

TED HOLDSWORTH - GOAL KICKING CHAMPION

When looking through the Swan Districts goal-kicking records one name stands out above all others - Ted Holdsworth- who was undoubtedly a champion goal kicker. And although he never headed the WAFL goal-kicking list, he was a prolific goal scorer.

If not for the war his feats would have been greater because of his versatility. Holdsworth, on many occasions would kick five or six goals in the first half of a match at full-forward, only to be moved to centre half-forward in an effort to help create opportunities for his side. He was a high marking player who was suited to either position, but he finished his career playing full-back - a position he enjoyed playing in the most.

Holdsworth led the club goal-kicking list on seven occasions and was the first Swan Districts player to notch up the magical 100 in a season. The year was 1937 and he was well on the way to a record when he broke his hand and had to miss the last five games for the season. In the first 14 games of the 1934 season Holdsworth had kicked 109 goals and seemed destined to be the first Swans player to head the WAFL goal-kicking ladder.

However, fate played its part and unfortunately Holdsworth finished the fifth highest goal-scorer for the season. It is unusual for a full-forward to kick that many goals and not finish in the top three, but during the 1937 season there were some great forwards around in the likes of George Doig, Ron Tucker, Ted Tyson, Bert Gook and George Maloney.

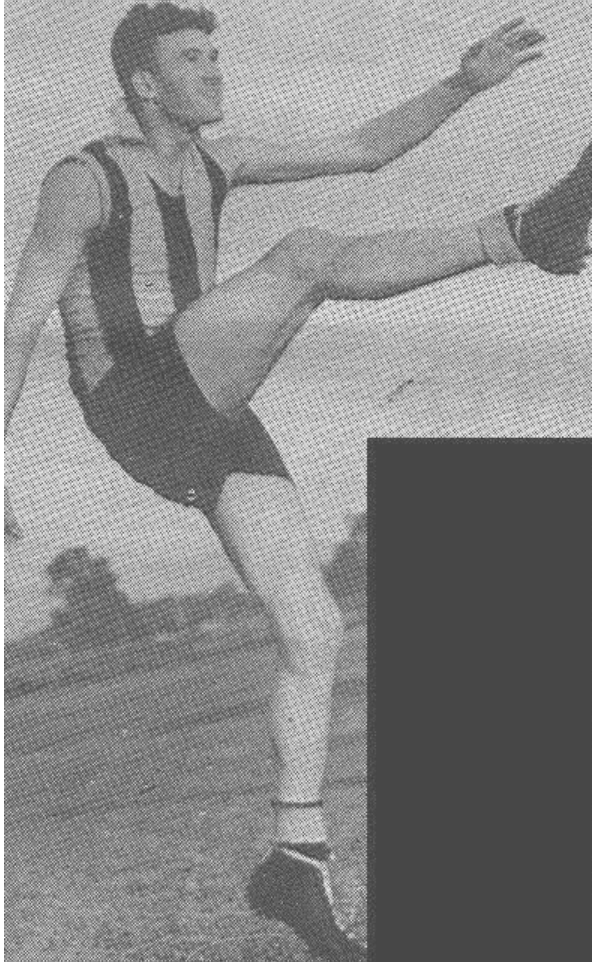
Holdsworth kicked 10 or more goals three times in his career . On May 15, 1937 in a game against East perth he booted 10 goals out of a Swans total of 12 goals. A truly remarkable feat. He also kicked eight of swans nine goals in another game.

Holdsworth began his football career as a full-forward and says that he relied more on his marking ability and accurate torpedo punt than on leading for the ball.

Until 1981 when Simon Beasley registered 119 goals, Holdsworth was the only Swans player to have ever registered triple figures. His highest tally in the WAFL was recorded in 1938 when he booted 116 goals. His attempt to head the goal kicking table was again short of the total of 126 goals kicked by Ted Tyson from West Perth.

A tribute to this man's ability occurred in 1945 when playing at centre half-forward he managed 80 goals.

His ability to read the play contributed greatly to his efforts in that remarkable year.



Ted Holdsworth in Action

Holdsworth would probably have been successful as a full-forward in this day and age. Versatility is the key to footballer's make-up these days and that is something that Holdsworth certainly had. He started his career as a half-forward flanker, moved to the full-forward role, then took over at centre-half forward. Later moving to play most of his football at full-back , occasionally filling in at half-back.

He represented Western Australia in 1938 and 1946 playing in his two favourite positions - full-back and full-forward.

And Holdsworth was not the type of man who did not take out of football without putting something back into the sport. He had been involved with

Swans from their inception in 1934 until his death on the 23 September 1984, one day after Swans had won their third premiership under John Todd.

He succeeded firstly as a player, then in 1952 spent one year as senior coach were according to some was ahead of his time. He tried to implement a harder training program and demanded sacrifices from his players that they normally would not have accepted. He later moved into an administrative role within the club as a vice-president.



Ted Holdsworth, a State Selector pictured with the Swan Districts State Representatives of 1965. (Back) Tom Stannage, Colin Maynard, Tony Nesbit, Bill Walker. (Front) Ken Bagley, Ted Holdsworth and Peter Manning.

A former president and general manager of Swans, Stan Moses described Holdsworth as the best football administrator he ever worked with.

Holdsworth also found a niche as a state selector. In 1961 he was involved with the WA State team in that role when they achieved that famous victory against Victoria in the State Carnival held in Brisbane.

He also served as a trustee of the club and was involved with the development of junior footballers. Holdsworth also became a life member of the WAFL in 1966 and later was awarded a Certificate of Merit in 1981 from the Australian National Football Council for his contribution to football in this state.



Simon Beasley Swan Districts have not had many outstanding forwards over the years, but Holdsworth's contribution has offset the non-appearance of other top goal scorers. In recent times the club have produced players like Eric Gorman, Max George, Mark Olsen, Simon Beasley and Troy Ugle who were all first-class forwards, but they were few and far between.

Eric Gorman, who kicked 555 career goals during his 163 games between 1961-69 was unable to reach the magical three figure total. The closest he reached was 93 goals in 1962 and 97 goals in 1965. During his period at full-forward for Swans he was overshadowed in the WAFL leading goal kickers list by the likes of Austin Robertson of Subiaco and John Gerovich of South Fremantle. Gorman does however hold the record for the highest number of goals in a grand final in 1963, when he kicked 9 goals playing against East Fremantle.

Holdsworth produced his last bag of 10 goals in a match against Perth on September 3, 1938. It was not until June 1974 when another Swans player was to post double figures. That player was Max George who in the same season also became the first player from Swans to head the WAFL goal-kicking table when he kicked a tally of 90 goals which included one goal in a finals match

George remained alone in the position of being the only Swans player to head the table until Simon Beasley achieved that aim in 1980 when he shared the goal-kicking award with Warren Ralph of Claremont. since that time there has been Brent Hutton who kicked a tally of 83 goals in 1984 and Kevin Caton with 51 in 1992.

Ted Holdsworth's football career went well beyond his distinguished playing record. He is one of the most important figures in the history of the Swan Districts Football Club.

Swans Players Who Have Kicked Ten or More Goals in a Match

Goals	Player	Versus	Date
10	Ted Holdsworth	East Perth, Bassendean Oval	15 May, 1937
11	Ted Holdsworth	South Fremantle, Bassendean Oval	11 June, 1938
10	Ted Holdsworth	Perth, WACA	3 September, 1938
14	Max George	West Perth, Bassendean Oval	29 June, 1974
10	Brian Close	East Fremantle, Bassendean Oval	2 August, 1975
11	Mark Olsen	South Fremantle, Fremantle Oval	6 May, 1978
13	Mark Olsen	Subiaco, Bassendean Oval	17 June, 1978