

James Russell Watt

Born: Dunedin 29 December 1935.

Wing

Represented N.Z. 1957, 58, 60-62. 42 matches (9 internationals)

Points for N.Z. 114 (28 tries, 9 conversions, 4 penalty goals)

Provincial record: Otago 1955, 56 (Kaikorai Club), Southland 1957 (Gore, Pioneer Club), Wellington 1958-64 (Athletic Club), South Island 1956, 57, North Island 1961, N.Z. Trials 1956, 57 60-63, New Zealand XV 1958, N.Z. Under 23 1958.

Educated at Wakari Primary and Otago Boys' High School. Toured Australia with the 1957 All Blacks, playing in 10 of the 13 matches, but did not make his international debut until the next season when he was called into the 2nd test against the Wallabies.

Watt was next selected for the 1960 tour of South Africa where he played 19 of the 25 matches including all four Tests. Included in the home series v France 1961, he could not play in the second test because of a suspension imposed after he was ordered off in a club game. Ended his All Black career with the 1962 visit to Australia where he appeared in both internationals.

In his 1960 tour book 'Trek out of Trouble' Noel Holmes described Russell Watt as 'determined on attack, enterprising on defence – he popped up in the most surprising places. He could be picked on the far side of any ground by his effortless, flowing run.' He stood almost 6'-0" tall and weighed 12 ½ stone. His brother, Graeme, represented Otago 1976,77. A bank officer.