

**MENTONE AND
ST BEDES OLD COLLEGIANS
AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB**

HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS - 2006



Compiled and edited by Mark Beasley, Rob Hess and Brett Marchant

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Foreword

In 2004, the Centenary year of the club involved the inauguration of 100 Hall of Fame members including ten Legends of the Mentone Football Club, St Bedes Old Collegians Football Club, Mentone Junior Football Club and the club that evolved from them all, the St Bedes/Mentone Tigers Amateur Football Club. The Hall of Fame is open to all players, coaches, officials, match-day helpers and supporters. The criteria for nomination to the Hall of Fame covers the following areas:

- Significant (Hall of Fame) or outstanding (Legend) service to the club, with a minimum of 100 senior or Reserve games and/or ten years as an official; and/or
- Significant or outstanding achievement as an individual or as part of a team whilst playing, coaching or being active in administration; and/or
- Significant or outstanding achievement elsewhere in a sporting or community capacity after beginning their career at one of the constituent clubs.

In the inauguration of the Hall of Fame, there was a conscious attempt to capture a representation of people and events in the various histories of the clubs from 1904 to 2004 and to find a balance between players, coaches, officials and helpers in the various decades. Obviously any such attempt is subjective and open to debate. After sifting through annual reports and minutes of committee meetings, checking local papers and history books, and cross-checking assessments with key personnel of the various eras, the problem was not so much who should be included, but rather the dilemma of leaving out so many outstanding contributors to the history of the clubs in order to restrict the numbers to 100 (representing one person for each year of the centenary). The task was made more difficult by the fact that the history of the early years is somewhat murky, and by the reluctance of people to nominate themselves or others as possible Hall of Fame members.

Following the tremendous success of the inaugural Hall of Fame induction, members of the Hall of Fame Committee met to consider further nominations. It was decided that players and key personnel involved in the Olympic Year Premiership of 1956 were deserving of induction. To this end, the contributions of players, officials and supporters involved at the club during this very successful era in the club's history were assessed, and it was agreed that all premiership players that were not already members of the Hall of Fame should be inducted, along with other significant people from this period. The induction is scheduled to occur at a special function to mark the fiftieth reunion of the 1956 premiership team in May 2006.

The Hall of Fame Committee would welcome any feedback on the above processes or criteria, or on possible future nominations, as further inductions into the Hall of Fame will occur on a regular basis. Corrections or further information about the achievements of Hall of Fame members are most welcome.

Mark Beasley, Rob Hess and Brett Marchant
Hall of Fame Committee, 2006

Acknowledgements

The following valuable sources of information, and supporters of the Hall of Fame, are gratefully acknowledged:

1. Russell Holmesby and Jim Main, *The Encyclopaedia of AFL Footballers: Every AFL/VFL Player Since 1897* (Melbourne: Information Australia, 1998).
2. Leo Gamble, *Mentone Through The Years* (Mentone: Leo Gamble, 2003), and staff of the Parkdale Library.
3. Federal Association and Federal League fixtures and annual reports, and the *Federal Football Record*.
4. The many people who have provided information and memorabilia on the club's history.
5. Stephen Maitland, of Maitland/Horler Estate Agents, for sponsorship of the 2006 Hall of Fame booklet.

Peter Barber

A determined and high-flying centre half forward, Peter had true Tiger spirit in his fearless approach to the game. A former Mentone junior player with two flags under his belt, Peter was one of several team-mates who had played with the Melbourne Thirds. A member of Mentone's senior premierships team in 1956, he also represented the Federal League against South Australia earlier in the season.

Jack Beswick

At just over six feet in height, Jack was a steadying influence in the ruck who took the brunt of the opposition's big men. After initially playing with Brighton, Jack was in his third season with the Tigers when he became a member of the senior premierships team in 1956. [Dec.]

Jim Blanche

Jim provided many years of fine service to the club. The 1960 and 1961 annual reports advise that 'Since 1937 Jim has been a player, treasurer, committee member and worker in the club for many years and it is because of such loyal people that the club continues to progress'. Jim continued to serve the club into the late 1960s as time-keeper and press correspondent, and he was awarded life membership in 1961. [Dec.]

Neil Chapple

Having previously played with Aspendale and the Melbourne Reserves, Neil made his debut for Mentone in the 1956 season. He was an elusive half forward flanker who was described in the Federal League *Record* as 'an astute positional player'. One of the younger brigade, Neil was a member of the 1956 senior premierships team.

Brian Chesters

Brian 'Checkers' Chesters played more than 200 games with the club from 1951 to 1966. He was a member of the 1952 junior premierships team, the Reserves premierships team in 1954, and in 1956 he was playing in the seniors before injuring himself. He was like good wine and improved with age, winning the Reserves Best and Fairest award in 1964, with his best senior year coming in 1965. Brian was a strong off-field worker for the club as a member of the committee, a willing helper behind and in front of the bar and in organising social activities. In the 1970s he assisted with the formation of the financially successful 'Tiger Tails'. Brian was awarded life membership in 1960 and was still providing service to the club as a committee member in the early 1980s. [Dec.]

Clem Chesters

Clem began playing with the club in 1946 in the junior side that was runners-up to Black Rock. An evasive forward, his career was hampered with knee injuries, however he still

played more than 200 games for Mentone over almost fifteen years. Clem gave of his best whether playing in the Reserves or seniors. He missed the club's 1956 grand final win as he had given a commitment to be best man at a wedding and with the draw in the senior finals putting the Grand Final back a week he stuck to that commitment. Clem continued to support the club off the field for many years into the 1970s as a member of the committee and assisting with social functions. Clem's service to the club was duly recognized with Life Membership in 1960. **[Dec.]**

Alf Clarke

A former Golden Square player who won the Morrish Medal with Carlton, Alf played his one and only season with the Mentone club in 1956. He was tall and strong for a rover, but had good skills on both sides of the body. Alf fondly remembers how team-mate Jack Thompson picked him up in the city and took him to each game during the season. He later went on to play with Tongala, Strathmerton, Warrnambool, and captain-coached Yarram for three seasons.

John Edelbuttel

John first played with the club as a junior in 1946. Despite suffering a serious knee injury at nineteen years of age, he went onto play more than 200 games for the club. His best years in the senior team were under the coaching of Jim Baird, during an era when Crofton Mudge was also prominent. John continued to provide great off field support to the club over a number of years being awarded Best Social Worker in 1952 with later roles on the committee, and as the resident barman and cleaner in the sixties and seventies. He was one of the key movers in establishing the 'Tiger Tails', which provided crucial financial support to the club in the seventies. John was made a Life Member of the club in 1960.

Norm Ellingsen

Norm was one of the 1956 senior premierships trainers. He had a long period of service with the club as a trainer beginning in the early 1950s and continuing into the 1960s. He assisted the club as trainer for the juniors, Reserves and seniors. Players of the time remember him as a terrific bloke and clubman always willing to have a chat, lend an ear and provide a much needed rub down on sore muscles. **[Dec.]**

Clive Foster

Clive was member of the Len James-coached junior premierships teams between 1950 and 1952. He went onto play in excess of 200 games for the club with his best senior years including membership of the 1955 Federal League representative side, and the 1958 and 1959 finals teams. He was also a member of the 1954, and 1960 Reserves premierships sides, and captained the team in 1962. Clive was also secretary in 1965 and 1966 and was instrumental in the club focussing on locals and juniors in establishing its successful

senior premierships sides of the sixties. Clive was made a Life Member in 1961, and later he and his father were also instrumental in the building of a new scoreboard for the club.

Mrs I. Harley

Few people in the history of the Mentone Football Club have given as much off-field service as Mrs Harley. For more than 50 years from the club's first premiership in 1928 Mrs Harley was a supporter and helper for Mentone. She was one of the pillars of the strong ladies committees of that time. Many remember her running the canteen in the old tin shed, providing meals on pie nights, being on the street stalls or selling special efforts around the ground to support fundraising. Of her latter service, it was once remarked in an annual report 'Mrs Harley could sell sand to the Arabs'! She was truly a remarkable servant of the club and was awarded Life Membership in 1958. [Dec.]

Gavin Hoare

Gavin was a member of the 1950/51 junior premierships sides, when he won Best and Fairest awards in successive seasons. He also had the honour of captaining the team in 1951. A centre player with terrific balance, Gavin could kick with either foot, was a quick thinker, and was the ultimate team player, often bringing his team-mates into the game. He went on to play with the 'big' Tigers - the Richmond Football Club - for eight games in 1952 and 1953. His league career was cut short when as a school teacher he was shifted to the country where he later played with distinction at Rutherglen when in 1956 he was an integral part of a premiership. Gavin later played at Hamilton and Kaniva. [Dec.]

R. E. 'Bob' Hoysted

Bob holds a unique connection with the current club. On the St Bede's side, he was the first protestant captain of the St Bede's college first eighteen football side! On the Mentone side, he was a Best and Fairest winner with the club in 1945. Something of an all-round sportsman, Bob belonged to a five-generation racing family and went on to become one of Australia's best trainers from his Mentone stables. Equally at home with training sprinters or stayers, some of the many champions he trained included Rose of Kingston, winner of the VRC Oaks and AJC Derby; Blue Diamond winners Aare and Love A Show; and Sydeston, winner of the Caulfield, Moonee Valley and Sandown Cups. In 1978, Bob took over the training of brilliant two year old sprinter Manikato after the death of his brother Bon. Manikato was recognised as Australia's champion sprinter and won 29 times including twelve Group One races (and an amazing five consecutive William Reid Stakes). This was an incredible training feat when you consider the horse had 'dicky' legs and had previously bled. Bob is a nomination for entry into the 2006 Australian Racing Hall of Fame (With acknowledgements to the 'Australian Racing Hall Of Fame').

George Le Fevre

George (whose son Don played at the club) provided outstanding service to Mentone as a treasurer for eight years from 1954 to 1961. He oversaw the club's finances during one of the most successful periods of its history. He took the club finances from being in the 'red' in the mid fifties to the black. George was a typical treasurer, keeping tight control of the outwards money and always making sure the club balanced its books each year to ensure it had the financial security off the field to support and drive its on-field success. [Dec.]

Edward McGowan

At just a shade under six feet, Ted was a stylish leading full forward with sure hands and a straight kick who starred for the Tigers as their leading goal kicker in the 1956 season. During the season he booted ten goals in three quarters against Parkdale and was an important member of their premiership-winning team. Recruited from Melbourne to Mentone, he had also previously played for Hamilton.

Warren Mercer

Warren was in the 1956 runners-up junior side to Black Rock and was a member of the 1957 and the outstanding undefeated 1958 junior premiership teams coached by Mick Beckwith. Warren won the Mentone goalkicking in 1957 and after 55 games at the club was recruited to North Melbourne where he played one game in 1959. A classy rover with good balance and excellent ball skills, his opportunities were limited at the Kangaroos behind champion North player Alan Aylett and second rover Gerald Eastmuir. He later went to Deniliquin where he is fondly remembered for his role in their 1966 premiership victory and for winning the competition goal kicking in 1965. [Dec.]

Stan Moss

A clever, long-kicking half forward flanker with accurate disposal, 'Dick' was a former Mentone junior player who had previously won four flags with the club, including the juniors between 1950 and 1952, and the Reserves in 1954. His 'golden touch' continued in 1956 when, at age 21, he starred in the centre for the Reserves in their losing Grand Final team, but then added a senior premiership pennant to his tally when he was selected in the senior team the following week.

Norm Oldham

A versatile player, Norm could play key positions as well as being an on-baller. This is exemplified in the 1956 season when he was on the bench in the senior's second Semi Final game, played the following week in the replayed match, followed this up by playing centre half back in the Reserves Grand Final team, and was then selected as a ruck rover in the senior premiership team. Norm also played in the 1954 finals series.

John O’Neill

In a fifteen year career from 1950 to 1965, John played 231 games with Mentone. He started his career with four premierships in 5 years with the Len James-coached juniors of 1950-52, and the Reserve premiership side of 1954. He was a member of the runners-up Reserves team of 1956, and then played in the 1960 Reserves premiership team before winning the Reserves Best and Fairest award in the following season. John worked hard at his game to develop himself into a senior player and in 1963 he was regarded as one of the better utility players in the Federal League, playing in the team that was beaten by Springvale in that year’s Grand Final. John was awarded Life Membership in 1960 in recognition of his loyalty and service to the club.

John Riley

A former Mentone junior player, John won two flags with the Tigers before graduating to the Melbourne Thirds. A clever and tenacious rover, he also played with Oakleigh in the Victorian Football Association, earning three votes in one game during the same season that he played in the 1956 premiership team. John later captained Parkdale, but returned to become coach of the Mentone Fourths in 1962.

Stan Rule

Stan joined Mentone after a successful 74 game career as a back pocket with Melbourne. His League career included playing in the Demon’s 1948 premiership team which won the flag as a result of the grand final replay against Essendon. Stan’s first stint with Mentone was as a playing coach and he led the club to runners-up in 1959, with the Mentone side in front until McKinnon’s five-time Federal League Best and Fairest winner, ‘Icy’ Hamilton, received a free kick with only a short time to go in the match. Stan also took the club to the preliminary final in 1960. As a playing coach, Stan was remembered for the great courage he showed when playing with injuries. Stan returned as a non-playing coach in 1963 and took a young side that played an exciting brand of football through to the grand final, where the team was defeated by Springvale. Stan was a major influence on his players with his key message that the team always came first.

Kevin Scott

Transferring from Melbourne to Mentone, Kevin was a fast and vigorous wingman. A member of the 1956 senior premiership team, he went on to represent the Federal League in 1957 and 1958. He recalls how after the flag celebrations, team-mate Brian Chesters had to return him to the Cerebus Naval Base so that he could be at the Garden City Naval Base in New South Wales the next day.

Kevin Sharp

Kevin was a hard working member of the 1956 premiership team. He won the Reserves Best and Fairest award in 1957, and also played in the Reserves finals team in that season. He later served as the Reserves captain in 1959, and was a Reserves premiership player in 1960. Kevin is remembered as a loyal clubman who gave his all whether playing in the seniors or Reserves. **[Dec.]**

Ray Shaw

Returned to Mentone in 1956 after two years with Oakleigh in the Victorian Football Association and three years with the Melbourne Thirds, including a year as their captain. A great footballer who could drop kick on the run using either foot, he was described in the Federal League *Record* as 'A strong and clever rover', whose accuracy and balance when kicking for goal was outstanding. A member of the 1956 senior premiership team, and winner of the 'Most Consistent' award in 1957.

Rex Short

Following a stint with the Melbourne Reserves, Rex played finals football with the Tigers in 1954 and at age 24 was regarded as a senior member of the 1956 premiership side. A hard-at-the-ball but scrupulously fair half back flanker, Rex was a strong and genuinely tough player who prompted even his team mates to get out of his road when he attacked the ball. In 1956, Rex stood out for his courageous mark between three Dandenong players in the Semi-Final. He received a ten year service certificate in 1958, and was made a Life Member in 1960. Rex will always be remembered as someone who gave his all for the Tigers each and every week. **[Dec.]**

W. 'Bill' Waldron

Bill was one of the six players to play in all the Len James-coached junior sides that won triple premierships from 1950 to 1952, the side losing only one game during that period. A talented full back who was a huge kicker of the ball, Bill played tight on his opponent and was always hard to beat. He displayed plenty of confidence with drop-kicks a plenty and was a vocal team-mate on the field. Bill went on to play with Melbourne Reserves and two seasons with the St Kilda seniors before playing with Moorabbin in the Victorian Football Association and local rivals, Parkdale.

A SUMMARY OF THE 1956 SEASON

Compiled from newspaper sources and Federal League records. Note that spellings of player names often remain as they appeared in the newspaper.

Moorabbin News, 2 February 1956, p. 7.

The Federal League was touted as being financially strong and ‘Undoubtedly the most prominent junior league in Victoria’.

Moorabbin News, 12 April 1956, p. 9.

‘Rex Short and Don Meckiff were rocklike in defence, while Brian Chesters was unbeaten all day. Roy Evans, a new boy, turned in a very good display whilst Jack Park another newcomer gave indications of good things to come. Ron Banfield was in top form ...’. Bill Gallagher received a broken rib in this game.

Round 1

Seniors

Mentone 14.25.109 def. Parkdale 13.4.82

Goals: Thompson 4, Winter 3, Park 3. **[Four goal kickers missing]**

Best: Chesters, Banfield, Meckiff, Thompson, Evans.

Reserves

Parkdale 15.11.101 def. Mentone 14.7.91

Goals: Eddelbuttel 5, C. Wilson 2, Sincock 2, Holcroft 2, Williams, James. **[One goal kicker missing]**

Best: Edgar, Eddelbuttel, Wilson, Luscombe.

Thirds

Mentone 32.21.207 def. Parkdale 2.0.12

Goals: C. Lewis 11, Gadd 6, Mercer 5. **[Ten goal kickers missing]**

Best: J. Crozier

Moorabbin News, 19 April 1956, p. 9.

‘Proffit Matchwinner in Rugged Game’

‘Ruckman Dick Proffit was the star of the fiery game at Mentone on Saturday where, after a very even first half, the home side stacked on the goals to win by a seven goal margin ...’ ‘Nails’ Thompson and Gallagher were missing, so Meckiff was captain for the day.

Round 2

Seniors

Mentone 17.19.121 def. Caulfield 10.13.73

Goals: Park 4, Carr 4, Riley 3, Rogan 3, Banfield. **[Two goal kickers missing]**

Best: Proffit, Meckiff, Short, Marshall, Park, Carr.

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Reserves

Mentone 17.28.130 def. Caulfield 4.3.27

Goals: Eddebuttel 5, Holcroft 3, Force 3, Bignell 3. **[Three goal kickers missing]**

Best: Bignell, Force, Perrin, Edgar, Sharp.

Thirds

Mentone 36.27.243 def. Caulfield 1.0.6

Goals: C. Lewis 14, Banfield 6, Crozier 4, Wallace 4, Mennie 4. **[Four goal kickers missing]**

Best: Wallace, Crozier, Lewis.

Moorabbin News, 26 April 1956, p. 9.

‘Cheltenham Go Down Fighting’

‘... Mentone’s new players – McGowan, a safe mark, and Christophers, ex-St Bede’s – settled in well, as did Billy Force, back from North Melbourne ...’

‘Snapshots’

Mick Beckwith, coach of the Thirds, was to be married on Saturday, 28 April.

‘Tigers Before Tribunal’

‘... Johnny Riley, of Mentone, was charged with kicking Hayes, of Caulfield in the ankle. Riley was found guilty by the tribunal and was suspended for six weeks’.

Round 3

Seniors

Mentone def. Cheltenham **[Scores not available]**

Goals: Thompson 5, Marshall, Barber, Park, Rogan.

Best: Marshall, Thompson, Garford, Christopher, Proffitt.

Reserves

Mentone def. Cheltenham **[Scores not available]**

Goals: Wilson 8, Eddlebuttel 4, O’Neill 4.

Best: Wilson, O’Neill, Paris, Edgar, Sharpe.

Thirds

Mentone def. Cheltenham **[Scores not available]**

Goals: Truscott 2, Gadd 2, Mercer 2.

Best: Wallace, Mercer, Reade.

Moorabbin News, 3 May 1956, p. 9.

“‘Final’ Atmosphere as Tigers d. McKinnon’

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After half time ‘Mentone opened up with half-forward flankers Christophers and O’Neill picking holes in the McKinnon defence and at the end of the third term the Tigers had a five goal lead ...’

‘Snapshots’

‘Mentone’s star Dick Proffit was beating McKinnon rucks until injured. He received a broken cheek-bone, and will be out for some weeks’.

Round 4

Seniors

Mentone 6.13.61 def. McKinnon 6.9.57

Goals: Unavailable

Best: Unavailable

Reserves

Mentone 14.13.97 def. McKinnon 9.18.72

Goals: Unavailable

Best: Unavailable

Thirds

Mentone 14.12.96 def. McKinnon 5.9.39

Goals: Unavailable

Best: Unavailable

Moorabbin News, 10 May 1956, p. 9.

‘Tigers Beaten in the Air’

‘... Chapple’s roving was his best performance for the Tigers this season; Brian Chesters was never beaten on the wing; “Nails” Thompson, Rex Short and Christophers were also outstanding ...’

Round 5

Seniors

Black Rock 8.19.67 def. Mentone 6.14.50

Goals: Thompson 2, Oldham, Banfield, Park, Winter.

Best: Chappel, Thompson, Christopher, Short, Chesters, Oldham.

Reserves

Mentone 14.23.107 def. Black Rock 6.8.44

Goals: Wilson 4, O’Dea 3, Buckley 2, Perrin 2, Edelbuttel 2. **[One goal kicker missing]**

Best: Bignell, Wilson, Healey, Foster, Warnock.

Thirds

Mentone 10.7.67 def. Black Rock 6.7.43

Goals: Lewis 5, Banfield 2, Truscott, Mennie, Wallace.

Best: Hill, Banfield, Pope, Lewis, Wallace.

Moorabbin News, 17 May 1956, p. 9.
'Rocks, Tigers Lose and Win'

'... Surprise of the day was talented new Tiger recruit Scott who looks a great acquisition to the side ...'

Round 6

Seniors

Mentone 13.18.96 def. Highett 9.14.68
Goals: Meckiff 4, Thompson 4, Banfield 2, Winter 2, Carr.
Best: Winter, Banfield, Meckiff, Beckwith, Scott, Thompson.

Reserves

Mentone 17.22.124 def. Highett 1.8.14
Goals: Winter 5, Eddelbuttel 4, Sincock 2, Blake 2, Rolling 2. [**Two goal kickers missing**]
Best: Wilson, Evans, Bourke, Edgar, Bignell.

Thirds

Mentone 14.17.101 def. Highett 3.2.20
Goals: Lewis 5, Truscott 5, Wallace, Minnie, Banfield. [**One goal kicker missing**]
Best: Wallace, Truscott, Crozier, Reade, Kearns.

Moorabbin News, 24 May 1956, p. 9.
'Camden Now a Threat!'

'... Camden ... defeated the strong Mentone at Tigerland with a superlative display of accuracy, kicking 15.6 ...'

Round 7

Seniors

Camden 15.6.96 def. Mentone 12.14.86
Goals: Thompson 4, Carr 2, Chapple 2. [**Four goal kickers missing**]
Best: Gatford, Meckiff, Banfield, Sharpe.

Reserves

Mentone 20.26.146 def. Camden 8.10.58
Goals: O'Neill 5, O'Dea 4, Rollins 2, Moore 2. [**Seven goal kickers missing**]
Best: Bignell, Edgar, Foster, Moore.

Thirds

Mentone 31.19.205 def. Camden 1.0.6
Goals: Minnie 9, Lewis 7, Truscott 3, Read 3, Gadd 3. [**One goal kicker missing**]
Best: Minnie, Wallace, Gadd, Kearns, Read.

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Moorabbin News, 31 May 1956, p. 9.
'Good Kicking in Clayton Mud'

Both teams adapted well to the muddy conditions. 'With a winning centre-line, Mentone rattled on an early lead, mainly through Ted McGowan at full-forward, who was marking the greasy ball with perfect judgement ... A feature of the game was the accurate kicking by both sides. At half-time, the scores read: Mentone 10.1 to Clayton 4.1'. The margin was reduced to three goals at three-quarter time. Banfield was winning in the centre. 'For Mentone, Banfield, McGowan and Barbour were the pick of the best.'

'Tigers in Voting'

In the *News* best player competition (voted for by readers), '... Mentone players have polled exceptionally well, sharing a host of votes among five of their popular players.'

Jack Barker (Chelt) 89
Tommy New (Chels) 81
'Bomber' Banfield (MFC) 44
Brian Johns (Parkdale) 20
Rex Short (MFC) 15
Dick Proffit (MFC) 15
Ron Read (MFC) 11
'Curly' Wilson (MFC) 11

'Interstate Match on Monday'

A selection match on Sunday at Mordialloc finished in a draw. Barber and Gatford from Mentone starred. Both were selected in the representative team to play the South Australian side at Cheltenham on Monday. A curtain raiser between the two top junior teams, Mentone and Dandenong, was scheduled for 12.00 noon.

Round 8

Seniors

Mentone 12.4.76 def. Clayton 9.5.59
Goals: Unavailable
Best: Banfield, McGowan, Barbour

Reserves

Mentone 22.30.172 def. Clayton 6.6.42
Goals: Unavailable
Best: Unavailable

Thirds

Mentone 23.16.154 def. Clayton 0.1.1
Goals: Unavailable
Best: Unavailable

Moorabbin News, 7 June 1956, p. 5.

‘Mentone are fighting back as grand finalists by a glorious win over Dandenong’.

‘Saturday’s Uncertain Round’

‘Harrison and Proffit had a field day in the ruck last week ...’

Round 9

Seniors

Mentone 13.15.93 def. Dandenong 9.11.65

Goals: McGowan 3, Meckiff 3, Riley 2, Barber, Thompson, Clarke, Force. **[One goal kicker missing?]**

Best: Banfield, McGowan, Barber, Gatford, Clarke, Smith, Riley.

Reserves

Dandenong 13.15.93 def. Mentone 11.13.79

Goals: Sharpe 5, O’Dea 2, Wilson 2, Duesbury, Buckley.

Best: Bignell, Delbridge, Healy, O’Dea, Sharpe.

Thirds

Scores: Unavailable

Goals: Unavailable

Best: Unavailable

Ladders at halfway mark of the season

Seniors	W	L	D	P	%
Mordialloc	8	1	0	32	147
McKinnon	7	1	1	30	154
Dandenong	7	2	0	28	156
Mentone	7	2	0	28	130
Black Rock	6	3	0	24	113
Chelsea	4	5	0	16	98
Caulfield	4	5	0	16	91
Highett	3	6	0	12	70
Clayton	2	6	1	10	79
Camden	2	6	1	10	65
Cheltenham	1	7	1	6	80
Parkdale	1	8	0	4	68

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Reserves	W	L	D	P	%
Mordialloc	9	0	0	36	344
Dandenong	8	1	0	32	247
Mentone	7	2	0	28	218
McKinnon	7	2	0	28	210
Chelsea	6	3	0	24	124
Black Rock	4	5	0	16	101
Parkdale	4	5	0	16	87
Cheltenham	3	6	0	12	73
Clayton	2	7	0	8	43
Highett	1	8	0	4	52
Camden	1	8	0	4	49
Caulfield	0	9	0	0	26

Thirds	W	L	D	P	%
Mentone	9	0	0	36	629
Black Rock	8	1	0	32	440
Dandenong	7	2	0	28	321
Mordialloc	7	2	0	28	273
McKinnon	7	2	0	28	264
Chelsea	6	3	0	24	128
Cheltenham	3	6	0	12	132
Highett	2	7	0	8	36
Caulfield	2	7	0	8	17
Parkdale	1	8	0	4	27
Camden	1	8	0	4	23
Clayton	1	8	0	4	21

Moorabbin News, 14 June 1956, p. 9.

‘Mordi-Mentone Stage Thriller’

‘McGowan goaled then Meckiff slapped on another six points and the crowd roared. Mentone were making the last desparate effort to regain the lead over Mordialloc. Banfield rose to take a beautiful pass as the siren sounded; they had failed by nine points ... New players Clarke and Shaw proved dangerous around the goals ... Peter Barber was Mentone’s star in the last half ...’

‘Snapshots

‘How good is the Federal? Mentone’s Johnny Riley played with Oakleigh last Saturday and was acclaimed best player; also received three votes by the Sporting Globe. He’ll be back with Tigers on Saturday’.

Round 10

Seniors

Mordialloc 11.12.78 def. Mentone 10.9.69

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Goals: Shaw 4, McGowan 3, Clarke 2, Meckiff.
Best: Clarke, Scott, Shaw, Barber, Harrison.

Reserves

Scores: Mentone 11.20.86 def. Mordialloc 7.18.60
Goals: Wilson 2, O’Dea 2, Oldham 2. [**Five goal kickers missing**]
Best: [Alan] Carr, Bourke, [Barry] O’Dea, [Ted] Moore.

Thirds

Scores: Mentone 6.6.42 def. Mordialloc 4.8.32
Goals: Minnie 2, Read, Mercer, Banfield, Gadd.
Best: [Les] Hill, [Peter] Gadd, [Brian] Kearns, Wallace, Crozier.

Moorabbin News, 21 June 1956, p. 9.
‘Tigers 1pt. Win’

‘... Mentone held off a desperate Chelsea in the last term to snatch a one-point victory ...
Although attacking incessantly, the Tigers were right off target ...’

Round 11

Seniors

Mentone 7.15.57 def. Chelsea 8.8.56
Goals: Unavailable
Best: Profitt, Banfield, Scott, Gatford.

Reserves

Scores: Mentone 14.18.102 def. Chelsea 12.11.83
Goals: Unavailable
Best: Unavailable

Thirds

Scores: Mentone 10.14.74 def. Chelsea 3.8.26
Goals: Unavailable
Best: Unavailable

Moorabbin News, 28 June 1956, p. 9.
‘Tigers Move Towards Finals’

‘The Tigers won a decisive victory over Parkdale on Saturday with all-round superiority. After half-time the main interest was how many goals Ted McGowan would get. He was three goals short of the record when the tragedy of his mother’s death sent him from the field at the beginning of the third term ... At three-quarter time McGowan had ten goals on the board. His performance at full forward was one of the best seen at the Mentone Ground for years’.

‘Mentone’

‘The Tigers built up their percentage last Saturday with machine-like football. The roving trio, Alf Clark, Neil Chapple and Ray Shaw, were in devastating form, and Kevin Smith, Ron Banfield and Kevin Scott, on the centre line, gave the forwards plenty of opportunities. Ted McGowan had notched ten goals before he left the field in the last quarter ... The Seconds struck stern opposition at Parkdale, but came home well. Joe Carr, Bill Bignell, Key. Sharp and Leon Burke were the Blues’ main headache. The “Kittens” went on with the good work, and David Banfield was the best trophy winner this week ...’

Round 12

Seniors

Mentone 27.16.178 def. Parkdale 2.6.18

Goals: McGowan 10, Shaw 5, Clarke 3, Thompson 2, Banfield 2, Barber 2 [**Three goal kickers missing**]

Best: McGowan, Scutti, Clarke, Short, Profitt, Shaw.

Reserves

Scores: Mentone 15.8.98 def. Parkdale 10.12.72

Goals: Sharpe 5, O’Dea 4, O’Vere 2, Force 2, Carr, Delbridge.

Best: Edgar, Carr, Rollings, Bourke.

Thirds

Scores: Mentone 18.16.124 def. Parkdale 4.2.26

Goals: Lewis 5, Mercer 4, Wallace 3, Gadd 3 [**Three goal kickers missing**]

Best: Wallace, Gadd, Hill, Mercer, Banfield

Moorabbin News, 5 July 1956, p. 9.

‘Can Chelsea Make the Finals?’

‘At this stage of the season, with only five more games to the finals, the odds-on favourite for the premiership is Mordialloc – if they can learn to kick straight. And their opponents in the grand final? Mentone ...’

‘Tigers Still Strong’

‘In a typical Mentone v. Caulfield clash, the Tigers showed that indomitable spirit that has characterized their games with a fighting finish and gained another victory. Dick Profitt excelled in the heavy ruck-work or when resting at back pocket with good marking and long, clearing kicks. He was well supported by Alf Clark’s roving and Kevin Smith on the wing. Bill Gallagher gave one of his best games of the year at centre half back and Kevin Scott’s play on the half back flank was faultless.’ Seconds Overwhelm Caulfield. The Seconds’ game turned out to be a very one-sided with the Tigers winning in all positions. It is hard to pick best players. However, Bill Force (roving), Peter Rollins and Norm Oldham (ruck) and Peter Blake gave wonderful games. The Kittens’ best player award went this week to John Riley, who showed great pace on

the wing, Geoff Mennie (centre-half back), Brian Kearns (ruck) and Colin Lewis (7 goals), were the other players to stand out ...’

‘Got a Spare Tiger Skin?’

‘You haven’t a spare Tiger skin lying around the house, have you? It doesn’t necessarily have to have the tiger still in it. Mentone officials would like to contact anyone who has. They want it for the club. They reckon that in the grand final (when they play Mordialloc) they could hang it on the dressing-room wall to inspire man-eating fury into the players. If anyone could oblige, a ring to Mentone president, Stan Kelley (XF 2321) would be greatly appreciated’.

Round 13

Seniors

Mentone 4.15.39 def. Caulfield 4.11.35

Goals: Meckiff 2, Clarke, Moss.

Best: Gallagher, Profitt, Clarke, Moss, Meckiff, Luxfords.

Reserves

Scores: Mentone 23.28.166 def. Caulfield 0.1.1

Goals: Unavailable.

Best: Force, Oldham, Rollins, Blake.

Thirds

Scores: Mentone 18.12.120 def. Caulfield 3.3.21

Goals: Lewis 7, Truscott 3, Mercer 3, Wallace 2, Banfield 2, Leach.

Best: Wallace, Herco, Crozier, Minnie, Lewis.

Moorabbin News, 12 July 1956, p. 9.

‘Semi-Final Rehearsal? Mentone V. McKinnon’

‘... Bill Gallagher has the Tigers in tip-top condition and there’s an incentive among the Mentone boys that has a new meaning this year. It could be their year. Mentone haven’t been premiers since 1928, and that’s a long time. They were runners-up in 1929 and 1932 and over the past ten years have rarely missed the final four. If it is the Tigers’ year it will be all the more glamorous with Bill Gallagher as coach. He was appointed from the ranks of the team this year. The Tigers have the talent in every department to successfully meet any challenge between now and the grand final ...’

‘Mentone Club Notes’

‘In a good win at the Cheltenham ground the Tigers showed their real speed and their liking for this big ground. Jack Beswick gave even a better game than his usual good one to be Mentone’s best player. Our ruckmen, Jack Beswick, Dick Proffit, Jack Thompson and Ian Meckiff were clear winners all day and our classy rovers, Neil Chapple, Alf Clarke and Ray Shaw made the most of this advantage. Rex Short gave his usual good

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game from the half back line ... Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Body for the grand night the players had at their house last Saturday night. Once again these great workers of the club made their house available and played the perfect host and hostess.'

Round 14

Seniors

Mentone 12.16.88 def. Cheltenham 5.8.38

Goals: McGowan 3, Banfield 3, Clarke 2, Shaw, Chappel, Thompson, Meckiff.

Best: Beckwith, Beswick, W. Gallagher, Chappel, Meckiff, Shaw, Mulvogue.

Reserves

Scores: Mentone 12.15.87 def. Cheltenham 3.9.27

Goals: Sharpe 5, Wilson 3, McGregor, Luscombe, O'Neil, Force.

Best: Moore, Edgar, Rollings, Wilson.

Thirds

Scores: Mentone 11.13.79 def. Cheltenham 10.13.73

Goals: Lewis 7, Banfield 2, Truscott, Gadd.

Best: J. Wallace, G. Mennie, C. Lewis, J Crozier, B. Kearns.

Moorabbin News, 19 July 1956, p. 9.

'High-Marking McKinnon Shake Tigers'

'A brilliant, high-marking McKinnon ran out of steam against the ceaseless finishing attack of the Tigers at Mentone on Saturday The game was a thriller from start to finish ... The game was still as fast as it started, and now getting vigorous with plenty of body clashes. The umpire began giving 15-yard penalties to both sides and in all directions at the slightest provocation. "Nails" Thompson said he got one against him for "breathing against the wind" ...'

Round 15

Seniors

Mentone 15.13.103 def. McKinnon 14.8.92

Goals: McGowan 5, Clarke 3, Moss 2, Meckiff 2, Proffit 2, Shaw 1.

Best: Scott, Chappel, Beckwith, Beswick, Proffit, McGowan.

Reserves

Scores: Mentone 11.7.73 def. McKinnon 8.14.62

Goals: O'Neil 3, Byrne 3, Wilson 2, Sharpe 2, Evans.

Best: Moore, Murphy, Bourke, McGregor, Oldham.

Thirds

Scores: McKinnon 6.7.49 def. Mentone 3.18.36

Goals: Mercer 2, Truscott 1.

Best: Truscott, Wallace, Read, Down, Crozier.

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Ladder at end of Under 16 season

Thirds	W	L	D	P	%
Black Rock	14	1	0	56	474
Mentone	14	1	0	56	417
McKinnon	13	2	0	52	260
Dandenong	11	4	0	44	283
Mordialloc	10	5	0	40	218
Chelsea	9	6	0	36	127
Cheltenham	6	9	0	24	140
Highett	5	10	0	20	43
Clayton	3	12	0	12	25
Caulfield	3	12	0	12	20
Camden	1	14	0	4	30
Parkdale	1	14	0	4	20

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*Moorabbin News*, 26 July 1956, p. 9.

‘Tigers Bowl Rocks’

‘Mentone, with winning rucks and rovers, always beating their men to the ball and dealing out a football lesson in backing-up and play-on methods, had Black Rock outclassed on Saturday ... Mentone closed the day with a brilliant chain of hand passes that gave rover Clark a goal. It was a highlight of the match ...’

**Round 16**

*Seniors*

Mentone 11.16.82 def. Black Rock 5.6.36

Goals: Meckiff 3, Shaw 3, Clarke 2, McGowan, Banfield, Barber.

Best: Clarke, Gallagher, Meckiff, Rollings, Smith, Banfield, Chappel.

*Reserves*

Scores: Mentone 13.10.88 def. Black Rock 5.6.36

Goals: Eddelbuttel 4, O’Dea 3, Wilson 2. **[Four goal kickers not listed]**

Best: Carr, O’Neil, Duxbury, O’Dea, Wilson.

*Thirds – Semi Final*

Scores: Mentone 9.9.63 def. Black Rock 8.8.56

Goals: Lewis 2, Mercer 2, Wallace, Leach, Reade, Gadd, Banfield.

Best: Wallace, Lewis, Crozier, Downs, Reade, Mercer, Leach.

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Moorabbin News, 2 August 1956, p. 9.

‘Highett Leads Mentone Early’

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‘... The Tigers took control of the game when Clarke kicked his second major. McGowan followed with two more ... Mentone took over again when Shaw kicked three goals in a row’

‘Mentone’

‘... The star player was Bill Gallagher ... The seconds struck stiff opposition but the typical tiger last quarter made the game safe. Ross McGregor and John Eddlebuttle (ruck), John O’Neil (back pocket) and Norm Oldham (centre-half back) were the best players ...’ J. Wallace was runner up in the Under 16 Best and Fairest for the League.

Round 17

Seniors

Mentone 14.23.107 def. Highett 6.6.42

Goals: Clarke 4, McGowan 3, Shaw 3, Banfield 2, Chappel, Thompson.

Best: Clarke, Proffit, Gallagher, Banfield, Shaw, Barber.

Reserves

Scores: Mentone 10.18.78 def. Highett 5.5.35

Goals: Eddelbuttel 3, Wilson 2, Sharpe 2. [3 goal kickers not listed]

Best: McGregor, Eddelbuttel, O’Neil, Oldham, Carr.

Moorabbin News, 9 August 1956, p. 9.

‘Black Rock Wins U-16 Premiership’

‘... the football displayed by both Black Rock and Mentone on Sunday was superb ... Three goals down at half-time, the Black Rock lads were as despondent as dead ducks. Crozier had caused havoc in the ruck for Mentone, and Wallace, Mennie and forwards Mercer and Banfield had put the Tigers well in front ... The Rocks kept Mentone scoreless in this third quarter, and were only one goal in arrears ...’

‘Mentone’

‘... Although defeated, the Kittens fought on gamely ... The seniors showed real premiership form at Camden ... Captain Bill Bignell gave a good game from the pivot, and Sean Bourke, Clive Foster and Don Murphy were the best players on the back line’

Round 18

Seniors

Mentone 23.18.156 def. Camden 7.5.47

Goals: McGowan 7, Clarke 5, Shaw 4, Meckiff 3, Thompson 2, Banfield 2.

Best: Clarke, Banfield, Gatford, McGowan, McGregor, Meckiff.

Reserves

Scores: Mentone 18.13.121 def. Camden 6.12.48

Goals: Eddelbuttel 6, Winter 4, Wilson 4, Sharpe 2, Force 2.

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Best: Winter, Bignell, Murphy, Bourke, Foster.

Thirds

Black Rock 8.7.55 def. Mentone 4.10.34

Best: Crozier, Wallace [Les] Hill, [Ken] Down, [Peter] Leach

Ladders at the end of the season

Seniors	W	L	D	P	%
Dandenong	15	3	0	60	167
Mentone	15	3	0	60	159
Mordialloc	15	3	0	60	149
McKinnon	12	5	1	50	137
Chelsea	11	7	0	44	112
Black Rock	9	9	0	36	94
Caulfield	7	11	0	28	96
Cheltenham	6	11	1	26	84
Highbury	6	12	0	24	70
Camden	5	12	1	22	63
Clayton	4	13	1	18	80
Parkdale	1	17	0	4	57

Reserves	W	L	D	P	%
Mentone	16	2	0	64	229
Mordialloc	15	3	0	60	304
Dandenong	14	4	0	56	200
McKinnon	13	5	0	52	181
Black Rock	12	6	0	48	137
Chelsea	9	9	0	36	105
Camden	8	9	1	34	75
Parkdale	6	12	0	24	72
Cheltenham	5	13	0	20	69
Highbury	4	13	1	18	65
Clayton	4	14	0	16	35
Caulfield	1	17	0	4	32

Moorabbin News, 16 August 1956, p. 9.

‘Tigers! This Must be a Win’

Tipped Mentone. ‘... Bill Gallagher has Mentone in top form in physical fitness and the whole team breathes with an eagerness to win ... Best afield at their last meeting, “Bomber” Banfield is at present on his honeymoon. His position will be taken by Dickie Moss ...’

‘Seconds Grand Final Rehearsal’

To be played at Cheltenham as curtain-raiser at 12.00 noon. ‘... These two teams have fought out semi-finals over the past few seasons with plenty of gusto and vigour to delight the crowd. Mentone were premiers for three successive years until Mordialloc defeated them in 1953 ... you can back it being a thriller’.

‘Best & Fairest for Season 1956’

Seniors won on by George Ashman (Mordialloc) with 29 votes. R. Banfield was seventh with 14 votes, the only Mentone player in the top 22 players, and the only Mentone player to score more than eight votes! Seconds won on by Brian Johns (Parkdale) with 22 votes. L. Wilson was second on 22 votes. John O’Neill was eleventh with 10 votes. Thirds won on by Ken Bennett (Dandenong) with 26 votes. J. Wallace was second on 24 votes. P. Gadd was fifth with 16 votes, and John Crozier thirteenth with ten votes.

‘Johns Best in Seconds’

Brian Johns from Parkdale won. ‘... “Curly” Wilson’s second, on a count back, was also very popular. This tenacious Tiger has played a major part in placing Mentone on top of the Seconds’ ladder this season ...’

Mordialloc convincingly defeated McKinnon in the first semi-final. Mentone to play Dandenong in the Seniors second semi-final.

Moorabbin News, 23 August 1956, p. 9.

‘Tigers & Demons Replay Saturday

‘... Some 3000 Federal fans got their money’s worth ... The scores were level on four occasions and for nine minutes in the last term. The excitement was at fever pitch ... Mentone used the strong breeze in the first term and its score of 2.7 prompted many to criticize the misuse of the wind advantage by bad kicking. But Dandenong did little better in the second quarter ... Here’s a prod at Mentone selectors. When Barry Harrison ran on to the ground, it was clearly evident he had not recovered from his ankle injury. He favoured one leg all day. It was a mistake to let him run on to the ground and a further mistake to let him stop there for four quarters while Norm Oldham watched as 19th man. Imagine the rumpus if the Tigers had lost ... Dick Proffit, comparatively quiet all day, came into the game with a vengeance in the last term, marking at the crucial moments and with bullocking ruckwork. Barber’s last quarter was aso superb ... Bruce Gatford’s performance was faultless ...’

Scores by the Quarter – **Second semi-final**

Mentone	Dandenong
2.7	0.2
2.9	3.12
3.15	3.14
5.17	4.23

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Goals: McGowan [**Four goal kickers missing**]
Best: Thompson, D. Meckiff, A. Clarke, R. Proffit

Seconds were beaten by Mordialloc.
Best: Alan Carr, Jack Healey, Clive Foster, John Winter, Barry O’Dea.

Moorabbin News, 30 August 1956, p. 9.
‘Tigers are in Grand Final’

‘After a bad start the Tigers completely demoralized Dandenong in the second quarter of the semi-final replay last Saturday ... Brilliant Mentone football in the third term kept Dandenong to three points while the Tigers slammed on goals to nearly double the score ...’

Scores by the Quarter – **Second semi-final replay**

Mentone	Dandenong
1.4	4.1
7.8	6.3
11.8	6.6
16.11	8.13

Goals: Clarke 3, Shaw 3, Meckiff, McGowan, Chapple, Banfield, Moss, Oldham [**Four goal kickers missing**]
Best: Riley, Proffit

Moorabbin News, 6 September 1956, p. 9.
‘It will be a “Grand” Final’

Mordialloc defeat Dandenong 16.18 to 10.14.

‘Seconds’ Premiership’
Played in a very strong wind ‘... that was tearing the numbers from the scoring board’.

Scores by the Quarter – **Seconds Grand Final**

Mentone	Mordialloc
1.2	0.5
3.9	1.7
3.9	6.14
5.11	6.14

Goals: Carr, Harrison [**Three goal kickers missing**]
Best: Moss, Bignell, Foster, O’Dea, Force, Oldham.

‘Mentone Premiers’, *Moorabbin News*, 13 September 1956, p. 10

‘It was real Tiger spirit that enabled Mentone to fight back after trailing Mordialloc all day to win the 1956 Federal premiership in glorious style before 3,000 at Cheltenham on Saturday ... The Tigers performances were a credit to captain-coach Bill Gallagher who played a grand captains game at centre half back ... Mordialloc’s Ray Besanko was the star and judged best player. He dominated the centre position and a fair proportion of the territory around it ... Ian Meckiff’s grand last quarter for Mentone will be for ever remembered by fans. His four goals in this quarter sealed Mordialloc’s fate ...’

The Game:

Mordialloc’s seconds captain Jack Dankert proved a stumbling block for Mentone in the first quarter, with safe clearing dashes and was instrumental in forwarding the ball to Geoff Lynch for the first goal of the day within 30 seconds of the start ... Gatford was clearing with equal determination for Mentone and one spectacular dash brought him and the ball as far as half forward ... Mentone’s goal kickers in the first term were Ian Meckiff, Scott and Dickie Moss. Two of these were from free kicks ... Fireworks were a feature of the second quarter and ten minutes of heated play ensued before Stanton snapped truly for Mordialloc ... Mentone Full forward McGowan who was having a lean period against Johnson cleverly offset this by leading well out. He kicked his first goal from 60 yards out ... Rover Clarke was starring now and slammed the ball down for Proffit to goal and McGowan with another long run from home marked almost on the centre position and goaled ... Mordialloc took charge again in the third term Lynch and Ashman scored two quick goals ... McGowan from directly in front kicked the ball out of bounds. Chapple raced towards an open goal and missed and Peter Barber pulled down a finger –tip mark within easy scoring distance but his kick fell short ... These three narrow escapes that could have put Mordialloc behind instead of 15 points in front at three quarter time.’

Meckiff the Hero:

‘Ian Meckiff became Mentone’s hero in the last term. Outstanding in the ruck for three quarters until Proffit took over, Meckiff then retired up forward to kick four more goals in the last term to take his match tally to six ... Bruce Gatford was second only to Meckiff. Mordialloc would have undoubtedly scored half a dozen more goals but for the reliable Gatford ... Rover Alf Clarke had the edge on Mordialloc’s rovers and played an excellent game for the Tigers with uncanny anticipation and clever disposal. Johnny Riley kept up the good work while Clarke rested ... Bill Gallagher, Don Meckiff and Mick Beckwith supporter the talented Gatford to create an almost impassable backline that played a major part in Mordialloc’s defeat.

Backs : Gatford, Beckwith, Thomson

Half backs : D. Meckiff, Gallagher, Short

Centre: Scott, Banfield, Riley

Half forwards: Chapple, Barber, Moss

Forwards: I.Meckiff, McGowan, Shaw

Rucks: Proffit, Oldham, Clarke

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Statistics

Scores quarter by quarter

Mentone	Mordialloc	
3.0	5.5	1st
7.3	7.7	Half Time
7.6	9.9	3rd
11.8	9.11	Final

Goal Kickers

Mentone: Ian Meckiff 6, E.McGowan 2, Scott, 1 Proffit 1, Shaw 1.

Mordialloc: C. Hailes 3, G. Lynch 3, Stanton, Ashman McLorinan 1 each

R.I.P:

‘Forty Mentone players and supporters walking solemnly in pairs, formed a funeral procession on Mentone Oval in pouring rain last Sunday. It was the culmination of an impressive ceremony. On the previous night, Mordialloc time keeper “ Plugger” Droop had exchanged mascots with Mentone secretary Maurie Dalglish. The little doll with its red and white colours was taken reverently back to the Mentone club rooms. There it lay in state on the rub down table for 12 hours. At about 4.30pm on Sunday afternoon it was placed in a small coffin, lifted by pall bearers and slowly led the procession on to the oval. A shallow grave had been prepared in the center of the cricket pitch and forty Tigers stood heads bowed and in silence, as the little Mordialloc mascot received full burial rites!’

Umpire:

‘Umpire Reitman did a satisfactory job. His style of umpiring was easy to follow and he handled the game well. Most spectators expected flare ups between the two teams and the fact that there were only two or three minor incidents is to his credit.’

Other Information:

Betting on the game - Although not reported in the papers naturally, there was a significant wager between officials of the two clubs before the game. It has been suggested that a sum of approximately 2000 pounds was wagered on the match result which no doubt would have gone a fair way to explaining the long celebrations in the Mentone camp that lasted for the next two days after the win.

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**1956 Mentone Firsts Premiers - Olympic Year**

Inscription as follows:

Back Row: N. Chapple, I. Meckiff, P. Barber, R. Profitt, R. Shaw,

Centre Row: T. Graham (Trainer), D. Meckiff, R. Banfield, J. Beswick, E. McGowan, N. Oldham, A. Beckwith, K. Sharp, N. Ellingsen (Trainer).

Front Row: B. Gatford, R. Short, S. Kelley (President), J. Thompson (Vice-Capt.), W. Gallagher, (Capt.-Coach), M. Dalglish (Sec.), S. Moss, A. Clarke, Robert Blanche and Richard Paul (Mascots)

Insert: K. Scott, J. Riley

**1956 2nd Eighteen Runners-Up**

**[Photograph unavailable]**

Inscription as follows:

Back Row: B.O'Dea, R.Edgar, N.Dunbury, L.Houston.

Centre Row: A.Geddes, C.Mulooque (Manager), K.Sharpe, C.Foster, D.Murphy, B.Harrison, R.McGregor, J.Crozier, P.Rollings, S.Kelley (President), N.Ellington.

Front Row: R.Evans, P.Byrne, J.O'Neill, L.Wilson, L.James (Coach), W.Bignell (Capt.), W.Force, J.Healey, T.Moore, S.Bourke.



**MENTONE : UNDER SIXTEEN**

**RUNNERS UP - SEASON 1956 - RUNNERS UP**

*Back Row: J. Riley G. Mennie B. Kearns K. Downs J. Ilott L. Hill  
Centre Row: A. Geddes N. Ellington R. Ungars J. Croziers P. Leach  
P. McInery D. Munro T. Graham  
Front Row: R. Poore (Mascot) G. Truscott C. Lewis R. Pope P. Gadd (V. Captain)  
S. Kelly (Pres.) J. Wallace (Capt.) R. Read D. Banfield W. Mercer L. McKay R. Blanche (Mascot)*

**Below: Rick Profitt in action against Chelsea**





**Above: (From left) Ted McGowan, Richard Paul, Bill Gallagher, Bruce Gatford, Dick Profitt and Ron Banfield at the commencement of the game against Black Rock, 21 July 1956.**

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A NOTE FROM PETER BARBER

The most significant thing about the 1956 Mentone premiership team was the camaraderie, the fellowship, the solidarity. Most of the team members had grown up together with a key group being constant companions - virtually a brotherhood. The few - I think four - non-local players were drawn into this environment, including the coach, Bill Gallagher who became a local anyway. The other very significant issue was that we beat Mordialloc and Dandenong to win the grand final, especially arch-rival, old enemy Mordy! Both these teams went into the then VFA immediately afterwards. It was a wonderful year with wonderful and enduring friendships and although we don't see each other often those friendships remain steadfast. It is because we don't see each other regularly that such reunions as this are so important and I sincerely regret being unable to attend on 27th May. My best wishes to everyone involved in what was a great home-grown team - players, officials, helpers and supporters.

Also good luck to the Committee and organisers of this function and Hall of Fame - an excellent initiative. One sombre note to conclude unfortunately as some members of the 1956 club are either in poor health or have died. Perhaps we should raise our glasses in their memory and to the continuing good health of those remaining fortunate enough to be enjoying being senior citizens and their superannuation!

Hope to catch up in the near future.

PB

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