results for the rest of the season show that Canowindra won the next seven games only to lose again to Cargo in the last match of the season.

04.07.53	Canowindra V Fifield	Won 9-2
11.07.53	Canowindra V Yeoval	Won 8-nil
18.07.53	Canowindra V Cargo	Won 5-3
25.07.53	Canowindra V Euchareena	Won 22-5
01.08.53	Canowindra V Condobolin	Won 2-nil
08.08.53	Canowindra V Fifield	Won 19-5
22.08.53	Canowindra V Molong	Won 23-4
05.09.53	Canowindra V Cargo	Lost 6-5

Brian Middleton has rated Cargo's win against Canowindra in the last game of 1953 for the Jack Hore Cup as one of the greatest in the history of Cargo football. Cargo won this match, 6-5, scoring the last penalty goal in the last four minutes of the game. *I remember this game and it was a magnificent effort by Cargo. They withstood terrific pressure from the well performed Canowindra Cup side and refused to give Canowindra any chance of scoring with "do or die" defence efforts.* (Ron Worboys). Celebrations in Cargo carried on for most of the night and it was a great climax to the 1953 season.

## 1954

In 1954, Cargo had a most successful season in Jack Hore Cup matches and again retained the Cup at the end of the year. Canowindra results for 1954 were:

08.05.54	Canowindra V Cargo	Lost 7-2
20.06.54	Canowindra V Cargo	Draw 4 all
10.07.54	Canowindra V Cargo	Lost 8-4
31.07.54	Canowindra V Cargo	Lost 14-5
14.08.54	Canowindra v Cargo	Won 19-7
21.08.54	Canowindra V Manildra	Won 10-nil
28.08.54	Canowindra V Eugowra	Won 7-nil
05.09.54	Canowindra V Cargo	Lost 12-8

Rivalry between Canowindra and Cargo was fierce as the Canowindra results of 1954 and 1955 show.

Extracts from Brian Middleton's article, *Rugby League in Cargo* published in Peter Scully's *Along the Bumpy Road*, show the picture from Canowindra's arch rival for the Gold Cup after its competition was restricted to teams from Group 11.

*"This decade of football, between 1948 and 1958, is generally considered to be the strongest period in Cargo's football history...in those years, a residential qualification applied, and to play with Cargo, you had to live there.*

*In First grade Cargo were Premiers five times in 1949, 1950, 1954, 1955 and 1958 and runners up in 1956...In Reserve grade, Cargo were Premiers in 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1958 and runners up in 1950, 1957 and 1963...*

*Cargo also played in many Gold Cup matches (Saturday games) in the 1950s, which were often as tough as or tougher than any Grand Final. In 34 games for the famous trophy, Cargo lost only 7 times for an outstanding winning ratio of 5 to 1.*

*Some other interesting statistics on Cargo football are, that over the years, while every family name has figured in Cargo teams, there have only been 4 families who have provided more than 10 players to Cargo Football. There were 28 Middletons, 22 Fishers, 11 Regans and 11 Thornberrys. In Cargo's First Grade Premiership side of 1955, there were 9 Middletons in the team. That would be close to making the Guinness Book of Records."*