

RAY DUTHY – AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE CHAMPION



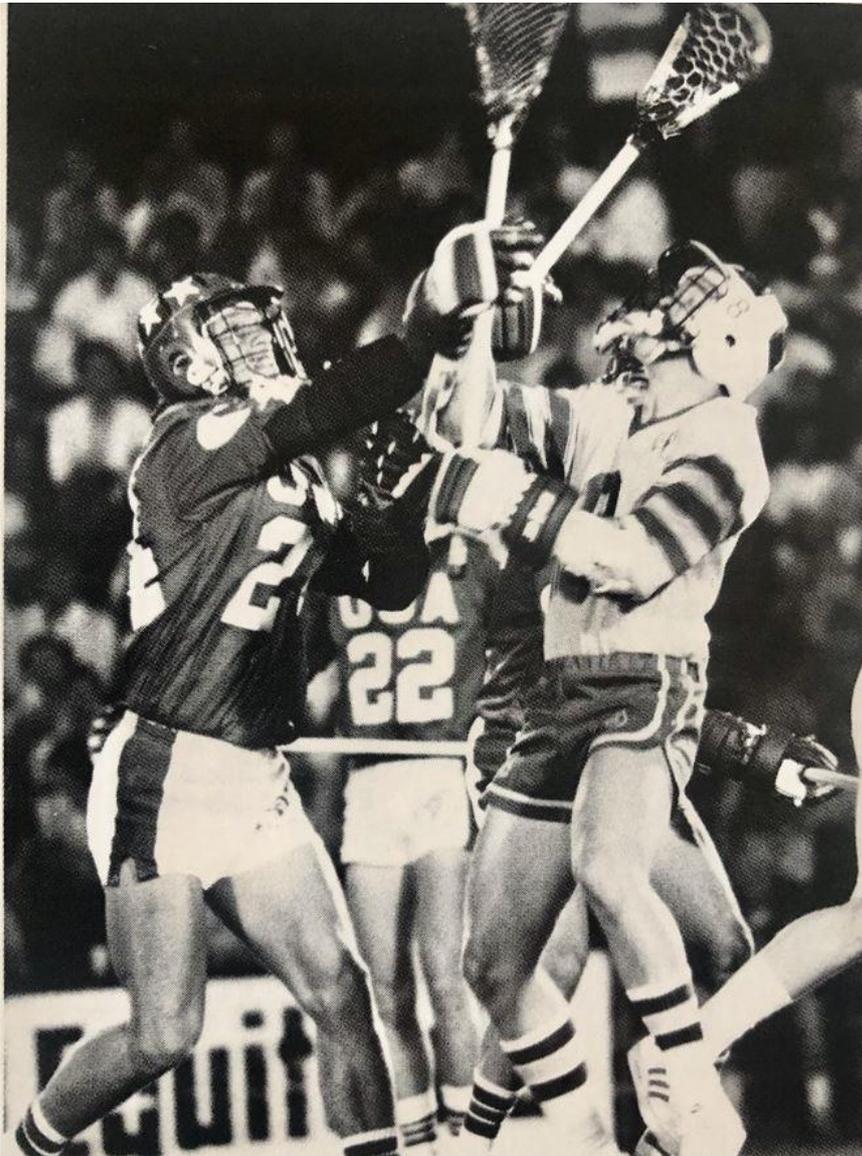
Ray "Dutchy or McDuff" Duthy started playing lacrosse at the age of 10 for Linden Park Primary School (the main feeder school for Burnside Lacrosse Club in SA) in 1963 in what was then called "F" grade (Under 12). This only came about because he wasn't selected in the school football team that weekend and asked a few friends who played lacrosse whether he could have a game of lacrosse instead. The upshot was he enjoyed lacrosse so much that he never again played a game of football, much to the chagrin of the school football coach who chided the lacrosse coach Hugh Holloway, a stalwart of SA lacrosse.

He then played in the junior grades at Burnside until 1967 when he was first selected in the State Under 16 team and also again in 1968. In 1968 he played in the "C" grade and then part way through the season was selected in the "A" grade (State League) team. In 1969 he again played in the Burnside State League team and was selected in the State Under 19 team before transferring to Adelaide University Lacrosse Club in 1970 by virtue of the compulsion rule.

He played for Adelaide University from 1970 to 1978, with the club winning the State League premiership in 1975 and finishing runner up to an extremely strong Brighton team in most of the other years. He was co-captain of the club from 1976 to 1978, won 6 best and fairest trophies and was awarded a Full University Blue in 1971, the year in which he became the first University player in their history to throw 100 goals in a season, which he did 4 times for the club.

In 1979 he was "headhunted" to Glenelg by his business partners, the Hobbs family. The team won the State League premiership that year, before Ray decided it was time to return to Burnside. He played at Burnside from 1980 to 1989 during which time he was co-captain of the club and playing coach in 1987. He won various club and association awards during that time.

In 1976 Ray was co-captain of the Australian touring team that played in the US, Canada and England and was also co-captain of the 1978 and 1982 Australian teams for the World Series in Manchester and Baltimore. He was also selected in the 1986 Australian team for the World Series in Toronto, was co-captain of the Australian team that played against Rutgers University in 1980 and also co-captain of the 1984 Australian Pre-Olympic team that played in Los Angeles.



In the state and national arena he won the best & fairest award in the 1971 Under 19 Australian Championship and in the 1976 senior Australian championship, was 6 times selected in the All Star Australian team and won the SA Savings Bank trophy in 1976 and 1981, and the SALA West End trophy in 1980 and 1982.

At club level over 22 years he threw 1,753 goals in 402 Senior games and represented SA continuously from 1967 to 1987 (1979 to 1987 as co-captain of the team) except when away with the Australian team.

Ray has also been a junior and senior coach of Burnside men's and women's teams, assistant coach of both senior state men's and women's teams and assistant coach of the Australian Under 23 team that toured Japan in 1989.

Off the field he was awarded the ALC Certificate of Merit in 1985, was inducted as a life member of Burnside in 1988 and was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000.

In terms of whom he would rate as his toughest midfield and defence opponents worldwide over the journey from 1967-1989 he chose the following

Australians – Peter Collett, John Carter & Trevor Stevens (SA), Peter Morley & Alan Bower (Vic), Jeff Kennedy (WA) and from the USA, Bill Marino, Jim Darcangelo, Vin Sombrotto and from Canada, John Jordan.

TESTIMONIALS

Peter Cann - Ray played a pivotal role in Australian lacrosse teams from 1976 to 1986, as Captain he showed leadership ensuring that both on field and off field roles were the highest quality, a good communicator with a strong work ethic, which was reflected in his midfield role. A hard working, committed player with solid skills, and an ability to read the play at both ends, which often created many opportunities for other players in transition. Ray was always well organized and willing to share ideas that improved teamwork and helped many players in a supportive manner, building confidence, inspired others by leading by example, always put the team first and was at his best in difficult situations. His courageous efforts in the 1982 and 1986 World Series were an inspiration to his team mates and will be always remembered as a great captain and player in Australian lacrosse.

Bill Stahmer - Dutchy was an extremely motivated athlete who drove himself physically and mentally to the top of his ability, intense but always available to help others in his team, a great captain who led by example and would support his team mates, also had a great core strength and balance with a big tank.

Alec Inglis - I had the great pleasure to coach Ray as both an assistant coach of the 1978 Australian team and again in 1982 and 1984 when I was the head coach, where Ray was a co-captain of each of these teams. His leadership both on and off the field was exceptional and he was highly respected by all teams members.

Ray was the complete midfielder. His all round talent to play attack or defence and his transition on the field were first class. His speed, game temperament, consistency and skills were exemplary, and he set a great example for his team mates. Ray was not only a great and inspiring state player for S.A. but also a great Australian lacrosse player.”

Well done Dutchy, a great lacrosse career.