

FOOTBALL Record



1999

9A
LIONS



WESLEY V THE REST

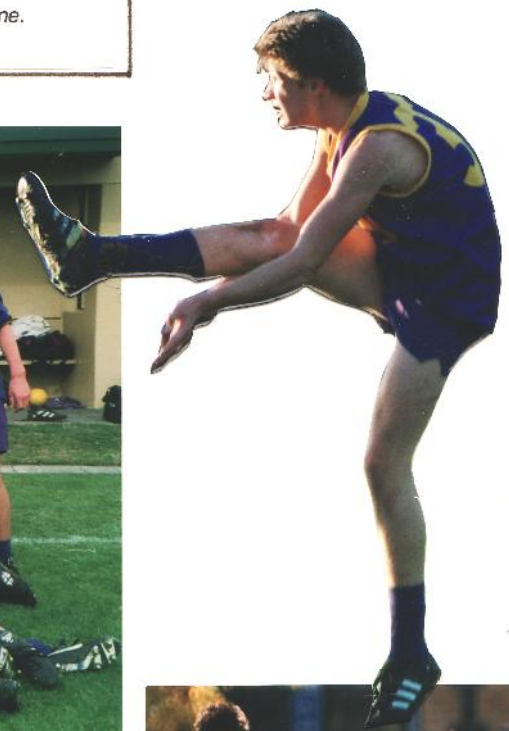


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FOOTBALL Record

"The Football Record" is an **OVER-THE-TOP PRODUCTION**
Designed, written and produced by Richard Stone.
Volume 9, 1999



9As TEAM of 99



FIRST RUCK MOFFAT

ROSE

ROVER ELG

SECOND RUCK VAN DUYN

BURROWS

ROVER DAVID

ANDREOTTA

GRANT

WALMSLEY

HOWLETT

HOLST

GOLDENFEIN

MORTON

STONE

CROTHERS

LEWSKI

JORGENSEN

OLDFIELD

SLATYER

ADAMS

WOLF

INTERCHANGE

BOTTARI

WELLS

SHIELDS

BARTRAM

GOULD

THWAITES

CASTRAN

SIMONDS

COACH

MR. R. STONE

MOTIVATOR

MR. HOLST

CHEERLEADERS

MRS. STONE

MRS. ROSE

CHEERSQUAD ALL THE OTHER
MUMS & DADS

GOAL UMPIRES

MR. ROSE

TIMEKEEPER

MR. WALMSLEY

MEDIA DIRECTOR

MR. DAVID

DRINKS

MR. M. STONE

MR. VAN DUYN

TIMMY'S CHEERSQUAD

MR. OLDFIELD

MATCH RECORD

Played: 10

Won: 8

Lost: 2

Drawn: -

FIRST BLOOD TO LIONS!

WESLEY 16. 9. 105
SCOTCH 11. 4. 70

GOALS: Burrows 8, Rose 3, Van Duyn 3,
Slatyer, Jorgenson

BEST: Burrows, Lewski, David, Elg, Rose,
Moffat, Morton, Crothers, Stone,
Jorgenson, Slatyer, Van Duyn,
Holst, Grant, Oldfield, Bottari,
Walmsley, Wolf, Andreotta

GOAL of the DAY: Burrows (take
your pick!)

PLAY of the DAY: Massa's brilliant balk,
bounce and pass to Slatts.

MARK of the DAY: Holsty

INJURIES: Aussy's arm and Aussy's leg.

SILLY THING TO SAY AWARD: Vanders:
"You IDIOT!" (To the umpire!)

Following last week's successful workout at the country campus, the Lions were quietly confident as they approached the new season and the opener against Scotch. Although the Musician's Union had refused to allow Wells, Shields and Bartram to join their team mates this week, the selectors were not overly concerned, as they were confident that their third and final offer to the APS Hockey Federation would be accepted, and Nick "Snapper" Burrows would be free to take up a permanent position in the team. And so it came to pass, that as the Lions gathered in the shadow of the Freeway Flyover on a cool and cloudy May morning, they were joined by a welcome recruit. The late withdrawal of Howlett and the mysterious absence of Gould, Thwaites, Wolf and Goldenfein decimated the bench, but the injured Andreotti agreed to pull on his boots to make up the numbers. Kicking to the Freeway end the Lions were immediately put under pressure as the Scotchys notched a quick goal, but Rosey converted from a free kick, and the Lions were up and running. Burrows was already stamping his name on the game, and was teaming well with Lewski who was looking dangerous on a forward flank. The Lions were struggling to adapt to this mini-oval with its 25 metre 50 metre lines, and it was all clogged up at half forward. Unable to get a clear view of the goals, the Lions could do no better than four behinds in a row! Scotch were gradually growing in confidence, and it was obvious that Friday night's "dance" was taking its toll on a few of the Lion's prime movers. Chuck had finally got the car started and we now had a bench, but the home team was beginning to dominate in the centre, and the Lions were finding it difficult to cut off their forward thrusts. Three unanswered goals

left the visitors 16 points down at the first change, and to make matters worse, "Snapper" Burrows was serving time on the boundary line for a minor indiscretion.

It was time for the Lions to T.A.G.H.L.A.T. Were the Scotch Fingers really that good? Were we going to let them get away with this? Not bloody likely! A few home truths from the coach and skipper Stoney gave the boys something to think about, and it was a rejuvenated Wesley that took the field for the second quarter.

Nick Van Duyn had been dreaming about a bag of goals all week, and he could not help but show his delight as he soccered a major in the opening minutes. Daniel Moffat had taken over in the ruck, and his extra spring and height was more than a match for his Scotch opponent, while Jorgy was able to use his strength at CHB to keep the ball moving our way. It wasn't long before Jorgy found Jonno David whose delivery into the square gave the eager Vanders another scoring opportunity. Snapper was back on the ground now, and he wasted no time in converting a wayward Scotch kick out into the Lion's fourth. Elga was being busy around the packs and a superb passage of play resulted in another major as he handballed to Jorgy who handballed to Vanders who was able to register his third for the quarter. Charlie Holst was marking strongly at half back and he was being well supported by Crothers and Massa to repel any Scotch attacks. Timmy Oldfield was having his work cut out for him against a talented spearhead, and although Scotch replied with a goal, Tim never flinched from his duty. Aussy and Olly were providing strong support, and the home team were beginning to show signs of frustration! Another accurate pass from Elga found Burrows within range of the big sticks, and moments later a clever deflection from Matty Morton placed the Sherrin in his sharpshooting team mate's hands, and Snapper snapped his third. The flood gates had opened! Desperate to be part of the action, Jorgy roved his own ruckwork and found the gap between the big sticks for yet another, and Rosey picked up his second from a free kick inside the 50(?). As the Lions caught their breath, the Scotchys sneaked through an answer, but as the ball was bounced in the centre, Snapper showed them who was boss by grabbing the ball and dobbing a long bomb to give his team their eighth for the quarter and a handy half time lead. Not surprisingly, the oranges tasted pretty sweet!

Minutes into the third term Burrows and "Woosha" Lewski tried out one of their favourite 1 - 2 training drills and posted the Lions' tenth. The wheels had certainly dropped off the Scotch machine, and Rosey made sure that they couldn't find the wheel nuts by snagging a full pointer from

a boundary throw in. The visitors were in control all over the ground, and Snapper was unstoppable! Elga, Jonno and Slatts were working hard at ground level, and Moffa was asserting his aerial supremacy across the centre where Stoney too was a busy little beaver (when he wasn't chatting to the umpire!) First Elga, and then Moffa set up Burrows for more majors before Scotch could notch a token response.

Confident that his team could go on to secure the points, the Wesley coach indulged in some positional restructuring for the final stanza, and his team seemed to relax a little knowing that the Scotchys would need to pull out something really special to reverse the flow of the game. Two early goals sent a shiver down the coach's spine - but he needn't have worried. The Lions were just teasing! Led by "Cruncher" Crothers, the Wesley defence tightened and cut off the opposition supply line. Snapper snapped truly for his eighth goal and Scotch were done, but the fat lady hadn't sung yet! It was then, with just minutes to go, that the capacity crowd was treated to one of those awesome moments in sport that you might witness once in a lifetime! Relishing an opportunity up the field, big Massimo Bottari seized the ball on the wing, and with the vision and poise of a Robert Harvey he simply stunned the spectators into silence as he arrogantly wove his way through a hungry pack of Scotchys, casually took a bounce and with pinpoint accuracy delivered the ball to a delighted Slatts who hammered the final nail into the Scotch coffin! You just had to be there!



Timmy, Matty and Elga catch their breath after the Lions' sensational win over Scotch on Saturday.



*"To Wesley honour bring, zeal unfaltering..."
"Crusher" Crothers leads Stoney & Rosey in a victory chorus.*



A happy team leaves the Lower East led by B.O.G. Nick "Snapper" Burrows.



*"How did we do it?
BASY!"*

Rd 2

SKEVVYS SQUASHED!

HUNGRY LIONS GO
ON RAMPAGE

WESLEY 22. 19. 151
ST.KEVINS 0. 2. 2

GOALS: Burrows 7 (8?), David 4, Van Duyn 4,
Jorgenson 2, Lewski, Stone, Holst,
Crothers, Grant

BEST: Absolutely everybody!

INJURIES: Jorgenson (groin), Rose (back)

MARK of the DAY: David

GOAL of the DAY: Grant

QUOTE of the DAY: "I feel sorry for them.

There should be a handicap system!"

OPSM AWARD: The goal umpire with
impaired vision

Word had spread along the APS grapevine during the week that the Lions were sharpening their claws in readiness for their encounter with St.Kevins. Their fighting victory over Scotch had indicated that they would be a force to be reckoned with during the 1999 season, and the St.Kevins match committee was clearly concerned when they met to select a team for Round Two. "If the lads get a whipping this week they'll be gone for the rest of the season." argued their coach. "We'll never get them out of bed on a Saturday!"

"You're right Manuell, we can't let them suffer!" replied the Sportsmaster.

"And what about the school's reputation!" added the headmaster. "It would be devastating if those New Age purple people gave us a hiding!"

The table fell into silence as the ramifications of the headmaster's comment hit home. Suddenly the sportsmaster leapt to his feet, "I've got it he cried! The solution is here, right here in my hand! The fixture's been changed....it says here....'Wesley College, Front Turf'....but what if the Fax machine had broken down and we didn't know! We could send the boys to Fawkner Park, the game would be cancelled and everything would be sweet!"

And so it was that when the Lions set off on their warmup lap on Saturday morning there was no sign of the opposition. As they stretched and loosened their hammies and quads there was still no St.Kevins. Ten minutes to bounce time and "Woosha" Lewski was getting edgy. "How can I toss the coin on my own Mr.Stone? Where can they possibly be?"

"I can't imagine Josh. I guess we'll have to start without them..."

"That reminds me of a funny story" interrupted Goldy. "You see there was this country footy game and one team got held up in a bushfire or something and the other team started the game without them. When the first team arrived at the ground about thirty minutes late, they saw all these guys just sitting around on the ground looking bored and the umpire having a snooze in the middle of the oval. "What's going on?" asked the visiting



"Snapper" Burrows sends the Sherrin goalward

skipper when he got out of his ute, and some old bloke told him that they'd bounced the ball at 2 o'clock, the ruckman had palmed it straight to the rover and he'd passed it perfectly to the centre half forward inside the fifty, but the bugger had hit the post. "They've been waiting for your full back to kick it in for the last half hour!"

"I know where they are Mr.Stone" chirped up Benny Shields. "I bet they're at Fawkner Park!"

"Of course Benny! Why didn't I think of that?"

"It's because you're a dumbarse teacher" replied Rohan under his breath.

"My dad'll go get 'em" said Jorgy, "I bet they're scared to front cause they know we're gonna whip their butts!"

And so Skevvys little ruse was uncovered and they had to face the music.

Kicking to the St.Kilda Road end for the opening term the Lions were quick to establish their superiority as Vander registered his team's first major inside a minute. The Lions were soon peppering the goals, but the swirly wind was making things a little tricky. Vanders marked strongly for his second and a brilliant chain of disposals began with Holsty and ended with Jorgy who dopped his first. Timmy Oldfield had already given up hope of notching more than one or two touches. The signs were clear - with Moffa dominating in the ruck, Slatts and Matty showing their opponents a clean pair of heels, and Elga hovering dangerously at ground level, the backline would be lucky to get a look in! "We may as well go home now" mused Greg. "I just hope I can get a run upfield!"

Quick hands gave Jorgy his second, and "Snapper" Burrows was looking as hungry as ever as he pounced on a Woosha pass and opened his account. Suddenly the coach was aware of a bigger hole than usual at Centre Half Forward. "Where's Jorgy?" "Look! There he is" exclaimed Hugh, "Sitting on the seat! I'll go and see what's up"

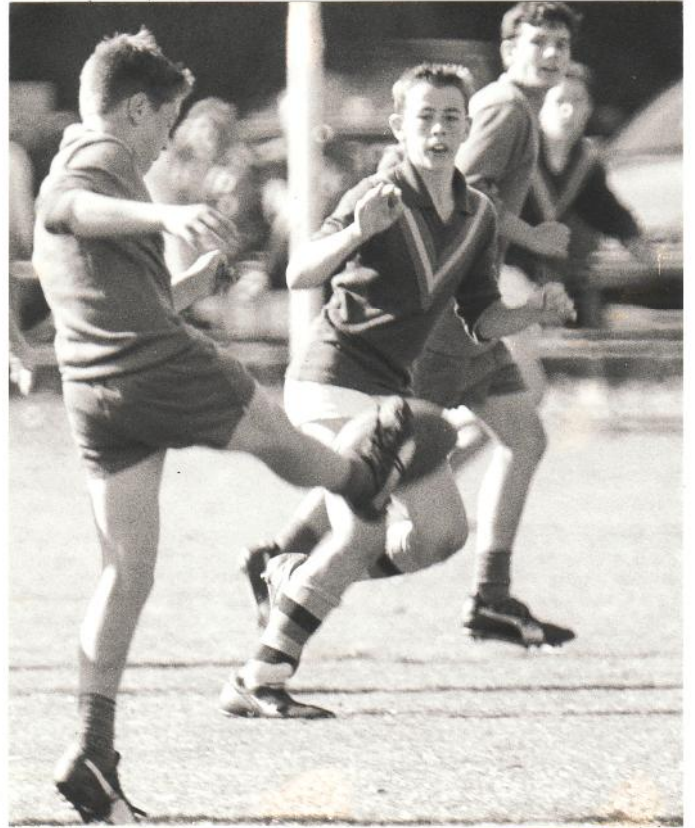
"And I'll take his spot" said Muss, sprinting onto the ground before the coach could say "Chuck, would you like to..."

"He's done a Carey!" cried Hugh. "It's his groin. He won't be back. Can I go on? Please Stoney, can I..."

At the first break the Lions held a fairly comfortable six goal advantage, and it was obvious that the Skevvy's were not going to be in the race. The second quarter was a procession as the Lions practised a few training drills around the flanks and set up a target range on the forward line. Goals to Snapper and Woosha extended the lead and it wasn't long before some classy play from ruck rover Rosey set up Snapper for his third. Jonno David was in fine touch at ground level, and was soon stretching himself to take a screamer from a Burrows pass. Jonno made no mistake, and the Lion's ninth was on the board (or would have been if the scoreboard had been working!). Holsty was impassable at half back, and "Howler" Howlett was providing strong support, giving the visitors no chance of taking up the Lions' challenge. Stoney was controlling the centre square but slipped forward just long enough to kick his team's tenth at the eleven minute mark. Vanders was not a happy man when Snapper "stole" a goal from his well directed kick, but moments later he snagged

his third and was smiling again. "Crusher" Crothers had worked his way down the field and liked what he saw so he stayed. An accurate pass found Jonno within range, and very soon Crusher managed to do one himself with his trusty left boot.

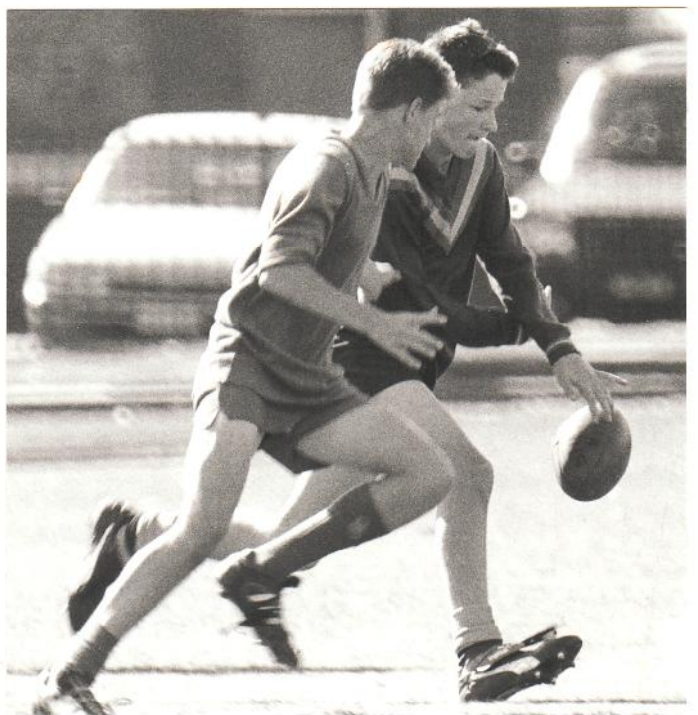
The coach found himself under more pressure than the Skevvy defenders during the long interval as the eager Lions all wanted a piece of the action and he was forced to produce a radically revised teamsheet for the third quarter.



James Slattyer in a welcome return to form on Saturday



"You're not going anywhere!" Jonno David lays a *



Lion Centreman, Andrew Stone applies the pressure

Olly was still suffering from muscle soreness following his race with Cathy Freeman on Friday, and had been moved to the backline, while "Wolfman" Chuck had replaced Holsty at CHB. Timmy Oldfella had got his wish and been moved down forward, but Rosey had been forced to stay off the field by a little twinge. As the Lions adjusted to their new positions, Skevvys snuck under their guard and snaffled two rather insignificant behinds, but the Lions replied as Slatts dashed forward to set up Vander, and Snapper followed when he converted a Crothers pass. Muss was entertaining the crowd again with his Robert Harvey impersonations on the Mowbray Street wing, while Matty Morton was enjoying a stint in the centre. Wellsy was moving well on the grandstand wing and Hugh was finding plenty of space on a back flank. Rohan was stuffed and just wanted to go home to bed.



"It's so BORING!" Mussa fills in time on the backline



Hugh Bartram gets a kick despite his opponent's efforts



Austin Grant snaps for goal during the last quarter

After the relatively quiet third quarter, the Lions pumped up the volume for the final twenty minutes. Vander was now running(?) in the ruck and the forward line had a different look to it with Holsty and Auzzy providing tall targets in the goal square and Moffa standing tall at CHF. There was always plenty of space up the other end of the ground, and Gouldy, Benny and Greg could only watch from afar as their Skevvy opponents deserted their posts in a vain attempt to clog up the Lions' scoring zone. Jonno was unfazed and he opened and closed the quarter with goals. In between Holsty registered his first and Snapper chipped in with two or three more, but the highlight of the quarter was undoubtedly Auzzy's goal square goal which capped off a fine piece of play by Elga and sent the cheer squad into raptures of delight. As the clock ticked down and various Lions began to drift off into their Saturday afternoon, Eddy Adams was gathering himself for his big moment. Taking a long, deep breath, he raised the instrument to his mouth, and as the chant began he steadied himself, "5...4...3...2...1" BLEEEAAAEAAHHH! Training was over.



Greg conducts the victory chant

LIONS WEATHER THE STORM!

WESLEY 9. 10. 64
 XAVIER 4. 0. 24

GOALS: Van Duyn 3, David 3, Oldfield, Burrows, Elg
 BEST: Morton, Elg, Moffat, Lewski, Oldfield, Bottari, Howlett, Stone and others.
 INJURIES: Andreotta (cork leg), Slatyer (frozen fingers), Everybody (general numbness)
 B.O.G. Morton
 360 of the DAY: Bottari

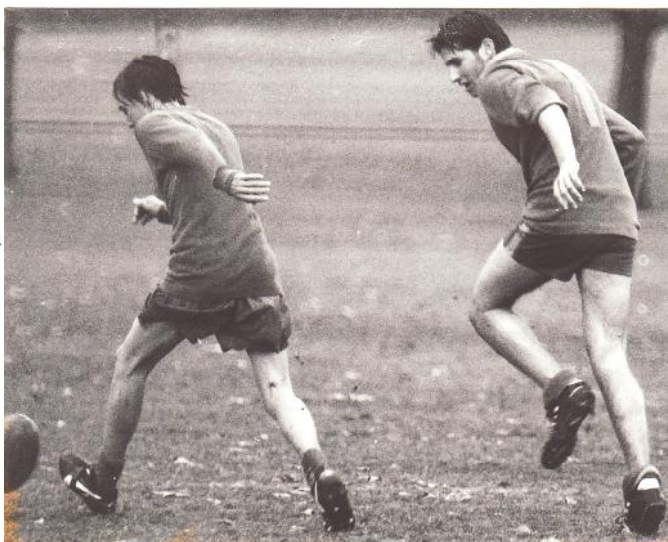
The thrill of last Saturday's annihilation of St.Kevins led to much partying, but the celebrations soured somewhat when Scotty Palmer described the serious nature of James Jorgenson's hamstring injury. Although disappointed for their team mate, the Lions, to their credit, did not allow Jorgy's personal tragedy to disturb their focus and they hit the training track with renewed vigour in preparation for the big clash with Xavier. Goal kicking sensation, "Snapper" Burrows had been hit by a mystery virus after the Skevvys' game and remained bedridden until midweek, but the club doctor was confident that he would be available for light duties within the 50 metre zone. Jorgy's injury would leave a big hole at Centre Half Forward, and there were several contenders for the key position, but Timmy Oldfella, desperate to avoid being typecast as a dour, close checking full back, put his hand up at training on Thursday, and after booting a bag of goals in the pracky match got the nod from the selectors. Benny Shields had been asked to act as flowerboy at his cousin's wedding and was unavailable for this week's fixture, whilst Wellsy had been released for Tech Crew duties after Rohan seriously promised to turn up to keep the bench warm. However, the match committee was seriously concerned on Friday by the late withdrawal of Rosey who came down with a severe chill after training semi-naked on Thursday night. Slatts was promoted to share the ruck-roving duties with "Crusher" Crothers, and the rapidly improving Bottari was positioned to frighten the Xavvy defenders.

Melbourne's Indian Summer had taken a turn for the worse by Saturday morning, and as the Lions ventured deep into the Eastern suburbs, the skies looked ominous. Overnight rain had already dampened the surface of Macleay Park and the wind was gusting ferociously as Charlie Holst tossed for choice of ends. Auzzy was already regretting his decision to flaunt the APS rules again by wearing his sleeveless "muscle" guernsey, and the promise of warm woolly dressing gowns for next week's match was of little comfort to the interchangers. To make matters worse, there was little to cheer about during the opening quarter as Xavvys

adapted quickly to the conditions and made good use of the wind to notch three goals to the Lions' solitary point. The point had come from the boot of Bottari who was relishing the opportunity to play forward of the centre, but the Lions' poor dividend for the quarter was disappointing - particularly as they seemed to have their fair share of the ball. Moffa was on top in the ruck, Elga was busy burrowing at ground level and Josh was too clever for his opponent, but there was some tentativeness in the difficult conditions, and with the forward line all clogged up, the Lions struggled to convert. To make matters worse, Greg had copped a corky and was forced to leave the field.



Ruckman Daniel Moffat tangles with the opposition



Muss gives Olly Walmsley some soccer tips

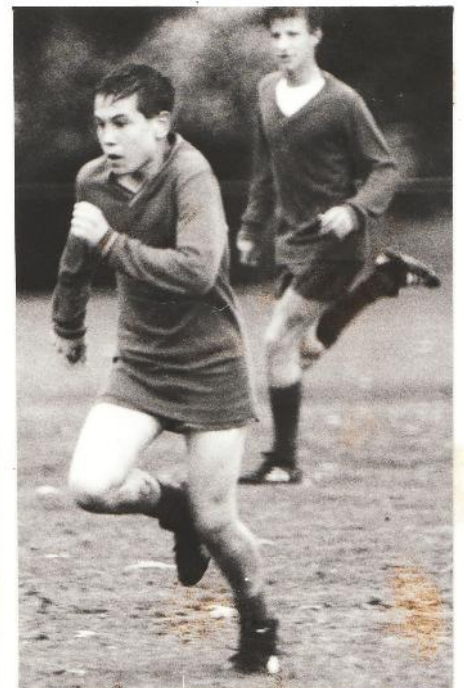


Will "Crusher" Crothers in action on Saturday. Crothers was forced to move to full back when Greg Andreotti left the field with a leg injury early in the game

Remembering their recent second quarter comeback against Scotch, the Lions knew they could do better, and it was a more committed unit that took the field for the second term. Crusher had moved to full back and Snapper was off the bench and on the ball. Led by the skipper at CHB, the Lions' defence tightened several notches, and with "Howler" Howlett and Auzzy providing strong resistance to enemy attacks, Xavier now had their work cut out for them. Stoney and Matty Morton were giving their forwards plenty of chances, and it was not long before Elga opened his team's account. Timmy converted for a second, and the Lions were closing in. When Jonno goaled the gap narrowed to just five points, but the Xavvys slipped in with a quick answer. Snapper was finding the conditions to be less than ideal for his free running brand of football, but a pass from Jonno found him within range and despite the tight angle he was able to thread the Sherrin through the big sticks. Heavy rain had forced the cheer squad into their mobile grandstands, but the sound of car horns in unison reminded the Lions of their duty to their loyal supporters, and they began to



Moffa outreaches his opponent

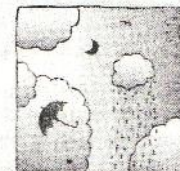


James Slatyer makes a dash for the hot showers after the game



Lion wingman, Matty Morton shows the determination that earned him B.O.G.

Melbourne's forecast



Saturday

Sunshine, rain, cold gusty winds, hail, sleet and possible snow

Max: 14°C



Timmy Oldfield launches the ball forward

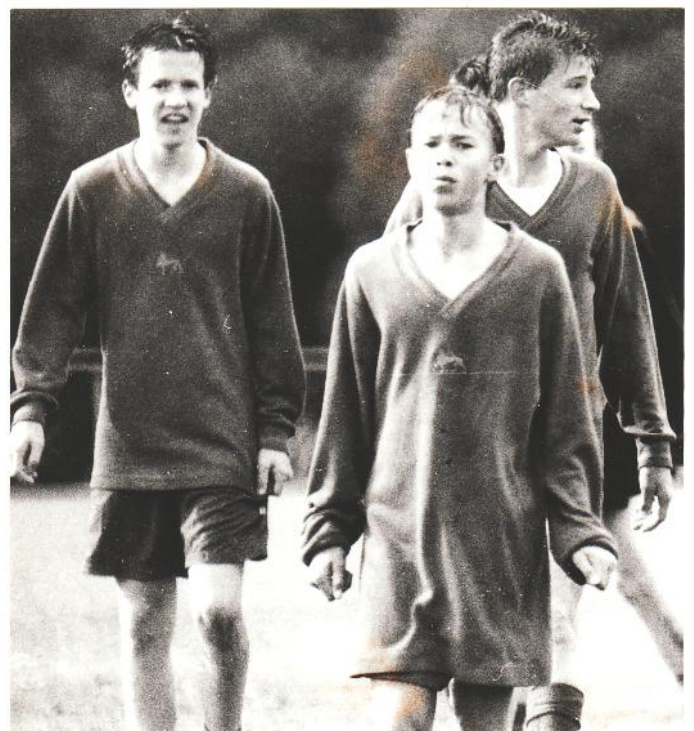


Cade Elg and Nick Burrows fight for the slippery ball

pepper the goals. Until now, Vander had been struggling to hold onto the slippery ball, but at the 14 minute mark, he managed to take control of the situation and post the goal which would give his team the lead. Mussa had obviously had more than his usual ration of Froot Loops for breakfast, and was leading the Xavvy defenders a merry dance. His 360 degree spin out deserved more than a behind, but it helped take the Lions to an eleven point lead at the long break. Slatts, who had been a valuable contributor during the first half, was forced to leave the field early in search of a hot water bottle, whilst Greg's corky was recovering rapidly without the aid of an ice pack!

As the Lions struggled to remove the skins from their citrus segments, they felt quietly confident. If only the weather would improve!

The third quarter had everything - rain, sunshine, wind and hail! - but the Lions were now on course and nothing was going to stop them. A kick goalward by Snapper was cleverly deflected by Matty Morton into the arms of Jonno David and the Lions' sixth was on the board. The Lions' defence was grimly determined to hold out any Xavier advances, and Olly, Goldy and Howler were ruthless in their resolve. Moffa was continuing his aerial domination, and Holsty and Stoney were well on top in the corridor. Barthers had been impressive on his wing and he was gathering valuable possessions, while Elga had recovered from a stray kick and was again in the thick of the action. Rohan, meanwhile, was seriously considering his sanity. Some strong shepherding by Vander allowed Timmy to centre the ball from the right pocket, and Jonno made no mistake from the goal square. Auzzy was feeling much more comfortable now, having successfully traded a lime Chuppa Chup for Gouldy's long sleeve guernsey. Xavier had been kept scoreless during the third term, and neither would they add to their half time tally during the final twenty minutes as the Lions continued to control the game. Matty Morton was still blitzing on his wing, and Woosha was untiring. Vander pounced on a crumb and converted for his second, much to the delight of Wolfman Chuck who was enjoying every opportunity to demonstrate his masterly flag waving technique, in spite of the tricky wind. By now Xavier had done their dash, and it was only for Timmy Oldfield to set up Vander for one more goal before the bell sounded and the frostbitten Lions could head home for a well deserved hot bath!



What a relief! Happy Lions, Rohan, Cade and Stoney leave the ground after Saturday's hard fought win over Xavier

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On Saturday, August 7, 1999 the Wesley College 9As passed into history....

By defeating Carey on the Front Turf in the final game of the 1999 season the Lions staked their place in the glorious history of Wesley College. Eight victories, two losses and a healthy percentage ensured their hold on the coveted **Laurie Humphries Cup**. Named to perpetuate the memory of the legendary Wesley football coach, the cup is a fitting reward for a magnificent season by the Year 9 boys. This is your chance to share in the 9As historic achievement by purchasing your copy of this limited edition Commemorative Lithograph. Don't miss out! Order your copy NOW!

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LIONS WIN RETURN BOUT!

WESLEY 11. 9. 75
 XAVIER 6. 5. 41

GOALS: Van Duyn 3, David 2, Adams, Elg, Crothers, Shields, Wolf, Oldfield
 BEST: Elg, Holst, Crothers, David, Morton, Lewski, Moffat, Goldenfein, Oldfield, Stone, Grant etc. etc.

INJURIES: Castran (ankle), David (stomped leg),

MARK of the DAY: Crothers (take your pick!)

GOAL of the DAY: Crothers (clever!)

QUOTES of the DAY: "Look who's got the dressing gowns buddy!" (Vander to the Xavier bench)

"The Xavier parents get into it more than the players!"

"I hope we don't see you again this season!" (Xavier coach)

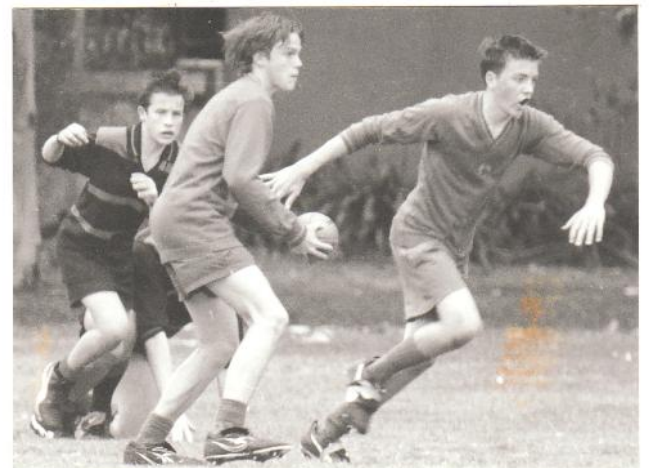
With four successive victories under their belts the Lions approached this week's fixture with a justifiable degree of confidence, but off field events seemed to take the edge off their training form, and Thursday's performance fell disappointingly flat. The news that Rosey's injury would keep him sidelined for three matches was a blow. The initial diagnosis of a severe chill proved to be a smokescreen issued by a nervous hospital receptionist. It seems the problem was actually one of inappropriate medication, and it was some time before the specialist was able to get the pills right. On Thursday morning the Age leaked an important document from the APS which indicated that a fixture redraw could place the Lions in direct conflict with the powerhouses of A Division. This news unsettled the players who feared for their safety against the iron pumping, steroid injecting bully boys of the top grade. To make matters



The big men fly! Tim Oldfield and Austin Grant reach high during the final quarter of Saturday's game against Xavier



Charlie Holst has eyes only for the footy



Matty Morton sums up his options while Will Crothers sprints to create the loose man



Charlie Holst is caught out by a Xavier opponent during the final quarter of Saturday's match at Fawknor Park.

worse, the ongoing tug of war over Snapper Burrows took a new twist when threatening notes were left on the coach's E-mail. The message was clear - select Snapper and you go to hell and you die! The selectors decided that it would be prudent to treat the threat seriously, and when the team was announced, Snapper had been omitted. The Lions found it difficult to ignore the off field intrigue, and the House football final on Friday was a further distraction as they attempted to focus on Saturday's game. There were injury clouds hanging over Lion spearheads, Nick Van Duyn and Timmy Oldfella, but both were able to prove their fitness on Friday. The return from injury of Eddy Adams and Lachy Castran was welcomed, and with Benny Shields and Guy Wells finally recovered from Music camp, the selectors were able to name a strong squad for the match against the alternative Xavier team.

To the Lions' surprise, it was the familiar faces from the previous Saturday's fixture who confronted them when they took the field at Fawknor Park. The Xavvys were equally surprised (and no doubt disappointed) to be lining up against the team which had sunk them seven days before! Captain Cade Elg called correctly and the Lions gained first use of the breeze. Kicking to the Commercial Road end the Lions were immediately in business with Vander marking strongly and kicking truly before the WCTV cameras had even begun rolling. Led by their courageous skipper, the Lions took control during the opening term and began peppering the goals. Holsty was directing traffic at half back and the Xavvys were unable to break through the Lions' defensive wall. Matty Morton had picked up where he had left off the previous week, and set up a leading Jonno David, but his conversion was astray. A long shot from

Eddy was touched on the line, but a clever passage of play from Muss enabled Crusher Crothers to snap an extraordinary goal over his shoulder, and the visitors must have realised that they would be in for one of those days! The backline was fantastic, working the ball forward at every opportunity. Castra and Auzzy were making good use of their height and strength respectively, and the Xavvys didn't much like it! Goldy was back in top form, and some dashing play allowed Elga to set up Eddy again, but the result was a minor. Crusher was clearly delighted to be running a wing, and a little chip to Jonno saw the curly headed rover notch the Lions' third. Stoney and Slatts were providing plenty of drive from the centre, and Timmy capitalised on another forward thrust by centring a rather unusual banana pass from hard up



Chuck Wolf sets up the crumbers with a decisive punch



Lion Full Back Greg Andreotta switches the play



Wingman Matty Morton is harassed by a tenacious Xaverian

on the boundary. Vander gratefully accepted and dopped his second for the quarter. Woosha was happy to back on firm footing again after the previous Saturday's slog, and a skilful "one-two" with Jonno deserved better than the Lions' fifth behind. Nevertheless, at the first change the home team was content with its 29 point lead.

The coach was delighted to have two enthusiastic runners at his disposal, and both Jorgy and Rosey were kept active for the remainder of the game as the Lions' extended interchange bench began a process of continual reconfiguration. The visitors began the second term with a bang, and they ran free of their opponents on several occasions to register their first scores, but the Lions still looked the goods. Elga was in everything and Moffa was too tall and too smart for his opponents in the ruck. Barthers had gained valuable confidence from his run the previous week and he was now providing another avenue forward for the Lions, but it was Crusher who was instrumental in the Lions' fifth goal when a clever snap found Timmy in front. Wellsy had replaced Matty on the wing, and Gouldy, given a rare opportunity on the forward line, soon showed why he is on Melbourne Storm's wish list with some brutal tackling! Olly's quick hands gave Jonno the chance to dob his second, and at the long interval the margin was a comfortable 26 points. Castra appeared to have left the field with an ankle injury at the twelve minute mark, but the word in the press box was that he

just wanted to try one of the Lions' elegant new mauve dressing gowns!

There must have been something extra special in the Xavvy's halftime cordial because they came out all pumped up and for a while it even looked as though the Lions might have a real game on their hands! An early goal into the wind lifted the visitors' spirits, and before the Lions were able to add to their goal tally the Xavvys had posted two more! Wolfman Chuck was now at full forward, but his first snapshot frustratingly struck the right hand stick. The margin had been narrowed to just two straight kicks, and the Lions urgently needed a steadying goal. The coach need not have worried though - Benny Shields had all the answers! His accurate pass to the skipper allowed Elga to pick out Chuck well within range, and the Lions were on the board again. Moments later the ball dropped into Benny's waiting arms just inside the fifty, and with a mighty WOOF! there was another on the board. The visitors tried to regain control, but tough defending from Rohan and Howler, and the usual balking and weaving from Muss, kept the ball in the Lions' half of the ground.

The Xavvy's third quarter burst had made the Lions a little nervous going into the final twenty minutes - especially as the visitors had final use of the breeze...but a centre break by Matty Morton found Timmy in the corridor, and his long bomb was snaffled by Eddy Adams and skilfully squeezed through the aperture. Although the Xavvys replied, it would be their last hurrah, as the Lions regrouped and snuffed out any thoughts they might have had of a comeback. Timmy moved into defence and combined with the close checking Andreotti to repel any wishful thinking on Xavier's part. Crusher Crothers seemed to have superglue on his big buckets and Woosha was cruising dangerously. Goals to Vander and Elga sealed the Xavvys' fate, and despite the vocal efforts of the visitor's cheer squad to put the Lions off their game, there was little the Xavier players could do.
LIONS 2 - XAVIER 0.



Chuck Wolf helps out with the goal umpiring

GRAMMAR ALL WASHED UP!

WESLEY COLLEGE 15. 8. 98
MELBOURNE GRAMMAR 1. 2. 8

GOALS: Oldfield 6, Van Duyn 3, Crothers, Moffat, Burrows, Slatyer, Morton, Wells

BEST: Grant, Holst, Oldfield, Moffat, Elg, Lewski, Morton, Van Duyn, Burrows, Crothers, Stone, Bartram, Slatyer, Walmsley, Wells, Thwaites, Shields, Goldenfein, and not forgetting Gould

INJURIES: Grant (shoulder, knee) Thwaites (tooth)

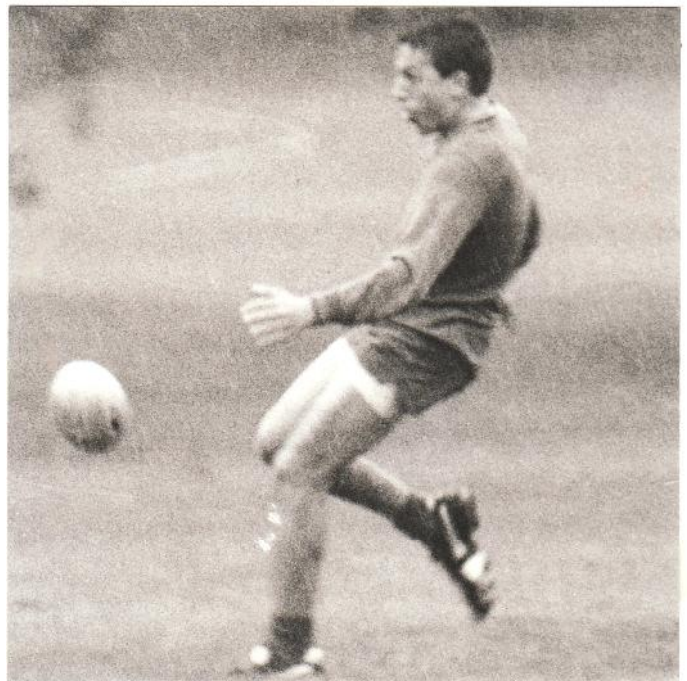
GOAL of the DAY: Slatyer

FRUSTRATED RUNNER AWARDS: Rosey & Jorgy

MOST EXCITABLE SPECTATOR: Timmy's old man

With five successive victories under their belts, the Lions headed towards this week's fixture surrounded by a very tangible aura of confidence – despite the fact that the Elsternwick contingent of Jonno, Howler, Greg, Eddy and the Wolfman would be playing in the Suburb of Origin match on Saturday and would be unavailable for club duties. The return of Snapper Burrows – dramatically rescued from a disused tool shed at Glen Waverley where he was being held to ransom by a fanatical group of APS hockey supporters – would go some of the way towards replacing the absent Elsternwickians, and the selectors were confident that several fringe players would be able to take the step up and make the most of their chance to occupy a more permanent position on the field. The late withdrawal of Castran was a blow, but the big disappointment of the weekend was the non appearance of the exciting Recruit of the Year, Massimo Bottari. "Muss" had been delighting crowds this season with his "run the field" tactics, and there was an audible sigh of disappointment when he failed to run out onto Fawkner Park with his team mates on Saturday morning. Rumour has it that his very best friend had escaped from the Mansfield detention centre on Friday night and eloped with Natalie Imbroglia. Muss had been invited to act as best man at their secret wedding and had no option but to relinquish his place in the team.

So the Lions faced up to their traditional rivals with a depleted bench and an unexpectedly restructured side, with Wellsy in a back pocket and Rohan alongside the full forward. Conditions were miserable – cold, wet and windy – and it was with some reluctance that the mauve dressing gowns were removed prior to the opening bounce. Skipper Matt Morton had called incorrectly, and the Lions found themselves kicking uphill against the tide for the first quarter. The Grammarians jumped out of the blocks and surprised the visiting Lions with an immediate goal, but after a few



Josh "Woosha" Lewski produces another pinpoint pass.

steadying minutes the Lions began to take control of the situation, and with Holsty, Barthers and Goldy establishing an impassable barrier at half back, the Grammarians saw their chance of an upset victory quickly fade into the drizzle. Timmy Oldfield was quick to answer with an accurate snapshot, and the Lions were on their way! Moffa was already taking the points in the air, and Elga was displaying his usual terrier like tenacity as the Lions worked the ball forward, but Crusher's snap deviated at the last moment. The Lions second major was a real highlight as Slatts pursued the ball under pressure from one pocket to the other before deftly deflecting the Sherrin over his shoulder and through the proverbial eye of the needle! His effort produced howls of delight from the loyal cheersquad who had been denied access to the grandstand and were braving the wintry conditions on the terraces. Vander had made a bold prediction to the press that he would "boot ten today", and after a sighter, which just missed, he cleverly dribbled the Lions' third. Andrew "The Instigator" Stone and Matt "Breakaway" Morton were feeding the forwards with monotonous regularity, and it was not long before Crusher was given another chance in front of the big sticks, but his kick from a standing start veered left. He need not have worried though, because the Lions were dominating and Snapper was quick to get in on the act with a six pointer. The teamwork was a delight to watch, and a chain of possessions ended with Timmy who snapped truly from a tight angle for the Lions fifth.

The Grammarians looked despondent, and there was little to cheer them during the second term, as



ABOVE: Cade Elg tucks the Sherrin under his arm and sprints for touch
 LEFT: Will "Crusher" Crothers handballs downfield to a team mate



Guy Wells deftly soccers a goal during the final quarter

crumbing gave him his third, soon to be followed by a fourth as a superb passage of running play from Woosha Lewski set him up inside the fifty. Rohan and Shieldsy were delighted to be caught up in the action, and each was doing his bit for the Lions' cause when the ball hit the sodden turf. Gouldy too was enjoying the heavy conditions, but he was having some difficulty getting a grip on the slippery ball! The Melbourne coach had tried all his tricks to prevent the inevitable debacle, but so far nothing had worked. He had only one more card up his sleeve - a player count! Perhaps the Lions were illegally outnumbering his team!

the Lions continued to do all the right things and hold their opponents scoreless. The Lions' persistence in the difficult conditions was admirable, and a second effort by Moffa brought dividends as he registered his team's first at the St.Kilda Road end. Meanwhile, Olly, Wellsy and Auzzy had started a game of "I Spy" as business was quiet in the backline and they had to do something to keep their minds off the persistent precipitation. Holsty had already taken more marks than he will probably get in his mid year LOTE exam, and the Grammarians had no answer to his anticipatory positioning. Although the heavy conditions were not ideal for Snapper's fleet footed style of play, he was still able to make his presence felt in the clinches. The Oldfella was making his presence felt at CHF, and a skilful piece of



"Can I have this dance?" Guy Wells and partner

"One...two...three..." he counted, "seventeen... eighteen...nineteen...twenty! Hey, I was right. They've got four half forward flankers!"

But as he wiped the rain from his eyes and focused his binoculars through the drizzle, he was disappointed to see that the big one was wearing a purple dressing gown and the other one was carrying a water bottle. "Damn! Foiled again!" It was Rosey and Jorgy!

As the Lions huddled together during the long interval and extracted the juice from their citrus segments (beautifully cut by kitchen whiz kid Will Crothers) they began laying goal kicking odds.

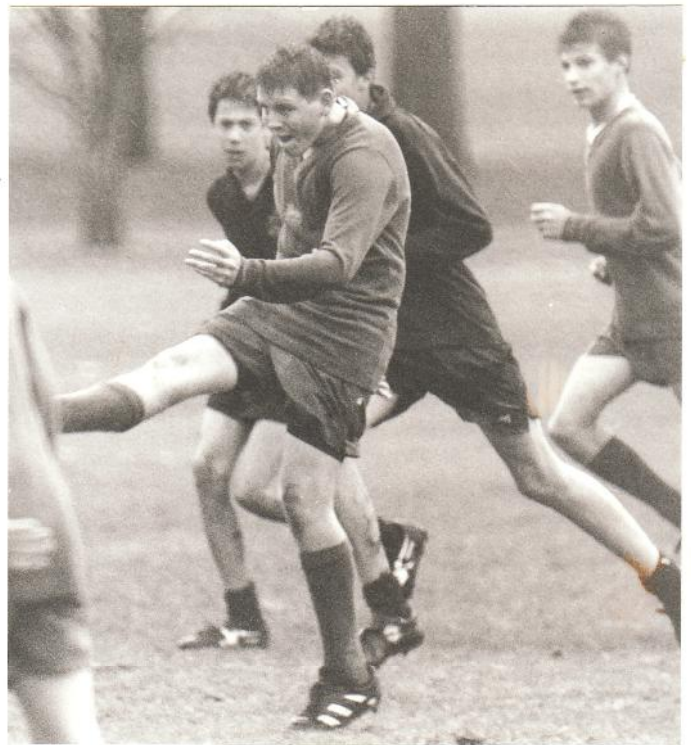
"Timmy's a chance for ten today" suggested Barthers. "I reckon Vander could push him" responded Ollie. "No way" interrupted Goldy "my money's on Snapper!"



Austin Grant forces the ball from his Melbourne opponent

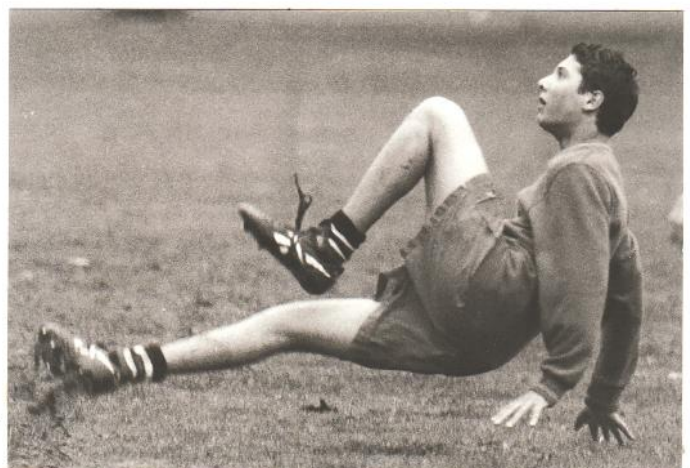
The skipper was the first to advance his team's score with a long bomb, and Timmy unselfishly helped Vander to his second at the five minute mark. The Lions' lead was now a handy nine goals, and Olly moved into the forward line to replace Slatts who had been invited by Robert Walls to give the pre match address to the Vics at the MCG. Despite their predicament, the Grammarians had not thrown in the towel, and they were trying desperately to break through the watertight Lion defence. In an inspirational performance Auzzy Grant took them all on, and time after time he sent them packing, allowing Stoney and the midfielders to rebound the ball forward. Goals to Timmy and Crusher extended the Lions' lead to 78 points at the final change, and it was now only a question of how far.

Conditions had improved slightly for the final quarter, but the ball was like a cake of soap and finessing was out of the question. Nevertheless, the Lions produced another strong quarter of football in which they were first to the ball, backed each other up and continually created options. The



Nick Van Duyn sends the footy goalward

Grammarians had no answer, and when Vander squeezed through his third, the umpire took matters into his own hands. Embarrassed by his school's performance he tried to manufacture an answering goal by awarding a mysterious free kick to the Melbourne full back, to be taken downfield in conjunction with three fifty metre penalties. His dubious plan fell flat when Grammar's kick fell short and Auzzy rebounded yet again! Wellsy had switched to attack and he suddenly found himself in the goal square with the ball in his hands, but he was struck by a bad case of stagefright and missed a sitter! When the ball returned minutes later he wisely chose the soccer option and flicked the ball into the back of the net with his left. Goldy had ventured forward desperate for a kick and Vander was moved into the ruck for the dying minutes, but it was Timmy "Deadeye" Oldfield who had the final word, securing his sixth sausage of the morning and taking the final margin to a very impressive ninety points.



Jake Goldenfein loses his footing in the heavy conditions

Rd 6

PLUGGER SETS NEW RECORD!

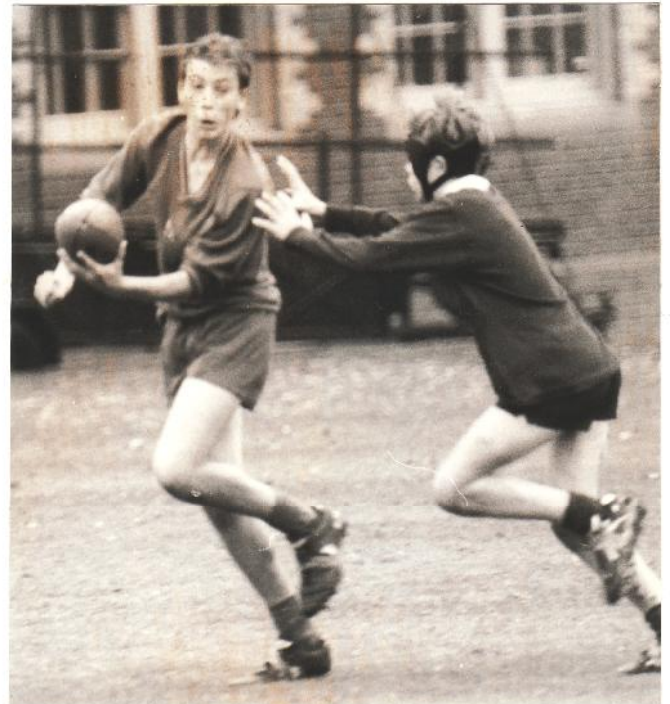
WESLEY COLLEGE 1. 5. 11
 GEELONG COLLEGE 8. 6. 54

GOAL: Elg
 BEST: Howlett, Morton, Holst, Andreotta
 Walmsley, Rose, Moffat, Stone, Elg
 INJURIES: David (head), Stone (proverbials),
 Rose (headspins), VanDuyn (headache)
 GOAL of the DAY: Elg (No argument there!)
 MARK of the DAY: Morton/Simonds (a tie)
 RUN of the DAY: Slatyer
 SMOTHER of the DAY: Howlett
 QUOTES of the DAY: "Who'd want to live in
 Geelong? You guys are the real losers!" (Slatts)
 "No wonder you've got a headache wearing that
 Bulldog's beanie!" (Geelong Trainer to Vander)

Having risen to every challenge that B Division could provide during the first five rounds of the 1999 season, it was inevitable that the Lions would sooner or later be promoted to the big boys league. It turned out to be sooner rather than later, and so it was that the Lions found themselves on a bus to Geelong at some unearthly hour on Saturday morning. To be more accurate, some of the Lions found themselves on the bus. Snapper had sold his soul to the devil and was playing hockey, Gouldy had forgotten to wake up, Auzzy had won a week's holiday in Portland, and Rohan had been granted the morning off to mow the lawns. The Elsternwickians had spent a gruelling week running up and down sand dunes at an Elite Squad Training Camp and Howler, Jonno and Greg were feeling a bit the worse for wear as they stumbled onto the bus. Eddy and The Wolfman, meanwhile, had fallen asleep in the hot tub and were nowhere to be seen.



Andrew Stone pressures an opponent in their race for the ball



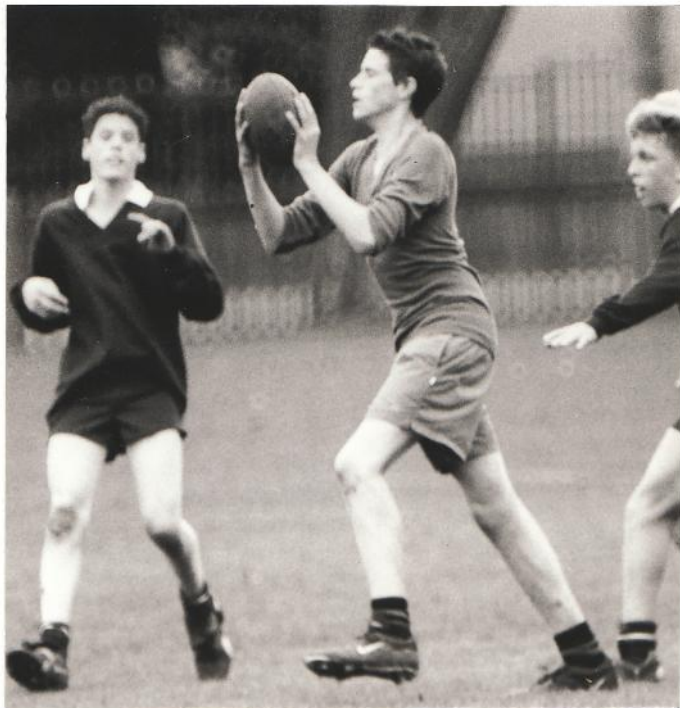
Michael Rose lines up a team mate with a handball

Big Rhett Simonds, making his first appearance of the season was hitching a ride on a Harley, while Elga and Shieldsy had decided to walk to the ground from their shanty town at the back of the oil refinery. The journey was uneventful - except for the strange behaviour of the passengers at the back of the bus - and the Lions arrived at the Talbot Street Oval to find the ground in surprisingly good nick. Most of the sheep had been moved to the top paddock and the old tractor had been winched out of the muddy goal square in time for the opening bounce.

Guest skipper Timmy Oldfield called correctly and the Lions found themselves kicking with the aid of a slight breeze to the shearing shed end, but right from the opening bounce it was clear that the Lions were now in a different league. Their opponents showed the extra poise and improved skill level that one would expect from a regular A Division team, and the Lions found the opening quarter a challenge. The Farmers posted the first goal, but the Lions fought hard to hold out their sustained attack, and they could only manage the single major for the quarter. Olly was impassable on the backline, and was marking strongly under pressure, while Holsty was already proving to be a thorn in the Farmers' side. Elga was tackling fiercely and Moffa was doing well in the ruck contests, but the Lions were struggling to get their flow on game going. Timmy's manager had arrived with his special finger tape, but in his rush to strap the Oldfella's digits he cut off the circulation and poor Timmy was unable to hold a mark! No such

problems however, for Matty Morton who took a screamer and was already picking up a bundle of stats. Stoney was firing up and he had a chance to answer on the scoreboard, but could only manage a minor. At the first change the home team led by eight points, and the Lions knew they had a real game on their hands.

Rosey had made a full recovery from his recent injury, and the crowd was delighted to see him return to the field of battle early in the second quarter. His efforts certainly helped the Lions to hold the opposition, but goals were hard to come by for both teams and it was becoming a real arm wrestle. Howler Howlett was in sensational form in the back pocket, and his desperate diving, tackling and smothering had to be seen to be believed. Greg too, was making it tough for the locals by playing an Auzzy Grant type running game from full back.



Lion ruckman Daniel Moffat marks strongly

Goldy and Barters were doing their best to push the ball into our half of the ground, and Jonno, Shieldsy and Woosha were providing options, but the Lions were breaking down up forward and were struggling to keep up with their hard running rebounding, opponents. The umpire was also having trouble keeping up with the game, and it was starting to slip out of his control. Stoney was squirreled by an overly affectionate opponent and Jonno copped a stray elbow to the scone, leaving the Lions short a pair of important instigators.

At half time the visitors trailed by thirteen points and were yet to register a major. The game was not out of reach, but the Lions knew that they would have to dig deep. They did not know however, that while they were sucking on their oranges, the Farmers were tucking into a chaff bag full of superphosphate cookies - a special secret recipe formulated by the angry lady from the kiosk. The



Rover Cade Elg launches into a long bomb

Lions' task was made even more difficult when the Farm manager replaced his gumboots with galoshes and pulled out his whistle. Unhappy with the number of free kicks his team was receiving he had decided that two umpires would effectively double the quota!

The third quarter was a disappointing one for the Lions. Despite the efforts of Howler, Matty, Moffa and Holsty the team was held scoreless whilst the superphosphate enriched Farmers pushed their lead out to almost forty points. Vander was having a bulldog of a day and was rugging up in his favourite dressing gown, while Crusher Crothers, favouring his injured knee, was having a rest at full



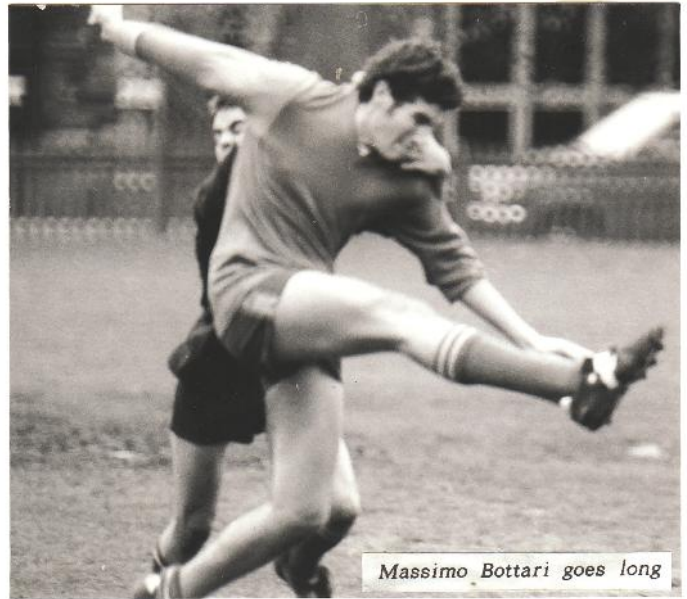
Ben Shields passes into the Lions' scoring zone

forward. Wellsy was reading the play well enough along his flank, but the opposition were more often than not first to the ball. Rosy collected a backhander to the face and was forced to leave the field - unrewarded by the umpire. Muss was flying the flag into battle but was getting frustrated by the Lions' inability to convert. The game had slipped away, but the Lions still had their pride and they were not going down without a fight!

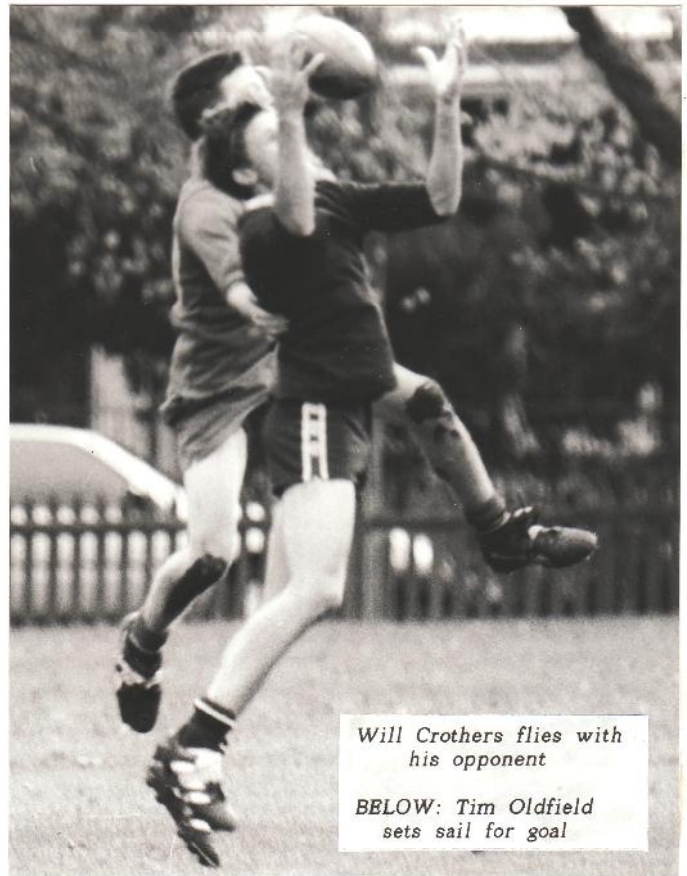


Goal of the Day! Cade Elg breaks the drought late in the game

The final term was a more even affair, with the Lions earning their fair share of the ball around the ground and collecting a better than even share of inside fifty stats. Conversion was still a problem though, and both Woosha and Vander missed what they should have put away. Simmo was providing an alternative target in the scoring zone, and even when he was unable to gain possession he could be relied on to stop his opponent with some unorthodox tackling. Rosey was regaining his old touch and was instrumental in the Lions' first goal, as he ran the ball out of defence and gave it on to Slatts who passed it on to Timmy. The skipper wasted no time in picking out Elga inside the fifty and the nuggety little rover made no mistake. This seemed to fire Slatts up, and moments later he cheered the cheer squad with an Aussie Jones like run along the members wing. The Lions were finally getting some system into their game and another forward thrust saw Timmy streaming towards an open goal - but as he dropped the ball onto his boot the siren sounded. The Lions had finished well, but despite their gallant efforts the horse (and the sheep) had well and truly bolted.



Massimo Bottari goes long



Will Crothers flies with his opponent

BELOW: Tim Oldfield sets sail for goal



WASTEFUL LIONS SCRAPE HOME!

WESLEY 4. 12. 36
 BRIGHTON 5. 4. 34

GOALS: Elg, Jorgenson, Adams, Burrows
 BEST: Elg, Morton, Burrows, Slatyer, Adams, Lewski, Moffat, Holst, Stone, Howlett etc
 INJURIES: Elg (ankle), Walmsley (leg)
 GOAL of the DAY: Burrows
 MOST EMBARRASSING BEHIND: Adams

A mid season holiday can play havoc with a football team as diets deteriorate, kilograms are added, fitness wanes and focus becomes fuzzy. It is the coach's worst fear that his team will go right off the boil as too many Big Macs, wild parties, late nights and soft weeks soaking up the sun in exotic beach resorts catch up with his players. The Lions could ill afford to fall prey to the temptations of a three week vacation this season as their redrawn fixture showed some tough games ahead! The Lions would need to be at their best in July and August - and the first hurdle would be the "Toners" on the Front Turf.

Training was encouraging, and it looked as though the selectors would finally have a full list to choose from. Key forward, James Jorgenson was well on the way to a full recovery, and although his mobility was still restricted, he was willing to be a target in the goal square. Rosey had suffered another rare affliction during the break as his nose exploded inside his head, but he seemed to have returned to normal and had declared himself available. Vander had been hit by a virus and Wellsy had been excused from training duties, but both would be right for Saturday. Snapper Burrows, meanwhile, had been granted a day release from National Hockey Service and would be a welcome addition to the team that had gone down to Geelong six weeks ago.



Lewski gets his kick under pressure. Hugh Bartram looks on.

Reliable defender Chris Howlett had been appointed captain-for-a-day and in fine but overcast conditions, he elected to kick to the school end for the opening term. Fired up by Rosey's portable disco, the Lions began strongly and Woosha Lewski was soon in the action registering a minor score. Another point followed, and it looked as though the Lions would be able to take the game right up to their A Grade opponents. The Lion defence was teaming well under the leadership of Holsty and the skipper. Ollie was showing his usual dash and Botta was dipping into his bag of party tricks to entertain the crowd and confound the opposition with a variety of juggling and hakky sak moves not normally seen on the football field! Matty Morton was already keeping the statisticians busy and Rosey was displaying tenacity and desperation in trapping the ball forward. Moffa was getting plenty of palm on the ball and Snapper was looking lively. Elga was a real little dynamo, and a brilliant passage of play resulted in our first goal as he did the old "one - two" with Jorgy. The visitors



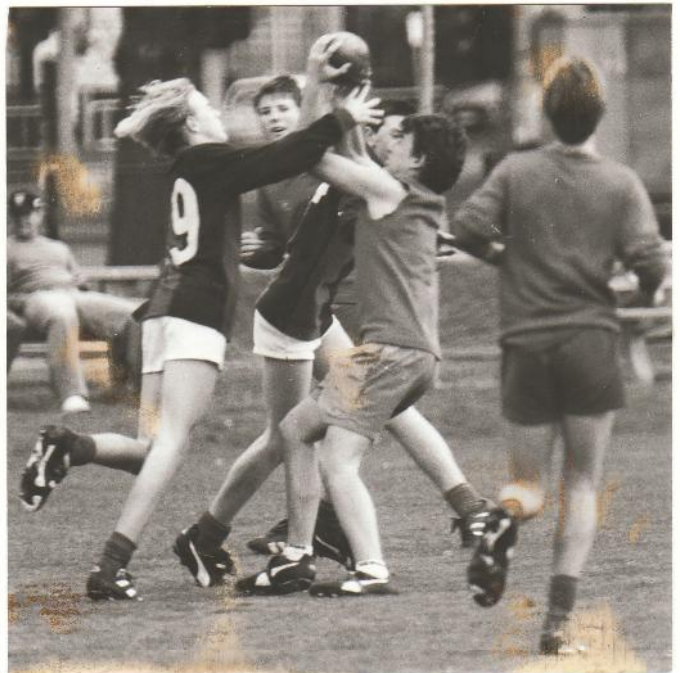
Matty Morton is caught with the footy.

were lucky to sneak an answering goal in the dying moments of the quarter as the Lion defence relaxed momentarily, but the signs were promising for the purple and gold.

The Lions' second quarter was impressive, but ultimately disappointing, as they squandered opportunities and generously allowed Brighton to stay in touch. Jorgy was presenting himself as a target in the goal square, but his first snapshot passed wide of the big sticks. He was able to redeem himself soon after as a Snapper pass found the Oldfella who in turn passed accurately to the big fellow directly in front. It wasn't long however, before the Toners began to flood Jorgy's zone with extra defenders, making it difficult for the Lions to convert. Jonno was finding plenty of space up the

field and a brilliant run deserved better than a minor score, as did Elga's courageous effort at the bottom of a pack. Slatts was a busy third rover, but he too failed to capitalise on an opportunity, and despite having controlled most of the play, the Lions went to the long interval less than two goals up.

The third quarter was a more even affair, but only because the Lions missed some crucial chances whilst allowing the opposition several easy scoring opportunities. Eddy Adams had taken up position as an alternative full forward, and he was quickly in the action registering the Lion's seventh behind! A goal would have been handy, as Brighton replied almost immediately to narrow the gap. Stoney had been giving his best in the midfield, and Jake "Scholarship" Goldenfein had been running his usual kilometres from half back to half forward and back, but it was Snapper Burrows who made the decisive move of the third quarter when he grabbed the ball from the centre bounce and in a great solo effort sprinted to inside the fifty and bombed a long ball towards the big sticks. As Jorgy cleared the path the Sherrin travelled truly and the Lion's third major was on the board. Eddy had stood by and watched with wonder as Snapper had strutted his stuff, and moments later he too got in on the act, snatching the ball at half forward and heading goalward at a cracking pace....one bounce...two bounces....inside fifty... another bounce...hero time thought Ed! But it was not to be and the Lions moved to a frustrating 3 goals 8 behinds. Crusher Crothers had been in and out of the play and had even done a stint as a water boy, but now he was able to set up Snapper in front of goal, only to be disappointed as he watched yet another wayward kick miss its target.



Eddy Adams marks strongly during the final quarter

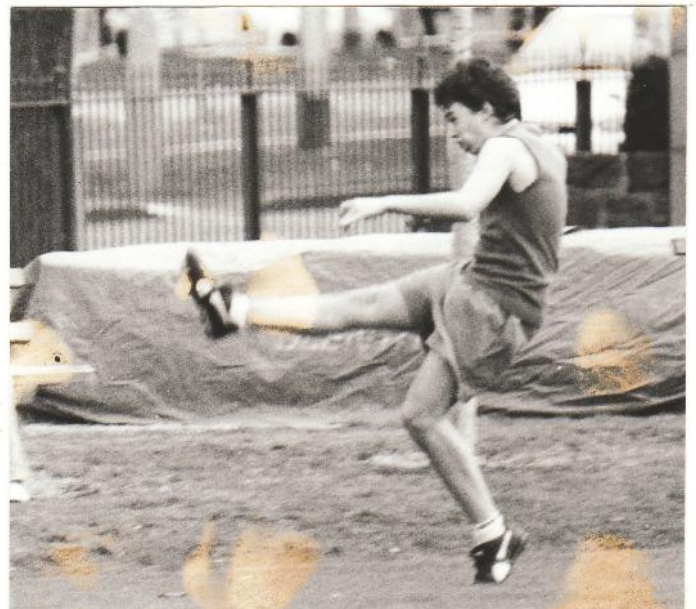


Eddy in action again during the Lions' exciting victory



Tim Oldfield dashes towards goal along the Moubray Street wing.

Despite his team's inaccuracy, the coach was feeling reasonably confident with the three quarter time situation. His major concern at this stage was not so much the scoreboard, but the bench! How do you shuffle eight interchange players on and off



Eddy Adams kicks an important goal early in the final term



Matt Morton is tackled illegally, but has the umpire seen it?

the field without throwing the team completely off balance? Well, he was about to find out!

The final twenty minutes provided a hard fought battle as the Toners took the game right up to the Lions, and the home team was forced to defend grimly. A scintillating dash by Timmy Oldfella gave Eddy the chance to redeem himself, and this time he kicked truly to push out the Lions' lead to a handy 18 points, but that was to be the home team's final goal as Brighton made their charge. Greg and Auzzy continued to stand firm in their defensive roles, and Gouldy was chasing and tackling vigorously, but the Wolfman had been moved into defence against his better judgement, and the Toners made the most of this little chink in the Lions' armour to slot through a reply. Barthers was running a wing and Shieldsy was patiently waiting on the boundary line trying hard to be noticed by the coach. Moffa had rucked tirelessly and had been given a well deserved rest, but Vander's recent illness had left him a bit out of condition and he was struggling to keep up with the play. Woosha was in the centre and Crusher was having a run on the ball, but when Elga turned his

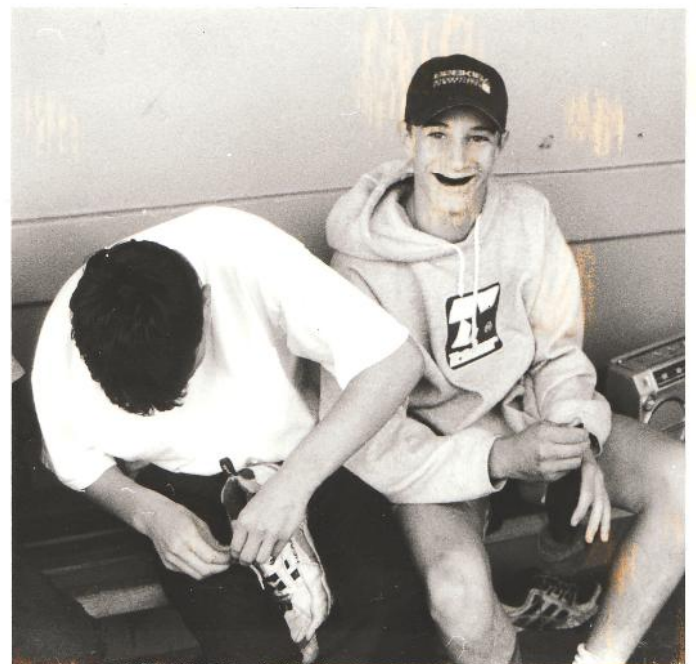


Andy Stone helps his injured team mate Cade Elg

ankle and Snapper took a breather the opposition grabbed the opportunity to snatch another goal, and the coach was forced to rethink his restructured team. Burrows was rushed back into the play and Slatts was thrown onto the ball. Holsty resumed his place and Howler began to marshall the troops for the final battle. The Lions rushed the ball forward but could only manage a series of behinds as the Brighton defence tightened the screws. Only minutes to go, yet the game was far from over! The Lions were still up by 8 points, but the Toners were finishing with a full head of steam. Could the Lions hang on? A desperate rush forward by the Toners sent shock waves through the Lion camp as the unthinkable happened! Another Brighton goal! The difference was just two points now, the time clock into the final ninety seconds. But the Lions were not finished yet...they'd come too far to be denied such an important victory! "Look up there!" shouted Holsty pointing towards the eastern sky. "Can you see it boys? Can you see the flag? That's what we're here for! People have sacrificed their lives for that purple flag! Are we going to lie down and be beaten by this bunch of pretenders? I don't know about you guys, but I'm proud of the old Lion...it's something worth fighting for! Let's do it for the Lion!"

"Yeah, you're right Charlie!" exclaimed Woosha. "Hang in there guys!"

Gritting their teeth and clenching their fists the boys in the purple and gold manned up close and did their duty. Brighton tried everything but the Lions stood firm and held them out! As the siren sounded the air exploded with cries of delight and if you listened hard you could just make out the final bars of "Eye of the Tiger" drifting from the doggy box one last time before Rosey's batteries gave up the ghost.



A happy Andrew Stone after the Lions' hard fought win



LIONS 9As

C. "Elga" ELG



Skilful rover who made up for a lack of inches with an abundance of G&D. First into packs and usually first out - with the ball in hand! An inspiration to his team mates who were quick to back him up when the going got tough!
Off the Deep End Awd

C.F. "Charlie" HOLST



Tall, unflappable CHB who reads the play to perfection. A strong competitor who, in spite of his fragile appearance, can take control of a game with his confident marking and accurate disposal. Good for a laugh!
Football Literacy Awd

W.J. "Crusher" CROTHERS

Full on winger with plenty of dash and an elastic body. Used his long arms and strong hands to good effect in aerial contests, and showed a liking for snapping tricky goals on his trusty left foot.



Reach for the Sky Awd

M.J. "Rosey" ROSE

Hardworking onballer with good skills and leadership potential. Trained with purpose and gave 100% on Saturday mornings (not to mention Saturday nights!) Always ready to bare his chest in the teams' interest.



Perfect Pecs Award

J. "Woosha" LEWSKI

Talented brother of a legendary Wesley footballer who has already carved himself a comfortable niche on the half forward line. Likes the open spaces and loves a goal on the run. Eats, sleeps and breathes footy!



Talking Footy Award

J. "Jonno" DAVID



Handy rover who began the season like a bomb but later went strangely quiet. Useful around the ground, but preferred to rest in the forward pocket where he led straight and kicked truly - sometimes!
Faster Than a Speeding Bullet Awd

N.S. "Snapper" BURROWS



Gifted athlete who was forced to spread himself across football and hockey fields in '99. Could swing a game with his fancy footwork and clever one handed party tricks! Loves a goal, but not so keen on umpires!

Good at Partys Awd

N.L. "Vander" VAN DUYN



Energy conscious full forward who used his body well to hold out opponents. Capable of kicking goals off the deck or by more orthodox methods. Sometimes found training an intellectual and physical challenge!

Bear in the Square Awd

G.T. "Greg" ANDREOTTA

Close checking, full back who adapted well to the Aussie brand of football. Courageous in the scrums, and not afraid to run the ball forward, only his extra wide kick ins caused some concern!



Golden Gluestick Awd

J.C. "Slatts" SLATYER

Talented onballer who not only fulfilled roving and ruck roving duties but also showed opponents a clean pair of heels on the wing. A slick mover who wore the East Sandy jumper to training with pride!



Small on the Ball Awd

J.B. "Goldy" GOLDENFEIN

Enigmatic left-footer with a unique sense of time and space. A valuable contributor at half back where his 50m dashes carried the ball out of danger and helped set up the overlap.



Flashing Flanker Awd

H. "Barthers" BARTRAM



Enthusiastic footballer who made good use of his limited opportunities. Showed consistently good form at training and was a useful link man in the thick of battle. Will benefit from more match practice!

Lion's Roar Award

B.J. "Benny" SHIELDS



Busy little beaver who squeezed a few games into his hectic weekend schedule between music camps, family picnics and busking duties. Worked hard when given the chance and kicked a timely goal at Haileybury.

Rebound Ace Award

G.A. "Wellsy" WELLS



Keen footballer who displayed a talent for being where the ball was going to be one kick later. A good mark and a natural forward whose opportunities were restricted by front and backstage commitments.

One Step Ahead Awd

TEAM of 99



A.T. "Stoney" STONE

Cheeky centreman who knows every trick in the book - some of them legal! A reliable stat collector with good hand and foot skills and excellent second efforts. Expert at getting on the right side of an umpire.

Umpires' Friend Awd



M.W. "Matty" MORTON

Valuable addition to the squad recruited from Viewbank College. Proved a consistent ballgetter on the wing where he displayed an uncanny ability to create enough space to guarantee an accurate disposal.

The Bxtricator Awd



D.A. "Moffa" MOFFAT

Rowdy ruckman whose height and naturally athletic leap were major assets to the team. Ideal at centre bounces where his basketball experience proved invaluable. Set a new non-attendance record at training.

Tip Top Tapper Award



J.J.E. "Jorgy" JORGENSEN

Larger than life CHF whose physical presence provided an insurmountable challenge for opposition defenders. Hampered by his dodgy hammys, but still able to hold his own in the air and in the packs.

King Kong Award



C.E. "Howler" HOWLETT

Determined, hard-at-it half back with a great work ethic. Plays close and tough and never allows the opposition an easy ball. Not pretty to watch but a vital link in the defensive mechanism!

"My Ball!" Award



O.W. "Olly" WALMSLEY

Reliable defender with a willingness to back his judgement and hit the ball hard. Worked hard in the clinches but thrilled crowds with his brave dashes out of the danger zone.

Save the Sherrin Awd



A.W. "Auzzy" GRANT

Tall, tenacious defender with surprisingly good control of his limbs. Used his height well in aerial contests, but also loved a run. Proved an expert at switching the play. Unmistakeable in the sleeveless guernsey!

Tear 'em to Shreds Awd



T.S. "Timmy" OLDFIELD

Versatile player who began the season in defence but was soon moved forward to fill a hole at CHF. Has good disposal skills and knows how to kick a goal, but ended the year back in defence - reluctantly!

Not Backward in Coming Forward Awd



C.M. "Chuck" WOLF

Big lump of a lad who shared the spearhead duties. A strong overhead mark and a reliable set shot for goal, he also displayed surprising agility when the ball hit the deck. A firm believer in gut feeling.

Hungry as a Wolf Awd



M.L. "Muss" BOTTARI

Tall, rangy type who saw the light and made the switch this season from the back turf to the front turf. Entertained the crowds with his ambitious balking manoeuvres & creative methods of disposal.

The Italian Stallion Awd



E.J. "Eddy" ADAMS

Cool, casual customer who had to overcome a serious back injury and bouts of lethargy before joining the team. Proved himself to be an elusive opponent but his goal kicking potential was restricted by a faulty radar.

Golden Compass Awd



R.W.L. "Gouldy" GOULD

Turned down a tempting preseason offer from Melbourne Storm to try his hand at a real sport. Found some of the rules perplexing, but discovered that a heavy tackle is good value in anybody's language!

You're Going Nowhere Award



R.D. "Rohan" THWAITES

Put in a big preseason after a disappointing 1998, and showed promise in the opening rounds, but soon the lure of a warm comfy bed and the promise of earning some weekend pocket money proved too much!

Do You Really Need Me Award



L.J. "Lachy" CASTRAN

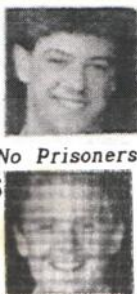
Straight ahead, no frills defender who found the call of the spunky snowbunnies too much to resist!

Take No Prisoners

R.M. "Simmo" SIMONDS

Part-timer who took a spectacular one-handed mark at Geelong and made a big impact on several opponents.

Fatal Impact Award



Rd 8

SLUGGISH START COSTS LIONS!

WESLEY 5. 1. 31
 HAILEYBURY 4. 9. 33

GOALS: Lewski 2, Stone, Van duyn, Slatyer
 BEST: Elg, Stone, Lewski, Holst, Howlett,
 Slatyer, David, Rose, Grant, Andreotta
 Moffat, Morton, Walmsley, Van Duyn,
 Jorgenesen, Crothers, Adams, Oldfield,
 Goldenfein, Bottari, Bartram

B.O.G. Elg

INJURIES: Elg (nose), Goldenfein (leg),
 Andreotti (fingers)

GOAL of the DAY: Lewski (long bomb)

SMOTHER of the DAY: Elg



The Haileybury spyship hovers above Fawkner Park

The Lions thrilling two point victory over Brighton last weekend was the big news in APS circles during the week, and their A Level opponents felt obliged to reassess their view of the purple and gold. Haileybury was particularly concerned as they were drawn to face the Lions in the upcoming round, and the College executive was forced to convene an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday night to discuss strategies and tactics. However, their task was a difficult one as the Lions were new to the top division and neither a team analysis nor a full colour team pinup had been published in the APS Record. Just who are these Lions? How do they play the game? Who are their big guns? The Haileybury coach was adamant: we need information!

And so it was that on Thursday evening, the Goodyear blimp hovered into view high above Fawkner Park as the Lions stretched for training. Those aboard were keen to observe the Lions going through their paces, and the Haileybury selection committee were well set up with high powered binoculars and DVD video equipment to monitor the Lions' every move. As the team began their handball warmup, the ever alert Andrew Stone was momentarily distracted by the flash of a camera high up in the sky. In an instant he had summed up the situation and he wasted no time in issuing instructions to his team mates. "Ease up guys! Don't try so hard! Haileybury spys!" With that the Lions' smooth moving, sure handed training drill deteriorated into a shambles, as players fumbled and over ran the ball, kicks slewed off the sides of usually reliable boots, and handballs deviated wide of intended targets. In no time the spyship had altered its course and was heading back towards the Keysborough airfield. "Nothing to worry about this week!" exclaimed the delighted Haileybury coach. "There's no intelligent life down there!"

Stoney's clever scam had worked brilliantly, and the Lions were able to refocus their attention on the preparations for the big match.

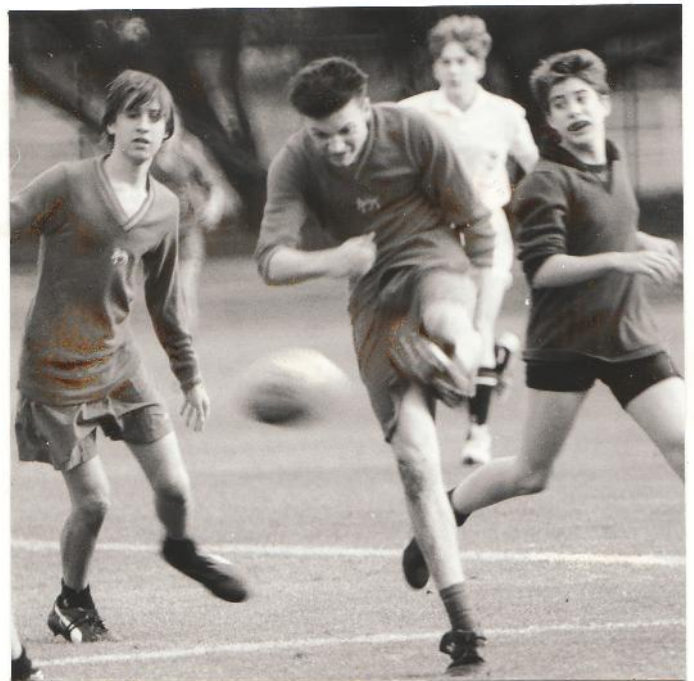
The journey to Keysborough can be a challenging and tiring one, and several Lions were running behind the clock as Captain Crothers supervised his team's final warmups on the vast Haileybury oval. The major concern was Dan Moffat's absence, and Auzzy was forced to step into the breach at the last moment, but minutes into the game it was clear that something was wrong. The Lions were flat! Goldy was suffering from a big Friday night, and the skipper was still distressed by the Demon's dismal form, but what was the cause of this general lethargy? Haileybury were quick out of the blocks, and in no time they had the scoreboard ticking. The Lions, by contrast, seemed to be just going through the motions. Stoney was still feeling a little queezy after tasting the curiously blue water which flowed from the taps in the visitors' changerooms. What if it wasn't Gatorade? Perhaps "Eye of the Tiger" had finally passed its use-by-date as a motivating factor? Whatever the reason, the Lions would need to get their act together soon! Haileybury had advanced to a three goal lead and the situation was beginning to look grim. Elga was trying to inspire his team mates with a bit of G&D, and Rosey, Holsty and Howler were giving their best, but the Haileybury big brigade was controlling the airspace. The sigh of relief from the Lions' cheersquad could be heard all around the ground when Moffa finally arrived late in the quarter, but the coach feared that the damage may have already been done.



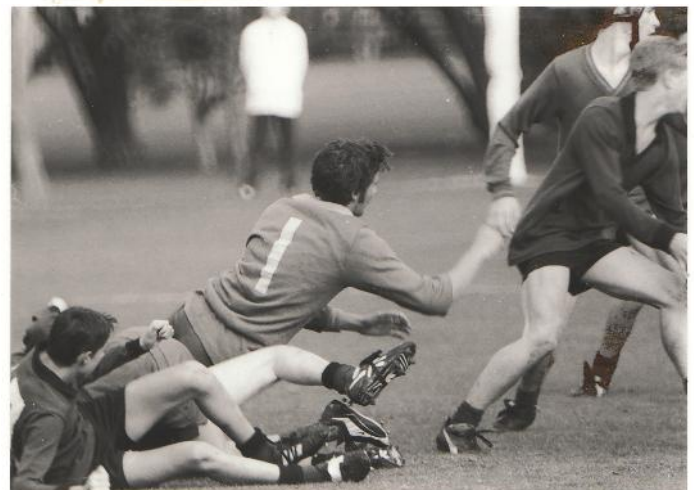
Centre Half Back Charlie Holst weaves his way through the Haileybury wall during the tight final quarter

The breeze to the beach end of the ground was deceptively strong, and the Lions were pleased to be using it in the second term as they attempted to make up the leeway. An early goal to Haileybury was not good news, but gradually the flow of the game began to change as the Lions lifted their level of involvement and began to attack the ball with greater determination. Stoney was working hard in the engine room, and he was instrumental in setting up Woosha for the Lions' first major - a long bomb which seemed to inspire his team. In no time Stoney himself had matched Woosha's effort and the Lions were back in the game. Slatts and Jonno had increased their work rate, and Crusher Crothers was living up to his name hurling himself at the ball and crashing into opponents and team mates alike! Matty had been finding the going tough, but was beginning to get his hands on the Sherrin more often now and the ball was finding its way into the Lions' scoring arc with some regularity. Vander had shed the dressing gown and was delighted to receive a Slatt's pass within range of the big sticks. The Lions had worked their way back into the contest, and at the the long interval the difference had been reduced to ten points.

The Lions knew that the premiership quarter would be the toughest. Their opponents would be kicking with the breeze, and the defence would have to be watertight. Ollie had been displaying good form in a back pocket and could be relied on to do his bit, while Auzzy was now at full back, allowing Greg to rest his jarred fingers in the other pocket, but there was little chance for Greg to rest as Haileybury began to pepper the goals as soon as the ball was bounced. The Lions however, were equal to the task, and time and again the ball was



Skipper, Will Crothers sends the Lions into attack



Massimo Bottari fires out a handpass to a team mate

repelled. Holsty was solid (?) and Barters and Howler were not going to give an inch! The Lions had the numbers as Elga, Matty, Crusher and Stoney were quick to lend a hand. Even Timmy Oldfella left his favourite offensive position to help out on the half back line! Frustrated and thwarted by Wesley tenacity, Haileybury could only manage two behinds for the quarter, and at the final change the Lions trailed by 12 points.

The final twenty minutes had everything, as each team fought tooth and nail to gain the upper hand. Led by their skipper's example, the Lions threw themselves into the fray with renewed enthusiasm. While Moffa continued to outpoint his heavier opponent in the ruck contests, Jorgy was now a vital linking target at CHF. Eddy and Woosha were providing moving alternatives and Vander was leading well, if a little wide! Elga was brilliant wherever he was. So brilliant in fact, that he was receiving extra attention from the opposition behind the play! As the ball was projected deep into the Lions' left forward pocket Elga was gang tackled wide on the flank. The Lions were quick to fly the flag, and a melee developed, but Slatts was only interested in the ball, and while Elga provided a diversion, he pounced on the Sherrin and snaffled a sausage to take the Lions to within eight points. As Elga staggered from the field, blood pouring from his nose, his team mates fired up for one final effort. Goulidy was running left, right and centre delivering words of encouragement, and Muss had returned to the field looking for a piece of the action. Jorgy's value at CHF was affirmed as he fed off a handball to Woosha and the Lions' fifth major was on the board. Only two points the difference! The capacity crowd was on the proverbial edge of its seat! Would there be a fairytale ending today? Could the Lions score again before the bell? I'd like to say yes, but no, we ran out of time. Dammit!



Ollie Walmsley clears the footy from the danger zone



James Slatyer lays a serious tackle on a Haileybury opponent



"You're not going anywhere pal!" Stoney takes hold of the situation as a bloodied Cade Elg regains his senses

CITY SLICKERS WIN A THRILLER!

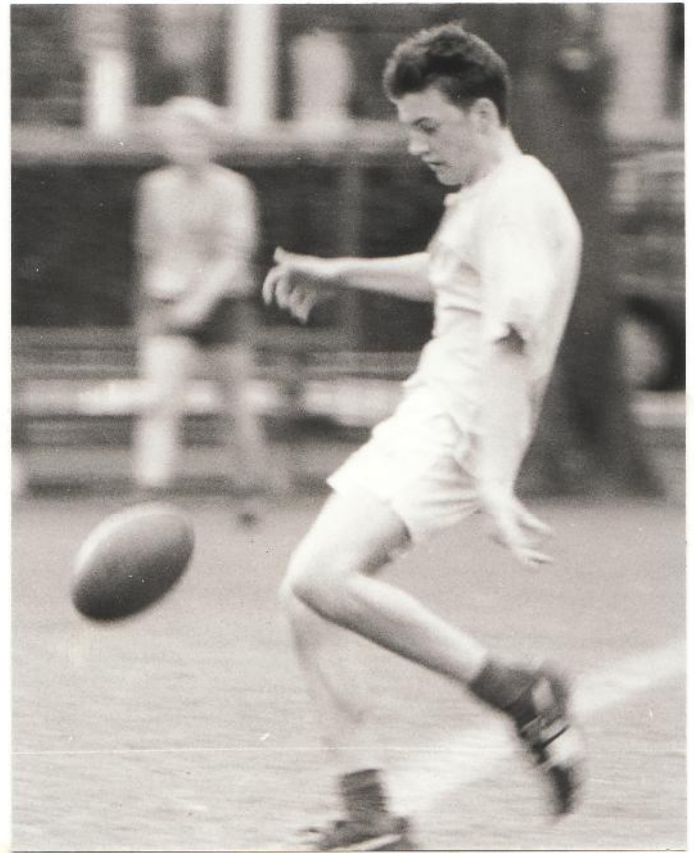
WESLEY P/E 9. 4. 58
WESLEY G.W. 6. 11. 47

GOALS: Crothers 3, Wolf 3, Lewski 2, Slatyer
BEST: Stone, Morton, Crothers, Lewski, Rose,
Elg, Wolf, Moffat, Jorgensen, Howlett etc
INJURIES: Walmsley (brain), Grant (shoulder)
GOALS of the DAY: Wolf (his second)
Crothers (reverse snap)
PLAY of the DAY: Stone to Slatyer to Lewski
(a great passage of play in the third)
SWITCH of the DAY: Grant, across goal to
Walmsley
CREATIVE THINKING AWARD: Gould
(backward handball to Stone)

Disappointed after last weekend's narrow loss at Haileybury, the Lions hit the track hard this week in preparation for the traditional inter-campus battle. Muss was struck by a mystery illness which prevented him from training, and Gouldy and Moffa continued their competition to see who could miss more successive training sessions, but it was Greg who threw a real scare into the Lions' camp when he was forced from the field on Thursday night with severe headspins. Fortunately, the medicos cleared him for Saturday's crucial game and he was able to take up his customary role in defence. Rosey's successful debut as captain during the season's warm up match at Glen Waverley had not been forgotten by the selectors, and he was invited to once again assume a leadership role.

There had been some speculation in the media during the week as to which team would sport the Wesley purple on Saturday. Mike Sheahan suggested that wearing the purple and gold guernsey could provide an advantage equivalent to a three goal breeze, but, gee, Bruce Mc.Ivaney reckoned that it could be like having Big Plugger at full forward and King Carey at centre half. The Lions themselves had given the matter little thought, and had concerned themselves with more important matters like trying to understand the coach's weird training drills.

It was only after they had arrived at the ground on Saturday morning that the Lions were forced to consider the hot topic of footy fashions. Mr.Hibbins, who had been sent on a mission early in the week, had travelled the length and breadth of Melbourne in his quest for an appropriate range of distinctive garments, and his thorough search of op shops and Brotherhood bins had paid dividends. Here was a winter collection of which even Prue Acton would be envious! Yellow windcheaters, yellow t-shirts, yellow tank-tops, yellow vests and an old yellow cardigan that had seen much better days! But there is no accounting for personal taste, and the Lions' response to this cornucopia of



Crothers was on fire on Saturday kicking three valuable goals



Lion skipper, Michael Rose beats the G.W. defence

golden garments was a firm "Thanks, but no thanks!"

"Why can't they wear them?" asked Rosey, "Yellow's not really for us..."

"He's right Mr.Stone, yellow is not a hue generally associated with rugged masculine behaviour" explained Cade.

"Yeah...and it clashes with my hair!" added Jorgy.



Rugged defender, Chris Howlett thumps the ball clear of the opposition during the tight last quarter

"I will not wear a prickly yellow windcheater!" cried Josh stamping his feet, "It's not fair!"

The coach took a deep breath. He had never seen his team so passionate before a match. "All I have to do is make sure they retain their rage" he thought. "Sorry guys! You'll have to grin and wear it (joke). Mr.Hibbins has promised detentions to anyone who refuses!"

Well and truly fired up now the Lions were in a mean frame of mind as the ball was bounced by the Doc. Crusher Crothers was especially mad, as he had chosen the white shorts today and he looked more like a boundary umpire than a winger. He hurled himself into the play and in next to no time had converted a neat piece of volleyballing by

Vanders into the Lions' first goal. Stoney had picked up where he left off the previous week, and was giving his team plenty of drive, while Elga was quick to dive into the fray. Woosha was full of running and deserved a better return when he ran the ball into an open goal but saw his kick slew off his usually trusty right boot. Howler, Ollie and Greg were keeping the clamps on the G.W. forwards who were continually under pressure and could only reply with a couple of minor scores. Crusher was still running hot, and when the skipper delivered the ball to him on the burst it was "put down your glasses!" as the Lions' second goal was on the board.

The second quarter was an even affair as each team was able to answer the other on the scoreboard, and by half time the Golden Lions' advantage had been whittled down to just one point. The quarter opened with some dynamic play from Matty Morton on one wing as he sought to match the endeavour of Crusher on the other. Eddy was slipping into the play and Slatts was showing no signs of strain from Friday night's outing under lights as he took off towards the scoreboard pocket at the St.Kilda Road end and bent back his left footer with pinpoint accuracy. Holsty and Timmy "Don't Call Me Oldfella" were offering sterling resistance across half back, but the country cousins somehow managed to slip the ball through for an answer. Wolfman Chuck had warned the coach before the match that his bio-rhythms were peaking this week with the advent of the full moon, and that he might do something dangerous, so he was let loose on the forward line. A timely goal was the result, as Jonno teamed with Ed to deliver the ball to Chuck directly in front. G.W. responded in kind and at the long interval the difference between the two sides was negligible.



Jorgensen snatches the ball from the top of the pack at a critical stage of the game.



"\$5.00 he won't make the distance!"



Chuck Wolf proved a matchwinner on Saturday. Here he snaps one of his three goals *Lewski seals the game with a late goal*

The crowd were kept on edge of their seats throughout the premiership quarter as the seesawing struggle continued. The Purple Lions were quick to strike and they hit the front for the first time in the match, but Woosha snapped truly to reclaim the advantage. Auzzy had taken Muss's spot in the backpocket and was keeping the opposition guessing with his unpredictable switching. Ollie and Greg, meanwhile, were being led up the garden path by their wandering opponents. Rosey was keeping No.10 quiet and Stoney was turning cartwheels when he wasn't chasing the footy. Gouldy was experimenting with some rugby tactics and Benny was praying for another chance on the ground. Jorgy was proving to be a valuable link in the Lions' offensive manouevres, and he was able to feed the ball in the direction of a speeding Crothers who threaded the sherrin with a flying banana. Clever!

Only two points the difference as the teams took up their positions for the final stanza. Could the Lions hang on and survive another nailbiter? The visitors threw down the challenge as they clawed their way to level pegging before a lucky goal gave them a clear advantage. Muss and Wellsy had been moved into the forward line now and Guy was reading the play well to be running target, but it was Muss who was instrumental in providing Chuck with the opportunity to snap his second and the Lions' seventh. The opposition were desperate to puncture the Lion defence, but with Holsty, Howler and Timmy playing close and mean the best they could muster was a behind. Moffa had forgotten about his hammy problems and was making sure the high balls did not fall into enemy hands. Elga and Stoney were still pumping hard in the engine room and Matty Morton added another stat to his sheet as he passed to Jorgy who reached high above the pack for a big grab. As he lined up

for goal Eddy could be heard offering odds on the boundary line, but with Glen Waverley up by a point, the Lions' camp was more intent on watching Chuck snap another timely goal to give his team the edge. Only minutes to play now, and Rosey was keeping his team posted with regular updates, but he need not have worried - the Golden Lions were not about to let this one slip! Another strong passage of play from the Italian Stallion sent the ball in Woosha's direction and his long shot sailed straight through the high-diddle-diddle to give the Lions' an unassailable lead which would soon become another gallant victory.



Michael Rose breathes a sigh of relief as he removes the dreaded yellow guernsey after the big match

LIONS IN LAST GASP VICTORY!

WESLEY 6. 13. 49
CAREY 6. 6. 42

GOALS: Jorgensen 3, Wolf 2, Burrows
BEST: Stone, Jorgensen, Burrows, Goldenfein,
Crothers, Morton, Slatyer, Andreotta etc.
INJURIES: Rose (ankle), Burrows (calf)
GOAL of the DAY: Jorgy (snap from ball up)
MARK of the DAY: Burrows

It was a week of mixed emotions for the Lions. Although in a celebratory mood after last weekend's victory over Glen Waverley, the boys were also aware that the upcoming fixture against Carey would mark the end of an era, and there was a hint of sadness in the air.

Determined to do well in their last match as a Prahran/Elsternwick team, the Lions produced a relatively solid effort on the training track - although Vanders and Muss had some difficulty coming to grips with the figure eight kicking drill. The boys looked particularly impressive during their final scratch match at Fawkner Park as they fine tuned their game day moves. The return of Snapper Burrows to the team would add another dimension to the forward line, and the Wolfman's recent good form gave the selectors' another option in attack - but there was a cloud on the horizon! Prime mover and numero uno little man, Cade Elg, had met with an untimely accident during a lunchtime scuffle, and his left wrist had suffered serious structural damage. (There was a rumour in circulation that numero due little man, James Slatyer, had layed the vicious tackle that brought Elga to the ground, and that his intentions had been less than honourable, but this libellous piece of gossip remains unproven.) The Lions were clearly disturbed by this tragic news of Elgas's mishap, and even considered wearing black wrist bands as a tribute to their courageous rover.

The Front Turf was in immaculate condition for the ultimate contest. Melbourne's unseasonal dry spell had left the surface firm but well grassed, and the forecast was for a sunny Saturday. Relieved to be back in their traditional purple and gold guernseys, the Lions moved through their warm up with above average enthusiasm, but when the game started, it was the now familiar, slow-out-of-the-blocks Lions who were overrun by a more determined, disciplined opposition. An early behind to Jonno was answered with a Carey goal, but the Lions' next score - a goal to Chuck resulting from a skilful chain of possessions beginning with Jorgy - was their last for the quarter, as Carey took control of the game and added three successive majors. Their little men were proving a real headache around the goals, and Ollie and Timmy had their work cut out for them. At the first break



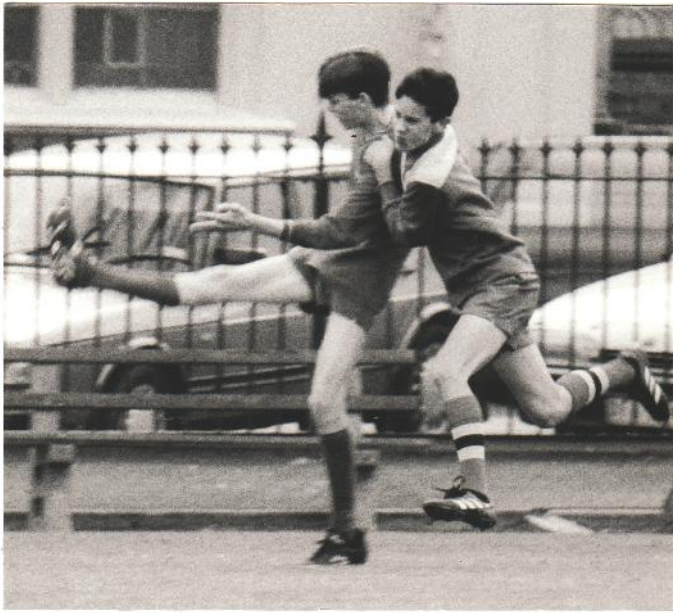
James Jorgensen at full stretch during the tense final quarter

the home team was already trailing by a substantial 23 points, and Lion skipper, James "Puss in Boots" Slatyer, had a few things to say to his players! The coach had been reminded of the dismal efforts put up recently by his once mighty Saints, and he too had a word of advice.

The next twenty minutes was encouraging, but the Lions struggled to capitalise on opportunities, and they were able to gain little ground on their opponents. Stoney was as desperate as ever in the pivot, and Matty was proving elusive on his wing, but Woosha was struggling to hold on to the



"That'll be mine thanks!" Hugh Bartram contests at ground level



Charlie Holst centres the ball from the Mowbray Street wing

slippery footy and he was unable to take advantage of his anticipatory positioning. A free to Stoney was converted by a juggling Jorgy and the Lions nudged a little closer on the scoreboard, but hard work by Carey produced a quick reply. Holsty seemed to be a bit out of sorts, and he was finding it difficult to exert his usual steadying influence on the game. Nevertheless, Howler and Greg were now playing their familiar brand of close checking football, and Carey were not having it so easy in attack. Another forward thrust by the Lions resulted disappointingly in a minor, but Carey were unable to do any better as the Lions defenders were proving equal to their task. A desperate lunge on



"We have lift off!" Daniel Moffat takes off at a centre bounce

the last line by Goldy prevented a certain goal, and the Lions were able to quickly relay the ball back to their scoring zone. Eddy pounced on the Sherrin, but his kick was wayward, and the Lions still trailed by three and a half goals at the long break.

As the Lions ruefully sucked on their citrus segments and reflected on their fairly ordinary showing, they were surprised to hear an unfamiliar voice exhorting them to "pull the finger out" as the saying goes. The Lions match committee, at great expense, had flown in by chopper the well known motivational speaker, Ric Holst - fresh from his triumphant tour of the States. Holst was now sharing his wisdom with the struggling Lions, and the coach was hoping that his charges would be ignited by his fiery words!

The coach was forced to make a few adjustments in an attempt to lift his team's strike rate. Rosey had turned his ankle and had been forced to stay off the field as the third term began. Barthers had gone onto a flank, and Wellsy was in a pocket. Snapper had been displaying glimpses of his rare talent, and the pro-Wesley crowd was hoping for some real Snapper magic to lift their spirits in the second half, but just minutes into the quarter he too was forced from the field with a corky. Gouldy had convinced the coach that he was ready for another crack at the big time, so he was released onto the backline with a job to do. As always,



"Eyes on the ball!" Josh Lewski contests with commitment

Gouldy's tackling was ferocious - but his timing left a little to be desired! Moffa was winning his share of ball ups and throw ins, but the crumbing Lions would need to make more of his aerial strike rate if they were to win this one! Jorgy was presenting himself as a focal point in the corridor, and as he drifted goalward a pass from Woosha found him well within range, but the big fella missed! Moments later however, he redeemed himself by grabbing the ball from a ball up and snapping truly. Crusher Crothers had been relatively quiet during the first half, but he was beginning to be noticed now, and after registering a poster he bounced back to set up Jorgy for the Lions' fourth. The gap was closing!

Slatts, Matty and Stoney were inspiring their team mates with their hard at the ball efforts, and the Lions were able to lock the ball forward long enough for Chucky to soccer a vital goal as the quarter drew to a close. Carey had been held to just three behinds for the quarter thanks to the Lions' hardworking defence. The difference was just three points! Could the Lions complete a major comeback and snatch the game during the final stanza?

The visitors opened with a behind, and for a few minutes the game seemed evenly poised, with neither team able to take the initiative. "Come on guys!" boomed Muss from the boundary, "Let's do it for Cade! Let's win it for the little fella!"

The coach knew that inspiration alone was not enough. He would have to do something soon before it was too late. "Are you OK Snapper? Can you run?" "Yep, let me at 'em!" came the reply. "Now, swap with Jonno." ordered the coach. "Do something amazing!"

Before the Carey defenders could work out what was going on, Snapper had slipped into the forward pocket and grabbed hold of a long shot from Jorgy as it dropped short of its intended target. The resulting goal gave the Lions the lead for the first time since the opening minutes of the game, and they were damned if they were going to let it slip again! Holsty, Timmy and Auzzy clenched their fists and gritted their teeth. Vanders tightened the cord on his lilac dressing gown. All over the



Nick Burrows flies for a crucial mark deep in the forward pocket. The resulting goal gave the Lions the winning edge

ground the Lions sharpened their focus and steeled themselves for the final ten minutes of season 1999. Stoney issued instructions from the centre of the oval and the wall was constructed. The ball was now trapped where the Lions wanted it! Carey were not about to throw in the towel, and they refused to hand the game to the Lions. After all, they were still only one kick away from victory themselves! Persistent play by the Lions kept the ball close to the goals, but the pressure applied by the opposition prevented them from registering the sealer. Try as they might, the Lions could not get clear to post another goal, but as long as they continued to squeeze through behinds, Carey's task would become more difficult. At six points the difference, the Lions breathed a gasp of relief - at least we can't be beaten they thought! Just minutes to go, and another behind - the fifth for the quarter- made Carey's task even more difficult, and the boys in purple and gold breathed a loud sigh of relief. The final countdown for the season had begun...10...9...8...er...7...6...er...4...5...3...2...1 counted Vander. "Bleeeah!" said the siren. "Hooray" cried the Lions.



"Stretcher!" Nick Burrows calls for medical assistance after a Carey player ran into an obstacle during the final quarter



Grosby Goalkickers

They're great mate.



Chuck Wolf - a handy goal kicker on his day

1999 GOALKICKERS

N.BURROWS	20
N.VAN DUYN	17
J.DAVID	9
T.OLDFIELD	8
J.JORGENSEN	7
C.WOLF	6
W.CROTHERS	6
J.LEWSKI	5
J.SLATYER	4
C.ELG	4
M.ROSE	3
A.STONE	2
E.ADAMS	2
A.GRANT	1
C.HOLST	1
D.MOFFAT	1
M.MORTON	1
B.SHIELDS	1
G.WELLS	1



Nick Van Duyn - a consistent goal scorer at full forward



Will Crothers - snapped some sensational goals from impossible angles



Nick Burrows - dominated the opening rounds with two bags of eight



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NSW Permit No. TC99/2452; Vic Permit No. 99/734 issued on 29/3/99; ACT Permit No. TP98/3100; NT99/742; SA T99/931.



3. Tim Oldfield vs. Xavier



1. Nick Burrows vs. Carey

MARK OF THE YEAR

with *Matt Morton*
(and Bruce MacIvaney)



High marking is one of the really special features of our great Aussie game. A sensational specky can really set the Gee alight, but you'd have to say that a titanic one on one tussle at ground level between two of the game's powerhouses can be tremendously exciting! The Wesley Lions pulled in some marvellous grabs in 99 - now its up to you to decide which of these really special efforts deserves to be the

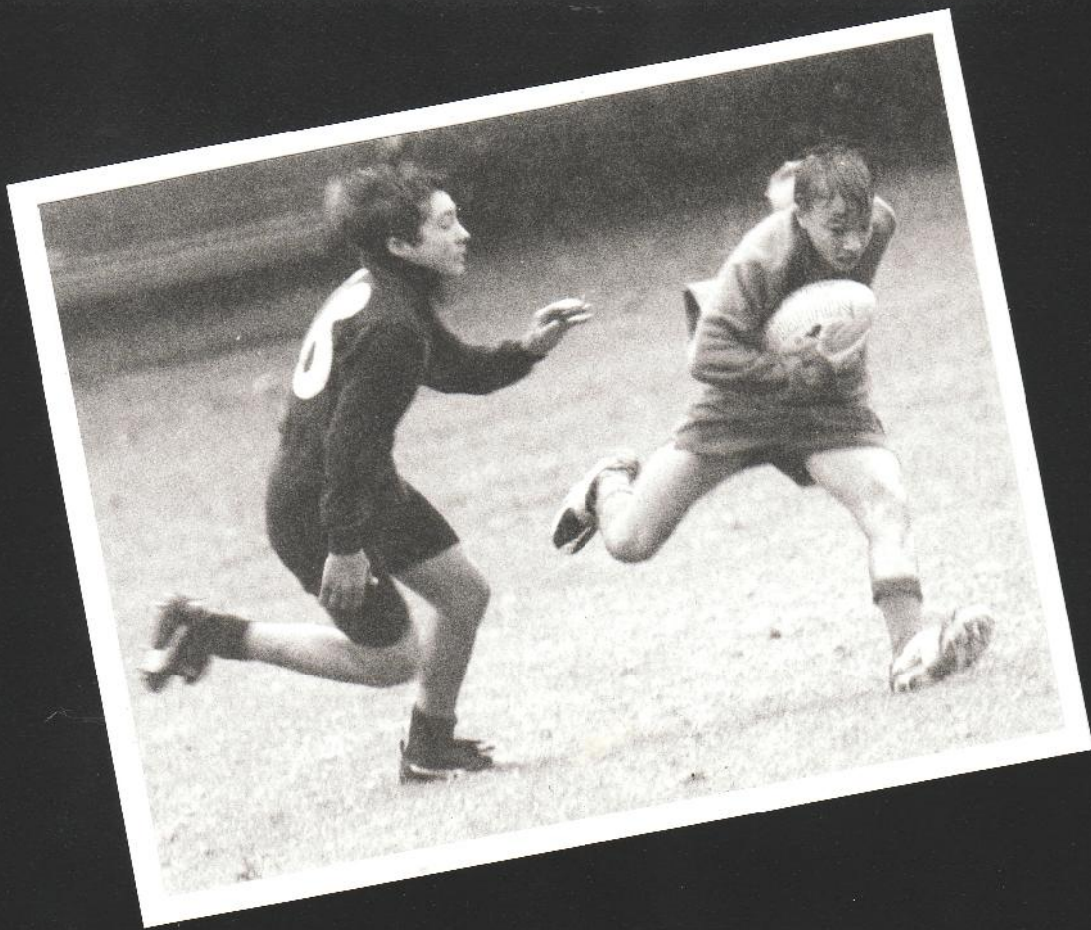
Cadbury MARK OF THE YEAR



2. James Jorgensen vs. G.W.



4. James Jorgensen vs. Yr 10s



(In 1999, Cade broke clear of the pack.)

Wesley's Cade Elg is the brilliant winner of the 1999 APS Norwich Union Rising Star Award for the best young player in the APS, standing out from the 22 highly talented players selected for the Norwich Union APS "Class of 99".

Having begun his career with the Williamstown Seagulls (affectionately known as the Willy Wagtails), where he played a starring role in successive premierships teams, the skilful, courageous and hard-working 15 year old rover continued his excellent form with the Lions in 1999. Before breaking his arm during an unofficial training session late in the season, the consistent Elg was a key player in the Lions' successful run towards the finals. His dedication and willingness to give 110% have made him an excellent role model for younger teammates.

Norwich Union is proud to be the sponsor of this award, created to reward the best young players in the APS, to help build their financial futures. In fact, that's a policy we have for all of our customers.

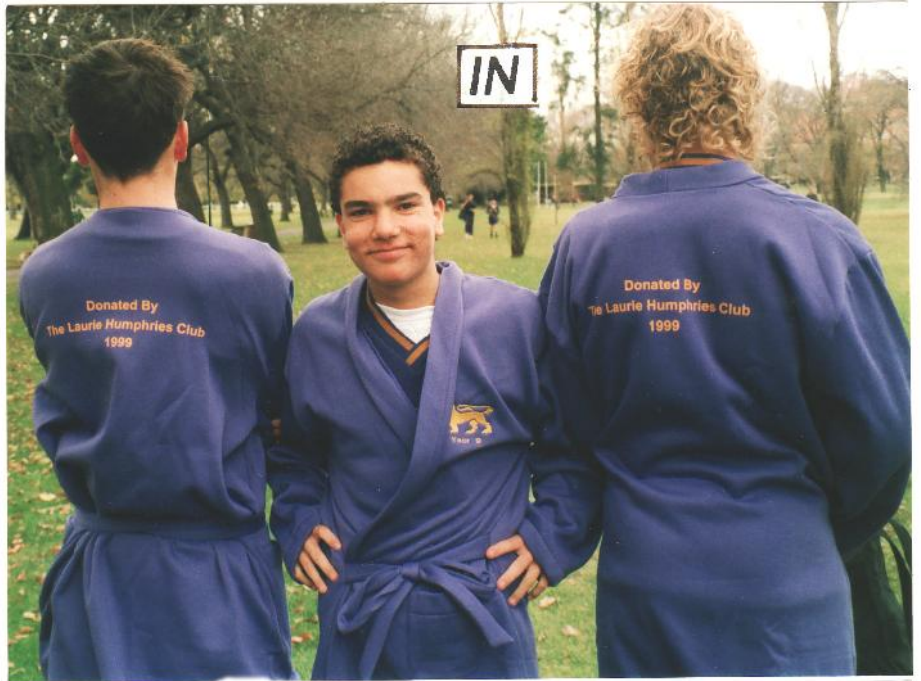
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 **RISING STAR** 
www.norwich-union.com.au/risingstar/

Fashion '99



with
Will



IN

Jonno, Tim and myself modelling the trendy new dressing gowns generously donated by the Laurie Humphries Club. Coolsville!!



OUT

1999 was a huge year in fashion!

On the field, baggy purple shorts were still the rage, but sleeveless jumpers moved sharply up the charts thanks to Auzzy. Muss preferred the retro look – pinching his brother's old First XVIII gear, but the big statement was made on the other side of the boundary line. Lightweight purple dressing gowns were so far IN it wasn't funny! On the other hand, yellow footy windcheaters were given the big thumbs down!



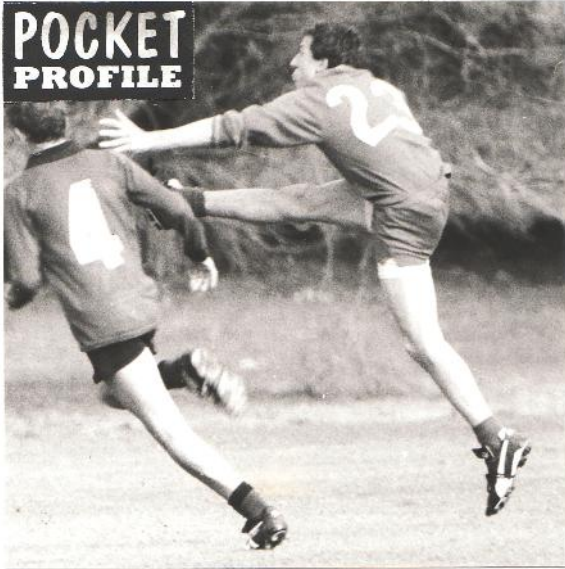
IN

38 Muss and Auzzy looking cool.



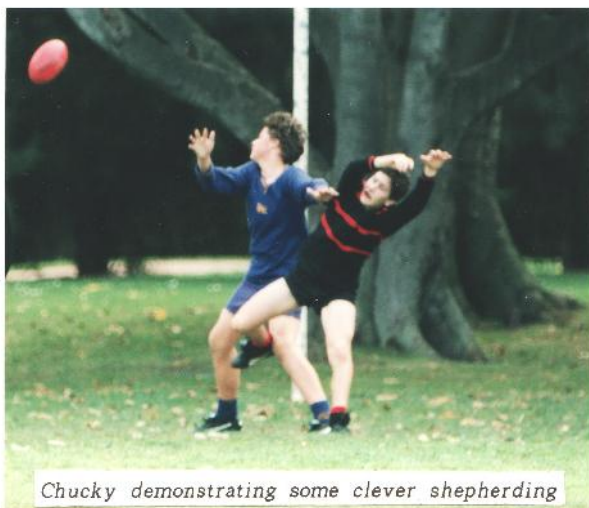
Here I am demonstrating how versatile the new dressing gowns are

POCKET PROFILE

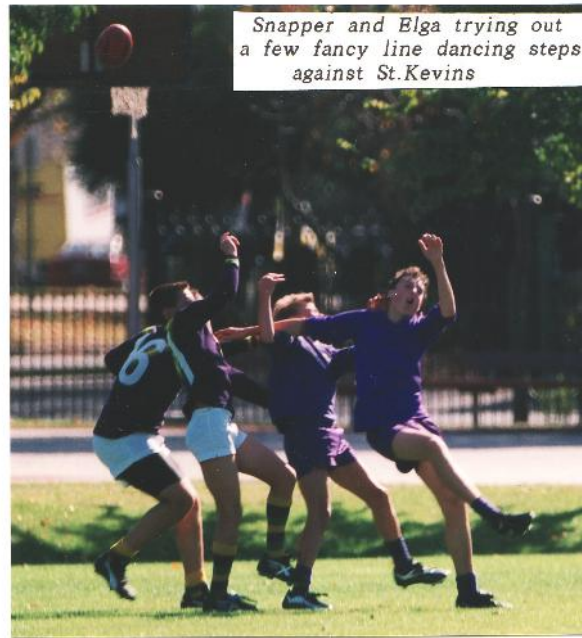


Dreams of greens...

Name: Josin Lewski
Date of Birth: 14/10/84
Sporting heroes as a kid: Michael Jordan, Dermott Brereton, Jason Dunstall
Ultimate non-footy fantasy: To play on the PGA tour
Most memorable match: 1998 AJAX U/14 Grand Final victory
Biggest influence on your game: My dad
Scariest moment: Going on the Tower of Terror
Apart from football, what is your greatest talent? Skiing
Most admired team mate? Nick Burrows
Why? He never trains, just rocks up to the game and does classy stuff
Favourite film: Shawshank Redemption
Favourite CD: Pearl Jam, "Live on Two legs"
Most entertaining team mate: Jake Goldenfein because of his smart, humorous calls
7 dream guests at a dinner party: Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, Anna Kournikova, Jennifer Anniston, Liz Hurley, Posh Spice, Gabrielle Richens
Favourite footy team: Hawthorn



Chucky demonstrating some clever shepherding



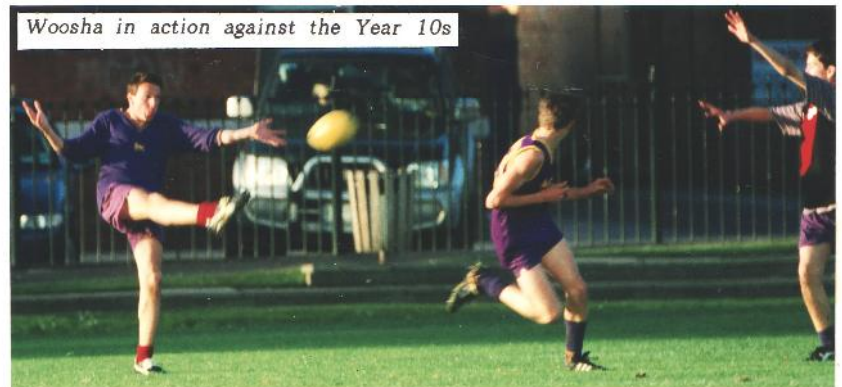
Snapper and Elga trying out a few fancy line dancing steps against St.Kevins

LIONS IN ACTION!

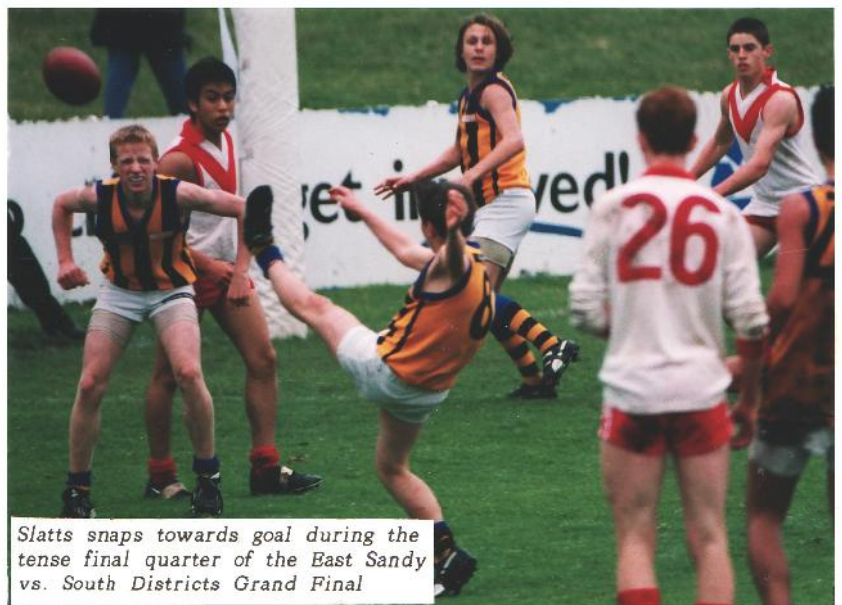
presented by
Chris Howlett



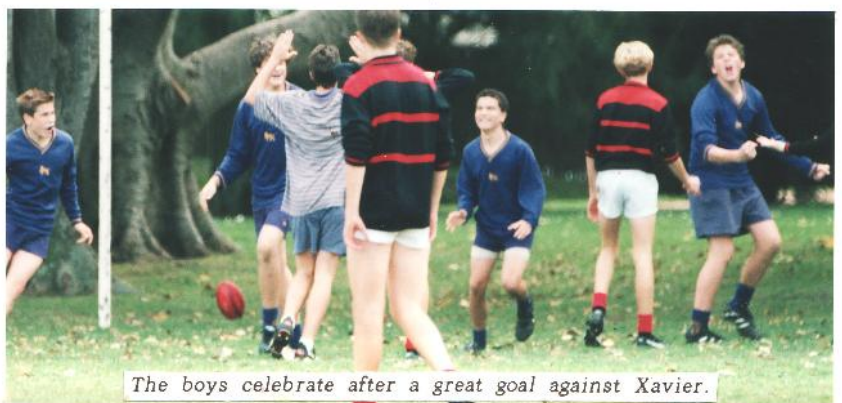
Here are some exciting action shots of my team mates which I think you'll enjoy!



Woosha in action against the Year 10s



Slatts snaps towards goal during the tense final quarter of the East Sandy vs. South Districts Grand Final

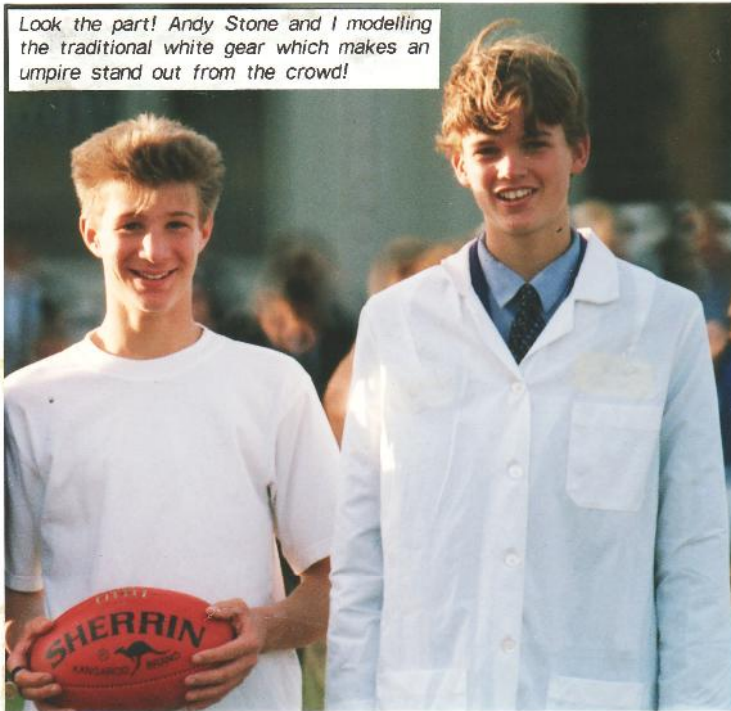


The boys celebrate after a great goal against Xavier.

So you want to be an AFL umpire?

It might look easy from the other side of the fence but to make it to the top as an umpire requires dedication, patience and perseverance says **Charlie Holst**

Look the part! Andy Stone and I modelling the traditional white gear which makes an umpire stand out from the crowd!



Stoney chats with Mr. Ackerley after one of his more puzzling decisions. The handsignals are interesting - especially the left index finger!



People often ask me, "Why do you waste your Saturday afternoons umpiring?" I'd like to say "Because the pay is fantastic", but it's not, so I tell them it's to see how the other half live. Andy Stone agrees. If you can work out how an umpire thinks there's bound to be a few free kicks in it for you. Stoney is always talking to umpires. Some people say he's a suck, but he's just being smart!

GOAL UMPIRING

Here are a few hints for any of you who might be interested in waving the flags. Remember, after a tight snapshot all eyes are on you, so make a bit of a show for the crowd!

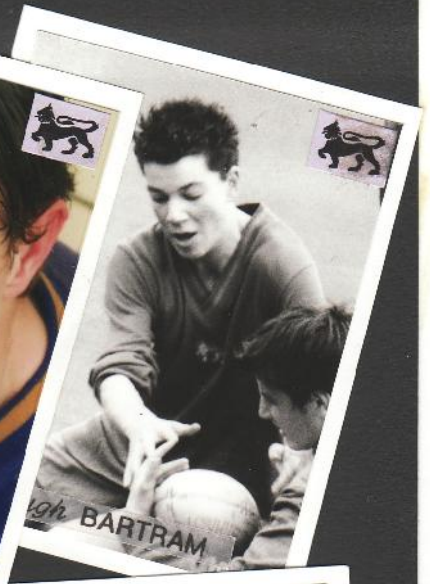
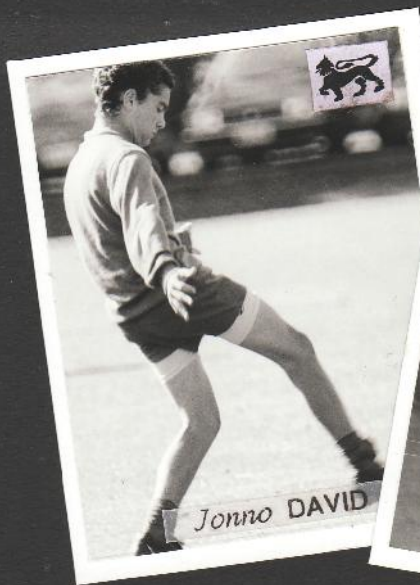
Waving the flags: Stand up tall and use the full backswing for maximum effect.



Signalling the goal: Chuck shows how it should be done. The Xavier bloke has got no idea!



Rosey's old man shows how to watch the ball off the boot. Look how cool and controlled he is!



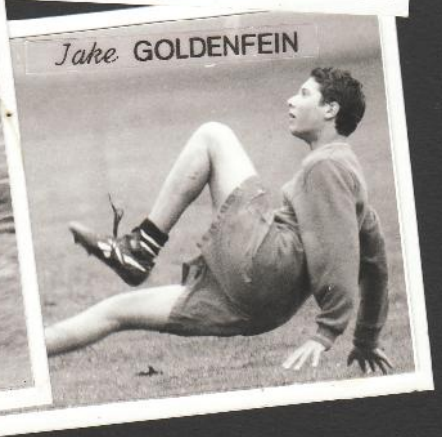
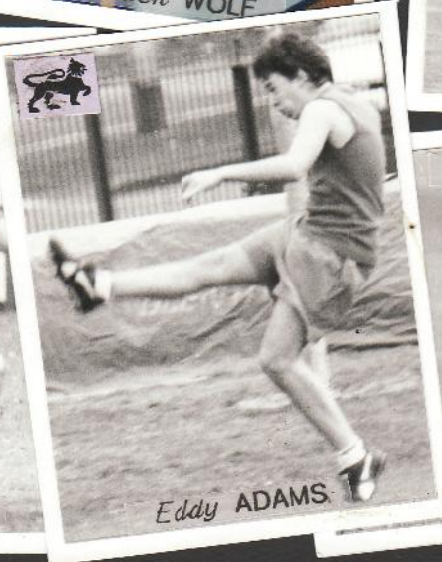
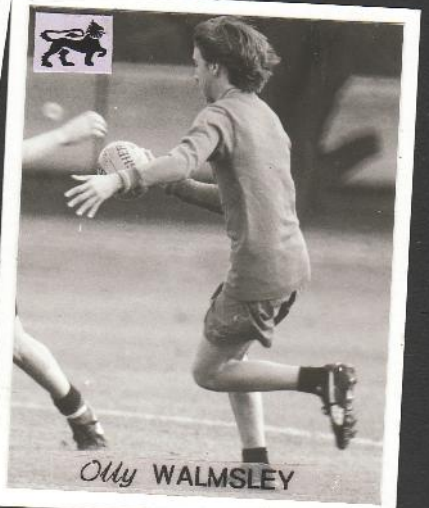
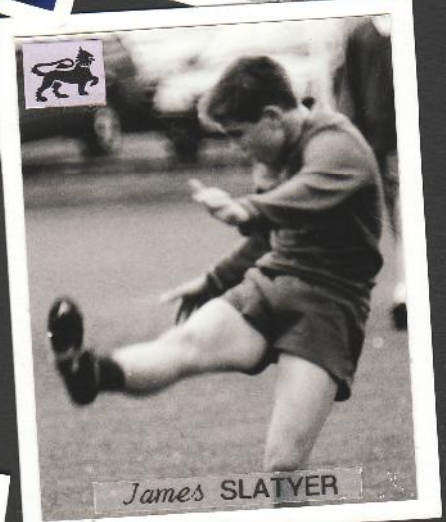
AFL FOOTBALL *stickers*

1999

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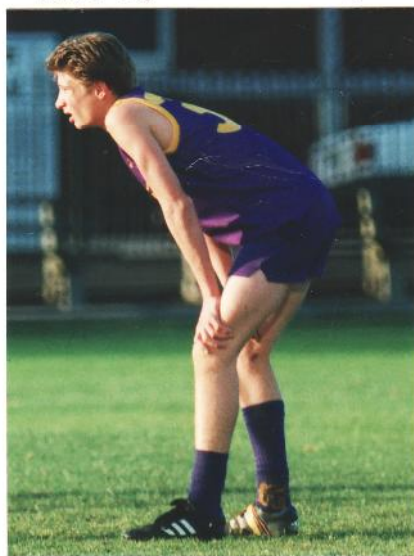
FITNESS & FLEXIBILITY

with Jorgy & Vander

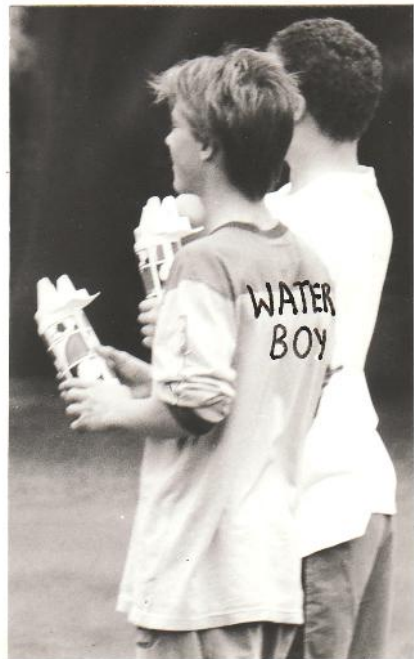
If you want to play good footy you've got to look after your body! Regular exercise during the week and the right stretches before a match will help you do good stuff on the field. So make the most of training and warm up properly!



Cade Elg - Mr. Flexibility!



If you want to last the full four quarters you've got to top up your fluid levels. Look what happened to Stoney when he started to dry out! He should have called for Rosey, the water boy!



Eddy, Jonno and Tim doing the ever popular "toe touch" stretch.



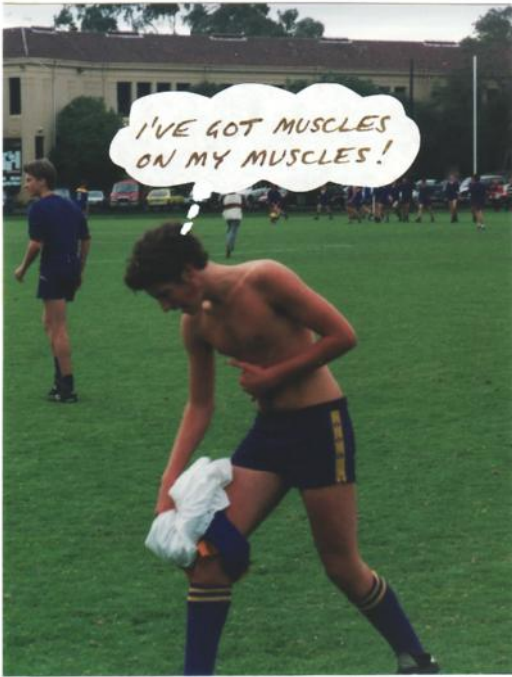
Olly stretches his quads while Charlie checks for B.O.

Nick Burrows is one of our favourite players because he really knows how to conserve his energy! Most of the time he just cruises around the field, then when he really needs toWHOOSH!..... you cannot catch him! Sensational stuff!



The Body Beautiful

with Rosey



Massimo Bottari struts his stuff. No wonder the girls call him the "Italian Stallion"!



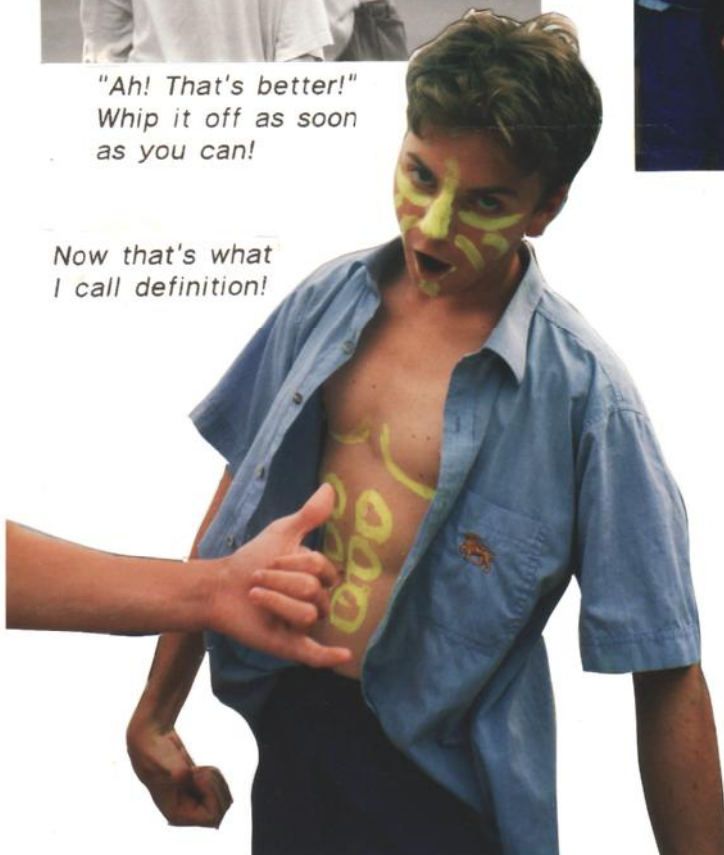
Believe it or not, some people are ashamed of the human body, but I reckon you should be proud to parade your pecs! I try to get my top off whenever I can. Not only does it feel good, but the women love it! You know what they say - if you've got it, flaunt it!



"Ah! That's better!" Whip it off as soon as you can!



Now that's what I call definition!



"Mmmmm!"

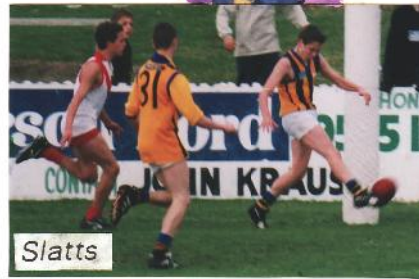
TALKING FOOTY

COMINGS GOINGS MILESTONES A...ENTS MILESTONES COMINGS GOINGS

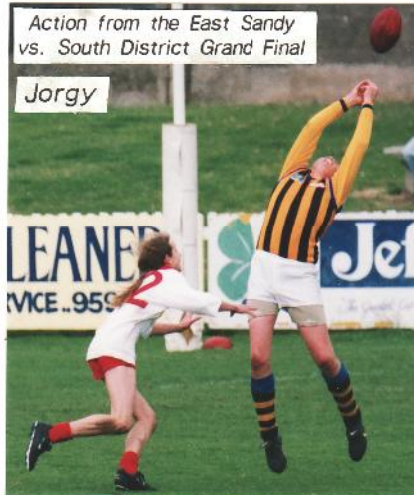
Ruckman **Daniel Moffat** was one of the reasons why the Lions were so successful this season. Although his appearances at training were few and far between, Moffa's tapwork at centre bounces on Saturdays was sensational. It comes as no surprise to hear that he is a pretty hot basketballer too, and he just couldn't resist shooting a few hoops after school most nights. Moffa tells me he plays for the Toorak Warriors and that they had a great season too, playing off recently in the Grand Final.

Quite a few of the boys love their footy so much that they have been fronting up twice each weekend! After playing four quarters with the Lions on Saturdays they'd be out early on Sunday morning polishing their boots for a club game. (I can't understand why - as far as I'm concerned, Sunday mornings are for bed!) There were some interesting clashes during the season involving various Lions, including the day when **Will Crothers** and **Nick Van Duyn** played on each other. My sources tell me that Nick was held goal-less! **Matt Morton** played it tough out Banyule way, and **Eddy Adams** was a member of the East Brighton Grand Final team. **Michael Rose**, **Nick Burrows** and part time Lion, **Tristan Higginbottom** all played with South Districts, while East Sandy boasted **Andy Stone**, **James Jorgensen** and **James Slatyer** in their Premiership team.

Speaking of East Sandy Premierships, what a turn up this one was! Going into the big match against South Districts at the Trevor Barker Oval as serious



Slatts



Action from the East Sandy vs. South District Grand Final

Jorgy

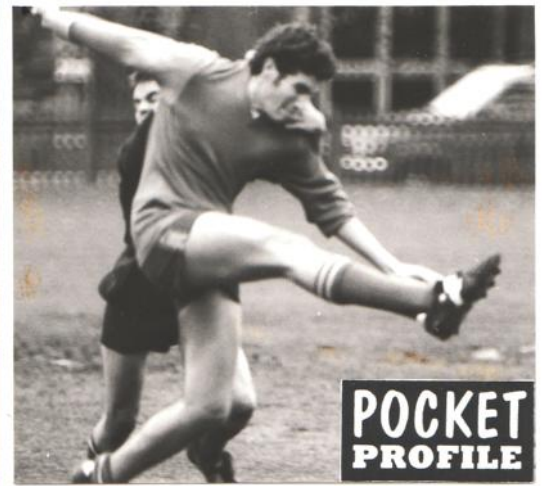
underdogs, the Sandy boys shocked everybody by holding out South to win a low scoring thriller in woeful conditions. Congratulations to Slatts, Jorgy and Stony, but you've got to feel for Rosey and Snapper - this was the third Grand Final they'd lost in a row!

The Laurie Humphries Club was a great supporter of the Lions this season. Not only did they provide a trophy for us to win, but Holsty's old man and his mates donated some swish purple dressing gowns to keep the interchangers warm on those chilly May mornings. These elegant little numbers became so popular that some boys would actually volunteer to stay on the bench just for the privilege of wearing one! In fact, the dressing gowns quickly became "collectors' items", and one mysteriously went walkabout after a few weeks! Mmmm...I wonder who it was....

We all know that Woosha and Charlie are pretty cluey when it comes to footy facts and figures, but did you know that **Nick Van Duyn** is a bit of an all round intellectual? He has taken out first prize in the Daily Bulletin Trivia Quiz so many times now that the lady in the office has run out of Freddo Frogs! Next thing you know Nick will be on "Sale of the Century"!

Nick Burrows was caught up in a real tug-of-war at the start of the season! He loves his footy and was keen to play with his mates in the 9As, but he'd signed a Form Four with the hockey team yonks ago, and he couldn't get a clearance. For a while it looked like Nick would have to take his case to court, but after "lengthy discussions" as they say, his lawyers managed to settle the case out of court. Nick had to agree to a compromise arrangement and share himself around, one week with footy, the next with hockey etc. It must be tough being so talented!

The Annual end-of-season social match between the Year 9s and the Year 10s turned into a bit of fizzer this year when the umpire, Year 10 coach Mr. Ackerley, called off the game after a few Year 10s started to throw their weight around and one or two Year 9s began to question his umpiring credentials. Snapper was even generous enough to offer him advice about when to give free kicks! A pity the game finished early because the 9s were about to make a massive comeback which would have seen them finish all over their opponents!



Chick magnet....

Name: Massimo Bottari
Date of Birth: 13/12/83
Sporting hero as a kid: Greg "Diesel" Williams
Greatest footy fantasy: To run the ball from the back pocket to full forward without getting caught
Ultimate non-footy fantasy: To be one of the Oarsome Foursome
Most memorable match: When I was named B.O.G.
Scariest moment: I am never scared!
Biggest influence on your game: Mr.Stone
Apart from football, what is your greatest talent? Landing chicks
Favourite film: Rocky (all of them)
Favourite singer: Jeff Buckley
Favourite pastimes: Working out and picking up chicks
Favourite footy team: Carlton

Jake unleashes a long bomb



Rugby News
 with
 Richard Gould

Glenn Lazarus

G'day fans!

It's been a huge year for us true believers! If anyone tells you that Melbourne doesn't care about Rugby League just point to the scoreboard. The Storm is here to stay! My little chats each week with Lazza have certainly paid off. I'm only sorry I haven't been out there with the lads! My school commitments this year meant that I had to have a go at the other Aussie game. I'd never played Rules before so it was a bit hard at first, but by the end of the year I think I'd got the hang of it! The hardest things are passing the ball forward and letting go after a tackle. Kicking the ball straight can also be a problem, but Woosha gave me some special coaching tips and I'm not so bad now!

GO THE STORM!

Gouldy

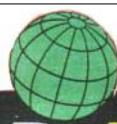


Hoop dreams....

Name: Daniel Moffat
Date of Birth: 7/10/84
Sporting hero as a kid: Andrew Gaze
Sporting ambition: To play NBL
Favourite book: The Basketball Diaries
Favourite film: Hoop Dreams
Dream guests at a dinner party: The Harlem Globetrotters and Michael Jordan
Most memorable match: This year's Grand Final with the Toorak Warriors



Hi kids!



THE WORLD 4 KIDS

REALLY REALLY FUN FOOTY PAGE.

Welcome to the page especially for kids. Have I got some great half time fun for you! What's more, you can win some great prizes by answering all the questions.

Stoney

WHO AM I? Can you identify these Lions?

1



2



WHAT DID HE SAY? What is Cade's clever comeback to the umpire?

3



WHO ARE THEY? Can you name the Lions in the photo?

4



5



WHAT SPORT IS THAT?

6



WHAT'S YOUR DECISION? What would you do if you were the umpire?



7

ANSWERS:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

8



Please, please help Me be a star

Ask your favorite player, and if we publish your question you can win!

Dear Andy Stone,
I've been playing footy for a few years now, and I can mark a ball and kick a goal OK, but fair dinkum, I reckon the men in white must hate my guts! I've won money and stuff, but I really want one of those Brownlow thingys. What should I do?
Wayne Carey
North Melbourne

Dear Wayne,
Sorry to hear about your problems! What you have to realise is that even umpires are human, and a bit of flattery and sweet talking can go a long way. Take them a drink or an orange at quarter time and tell them they're doing a great job (even if they're crap). You'll be amazed how nice they'll be to you afterwards!

Andy Stone

Dear Tim Oldfield,
When I was a kid I used to dream about being a full forward, but since I've been playing AFL I always seem to get stuck up in the back line. How can I convince my coach to give me the chance to boot some goals?
Steve Silvagni
Carlton

Dear Steve,
Funny you should ask! I've been having similar problems recently. The first thing to do is to give your regular full forward a decent corky during kick at lunch time, then hog the ball during the half-court game at training that night. Just keep banging them in from everywhere and the coach'll have to take notice!

Tim Oldfield



Dear Cade Elg,
I am your biggest fan. Like I think you're really cute and stuff but you act like I don't exist. How can I make you notice me?
Sophie
Brighton

Dear Sophie,
I'm sorry if I have been ignoring you, but footy is a big commitment and I can't afford distractions during the season. I need to keep focused and to save all my energy for match days.

Cade Elg

Faces in the Crowd

These future footy champs were spotted recently at a footy clinic run by the Lions. Although they have chosen to support a couple of dud teams both lads showed signs of talent!

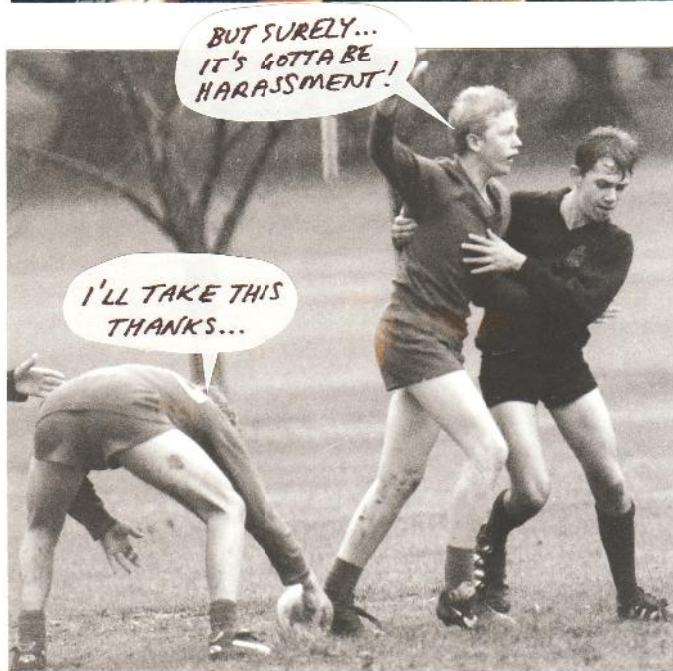
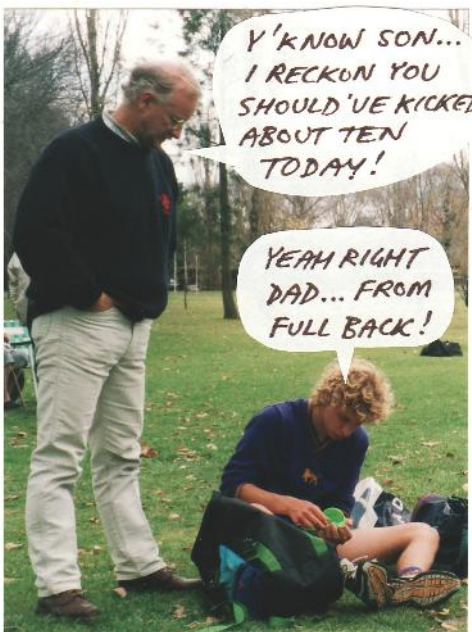
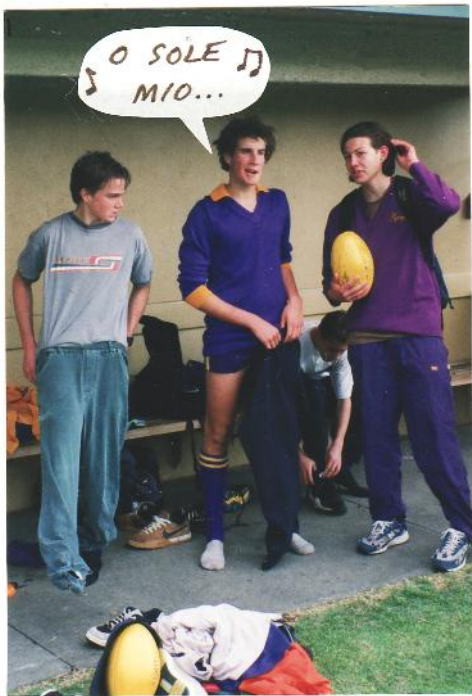


Learning from the Lions. Enjoying a footy clinic on the Front Turf.



These young fans have won the *Footy Record's* "Faces in the Crowd" competition. To claim their prizes they should send a cheque for \$150 to Mr. Rohan Thwaites PO Box 333, Rosanna 3084

Congratulations boys!





Special Collector's Edition