

MITCHAM FOOTBALL CLUB – ‘HALL OF FAME MEMBER’ (#2)

Lionel ‘Sport’ Sewart

(1908 – 2000 Age 92)



Lionel ‘Sport’ Sewart was a local Mitcham boy. ‘Sport’ was head of the Sewart family ... a famous name and family within the Mitcham Football Club (MFC). His father Ephraim was a stable manager and moved to Mitcham to take up employment at Mr. Walker’s Australian Tesselated Tile Company (ATTC). ‘Sport’ was born in 1908.



Lionel 'Sport' Sewart

‘Sport’s’ first year at MFC was strangely in the Club’s Under 21 team in 1925. His back-fence neighbour and good footy mate was the famous Bob Pratt (who kicked 150 goals in the VFL at South Melbourne in 1934).

‘Sport’ said: “The players used to run the team themselves, buy our own footballs and put a shilling in for the famous Fred Willis bus to get to the opposition ground”.

In later years ‘Sport’ experienced the horrors of the Great Depression of the early 1930’s. Sport recalled “12 of the 20 senior players were unemployed, so footy played a bigger part of their life. They often starting training far earlier, at 3.00pm”.

The Great Depression was the reason why the Mitcham and Vermont clubs merged for three years 1932 - 1934. In 1932, and much to Mitcham’s chagrin, the team jumpers were stolen. No doubt to keep someone warm. And so, the merged team had to play in the ‘dreaded’ Vermont purple and yellow jumper. The team was known as the ‘Combined’s’ Mitcham / Vermont Football Club.

In 1935 Mitcham FC returned under its own name, with ‘Sport’ as Captain / Coach. The Club had immediate success that year, taking out the 1935 Premiership.

‘Sport’s’ Mitcham FC Record:

Player	1925 – 1938
Games	205
Position	Centreman
Best and Fairest	1931
Captain / Coach	1933 - 1935 (3 years)
Premiership Player	1935
Committee	1948 – 1953 (6 years)
Life Membership	1949
President	1950 - 1952 (3 years)
Premiers	1952
Hall of Fame	2010 Foundation Member



L-R: ‘Sport’ Sewart & Bob Pratt 1929 GF Team



L-R: Bob Pratt and 'Sport' Sewart at the MCG in 1996