

'FROM THE ARCHIVES'

DROMANA DEFEAT FRANKSTON

1908

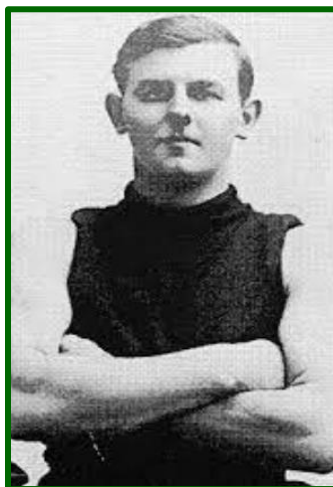
Reference: FTA: 2022/1



1908: DROMANA DEFEAT FRANKSTON

In 1908, the seven local clubs that comprised the Peninsula Football Association were: Frankston, Somerville, Mornington, Tyabb, Flinders, Hastings and Dromana. Although there are no existing team sheets for 1908; it is known that the family names of the Dromana players in that season included: Wyatt, Gibson, Lawrence, McLear, Vickers, Wilson, Garvey, Foran, Hoskins, Evans, McDonald, Callanan, Lacco and Chapman*.

*Doug Chapman was a champion player for Dromana in that era and he left to play for Richmond in 1908. According to one source, his selection for the match against Frankston may have been the cause of considerable controversy and protest. Frankston was weakened for this game by the loss of several key players; and the return of Doug Chapman gave Dromana a definite advantage.



Dromana's Doug Chapman- One of the finest young talents of Peninsula football. Doug made his VFL debut for Richmond against Fitzroy in 1908 at the age of 18 years. He went on to play 33 games with Richmond and Melbourne. His last VFL game was against South Melbourne in Round: 15 in 1913.

THE MATCH REVIEW

The clash against Frankston was played at Dromana in July; and, from all available reports, the conditions were dreadful with the afternoon being described as 'cold, wet and miserable.' The inclement weather made attractive football impossible; however Dromana's forwards Wilson and Clydesdale were able to kick vital goals and the home team held the visitors scoreless in the first half.

Frankston rallied after the break and 'forced the issue' in the third term; Wilson goaled for Dromana but Frankston was not to be denied and hit back hard. It is stated that McLear (Dromana) was superb in defence and he was instrumental in the Dromana's victory. According to one match report, his marking of the wet and greasy ball was outstanding.

The last quarter was a slogging affair and, although Dromana failed to find the 'big sticks', the local team hung on to win a hard-fought battle by four points. Considering the wintry conditions, both teams were probably happy to hear the final bell and get inside to escape the appalling weather that day.

THE RESULTS

Dromana:	1.2	3.4	4.5	4.5	(29)
Frankston:	0.0	0.0	2.4	3.7	(25)

Goals for Dromana: Clydesdale 2 Wilson 2

Best players for Dromana: McLear, Wilson, Clydesdale, Foran, Garvey, Vickers, Chapman and Lacco.

FOOTNOTES:

1. It is known that Umpire Hutchens officiated in the game; and he received warm praise for his exhibition...*"He is quick in his decisions, keeps well up with the play, and very impartial. He pleased both sides equally well."*
2. In those days, Dromana wore yellow and black guernseys.
3. Dromana won four games and lost six in 1908.
4. The Peninsula Football Association was formed on the 23rd April 1908 at Davies' Somerville Hotel. Dromana FC was not represented at that meeting but is known the Mr L. Murphy, of Dromana, was an office bearer of the inaugural Peninsula Football Association.
5. The first game that Dromana played in the 'new league' was against Hastings at home. It is hard to find the scores of that match but the newspaper report stated that: *"Dromana's team on Saturday was very poor. It comprised seven senior players and the rest were juniors..."* The word 'junior' probably meant youths in that case.

6. Other articles about the McLear family can be found on this website.

7. Doug Chapman (born 1889) was a tall (191 cm) and skilled ruckman who left Dromana to play with Richmond and Melbourne between 1908-1913. In all, Doug played 33 VFL games and kicked 12 goals. It is recorded that Doug Chapman had been captain of Dromana before joining Richmond. This fact, in itself, is quite amazing as Doug was just 18 years when he made his debut for the Tigers against Fitzroy at the Punt Road Oval. Fitzroy won by 25 points.

The Richmond team had several notable players listed that day including: Charlie Pannam (also Collingwood -193 games), Bob Bowden (also St Kilda-150 games), Dick Condon (also Collingwood-181 games) and Billy Schmidt who had played VFL football with St Kilda.

Doug's last VFL game was for Melbourne against South Melbourne in 1913; and a little known fact, about that game, is that Alec Hall was Melbourne's coach that day. Alec was the first-ever coach of Hawthorn when the club entered the VFL in 1925.

CLUB HISTORY - CAN YOU HELP?

DFNC is working determinedly to 'fill the gaps' in the club's history and photographs, press cuttings, team sheets and other memorabilia are most welcome. There may be readers who have match reports/ press cuttings from their years at Pier Street. Please feel welcome to forward any such items to the club to be posted on the website for posterity.

One of the best ways to thank the hundreds of players, officials and volunteers, who have built DFNC, is to ensure that they are remembered by recording their contribution(s) for future generations to read and appreciate. Thank you (Roger for DFNC- March 2022).



REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Sources: NLA and local newspapers-DFNC files. AFL sources re: Doug Chapman.

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