

## 1991 RUGBY ALMANACK

North Harbour was a most efficient team in 1991 as it is third place in the National Championship would show. With 13 wins from 20 games Peter Thorburn must have well been satisfied with his team's performance in his last year as coach, especially as Harbour's wins were achieved by playing an attractive brand of football.

North Harbour's best performances were against Counties, Auckland and North Auckland in the return game. Queensland and Otago proved too strong and the Canterbury game could have been won had not mistakes been made at a vital period.

Warren Burton again performed well, both at Fullback and first five ending the season with 231 points and more than fulfilling the promise he showed in 1990. Former Counties representative Richard Cole played soundly when called on.

Harbour had a wealth of good wings in Richard Kapa, Paul Carlton, Scott Pierce, Henry Amosa and Robert Todd, Kapa, the best of the wings extended his try-scoring record to 51. Experienced centre Ian Wood was lost to Queensland league during the season but North Harbour acquired the services of Frank Bunce from Auckland. Bunce played some outstanding games and his subsequent form for Western Samoa in the World Cup stamped him as a mid-field back of world class.

Newcomer Cliff Mytton played extremely well at second-five and is undoubtedly a player with a bright future. He ran hard, covered well and his tackling was first class. All Black Walter Little was played mostly at first-five in the games for which he was available and was in devastating form. His passing and his running form from broken play was brilliant.

Little's fellow All Black, Paul McGahan showed he is one of the best passing halfbacks in New Zealand and must have been very unlucky to have been discarded from the World Cup squad. Nick Moen was an able substitute when McGahan was unavailable.

Former All Black Captain Wayne Shelford led the team with his usual flair and was the best of a very good group of loose forwards. Not far behind Shelford was another ex-All Black, Kevin Schuler, who had arrived from Manawatu. Richard Turner, Russell Jones and Bryce Dick were other very capable loose forwards.

North Harbour's tight forwards lacked nothing in comparison with their opponents. Blair Larsen, Nigel Blake, Dave Mayhew and 1986 All Black Michael Speight were a formidable group of locks, while World Cup squad Hooker Graham Dowd, ex-All Black Ron Williams and former NZ Colt Gavin Walsh formed a powerful front row.

**National Honours for North Harbour went to:**

**New Zealand:** Walter Little, Paul McGahan, Graham Dowd

**New Zealand B:** Wayne Shelford, Graham Dowd

**INDIVIDUAL SCORING**

	Tries	Con	PG	DG	Total		Tries	Con	PG	DG	Total
Burton	1	53	39	2	233	Bunce	3	-	-	-	12
Cameron	3	4	5	3	44	Dowd	2	-	-	-	8
Kapa	11	-	-	-	44	Jones	2	-	-	-	8
Turner	7	-	-	-	28	Dick	2	-	-	-	8
Carlton	6	-	-	-	24	Barry	1	-	-	-	4
Pierce	5	-	-	-	20	Blake	1	-	-	-	4
Amosa	4	-	-	-	16	Cole	1	-	-	-	4
Little	4	-	-	-	16	Lewis	1	-	-	-	4
Shelford	4	-	-	-	16	Rush	1	-	-	-	4
McGahan	4	-	-	-	16	Thomas	1	-	-	-	4
Hall	3	-	-	1	15	Todd	1	-	-	-	4
Wood	3	-	-	-	12	Walsh	1	-	-	-	4
Mytton	3	-	-	-	12						
Schuler	3	-	-	-	12	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>576</b>