

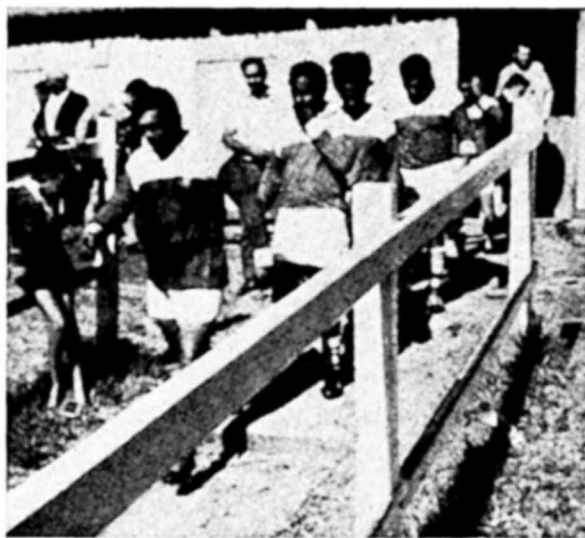
A Club to be proud of . . .

SPORT PLUS

BY KEN BRINDLE
HON. SECRETARY, REDFERN ALL BLACKS



Some of the players of the Redfern All Blacks A Grade team were photographed coming out of the dressing rooms at half-time on Sunday, 26th April. They played Botany United at Mascot Oval, winning the match 37-6



The Redfern All Blacks is a Junior Rugby League Football Club affiliated with the South Sydney District Junior Rugby Football League.

South's Junior League is the biggest and most fiercely contested competition in New South Wales. It involves twenty clubs, one hundred and eighty-nine teams and just over three thousand players. The players range from five-year-olds upwards. The average age of the A Grade, which is the oldest team, would be between 21 and 24 years of age—though there are exceptions in either direction.

It is virtually impossible to estimate the number of people involved in the administration of the various clubs. But if you consider that each team has a coach, gear steward, from one to three selectors, and club committees as well as auxiliary groups such as social committees and women's committees to assist with fund raising, then you begin to get a picture of the immense involvement of many people from all walks of life that makes Souths the premier Junior League—a fact borne out by the monotonous successes of their Junior representative sides.

Compared with most of the other clubs, some of which have as many as twelve or thirteen teams, the Redfern All Blacks, with two teams—and only readmitted to the competition last year—is a relatively young club. However everybody feels that it can become an attraction and an asset to the League if it can survive the crucial first 3 or 4 years.

As the name infers, the club is made up exclusively of Aborigines living in and around the Redfern area. Most of these people have just arrived from remote country areas in search of permanent employment which is unavailable back home.

Some people refer to the non-admittance of Europeans to club membership as a form of segregation, which from their point of view, it undoubtedly is. On the other hand, All Blacks players themselves see it as an expression of identity and visible proof that they can organize and manage their own affairs.

It is hoped that many of the All Blacks' players will eventually attach themselves to other clubs in the district, but it is felt that when youngsters first arrive in Sydney, a club consisting of their own people, that they can become involved in and feel a real part of, assists them immensely to settle down in the first crucial 3 or 4 weeks.

This club also affords young Aborigines good training in management. For instance, the person elected to the position of treasurer has to operate