# Optimal Ghost Team 2018 would have finished 77th

There’s at least one in every league. A SuperCoach team completely abandoned by their coach. One that idles through the season being obliterated by everyone else in the competition. While the rest of us diligently read articles, listen to podcasts, and invest quality time at work discussing trade strategies, these ‘ghost’ teams pose a constant and unwanted reminder that for some sad individuals, SuperCoach is not the be-all and end-all of life.

It’s a terrifying thought, but could one of these ghost teams take home the $50k? In what could only be considered the SuperCoach equivalent to remembering that back in 2008 your mate convinced you to invest in bitcoin, could a team that was set up at the start of the season and then forgotten about win it all?

Zero trades used, same captain, same vice-captain, same starting positions, same emergencies, and same ignorant coach not knowing the true thrill of coaching an imaginary team of players online.

Well thankfully the answer is no. In 2018, it was not possible. But with a total score of 52,935, which would earn you 77th position in a competition with just shy of 200k teams, the best possible ghost team does get hauntingly close.

Talk about a win for humanity. To those 76 teams who outscored the ghost, the community thanks you.

See below the optimal SuperCoach ghost team for 2018.

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| **Player** | **Price** | **Position** |
| Elliot Yeo (V) | $ 561,300 | BAC |
| Kade Simpson | $ 516,300 | BAC |
| Jake Lloyd | $ 479,900 | BAC |
| Jack Crisp | $ 455,300 | BAC |
| Jayden Short | $ 319,900 | BAC |
| Tom Doedee | $ 123,900 | BAC |
| Brody Mihocek | $ 102,400 | Sub-BAC (E) |
| Lachlan Murphy | $ 102,400 | Sub-BAC |
| Tom Mitchell | $ 653,500 | MID |
| Jack Macrae | $ 587,800 | MID |
| Patrick Cripps | $ 537,300 | MID |
| Stephen Coniglio | $ 452,400 | MID |
| Lachie Hunter | $ 452,300 | MID |
| Angus Brayshaw | $ 316,700 | MID |
| Jaeger O'Meara | $ 315,800 | MID |
| Timothy Kelly | $ 117,300 | MID |
| Nick Holman | $ 102,400 | Sub-MID (E) |
| James Bell | $ 102,400 | Sub-MID |
| Jake Brown | $ 102,400 | Sub-MID |
| Brodie Grundy (C) | $ 534,700 | RUC |
| Max Gawn | $ 503,700 | RUC |
| Tom Jeffries | $ 102,400 | Sub-RUC |
| Justin Westhoff | $ 479,600 | FWD |
| Tom Hawkins | $ 473,700 | FWD |
| Devon Smith | $ 439,100 | FWD |
| Luke Breust | $ 392,200 | FWD |
| Josh Dunkley | $ 296,900 | FWD |
| Bayley Fritsch | $ 117,300 | FWD |
| Jack Higgins | $ 130,800 | FWD (E) |
| Jack Henry | $ 123,900 | FWD (E) |

The idea that you could set this team up back in mid-March, never touch it again and come 77th is both a testament to lazy coaches and borderline offensive.

Granted there are an alarming number of mid-priced players. In fact, there are a total of twelve players in the team with a starting value of $200k-$500k. It is generally an accepted rule of thumb in SuperCoach that players in this bracket tend to be risky picks at the start of the season as it is hard to know which players will step up to become premiums in any given year. Well and truly falling in the risky business bracket at the start of season 2018 were: Jack Crisp, Jayden Short, Lachie Hunter, Josh Dunkley and arguably Luke Breust.

They are not shown here but there are a number of occasions when an emergency will have a high score just when required. For example, Jaeger O’Meara did not play in round 9, which allowed Nick Holman’s 122 points from the bench to count as emergency. Very smooth.

Just as in the Optimal SuperCoach team this year we see Gawn, Grundy and a rookie make up the rucks. The benefit of having such reliable stock in the rucks is that one of the four emergency positions is not required for this position.

Two emergency players in the forward line is potentially reckless considering that if only one emergency is required, then the lower point scorer of the two counts. In round 5, Hawkins and Frisch both do not play, which means both Henry’s 48 and Higgins’ 91 are counted. Likewise in round 10 with Westhoff and Dunkley not playing, Higgins’ 51 and Henry’s 99 are both counted. Very satisfying to see.

Brodie Grundy being made captain makes sense. He did after all finish as the highest point scorer out of any player. Elliot Yeo as vice-captain is a little bit surprising given he only finished as the 10th highest point scorer for the season. The reason for this is that during Grundy’s bye in round 13, which was the only game he missed for the season, Yeo scored a team-high 144 points.

As with the Optimal SuperCoach Team article, I used Mixed-Integer Programming to run this analysis. It is almost like this entire field of mathematics was accidently designed to answer hypothetical questions for fantasy football in hindsight.

So for those of you who made a beautiful team at the start of the year and proceeded to neglect it all its life, there is still hope you won’t be a terrible coach forever. After all, 77th is not bad for kicking your heels up all year.