

Robert "Dipper" DiPierdomenico

VFL & AFL

Robert "Dipper" DiPierdomenico (born May 5, 1958) is a former aussie rules footballer in the VFL/AFL.

The 'Big Dipper', as he is affectionately known, began and finished his football career at the Hawthorn Football Club in Melbourne. He debuted for the Hawks in 1975 but really started to make his mark in '78. In that year he was best on ground in the grand final against arch rivals North Melbourne. Coming off the bench, Dipper collected 21 possessions and took 6 marks to help the Hawks to a premiership.

That grand final performance put Dipper into the spotlight where he remained for the rest of his decorated career. He was as well known for controlling the wings as for his long curly locks and handlebar moustache. Dipper was a tough and uncompromising player who never took a backward step. Testimony to his ferociousness was the amount of times he fronted the tribunal!

In what has now become football folklore, Dipper was crunched in the 1989 grand final against Geelong, yet played out the match that the Hawks won with a punctured lung and broken ribs!

His achievements in the game are outstanding. He played 240 games, kicked 130 goals and played in 24 finals. He won 3 night premierships and 5 day premierships with Hawthorn. He was an integral part of the team of the '80s alongside legends such as Brereton, Dunstall and Platten. In 1986 he shared the Brownlow Medal with Greg Williams, was inducted into the AFL hall of fame in 2007 and was also named in the Italian team of the century. Dipper retired from the game in 1991 one of its superstars.

Since finishing up his playing career he has become one of footy's best known media personalities. On radio and tv his work as a boundary rider and special comments keep him in constant demand. Currently he is the face of Auskick.



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