


## WEST WALLSEND BLUEBELL'S LEGENDS

	<b>Name</b>	COOLAHAN, FRANK
	<b>Member of the Newcastle Sporting Hall of Fame</b>	Yes
	<b>Biography</b>	<p>THE football (soccer) career of Frank Coolahan began to blossom when the West Wallsend club was enjoying a golden era. The Bluebells won the States premier competition, the Gardiner Cup, in 1921-23-24-26 and Coolahan, as a rising teenager, joined the team for the latter three triumphs. Westy also stood tall in winning the Northern premierships of 1925-26. Excelling in the right-half position, Coolahan became a regular in representative teams for several years from 1925.</p> <p>After playing for his home club against Canada in 1924 he represented the North and NSW against England in 1925.</p> <p>In 1927 he played for Newcastle and NSW against China and Czechoslovakia (Bohemia) and figured in two Tests against China and one against Bohemia. Coolahan showed his versatility on Australias 23-match tour of the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) in 1928, starting at right half and then filling in as goalkeeper in many games after the regular custodian was injured.</p> <p>The winds of change blew through the code in 1928 with a State League breaking away from the Australian Soccer Association.</p> <p>West Wallsend failed to gain inclusion and this provided a windfall for Adamstown, which signed Coolahan, his younger brother Bill and Clarrie Coutts.</p> <p>Frank spent part of the 1929 season with Gladesville-Ryde but returned to join the other pair in an all-star Rosebud half-back line in 1930.</p> <p>That Adamstown team studded with internationals won the State League and earned lasting acclaim as one of the Norths all-time great combinations.</p> <p>With West Wallsend admitted to the State League in 1931 the Coolahans and Coutts returned and shared in the Bluebells 3-0 win against Woonona-Bulli in the State cup in 1931.</p>
<b>Achievements</b>	<p>STATE:</p> <p>1925 NSW v England (twice)</p> <p>1926 NSW v Queensland</p> <p>1927 NSW v China</p> <p>1928 NSW v Victoria</p> <p>NATIONAL:</p> <p>1925 Australia v England (4th Test)</p> <p>1927 Australia v China (1st, 2nd &amp; 3rd Test)</p> <p>1927 Australia v Bohemia (Czechoslovakia) 1st Test</p> <p>1928 Australian Tour of Dutch East Indies</p> <p>1928 Australia v NSW</p>	