

# How tall is Jason Batty?

If you're anything like me, the first thing you look for in All Whites match programmes are the vital statistics the fair-weather fans gloss over.

Yes, this is where the true anorak gathers ammo for the more interesting soccer theories. Like, er, do players lie about their height?

Today's conspiracy theory concerns the height of Jason Batty. How tall is this lad? Or should that be, how short is our Jason? after seeing everyone but him dominate the All Whites six yard box.

How reassuring to turn to the stats page of the programme and see Batty is 185cm tall and weighs 83kg.

For the record, that makes him taller than Ryan Nelsen (182cm), Chris Zoricich (180cm) and the equivalent of Jonathan Perry, Chris Killen, and Sean Douglas. (All 185cm). Hmm. It also makes him loads taller than Mark Burton (180cm), Chris Jackson (178cm), Aaran Lines (177cm), Gerard Davis (177cm), Paul Urlovic (178cm), Simon Elliott

(181cm), Harry Ngata (178cm), Scott Smith (175cm), Mark Atkinson (177cm), and Noah Hickey (175cm).

In short, Batty is one of the tallest players in the squad. True, appearances can be deceptive, as they were in pre-match team photos as displayed in the Sydney leg of the qualifier, where you'd swear he was one of the smaller lads, and Killen was way, way taller. But there you go.

More interesting still, was the fact Batty was the fourth heaviest of any All White who took the field. Only the truly tall -- Ivan Vicelich, Vaughan Coveny and er, closet shorty

Ryan Nelsen -- weighed more.

I'd like to think this weight factor reinforces the fact Jason is a really tall guy, but decided to do some extra-curricular research anyway. My 1997 qualifying series match programmes said Batty weighed just 76kg and was only 1.80m at the time.

But in the All Whites 1995 match

**Cordwainer**



**Bull**

against Denmark U23 he was measured at 184cm, which is not out of keeping with this trend to upward and outward growth during this period. At the start of the Kingz inaugural season in October 1999 he was 184cm but had ballooned to 85kg. But just to confuse matters, in the stats in the inaugural Kingz season review Batty is listed as being 183cm and 85kg. So over the course of the season he lost 1cm, but kept the same weight. Now that's really worrying. No wonder they were calling him Jason Fatty at the Cake Tin. Oh dear.

So, just to recap, Batty grew about two inches and put on 7kg between 1997 and 1999, but has actually dropped 2kg since 1999, while at the same time his height

has varied by up to 2cm. Incidentally, Batty is a Spurs supporter. It could be relevant.

This stuff is important to fans, otherwise they wouldn't put it in programmes every year.

But more of a worry is Chris Jackson, who has shrunk 2cm in height since 1997. At this rate he'll be a dwarf by the time he's 40. Meanwhile the biggest weight increase over 4 years without corresponding increase in height is actually.... Nah, I've got to keep a bit of ammo for my next column.

**# Cordwainer Bull is 187cm and weighs 99kg, but tells people he is 192cm and weighs 90kg.**

## Short passes

**ROGERED:** Former New Zealand Soccer coaching co-ordinator Roger Wilkinson has been caught playing away from home. Rog is now shacked up with the wife of former Waikato rugby fullback Roger Litt in the UK midlands. He has separated from wife Gill.

**BUSTED:** Finaserv Corp, the finance company run by former Mt Maunganui soccer godfather Dave Cook, has gone into receivership.

**FORGOTTEN:** *One of the more delightful tales to emerge from the World Cup qualifiers was the sad case of Otorohanga-born Archie Thompson, better known these days for his 13 goals for Australia against American Samoa after he turned his back on the All Whites.*

*He was spotted at the Sydney match queuing by Gate K. So there you go. The world record-holding (international) goalscorer, not good enough for the A squad, stands in the queue to buy a ticket.*

*What's more, most of those alongside didn't even recognise him.*

**DROPPED:** Kiwi Darren Young has been released from Barnsley.

**DROPPED THEMSELVES:** Metro have withdrawn from the national league, citing difficulties with ground availability over summer. Nothing wrong with that, except they were reported as backing a return to summer. Strange, or what?