

Kevin Best

Life Member CCSA 1989



Kevin came to the Central Coast in 1975 aged 27. He joined the Wyoming Club and tasted success for the Club with its first Senior premiership in only their 2nd year in the competition (the competition was first past the post – there was no final series or grand final in 1975). In the next six years, the team was able to play in six Grand Finals winning four. The team also won the Northern NSW Amateur Cup in 1976 and 1981 and Bloomfield Cup at Orange over the October Long weekend of 1976. During the late 1970s, Kevin was also involved with playing in the Central Coast Senior Representative side on the June long weekend tournament for the Northern NSW State Titles. In 1975, he represented the Central Coast in a Wyong Select XI against the visiting St George State League side at Baker Park Wyong. He retired in 1986 playing Wyoming 1st Grade team at the age of 38.

In 1978 Kevin became the President of the Wyoming Soccer Club - a position he would hold until 1986 (9 years). In 1981 Kevin answered the call to take Central Coast to the next step by having their own State League side. Kevin became President of the State League club for the 1982 season. It meant trips to Newcastle on a regular basis to set it all up. He was instrumental in attracting the NSW State Lotteries as a Major Sponsor.

In March 1982 the first game of the Club was played with Kevin (34) playing as well as being the President.

From 1985-1996 (12 years) Kevin took on the Central Coast publicity position where he established from 1985-1990 a monthly news magazine “Soccer Post” and later “Goal Mouth” distributed to all Central Coast Clubs.

1987-1989 (3 years) He coached the Wyoming 1st Grade side.

1987-1997 (11 years) He assisted the setup and running of the very successful end-of-season Cup Margin Cup. The tournament attracted around 800 players in 56 teams who played over the October Long weekend.

1988-1997 (10 years) He was Director of Marketing on the Board of Central Coast Soccer Association.

1990-1997 (8 years) He coached Central Coast junior representative sides which play in the Sydney Youth League competitions. His coaching at this level was highlighted in 1995 when his under 13 side went undefeated for 32 games.

1998-2000 (3 years) he coached junior teams at Wyoming and spent two years 2001, 2002 at Kincumber coaching his step-daughter Lisa Power (Van Dorp) in the Women’s 1st Division team. The team won the Premiership in 2001.

From 2003 Kevin assisted in the organisation of a very successful annual reunion weekend for the Wyoming Club, and from 2005 maintains the history of the Club.

From 2007 Kevin has been the Wyoming Club’s Non Comp Players Development Coach using the ABC Junior Football Program, together with other qualified coaches, supervising 20 team coaches and 180 players.

From 2010 Kevin, along with a committee of five, on behalf of the CCF, was actively involved with collating the history of the code on the Central Coast a daunting task, in which he said was a million piece jigsaw puzzle, but one he treated as a challenge, and one which collated information which will identify outstanding persons, who he have made a contribution towards the achievements of the game on the Coast.

Kevin was born in Bankstown, Sydney, in 1948.

In 1957, at age 9, he played his first game of soccer at Bankstown soccer club.

In 1958 the family moved to Punchbowl and he joined the Hurlstone Park under 10A team. That same team also contained Jim Fraser who went on to play for Australia in the 70s. Kevin, also meet his life-long friend, Dan Wilkinson, at the Club. Kevin was to remain at Hurlstone Park for 17 years until 1974 before his relocation to Gosford in 1975.

During his stay at Hurlstone Park, he also played for Canterbury Representative teams U10-U16s. In 1964 he was a player in the South Harbour side which played the exhibition junior lead up game to the Everton-V- N.S.W. game on the SCG in front of 40,000 spectators.

At Hurlstone Park, he was successful in winning 9 Grand Finals in 10 years starting in the U16s in 1964 and including 7 in a row from 1967 to 1973, with the Senior team. The team in 1970 also won the NSW Champion of Champions trophy.

As well as his success on the field he became interested in the running of the game. He became Minute and Assistant Secretary of the Club in 1970 and also went on to be Minute Secretary of the Canterbury Association. In 1973, Kevin was the Secretary for the Hurlstone Park 50th anniversary celebrations.

Throughout his soccer football career the major awards won by Kevin are: 1974 Life Membership, Hurlstone Park Wanderers Soccer Football Club, 1975 Player of the Year Wyoming 1st Grade, 1979 Central Coast Soccer Association Services to the Game Trophy, 1979 Life Membership, Wyoming Soccer Club, 1984 Gosford City Council's Australia Day award for services to soccer, 1986 Player of the Year Wyoming 1st Grade, 1989 Life Membership Central Coast Soccer Association, 1996 2GO Radio sponsored Central Coast Sports Person of the Year, 2011 Wyoming Football Medal for continuing long service to the Club.

Kevin has been, since 1957, a loyal and passionate servant to the game at all levels with a willingness to address the deficiencies in the preparation of young players at the grassroots level. He has set up a club program to assist coaches and parents at that level.

Kevin received an Order Australia Medal (OAM) for services to Football in the Australia Day Honours 2018