

Oldest WAFL Footballers

A remarkable 10 players are known to have played a WAFL league game in their 40th year of age or beyond with the most recent example, Hall of Fame Legend, "Nipper" Truscott retiring in 1927. Three brothers in the famous Tyson family provide ample evidence of the iron constitution associated with that family gene. The eldest brother Charlie has the honour of being the oldest regular league footballer in WA as he was Vice Captain of Midland Junction and played 15 games in his final season, 1915. The oldest WAFL player Wally Watts was called out of retirement for a single game due to a desperate player shortage at Midland Junction caused by war enlistments. Ironically he replaced his two sons Fred and Albert in the side, both of whom had sustained injuries.

The oldest players for clubs **not listed below** are not known. For Perth, however, Fred Wimbridge is known to have been 36 in his final season (1929), whilst William Alfred Benjamin "Digger" Thomas, the oldest Sandover Medallist, was 37 in his final season for East Perth (1927), Tom Puddey was in his late 30's at Subiaco in 1919, Bill Walker was 35 in his final season for Swan Districts (1976) and Graham Moss of Claremont was also 35 in 1985. Research continues in an effort to prove the oldest player **at these clubs** and the League would be pleased to accept enquiries from claimants or their families.

		Club	Date of Birth	Date of Final League Game	Age at Last League Game Years, Days
WATTS	Walter	Midland Junction	17.06.1872	05.08.1916	44 years 49 days
TYSON	Charles Henry	Midland Junction	06.08.1872	28.08.1915	43 years, 22 days
CHRISTY	David "Dolly"	East Fremantle	03.07.1869	15.06.1912	42 years 347 days
TYSON	George Stephen "Tony"	West Perth	08.01.1883	07.06.1924	41 years 150 days
JEFFERY	Samuel Francis "Stan"	West Perth	03.04.1879	01.05.1920	41 years 28 days
TRUSCOTT	William John "Nipper"	East Fremantle	09.10.1886	17.09.1927	40 years 343 days
KENNY	Michael Joseph "Mick"	South Fremantle	09.10.1878	13.09.1919	40 years 339 days
SUMPTON	Jacob "Jake"	North Fremantle	1883	05.09.1914	40 years +
TYSON	Samuel Martin	West Perth	13.10.1887	03.09.1927	39 years 325 days
STRICKLAND	Frederick Phillip	West Perth	05.10.1875	17.07.1915	39 years 285 days

Youngest WAFL Footballers

Research on the youngest WAFL player is incomplete but it is highly unlikely that anyone was younger than Stan Hussey in his first official league game. Hussey was just over 14 when called upon to play for Centrals against West Perth in August 1891 due to the non appearance of a number of the selected side. Stan Hussey was a promising junior but the decision to play him was strongly influenced by his brother Bertram who was club Captain. Stan Hussey subsequently played in all the remaining games of the 1891 season and went on to a long and outstanding career with Rovers and Perth. He died at the age of 95 in 1972.

Joe O'Neil was 13 years and 4 months when he was named as a reserve for Swan Districts in a League sanctioned night game contested by non final qualifiers during the 1967 league final series. O'Neil did not take the field during the game and never played another senior game despite becoming eligible for Swans by this selection ruse.

Two players are known to have played WAFL football before their 16th birthday and more than 30 played before their 17th birthday. There has been an increase in frequency of 16 year old WAFL players since expansion of the VFL in 1987 and thus effective conversion of the WAFL to a national league feeder competition. There have been other times in the history of the WAFL when circumstances have resulted in a higher proportion of younger players eg during WW1 when the senior competition continued despite a heavy loss of potential players due to enlistment. It is known that numerous 16 year olds played league football at that time but birth records are insufficient to verify many of the cases.

Known cases of 16 year old players in the WAFL are listed in the table below and research is continuing in an effort to further consolidate the list. The list will be updated as information pertaining to such players is supplied to the WAFL.

Name	Club	Date of Birth	Date of First League Game	Age at First League Game
HUSSEY Stanley Francis Leitch	Centrals	28.07.1877	22.08.1891	14 years 25 days
MAGRO Stanley Charles	South Fremantle	28.07.1954	11.04.1970	15 years 257 days
MILLER Desmond F	South Fremantle	1937	05.09.1953	15 years +
SCHOLTEN Albert Barry	Perth	05.06.1957	02.06.1973	16 years 3 days
HEINRICHS Adolph H. J. C. (Dolph)	East Fremantle	28.04.1883	13.05.1899	16 years 15 days
JAKOVICH Glen Darren	South Fremantle	24.03.1973	08.04.1989	16 years 15 days
HENFRY Ernest Edgar	Perth	24.07.1921	11.09.1937	16 years 49 days
McKENNA Guy Lindsay	Claremont	11.05.1969	06.07.1985	16 years 56 days
WELLS Daniel	Peel	03.02.1985	14.04.2001	16 years 70 days
COMPTON Hector Leslie John	Claremont	14.02.1919	04.05.1935	16 years 79 days
ROGERS Glen William	East Fremantle	14.02.1963	09.06.1979	16 years 115 days
JOHNSTON Leo Clifford	Claremont	14.04.1939	27.08.1955	16 years 135 days
HENDRIKS Geoffrey Francis	West Perth	16.02.1959	30.08.1975	16 years 195 days
MONTEATH Bruce John	South Fremantle	20.09.1955	03.04.1972	16 years 196 days
MORISON John	Perth	04.11.1979	22.06.1996	16 years 199 days
COUSINS Bryan Ernest	Perth	29.12.1953	08.08.1970	16 years 222 days
MOODY Matthew	South Fremantle	23.09.1985	10.05.2002	16 years 229 days
FONG Leslie Robert	West Perth	24.08.1956	28.04.1973	16 years 247 days
WIRRPANDA David Selwyn	East Perth	03.08.1979	13.04.1996	16 years 254 days
STEWART Raymond Eric	South Fremantle	19.07.1958	05.04.1975	16 years 260 days
TAYLOR Garth	Swan Districts	10.07.1980	29.03.1997	16 years 262 days
HARDIE Bradley John	South Fremantle	10.10.1962	30.06.1979	16 years 263 days
MAHER Daniel	Perth	12.07.1981	04.04.1998	16 years 266 days
GOLDING Francis Hallett	West Perth	14.08.1890	11.05.1907	16 years 270 days
GARDINER Michael	Claremont	05.07.1979	08.04.1996	16 years 277 days
COUSINS Benjamin Luke	East Fremantle	30.06.1978	08.04.1995	16 years 282 days
McLEAN Craig	East Fremantle	19.08.1971	06.06.1988	16 years 291 days
BAGULEY John	East Fremantle	30.06.1948	01.05.1965	16 years 305 days
ALLARD Wayne Anthony	Perth	29.05.1974	06.04.1991	16 years 312 days
GEROVICH John Michael	South Fremantle	23.06.1938	14.05.1955	16 years 325 days
TODD John Herbert	South Fremantle	21.05.1938	23.04.1955	16 years 337 days
POLAK Graham Paul	East Fremantle	16.06.1984	04.06.2001	16 years 353 days
O'BRIEN Brock	Peel	30.05.1988	21.05.2005	16 years 356 days
GIBSON William Clifford	East Fremantle	1899	13.05.1916	16 years +
RODRIGUEZ Richard Patrick G (Pat)	West Perth	1900	August 1916	~16 years