

= Joe Wilson (Australian footballer) =

Joseph Francis " Joe " Wilson (27 September 1870 ? 7 December 1912) was an Australian sportsman who was prominent during the late 19th century . Originally from Launceston , Tasmania , he was educated at Launceston Grammar School and played Australian rules football and cricket for the school 's firsts aged only 15 . In addition to his school sports , Wilson played football for the Launceston Football Club in the Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) and cricket for several senior Launceston clubs . He established himself as one of Launceston 's best all @-@ round sportsmen by the time he completed high school ; he was a prominent member of Launceston Football Club 's consecutive NTFA premiership teams of 1888 and 1889 , and he regularly represented Northern Tasmania in cricket and football .

Wilson moved to Melbourne in 1890 after being offered a banking job on the condition he play for the Melbourne Football Club , which competed in the Victorian Football Association (VFA) , and the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) . He played for the cricket club for four seasons , but was never consistently selected in the first XI . Wilson 's most notable performances for the MCC were the final match of the 1892 ? 93 season when he was part of a last @-@ wicket partnership that secured the premiership for Melbourne and a match against a touring English XI where he took the wickets of three Test cricketers .

As a footballer , Wilson was known for his marking and versatility ? he was as a utility who could be positioned as a forward , defender or follower . He quickly established himself as one of Melbourne 's best players and represented Victoria in his second season with the club . Melbourne had been one of the weaker sides in the competition when he joined , but the recruitment of Wilson and several other prominent players began to steadily turn the club around . By the mid @-@ 1890s , Melbourne was a regular contender for the VFA premiership and in 1893 and 1894 they finished runners @-@ up , both times to powerhouse Essendon . Towards the end of the 1895 season , the Melbourne captain , Eddie Fox , retired and Wilson was appointed his replacement for the remainder of the year . He continued in the role for a further season before retiring at the end of 1896 .

= = Early life = =

Joe Wilson was educated at Launceston Grammar School . A talented junior sportsman , he regularly represented the school in football and cricket . He is first recorded playing football for the school 's firsts in 1885 , which is around the same time he first played for Launceston Football Club 's seconds . The following summer he played cricket for his school and the Our Boys Cricket Club first XI . In one match for Our Boys , his batting was described by the Launceston Examiner as " the feature of the game " . In March 1886 , Wilson dominated a match between his school and Horton College ? he made 154 runs in his team 's first innings , at the time the second highest individual score ever recorded at the Launceston Cricket Ground , and then took 17 wickets , including a hat @-@ trick , for only 28 runs in Horton 's two innings . At the conclusion of the cricket season , Wilson won two trophies from the Our Boys club ? for highest individual score and highest batting average .

In June 1886 , Wilson played his first match for Launceston Football Club 's senior team , in a non @-@ premiership game against Latrobe . He spent most of the season in the seconds and kicked one goal for the year . The next cricket season he again played for Our Boys and his school . On Boxing Day 1886 , Wilson represented Northern Tasmania in the annual North v South match in Hobart . After a match in February 1887 , Launceston 's Daily Telegraph described Wilson as " from his present form , [...] fit for any eleven in Tasmania " . At the conclusion of the cricket season , Wilson again represented Northern Tasmania , this time against the touring Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) .

Wilson played several matches for Launceston 's firsts during the 1887 football season . In a match against Holebrook , he was named among the team 's best players . Wilson played for his school during the 1887 ? 88 cricket season and , in one match against Esk , took five wickets for 67 runs (5 / 67) . Later that season he also played for Launceston Cricket Club in a game against Esk . In

April 1888 , he represented his school in rowing .

For the 1888 season , Wilson was made captain of the Launceston Grammar School football team . He also became a leading player for the Launceston Football Club . Wilson kicked two of his team 's three goals in a school match against Horton College , and was named in Launceston 's best players in several games , including matches against South Launceston and City that counted towards the premiership . In a match that was to decide the premiership , against South Launceston , Wilson put in a creditable performance . The game ended in a draw , which left the teams even on the ladder , and a subsequent game was scheduled for two weeks later . In that match , Wilson kicked one of Launceston 's five goals as they ran out two @-@ goal victors to win their first Northern Tasmanian Football Association (NTFA) premiership . He was named in Launceston 's best players for the match by the Launceston Examiner . For the following cricket season , Wilson moved to play with St. Leonards .

= = = After high school = = =

In one of the early matches of the 1889 football season , Wilson was best on ground in Launceston 's win against City . It was reported in June 1889 by The Colonist that Wilson had moved to Hobart and was likely to join Railway Football Club in the Southern Tasmanian Football Association (STFA) . However , before completing the move , Wilson changed his mind and elected to keep playing for Launceston . When Victorian Football Association (VFA) side South Melbourne toured in July , Wilson represented the NTFA against them ? he was named one of the local side 's better players in a six @-@ goal loss . Launceston won their second consecutive premiership that year . In a game towards the end of the season , En Avant of The Colonist described Wilson 's marking as " a treat to witness " .

Wilson played for Tamar Cricket Club during the 1889 ? 90 season . He again represented Northern Tasmania in the annual North v South match , playing an innings that was said to " please all lovers of the game " . In another representative match , he played for a combined Northern Tasmania side against the touring Victorians ; Wilson made 45 runs against a bowling attack that included Test cricketers Harry Trott and Eugene Palmer .

= = Melbourne = =

= = = Move to Melbourne = = =

In April 1890 , it was announced in The Colonist that Wilson was leaving Launceston to move to Melbourne . He had been recruited by Major Wardill , the secretary of the Melbourne Cricket Club , who offered Wilson a " lucrative position " at a Melbourne branch of the National Bank of Australasia if he came to play for the cricket club and the Melbourne Football Club , with which the cricket club had a close affiliation . On his departure from Tasmania , he was described as " the best all @-@ round cricketer and footballer in the North " .

Wilson made his debut for the Melbourne Football Club on 24 May in a match against Ballarat that did not count towards the VFA premiership . He had an immediate impact , kicking the first goal of the match . Wilson made his VFA debut a week later , playing as a follower in a match against South Melbourne . Writing in The Australasian , Markwell was complimentary of Wilson 's performance , saying he gave South trouble . In the round 8 match against Geelong , Wilson scored what was described as a " splendid goal " .

Wilson began playing with the Melbourne Cricket Club in the 1890 ? 91 season . He played two premiership matches early in the season , against Port Melbourne and Richmond , but scored only 13 runs in two innings and was not called upon to bowl . He did not play in another senior premiership game until the next season . In a match against Wesley College in March 1891 , he played a high quality innings , scoring 121 runs . Several weeks later , while playing for MCC 's seconds against South Melbourne 's seconds , he took 13 wickets for 61 runs . The Tasmanian

noted that it was pity he had not played that well earlier in the season , or he probably would have secured a permanent place in the first XI .

= = = Breaking through = = =

By the 1891 football season , Wilson was considered one of the best players in Melbourne 's team . In June 1891 , he was named among Melbourne 's best players in a win over St Kilda and was one of four Melbourne players to represent Victoria in an intercolonial match against South Australia . While reviewing the round 15 match between Melbourne and Geelong , Markwell wrote that Wilson was a particular crowd favourite due to his fair play . Wilson kicked a goal during the round 17 match against South Melbourne and was noted as being part of " a talented combination of followers " for Melbourne . In his review of the 1891 season , Follower listed Wilson among Melbourne 's followers who had " worthily held their own " throughout the year .

After a disappointing initial season for the MCC , Wilson 's 1891 ? 92 season was much more productive . A regular in the firsts , he was described as batting " soundly and freely " in a match against Carlton and made a " highly spoken of performance " against South Melbourne , where he scored 47 runs and was Melbourne 's leading wicket @-@ taker with three . Wilson played a total of four premiership matches for Melbourne that season and also represented them against Lord Sheffield 's touring English XI . In that match Wilson took the wickets of George Bean , George Lohmann and William Attewell , all Test cricketers . In the final match of the Victorian cricket season , to decide the pennant between Melbourne and South Melbourne , Wilson was selected for MCC , but did not get a chance to bat and only bowled four overs in a weather @-@ affected match that ended in a draw ? the premiership defaulted to South Melbourne because they had a slightly higher average during the season .

Wilson was again one of Melbourne 's better players for the 1892 football season . In a round 14 match against Fitzroy , Wilson kicked three of the Redlegs ' six goals in a one @-@ goal victory . Two weeks later , he was described as " performing meritoriously " in a game where he also kicked a goal . In the third @-@ last game of the season , Melbourne drew a match away to a poor Collingwood team . Markwell wrote in The Australasian that Wilson and Dolly Christy , who had both missed the match , were sorely missed . Melbourne finished the season in fourth position on the ladder , their highest finish since 1886 , though Markwell thought the result was disappointing when considering the calibre of players the club had recruited . He named Wilson as one of the team 's " most deserving " players for the year .

The 1892 ? 93 season was Wilson 's most productive in Victorian cricket . He played six senior premiership matches and took 10 wickets at an average of 22 @.@ 20 , including an innings of 3 / 40 against South Melbourne where he dismissed first @-@ class players Willie Over and Albert Rains . Melbourne played against Fitzroy in the final match of the season to decide the premiership . Fitzroy batted first and made 282 , with Wilson taking 3 / 56 from 18 @.@ 2 overs , including the wickets of Victorian players Thomas Hastings and George Beacham . Melbourne had only to pass Fitzroy 's first innings total to secure the premiership , but were in a perilous situation at 9 / 237 when Wilson came in at number 11 . He joined James O 'Halloran to put on a partnership of 48 , of which Wilson contributed 24 , which was just enough to surpass Fitzroy 's score . Writing for The Australasian , Felix observed that , although Wilson was not as comfortable at the crease as his partner O 'Halloran , he still put in a performance that was " deserving of mention " and that several of the fours he hit off Beacham " had to be seen to be appreciated " . Fitzroy got to 5 / 60 in their second innings before stumps was called and the result was declared a draw , enough for Melbourne to win the premiership . Wilson took one wicket from his two overs , that of Albert Fox .

Melbourne began the 1893 football season strongly , winning their first eight matches . Wilson missed the first match of the year , but returned for the Redlegs ' round 2 victory over Port Melbourne . He missed the following week 's clash against St Kilda due to work commitments , which The Sportsman jokingly called " a new experience for bank clerks " . In Melbourne 's victory over South Melbourne on 17 June , Markwell reported in The Australasian that Wilson 's performance was " meritorious " . Coming in to round 9 , both Melbourne and Essendon had both

won their first eight matches and the contest between the two was highly anticipated . In front of about 25 @, @ 000 spectators at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground , the two teams put on what Observer of The Argus called a great match . Melbourne kicked away early to lead by five goals to one at half time , but Essendon , who had won the past two premierships , fought back , kicking four goals to nil in the second half for the match to finish in a thrilling draw . Observer called Wilson a " first @-@ class Red man " and noted that he " [held] his marks well " while playing in the backline .

The Redlegs went on to win their next four games , including a match against Collingwood where Wilson played as a forward and kicked two of the team 's four goals in the absence of their main goalkicker William Smith . A week later against Fitzroy , Wilson again played forward and kicked two goals , including one from over 60 yards (55 m) out , in a two @-@ goal win . Wilson was one of Melbourne 's best in the round 13 game against Williamstown , according to the North Melbourne Advertiser . The next week Melbourne met Essendon for the second time that season . Each side had won all their matches for the year so far , except for the drawn game between the two teams earlier in the year . The Age wrote that the match had been eagerly awaited and that nearly 30 @, @ 000 spectators attended , including hundreds of people from places as far away as Bendigo and Ballarat . In a contrast to the two sides ' first meeting , it was the Same Olds who started strongest and they led by four goals to one at half time . Wilson had one of the opening shots on goal of the game , but was only able to register a behind . Melbourne began to come back in the second half and Wilson set up Mickey Roche to kick the Redlegs ' second goal of the match . At three @-@ quarter time , Melbourne were still three goals in arrears and they came out playing some of their best football of the year ? O 'Loughlin kicked a goal midway through the quarter and then several players , including Wilson , had unsuccessful shots on goal . Ernest Howes scored the Reds ' fourth goal , but it was too late for Melbourne as the siren to end the game sounded only seconds later .

Melbourne bounced back the next week with a win over Carlton , but lost the week after at home to Geelong , despite leading by five goals to one at quarter time . This opened up a two @-@ win advantage for Essendon at the top of the ladder . Reviewing the match , Markwell wrote that Wilson had played better games , but that he worked as hard as anyone on the ground and was " singularly unselfish " . Melbourne dropped more points with a round 17 draw against South Melbourne and when the Redlegs played another draw two weeks later , this time against St Kilda , The Argus declared the premiership race all but over . Wilson recovered from a form slump to kick both of Melbourne 's goals in the St Kilda match , but it was not enough to get the Redlegs over the line . He was again in the best players in Melbourne 's round 20 win over Carlton . The Reds closed out the season with two more wins , but it was not enough to catch Essendon who remained undefeated and Melbourne finished runners @-@ up . In his appraisal of the season , Markwell named Wilson in his best dozen Melbourne players .

Wilson 's last season for the Melbourne Cricket Club came in 1893 ? 94 . He missed the first two premiership matches of the season , but after top scoring with 47 and taking two wickets in a non @-@ premiership match against Fitzroy , Wilson was selected for the third match , against North Melbourne . Wilson took 1 / 72 in the first innings against North , the wicket being that of Isaac Drape , and scored 27 runs batting an number 10 . He was not called upon to bat or bowl in the second innings . Wilson was retained in the side for the next match against Carlton . He batted at 11 in the first innings and was on 0 not out when the innings closed . Wilson was not required to bowl or bat again in what ended up being his final match for the MCC . In total , he played 14 matches for Melbourne for a return of 138 runs at a batting average of 10 @. @ 61 and 15 wickets at a bowling average of 30 @. @ 73 .

= = = Post @-@ cricket retirement = = =

According to Observer , Wilson almost retired from football too , and it was only " with difficulty " that he was persuaded to continue training . He missed the first four games of the 1894 premiership season , during which Melbourne struggled and lost two . Wilson made his first appearance that year in round 5 against Richmond ; Observer wrote that Wilson 's return was an " agreeable surprise

" and that his marking in particular was impressive . He kicked one goal in a game Melbourne won nine goals to eight . The Redlegs faced Essendon the next week , who were again top of the table . Melbourne lost by four goals to six , largely due to their inaccuracy kicking for goal . Wilson was said by Markwell to " come under favourable notice " while playing in defence that match . Melbourne responded the next week to defeat Port Melbourne in game where Wilson 's leadership and direction was praised and Observer commented that he was " as useful a man as Melbourne had " . He was switched into attack for the round 8 victory over Carlton and Markwell wrote that Wilson was " frequently troublesome " .

Melbourne continued on their winning way with a round 11 win against South Melbourne . Wilson played forward and kicked three of Melbourne 's nine goals in a comprehensive victory . The Redlegs ' winning streak stretched to eight games ; during this time Wilson 's forward play was at various times described as " clever " , " busy " and a " shining example of unselfishness " . Melbourne 's good form came to a grinding halt in the reverse fixture against Essendon . They were comprehensively defeated by the Same Olds who secured their fourth consecutive premiership . The Reds ' forwards were roundly criticised by Observer , but Wilson was praised as the " only one of them who played a decent game " . Melbourne won two of their remaining three games to finish runners @-@ up for the second consecutive year .

Wilson began the 1895 season much as he had finished 1894 , playing in the forward line and often receiving praise from football journalists . Melbourne defeated South Melbourne in their first game of the season and Markwell wrote that he did " a lot of serviceable work " . In round 3 , the Reds were finally able to defeat Essendon after falling short four times in the previous two years , although the match was said to be of poor quality . Wilson was one of the Redlegs ' goalkickers . The club 's vice @-@ captain , O 'Loughlin , returned to Queensland in June and Wilson was elected to replace him . In his first match after being appointed , against North Melbourne in round 6 , Wilson was said to do " every honour to the distinction " as he played his best game of the season and kicked a goal to help Melbourne remain undefeated . Melbourne played Richmond the next week and won again with Wilson this time described as a " brilliantly consistent worker " . Their winning run continued through to round 9 as the Reds defeated Williamstown by a goal ; Wilson was " the pick of Melbourne 's forwards " that match according to Markwell . Melbourne 's undefeated run came to an end the next week , in a loss to Fitzroy . Due to the absence of many of Melbourne 's regular followers in round 14 against Essendon , Wilson was required to play in that position . The Redlegs lost the match , but Wilson was named one of Melbourne 's best on the day .

= = = Captaincy = = =

Eddie Fox , who had been Melbourne 's captain for six of the last seven seasons , retired from football in late August . Wilson was named captain in his stead at what was a difficult time , the Redlegs having lost their last two matches . In his first game in charge , against North Melbourne , Wilson was said to have " showed much judgment in disposing his men " . Melbourne won the match four goals to two and Wilson also had a good individual game playing in a variety of positions . The Reds finished the season having won three of their four games under Wilson 's captaincy , which was enough to finish third on the ladder , two wins away from Fitzroy in top spot .

Wilson remained captain for the 1896 season , though he missed the first four matches of the year due a suspension he had incurred at the end of the previous season . He returned to the side for round 5 against Williamstown and played up forward in a comfortable 11 @-@ goal win . In Melbourne 's round 7 win over St Kilda , Markwell wrote that Wilson was " distinctly at his best " . And in a round 11 victory against North Melbourne , the same journalist wrote that he had the " soundest judgement " of all forwards on the field . Wilson played " excellently " in the Reds ' defeat of Carlton the next week ; Markwell remarked upon his desire " to annihilate the men in blue " . He kicked his first goal of the season in round 15 , a two @-@ goal win over Collingwood , and finished the day with two majors . Markwell observed that Wilson 's " judgment and coolness " went a long way to Melbourne winning their round 16 encounter with Essendon . Melbourne finished the season in fourth place on the ladder . Though they never seriously challenged for the premiership , it was

noted that the club had bad luck through suspension and injury , and when they got their best team on the field they could challenge anyone . In his review of the season , Markwell named Wilson one of Melbourne 's best half dozen players .

Wilson retired from football at the conclusion of the 1896 season . In 1897 he played bowls instead of football . After his retirement , he was remembered as being " solidity itself " for Melbourne . In his native state he was mentioned alongside Fred McGinis , William Smith , Colin Campbell and George Vautin as players who left Tasmania and more than held their own against the mainland 's best .

= = Later life = =

Wilson worked for the National Bank of Australasia for 23 years at various suburban Melbourne branches , including East Collingwood , Clifton Hill , Boort and finally Footscray . He had a unique record of never missing a morning 's work with the bank . Wilson was married to Elizabeth Mackey , the daughter of a wine and spirits merchant . On 7 December 1912 , Wilson died at his home in Footscray of a heart ailment he had been suffering from for a year . He was survived by his wife and a child . He was buried at Footscray Cemetery .