

VALE Bill McKenzie

The club is saddened to inform supporters of the recent passing of one of the best full forwards the club has seen, Bill McKenzie. “Billy” was an unsung hero of the club in the 1950’s when, apart from the 1952 premiership, the club had a relatively lean period. He attracted many young supporters to the club as the traditional fast leading, high marking, full-forward in the classical style.

In 1950 Bill won the Best Forward Award, at the age of 17, after coming straight from the senior colts of 1949. He was a sensation with his remarkable leaping and brilliant finger-tip marking. He played at full forward even though he was then only 5’ 10” and weighed 12st 7lbs.

The annual report of that year predicted that he “and gave every promise of developing into a grand player”. After playing 10 games he represented the State Third Team that year.

The next year Bill played all 26 matches, despite doing his National Service at Woodside. In 1952 an attack of fibrosis prevented him from playing any matches and consequently missed the premiership team. He fulfilled his great promise the next year by playing all 18 matches and kicking 60 goals and won the Best Forward Award.



In 1954 Bill was the SANFL leading goalkicker with **67** goals and had his best season being selected in the State side that visited Victoria. He won the Most Consistent player 1954.

The Annual Report of that year commented,
“BILL McKenzie. High-flying full forward, able to interchange at half forward flank or centre half forward. Has very safe hands and accurate kick”.

He again won Best Forward in 1955, (34 goals), and 1956, (60 goals).



In 1957 Bill was able to play only three games before employment took him to the South-East, where distance precluded his further playing of senior football. He continued his football career in the country with the best wishes from the club.

Bill later relocated to New South Wales and lived there until he passed away late last month. The NAFC pays tribute to a club and league leading goalkicker.