

2017 – ‘LIFT OFF’ ONWARD & UPWARD

(Reference: 2022/17)



INTRODUCTION- ‘LIFT OFF’ AT PIER STREET IN 2017.

One of the outstanding highlights of the 2017 season was Dromana’s seven game winning streak from Round: 6 to Round: 12. There have been other impressive consecutive victories in the club’s long history; but few, if any, were as important in carrying the club forward as was witnessed in 2017.

At the end of Round: 5, Dromana had secured only one victory and was languishing near the bottom of the Nepean FL Ladder. However, in an amazing form reversal and surge, the Tigers were in the Five by the end of Round: 12.

It was a spectacular rise up the ladder and the transformation in form was startling. Coach Rikki Johnston received great credit for the ‘turnaround in fortunes’ because, despite the early losses, he coached with unwavering conviction and confidence. As is often the case in coaching sporting teams, Rikki’s honest belief in the ‘process and the cause’ was infectious and was fully embraced by his young playing group.



Rikki Johnston never lost faith in his young playing group and with hard work and a united spirit lifted his team to new heights in 2017 and gave the supporters an insight to what was ‘around the corner’ in 2018 and 2019. Rikki is currently coaching at the Frankston Dolphins VFA. His leadership and dedicated service at Pier Street was unparalleled and he is regarded by all local supporters as a true champion on and off the field.

Following a sluggish start, by mid-season, the Tigers were playing a very attractive brand of running-possession football; and the emergence and maturation of the 'younger brigade' during that period was apparent.

It was a classic case of 'boiled lollies to chocolates' during the winning streak; and the officials, members and supporters were impressed with what unfolded in those matches.

The seven successive victories included two 10-goal margins and on two occasions Dromana kicked in excess of 120 points.

Note: Younger readers may be interested to know that the longest winning streak in AFL football was recorded by Geelong (26 consecutive wins) in 1952-53. As in life, 'all good things come to an end'; and Collingwood eventually stopped the Cats' 'in their tracks' at Kardina Park in Round: 14 in 1953.

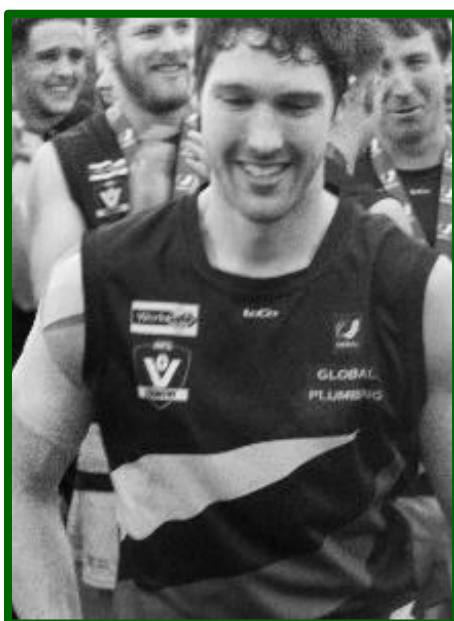
DETAILS OF DROMANA'S 'STREAK' IN 2017:

ROUND: 6 AT DROMANA

DROMANA: 19.18. (132) DEFEATED PEARCEDALE: 15.12. 102

Goal kickers : A. Hunter 3 R. Wilde 2 R. Johnston 2 D. Leyden-Kozikas 2 B. Cosson 2 E. Johnstone 2. W.Geurts J. Quigley J. Hutchinson J. McLeary C. Christie S. Geurts

Best Players: Z. Muschialli E. Johnstone D. Leyden-Kozikas D. Waugh T. Wheeler



Terry Wheeler – One of the finest leaders and players in the club's long history.

ROUND 7 AT CRIB POINT: THE MPNFL INDIGENOUS ROUND

DROMANA: 22.17.149 DEFEATED CRIB POINT: 9.12.66

Goal kickers: S. Fowler 4 E. Johnstone 4 R. Wilde 2 S. Clarke 2 J. McLeary 2 J. Hutchinson 2 Z. Muschialli T. Wheeler W. Geurts J. Quigley R. Johnston S. Geurts

Best players: E. Johnstone S. Geurts S. Clarke Z Muschialli T. Wheeler R. Wilde



Jay Hutchinson is a great story of a local youngster who started his football in the Dromana Juniors and became a Life Member in 2022.

ROUND: 8 AT SOMERVILLE: THE MPNFL QUIT ROUND

DROMANA:14.9.93 DEFEATED SOMERVILLE: 10.17.77

Goal kickers: R. Wilde 4 S. Fowler 3 B. Cosson 2 D. Leyden-Kozikas R. Gregg S. Geurts M. Price T. Wheeler

Best Players: J. Hutchinson S. Clarke C. Christie M. Price

Winning streak continues

ROUND: 9 AT DROMANA: QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY ROUND

DROMANA: 14.16.100 DEFEATED RED HILL: 4.15. 39

Goal kickers: E. Johnstone 5 W. Geurts 2 S. Clarke 2 A. Hunter 2 J. Hutchinson R. Johnston T. Wheeler

Best players: E. Johnstone S. Geurts D. Waugh Z. Muschiali S. Clarke



Shaun Clarke played another solid game for the club in Round:9 with two goals and was listed among the better players that day.

ROUND: 10 AT RYE: SPECIAL CLUB ROUND: RIKKI JOHNSTON'S 200TH SENIOR GAME FOR DFC

Dromana: 12.11. 83 defeated Rye: 5.8.38

Goal kickers: E. Johnstone 4 L. Bradford 2 W. Geurts 2 Clarke 2 Cosson Gregg

Best players: D. Waugh L. Bradford Z.Muschialli A. Musgrave S. Clarke



Ethan Johnstone –An enigmatic player and one of the best small forwards MPNFL football . Ethan kicked four goals against Rye in Round: 10 in 2017. He won the goal kicking award that season and also topped the list in 2018 and 2021.

ROUND:11 AT DROMANA

Dromana: 14.15.99 defeated Devon Meadows: 5.9.39

Goal kickers: E. Johnstone 3 B. Cosson 2 R. Gregg 2 S. Clarke 2 A. Musgrave S. Geurts J. Schenotta W. Geurts R. Johnston

Best Players: S. Clarke S. D Geurts R. Gregg J. Quigley A. Musgrave



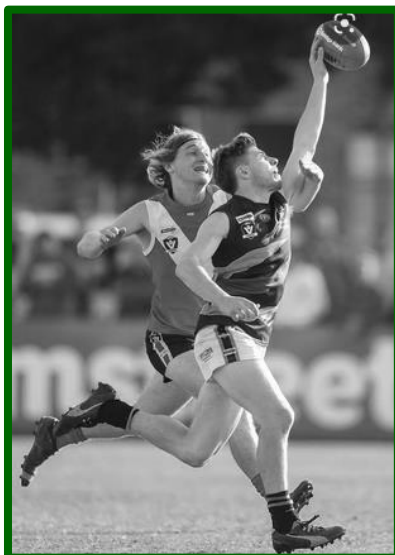
Billy Quigley is a current leader of DFNC and another player who underlines the importance of junior development in building a club. Since 2017, Billy has become one the 'blue ribbon' stars of the MPNFL and has played more than 120 senior XVIII games with the Tigers.

ROUND: 12 AT TYABB: THE MPNFL PINK ROUND

DROMANA: 23. 10. 148 DEFEATED TYABB: 10.16.76

Goalkickers: E. Johnstone 6 Hutchinson 4 Fowler 4 A. Hunter 3 S. Geurts 2 W. Geurts 2 R. Gregg L. Waugh

Best Players: S. Geurts E. Johnstone J. Quigley S. Clarke R. Johnston J. Hutchinson



Sam Fowler- On the run and four goals against Tyabb. As predicted some years ago , Sam was headed for bigger things in football; and this season (2022) he has received considerable kudos for his performances as a running forward and a creative ‘cruiser’ in the forward line with Collingwood in the VFL.



Zac Muschilli – Since his arrival from Edi-asp in 2017, Zac has played more than seventy games with DFNC and has become a steadfast defender and loyal club man. His experience has meant a great deal to the young players of the club and his decision making ‘under fire’ has saved the Tigers countless times in close games.

THE TIGERS FALL SHORT IN 2017

Tigers fall short

At that stage of the season, the Tigers had worked their way into the Five and sat in fifth position on the NFL Ladder with 8 wins and a percentage of 120.22%. The other clubs making up the Five were: Sorrento, Rosebud, Frankston and Hastings.

Sadly in life and football, all good things must come to an end; and the seven-game winning streak concluded at Pier Street in Round: 13 when Frankston: 13.9.(97) defeated Dromana: 11.9. (75).

The race to the finals had been exciting; and, at one stage, in the last few weeks of the season, the percentage difference between Dromana and Red Hill was a mere 1.64% .

Mathematics came to the fore in the Tigers' fortunes in 2017; and who could ever forget the scene as supporters gathered in the club rooms to await the results from other local matches. All eyes were on Graham Stelling (who had access to the MPNFL lives scores) as players, officials and supporters awaited 'his call. '

Having completed his calculations, Graham announced that the Tigers had just failed, in their quest to make the finals, by some 5%. So near yet so far; and everyone could only think about what might have been. However, time would prove the old adage...

"That good things come to those who wait but better things come to those who work for them."

THE 2017 LADDER AFTER ROUND: 18

1	SORRENTO	18	17	1	0	0	0	2375	1013	234.45	68
2	ROSEBUD	18	14	3	1	0	0	1791	986	181.64	58
3	FRANKSTON	18	14	4	0	0	0	1722	1152	149.48	56
4	HASTINGS	18	12	5	1	0	0	1802	1245	144.74	50
5	RED HILL	18	11	7	0	0	0	1523	1151	132.32	44
6	DROMANA	18	11	7	0	0	0	1713	1351	126.79	44
7	SOMERVILLE	18	9	9	0	0	0	1497	1469	101.91	36
8	DEVON MEADOWS	18	5	13	0	0	0	1313	1525	86.10	20
9	PEARCEDALE	18	5	13	0	0	0	1277	2049	62.32	20
10	RYE	18	5	13	0	0	0	1207	1956	61.71	20
11	CRIB POINT	18	3	15	0	0	0	1043	2009	51.92	12
12	TYABB	18	1	17	0	0	0	856	2213	38.68	4

PERCENTAGE REALLY MATTERS IN FOOTBALL

For our younger readers, the team's percentage during the season is calculated by dividing the points for (total points) by the points against (i.e. Total points kicked by opposition teams).

Using the example of Dromana in the above table: Dromana points for: 1713 ÷1351 (total points against) x 100=**126.79%**

Bearing the above in mind, it is important for footballers to appreciate that every point scored in a match can have consequences over a season. It is important that players try to eradicate 'easy' opposition goals (e.g. 50 metre penalties) and to fight desperately to the final siren in each and every game.

THE TIGERS ROAR IN 2018

Rikki Johnston's first year as coach had been imposing in two ways. Not only had he staunched the bleeding at the club but had revived spirit and restored collective belief in the club.

It was indeed disappointing for Dromana to miss the Final Five by 5.5% but the club had issued a strong warning across the Peninsula for the years ahead.

As most readers know, 2018 would deliver the benefits of the renewal in a way in which the club's loyal supporters could only dream.

REFERENCE & RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Sources: 'Personal files. MPNFL archives, DFC team sheets, personal files and notes.

Article reference: 'The Streak of 2017' (Ref: 2022/17)

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