

= Colin Windon =

Colin "Col" Windon, (8 November 1921 ? 3 December 2003) was a rugby union player and soldier who captained Australia ? the Wallabies ? in two Test matches in 1951 . By age 18 Windon was playing at flanker for his club Randwick in Sydney 's Shute Shield . After serving with the Second Australian Imperial Force in the Pacific Theatre during the Second World War , Windon resumed his rugby career in 1946 . He was first selected for Australia for their tour of New Zealand that year . Despite the Wallabies losing both their Tests on tour , Windon impressed with his play .

In 1947 Windon was selected for Australia 's tour of Europe and North America where he played 27 of his side 's 36 matches . He played all five Tests on tour , against Scotland , Ireland , Wales , England and France . In the match against England , which Australia won 11 ? 0 after a dominant display from Windon that included two tries . He was appointed vice @-@ captain for the Wallabies 1949 tour of New Zealand , where Australia won both Test matches to win the Bledisloe Cup in New Zealand for the first time .

He captained his country in two matches against the touring New Zealanders in 1951 . Windon 's career ended after an injury interrupted tour to South Africa in 1953 . His eleven Test tries was the most by an Australian until the 1980s , and he was named in Australian rugby 's team of the century in 1999 . In 2005 he was honoured as one of the inaugural five inductees into the Australian Rugby Union Hall of Fame , and in 2013 was named as an inaugural inductee in Inside Rugby 's Invincibles .

= = Early life and sporting family = =

Windon attended Randwick Public School before Sydney Grammar where was a mediocre rugby player , and never progressed beyond the lower grades . He showed promise as a young cricketer and from Grammar was selected in a Combined Schoolboys representative cricket side .

Colin 's father Stan was a foundation member of the Coogee Surf Life Saving Club and played rugby with the Randwick club in Sydney . Both Colin and his brother Keith inherited their father 's love of rugby ; Keith played as a flanker for Australia between 1936 and 1946 , with his career interrupted by the Second World War . According to author Max Howell , Keith was a " football genius " , and was a star during the 1937 South African tour of Australia . It was after watching his brother play for Australia in 1937 that Colin decided he too wanted to play for Australia ; at the time Colin was struggling in school rugby , and his father said to him " Son , I don 't think you will ever play for Australia " . Keith was on the ill @-@ fated 1939 Wallaby tour to England ; the team docked at Plymouth , but the next day war was declared and they returned to Australia without playing a game . Keith did manage to briefly resume his career after the war , touring to New Zealand with the 1946 Wallabies , but he was diagnosed with gout while on tour and was forced to retire .

= = Club rugby and playing style = =

Col Windon joined Randwick in 1938 at the age of 17 , and started playing in the fourth grade . He had progressed to first grade when aged 18 , and went on to play 98 first grade matches with the club . Windon played at flanker or " breakaway " , and earned the nick @-@ name " Breeze " because , according to former Wallaby Max Howell " he ran like the wind " .

In an obituary of Windon , he was described as " not only a rugged , hard @-@ tackling breakaway , he was a speedy , elusive runner with a gift for scoring tries " . According to Max Howell ? a fellow Wallaby ? Windon claimed his best coach was his brother Keith . In order to analyse opponents , he would look up from the scrum before the ball was fed .

= = War service = =

Enlisting in the Second Australian Imperial Force on 18 December 1941 after basic training in Dubbo , Windon was posted to the 2 / 3 Infantry Battalion , 6th Division , He saw service in the

Owen Stanley Ranges in Papua New Guinea where he contracted malaria , and after convalescence in the Atherton Tablelands he returned to New Guinea . He recovered to see action Aitape @-@ Wewak campaign in 1945 . Windon was a runner , and would weave and " zig @-@ zag " to avoid enemy fire . He was discharged from the Army on 13 August 1946 .

= = Representative rugby career = =

Col Windon made his debut for Australia on their 1946 tour of New Zealand . His brother Keith was in the side (the only player in the squad that had toured New Zealand previously) which was captained by Bill McLean . Col Windon played nine of Australia 's twelve matches on tour , and played both test matches against New Zealand . The first test was played in Dunedin , where New Zealand won 31 ? 8 . Despite the loss , the New Zealand Rugby Almanack described Windon as " the outstanding forward on either side " . The second test was a much tighter affair ; played at Auckland , New Zealand scored only one try to win 14 ? 10 , but according to rugby writer Winston McCarthy , it was " only [New Zealand fullback] Bob Scott 's boot that prevented them [Australia] from winning " .

The following year New Zealand reciprocated and toured Australia . Windon played twice for the New South Wales Waratahs against the touring All Blacks , and in one of the two test matches . The tour was treated as a trial for Australia 's 1947 ? 48 tour of Europe and North America that commenced later that year . Windon played 27 matches on the 36 @-@ match tour , and in all five test matches : against Scotland , Ireland , Wales , England and France . The Wallabies did not concede a try in any of their four Home Nations matches .

Windon scored eight tries to be the fourth highest try scorer on tour behind three @-@ quarters John MacBride , Charlie Eastes and Trevor Allan . He debuted as Australian captain in tour matches against Aberdeen and Leicester . In the Test against England at Twickenham he dominated the match ? journalist Phil Tressider said : " I saw him [Windon] single @-@ handedly destroy England " . Windon scored two tries in the first half , with the second coming after England fly @-@ half Tommy Kemp spilled the ball which Windon collected before running 45 metres (148 ft) to score . The try was converted to give Australia an unassailable lead . , and they went on to win 11 ? 0 .

In 1949 a New Zealand M?ori side toured Australia where they played three Test matches . The tour was organised by the New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU) after M?ori players were excluded from the All Blacks ' 1949 tour to apartheid South Africa . Windon appeared in all three Tests , as well as playing for New South Wales against the tourists . He scored a try in all three Tests ; the first was won by the Maori , the second a draw , and the third won by Australia .

Later that year Windon he was selected as vice @-@ captain to Trevor Allan for a tour of New Zealand . The 12 @-@ match tour included two Tests against the All Blacks . The series against New Zealand , for the Bledisloe Cup , was considered a consolation for the Maori players after the " guilt " of the NZRFU for not selecting them for the All Black tour of South Africa that was occurring at the same time . Windon played in ten tour matches , scored eight tries , and captained his side against Manawatu @-@ Horowhenua . The Wallabies defeated the All Blacks in the two @-@ Test series , winning the first 6 ? 11 and the second 9 ? 16 . Windon scored in both matches , and despite the weakened opposition made history as part of the first Australian team to win the Bledisloe Cup on New Zealand soil .

Windon 's next Test was against the All Blacks when they reciprocated with a tour of Australia in 1951 . Keith Winning captained the Wallabies in the first Test of the series , but broke his jaw in an Australian XV match . He was replaced as captain by Windon for the second and third Tests ? Windon 's only Tests as captain . All three Tests were lost , and New Zealand went undefeated on tour . It was during this series that Windon got engaged , and celebrated by inviting the entire New Zealand side to his house .

In 1952 he was selected for the domestic series against Fiji and later that year again toured New Zealand with the Wallabies . He played in nine of Australia 's ten tour matches in New Zealand . The Wallabies lost only two of their matches , a game against Southland , and their second Test against the All Blacks . In the first Test Windon harassed the New Zealand fly @-@ half with his aggressive

defence , and pounced on a loose ball to score a try after the ball was dropped following a mistimed All Blacks ' back @-@ line move . The New Zealanders adjusted to Australia 's tactics to win the second Test 15 ? 8 , but Windon did get the consolation of another try .

Windon 's last tour was to South Africa in 1953 , but he never fully recovered from an injury suffered prior to the tour , and only made six appearances . He announced his retirement immediately following the tour . Early in his retirement he coached his club Randwick from 1954 to 1957 .

= = Records and accolades = =

Following a tour of New Zealand , in 1946 he was selected by the New Zealand Rugby Almanac as one of its five players of the year . The magazine Sporting Life picked him in its All Australian team in five years 1947 , 1948 , 1949 , 1951 and 1952 . After being named in Australian rugby 's team of the century in 1999 , he was given a plaque on the Sydney Cricket Ground 's Walk of Honour . In 2005 he was honoured as one of the inaugural five inductees into the Australian Rugby Union Hall of Fame , and in 2013 was named as an inaugural inductee in Inside Rugby 's Invincibles .

For over thirty years Windon was Australia 's leading Test try @-@ scorer with 11 , until his record was overtaken by winger Brendan Moon in the 1980s . Upon his induction Australian Rugby Union President Paul McLean referred to Windon as " an electrifying talent and a try scoring machine " . His 1947 Wallaby tour teammate Sir Nicholas Shehadie described him as follows : " As back @-@ row forwards go , he was the very best . A try @-@ scoring machine , a superb attacker and with the speed of a three @-@ quarter , the man they nicknamed ' Breeze ' was simply peerless in supporting play " .

= = Personal life = =

Windon married Judy Macdonald in 1954 , and the couple had three daughters Julie , Fiona and Kate . He lived nearly all his life living near Randwick , and was eventually elected to the city council 's Sporting Hall of Fame . He was involved in supporting the sporting pursuits of his children and later his grandchildren . He died of cancer in 2003 just short of his 82nd birthday .