

# Tommy Raudonikis OAM

# NRL

## Number 7

Born in 1950 holding a football to his chest  
Tommy Raudonikis came from Cowra, via Wagga, to the Wests  
This rugged Magpie halfback, intimidating tough & strong  
Would terrorise opponents in a career a full 13 years long.

204 games for Western suburbs from '69 - '79  
With socks around his ankles and murder on his mind  
Then he went to Hensen Park to lead the Newtown Blues  
In 37 games, a close Grand Final loss, between '80 -'82.

24 games for New South Wales in the decade from '71  
And 14 tests in green & gold for this fiery 'son of a gun'  
Size meant nothing to Tommy, or the numbers on blokes backs,  
Big or small...he hammered in defence and in attack.

A career spent in two battling clubs, no silvertail in him.  
The tougher, harder & dirtier it got, it just made Raudonikis grin  
Whether playing in club games, Tests, World Cups, or for his State,  
"Tom Terrific's" passion & guts always inspired his mates.

He gave it away after 13 years, went north to Captain-Coach  
Brisbane Brothers, then Norths & Ipswich with his fierce approach  
Was what NSW needed...in '97 NSW turned to him  
And he responded & coached the Blues to a series Origin win.

These days you know that every year when Origin comes around  
The media chase him for a quote and he never lets 'em down  
Multiple replacements, streaked hair, & nice guys make his gruff  
voice rasp  
For Tom there's only been one way - "PUT 'EM ON THEIR ARSE"

Well, there might have been a slicker halfback or two in history  
And there may have been faster ones on that we will agree  
But there's been few better and not one tougher since the code  
began  
Than Tommy Raudonikis, No 7, a legend in this land.

An original composition by Lindsay Young 2007.



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- Born in Bathurst, NSW.
- 240+ senior games for WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES and NEWTOWN JETS.
- Won the 1972 Rothmans Medal
- NSW and Australian halfback in the 1970's.
- First NSW State of Origin captain in 1980.
- Coached Blues in 1997 and 1998
- Kangaroos captain in 1973 for 2 tests.
- 29 Test and World Cup caps.
- Awarded an Order of Australian Merit (OAM) in 1982.
- Team of the Century with West Tigers and Western Suburbs.
- Men of League's Toughest 12.