

= Joe Warbrick =

Joseph Astbury " Joe " Warbrick (1 January 1862 ? 30 August 1903) was a M?ori rugby union player who represented New Zealand on their 1884 tour to Australia , and later captained and selected the 1888 ? 89 New Zealand Native football team that embarked on a 107 @-@ match tour of New Zealand , Australia and the British Isles .

He was born in Rotorua , and played club rugby for Ponsonby while boarding at St Stephen 's Native School . In 1877 he was selected to play fullback for Auckland as a 15 @-@ year @-@ old , making him the youngest person to play first @-@ class rugby in New Zealand . He played for Auckland against the first ever overseas team to tour the country ? New South Wales ? in 1882 . In 1884 he was picked for the first ever New Zealand representative team , and appeared in seven of the side 's eight matches on their tour of New South Wales .

In 1888 Warbrick conceived of , selected , and captained the privately funded New Zealand Native team . The squad , which included four of Warbrick 's brothers , was originally envisaged to contain only M?ori players , but eventually included several New Zealand @-@ born , and foreign @-@ born , Europeans . Although the team played 107 matches , including 74 in the British Isles , due to injury Warbrick played only 21 matches . The tour was the first from the Southern Hemisphere to visit Britain , and remains the longest in rugby 's history . In 2008 Warbrick and the Natives were inducted into the International Rugby Board Hall of Fame .

Warbrick virtually retired from rugby after returning from the tour , and went on to work as a farmer and tourist guide in the Bay of Plenty . He was killed by an eruption of the Waimangu Geyser in 1903 .

= = Background and early career = =

Joseph Warbrick was born in Rotorua , New Zealand on 1 January 1862 . His father , Abraham Warbrick , was originally from England , while his mother , Nga Karauna Paerau , was M?ori and the daughter of a Ng?ti Rangitihi chief . Joe Warbrick was their third child , and was one of at least five brothers ? the others were Alfred , Arthur , Fredrick , and William . All five of the brothers went on to tour together as part of the 1888 ? 89 New Zealand Native football team .

With his family still based in the Bay of Plenty , Joe Warbrick was sent to board at St Stephen 's Native School in Bombay , and it was there that he started playing rugby union . In 1877 , and even though it was well north of Bombay , he started playing club rugby with Ponsonby in Auckland . Warbrick played well enough for Ponsonby to earn selection for Auckland Provincial Clubs (now Auckland) that year despite the fact he was only 15 years old . He played at fullback for them against Otago , and in doing so became the youngest person to play first @-@ class rugby in New Zealand ? a record he still holds .

By 1878 Warbrick had left both St Stephen 's and Ponsonby and was employed as a public servant . The work required him to relocate regularly , and he moved throughout throughout the North Island for the remainder of his rugby career . By 1879 he was living in Wellington , and represented the province three times that season . He again played three matches for Wellington in 1880 , including one against his old province of Auckland . The 1880 match was the first ever visit by Wellington to Auckland , and was won by the visitors 4 ? 0 . Warbrick was renowned for his drop @-@ kicking , and his goal in the match was the only score ; it was claimed by many Aucklanders that his performance was the difference between the two sides .

The first overseas team to tour New Zealand arrived in 1882 . New South Wales (NSW) played seven matches throughout New Zealand , including two against Auckland . By this time Warbrick was back in Auckland , but this time playing for the North Shore club , again won selection to the provincial side . He appeared in both matches against the touring NSW team . Auckland won both , the first 7 ? 0 , and the second 18 ? 4 . Warwick remained in Auckland the following year , and toured with province again , playing away matches against Wellington , Canterbury and Otago .

= = 1884 New Zealand team = =

In 1884 a team of New Zealand players , organised by the Canterbury player and administrator William Millton , and Dunedin businessman Samuel Sleigh , was selected to tour New South Wales . This is now regarded as the first official representative New Zealand side . Warbrick was included in a squad of players that were selected from throughout the country ; this was all performed without the oversight of a national body ? several provincial Rugby Unions did exist , but the New Zealand Rugby Football Union was not formed until 1892 . The squad 's 19 players were expected to assemble in Wellington before disembarking for Sydney on 21 May , however Warbrick missed his ship from Auckland and so travelled to Sydney alone . Millton was elected captain , and Sleigh managed the team . The side won all eight of their matches on tour , including the three games against New South Wales . Warbrick appeared in seven matches and scored three drop goals ; one of the goals was reportedly kicked from well inside his own half . He played at both fullback and three @-@ quarter , and was noted for his good ball handling and speed , as well as his ability to drop kick .

= = Later provincial career = =

After returning from tour , Warbrick moved to Napier , and in 1885 represented Hawke 's Bay provincially , including captaining them against Poverty Bay . By 1886 he was back playing for Auckland , and that year captained them in their win against Wellington , and also against New South Wales ? who were again touring the country . He returned to Hawke 's Bay for the 1887 season , and played for them against Wellington , Poverty Bay , and Canterbury . Warbrick had returned to Wellington by the 1888 season when he again played for the province .

The very first British Isles side toured New Zealand in 1888 . The side was privately organised and toured the country playing provincial sides in April and May of that year . Warbrick was in the Wellington team that faced the tourists on 13 May . The match was very ill tempered , with each side accusing the other of rough play , and eventually finished a 3 ? 3 draw .

= = 1888 ? 89 New Zealand Native football team = =

= = = Preparations = = =

In early 1888 Warbrick announced plans to assemble a M?ori side to face the visiting British during their tour . He later revealed a plan to take a team of M?ori or part @-@ M?ori to tour the British Isles . His ambition was for " M?ori football " to be as famous as Australian cricket , whose national side had already developed a strong rivalry with the English . It is not known exactly when Warbrick had conceived of the idea for this tour , but it was well before the arrival of the British Isles team in April 1888 . The touring British did help demonstrate the feasibility of Warbrick 's proposal , which was daunting ? no New Zealand side had ever toured the Northern Hemisphere . Hearing of Warbrick 's plans , civil servant Thomas Eyton contacted him to offer help managing the tour , which Warbrick accepted . By May 1888 , James Scott , a publican , had joined the partnership . The three men decided that Warbrick would be the team 's captain , coach and selector , Scott its manager , and Eyton its promoter . Although Warbrick had chiefly sporting reasons for conducting the tour , for Eyton and Scott profit was the major motivation .

A New Zealand M?ori side had never been selected ? the first official side did not play until 1910 ? but Warbrick 's experience in provincial rugby ensured he was well qualified to select the team . He travelled the country trying to find players who were both talented and willing to spend a year on tour . The make @-@ up of the team changed significantly between March 1888 and when the team departed New Zealand in August . Warbrick encountered challenges assembling the side ; there was opposition from some players in including part @-@ M?ori in the squad which prompted several early recruits to withdraw . Initially twenty players were selected for the side ? which was named the New Zealand M?ori team . Some of these players had strong family and playing links to Warbrick (

such as his four brothers) . Warbrick was eventually compelled to add five P?keh? (European non @-@ M?ori) players to the squad which resulted in the side being renamed the New Zealand Native football team . Warbrick may have wanted a team of exclusively M?ori or part @-@ M?ori players , but according to historian Greg Ryan , including the P?keh? players was " necessary to strengthen the Native team and create a more effective combination " . A further player , Pie Wynyard , was added to the side after they arrived in Britain in November 1888 .

= = = Domestic tour and British Isles = = =

The side 's first match was against Hawke 's Bay on 23 June 1888 , and included Joe Warbrick in the backs . The match was won 5 ? 0 , and was followed by a second match a week later in which Joe Warbrick contributed ten points in an 11 ? 0 victory . The next match was against a strong Auckland side , who defeated the Natives 9 ? 0 . The heavy defeat was costly for the Native team , with Joe Warbrick breaking several bones in his foot . It was his last game until November that year , and prompted the addition of Patrick Keogh ? one of the five P?keh? in the side ? to the squad before its departure from New Zealand .

The team departed New Zealand on 1 August 1888 , and sailed to England via Melbourne . After their six @-@ week voyage from Australia , the Native team arrived in England on 27 September 1888 . Their first match was against Surrey , on 3 October , but Joe Warbrick was still injured and so did not play . The side continued to play regularly ? they averaged one game every 2 @.@ 3 days while in Britain ? but Joe Warbrick did not appear until 7 November when the team faced Tynemouth . The match was won 7 ? 1 , but Warbrick ? who played at fullback ? exasperated his foot injury . He did manage to play six matches between mid @-@ December and early January before he was again injured . He appeared against Stockport , a match drawn 3 ? 3 , on 12 January , but his form was still poor .

Warbrick only played twice more in the following month , and was not fit enough to be selected for the team that faced England on 16 February . The match resulted in a controversial 7 ? 0 loss for the Natives , and included two controversial English tries awarded by referee George Rowland Hill ? who was also Secretary of the English Rugby Football Union (RFU) . The loss and aftermath soured the relationship between Warbrick 's team and the RFU ? who accused the Natives of poor sportsmanship after they protested at the awarding of the controversial tries .

By the time the team departed for Australia in late March they had played 74 matches in Britain , but due to injury Warbrick only appeared in 14 ; in contrast David Gage featured in 68 matches , and eight other members played more than 50 . Joe Warbrick was not the only player to experience injury , the taxing schedule of matches took a toll , and he had frequently struggled to find a full complement of 15 fit players . On top of playing relatively few matches in Britain , Warbrick scored only once there ? a conversion against Devon .

The high injury toll and congested schedule contributed to complaints about Joe Warbrick 's behaviour . His comments to the English press ? who directed much of their focus towards him ? were viewed negatively by some members of the squad ; he was accused of neglecting to acknowledge the contributions of players such as Thomas Ellison , Gage , Keogh , and Edward McCausland , but extol the efforts of himself and his brothers .

Warbrick said of his time in the British Isles : " My impression of England and its people during the tour was a very favourable one , more especially does this apply to private individuals . I found them everywhere very kind and attentive and apparently anxious to make one 's visit as pleasant as possible " . The term " private individuals " may have been used to exclude from praise both the RFU and London press . Following the tour he also criticised the impartiality of the English referees , and believed that the English administrators displayed a double standard in their treatment of the Natives ? the RFU had continued to select Andrew Stoddart for the England team , despite him touring with the unsanctioned 1888 British team .

= = = Australia and return to New Zealand = = =

Warbrick sailed to Australia for a leg of their tour described by historian Greg Ryan as " little more than a testimony to the motives of Scott and Eyton as speculators . " Their time in Australia started in Victoria , where the side mostly played Victorian Rules Football against Melbourne clubs . These matches were played for financial rather than sporting reasons , and the team had little success at Victorian Rules . While the side only played a single rugby match in Victoria , they played rugby almost exclusively in New South Wales and Queensland . Warbrick made very few appearances in Australia ? two in total ? but continued as team captain . The Natives had not lost a rugby match in Australia when they played their second match against Queensland . The first match was won 22 ? 0 , and the second ? held on 20 July ? was expected to be another comfortable victory for the Natives . However at half @-@ time the scores were level , and with the exception of Billy Warbrick , the Natives had played poorly . There were rumours that four of the Natives had been paid by local bookmakers to throw the match . When Joe Warbrick spoke to the team at half @-@ time , he threatened to expose the accused players ; this was enough to prompt an improvement in the Natives ' play , and the side recovered to win 11 ? 7 .

The team returned to New Zealand in August 1889 , but the Queensland controversy still hung over the side . The Northern Rugby Union (later renamed the Queensland Rugby Union) did not take any action over the accusations , but the Otago Rugby Union (ORU) decided to conduct an inquiry . The matter was not resolved until after the team arrived in Dunedin when the ORU announced there was no evidence " justifying the accusations " , and dismissed taking any further action . The team continued to travel north , and played fixtures throughout the country . Joe Warbrick had played an early match in Gore ? against Mataura District XVI ? where he again suffered injury . The team 's final match was against Auckland on 24 August . The fixture was lost 7 ? 2 , but by this point several Native 's players had departed the team , including Keogh , Ellison and Gage . Despite the gruelling schedule and high number of injuries , the loss to Auckland ended a remarkable streak that had started with their victory over Widnes on 9 March ; the Natives had not lost a rugby game in 31 matches ? the side had won 30 , and drawn one match over that time . The Natives played a total of 107 rugby matches , including 74 in the British Isles , and the tour remains the longest tour in rugby history .

= = Retirement from playing and later life = =

Warbrick retired from rugby at the conclusion of the Native 's tour . He moved to the Bay of Plenty to farm , and occasionally turned out for the Tauranga representative team . Aside from that he did make a one @-@ match first @-@ class comeback five years later , when he played for Auckland against Taranaki in 1894 . Following this match , an Auckland paper wrote :

Considering that Joe won his cap in 1877 , it must be very pleasing to him to be able to record 1894 on it . As I said before , Joe 's career as a footballer is , I believe , unparalleled in the colonies . It is certainly a feat Joe may well feel proud of , that after battling the storms for a period of 17 years , he has again been called to render assistance to his province ...

Warbrick later worked as a tourist guide in the Rotorua area , where his brother Alfred was the Chief Government Guide . It was on 30 August 1903 , while working with his brother in the geothermal region of the area that Joe Warbrick was killed . The Waimangu Geyser ? then the largest geyser in the world ? unexpectedly erupted with Joe and several tourists in the vicinity ; four of them , including Joe , were killed instantly before being swept towards Lake Rotomahana .

= = Impact and legacy = =

As the captain and instigator of the 1888 ? 89 Natives ? the first New Zealand team to tour the British Isles ? Warbrick had a lasting impact on the development of rugby in his homeland . When the Natives returned from tour they introduced a style of rugby as good as any ever seen in the country . According to Ryan , " their brand of sensational running style and combined forward play had never been seen in New Zealand . " The speculative nature of the tour also contributed to the majority of New Zealand 's provincial unions forming a national body ; the New Zealand Rugby

Football Union was formed in 1892 . As well , many of the Native 's went on to play provincial rugby , and Ellison and Gage eventually captained New Zealand .

In 2008 Warbrick was inducted into the International Rugby Board Hall of Fame , and is a member of the M?ori Sports Awards Hall of Fame . A short film , Warbrick , was released in 2009 and depicts Joe Warbrick preparing an injury @-@ depleted Native 's squad for a match . The film was played for New Zealand 's national team ? the All Blacks ? during their preparations for a match against Australia in 2009 .