

Alastair Lynch

AFL

Alastair Graeme Lynch (born 19 June 1968) is an aussie rules footballer full forward from Burnie, Tasmania who had a highly-successful career, despite chronic illness and injury.

Whilst playing for the Hobart Football Club in Tasmania in 1986, Lynch was drafted by the Fitzroy Football Club in Melbourne. In 1988 he played his first senior match for Fitzroy and played that season in the backline, where he quickly made a name for himself as one of the toughest backmen to play against. His battles with the likes of Dunstall and Lockett were thrilling. In '91 he won mark of the year and by '93 Alistair had been switched to the forward line where he kicked 68 goals and won Fitzroy's best and fairest.

Lynch transferred to the Brisbane Bears in 1994 unfortunately getting injured and not being able to perform at his best. In 1995 he was diagnosed with a mystery illness which was later found to be chronic fatigue syndrome which kept him out of the '95 season altogether.

When returning to football in 1996 he was once again tried both ends of the ground. By the time bears became lions in 1997 Lynch was once more a permanent forward and was also named captain alongside Michael Voss. But in both the '97 and '98 football seasons he was still struggling with the virus which left him lacking consistency on the footy field. In 1998 he had charges dropped against him for using a banned drug to combat his fatigue syndrome, as the AFL had previously allowed him to use it!

By the 2000 season Lynch was full forward and in top form. Under the coaching of 'Lethal' Leigh Matthews Lynch destroyed full backs across the country. He was an integral part of the Brisbane Lions Premiership teams of '01, '02 and '03. His partnership up forward with Bradshaw and Power was feared the length and breadth of the football world.

Having only retired recently in 2004 as the oldest player in the AFL, Lynch played 17 seasons and was one of the greats for the Fitzroy/Brisbane Lions football clubs. He stamped his mark on the AFL record books in his final season in 2004 when he became the 23rd player to kick 600 AFL goals, and the 43rd player overall and the 1st Tasmanian to play 300 AFL games. He also ranks equal 5th in all-time AFL finals goals.

Over his 306 games Alastair Lynch was one of the true champions, on and off the field, that aussie rules has ever seen. Whether battling full forwards, full backs or a debilitating virus, Lynch invariably came out on top.



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