

= Ian Smith (Scottish rugby player born 1903) =

Ian Scott Smith (31 October 1903 ? 18 September 1972) was a rugby union wing who played 32 Tests for Scotland and two Tests for the British Isles . Born in Melbourne , Australia , and brought up in New Zealand , Smith moved to England and was educated at Winchester College , before studying at Oxford University and later Edinburgh University . At Oxford he took up rugby and was eventually selected for Scotland , for whom he was eligible because of his Scottish parents . He toured with the British Isles (now known as the British and Irish Lions) to South Africa in 1924 , and played all four matches in Scotland 's first ever Five Nations Grand Slam in 1925 . He represented Scotland until 1933 when he captained them in their Triple Crown winning season . His 24 international tries , all scored in the Five Nations or Home Nations , was an international record until 1987 and a record for the Five / Six Nations until 2011 . Smith holds joint possession of the Scottish record to this day .

Rugby author Richard Bath wrote of him :

A member of the famous Oxford quartet of Wallace , Aitken , Macpherson and Smith , the lithe Australian @-@ born wing made his mark as an integral member of the outstanding sides of the 1920s , which won the Grand Slam in 1925 , the year when he scored an astounding eight tries in the first two internationals of the season against France and Wales .

= = Biography = =

Smith was born in Melbourne in Australia in 1903 , but was brought up in New Zealand . He was educated at Winchester College , where they did not play rugby , and then went to Oxford University . It was at Oxford that he was persuaded to play rugby by GPS Macpherson . Up until then he had only played association football . Macpherson captained Oxford when Smith played in the Varsity Match against Cambridge in 1923 ? Smith scored two tries in Oxford 's victory .

Smith had Scottish parents and ancestors from the Borders region , and so was eligible to play for Scotland . He was first capped for Scotland when he faced Wales on 2 February 1924 , and he scored three tries on Test debut ; a 35 ? 10 victory . He played in Scotland 's remaining 1924 Five Nations matches ? against Ireland and a Calcutta Cup match against England ? although he was unable to score again . In 1924 he was invited to play for the Barbarians for their annual encounter with East Midlands for the Mobbs Memorial Match . Smith scored one of five tries for the Barbarians during the game to win 15 ? 3 . He played in a total of six matches for the Barbarians , including five games during the club 's 1923 and 1924 Easter tours .

In the second half of 1924 he was selected to tour South Africa with the British Isles . It was on this tour that the British Isles were first given the " Lions " nickname . Smith played in the first two Tests of the tour , both of them lost . He also played four non @-@ Test matches during the tour , including one against Rhodesia where he scored two tries . Rowe Harding , an opponent with Wales and a team @-@ mate with the 1924 Lions , reckoned Smith to be the " greatest wing of all time " .

In 1925 Smith played in all four of Scotland 's Five Nations matches . The first was against France at Inverleith , where Smith scored four tries , and helped them to win 25 ? 4 . He then played against Wales at Swansea and scored another four tries ; Scotland again won , this time 24 ? 14 . Their third game of the Championship was against Ireland at Lansdowne Road , and although Smith was unable to score this time , Scotland still won 14 ? 8 . Scotland 's last match of the Championship was against England at Murrayfield Stadium . This was the first match ever played at Murrayfield , and was watched by over 70 @,@ 000 spectators . Although Smith did not score himself , he was involved in a crucial Scottish try : the ball was passed through several hands before Smith passed to Johnnie Wallace who scored in the right @-@ hand corner . English supporters claimed Smith had put his foot into touch , but the Welsh referee disagreed and awarded the try . Eventually Scotland triumphed 14 ? 11 to go undefeated and claim their first ever Five Nations Grand Slam . Smith 's eight tries for a single Championship equalled the record set by Cyril Lowe in 1914 and remains an individual record as of 2014 .

He continued to play for Scotland throughout the 1920s . He played all four Scotland matches in the

1926 Five Nations , and scored two tries against England at Twickenham ; his only tries of the Championship . He played three matches in 1927 , this times scoring four tries , two against France and two against England . In both 1926 and 1927 Scotland shared the Five Nations Championship with Ireland . Smith did not play in 1928 , but returned in 1929 , when Scotland won the Five Nations again . He played all four matches , and scored three tries , two against England .

In 1930 he played three Five Nations ' matches , missing the England game , and did not score any tries . He did play all four matches in 1931 , and scored his only tries of the Championship in the game against England . This was the fourth time he scored two tries in a match against England . In January 1932 Smith played for Scotland against South Africa , which was won 6 ? 3 by South Africa . By 1932 France had been ejected from the Championship due to allegations of professionalism , and the four Home Nations returned to only playing one another for the International Championship . Smith played all three matches in 1932 , but scored only once , against England .

In 1933 , Smith captained Scotland for the Home Nations Championship . Because of his background of playing association football , team mate James Henderson said of Smith :

He was great , of course , ' The Flying Scotsman ' , but when he was our captain in the 1933 Triple Crown success , we never had team talks before the game . He would just tell us to get on with it ; no great plans or anything , because he didn 't know much about the game . "

Smith played in all three matches during the Championship , and scored one try when they played Wales in February . They played Ireland last after the planned match had been cancelled because of a blizzard . They won the match 8 ? 6 and secured the Championship and the Triple Crown . It was Smith 's last match for Scotland .

He studied accounting at the University of Edinburgh , and served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps during the Second World War . Following the war he practised law , before retiring to Kelso in the Scottish Borders . In 2013 Smith was included in the second group of inductees into the Scottish Rugby Hall of Fame .

= = Statistics and character = =

Smith played a total of 32 Tests for Scotland , and scored 24 tries , which still gives him a share of the Scottish record with Tony Stanger . Smith 's record for international tries was not beaten until 1987 when it was overtaken by Australian David Campese . Remarkably , Smith 's first 17 tries were scored in only 14 Test matches . His 24 career tries in the Five Nations ? now Six Nations ? remained a record until first equalled and then surpassed by Ireland 's Brian O 'Driscoll in 2011 . Smith spent much of his playing career playing in the backline with GPS Macpherson ; 21 of Smith 's 24 Scotland tries were scored outside the three @-@ quarter Macpherson . When Smith scored four tries against France in 1925 , Macpherson contributed to all those scores .

Author Richard Bath wrote :

An exuberant young man , who once famously drove his car down an Edinburgh pavement after a post @-@ international drinking binge , Smith held the record for tries scored (24) , until he was overtaken by Australia 's David Campese , 55 years after Smith retired to concentrate on his career as a solicitor .