

Charles Kesteven Saxton

Born: Kurow 23 May 1913. Died: Dunedin July 4 2001

Halfback

Represented N.Z. 1938, 7 matches (3 Internationals)

Points for N.Z. 12 (4 tries)

Provincial record: Otago 1935,36 (Pirates Club), South Canterbury 1937,38 (Timaru H.S.O.B. Club), Southland 1939 (Pirates Club), Canterbury (Army), South Island 1938,39, N.Z. Trials 1937, N.Z.E.F. 1945,46.

Educated Cheviot and Arthur Street Primary Schools and Otago Boys' High School. 1st XV 1931,32

A fine half-back renowned for his fast, long accurate dive pass, Saxton was considered unlucky by some critics not to play for New Zealand against the 1937 Springboks. He toured Australia after a fine display in the 1938 Inter-Island game and appeared in all three tests. His tour statistics were given as 10 ½ stone and 5' 5".

After distinguished service in WWII, rising to the rank of major with the 19th Armoured Regiment, Charlie Saxton captained the 2nd N.Z.E.F. team – the famous 'Kiwis' – on their highly successful tour of Britain and Europe.

Saxton returned to become Otago selector 1948-57 with the province holding the Ranfurly Shield 1948-50.

He managed the New Zealand team in the British Isles and France in 1967. He also served on the N.Z.R.F.U. Council 1956-71, becoming President in 1974 and being awarded life membership in 1976. Charlie was author of the book 'The ABC of Rugby' (N.Z.R.F.U. 1960). A traveller for a clothing firm and later a men's outfitter.