



# *Southern Football Netball League*

## *Hall of Fame*



# KEVAN 'ICY' HAMILTON

## FEDERAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- McKinnon Football Club Player
- 5 times Federal Football League, League Best & Fairest Winner (J W Allnutt Trophy)  
1958, 1961-64
- McKinnon Football Club Life Member

Few players have dominated the Federal Football League quite like Kevan 'Icy' Hamilton did.

A tall, damaging rover that was super-dangerous up forward, Icy was a true old-school footballer that had the potential to be a champion at the highest level. But the ever-humble Hamilton never really enjoyed the spotlight of the big league, instead preferring the more laidback environment of local footy.

After beginning his career at McKinnon in 1947 aged just 14, Hamilton played a season with Melbourne's reserves under legendary coach Norm Smith in 1955.

Hamilton was then famously cut from the Demons' list after a verbal altercation with legendary coach Norm Smith during the 1956 preseason. Hamilton was purported to have sworn at Smith, a claim he has previously denied.

"The papers made more of a deal out of it than what it actually was," Hamilton's daughter, Joanne Adams, said.

"He would go around and have cups of tea with him afterwards so it wasn't a big deal... he was friends with him afterwards."

He joined Carlton a few weeks later and enjoyed a stellar debut season, booting eight goals in his first two matches and finishing the year as the club's leading goalkicker with 22 majors. But after spending the entire 1957 season in the Blues' reserves, he was finally granted his wish for a clearance back to his original club McKinnon.

From there Hamilton then went on to become arguably the greatest player the Federal Football League has ever seen. Blessed with tremendous pace and skill, Icy was a five-time recipient of the J W Allnutt Trophy as the League's fairest and best player (including winning four in a row between 1961 and 1964).

But his biggest asset was his lethal right foot. With an uncomplicated, fluid action, he was a beautiful kick of the football and rarely missed a target. He could give the ball a mighty roost as well, and regularly practiced having shots at goal from the centre of the footy ground with his older brother. Hamilton also once won a long kicking contest at the Williamstown football oval in 1956 with massive 75-yard (68.5m in the current measurement) bomb.

After his playing career ended, his good friend Tom Hafey asked him to join Richmond as kicking coach in 1975. Hamilton gladly accepted and spent three years at Tigerland with T-shirt Tommy.

Despite compiling an outstanding football CV over the years, Hamilton's modest nature meant he was always reluctant to talk about his achievements. But his induction in to the SFNL Hall of Fame will ensure that his name is forever remembered as one of the greatest footballers of a bygone era.

***By Will Hunter***