

The Sydney Morning Herald

Adam Goodes, Lewis Jetta, Cathy Freeman, Nicky Winmar: five times black pride was shut down

Date: July 29, 2015
By Marcus Strom

It seems to get under some people's skin: when black people have pride in theirs.

The justifications given for booing former Australian of the Year Adam Goodes are pretty inventive. Apparently he isn't booed for being black, it's "because he's a pillock".

Or it's typical of Adam Goodes "always playing the victim".

Or his "imaginary spear is frightening people".

Or "you can't blame a 13-year-old for being a racist".

It seems every time black people show pride in their skin, it upsets a whole bunch of people.

Adam Goodes is not the first time.

1. Cathy Freeman



Cathy Freeman holds up the Aboriginal flag alongside the Australian flag after her 400m win at the 1994 Commonwealth Games. *Photo: Craig Golding*

At the 1994 Commonwealth Games, Cathy Freeman was reprimanded by Games boss, Arthur Tunstall, for displaying the Aboriginal flag after winning the 400m race. After her win and lap of honour, Tunstall put out a statement emphasising that "the Australian team is competing ... under the Australian flag".

Asked if he had considered allowing Freeman some leeway, Tunstall said: "No. What would have happened if the other five ethnic groups [in the Australian team] had flown their flags? Total chaos."

At the time the *Herald* ran an editorial saying it was a "justifiable display of pride".

Nevertheless, at Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000, Freeman was warned she could be stripped of any medals at the Olympics if she showed pride in both her flags - Australian and Aboriginal.

The Olympic Charter states that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in the Olympic areas ..."

After winning the 400m in Sydney, she famously ignored those warnings and kept her medal.



Cathy Freeman celebrates gold in the Womens 400m Final at the Sydney Olympic Stadium. *Photo: Nick Wilson/Allsport*

American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos were not so lucky. After displaying the Black Power salute after winning gold and bronze at the 1968 Mexico Olympics for the 200m race, both men were booted from the Games.

The image of their raised fists has become one of the enduring symbols of the Olympic Games.

Australian Peter Norman won silver in that race and supported the stance of the Americans.



Tommie Smith (centre), and John Carlos (right) salute after winning gold and bronze at the 1968 Olympics.

2. Nicky Winmar



St Kilda player Nicky Winmar points to his skin in response to a racist taunt from the crowd. *Photo: Wayne Ludbey*

In 1993 St Kilda player Nicky Winmar faced a hostile Collingwood crowd at Victoria Park. Winmar and Aboriginal teammate Gilbert McAdam withstood racist taunts during the match. St Kilda emerged victorious and spontaneously at game's end Winmar lifted his arms over his head, then raised his St Kilda jersey to point at his skin, declaring: "I'm black - and I'm proud to be black!"

Despite his proud stance, the racist taunts continued. In 1999 Sam Newman appeared on *The Footy Show* in blackface after Winmar cancelled an appearance on the show.



Sam Newman in blackface after Nicky Winmar didn't appear on *The Footy Show* in 1999.

3. Adam Goodes



Adam Goodes calls out racism in 2013.

In 2013 Adam Goodes called out a Collingwood fan for calling him an ape.

That fan was a 13-year-old girl. She was ejected from the MCG for the racist remark.

Goodes said he was "gutted". "To come to the boundary line and hear a 13-year-old girl call me an 'ape', and it's not the first time on a footy field that I've been referred to as a 'monkey' or an 'ape', it was shattering."

But Eddie McGuire came to the girl's defence saying that he had spoken to the girl, who "didn't even know that it was racist".

4. Adam Goodes (again)



Adam Goodes celebrates a goal in May 2015.

In May this year, Goodes celebrated a goal with an Aboriginal war dance. Cue the upset crowd.

5. Lewis Jetta



Lewis Jetta celebrates his goal against the West Coast Eagles on July 26, 2015. *Photo: Daniel Carson/AFL Media*

Goodes' team mate, Lewis Jetta, performed a similar spear-throwing celebration last week, in part, he said, in support of Goodes who had been booed by the West Coast fans.

A former West Coast Eagles team mate of Jetta, Glen Jakovich, criticised Jetta who said his reaction was "unacceptable in any sport".

And now we have Alan Jones chastising Goodes for "playing the victim", lecturing him that he needs to change his behaviour if he wants to stop being booed.