

WHAT ARE THE SOCCER PAPERS SAYING?

- ▶ Harry Williams, the nineteen year old “rare gem” fullback of St George Soccer Club, who shows “amazing maturity, skill and tremendous dash which all could make him one of the best Sydney fullbacks within a season or two.”
- ▶ Harry Williams, “the greatest young footballer ever produced in Australia”.
- ▶ Harry Williams, the “first Aboriginal to represent Australia at soccer.”

Who is Harry Williams? He was brought up by foster parents in the St George district, where he was a successful high school footballer. Early in 1968, he went to Kirinari and finished his high school career at Gymea High School. After leaving school, he started work at the Taxation Department and switched clubs as well—from Western Suburbs to St George.

With St George, Harry played in the 2nd grade team as a left winger. But, being a natural left-footer, he was not a success as a forward. Then St George coach Frank Arok made two changes which were to make all the difference to Harry's soccer career. Arok switched him to the left full-back defense position. Williams proved himself so quickly there that in a matter of 3 or 4 weeks, he joined the 1st grade team.

Six matches later he was picked for the Australian National team which toured New Caledonia, Hong Kong, Macao, Teheran, Israel, Greece, England, Ireland and Mexico. In all, fifteen matches were played Results were: 9 wins, 3 draws, 3 losses (to Manchester City, Ireland and Mexico.) This was the best any Australian team has ever done. The team's defeat of Greece was considered its greatest feat. In view of the fact that the Australian team had been chosen with an eye to going to the finals of the 1974 World Cup in Germany, perhaps Harry Williams may well be going on another world tour before long.



Harry Williams.

The crowd watching a tricky manoeuvre during a match last year. (Photo by courtesy of Australian Soccer.)

