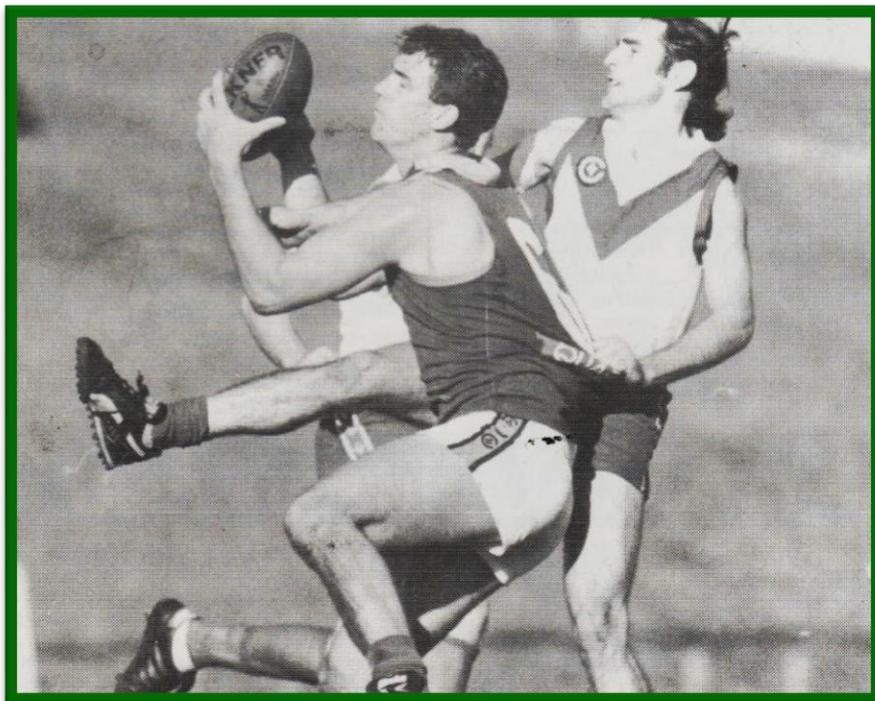


PHIL WATSON THE BRILLIANT AERIALIST OF PIER STREET (Ref: 2018/20)



Source: MPNFL archives.

Phil Watson was born Frankston in 1968; and spent his childhood years in Perth when the family moved 'West in 1975. Phil enjoyed the outdoors and he loved playing team games particularly cricket and football.

Phil started playing football at the age of eight years with **Nollamara Junior Football Club**. Nollamara is a suburb of Perth; and the football club is currently affiliated with the **West Australian Amateur Football League** and competes in Division C: 4.



Phil Watson took to the football like a 'duck to water'; and from his first game of junior football, he showed flair in the 'art' of overhead marking.

The Watson family moved back to Victoria in 1980; and Phil played junior grade football with **Tootgarook JFC** and then later crossed to **Rye** in the MPJFL.

Phil's life and football took a significant turn when he joined the Army in January 1985 as an apprentice carpenter. It was during his 9 years of military service that his football developed to the point where he was selected to represent the Army, at national level, in matches against the Navy and the Air Force.



As some readers will be aware, the standards of Australian inter-service sporting competitions are particularly high and football is no exception.

Over the years, many fine AFL footballers also represented the Army, RAN or the RAAF. Some of the champions who played inter-services football include: **Jack Mueller**(Army), **Ron Todd** (RAAF), **Jim Cleary** (RAAF) **Laurie Nash** (Army), **Marcus Boyall** (RAN), **Bob Pratt** (RAAF), **Norm Ware** (Army) and Richmond's champion midfielder **Stan Judkins** skippered an Army Unit team in earlier times. In 1990, while still based at **Puckapunyal**, Phil Watson decided to play with Dromana FC; and he made an immediate impact in local football with his strength in high marking and his trademark 'pack marking'. Although it was impossible for Phil to train at Pier Street, while in camp, he maintained a high level of personal fitness; and his stamina was never called into question during a match.

Phil was a discharged from the Army in 1993; and his football went to new levels when he took up residence on the Mornington Peninsula.

Those who witnessed Phil playing with Dromana will never forget his vice-like hands and his strong bodywork in marking duels. He was rarely beaten in a man-on-man contest and seldom fumbled once the ball was in his grasp. As with another great Dromana forward **Simon Goosey** (2006-08), very few defenders could punch the ball from Phil's possession in a marking contest.

Phil was a robust and aggressive forward; and his style of play made it difficult for back men to counteract. Along with former Dromana players such as: **Peter**

Fenby, Simon Goosey, Stephen Jolley, Anthony Bruhn, Greg James, Steve Tobin (see below) and Mick Berwick, Phil Watson rates as one the best key forwards in the club's history.

DIVISION TWO	
DROMANA	
MEL. REF. 159 J6 TEL. (059) 87 2732	
Green with Gold Vee Coach: Greg Hilton	
1 LANYON Jon	
2 RODDA Rodney	
3 BASILE Paul	
4 KERR Steven	
5 SUCKLING Marc	
6 WATSON Phillip	
7 ROWLER Andrew	
8 THOMAS Paul	
9 JORDAN David	
10 ROYLANCE Darren	
11 POWER Brett	
12 DRMESHER Gary	
13 MICHALAS Stan	
14 WATSON Neil	
15 FOWLER Garry	
16 RYAN Tim	
17 BAILEY Paul	
18 TOBIN Steven	
19 FOWLER Mark	
20 RYAN Brett	
21 SLOCOMBE Mike	
22 FOWLER Darrell	
23 CURRIE Steve	
24 SAKELLARIDIS Jim	
25 MURPHY Dale	
26 CORN Marc	
27 CULLEN Mitchell	
28 TURNBULL Grant	
29 ASHTON Chris	
30 HILTON Greg (C.C.)	
31 REEVES Phillip	
32 BATEMAN John (Res. C)	
33 MATLOCK Shane (Res. C.)	
34 HUMPHRIS Andrew	
35 RENDALL Mark	
	36 WILLIAMS Bryan
	37 WALKER John
	38 FITZGERALD Justin
	39 KEANE David
	40 VEALE Chris
	41 PATERSON John
	42 CORVI Aldo
	43 BRACEGIRDLE Shane
	44 WHITWAM John
	45 COMPTON Craig
	46 FLANNERY Craig
	47 HARRIS Dean
	48 KIRKHOPE Andrew
	49 LAW Doug
	50 LENDRUM Mike
	51 MATTHEWS Anthony
	52 WOODS Matt
	53 McCOLL Glen
	55 RAMSAY Ray
	56 CORLEY Noel
	57 ANDREWS Stewart
	58 DYSON Mike
	59 CULLIMORE Glen

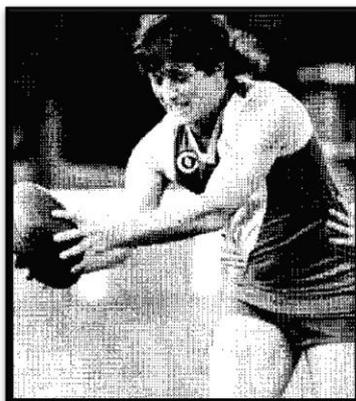
The 1992 Team List for DFNC

Unfortunately, there are no league or club statistical records available, from the years in which Phil Watson played with DFNC, but it is estimated that he usually achieved 'double figures' in marking on match days. A foremost facet of Phil's brand of football was his direct and strong leading. Once Phil had assumed front position 'on the break' he would never relinquish his lead.

One of Phil's memorable marking displays, during his time at Pier Street, was the fixture against **Karingal** in which he booted 13 goals . He was unstoppable that day; and his thrilling exhibition was long remembered by the local supporters.

Another exceptional young player at Dromana in that period, **Steve Tobin**, also had the ability to wreak havoc with his fast leading and accurate conversion. Steve who played 52 games between 1988 and 1992 won the **Division: 2** goal kicking award in 1992 with 73 goals. Unfortunately for DFNC, he was cleared to **Sorrento** in 1993; and in later years played with **Doveton Eagles, Brim , Tooradin, Cranbourne, Morwell** and **Boolarra**. It is documented that Steve

played some 330 games of senior football and kicked 1235 goals. He was selected in the club's **Team of the Decade (1986-1995)**.



A Champion of VCFL football- Steve Tobin.

In 1992, Phil Watson won the club's **Best and Fairest** award; and there was some talk that **Essendon Football Club** was keen to secure his services. However, in the end, he chose to concentrate on establishing his career as a builder on the Southern Peninsula and playing football at 'home' (i.e. Pier Street).

There is difference of opinion regarding Phil's playing history with Dromana. While MPNFL figures state that Phil played 99 games for DFNC, there are members of the club who can recall that, in 1996, Phil was presented with a memento (glassware) to celebrate the occasion of his 100th game with the club. Looking back on his career at Dromana, Phil has some fond memories of his days at DFNC...

"It was club where people toiled hard for success. Members such as Gary Ferguson, Ron Hunter, Col Matthews, Graham Stelling, Les and Pam Rowler worked tirelessly and doggedly to ensure that the club was united and competitive."



Les Rowler



Col Matthews



Ron Hunter Snr.

During his one hundred games with DFNC, Phil met a lot of proficient footballers; and he rates **Dave Jordan, Jason Clark, Grant Turnbull, Gary Fowler** and **Glen**

Kendall as outstanding footballers, steadfast teammates and players who gave much to building the club in that period.

Bedford.				
LANGWARRIN	3.2	7.6	9.6	11.12 (78)
DROMANA	4.2	4.2	11.7	12.7 (79)
Langwarrin - Goals:	S. Howes 5, D. Newman 2, R. Gazzard, D. Callahan, L. Bayliss-White, D. Hollyhead. Best: B. Newman, D. Hollyhead, G. Zeuschner, R. Kirk, D. Birtles.			
Dromana - Goals:	S. Tobin 4, P. Watson, J. Lanyon 2, D. Jordan, M. Jacobson, M. Corn, P. Thomas. Best: D. Jordan, P. Thomas, G. Hilton, G. Fowler, M. Jacobson, P. Watson.			

A thrilling one-point victory over Langwarrin in 1992.

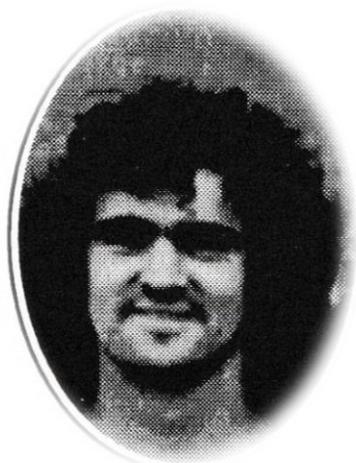
to set them on the right path.

The home side, Dromana were completely outgunned by Karingal at Ballam Park last round, although Steven Tobin added another 7 goals to his 1992 tally. David Jordan, Grant Turnbull and Phil Watson continued their good form for the 'Hoppers' and are well on the way to having successful seasons.

For the 'Yabbies', they were in touch with Pearcedale

MPNFL Archives April 1992.

It has always been a puzzle, for well-informed local fans, why Phil Watson and David Jordan were never considered for selection in **MPNFL interleague** teams. Most observers would concur that Phil Watson had few equals in aerial battles.



Glenn Kendall



Dave Jordan

In conclusion, Phil Watson was one of the best key forwards to have played for Dromana and this was recognised by his selection at centre half-forward in the DFNC's **'Team of the Decade' (1986-95)**; and also for being selected on the interchange bench in club's **'Team of the Era' (1946-2015)**. A cutting from an earlier 'Tiger Talk' is an apt summary of Phil's importance to his team...

“One of the true champions of DFNC ...Phil Watson, was a key to the team’s resurgence with his strong hands and physical presence in the forward line. In a fierce final quarter onslaught, Dromana booted five majors...Source: ‘Tiger Talk’ Volume: 18 Edition: 3-2017.

In 1997, Phil was cleared to **Red Hill** where he played for seven years and amassed a further 103 senior games. Phil was selected at full forward in **Red Hill’s Team of the Century**.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: MPNFL Records-DFNC Records-Personal files.

Article reference: Phil Watson (Ref: 2018/20)

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. or admin@dromanatigers.com.au