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Bros. COLIN JAMES AND KEITH STANLEY WINDON

RUGBY UNION GREATS

This paper about two of Australia's rugby union greats is based on an obituary for Colin Windon by Julie Blomberg published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Wednesday, 3 December 2003.

Col Windon, who died five days short of his 82nd birthday, was described as the greatest attacking breakaway in Australia's long rugby history.

They called him "Breeze", and he ran like the wind. Max Howell, rugby historian and author, said there was nothing Windon couldn't do with the ball in hand, and when in full flight he had a distinctive style as the defence closed in on him. Ball held tightly in one arm, bent over for contact, eyes on the defender, hand spread ready for a palm, he was action personified.

He was Australia's leading try scorer for more than thirty years until Brendon Moon bettered his efforts, but he still holds the record for the most tries scored by a breakaway.

Colin Windon was born to Stan and Maude Windon in the Sydney suburb of Randwick. After moving to Coogee, he lived almost all his life in the Randwick local government area.

His father, Stan, was a pioneer of surf lifesaving and a foundation member of the Coogee Surf Club in 1906. He was also involved in other sports clubs across the Randwick/Coogee area, including the Randwick Rugby Union Club, for which he played breakaway.

He must have passed something on to Col and his older brother Keith, as Keith also played breakaway for Australia, from 1936 to 1939 when his career was cut short by the Second World War. Regarded at the time as one of the best forwards in the world, Keith had a tremendous influence on Colin.

Colin attended Randwick Public School for his primary education and then went to Sydney Grammar in 1933, as his mother, Maude, thought Grammar would be good for his wayward tendencies. His father encouraged him to be involved in sport and in his first year at Grammar he was selected for a combined schoolboy's cricket team and was taken on tour with Bro. Donald Bradman as coach. This experience with the outstanding but also demanding Bradman made him give up cricket very quickly.

