



Speech by

Paul Hoolihan

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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HORSTMAN, MR G

Mr HOOLIHAN (Keppel—ALP) (9.23 pm): Tonight there is a soccer match being played between Australia and Greece. Last night we had the State of Origin match. I would like to bring to the attention of this House the passing of a great man from my area—Graham Paul Horstman—who excelled as a junior in both soccer and Rugby League. When he was old enough he went to Rugby League.

Graham was born in Rockhampton on 16 July 1954 and he went to Lakes Creek State School. He then went to North Rockhampton High School and, because he had more opportunity to represent his town, his area and his state, he chose Rugby League over soccer. He was a very good player in both codes.

In the early 1970s Graham was chosen to represent central Queensland. He also represented Queensland country. Owing to the attitude of Rugby League authorities at that time, he never made it into the state side. Graham married in 1978. He and his wife, Leigh, had four children—Megan, Riley, Corey and Daine. Sadly Corey predeceased his father.

Graham played for the Fitzroys. I know that the member for Beaudesert is not in the House, but he played when he was a teacher in Rockhampton. Graham played for the Fitzroys and in 1973 and 1974 he led that side to a Rockhampton Rugby League grand final. He was the only one of six people in 52 years to win the prestigious Ollie Howden Medal in Rockhampton. He did not win it in successive years. He won it in 1973 and 1977. Graham continued to play football, but his great love became Rugby League. He coached club sides and Emmaus College. Most of the teams he coached went on to win premiership games.

Graham worked on the railway for 36 years. He was a fitter on the railway. It is only in the last eight months that he found that he was suffering from motor neurone disease. He suffered very badly with the disease and passed away on 16 May 2006 leaving his wife, Leigh, and children, Riley, Megan and Daine, to mourn him along with the many hundreds of people whose lives he touched. I would like to say to his family and to those many people who knew him and thought very highly of him that Graham did not only play on the football field but he played on the big field of life. Many hundreds of people attended his funeral. This world will be a sorrier place for his passing. Vale, Graham Paul Horstman.