

THE 1930 FINAL SERIES

A MATCH REPORT-90 YEARS AGO

DROMANA V FRANKSTON

Ref 2020/20



INTRODUCTION

On a recent search of newspapers, the following match report of the 1930 Second Semi-final in the MPFL, between Dromana and Frankston, was unearthed. While Dromana lost that game, it is a most important document in filling the gaps the club's history during those times because it: (i) Lists the players and (ii) Provides a comprehensive review of that game.

BACKGROUND TO THE 1930 SEASON

The years between the two wars was a period of mixed fortunes for Dromana Football Club. Small country football clubs faced certain challenges such as meeting financial commitments and ensuring that they had 'sufficient numbers' to field teams in the local competitions.

Dromana was no exception.

In 1930, the Peninsula District Football Association was comprised of the following teams: Dromana, Naval Depot, Flinders, Frankston, Langwarrin, Mornington, Red Hill, Rosebud, Seaford and Tyabb.

The Annual General Meeting of the Peninsula District Football Association was held in early April; at the Grand Hotel in Mornington; and George Osborne (pictured) represented Dromana

FC that evening. George was one of a loyal band of big-hearted volunteers who gave everything to build and maintain Dromana FC In that era.



NOTE: Articles about George Osborne and his family can be found on this website.

It appears that 1930 was a season of 'reaping rewards' for the dedicated and unselfish efforts of local families and volunteers. The club had tasted success in 1930 season; and by the end of the 'Home and Away' series, DFC finished in 3rd position on the District Association Ladder with eleven wins and five losses.

As can be seen, the Final Four was: Frankston (48 points), Langwarrin (48 points), Dromana (44 points) and Tyabb which won ten games (40 points). Rosebud missed the finals by percentage that season.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION				
POSITION OF CLUBS.				
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Frankston	18	12	4	48
Langwarrin	18	12	4	48
Dromana	18	11	5	44
Tyabb	18	10	6	40
Rosebud	18	10	6	40
Red Hill	18	7	9	24
Mornington	18	5	11	20
Seaford	18	4	12	16
Flinders	18	1	16	4

Under the MPFL finals play-off system, that operated in the District Association in those days, the First Semi-Final was played between Tyabb and Langwarrin (at Mornington); and then, on the following Saturday, Dromana clashed with the league leaders, Frankston, in the Second Semi-Final.

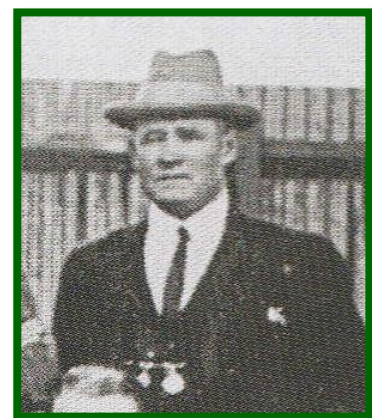
THE DROMANA TEAM FOR THE SECOND SEMI-FINAL

The family names of the members of the DFC team that day were: Nolan (capt.) Dyson Birch Singleton Griffiths Gray Clydesdale Skillen Patterson Evans Farrel Mirabella Rudduck Gleeson Dyson Langholtz Wilson and Guy.

BRIEF NOTES ON MICHAEL NOLAN, PETER GLEESON AND BILL PATTERSON

Many readers will recognize some of the names of the above list. Articles regarding the Guy and Rudduck families can be found elsewhere on this website but brief notes about Michel Nolan, Peter Gleeson and Bill Patterson are provided below.

MICHAEL NOLAN was Dromana's captain in 1930. Michael was a dynamic personality in the history of DFC in that era. He appears to have been a powerful and persuasive personality; and his dedicated off-field organization and wholehearted involvement in club affairs were factors in the team's success in that era. His name first appears in the news in the mid-1920 in the capacity as a Dromana delegate to the PFA. Mr Michael Bernard Nolan, better known around town as Sergeant M.B. Nolan, was a highly respected police officer in Mornington and Dromana. He played with DFC in the 1920's; and his name featured prominently in the affairs of the club in those days. It seems that he had a 'powerful voice' and spoke with authority at league meetings.



NOTE: A comprehensive tribute to Michael Nolan can be found on this website at: <http://www.dromanatigers.com.au/2020/history/1931%20flag.pdf>

PETER GLEESON was one of the major reasons for the club's rise up the ladder in the 1930's. Peter was the standout defender in MPFL football; and he attracted the attention of VFL scouts with his strong brand of play. It is known that Peter later signed with Hawthorn (in 1932) .

NOTE: Peter may have trained with St Kilda FC some years earlier but it is difficult to verify that premise.

BILL PATTERSON was regarded as one of the best forwards in the MPFL in those days. Bill (shown) was a lethal spearhead who had won the club goal kicking award on six occasions: 1923-29-32-33-34 and 1935 when he booted 66 goals. Newspaper reports indicate that Bill was a predominant player for Dromana; and his ability, to convert from limited opportunities, gave his team 'every chance' to match it with the elite teams in the District Association.



THE MATCH REVIEW AS PRINTED IN 'THE STANDARD'



The following match report was published in the 'Frankston and Somerville Standard' on Saturday 29th September 1930 on page: 7 . The banner heading stated: '**FRANKSTON WINS SEMI-FINAL DROMANA FAILS IN LAST QUARTER**'

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Frankston 12-19 defeated Dromana 5-9 in the second semi-final of the Peninsula District Association on Frankston oval last Saturday. A good deal of interest was taken in the match by followers of the junior teams and but for the bitterly cold wind, good 'gate receipts would have resulted. The most interesting features of the match were the smart play of Dromana in the first half of the match, the bright play of the youngsters of Frankston's team and the utter collapse of Dromana in the last quarter, in which that team failed to score despite the fact that it had a deficit of two points only when the quarter opened.

Even when due allowance was made for Frankston's handicap of a strong, adverse wind in the first quarter, the play of this team was very unsatisfactory. The only bright points in the team's play were the line dashes on the wing by Bentley, the good defence by Hanton and some attractive flashes by D. Quartermain.

Dromana, on the other hand, was marking well and attacking 'vigorously though the shooting was poor, only three goals coming from 10 scoring shots. With the first change Frankston supporters hoped for better things, but received a shock when Dromana opened with a smart attack which-: brought a well-deserved goal. Frankston began to realise the seriousness of the position, and play improved a little and, assisted by the wind, added 2-4 during the quarter. Dromana still had a lead of eight points at the interval.

In the third quarter, Frankston's team work showed great improvement. Williams, Martin and Cameron came into prominence. Morris was having an off day and was fumbling badly in the centre while L Legge was failing to hold his own. The youngsters played well toward the end of the quarter. A Quartermain was particularly noticeable. J. Legge co-operated with him in several smart attacks. Neeson, although he blundered at times, did well. His play was cool and his kicking good. The final change saw the collapse of Dromana to whom Frankston gave a clean sheet for the quarter. Webster's play was excellent throughout the quarter. The whole team seemed to strike form and, as Dromana tired Frankston's score mounted 'rapidly. Lloyd was an outstanding player in the last quarter.

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In the third quarter, Frankston's team work showed great improvement. Williams, Martin and Cameron came into prominence. Morris was having an off day and was fumbling badly in the centre while L. Legge was failing to hold his own. The youngsters played well toward the end of the quarter. A Quartermain was particularly noticeable. J. Legge co-operated with him in several smart attacks. Neeson, though he blundered at times, did well. His play was cool and his kicking good. The final change saw the collapse of Dromana to whom Frankston gave a clean sheet for the quarter. Webster's play was excellent throughout the quarter. The whole team seemed to strike form and, as Dromana tired Frankston's score mounted rapidly. Lloyd was an outstanding player in the last quarter.

THE TEAMS.
Frankston: Dyson (capt.), Hanton, L. Legge, Quartermain, Cameron, Morris, J. Legge, Webster, A. Quartermain, W. Witheridge, Dalrymple, Bentley, Gamble, Martin, Williams, Claxton, Lloyd, Neeson.
Dromana: Nolan (capt.), Dyson, Birch, Singleton, Griffiths, Gray, Clydesdale, Skillen, Patterson, Evans, Farrel, Mirabella, Ruddick, Gleeson, W. Dyson, Langholtz, Wilson, Guy.
Umpire: Sinclair.

THE PLAY.
Dromana had first use of the wind and opened with a strong attack which was broken by Hanton. Frankston launched three ineffective attacks which Gleeson, who was playing well, checked. Dromana then took charge of the play and a determined drive brought a sixer by Patterson, followed by three singles. Skillen took a good mark and again raised both flags. Frankston rallied and some good systematic play carried the ball well forward. A free to J. Legge brought Frankston's first point to which Dromana replied with a single by Patterson. Frankston worked forward against the wind and Webster scored. His shot struck the post. Morris sent to Lloyd to A. Quartermain for Frankston's first sixer. Dromana replied with two singles and a goal from a fine mark by Birch. D. Quartermain to Bentley to Williams was a nice piece of play which was the Quartermain's

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Quarter time: Frankston 1-2 Dromana 3-7.

Dromana forwarded smartly at the bounce and Farrel snapped a goal. Play was very crowded. Dromana continued to keep the ball within scoring distance but Hanton, Witheridge and D Quartermain defended well. Birch and Skillen became associated in an attack which enabled Patterson to snap a point. Frankston replied with a smart drive which ended in a sixer by Neeson.

The ball was passing from end to end without a score being made. Williams sent to Neeson to J. Legge for a single, then Legge snapped another point. A free to Gamble was sent to A Quartermain to J. Legge for a sixer. Although Dromana's marking was superior Frankston added three more points before the interval.

Half time: 3-6 Dromana: Dromana: 4-8.

Frankston faced the wind again in the third quarter, but the play showed great improvement. Webster secured but for the second time his shot hit the post. Gamble to Bentley and a fine dash by A Quartermain added a goal. Birch and Skillen engineered an attack and Griffiths seemed likely to score. Hanton, however, saved. Martin checked another drive by Clydesdale.

Frankston worked forward for a single and launched another attack which was checked by a great mark by Gleeson. Dromana carried the play forward, but good, defensive play by Hanton and Claxton prevented a score. Scores were now even.

Good play by J. Legge and A Quartermain brought a single which gave Frankston the lead, but Dromana rallied and scored a single which again brought the scores level. Clydesdale dashed forward for a sixer, to which Frankston replied with a point by Webster. A Quartermain snapped another single. L. Legge secured and sent to J. Legge to Webster for a goal. Webster was playing a very attractive game.

Three-quarter time: Frankston 5-11 Dromana 5-9.

Frankston took charge of the play in the last quarter. Dromana made a good defence for a time but dashes by A Quartermain, Webster, Lloyd, Bentley and Williams wore Dromana down. D Quartermain, Martin and Hanton repeatedly broke Dromana's attacks. Frankston added 7-10 during the quarter.

Final scores:

Frankston 12-19. Dromana: Dromana: 5-9.

- Frankston's best players were: Bentley, A Quartermain Hanton. Lloyd Martin, D Quartermain Cameron Webster Williams, J. Legge and Neeson.

- Dromana's prominent players were: Birch, Singleton Griffiths Skillen Patterson and Gleeson.
- Goal kickers: Frankston: Neeson 4, A Quartermain 3 Webster 2, J. Legge, L. Legge and Lloyd
- Dromana: Patterson Skillen Farrel, Clydesdale Birch.

FOOTNOTES

1. Most readers would agree that the match review 'painted a good picture' of the game; and it was well written. The name of the scribe was unknown but he/she deserves credit for the attention to detail. Such match reports are rare in modern times.
2. This article is an important piece of club history as it has never been 'aired' at anytime in the last ninety years by the DFNC. It is a 'lucky find' as it confirms a few theories about the team of that season.
3. Despite Dromana's fade out and consequent failure to reach the 1930 Grand Final, the club's eleven wins, that season, sent a strong message to other clubs that Dromana was 'on the move' and headed upwards.
4. History shows that Langwarrin 5.16 (46) defeated Frankston 5.10 (40) to claim the 1930 District Association premiership.
5. 1930 had 'set the scene' for the club; and, the following season, Dromana went onto to win its first-ever pennant when it overcame a strong Somerville team by 61 points...but that is another story.

SOURCE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. The source of the above match review was the 'Frankston and Somerville Standard' (September 29th, 1930. page: 7). The 'Standard' began circulation in January 1921 and its last edition went to print in May 1939. It was a paper that made a genuine attempt to report local sport and foster interest in community football.
2. For those who enjoy studying Australian Rules football such articles, as the above newspaper match report, are a godsend. The fact that the article still 'exists' and can be accessed, via the archives of the National Library of Australia, is a reason for gratitude. (Note: For those history devotees, the article's ISSN reference is: 18388183).

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: Frankston Somerville Standard...personal files ..DFNC files.

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