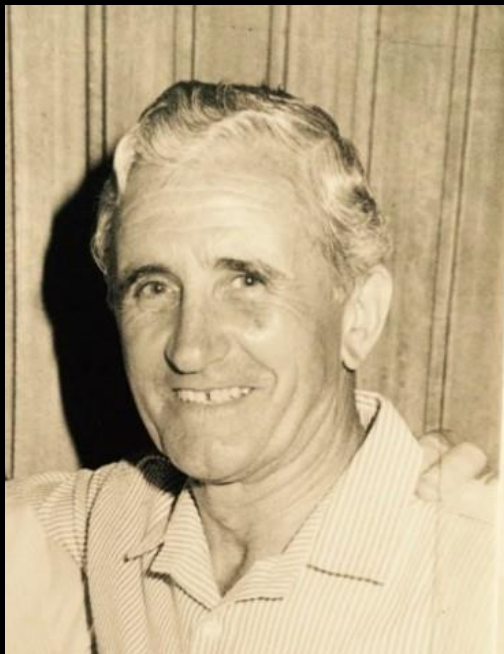




Southern Football Netball League

Hall of Fame



BILL OSTLE

FEDERAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- Coached Cheltenham Football Club 1956-58
- East Malvern Football Club Premiership Coach 1959-60, 1964, 1966, 1969-70
- Coached the Federal Football League Interleague Team 1970-71

'Tough love' and 'hard but fair' seem to be part of the mantra of old-school coaches.

Bill Ostle was certainly of that mould and was loved and respected and by all of the players he coached throughout his highly decorated career in the Federal Football League.

He began his coaching career with Cheltenham in 1956 and helped the Rosellas claim the reserves grade premiership in 1958. He then moved across to East Malvern the following year where he won another four senior premierships in seven years.

He also took charge of the FFL's interleague team in 1970 and 1971.

But while his impressive coaching record speaks for itself, what is less obvious was his ability to motivate, inspire and connect with his players. This was what made him the coaching great he was and is a massive part of the legacy he left behind.

One of Ostle's former charges at East Malvern was John Collins, the former President of the Beaumaris Football Club.

Ostle's daughter, Judy, who had sons playing at the Sharks at the time, remembered mentioning to Collins that her dad had played and coached at East Malvern. Collins then asked Judy what her dad's name was.

"(When I told him) his comment was (that) he was the toughest coach (he had) ever played under," Judy recalled.

"He was 17 at the time and they were at training and exhausted and dad said: 'right, boys, five more laps of the oval!' They were cursing him but as (dad) was doing the laps also (they) couldn't back out.

"Later in the dressing rooms they watched as dad took off his footy boots and the soles of his boots had broken through (the soles) and his feet were bleeding. John said he washed his feet, put his shoes on and hobbled home."

Tough as nails was Ostle, and he inspired his troops to be just as resilient. He had an amazing ability to motivate his players and get the best out of them.

One of his most famous disciples, the legendary Tom Hafey (Ostle coached all of the Hafey boys at East Malvern), wrote in his book that Ostle was a truly inspiring coach, which is a tremendous tribute to the great man.

Ostle left an indelible mark on every player he coached and his impact at both clubs will never be forgotten.

By Will Hunter