

THE INAUGURAL GAME -1934

On Saturday April 28, 1934 Swan Districts Football Club became the eighth club to join the WANFL. On that historic day Swans failed by 17 points to notch up their first win in their inaugural match against East Fremantle.

Over the years Swan Districts have had two impressive eras - the first one came in the 1960's under Haydn Bunton and then in the 1980's under the guidance of John Todd. Currently Swans are being coached by Steve Turner who will attempt to guide the 2000's team to another golden era.

Swan Districts have had some fine teams over the many seasons and the side which represented the club on that memorable day in 1934 was no exception.

Just take a look at the talent in their line-up which is seen below:

FULLBACK	E. Ford	J. Reilly	J. Penberthy
HALF BACK	C. Perham	G. Clarke	J. Zilko
CENTRE	G. Krepp	R. Grieve	H. Mosey
HALF FORWARD	K. Kneebone	J. Parks	G Bee (Capt/Coach)
FULL FORWARD	C. Hellmrich	N. Gorn	W. Dawes
RUCK	H. Forbes	R. Millwood	F. Sweetapple
19th MAN	G. Broomall		
UMPIRE	C. Cook (First League Match)		

The first captain-coach for Swans was H. George "Judda" Bee, who had been recruited from East Fremantle. Judda Bee had come with some experience as he had previously represented East Fremantle in the 1928, 29, 30 and 31 premierships teams.

Right from the outset Swans became quite competitive in winning seven games in their first season in the WANFL. That performance is still a record for the most number of wins for a football club in their first season.

In Swans opening game they were at a disadvantage even before the ball was bounced, because East Fremantle were the reigning premiers.

However, Swans surprised everyone that day showing great fight and skill and it was only in the dying stages of the match that East Fremantle were able to upstage the debutants.

A report from the Daily News that day said the new players revealed surprising aerial ability and they had been able to halt the influence of George Doig, who kicked eight goals, the result might have been different.

The report also read: *"Swan Districts had only three new players - Bee (captain-coach), Sweetapple and Grieve - who had played league football. The new club was loudly applauded as the players*

filed onto the ground...

"There was a loud roar when Sweetapple kicked Swans first goal.

"Swan Districts were marking splendidly, but their full-forwards were letting them down.

"At quarter time the score board read East Fremantle 5.5 (35) to Swan Districts 2.2 (14).

"The pace continued to be fast and while Swans suffered through a lack of experience, the play still keenly contested."



By three-quarter time the deficit was just 12 points and the scene was set for an exciting last quarter. Here is how the Daily News reported the final term of the match:

"Determined to make their position more secure, Old Easts went into attack immediately and Martienson, who was playing in a forward-pocket, booted a useful goal. Swans appeared to be lasting better than their opponents and a feature of their movements was their excellent marking. Their backline, which had been solid throughout, was now more that a match for Easts forwards:

"A goal from Gorn left Swans with a deficit of only eight points and they launched a spirited attack. For once Easts backline became disorganised and Dawes snapped full points. With 14 minutes play, Swans were only a point behind and making a bold bid for victory.

"McGlenn broke through for Easts, but when a score seemed likely Ford marked in the goal mouth. Easts came again. McGlenn and Reynolds combining to place the ball with George Doig. A sing resulted. Swans players were showing surprising grit and determination in a crisis and were fighting valiantly for the lead. Taylor's cool play was a valuable assistance to Easts at this stage and he repeatedly drove the ball forward.

"After three sinals had been added, full points from Georae Doia eased the situation for Old E

During the last few minutes of the quarter Swans attacked vigorously, but mainly through the efforts of C. James and Jervis they were able to record a major score."

Match Details

East Fremantle	5.5	7.14	13.17	16.23	119
Swan Districts	2.2	6.4	13.5	16.6	102

Goalkickers: East Fremantle: G.Doig (8), Matienson (3), McGlinn (2), Kingsbury, Reynolds and Fordham (1). Swan Districts: Gorn (4), Dawes (4), Bee (3), Sweetapple (2), Penberthy, Kneebone and Parks (1).

Best Players: East Fremantle: Jarvis, McGlinn, G.Doig, C.Doig, Reynolds, C.James. Swan Districts: Pat Grieve, Bee, Krepp.

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