

**Shem Tatupu (Samoa):** A powerful No 8 who played at a time when Auckland was overflowing with loose forward talent, Tatupu made his first appearance for Samoa in 1990 and became a regular in 1993. He played against the All Blacks that year and didn't look out of place, which tells you how hard it was to be a loose forward on the outside looking in at the time, and went to the 1995 World Cup where his aggressive style of play was an important part of the Samoan game plan. Despite being stocky rather than rangy, he got around the field quickly and scored five tries in ten tests, including one against South Africa in the World Cup quarter-final. After the tournament and needing to provide a secure future for his family, Tatupu was one of the last significant rugby players to switch to league.

**Link for career information:**

<http://en.espn.co.uk/scrum/rugby/player/11509.html>

