

# **SIMON GOOSEY**

## **THE 'TIGER TRUE BOOT'**

**( Ref: 2018/21 )**



When **Steve Hamill** agreed to coach Dromana in 2006, the club thought it had 'landed a big fish' ; but when Steve announced that he had invited **Simon Goosey** to be his assistant coach, DFC officials could scarcely believe their ears or their good luck.

Simon Goosey was/ is one of the 'biggest names' in country football; and DFC was abuzz when he arrived for pre-season training in 2006. Not only had the club secured a proven goal kicker but also Simon was a genuine VCFL star who held celebrity status in country/suburban football circles.

Simon had an unparalleled career in **VCFL football** and is still referred to as the '**champion from Mornington.**' **Ken Piesse** , a noted sports historian, once labelled Simon Goosey as the '**Coleman of the Bush.**'

Simon first came under notice in 1987 when he kicked 84 goals and won the VFL Under:19 competition goal- kicking award with **Richmond Third XVIII.** However, bad luck struck in 1988 when he broke his leg; and, it is fair to suggest, that such a severe injury hampered his pathway into AFL senior ranks.

At the age of 21, Simon crossed to **Geelong**; and, despite some excellent performances in the Geelong Reserves, he was never selected to play a senior match of AFL football. Simon was unlucky to be at Geelong when **Gary Ablett Snr** was the Cats' spearhead....

*"I wish I had stayed another year at Geelong. I was too impatient. I thought I had done enough to be given a chance but there were a few ahead of me. Gary Ablett for one..."*  
*Source: Page 76 'Football Legends of the Bush' by Ken Piesse.*

Between 1988 and 2005, Simon played more than 250 games with **Mornington FC** and enjoyed a successful stint in VFA football with the **Frankston Dolphins**.

Analysis of Simon's goal kicking at Mornington reveals that his record, in front of goal, was nothing short of amazing. **In 253 games, with the Bulldogs, he booted 1605 goals at average of 6.34 goals per game.**



Source: Coach AFL .com

When Simon arrived at Dromana, his capacities to draw crowds and create interest in the club were imposing. At each home game, a number of young fans would gather behind 'his' goal square and watch the 'master go about his work.'

**In three years at Dromana, Simon kicked 256 goals at an average of 5.22 goals per game.** (Note: Simon was 38 years of age when he made his debut for Dromana in 2006)



In his first season at DFC, Simon kicked a **bag of five goals** on **10 occasions** including:

- 14 goals against Frankston.

- 13 goals against Crib Point.
- 12 goals against Rosebud.
- 11 goals against Somerville and Pearcedale.

In 2006 he kicked **'the ton'** (107) goals, then followed up with 69 goals in 2007. His 80 goals in 2008 included 11 goals against Pearcedale and he netted ten against Crib Point.

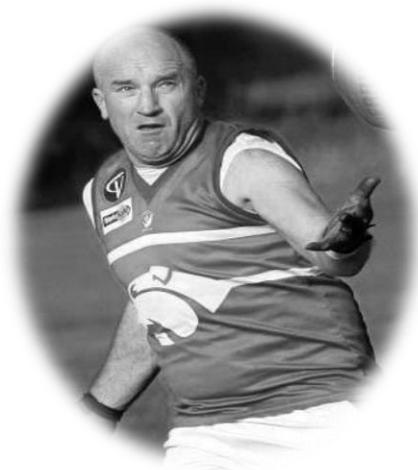
The secret(s) of Simon's record-breaking exploits in goal kicking were:-

- (i) His 'tried and true' set routine in preparing to kick for goal.
- (ii) His concentration in dropping the ball on to his boot and his undeviating follow-through when kicking.
- (iii) His ability to protect 'his space' (i.e the 'drop zone') in marking contests with strong bodywork.
- (iv) A vice-like grip in marking the ball.
- (v) His capacity to absorb physical punishment from defenders.
- (vi) His strength in contests.



Source Coach AFL .com

Simon set a benchmark for others in conversion; and he worked hard in perfecting his 'craft' during practice sessions. In those days at training at Dromana, younger players (e.g. **Michael Hunter, George Papalas, Jared Terry, Sam and Toby Banks**) tried hard to emulate Simon's ability to 'thread the needle.' It is safe to say, no one could better Simon in the 'art' of goal kicking.



There were many memorable moments in Simon's three seasons with Dromana FC; but his goal during a windstorm, from the point post on the **Crib Point** oval, was a memorable instance of his freakish talent to 'convert.' On that occasion, Simon had marked the ball on a most acute angle on the boundary line. With a gale-force wind blowing into his face, Simon 'sized up' the situation, methodically stepped back, 'lined up' his target and then executed a drop punt which 'split the opening.' To all onlookers, it was a phenomenal goal, into such a fierce wind, but nothing 'out of the ordinary' for Simon Goosey.

During his time at **Pier Street**, Simon was admired by the supporters and was the hero of many young footballers in the district. Simon was a brilliant public speaker; and he often visited the schools, spoke at community functions and, most of all, found time to help budding players with a coaching tip and friendly advice.

Simon Goosey played 49 games for DFC and made a lasting impression at Dromana. When the DFC selected its **Team of the Era (1945-2015)**, Simon was named as the full forward.

In 2009, he returned to Mornington FC and began his career as a skills coach, at AFL level, with **Hawthorn** and **Footscray**. He later became an assistant coach to **Gary Ayres** at **VFA club, Port Melbourne**.

***“ Over the years, Simon has been able to develop a number of effective forward structures and strategies for his teams. These strategies helped Simon improve his side's forward efficiency and guide his side to a number of grand finals and premierships as a player/coach with Mornington.***

***Simon was able to develop his forward coaching knowledge even further at the Western Bulldogs as Rodney Eade's opposition analysis coach and while working with highly rated forward coach Alan Richardson.***

***Since then, Simon has been able to work with other great coaching minds such as Alistair Clarkson and Damien Hardwick at Hawthorn and as Gary Ayres assistant at Port Melbourne in the VFL.” Source: ‘www.coach afl.com’***

Following his career at Mornington FC, Simon was appointed as the **coach of Frankston (VFA)**. In his five years as Senior XVIII coach, he achieved much in lifting the Dolphins from the bottom of the VFL Ladder; and his skill in developing young players was widely acknowledged. Several of the players, who Simon coached at Frankston Dolphins, went onto to carve out rewarding careers at AFL level.

Interspersed with his years as a player were representative games with the **VCFL**, the **MPNFL** and the **NFL**. Simon was also selected to play in Channel: 9 annual celebrity-charity match known as the **'Teddy Whitten Legends Game.'**

Simon also coached at **Cranbourne** for three seasons and took CFC to a premiership in 2016. It is known that he played in a mid-week **Reclink FL** match at full forward at the age of 'about 48'.



Following his stint at Cranbourne as coach, Simon returned to Mornington for the **2018** season. It was no surprise that he was welcomed back to MFC with 'open arms' as his record at the Bulldogs is 'second to none.' His reappearance at MFC in 2018 was a 'shot in the arm' for the Bulldogs; and the news of appointment as the club's coach generated considerable interest among football fans in and around Mornington.

**Footnote: 1** In June 2018, Simon made a brief comeback, at the age of 50 years, to assist the Mornington Reserves field a team in a match against Rosebud at Alexandra Park. Simon played three quarters in that game and kicked two goals which helped his team to victory.

**Footnote: 2** For any young footballers wanting to improve their goal kicking skills, a training drill, designed by Simon Goosey, can be found by following the link: [http://websites.sportstg.com/get\\_file.cgi?id=690839](http://websites.sportstg.com/get_file.cgi?id=690839)

## REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: DFNC Records –Tiger Talk- DFNC Handbook-Personal files- local and metropolitan newspapers- various football websites as indicated.

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Written and researched for DFNC by: Roger Spaul –July 2018

DFNC website administrator: Graham Stelling. DFNC Secretary-Board Member.

Email contacts:[historian@dromanatigers.com.au](mailto:historian@dromanatigers.com.au). or [admin@dromanatigers.com.au](mailto:admin@dromanatigers.com.au)