AFL top 5 goalkickers between 2013-2018

Teams that win grand finals tend to have dominant goal kickers and is considered important for any team to be successful. The aims of this research are to analyse data between 2013 and 2018 to investigate top 5 goal kickers and to check if they were featured in the champion team. It is hypothesised that teams who win the grand final will have a player that finished in the top 5 lead goal kicking.

Method

Dataset was downloaded from Kaggle and includes 63712 rows (players) and 36 columns including player DOB, team etc. Python 3 and Jupyter notebook was utilized. Pandas library was used to analyse the data. Subsets of the data was created from the AFL data frame consisting of 2012-2018 datasets.

Results

*Table 1.* AFL top 5 goal kickers between 2013-2018. Note: 2012 was a tie.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Coleman medallist | Runners up | third | fourth | fifth |
| 2012 | Lance Franklin (69) | Matthew Pavlich (69) | Jack Riewoldt (65) | Taylor Walker (63) | Tom Hawkins (62) |
| 2013 | Jarryd Roughead (72) | Travis Cloke (68) | Jeremy Cameron (62) | Lance Franklin (60) | Josh Kennedy (60) |
| 2014 | Lance Franklin (79) | Jarryd Roughead (75) | Tom Hawkins (68) | Jay Schulz (66) | Josh Kennedy (61) |
| 2015 | Josh Kennedy (80) | Eddie Betts (63) | Jeremy Cameron (63) | Taylor Walker (59) | Jack Gunston (57) |
| 2016 | Josh Kennedy (82) | Lance Franklin (81) | Eddie Betts (75) | Tom Lynch (66) | Josh Jenkins (62) |
| 2017 | Lance Franklin (73) | Josh Kennedy (69) | Joe Daniher (65) | Ben Brown (63) | Eddie Betts (55) |
| 2018 | Jack Riewoldt (70) | Ben Brown (61) | Tom Hawkins (60) | Lance Franklin (57) | Luke Breust (54) |

The results indicate in 2012, Lance Franklin and Mathew Pavlich were the dual Coleman medallists. In 2013, Jarryd Roughead was the Coleman medallist. Please refer to table 1 to see list of Coleman medallists between 2012-2018, the top 5 goal kickers and amount of goals scored for the year.

Discussion

The results are mixed with 3 seasons showing the champion team had a player in the top 5 goalkicking while the other 4 seasons the champion team did not have a player in the top 5 goalkicking. This contradicts the hypothesis that teams who go on to win the grand final have a player that is in the top 5 goalkicking. This suggests that teams can still win premierships without dominant goal kickers in their side.