Sullivan to feature in rugby museum

TARANAKI'S former All Black and rugby administrator Jack Sullivan CBE is this month's Rugby Museum Historic Personality.

The man remembered as one of the fastest running backs in the game and renowned for his contribution to rugby administration will feature in a small display at the museum in Palmerston North.

Sullivan, who died in July 1990, grew up in Tangarakau. He played his first representative rugby for the Whangamomona sub-union before joining the Tukapa club in New Plymouth. From Tukapa he represented Taranaki from 1930 ot 1940 as a second five eight and three-quarter, scoring four tries against Wanganui in his debut match.

All Black honours came in 1936 and his test place was cemented the following year against the Springboks. He remained a first choice on the 1938 tour of Australia and showed outstanding form in the 1939 trials to select a team to tour South Africa.

Once his playing days were over Sullivan directed his energy into the administrative side of the game.

He was a New Zealand selector from 1954 to 1960, All Black coach during their 1960 tour of South Africa, president and life member of the Taranaki Rugby Football Union, and he held a seat on the New Zealand Rugby Union Council from 1962 to 1965 and 1967 to 1977, the last eight years as chairman.



JACK SULLIVAN: Rugby museum's historic personality of the month.