

## Malcolm Blight

## AFL

**Malcolm Jack Blight AM** (born 16 February 1950) is a former Australian footballer who played for the Woodville Football Club in the South Australian Football League and the North Melbourne Football Club in the Victorian Football League during the 1970s and 1980s. He also coached at North Melbourne and Adelaide (with whom he won two Premierships - in 1997 and 1998) and Blight was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1996.

In 1968 Malcolm Blight began his football career at the Woodville Football Club in the South Australian National Football League (SANFL). 1972 was a stellar year for Malcolm as he won the best and fairest for Woodville and also won the Magarey Medal as the best and fairest player in the league, South Australian football's highest individual honour.

In 1974 Malcolm was recruited by the North Melbourne Football Club in the Victorian Football League and played 178 games for them until 1982. He was on the sides that won the premiership in 1975 and 1977. In 1978 Malcolm was best and fairest for the kangaroos as well as winning the Brownlow Medal in the VFL. He was leading goal kicker 4 times for the kangaroos and the Coleman Medal for the league's highest goal kicker.

He was one of the superstars of his era. Well known for taking spectacular goals on a regular basis and kicking bags of goals. He is fondly remembered by spectators, who claim to have been at Princes Park in 1976, for kicking a screw punt through the centre of the goal posts to beat Carlton after it was not unusual to hear some state as fact that it traveled 100 metres!

Over the course of his playing career he represented Victoria on 7 occasions (captained twice) and South Australia on 7 occasions.

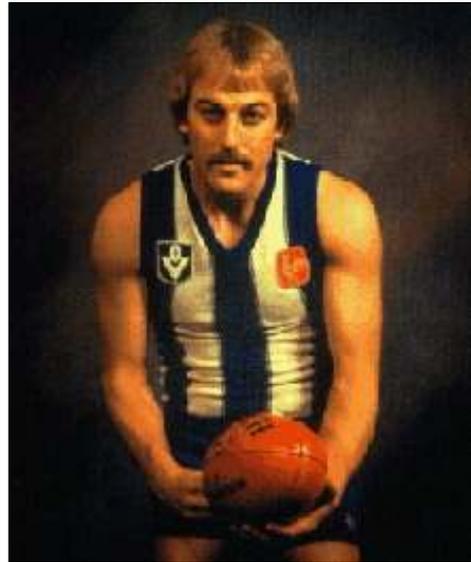
After his success on the park Malcolm continued his success in the coaching world. He is remembered by many not just for his outstanding record but also for his unorthodox coaching methods. He began as a coach at North Melbourne in 1983. He then moved to Woodville where he guided the club in 1984 to a premiership final to make it the most successful year in the club's history.

In 1989 Malcolm became coach of the Geelong Football Club. Between 1989 and 1991 Geelong played in 3 grand finals, yet never won! The '89 grand final is widely regarded as the greatest grand final ever played. From a 1-0 lead to his Geelong team won 89.

1997 saw Malcolm return to his home state of South Australia to coach the Adelaide Crows. He caused a stir from the beginning by sacking four club stalwarts. He was bounced. Whilst he received quite a lot of criticism for the sackings, the Crows won consecutive premierships in '97 and '98. He retired from the Adelaide Football Club in '99.

Malcolm had a short stint coaching St Kilda in 2001 but that ended after a few rounds.

Malcolm Blight is one of the true legends of Australian Rules, an entertainer, innovator, superstar.



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