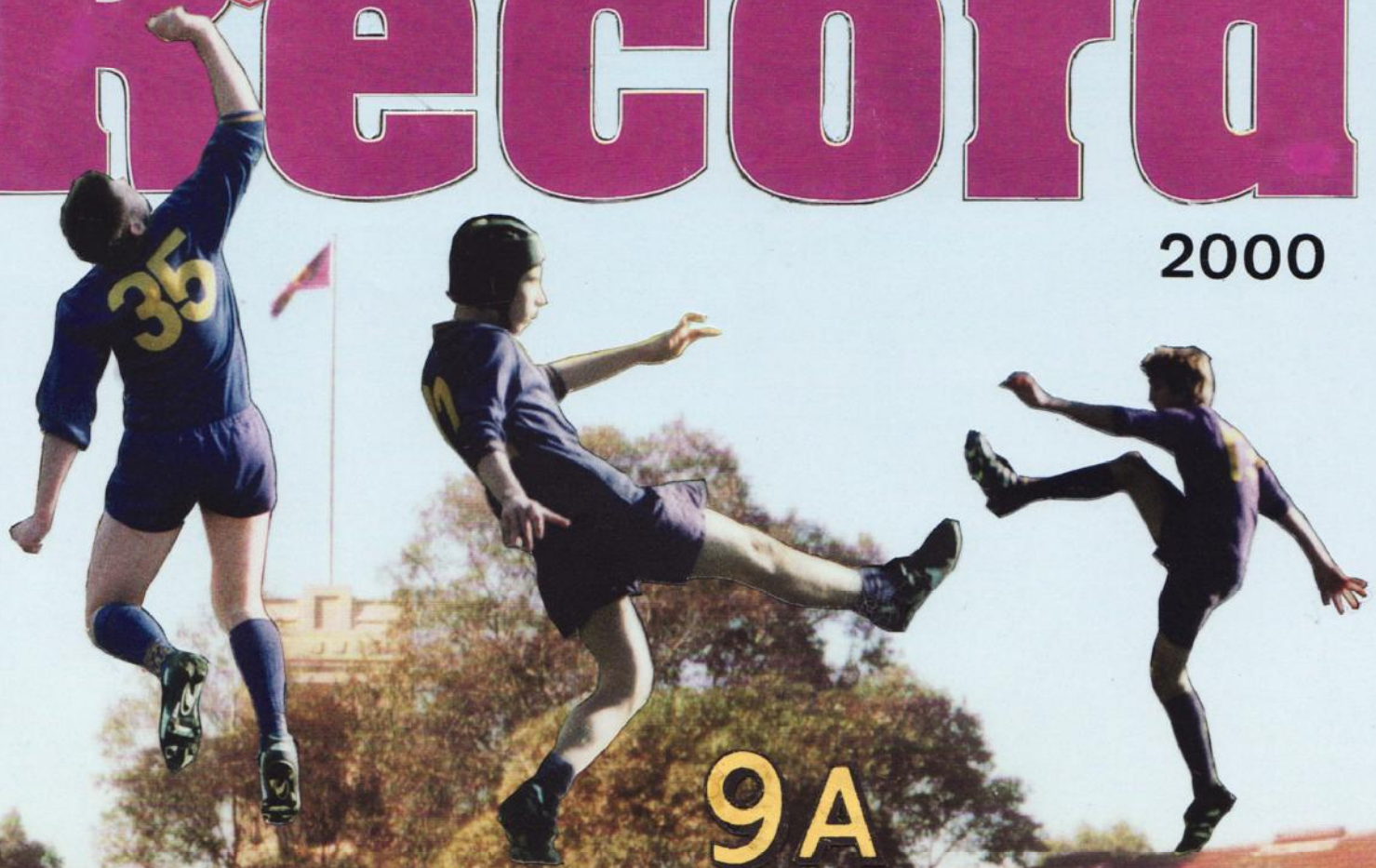


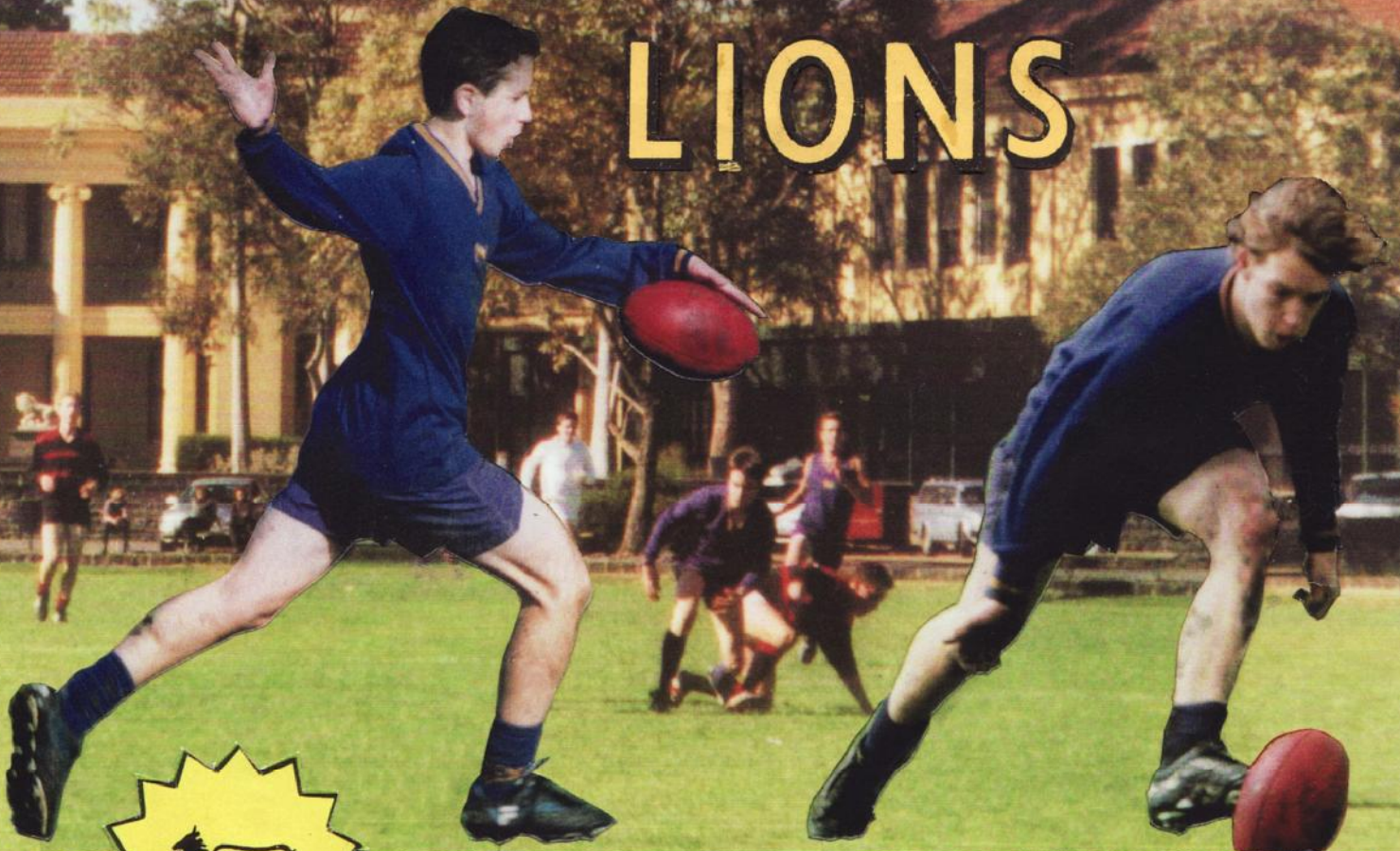
# FOOTBALL Record



2000



## 9A LIONS



WESLEY V THE REST





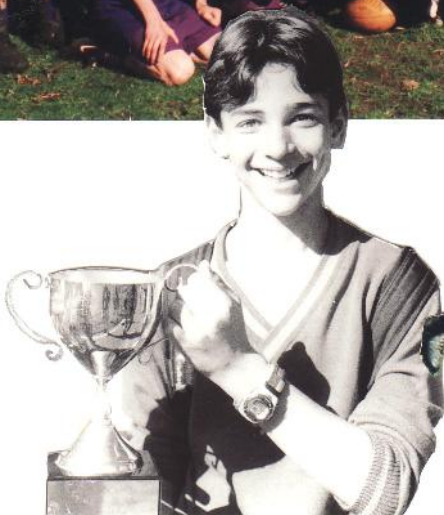
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FOOTBALL  
**Record**

"The Football Record" is an  
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Volume 10, 2000

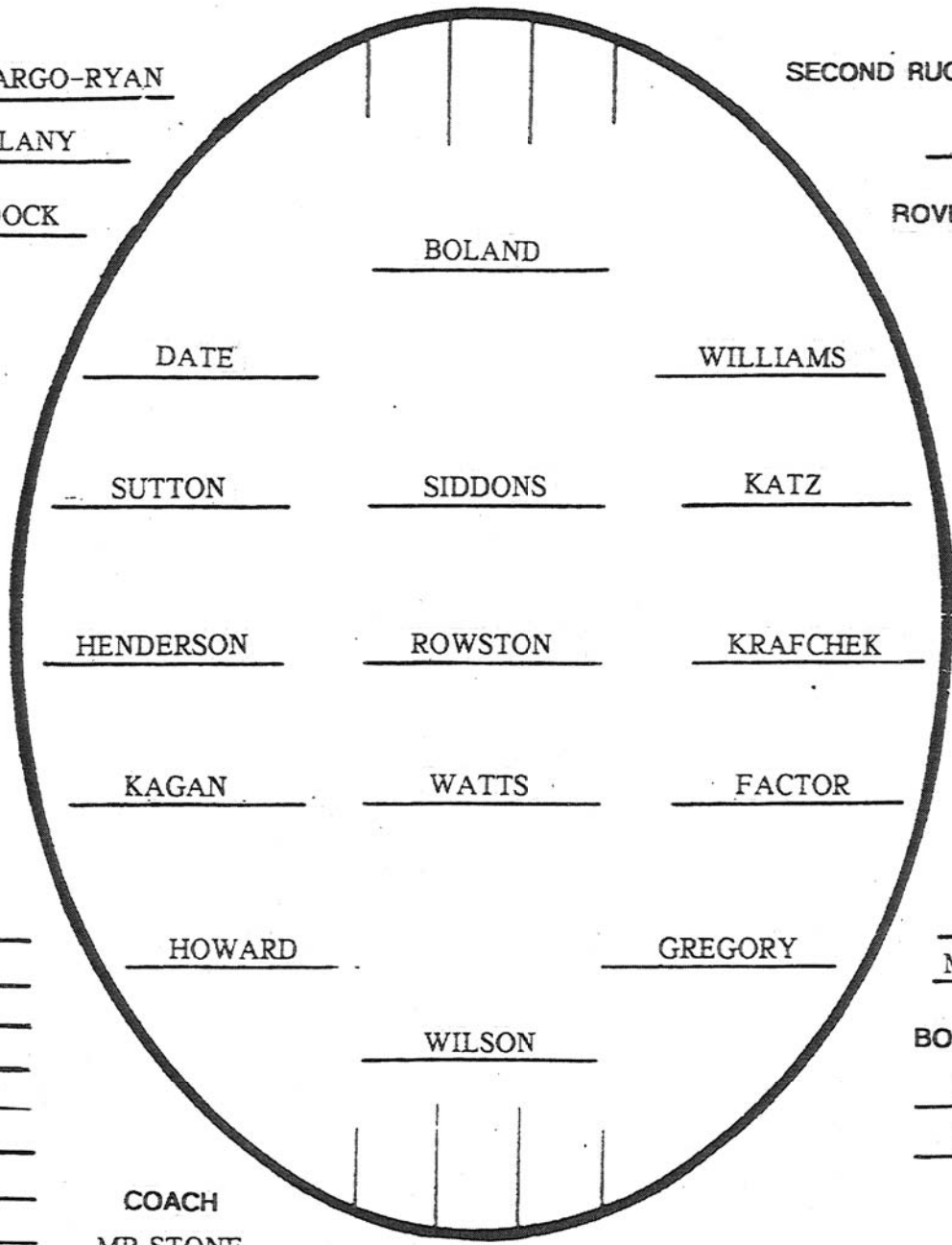


# 9As TEAM of 2000



FIRST RUCK SPARGO-RYAN  
DELANY  
ROVER BALDOCK

SECOND RUCK TULLOCH  
TARANTO  
ROVER COHEN



**INTERCHANGE**

DEWAR  
GRAINGER  
CHARTRES  
CROTHERS  
SUNDERLAND  
MAXWELL  
FELD  
ENGLISH  
CREMA  
CURTIS  
WRIGHT-SMITH  
BOBEFF  
BROWN  
BUSTIN  
SPECIALITY CATERING  
MR.GREGORY

**COACH**

MR.STONE  
SPECIALIST COACHES  
JONNO'S DAD  
LOFTY  
**MEDIA**  
MAXWELL  
WATER BOY  
MR.WILSON

**GOAL UMPIRES**

MR.KATZ  
MR.HENDERSON

**BOUNDARY UMPIRES**

MR.HOWARD  
MR.BALDOCK

**STATISTICS**

MR.FACTOR

**CHEERLEADER**

MRS.WILSON

**CHEERSQUAD**

ALL THE OTHER  
MUMS AND DADS

**TAXI SERVICE**

MRS.KRAFCHEK

**MATCH RECORD**

Played: 9  
Won: 8  
Lost: 1  
Drawn: -



# GRAMMARIANS GIVEN A LESSON

WESLEY COLLEGE 29. 23. 197  
MELBOURNE GRAMMAR 0. 1. 1

GOALS: Gregory 11, Williams 6, Wilson 3, Rowston 2, Krafchek 2, Sutton 2, Bustin 2, Spargo

BEST: Rowston, Gregory, Krafchek, Williams, Wilson, Bustin, Spargo, Sutton, Baldock, Maxwell, Siddons, Henderson, Dewar, Feld, Sunderland, Brown, English, Date

INJURIES: Nil

GOALS of the DAY: Wilson/Gregory

MARK of the DAY: Krafchek

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: When Willo forgot to pick up the ball.

In possibly their first game of the new millenium (depending on which calendar you use) the Lions produced an extraordinary effort on Saturday to bury Grammar in the spongy turf of Fawkner Park. The match proved a goal spree for the Lions' forwards and was marked by promising debuts from a number of this season's draft picks - despite the pre season upheaval which threatened to tear the club apart.

The saga of betrayal and deceit which resulted in most of the Lions' out of contract players being poached by the Clunes United Football Club during the Easter break had left its scars, but the remaining Lions were determined to put the grisly episode behind them and get on with what they do best - play footy! Training on Tuesday promised well, but the following day the selection panel was rocked by another bombshell, as news leaked of a further scandal. Big John Elliot had offered huge sums of money to several key Lions to play tunes at a birthday bash at Optus Oval on Saturday and on the advice of their manager, Will Szekeres, they had accepted! To make matters worse, injury clouds hung over Tulloch and Factor and the selectors were left with few options when they sat down together after training on Thursday.

Overnight rain had softened the surface of APS Park, but the air was clear as the ball was bounced for the opening quarter. Jonno Spargo-Ryan was quick to establish himself as the game's dominant ruck force, and it wasn't long before the ball found itself deep in the Lions' forward line where Marty Williams was lurking with intent. Marty had convinced naive young full forward, Alex Maxwell, that it would be better for the team if he fulfilled a supporting role and did not in fact kick any goals. Marty himself would look after that side of the equation! Just glad to be on the ground, Max was happy to oblige and proceeded to warm up the audience for Marty William's One Man Show. Marty's first opened the Lions' account and with the skipper, Gus Henderson marshalling his troops across the centre line, the opposition looked as though they would be up against it. Having locked

the ball in their scoring zone the Lions' peppered the sticks with limited success until Marty snapped his second. Moments later the ominous combination of Rowston and "Lethal" Leigh Krafchek combined to deliver the sherrin in the William's direction, and he didn't let his team mates down as he slotted his third. Several minors followed as the Lions were tempted to rush the big sticks, but eventually long bombs from Jonno and Grant set Williams up for two more snaggers. A momentary lapse in concentration at the centre bounce allowed Grammar their first real opportunity and the ball somehow found its way into the Lions' defensive zone. At full back Nick Wilson was reflecting on the Saint's recent tragic loss to the Bulldogs, and as he wiped a tear from his eye, a Melbourne forward snuck under his guard - and kicked a point! If they had known it was to be their only score for the morning they may well have packed up and gone home there and then! Aaron "The Golden Greek" Gregory had been watching the Marty William's Show from a forward pocket and decided it was time to switch channels. Intercepting a knock on from Jonno, no doubt meant for Marty, Aaron snapped truly and began his own long running series of glorious goals.

Although holding a 41 point advantage at the first change, the Lions realised that a sudden outbreak of a purple specific strain of Legionnaires disease could rob them of victory, so they flattened the accelerator in an effort to build an unassailable lead. Matt Feld was feeling quite at home on the forward flank, and despite battling the effects of the flu, Glen Sunderland was an enthusiastic contributor on the opposite side of the ground. Jonny Dewar was being busy and Timmy English was using his height to advantage, but all eyes were on Azza as he turned on the magic! A little chip from Feldy set up his first major at the St.Kilda Road end, and never being one to waste energy, he booted his third from a "relaxed" position - lying flat on the ground. Meanwhile, at the other end of the oval the two Bens - Siddons and Sutton - were drifting forward (ostensibly to strengthen the wall, but in reality looking for a kick!). Every few minutes "Buster" Bustin would make a dash downfield, set up a team mate and then wander back to his defensive pocket, but Willo was afraid to leave his key defensive post, and it wasn't until the coach took pity on him that he finally found himself in the thick of the action, shepherding for Azza as he marked a precision pass from Lethal Leigh. Ricky "Doc" Baldock had been impressing with his hard at the ball attitude, and a pass to Jonno allowed the Lion ruckman in turn to set up Marty for his sixth major. Moments later Jonno himself let loose a long bomb to register the Lions' eleventh, and another Willo shepherd gave the



## LACKLUSTRE MELBOURNE NO MATCH FOR HUNGRY LIONS

Golden Greek the chance to soccer his team's twelfth. Unselfish play by Max provided his little team mate with yet another goal as the full forward sacrificed his free kick in front of the big sticks, and at the 18 minute mark another strong shepherd by the much under rated Maxwell enabled Rowston to register the ninth Lion goal for the quarter.

The Lions had built a handy 100 point lead, but they weren't about to relax, and the third quarter provided the capacity crowd with another dazzling display of Australian football. Buster opened with a strong goal and at the four minute mark Lethal Leigh brought the fans to their feet with a specky inside fifty. The resultant goal was the Lions' twenty third, and with "Wizard" Rowston now in top form and booting his second, the Lions were looking a very polished combination. Assistant coach, Dion Factor was being kept busy with a constant stream of message relays and waterboy duties - not to mention the persistent requests from defenders wanting a piece of the action! Courtney had moved closer to the ball and Siddons had done a swap with Marty, but Lucas Brown was still bravely occupying the full back position vacated by Willo, and must have been horribly bored as the ball made only occasional appearances at his end of the ground. Another goal to Azza fired Willo up, but his charge towards the goal was cut short when the ball refused to come up again after a touch down! Eager to register a double figure tally the Golden Greek was hungrily prowling the fifty metre arc and as Gus, Wiz and the Doc continued to relay the sherrin forward there were plenty of opportunities! Two more accurate snaps during the final minutes lifted his tally to ten, and at the final change the Lions seemed set to register a record score.

For Melbourne the pressure was unrelenting! The Lions continued to dictate the play, and even their full back found his kicking boot. A brilliant banana snap from the boundary brought up Willo's first, and soon after Azza finalised his tally with an equally successful snap. Buster got in on the act with another sausage and a skilful passage of play from Glen and Courtney set Willo up for the Lions' twenty fifth. Inspired by memories of Robert Harvey's third quarter against the Bulldogs, Willo then decided to treat the crowd to a brilliant spinning out of trouble snapshot goal. Delighted to be released from defensive duties, Ben Sutton cheerfully collected a pass from Max and dobed his first, whilst the Lions penultimate goal was the result of a superb passage of team play as the Wiz and Azza teamed with Lethal Leigh. The final nail in the Grammarian's coffin was hammered resoundingly by a happy Ben Sutton as he snatched the ball from a pack took the Lions' score to within one kick of a double ton and ended a useful workout!

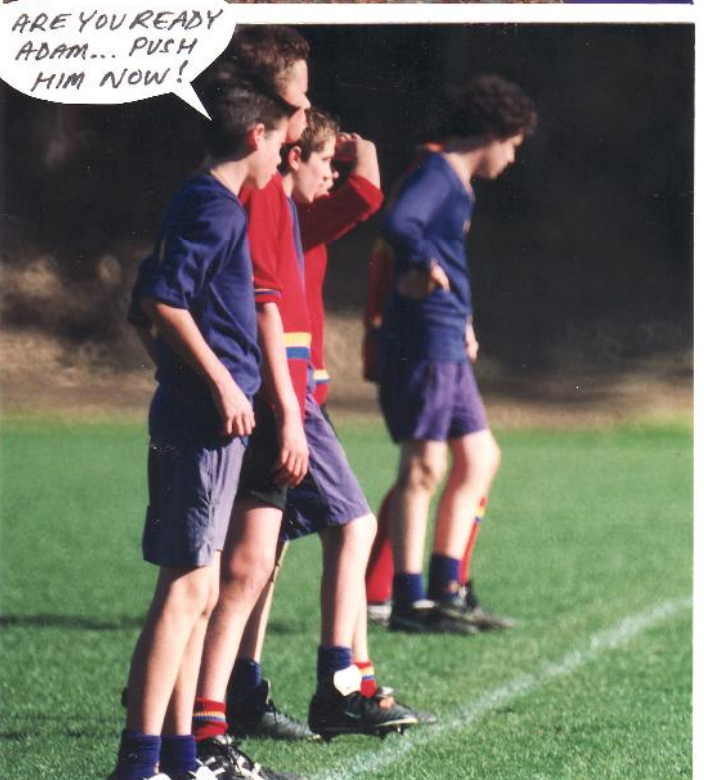


BUT HOW DID HE GET IT?

GOSH! IF IT'S AS EASY AS THIS EVERY WEEK I'M GONNA SWAP OUT OF BASKETBALL!



SORRY DION... YOUR TECHNIQUE IS FAULTY!



ARE YOU READY ADAM... PUSH HIM NOW!



# LIONS IN PERCENTAGE BOOSTER!

WESLEY COLLEGE 26. 13. 169  
CAULFIELD GRAMMAR 0. 1. 1

GOALS: Williams 7, Cohen 4, Watts 3,  
Krafchek 3, Gregory 2, Factor 2,  
Henderson, Baldock, Sutton, Brown,  
Bustin  
BEST: Watts, Delany, Factor, Krafchek,  
Cohen, Williams, Siddons, Sutton etc.  
INJURIES: Delany (winded)  
ATTENDANCE: 27  
GATE TAKINGS: A mintie and a redskin wrapper  
GOAL of the DAY: Take your pick!  
Gregory/Factor/Krafchek  
RUN of the DAY: Cohen  
SMOTHER of the DAY: Katz

Following their sensational victory over Melbourne in Round One, the Lions hit the track this week with enthusiasm and confidence. Although Grant forgot his training gear again, and illness and injury restricted the preparation of Gregory and Baldock, the return of several gun players (and Adrian), lifted the squad to new heights, and on Thursday evening they performed a series of incredibly complex and demanding training drills with energy and precision. Jonno had ruled himself out of this week's fixture for "personal reasons", and Jonny Dewar had been advised to rest after receiving a kick in the guts during the opening round. Tulloch was still on the injured list, and star ball getter Rowston had been laid low by the dreaded "love bug" mid week and was a late withdrawal, but the selectors were still able to name a formidable combination for the fixture against Caulfield.

Overnight showers had made little impact on the immaculate surface of the legendary Front Turf, and by Saturday morning the skies over Prahran had cleared, but a gusty cross breeze threatened to ruin the game as a spectacle for the small but enthusiastic crowd.

Captain for the day, Nick Wilson read the windy conditions correctly and the Lions found themselves kicking to the Albert Park end for the first quarter. Siddons had taken over the role of dominant tall in the absence of Spargo-Ryan, and he was quick to establish himself at the centre bounce, providing "Lethal Leigh" Krafchek with an early opportunity to set the scoreboard ticking over (although Tully was still struggling with the instruction manual and it hadn't actually started yet!) Having missed the opening round, Fergus Watts showed that he was happy to be back with his team mates by dobbing the Lions' second following a clever set up by Lethal, and after just four minutes, it looked as though there would be little joy for Caulfield on this particular Saturday morning. However, Buster couldn't resist mouthing a pointed putdown to some of his old school mates, and for the next few

minutes the visitors were stung into action as they lifted their workload and threatened to do something about it! But all they could do was kick a point - a lonely little point that would be doomed forever to remain a solitary digit on the scoreboard and in the record books. Franky Boland sent the ball soaring out of defence, and in no time the ball was at the Lions' end, where Dion almost put a cross from Azza into the back of the net! Marty Williams was quick to mark the wayward kick in and he made no mistake as he opened his personal tally for the day. It wasn't long before another opportunity presented itself for the Big W, courtesy of a fine passage of play by Delany, Watts and Cohen who were running Caulfield ragged across the mid field. Julian Cohen in particular was showing his opponent a clean pair of heels, and his accurate passing helped the Lions to two more majors. First it was Lethal who produced an awesome goal on the turn, as the path was cleared by master shepherd, Alex Maxwell, then it was Lucas Brown, drifting down from the back pocket(!) who registered the Lions' fifth. Gus Henderson was enjoying a free run on the wing and his superb centering of the football was giving his forwards plenty of opportunities in the corridor, but the next goal came from a boundary throw in as Marty snatched, spun and snapped his third. A right foot pass from the crafty Krafchek gave the Big W another at the sixteen minute mark, and moments later, Hendo's good work paid off as Dom and Ferg combined in the corridor to take the Lions' lead to 56 points at the first change.



"You're not going anywhere pal!" Ben Sutton applies pressure

With the visitors unable to check the buoyant Lions, the second quarter was barely a contest, and it was only the tricky wind that prevented the home team from establishing a new world record. Caulfield had little hope of penetrating the Lions' watertight defence, as Boland and Date were much





Aaron Gregory snaps an impossible goal during the final term

too strong for their opponents, and slick rebound skills from Sutton and Sunderland set the Lions' running game in motion time after time. Marty added two more goals to his team's tally in quick succession - his clever one-two with Dom was a real highlight! The Dion factor became a major threat to Caulfield during the second term, and his brilliant snapshot off hands at a boundary contest brought the crowd to its feet. Meanwhile, Marty was continuing on his merry way and he soon had his seventh on the board! Ferg was proving a real headache to the opposition with his height and agility (not to mention his speed and skill!), and it was he who fed the ball to Dion and helped bring up the Lions' fourteenth. The back line was pushing up the field looking for action, and any enemy advance was instantly repelled. Adrian Katz was displaying real desperation on his half back flank, and his courageous smothering and constant hassling had already made him a crowd favourite. Feldy and "Chooffa" English had joined in the fun on the forward line and were doing their bit for the Lion effort, but Willo seemed strangely out of sorts. He had been struggling to get into the game at CHF, and his Barry Hall impersonation was not proving convincing. Jules, on the other hand, was having no trouble being where the ball was, and he finished off the first half with an inspirational three bounce run and goal.

The Caulfield players spent most of the long interval trying to convince their coach to take them home, but he would have none of it, and they were forced to take the field for another two quarters of demoralising football. The Lions, however, needed no convincing, and although they could not maintain quite the same level of intensity during the second half, they did manage to keep Tully occupied. The third quarter opened with another goal to Cohen, and Gus was quick to register his first from a crumbing opportunity. Ferg fired another bullseye, but Marty missed everything in an effort to bring up his eighth - and didn't we know about it! Delany was displaying tremendous

dash through the mid field, and "Doc" Balcock was as tough as ever in the clinches. A free kick to Jules brought up the Lions' nineteenth, and a goal on the run to Lethal took the lead to 126 points at the final change. Buster, meanwhile had been gangtackled by his old classmates, and for his own safety had been sent from the field by Umpire Sayers.

Going into the last quarter, the Lions' coach was forced to make a few adjustments in the interests of team harmony, and there was a bit of shuffling to be done. Ben Siddons had been rucking tirelessly for three quarters, and Courtney was now moved onto the ball as Ben took a breather. Willo moved to a more familiar position in defence and Sutton and Buster lined up in attack. The final term began well as the Lions opened with a sausage to Sutton, but as the coach turned to call for the waterboy, he suddenly sensed something was wrong. "Why are there five players on the bench where there were once three?" he asked himself. "I know I failed Year 11 maths, but surely the equation does not equate." The backline seemed rather sparse, so the spaces were quickly filled by the confused interchangers, but the indications were there - the



Devastating Dom Delany on the burst in the last quarter

Lions were going off the boil. Caulfield were crowding the game and although the Golden Greek snuck his first through the big sticks, conversion became more difficult for the next ten minutes as the Lions' attacking zone became grossly overpopulated. Point after point followed, until the visitors finally ran out of steam and the Lions were able to cap off their game with three more unanswered goals. Buster showed his brother who was boss with the first, and Rick was quick to follow up with another. The final word was left to Azza who produced a really special snapshot from hard up on the boundary to extend the Lions' final winning margin to a percentage boosting 168 points. Yawn!

	GOALS	BEHINDS	PTS
WESLEY	26	13	169
CGS	00	01	001
TIME	20:04	4	000



# "LIONS ARE A CLASS ACT" SAYS DEFEATED COACH

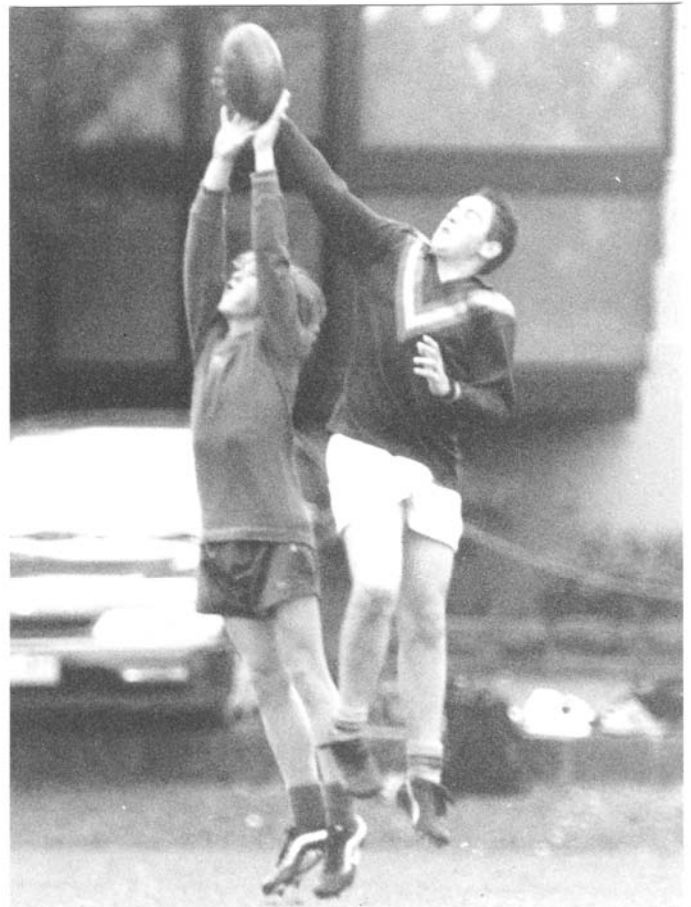
WESLEY COLLEGE 9. 14. 68  
ST.KEVINS 5. 6. 36

GOALS: Krafchek 2, Cohen 2, English 2, Bustin, Gregory, Watts  
BEST: Krafchek, Spargo, Rowston, Baldock, Katz, Cohen, Sutton, Delany, Watts, Boland, Siddons and the rest!  
INJURIES: Factor (corky)Spargo (stop wounds), Katz (air supply)  
MARK of the DAY: Sunderland  
GOAL of the DAY: Cohen  
PLAY of the DAY: Krafchek  
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT AWARD: Watts  
MOST EMBARRASSING MISS: Rowston

Having rocketed to the top of the ladder after two monster victories, the Lions were already eyeing the prestigious Laurie Humphries Cup currently held by their 1999 Prahran counterparts and eagerly sought after by all Wesley football teams. "Can anybody knock us off?" asked Marty as he stretched for training on Tuesday. "Yeah, who'll be our next victim?" said Hendo. "St.Kevins" answered the coach, "but..." he added, "there is no room for complacency in modern day football. We have to take each game as it comes." "He's right, fellahs" added Lucas, "never underestimate your opponents!" "Absolutely" piped up Feldy, "and never look a gift horse in the mouth!" "Whatever.." said Grant as he pondered the significance of Feldy's strange remark and his team mates moved into their warm up drill.

A cool change was due to sweep into town late morning, so the Lions were happy to have drawn the early time slot for the Skevvys fixture. They were also delighted to have been rostered onto the Front Turf for the second successive week, at the expense of the Year 10s who had been sent bush again. The wind would not be a factor this morning, and as the Lions readied themselves for the opening bounce their large band of loyal supporters pushed through the turnstiles anticipating another devastating display by their heroes. Skipper Marty Williams pointed to the Punt Road end and the Lions took up their positions - the forwards and midfielders primed for action, the backline preparing for another game of "I Spy" and a spot of birdwatching. "I hope the ball comes down here occasionally" muttered Franky, "I wouldn't mind a kick!" In no time at all he had his wish as Skevvys rushed the ball forward and registered a point. "That'll be their last" thought Katzy, who was making the fatal mistake of underestimating the opposition! Moments later Skevvys had kicked a goal and laid their cards on the table. This would be no walkover. The Lions would have to fight for this one!

Pleased to be back in action after his week off, Rowsta was quick to throw himself into the fray,



Defender Rick Baldock is outstretched by his taller opponent

and together with Lethal Leigh he manoeuvred the ball forward for the Lions to notch a behind. Skevvys responded in kind after several attempts had been thwarted by vigorous defensive work from the Doc Baldock, Sutto and Siddo. Although the visitors seemed to have a pretty even team with plenty of determination and a good balance of shorts and tall, they had nobody to match the Lions' class acts, and as the quarter wore on the magical skills of Krafchek, Rowsta and Domma began to shine through in the midfield. At the 12 minute mark Azza found himself on the end of a long bomb from the Factorizer and kicked truly from point blank range, but Fergy's radar was malfunctioning and his conversion rate was disappointing. With barely seconds to go, Skevvys pushed the ball forward and were lucky to receive a free just inside the fifty. Unable to contain his annoyance Franky hurled the sherrin turfward, and a difficult shot became an easy goal to take the visitors to a four point advantage at the change.

A few well chosen cliches from the coach brought the desired response from his players, and the second quarter saw the Lions gradually get a grip on the game. Jonno was working hard against his large opponents and Adrian (Don't Call Me Ayds) Katz was tight in defence, but Domma was on fire, relishing his new onball role. Marty was finding it difficult to slip away from his opponent so Buster was given a chance as spearhead - with instant



results...but only a point resulted. Max too was struggling to find form in the pocket. His confidence had hit rock bottom after being beaten paws down by Jezza the wonder dog at training on Thursday, so the coach sent him for a spell in the doggy box. Choofa took his place and was an immediate success, receiving a pass from Lethal and registering his maiden major. Lethal Leigh was leading the opposition a merry dance, and there was simply nobody in their team who could keep up with him. His goal on the run at the 16 minute mark was SENSATIONAL, and took the Lions to a reassuring eight point lead at the long interval.

However, the game was far from over, and when Skevvs notched an early major in the second half, the Lions were forced to adopt an affirmative action policy. A handball from Jonno set up a chain of possessions which resulted in a vital goal to Jules - now resident in the first rovers role after Dion had been forced to limp from the ground, and the Lions regained control. Skevvs thrust forward again, but strong pressure from Courtney and the Doc restricted them to a minor score. Choofa was getting the hang of the game now, and was chasing and tackling with tenacity, while Jonny Dewar and Brownie were being shuffled around like a pack of cards. Gus was continuing to be a valuable link in the midfield, and Rowsta was keeping the statisticians busy, but it was Skevvs who brought up the next major. Jules had the perfect comeback with a brilliant snap on the run from the VSDC pocket and Fergy added another point, but it was a great juggling mark by Glen "The Boy Sunder"



Practice makes perfect! Fergus Watts goals on the run

which added a gloss to the Lions premiership quarter performance.

The game seemed to be within the Lions' keeping as Umpire Waters opened proceedings in the final term, but the visitors refused to throw in the towel and almost immediately they had cut back the Lions' lead to just 10 points. Buster was making himself a useful target at full forward and when he marked strongly and goaled, the pendulum swung back the Lions' way. Willo had been out celebrating a rare St.Kilda victory until the wee small hours and he was only just beginning to focus on the ball. Memories of Big Bad Barry spurred him into action, and with Lethal and Rowsta nudging the accelerator pedal, Skevvs were squeezed out of the contest once and for all. Another clever goal to Leigh brought a cheer from the crowd, but all eyes were now on Fergy as he attempted to realign his radar. Ping - another point! Snap - another! That makes five! The clock was rapidly running down...would there be time? The ball spilled free on the Moubray wing, Fergy swooped, gathered and darted goalward. His long strides carried him inside fifty, and as his team mates cleared the way he unleashed a bomb which carried long and true through the big sticks! It's all good after all!



Courtney Date and Marty Williams fly in a crowded pack





# LIONS DIG DEEP!

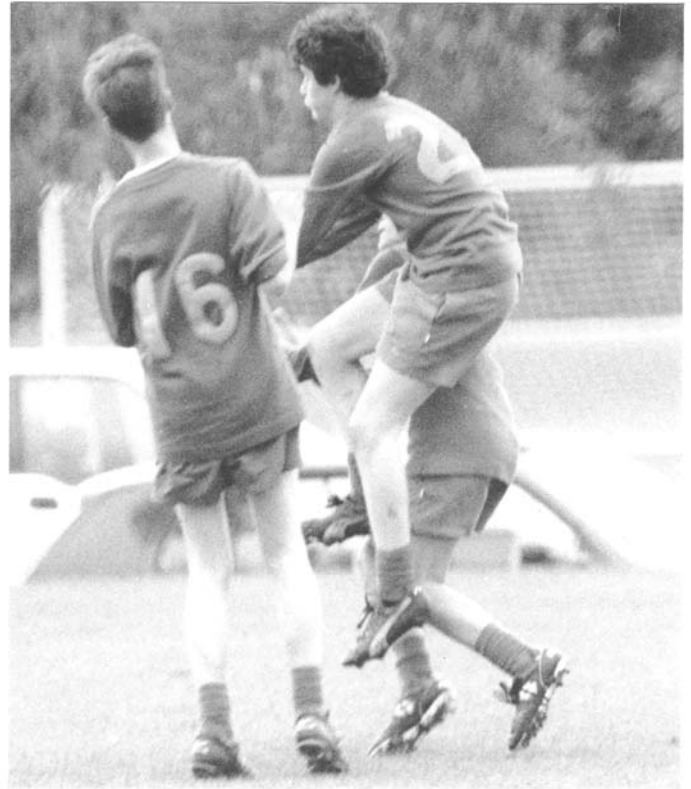
## WESLEY COLLEGE ANSWERS THE XAVIER CHALLENGE

WESLEY COLLEGE 8. 10. 58  
XAVIER COLLEGE 8. 3. 51

GOALS: Krafchek 3, Gregory 3, Brown Factor  
BEST: Krafchek, Baldock, Spargo, Katz, Gregory, Delany, Boland, Cohen, Watts, Henderson, Factor, Sunderland etc.  
INJURIES: Rowston (cork thigh), Cohen (nose), Spargo (hand), Factor (?)  
MARK of the DAY: Gregory  
GOAL of the DAY: Krafchek  
PLAY of the DAY: Rowston  
TACKLE of the DAY: Katz  
MISS of the WEEK: Gregory (House Footy)

This week's fixture between the unbeaten Lions and the equally undefeated Xaverians was a promoter's dream. It was a game that had everything going for it, and didn't the media love it! Billed variously as the "The Toffs vs The Tuffs", "The Left Foot Kicks vs The Ambidexterous Ecumenicalists" and even "The Violet Crumbles vs The Licorice Allsorts", the game was built up as the match of the season (so far). "Talking Footy" this week could have been renamed "Talking Wesley vs Xavier" so narrow was the program's focus, and Bruce McAvaney was rushed to hospital after suffering an overdose of superlatives. Even the ABC evening news devoted a special behind the scenes feature on the Lions' match preparation.

Not surprisingly, the Lions' Match Committee was worried that the excessive media attention might distract some of the teams' less experienced players, so they invited football legend Rod Ashman to training on Tuesday to offer some steadying words. Old hands like Rowsta and Fergy had learnt to cope with the media circus, but a few



"Mine!" Nick Wilson ensures the mark is his!

of the young guns were struggling to keep the situation in perspective. Ashy's words fell on attentive ears, and by Thursday the Lions were well on track for Saturday with their mental preparation. The only concern was Jules who peaked a bit early and tried to run through Brown during the tackling drill!

The forecast did not look good for Saturday, with a humungous low about to straddle the state, and the Coach was afraid that conditions might work against his classy team. The Xavier coach, on the other hand, was hoping that the likes of Krafchek and Rowston would be brought down a notch or two by a snowstorm. Fortunately, the worst of the weather skirted around the 10.45 time slot, and the game was played out in cold but generally dry conditions.

Captain Krafchek pointed to the scoreboard end and the Lions moved to their places for the opening bounce. There were a couple of new faces in the starting eighteen, as Feldy and Jonny Dewar took the places of Baldock and Factor who were recovering from illness and injury respectively. Tully was still struggling to overcome a knotty thigh and Courtney had gone for a ride on his bike, but the big names were all there - much to the crowd's delight!

The first quarter was a tough affair - but unfortunately most of the toughness was being dished out by the Xavvys! The Lions were being subjected to an unfamiliar brand of physical pressure, and it was hard yakka! An early goal to the home team set their adrenalin pumping, but a



Boland, English and Sutton gang tackle an unlucky Xaverian



clever running goal to Lethal Leigh soon put the Lions on the board. The short ground with wide wings required a special style of footy and the Xavvys knew how to play it as they switched quickly from defence to attack and back again. The Lions were being caught out by faster moving opponents and the backline was being given a real test. Another goal to Xavier triggered alarm bells in Katzy's brain and he began tackling opponents like a madman, but his team mates were slower to respond. Jonno was holding his own in the ruck, but the Lions' onballers and midfielders were finding things difficult in the confined spaces of the Plunkett Oval. A snap from Azza produced a point, but Xavvys wasted no time in conveying the ball the length of the ground for their ruck rover to slip a lucky goal through from a tight angle. A great juggling grab by Hendo lifted his team mates momentarily, but their confidence was dented again as the hometeam rebounded for their fourth goal! Rowsta had decided that fancy footwork was a waste of time with an abbreviated corridor and bashed his way through a wall three deep with Xaverians to pass the ball over the top to Azza. The resulting goal was crucial, giving the Lions a much needed lift just minutes before quarter time.

Questioned by their coach the Lions came up with all the right answers - yes, Xavier were going in harder, running harder, tackling harder and wanting the ball more. What could we do about it? Well, we could try to match them. All very well in theory, but the Xavier coach had obviously read the same manual, and his team came out even more determined. In the space of a few minutes, the Lions coach was a shattered man. Two unanswered goals to the opposition took them to a four goal lead, and to make matters worse, star centreman Rowsta had copped a crippling blow to the leg and could barely raise a jog! Who could save us now?



*Jonno Spargo wins another centre bounce*

The coach had overlooked the Dion factor! Having copped a bit of flack during the week over his light training routine, Dion had decided it was time to show just why he should always be in the first eighteen! Pouncing on the ball in the pocket he snapped a minor, but his disappointment made him even more determined to lock the ball in and moments later he grabbed the kick in and sent another bomb goalwards. Frustratingly, the wind



*Talented Lion winger "Lethal" Leigh Krafchek turns out of trouble during Saturday's exciting last quarter*





Defender Ben Sutton sets up his forwards

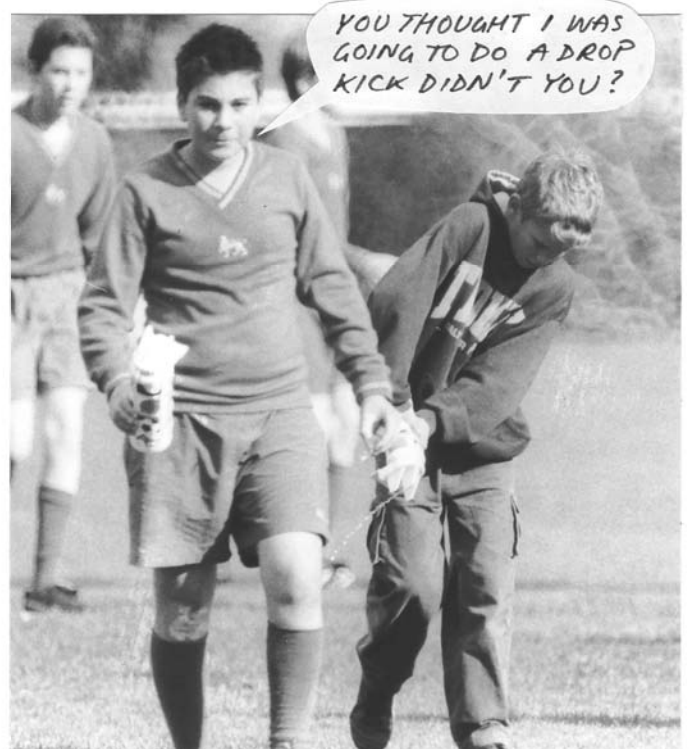
took it wide, but Dion was not done yet! As soon as the ball was within range again it was third time lucky and the Lions edged closer! The purple and gold defence had tightened up noticeably, and led by Franky and Siddo, the boys were making Xavier's task a more challenging one. Chuffa had been struggling to cling to the slippery ball in the forward pocket so he was replaced by Brownly with instant results! With Dion acting as the link, a pass from the skipper was relayed to Brownly and the Lions registered their fourth major. The margin had been cut but there was still work to be done!

Sucking on their citrus segments in the comfort of the airconditioned changerooms, the Lions thought long and hard about their football future. Had they come this far only to throw it all away? No way!

The third quarter was indeed the premiership quarter for the Lions as they took the game right up to their opponents and wrested the lead for the first time in the match. The Doc had not been backward in coming forward during the first half, and his hard at the ball, never say die attitude seemed to rub off on his team mates. Even though Jules had copped a bloody nose for his efforts, and Rowsta was incapacitated on the boundary line, the Lions decided it was time to put their bodies on the line! Xavier had lost none of their enthusiasm, but the Lions had the answers. Marty had moved into defence and was refusing to give away any easy kicks. Willo too had gone back and he was effectively shutting down another Xavier option, while Sutface was offering his usual stern resistance. Meanwhile, Domma was acting as a roaming CHF and giving his team mates a valuable option. Buster was working hard to trap the ball in the scoring zone and Azza was just waiting to pounce! A pounce and a snap brought up a point, and a wobbly shot from Lethal missed everything, but persistence pays, and quick hands from the Boy

Sunder set up the skipper for the Lions fifth. Leigh realised that he would have to do Rowsta's job as well and he had lifted his workrate so much that at times it looked as though there were two of him! A brilliant pass to the Golden Greek resulted in another major and the Lions had snuck ahead! The balance had certainly shifted, and the Lions were gaining control of the game - at last! Glen was using his body well in the corridor contests, and his efforts allowed the ball to be crumbed by Azza who gleefully ran into an open goal - and sensibly did not try the dreaded drop kick! The Lions were keen to push the advantage now, and with Jonno dominating in the air there were plenty of opportunities for Gus, Jules and Fergy to send the ball forward where Lethal was lurking with intent. But the Xavvys were not yet done and they fought back to regain some valuable ground with a goal late in the quarter. At the eighteen minute mark, however, Lethal set up the old one two with Jonno and the Lions were able to go into the final term with an invaluable nine point advantage.

Although they found goals hard to come by, the Lions managed to maintain the necessary intensity for the last twenty minutes, and with Fergy resting his tired old knees at full back, Franky running on the ball and Azza roaming the field, the Lions were able to hold the Xaverians to just one major - while adding five single digits of their own. As the time clock ran down the Lions kept to the basics, maintaining possession and bottling up the play at every opportunity. Feldy was convinced to rejoin the action, but Max could not be pried away from his video camera for love nor money! Jonny was itching to get off the bench, but Azza's selected deafness prevented a transaction from taking place before the bell rang to signal the end of the game and put the seal on a memorable comeback.





Rd 5

# SCOTCH SQUASHED! LIONS TOO GOOD

WESLEY COLLEGE 11. 8. 74  
SCOTCH COLLEGE 3. 2. 20

GOALS: Watts 4, Feld 2, Gregory, Krafchek, Henderson, Wilson, Sunderland

BEST: Baldock, Krafchek, Delany, Wilson, Rowston, Katz, Watts, Henderson

INJURIES: Boland (nose - taken out by Maxwell at training)

GOAL of the DAY: Krafchek

BALL on a STRING AWARD: Rowston

MARK of the DAY (ALMOST): Maxwell

Despite their fantastic fighting win over Xavier last weekend, it was bad news week for the Lions as news filtered through of the updated Wesley ladder. Their Glen Waverley counterparts had shot to the top of the table thanks to a huge percentage! The Lions were not going to take this lying down, so it was all systems go at training on Thursday night as the boys worked on their centre clearance strategies and goal kicking techniques. So keen were they to make up ground on their purple and gold rivals that heavy, wet footballs were still being booted around a rain sodden Fawcner Park long after night had fallen. Meanwhile, out in the sticks at the Glen Waverley football headquarters, ideas were being tossed around the selection table. Ideas destined to set the Lions back even further in their quest for the coveted Laurie Humphries Cup. The GW quest was simple...the Prahran Lions must be stopped! But how?

Suspecting nothing of the behind the scenes plotting the Lions rocked up to Saturday's game at St. James' Park raring to go. Rowsta had recovered from the bruising he had received at Xavier and Fergy's knees had responded well to treatment, but the boys' manager had publicly expressed doubts about his players' future availability for APS matches and the coach arrived at the ground in a sweat, hoping that last minute negotiations had been successful. He was relieved to see his champions arrive in time for the warmup, but there



The big men fly! Nick Wilson and Dom Delany reach high

were still some anxious moments to come! The Scotch coach was nowhere to be seen! Perhaps the game would have to be cancelled? Perhaps the Lions would have no opportunity to build their percentage? A cold shiver ran down his spine.

The umpire approached the Lions coach and attempted to explain the situation. "I think somebody's trying to sabotage the game! The Scotch coach has been kidnapped and the match ball has been stolen. What's more there's been a double booking and if we do play, the game will have to be shortened!"

Katzy had overheard the bad news, and as captain for the day he felt it was his duty to inform his team mates. "What'll we do guys?"

"Play of course!" responded Dom angrily. "Here, they can use my footy!"

"And they can play without a coach" added Aaron, "who needs one anyway...coach smooch!"

Katzy tossed the ball to the ump and a deal was struck. "Twelve minute quarters, quick change-overs...let's get on with it!"

Kicking to the Denham Street end the Lions wasted no time in attacking the goals. Fergy had been stationed at full forward and quickly made himself a target, but it was Azza who broke the ice with a point. Courtney "Big Foot" Date had taken over the mantle of number one ruckman as Jonno rested his damaged digits in a quieter corner of the oval, and the Factoriser had slipped back into his roving pozzie after Cohen had been forced to hang up his boots for the season. Together with the Doc running on the ball and Rowsta in the centre, the Lions had a potent midfield, and Willo's early form at CHF was promising. A little chip to Azza was cleverly knocked on and Fergy made no mistake running into an open goal. The Scotchies response was to crowd the Lions' scoring zone, and



Lions ruck rover Rick Baldock extracts another hard ball



## LIONS DENIED PERCENTAGE BY FIXTURE BUNGLE



A precision pass from Ben Sutton. Franky & Jonny look on.

the extra pressure forced a rushed point and another minor from the normally accurate Krafchek, before Willo passed to the Golden Greek and the Lions' second was on the board. Katzy was leading by example at half back, and the two Bens were providing solid resistance to enemy attacks, but somehow a Scotchy slipped under Jonno's guard at full back and snuck a six pointer through just before the siren.

As the teams changed ends, Franky ran over to the coach. "Stoney" he said, "I've been thinking. I don't think it's a coincidence all this stuff about the Scotch coach and the footy and the short game. I reckon it's Glen Waverley what's done it to us! It's a plot...I reckon they're scared of us!"

"You could be right there Franky....all the more reason to whip this mob! Let's get real Lions. Turn it on this quarter!"

And turn it on they did! Lethal lifted his workrate, and showed why he is a serious contender for the Norwich Rising Star. His elusive manoeuvring and pinpoint disposal gave Fergy two early chances to goal, and the Lions stretched the advantage. Domma was a great asset as he cruised around half forward and Dion had warmed up his hammys. Willo marked strongly but let himself down with a wayward shot at goal, and Gus followed with another minor, but at the eight minute mark Rick was able to extract the ball from a pack and feed it off to Ferg on the grandstand flank where Lethal was waiting for the overlap. His clever checkside banana on the run split the big sticks and prompted oohs and aahs of approval from the appreciative crowd. Not to be outdone Rowsta soon had them cheering as he dodged and weaved his way through

a pack of Scotch Fingers and delivered the ball into the zone. While their team mates were capitalising up forward the Lion defence was ruthless, holding the home team scoreless for the quarter. Jonno had adapted to his new role and Jonny and Lucas were playing it close and hard as per the instruction manual. Kaptain Katz teamed with the Doc and Willo to notch the Lions' sixth, and at the "long" interval the margin was a comfortable 36 points.

As part of the deal struck with Rowsta's manager, the coach was forced to remove the star centreman at the break, and Azza was quick to take up his position. Chuffa, meanwhile, replaced Max who had media commitments to fulfil. The Scotch coach had escaped from the boot of the Glen Waverley bus, and he had fired up his team for the premiership quarter, but despite their valiant efforts they could do little to reduce the leeway. Their two goals were matched by the Lions as Fergy booted his fourth and Hendo's consistent efforts on the wing were rewarded when he kicked truly after receiving a free directly in front.

The quarters seemed to be getting shorter, and no sooner had the final term started than the game was all over, but not before Feldy provided a glimpse of the form that has made him a legend on the House footy scene (or so he tells us!). A scintillating display of forward pocketry produced two marks and two majors in a matter of minutes and brought the comment from the opposition coach that every player loves to hear..."Who's on him!" But it wasn't just Feldy who grabbed a piece of the action. The Boy Sunder had been copping a bit of stick from his old Scotch team mates after transferring to Wesley, and now he had the last laugh by notching the Lions' eleventh!

Although the final margin of 54 points was pleasing it might well have been 104 under normal circumstances, and the Lions left the field feeling a little hard done by, but looking forward to a well deserved mid season break with five consecutive wins behind them.



SCOREBOARD! Glen Sunderland has the last laugh

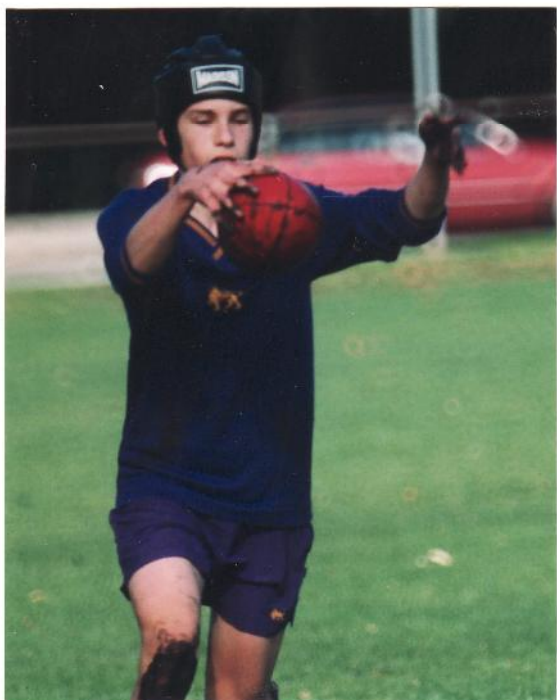




Lethal Leigh Krafchek

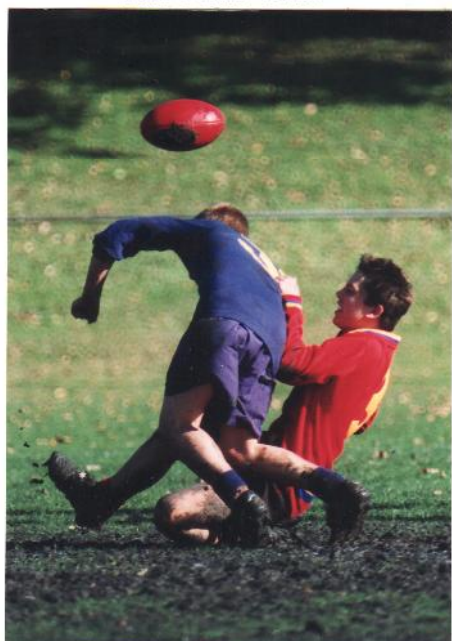


Against the odds! Lion defender Adrian Katz beats four opponents to the ball



Rover Dion Factor prepares to kick

RIGHT: Courtney Date does the ruckwork while Dion Factor crumbs



Grant Rowston is dispossessed



Fergus Watts flies at full forward



Angus Henderson shoots truly



# LIONS REPEAT THE DOSE!

SCOTCH NO MATCH FOR  
NEW LOOK LIONS

WESLEY COLLEGE 23. 14. 152  
SCOTCH COLLEGE 5. 7. 37

GOALS: Watts 7, Taranto 3, Krafchek 2, Factor 2, Wilson 2, Rowston 2, Kagan, Wright-Smith, Crothers, Williams, Howard

BEST: Watts, Krafchek, Taranto, Rowston, Spargo, Factor, Baldock, Wilson Katz, Dewar, Tulloch

INJURIES: Tulloch (the usual!)

GOAL of the DAY: Rowston

MARK of the DAY: Watts

PLAY of the DAY: Krafchek

EURO 2000 AWD: Taranto (for his scissor kick)

Most Embarrassing Moment: Willo hitting the post from inside 5 (or was that !?)

On paper the Lions seemed to have done well in the mid season draft. Having allowed several out of contract players to take up options in the Ballarat League, the Lions committee showed that they had done their homework and had been able to secure replacements from a variety of sources. Cohen, Sunderland, Brown and English had transferred to Clunes United, but by carefully combing the Ballarat area Lion talent scouts had discovered a number of likely players with loopholes in their contracts. Legal advice indicated that the Lions could pick up some valuable recruits at little expense to the club, and so the Creswick Tigers and the Mount Beckworth Magpies were encouraged to relinquish their hold on Kagan, Howard, Grainger, Taranto, Curtis, Crothers, Wright-Smith, Bobeff, Crema and Ballantine. Happy with the deal, and as keen as ever to retain the Laurie Humphries Cup, the Lions hit the training track hard on Thursday night as they shaped up for the return bout against Scotch.



Dazzling Dion Factor kicks goalward during the final quarter



Dom Delany and Cam Taranto fly for the mark

Knowing that the following week would see them promoted to the "A" division, the boys were determined to boost their percentage and consolidate the strong sense of team spirit established during the first part of the season. Although Courtney, Hendo and Timmy had declared themselves unavailable for the clash, Nick Crema had twisted his ankle whilst waiting in the tuckshop queue and Azza had gone AWOL, the selectors were able to announce an impressive lineup, with the luxury of standing ace onballer Watts at CHF and placing Siddons on the bench.

Scotch had tried their hardest to reduce the losing margin during the previous encounter, but despite shortening the match they had suffered a demoralising loss. Not wishing to experience another humiliating defeat the Scotch captain and his burly centre half back secretly adjusted the signage at the Scotch oval on Friday night in an effort to confuse the Lions as they searched for the venue of the big game the following morning. To their annoyance, most of the Lions sussed out the scheme on Saturday and the game began at the scheduled timeslot of 10.45am., although Jonno and Domma only just got out of bed in time!

The Lions were kicking to the Kooyong end during the opening term and Skipper Ferg was quick to establish his imprint on the game. However, it was Lethal Leigh who set the tone for the morning with his opening goal - a beautifully judged left foot snap on the run from the left pocket. Moments later his quick hands fed the skipper and another major was on the board. Cam Taranto had come into the side to replace Hendo on



the wing, and he was using his elastic arms to advantage reaching high for mark after mark in the midfield. A handball from Ferg found Crothers front and square and he goaled from a standing start. Meanwhile the home team was struggling to match the pace and skill of the Lions, and nobody was game to go near the Factorizer who calmly passed the ball to new recruit Ollie Howard and the Lions' third goal was posted. Scotch dug deep and replied with what would be their only major of the quarter, but Rowsta put them back in their hole with a brilliant accurate snap from deep in the freeway pocket. Jonno was controlling the ruck and the Doc was displaying his usual desperation around the packs. The Factorizer goaled, and then in an inspiring passage of play in front of the members wing he literally snatched the ball from an opponent's grasp and passed with pin point accuracy to his skipper who made no mistake. Before the end of the quarter, Ferg had converted a Taranto pass into the Lions' eighth, and the margin at the first break was a handy 48 points.

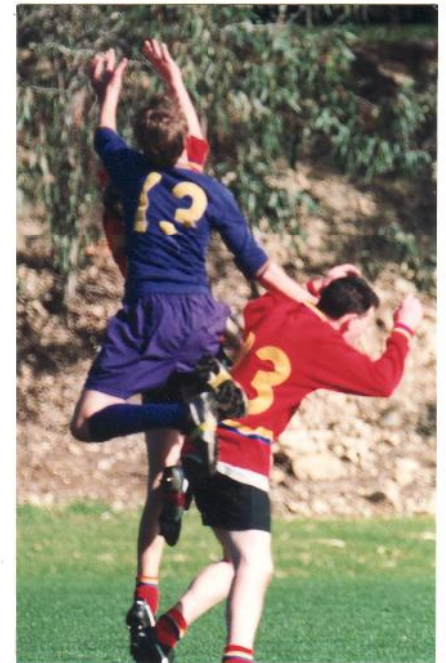
Scotch had no answers to the Lions' brilliance – nor could they penetrate the determined defence led by Tully at CHB and the experienced campaigners Katz and Sutton. Franky showed he was prepared to put his body on the line, and Jonny Dewar was sending precision passes out of the danger zone as the onballers and midfielders positioned themselves for the play on game. Dion was in fine touch and he relayed the ball forward where Cammy marked over the pack and dobbed his first. Ferg followed with the Lions' tenth, but the best Scotch could do was to rush a couple of inconsequential behinds. Meanwhile Krafchek was delighting the crowd with his magic skills, dodging and weaving his way along the wing with the ball on the proverbial string. Willo was enjoying the relatively stress free forward pocket pozzie and a little chip set up

Cammy for his second. Moments later the lively Wright-Smith snuck through the Lions' twelfth, and after a rush of behinds a left foot pass from the skipper set Willo up for his first. Domma had finally woken up and was beginning to exercise some influence while Jimbo Curtis and Bobba were adjusting to the pace of the game after a term of kick to kick in sleepy Clunes. Kages was showing determination in the clinches and Rowsta was being as clever as ever, but it was Cam Taranto who capped off a busy quarter with his third goal and the Lion's fourteenth. Only Will Grainger earned more applause when he spun his way out of trouble during the final minutes and deprived Scotch of an eagerly awaited scoring opportunity.

With the lead stretched out to a comfortable 76 points, the Lions could afford to savor their oranges and take a well earned breather, but they



*New recruit Ryan Kagan swoops on the ball*



*ABOVE: Fergus Watts takes a screamer*

*LEFT: James Tulloch contests a centre bounce while Ollie Howard looks on*





*Rick Baldock in hot pursuit*



*Wilson is under the hammer but his team mates provide the necessary numbers*

were quickly on their feet again when the home town umpire announced that the next two quarters were to be shortened! What was this, some form of conspiracy? Couldn't Scotch hack the pace?

Determined to make the home team pay, the Lions continued their onslaught during the premiership quarter, piling on another six unanswered goals. Ferg teamed with Rowsta for the opener but then Willo did a Percy Jones and hit the post from inside a metre! Marty had been excused of defensive duties and wasted little time in "dummying back onto his left and goaling from 15 metres" (in the words of editorial assistant Alex Maxwell). Goals followed in quick succession to Krafchek and the Factorizer, and with the restructured Lion defence standing firm, Scotch barely had a sniff of the footy. A kick forward by Kages was hungrily snatched by Willo who goaled under pressure, and minutes later a left footer from the skipper brought up the Lions' twentieth - soon to be followed by another as he sunk a set shot from forty.

The coach was besieged during the break by defenders wanting to be forwards and interchangers wanting to be interchanged, so the team for the final quarter bore only a passing resemblance to the original teamsheet. Rowsta and Lethal were given a spell in preparation for Sunday's AJAX vs East Sandy grudge match, and Jonno had opted to take a breather after rucking tirelessly for three quarters. Tully took his place and Grainger was promoted to CHB. Scotch took advantage of the situation and managed to gain some ground on the Lions, but there was little they could do to curb the brilliant Watts who flew for a specky and dobbed yet another major. Neither could they stop the acrobatic Taranto nor the courageous Baldock. Ollie, Jimbo and Adza were doing their bit and Katzy was showing his usual toughness. Max was focused on the ball, as always, and Dion was un-touchable. The final nail in the Scotch coffin was hammered by Kages as he found the big sticks and pushed the Lions to a confidence boosting 115 point victory - but next week is the big test!



*High flyer Cam Taranto in action*



*Ollie Howard gets the handball away in the nick of time*



# LIONS CALL THE SHOTS!

## UNBEATEN RUN CONTINUES

WESLEY COLLEGE 15. 9. 99  
GEELONG COLLEGE 9. 7. 63

GOALS: Howard 5, Rowston 3, Factor,  
Krafchek, Spargo, Kagan, Wilson,  
Williams, Henderson

BEST: Rowston, Krafchek, Factor, Howard,  
Spargo, Katz, Boland, Tulloch etc.

INJURIES: Boland (general soreness),  
Williams (headache), Kagan (leg)

GOAL of the DAY: Factor (Clever!)

MARK of the DAY: Chartres

PLAY of the DAY: Krafchek

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT: Sutton  
dropping a sitter in Geelong's goal square

Excitement was running high in the Lions' camp this week after their big win at Scotch last Saturday. The Lion's mid season promotion to "A" grade was to take effect from the upcoming round and the paper talk was all focused on how the Lions might perform against the big guns of the APS. The coach had decided that his team needed some "A" Grade preparation and had planned the week's training sessions accordingly. By implementing some training drills with an "A" Grade level of difficulty, he hoped to assist his team in making the transition to a higher level of competition. Unfortunately, he had not read the latest copy of *Education Monthly* which highlighted some alarming statistics about the current generation of teenage boys and their capacity for learning. Did you know for example, that while the average 14 year old boy can master the most complex computer games involving bloodshed and wanton destruction more quickly than any other group in society, his ability to count to three or four, or to follow a simple set of sequential directions is well below the capacity of the average five year old. To his alarm, the coach was to discover these facts for himself as his players turned what should have been a routine training session on Tuesday into a shmozzle.



Ben Siddons prepares to pounce on a stray ball

After a hastily convened conference with child psychologists, educationalists and mothers, the coach abandoned the advanced training program scheduled for Thursday and reverted to a simple kick to kick drill with groups of two (one at each end). During the latter part of the session those players who had mastered this drill were permitted to kick the ball towards the big white sticks (the goals) until it got dark (night).



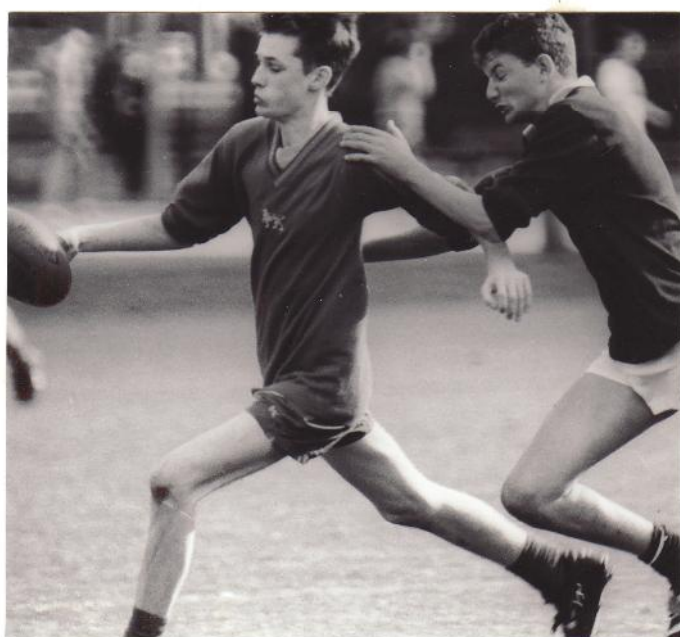
Nick Crothers takes a strong mark despite the close attention

Although the selectors were encouraged by the team's performance on Thursday afternoon, the worrying news of a leg injury to star forward, Fergus Watts, put a dampener on the final preparations for the big match against Geelong. Foot injuries to Wright-Smith and Curtis were further cause for concern, but the return of Henderson and Siddons, and the availability of Chris Chartres allowed the selectors a range of options.

Overnight rain had softened the surface of the Front Turf, but the sky had cleared in time for the opening bounce. Jonno Spargo had been appointed captain-for-a-day, and he directed his team towards the St.Kilda Road end for the first quarter. Tully had taken Ferg's place at CHF and Siddons was lining up in defence. The Doc was suffering from the after effects of flu so Domma started in the square alongside Kages and Rowsta. The first ten minutes was a real arm wrestle as the Lions struggled to break through the determined Geelong defence. Although controlling most of the play, the home team was finding conversion difficult, until Krafty Krafchek performed one of his special one man shows and started the scoreboard ticking. He followed up with a snap off hands for a minor, and Geelong replied, but the Lions rebounded strongly thanks to Katzy, and young Ollie Howard read the pack brilliantly to snatch the ball and dob his first for the day. With the skipper showing strength around the ground and Domma displaying his usual



flair, the Sherrin was beginning to find its way more frequently into the Lions' scoring zone, whilst the solid work of the two Bens, Franky, Jonny and Will was frustrating Geelong's forwards. Tully was making himself a target in the corridor, but the gusty wind was carrying the ball towards the scoreboard flank and forcing the Lions off course. Only the Factorizer had the answer. Gathering a stray ball on the flank he dashed goalward, chipped over his opponent's head, regained possession, evaded the oncoming trouble and threaded the ball from the pocket with his left foot. Clever! Following his sticky fingers display last week, Cam Taranto was eager to pick up where he left off, and with only minutes to go he delivered to Ollie who set up Marty for his team's fourth.



*Lion CHB Ben Siddons keeps his balance under pressure*

Happy with their first quarter effort, the Lions seemed to relax momentarily during the early part of the second term, and Geelong were quick to take advantage booting a confidence boosting goal. Ollie had the answer though and the Lions maintained their four goal advantage - for the time being! Geelong had clearly lifted a notch or two, and now the Lion defenders were finding themselves under unfamiliar pressure. Whilst the Lions managed only one more behind during the next fifteen minutes, the visitors added a further three goals to bring them within one straight kick at the long break.

Thoughts of their unbeaten run coming to an end preoccupied the Lions as they sucked on their citrus segments, and it was a more determined, resolute combination that took the field for the second half. Led by the irrepressible Rowston and the hard working Spargo, the Lions stepped up the pace, and only innacurate kicking prevented them from making a three course meal of their overawed opponents. Willo had been struggling to get his hands on the ball at full forward, but minutes into the new half he was able to feed the ball to Rowsta



*Cam Taranto puts his distinctive widestripe boots to the test*

who posted the Lions' sixth. Another clever little left footer from the Factorizer gave Ollie his second, and he almost had another as the Doc set him up but the kick went astray. Not to worry, he made amends moments later and the Lions moved to a 25 point lead. Kages and Crothers were impressing with their courage in close combat situations and a slick handball from the Blond Bombshell started another forward thrust which finished with a goal to Willo as he snatched a snapshot off the hands of a pack. Rowsta was next as he carried the ball effortlessly through the obstacle course set up by Geelong defenders and dlobbered his second. Krafty Krafchek was delighting the crowd with his silky skills, and a lovely pass found Hendo in the corridor. In no time the Lions' tenth was being electronically transmitted to the giant digital clock by keyboard master Max who had been deprived of his popular media caster role by faulty equipment. A slight miscalculation led Hendo to send a kick towards the netball goals, but a long bomb from Rowsta carried through the big sticks and registered his third for the term. With their team mates monopolising the ball at the western end of the ground, the Lion defenders were doing well to maintain their interest. When the ball did make an occasional appearance in the danger zone, Siddo and Katzy were quick to send it back from whence it came. Only one Lion defender (who shall remain nameless) slipped up when his concentration wandered at a critical stage. Dreaming of his cleansweep in the forthcoming table tennis championships, he allowed a high ball to slip through his grasp, only to wake up and watch a Geelong forward convert the crumb into his team's only goal for the quarter.

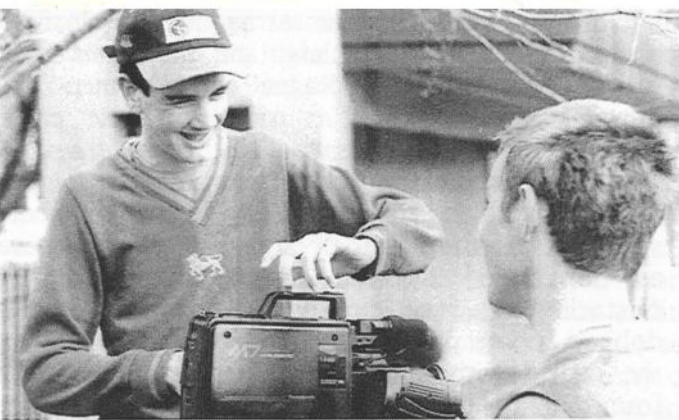




Frank Boland forces his opponent wide!



Defender John Dewar leads the race for the football

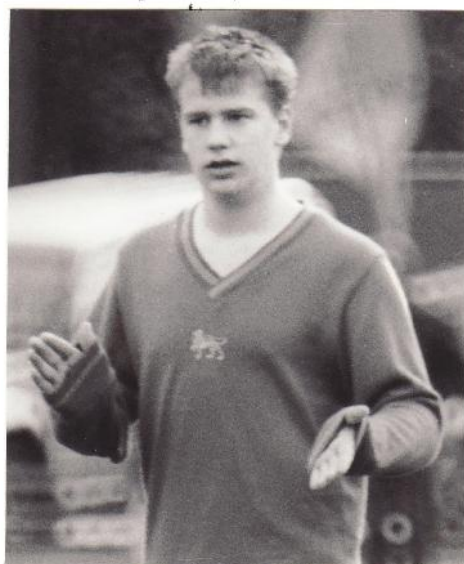


"Don't blame me! Blame the technology!"



Full Back, Frank Boland launches into a big bomb

The Lions could afford to be well pleased with themselves now that the hard work had been done and their lead had been extended to a comfortable 46 points. Soon it was 52 points as Ollie gave the ball off to Domma in the opening minutes of the final term, and Kages capped off their good work. Tully had shown promise at CHF, but it was time now to give his skipper a break from the ruckwork and Jonno celebrated with a goal of his own. Geelong were not yet done, however, and as the Lions made some positional rearrangements they took advantage of the opportunity to add to their meagre score. Strong defensive work by Franky and new recruit Chris Chartres thwarted attempts by the visitors to narrow the margin still further while goalsneak Ollie Howard picked up his fifth thanks to some smooth work upfield by Krafty. At the twenty minute mark, chief scorer and electronic whiz kid, Alex Maxwell, pressed the appropriate button to conclude proceedings. The Lions had successfully negotiated another hurdle on their way to the ultimate Wesleyan football dream!



Goalsneak Ollie Howard marks strongly and contemplates his fifth goal. The result pleases his team mates and skipper Spargo



# LIONS DREAM RUN ENDS!

**CONTROVERSIAL  
FINISH TO  
BIG MATCH**

WESLEY COLLEGE 9. 3. 57  
MELBOURNE GRAMMAR 9. 4. 58

GOALS: Krafchek 2, Rowston 2, Taranto 2  
Bobeff, Crema, Howard  
BEST: Factor, Boland, Katz, Wilson, Taranto,  
Delany, Rowston, Baldock, Howard,  
Krafchek

INJURIES: Spargo (bloody nose), Factor (legs)  
Crema (finger), Taranto (knee)

GOAL of the DAY: Rowston

MARK of the DAY: Howard

PLAY of the DAY: Factor

GOALSNEAK of the DAY: Bobeff

MOST FRUSTRATED INTERCHANGER: Feld

On Friday night at Colonial the bulldogs broke the Bomber's record breaking run of success with a hard, physical brand of football and a relentless attack on the goals in the dying minutes of the game. On the Front Turf the following morning Melbourne Grammar emulated the boys from the West by ending the Lions' dream run of seven successive victories by the narrowest of margins. Although the records will show a Grammar victory, the last quarter however, was marred by a controversial goal umpiring decision which may prove critical in the Lions' quest for the coveted Laurie Humphries Cup. Although APS officials are expected to investigate the incident during the coming week it seems unlikely that Saturday's result will be changed. First viewings of the video footage of the incident provided by Maxivision proved inconclusive, but verbal reports by players and spectators close to Saturday's action suggest that the Lions may have been unlucky to lose the lead at the 18 minute mark. It is hoped that the investigative committee assesses the evidence with due care and attention, but regardless of their decision, the Lions must accept some of the responsibility for Saturday's shock result, as they allowed a healthy three quarter time lead to be whittled away by the determined Melbourne.

NOW READ ON....After a week of persistent precipitation and dull skies, the sun was threatening to break through on Saturday morning as the Lions performed their prematch routine under the direction of Dion "The Factorizer" Factor. Their opponents were a well drilled Melbourne Grammar unit who had the previous week defeated an undermanned Wesley Country team - the Lions' only serious competitor for the 2000 Humphries Cup. The Lions felt confident despite the absence of key forward Fergus Watts and CHB Siddons from the lineup. The return of Crema, Wright-Smith and Curtis provided the coach with extra options, but there was a feeling that a lack of height could cause problems.

Despite the prematch build up and the return of



*Ollie Howard is squeezed out of an aerial contest*

Maxivision, the Lions opened sluggishly, and it was Grammar who made the early running. Two early goals put pressure on the home team and apart from a behind to the skipper, the Lions' forays forward during the opening ten minutes proved fruitless. Jonno was already hard at work and Willo was presenting himself strongly at CHF but he was continually under pressure and was unable to gain control of the ball. Rookie full forward Crothers was likewise finding it difficult to break free of his close checking opponent and orthodox scoring channels were therefore denied the Lions. Taranto was approaching his new onball role enthusiastically and at the eleven minute mark he chipped the ball from the centre to the elusive Krafchek who made no mistake with a long bomb. This seemed to ignite his team mates, and for the remainder of the quarter the Lions dominated the play. Rowsta had finally woken up and he and Krafty teamed up to deliver the ball towards a corridor contest where Crema's quick hands found the running Taranto and the scores were levelled. The Lion defence had tightened up, and despite wearing borrowed boots, (thanks Feldy!) Katzy was leading the way with his desperate tackling. Franky too looked set for a good day at full back and Jonny and Sutts were paying their opponents close attention, but Chris Chartres was sent on a mission to cut Melbourne's annoying little goalsneak out of the game before he became too dangerous. It wasn't long however, before the home team moved to a six point break as Goalsnick Crema snapped cleverly from the pocket.



The second term was a see sawing affair in which neither team could gain the advantage. Melbourne levelled the scores early, but Rowsta grabbed the ball from the hands of a pack and snatched back the lead. The Factorizer was displaying dazzling dexterity along the members' wing and Hendo was positioning himself well for the corridorial pass, while Domma was showing glimpses of his best form. Points to both teams maintained the Lions' advantage, but a Melbourne goal at the fourteen minute mark equalled the scores. Crothers had been given a defensive role and Marty was now occupying the full forward post, but it was Willo and Ollie who looked the most likely of Wesley's forwards. A marvellous twisting aerial grab by Ollie and a deadly accurate pass to Cam set up his team's fifth goal, and at the long interval the status quo had been maintained - the Lions by six points.



*Rover Rick Baldock swoops on the ball*

Could the Lions produce another ball bursting "Premiership" quarter this week? Could they seize the game by the throat as they had against Geelong the previous Saturday? The coach emphasised the psychological nature of the game and sent his charges back into the fray.

Melbourne opened with a point, but Jonno and the Doc increased their work level, and the ball quickly returned to the Lions' forward zone where Ollie capitalised on an opportunity and stretched the advantage. Tully was showing strength and commitment at CHB and Will was sticking close, but Grammar's tall, mobile forwards were causing the Lion defence some concern and sooner rather than later the answer was posted. Azza was busy replenishing fluid levels all over the ground and the coach was shuffling his bench as Wright-Smith replaced an injured Crema and Jimbo was given his chance on the forward line. A long, low kick towards the goal mouth by Lethal Leigh was helped on the final few metres of its journey by an eager Nick Bobeff whose efforts guaranteed the Lions' seventh sausage, but Melbourne refused to give up

the fight and they made the most of a momentary lapse by the Lion defenders to boot another of their own. Rowsta decided that it was time to turn up the volume and as the ball wobbled its way towards the middle school pocket he snatched it from the pack, threw it onto his right foot and bent it brilliantly between the big sticks. Not to be outdone, Krafty Krafchek responded as the quarter drew to a close with a long, raking left footer which split the difference and took the Lions to a healthy seventeen point advantage.

Despite a recent tendency to fade during the final twenty minutes, the Lions' coach felt that there would be no lack of incentive to keep his team running close to full throttle. Unfortunately, Grammar had switched to a new high octane blend of fuel and they came out firing on all cylinders! Right from the bounce the Lions found themselves on the back foot as Melbourne hit the ball hard and moved it with purpose. Jonno was forced to leave the field under the blood rule and Tully moved into the ruck, but the balance was upset. Grammar snatched an early goal and the Lions replied with a point, then for a time the game stabilised into an intriguing arm wrestle, but Melbourne's forwards seemed to have that little bit extra up their sleeves and when they scored their second goal for the quarter the momentum seemed to shift. As the ball bounced towards an empty goal, hotly pursued by a Melbourne forward, Lion defender Ben Sutton sprinted to make a contest. Both players stretched their feet towards the Sherrin and Sutton's boot seemed to make final contact before the ball crossed the goal line. The goal umpire was uncertain, and as players from both sides moved in on him he was forced to make a decision. Knowing that he would have to spend the best part of the next three and a half years sharing a classroom with his team mates, he signalled with two hands and the Lions' lead was cut to just six points. The Lions were desperate for a steadying goal, but as in the second quarter their forward line was being choked by quick thinking Grammarians. Domma sent the ball long into the Moubray pocket, but it was repelled, Ollie marked twice near the fifty but



*"What's your decision umpire?" The controversial goal*

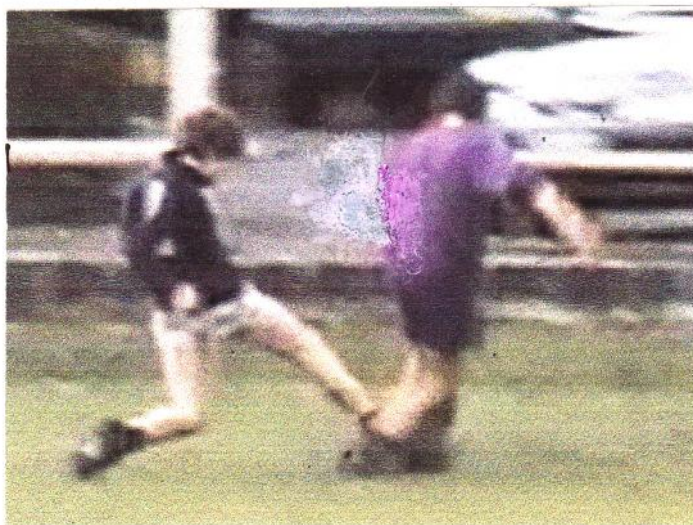


couldn't make the distance, Cam stretched high but couldn't bring down a mark, and most frustratingly of all, Rowsta cleared the ball brilliantly from the centre, ran to half forward and booted long to the goal square - but there was nobody home! Melbourne rebounded and despite desperate efforts by Katzy and the Lone Grainger, another goal to the visitors was soon on the board. Melbourne had hit the front! With just minutes to go, Jonno was thrown back onto the ball and the Lions were asked for just one more effort. The ball was squeezed out towards the members wing where Lethal swooped and made a dash goalward. The corridor was chockers and defenders were bearing down so he

had little choice but to shoot from wide on the flank. The kick was clean but it drifted across the face of the goal and was hustled out of danger along the boundary line by a Melbourne defender. One last desperate effort by the Lions brought the ball back inside fifty, but again Melbourne had the answers and a steadying mark and a backward chip wasted just enough time to deny the Lions another chance. Oblivious to the Lions' fate, the scoreboard clock flashed its relentless numerical sequence and Ben Siddons sauntered casually towards the siren control hoping against hope that a miracle would see the Lions first past the post - but it was not to be!



## WHAT'S YOUR DECISION?



The controversial goal that put Melbourne back in the match. As the Grammar forward stretches his right foot towards the ball Lion defender Ben Sutton swings his left leg forward in an attempt to rush a point. Sutton swears he made contact, and Mr. Siddons testified that the Wesley player made final contact with the ball.

Image courtesy of MAXIVISION

ABOVE Left to Right: Cam Taranto at full stretch late in the tense final quarter  
Taranto, second in line, is unable to get a grip on the ball in the dying minutes  
Ollie Howard hugs the ball to his chest



Lion winger, Leigh Krafchek unloads a left footer which could have put the Lions in front. Instead the ball drifted across the face and failed to register a score



# LIONS 9As

## G.W. "Rowsta" ROWSTON

A born ballgetter with all the skills. Plays the centreman's role to perfection where he displays an uncanny ability to control the ball in the heaviest traffic. Can swing a game with no visible sign of effort.



Give 'Em the Slip Award

## L.S. "Krafty" KRAFCEK

Classy, ambidextrous winger who reads the game to perfection. A master of time and space with a built in ball magnet. Frustrates opponents with tight cornering and rapid acceleration. Put down your glasses inside fifty!



Classy Cruising Award

## D.G. "The Factoriser" FACTOR



Highly skilled winger whose personal space was rarely invaded by opponents. His clever finessing and accurate disposal set up countless opportunities for his team mates but his fragile body gave cause for concern!

Nothing up my Sleeve Award

## J.D. "Jonno" SPARGO-RYAN



Rawboned croweater with an excellent work ethic. Rucked tirelessly week after week despite a lack of inches. Not pretty to watch but very effective in blocking opponents and moving the ball forward.

Keep on Trucking Award

## A.D. "Adey" KATZ



Happy-go-lucky half back flanker with a stubborn streak of determination. Showed courage in threatening situations and against bigger opponents. An expert tackler and an essential cog in the Lion machine.

You're Going Nowhere Award

## B.C. "Siddo" SIDDONS

Rangy half back with an impressive purple and gold pedigree. A valuable rebounder whose good reach and long strides gave him the edge on most opponents until his season was curtailed by a broken thumb.



Cut 'em off at the Pass Award

## A.J. "Gus" HENDERSON

Versatile & adaptable player who went in hard as a rover, linked up cleverly in the midfield and made good use of the corridor when sent forward. Captained the team to its biggest win of the season.



Hot Spot Award

## A. "Azza" GREGORY

Talented but temperamental sportsman capable of frustrating both opponents and team mates! Although a clever mover and an exciting goal sneak, his excessive energy conservation and ice cream consumption is a worry!



I Scream for Ice Cream Award

## A.E. "Max" MAXWELL



A crucial contributor to the Lions' success this season, graduating from apprentice shepherd to master goal sneak in the space of 3 months. His weekly video coverage proved an invaluable motivational aid.

Instant Replay Award

## M.L. "Marty" WILLIAMS



Enthusiastic team man who began the season with a bang by booting successive bags of goals. Volunteered for defensive duties later in the season and produced a match saving performance at Xavier. Good for a laugh!

It's in the Bag Award

## C.R. "Cam" TARANTO



Exciting footballer who added a spark to the team with his amazing court coverage and his athletic overhead grabs. Performed well in a ruck roving role and made the most of his regular forays into the 50 metre zone.

Sticky Fingers Award

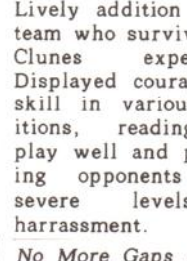
## M.T. "Feldy" FELD

Chunky forward with a huge reputation on the house footy scene. Displayed glimpses of magic on Saturdays including two goals in two minutes against Scotch. Enjoyed his R.D.O.s.



House Footy Award

## N.A. "Nick" CROTHERS



Lively addition to the team who survived the Clunes experience. Displayed courage and skill in various positions, reading the play well and providing opponents with severe levels of harrassment.

No More Gaps Award



## W.P. "Will" GRAINGER

A Clunes' refugee who provided an additional bigman presence in defence after the break. Played close to his opponents and showed some surprisingly deft manoeuvring including a sensational spin out of trouble at Scotch.

Cleansweep Award



## J.D. "Tully" TULLOCH



Big man whose season was restricted by insidious leg injuries. Sidelined for weeks by an unresponsive knotty thigh, he finally debuted after the break and served on the ball and in key forward and defensive roles.

Physiotherapists' Award

## C.W. "Bigfoot" DATE



Promising footballer with a big frame and feet to match. Presented an awkward obstacle in defense and made good use of his opportunities in the ruck, impressing with his body strength and clever palming.

Superboot Award

## J.V. "Jimbo" CURTIS



Exuberant mid season draftee who trained with spirit and energy. Had some trouble readjusting to the pace of the city game after a term of country footy, but showed potential in a linking role up forward.

Tigerish Lion Award



# TEAM of 2000

## R.W. "Doc" BALDOCK



Promising first year player recruited from S.A. Hard at the ball determination earned him a prompt promotion to the primary roving role where he dived fearlessly into packs and continually grazed his knees.

*Rising Star Award*

## F.J. "Ferg" WATTS



Talented athlete with height, agility and a natural ball sense. Found his niche at CHF where his intelligent positioning and sure hands made him an ideal target and a logical avenue to goal.

*Up There Cazaly Award*

## F.J. "Franky J" BOLAND

Solid, dependable full back who gave little away to the opposition yet gave all he could for his team. Unselfishly sacrificed a potentially brilliant season as a ruck rover to help marshal the troops in defence.

*Have No Fear Award*



## B. "Ben" SUTTON

Honest half back flanker who could be relied on to nip opposition advances in the bud. Stood firm in close encounters but showed a handy turn of speed when needed. One handed marks are a speciality!

*No Leaks Award*



## N.A.J. "Willo" WILSON

Key forward whose firm hold on the earth made him a useful target. Frequently set up the crumbers and snapped a few memorable goals himself. A harsh critic of his own game who dreams of taking one handed spekkys.

*Stand Your Ground Award*



## D.J. "Maestro" DELANY



A man of many talents who somehow managed to squeeze football into his busy schedule. This maestro with both the stradivarius and the sherrin rarely hit a wrong note - in the pit or on the ball. Bravissimo!

*Perfect Pitch Award*

## J.J.C. "Jonny" DEWAR



Serious minded young sportsman with a good work ethic. Stuck firmly to his task in the back pocket and displayed pinpoint accuracy when kicking in. Set the standard at training by actually listening to the coach!

*Coach's Award*

## J.L. "Jules" COHEN



Competitive sportsman who treats the game as seriously as he would an academic pursuit. As a rover, he developed a new technique for removing balls from packs before being drafted to Clunes midseason.

*Go With the Flow Award*

## L.I. "Lucas" BROWN

Versatile tall who tried his hand at both ends of the ground. Used his height to advantage in the back pocket and showed goal kicking prowess when given the chance. His goal at Xavier was crucial.

*Lions Roar Award*



## C.J.A. "Charters" CHARTRES

A valuable addition to the team despite his limited match experience. Pace and determination were real assets on the backline and he surprised even himself with an extraordinary mark against Geelong!

*Apprentice of the Year*



## G.S. "Sunder" SUNDERLAND

Enthusiastic footballer with an analytical approach to sport. An underrated contributor whose one percenters often went unnoticed. Slick handballs and timely shepherds help -ed to maintain the Lions' flow on game.

*The Boy Wonder Award*



## T.G. "Choofa" ENGLISH



New recruit who showed promise before leaving for rural adventures. Despite limited match experience he used his height and reach to advantage on the forward line. Displayed goal kicking prowess vs St.Kevins.

*On the Right Track Award*

## R.D. "Kages" KAGAN



Unpredictable bundle of energy capable of wreaking havoc in the classroom and on the footy field. A lively presence on the forward line where his sure ball handling and disposal under pressure was valued.

*Fasten Your Seatbelts Award*

## O.D. "Ollie" HOWARD



Talented left footer who was drafted mid-season to the Lions' attacking zone. Proved to be a productive avenue to goal with his strong marking, creative crumbing and accurate snapping. Kicked a bag against Geelong.

*Happy Snapper Award*

## A. "Buster" BUSTIN



Enigmatic sportsman who began the season promisingly but was tempted by the offer of an extended mid year holiday. Showed form at full forward, throwing himself into the action and snagging a few goals.

*Action Stations Award*

## A.C. "Ads" WRIGHT-SMITH



Displayed pace and elusivity around the goals during his limited appearances.

*Hot Wheels Award*

Keen contributor whose short season will be remembered for his opport-

## N.D. "Bob" BOBEFF



unistic soccer goal against Melbourne.

*Socceroos*

*Encouragement Award*

Hungry crumber who bobbed up late in the season. Showed a slick pair of hands and a true boot.

*Hungry Crumber Award*

## N.L. "Nick" CREMA





# HISTORIC VICTORY! LIONS SEIZE

WESLEY COLLEGE 18. 12. 120  
HAILEYBURY COLLEGE 4. 4. 28

GOALS: Howard 3, Krafchek 3, Rowston 2,  
Watts 2, Maxwell 2, Wilson 2,  
Taranto 2, Gregory, Williams

BEST: Rowston, Krafchek, Baldock, Taranto,  
Katz, Watts, Boland, Howard, Wilson,  
Date, Factor, Kagan, Sutton, Tulloch,  
Delany, Chartres, Crothers, Grainger,  
Curtis, Williams, Feld, Gregory and  
not forgetting Maxwell!

GOAL of the DAY: Maxwell

INJURIES: Delany (tummy), Factor (something,  
but I'm not sure what), Boland (nose)

ATTENDANCE: 38,423 (& a fluffy little dog)

Still smarting from last week's controversial one point loss to Melbourne Grammar, the Lions came out roaring for the final match of the season against Haileybury. Knowing that another loss would allow their country cousins to move ahead of them on the Wesley ladder, the boys turned on a vintage display of quality football to overwhelm their opponents and take out the coveted Laurie Humphries Cup. The second successive season in which the Year 9 Prahran/Elsternwick team had achieved the momentous feat.

There was some paper talk during the week that the Lions might not front up for the final match of the season after a careful analysis of the ladder had revealed that a forfeit would guarantee the Lions a winning match ratio, whereas to play and lose would reduce them to runners up status. Star winger Leigh Krafchek put the proposition to the team after training on Tuesday, but the concept horrified his team mates and they refused to even consider the idea. The only dissenting voice was Aaron Gregory's. He favoured a forfeit on the grounds that he could sleep in and then spend the remainder of the morning at the local Dairy Bell Ice Cream parlour. Fortunately, sanity prevailed!

The return of CHF Watts to the lineup had been eagerly awaited, and the inclusion of the dynamic Kagan provided another onball option. Courtney "Bigfoot" Date had returned from the mountains to enhance the Lions' bigman strength but the unavailability of crumbers Bobeff, Crema and Wright-Smith and defender Dewar caused the selectors some concern. Reliable ruckman Jonno Spargo was under an illness cloud all week and it was no surprise when the club matron ruled him out of the lineup on Saturday morning. Hendo too had succumbed to a nasty bug and he had declared himself fit only to wave the flags.

There was a welcome touch of Spring in the air as the Lions arrived to kick the dew off the Front Turf. Centreman Grant Rowston had agreed to accept the captaincy role for the final game and



Marty Williams goes bananas after his team's historic victory

Sutton had been named as deputy. The match had been granted extra significance by an unexpected mid week press release announcing that popular clubman Alex Maxwell would be hanging up his boots following the Haileybury match, having decided to take the early retirement package offered by Sportsmaster Hibbins. As expected a huge crowd had filled the stadium in time for the opening bounce. Kicking to the St.Kilda Road end the Lions wasted no time in attacking the goals, but it was only after several misdirected kicks that Fergus was able to register the team's first major score - the reward for a powerful tackle that pinned a Haileybury defender inside the fifty. The slippery surface and soap like Sherrin made finessing difficult, but the Lions seemed to be already in control of the game. Haileybury were



Grant Rowston squeezes out a handpass under pressure



# HUMPHRIES CUP

denied anything remotely like a scoring opportunity by the miserly Lion defence. Katzy was especially aggressive in his approach to the ball, and Franky was impassable. Cam Taranto had recovered sufficiently from his Thursday night encounter with Courtney's size 16 boot, and he was relishing his onball role. A neat pass from Fergy set Cam up for his first and a clever relay from Krafty Krafchek almost gave him a second, but the post got in the way. At the first change the Lions had established a handy 17 point lead and Haileybury were already looking down the barrel.



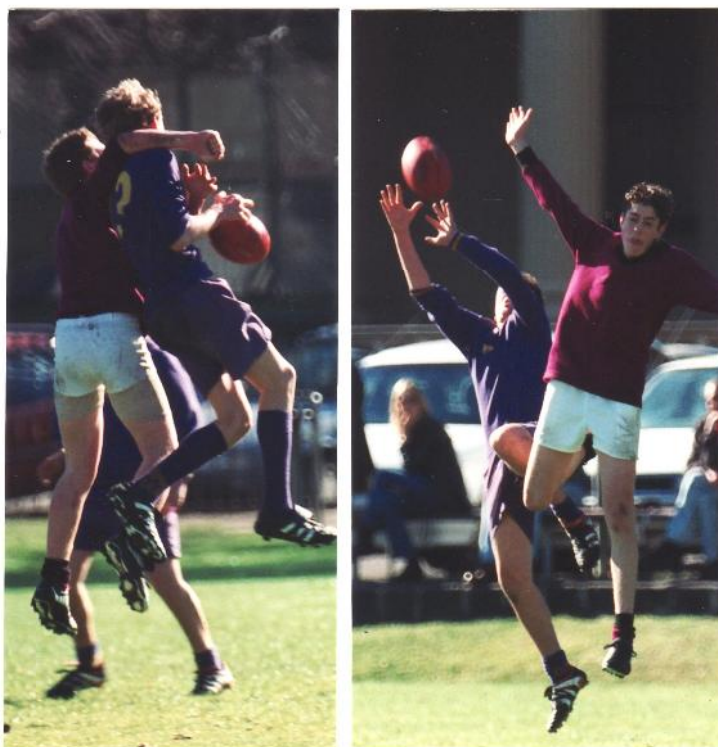
Defender Chris Chartres leads in the race for the ball

As the Lions became accustomed to the dewy dampness their skill level lifted and the spectators were treated to a special brand of football. Willo was presenting himself strongly at full forward and he was instrumental in helping Ollie to his first goal of the morning. Courtney was using his strength and height to advantage in the ruck and Rick "Dawson" Baldock was busy at ground level distributing the ball to his running team mates. The Lions were beginning to string possessions together and delight the crowd with some impressive passages of play. The Factorizer was finding touch and Kages was an exuberant contributor in the midfield, and they combined well to deliver the ball to Ferg, but his kick for goal went astray. A handball from Willo found the running Watts whose pass to Lethal Leigh was converted in his typically authoritative fashion. Rowsta was instigating in the pivot, and he made the most of an advantage call by umpire Maxwell to bomb the ball long and hard deep into the goal square where Willo was waiting to mark and bring up the Lions' fifth goal. Haileybury repounded with their first scores of the match, but the home team was quick to answer when Domma marked and chipped to his skipper within range. The visitors were desperate to make an impression on the scoreboard, but rebounder Sutton and tagger Chartres had other ideas! Their strong chasing and persistent

## BACK TO BACK PREMIERSHIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL COACH

ALEX MAXWELL  
KICKS A GOAL!

harrassment was making life uncomfortable for the opposition, and to make their life even more miserable, Tully had cut off their main avenue of attack. Ryza gave Ollie another goal at the fifteen minute mark, and it wasn't long before the finisher cleverly crumbed his third for the quarter to send the Lions into the long break a useful 46 points ahead.



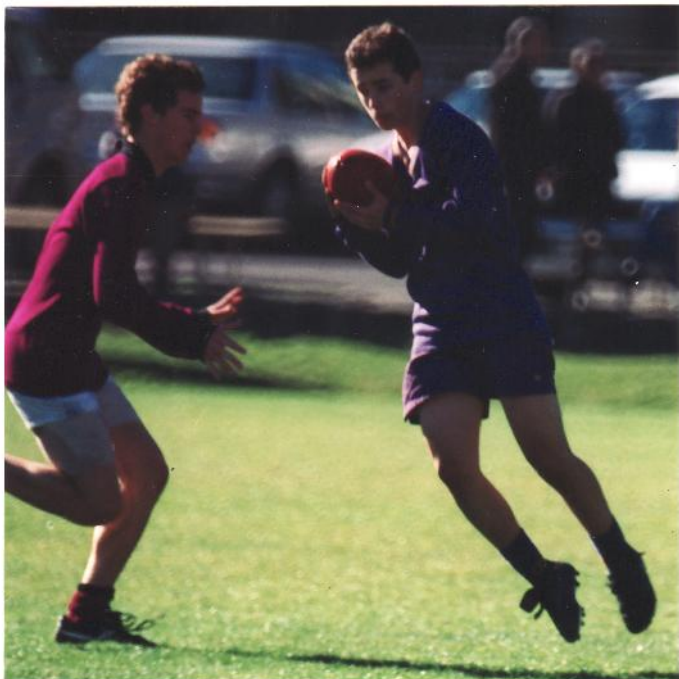
High flyers Fergus Watts (left) and Aaron Gregory (Right) compete against their Haileybury opponents

The third quarter had consistently been the Lions' best during the 2000 season, and once again the oranges worked their magic! Cam and Leeza opened proceedings for the second half with majors and Rowsta joined in the fun with a long sausage. Talk of sausages was the last thing Domma needed, as he rushed from the ground and sprinted to the change rooms. He had been hit by a mysterious stomach bug, but would bravely return to the fray during the last quarter. Spudder junior and the Lone Grainger had taken up positions deep in enemy territory, but they were to be disappointed as the Lion midfielders refused to let Haileybury anywhere near their scoring zone. There was more action on the interchange bench! Marty moved quickly into the play at half forward and Jimbo was displaying his tigerish spirit in a crumbing role. A goal to Willo at the eleven minute mark signalled the moment Lion fans had been awaiting for weeks - the return of the Golden Greek! And they were not disappointed as their hero snapped a clever goal on the run and then proceeded to set up Fergy for another. The quarter finished with Lethal firing another six pointer from the pocket.



Haileybury supporters were leaving in droves, but the Lion fans were only just warming up! Excited chatter echoed through the grandstand as the coach revved up his charges for the final time and the boys in purple and gold prepared for their last twenty minutes together. The atmosphere was electric! Chanting and handclapping began to fill the air - a deafening cacophany threatened to raise the stadium roof. Then suddenly it stopped. An expectant hush fell over the Turf. Alex Maxwell peeled off his purple tracksuit and stretched his quads. His team mates applauded softly and wished him luck.

The huddle broke for the last time and the crowd erupted. As the Lions headed for their positions, they couldn't help but steal a glance at the purple flag flying proudly above the tower. Their hearts missed a beat and a lump came to their collective throats. "That's what it's all about boys!" said Feldy wiping a tear from his eye.



*It has been said that talented Lion Leigh Krafchek walks on water. Here he demonstrates another of his super skills as he hovers clear of an opponent*



*Popular Lion clubman Alex Maxwell breaks the drought to register the first goal of his football career*

Haileybury could see that the Lions were struggling with their emotions and they took advantage of the distraction to rush the ball forward for a goal, but the lapse was only momentary, and the Lions were soon back on track peppering the goals again. All eyes were now trained on Maxy who had been positioned at full forward in the hope that the lengthy goal drought that had afflicted his football career could at last be broken. With seventeen team mates eager to help it wasn't long before the ball found its way into the path of Maxy's swinging right leg and in a flash the Sherrin had passed through the sticks and Hendo was joyfully waving his flags! And didn't the crowd love it. They went beresk! The Lions were now back in control with Tully marking strongly and Lethal being clever and elusive around half forward. A snap from Rowsta drifted across the face where Marty was ready and waiting and he too was soon pumping the air with excitement. Not to be outdone, Maxy chipped in with another - doubling his career goal tally with just one kick! The coach was working overtime shuffling the interchange bench and granting last requests, and he was relieved when timekeeper Robbie Lewis sounded the siren to end the game. Yet it was a relief tinged with sadness, as another chapter was closing in the great book of Wesley Sport and this moment, now so real and so tangible, would soon be but a memory.



*"How much ice cream could you fit in this!"*



*The Clunes Kids. Triumphant Lions Taranto, Kagan & Howard*





# Grosby Goalkickers

They're great mate.



with  
**Max**

Welcome to my page! Some of you may be asking yourself: "Why Max?" Why not Leigh, or Aaron or Ferg? If a child psychologist asked you to play the old word association game I bet there wouldn't be many of you who would answer "Alex Maxwell" to the word "goals", but don't forget that during my long years of yearning for my maiden major I've been privileged to play alongside some of the greats - and this is how they do it!

This is Aaron running into an open goal. I hope he's not going to try the dreaded drop kick! Remember the house footy match?



Lethal Leigh can bomb a sausage from just about anywhere, but this is a shot he'd rather forget. You could say that this kick across the face of goals lost us the match against Melbourne... but I didn't say that!

## 2000 GOALKICKERS

L.KRAFCHER	19
A.GREGORY	19
F.WATTS	17
M.WILLIAMS	16
G.ROWSTON	11
O.HOWARD	10
N.WILSON	9
C.TARANTO	7
J.COHEN	6
D.FACTOR	6
A.BUSTIN	4
B.SUTTON	3
A.HENDERSON	3
J.SPARGO	2
L.BROWN	2
T.ENGLISH	2
M.FELD	2
R.KAGAN	2
A.MAXWELL	2
N.BOBEFF	1
N.CREMA	1
N.CROTHERS	1
G.SUNDERLAND	1
R.BALDOCK	1
A.WRIGHT-SMITH	1



Although he doesn't look too mobile, Aaron can surprise you with his agility around the goals. Here is a great snap from a pretty tricky angle. Caulfield is the opposition - if you could call it that! We won by a lazy 28 goals that day.



This is more like it! Krafty has just snapped a great goal on the turn in the final quarter against Haileybury. Feldy, Ferg and the Berry Boys can only watch in wonder as the ball sails through the big sticks. Leigh Krafchek, you are a goalkicking legend! Us mere mortals stand in awe of your prodigious talents.



Now, the moment you've all been waiting for! Let me fill you in.... I've been playing Wesley footy for years, and believe it or not, until the last game of the 2000 season I had never kicked a goal. Incredible isn't it? Sure, I'd registered a few minors, and I'd produced my share of "one percenters" to help set up my team mates, but I was still a goal kicking virgin you might say. But all that changed in the last quarter! The flood gates opened and I kicked TWO absolute rippers from two metres out! I cannot begin to describe the elation that I experienced as I felt leather on leather and heard my fellow Lions roaring their support! Now, I can retire a happy man!





# Cadbury MARK OF THE YEAR

To enter: On the back of an envelope, please write your name, address, phone number and your selection for the Mark of the Year. Then enclose two Cadbury wrappers and send to: Cadbury Mark of the Year, PO Box 6808, Silverwater BC, NSW, 1811. Entries close 1/9/99. See Channel 7 Rex Hunt's Footy Panel for details.



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.



with **Ferg**

As everybody knows, one of the highlights of Aussie Rules is the spectacular overhead mark known as the *spekky*. But there are other kinds of marks which are just as good. Here you can see some of my team mates demonstrating a few variations. Which do you prefer?



8.5 degree of difficulty! Nick closes his eyes and gets punched in the head while taking the mark. Couraaage!



Domma is flying high to take a *finger tipper* over the Scotchies



Cam has real sticky fingers. Here he's going for a *screamer*



Adey has hardly got off the ground, but this is real *gutsy grab* under great pressure



Yours truly attempting a *one hander*





**(In 2000, Rick came up with the goods.)**

Wesley's Rick "Dawson" Baldock is the brilliant winner of the 2000 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 2000".

Born and bred in Adelaide, Rick's early sporting heroes came from another code, as he began his football career on the soccer field. Fortunately, he saw the light in 1999 and tried out for his school's Aussie Rules team. Rick's budding talent did not escape the notice of Victorian scouts and the offers soon began rolling in from APS clubs. The Lions offered a lucrative four year contract and Rick made his debut in Round 1 this year. The 15 year old rover instantly impressed with his hard at the ball approach and he became a consistent ball winner for his new club. He has also attracted the attention of female supporters with his TV star looks!

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

To find out how our range of financial services can help you reach your goals, call 1300 659 659.



[www.norwich-union.com.au/risingstar/](http://www.norwich-union.com.au/risingstar/)



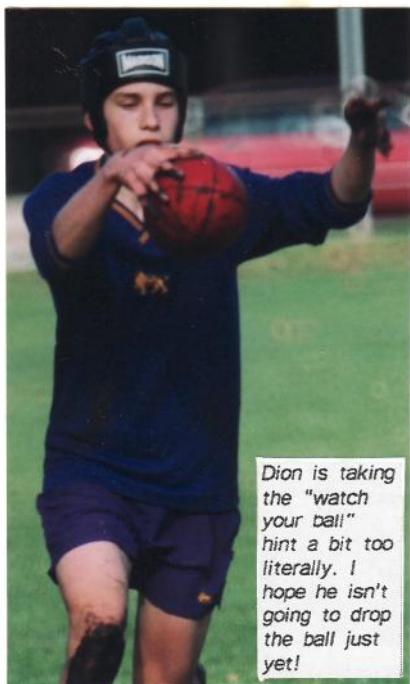
# McDONALD'S AUSKICK



Learn the finer points of our great game with star Lion defender Adrian Katz



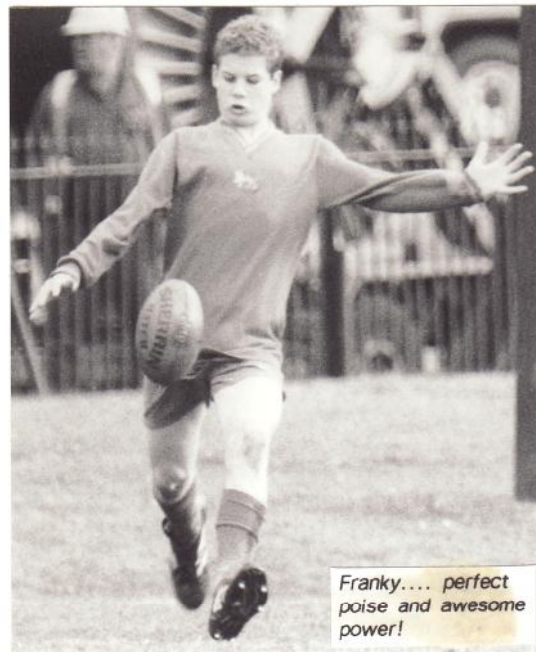
**Hi kids!** You can never know enough about our great game so my team mates and myself are here to help you fine tune your skills. Now, let's begin....



Dion is taking the "watch your ball!" hint a bit too literally. I hope he isn't going to drop the ball just yet!



What can you say? Sheer class.



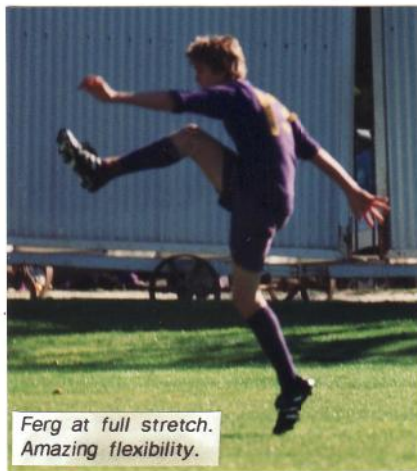
Franky.... perfect poise and awesome power!

## KICKING (1) DELIVERY & FOLLOW THROUGH

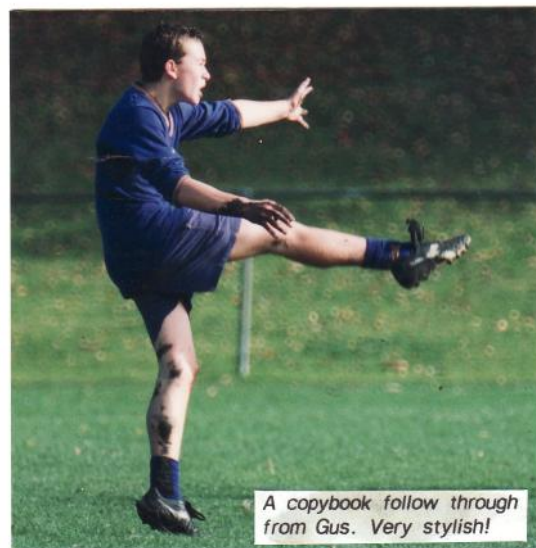
KEY HINTS: WATCH THE BALL  
BE BALANCED



Dom on the run. Great to watch!



Ferg at full stretch. Amazing flexibility.



A copybook follow through from Gus. Very stylish!

## MARKING THE CHEST MARK

KEY HINTS: MAKE A CRADLE WITH YOUR ARMS  
HUG THE BALL TO YOUR CHEST



Dion about to swallow the footy.



Rowsta rules!



Eyes on the ball Ollie!



Ferg gets a bit of attention.



## KICKING (2) SPECIALITY KICKS

ALTHOUGH DROP PUNTS & TORPAS ARE THE MOST POPULAR KICKS, SPECIAL SITUATIONS REQUIRE SPECIAL KICKS LIKE THESE:



Jules demonstrates the little chip kick over the man on the mark. A handy kick in tight corner.



Azza goes for the infamous drop kick. Great when it comes off - but very sad when you stuff it up! Especially when you are running into an open goal!



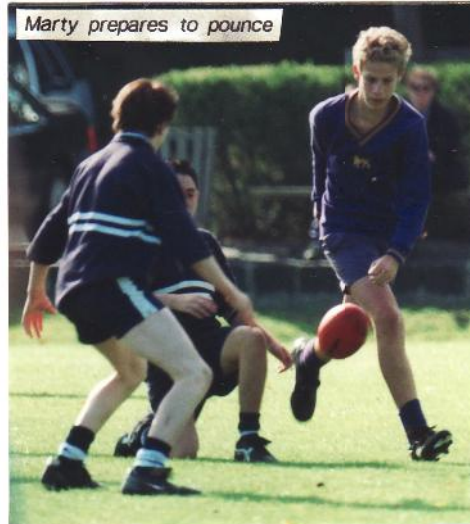
Oh no! I asked them not to put these photos in! I left my boots at home and the ground was a bit wet... what more do I need to say. You wouldn't want to do it on a Saturday!  
(Editor's note: Adey did against Melbourne Grammar!)

## GATHERING THE FOOTY

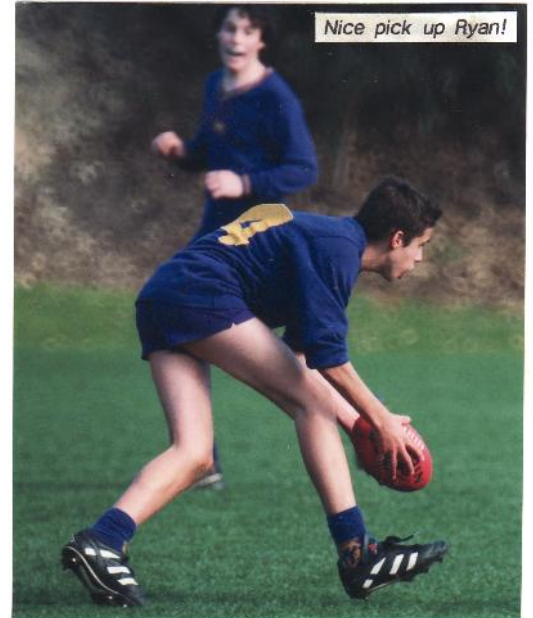
KEY HINTS: WATCH THE BALL  
RUN IN LINE  
BEND YOUR KNEES



Charters runs on line.



Marty prepares to pounce



Nice pick up Ryan!

## BREAKING AWAY

KEY HINTS: GRAB THE BALL & RUN LIKE HELL!



Dom shows his opponent a clean pair of heels.



Just look at him go!



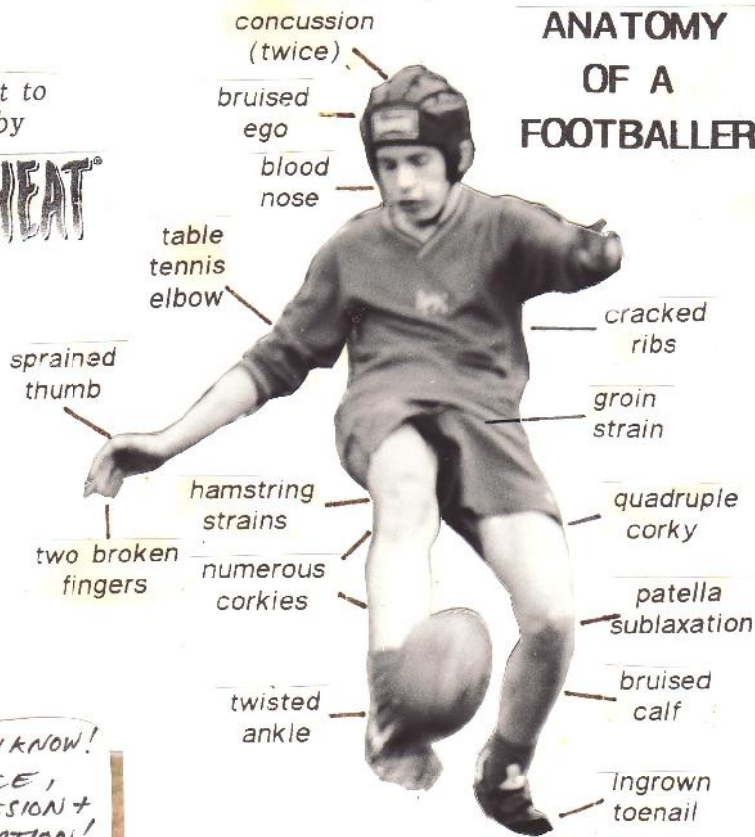


**It's a Man's  
Game!**  
says  
**Dion**

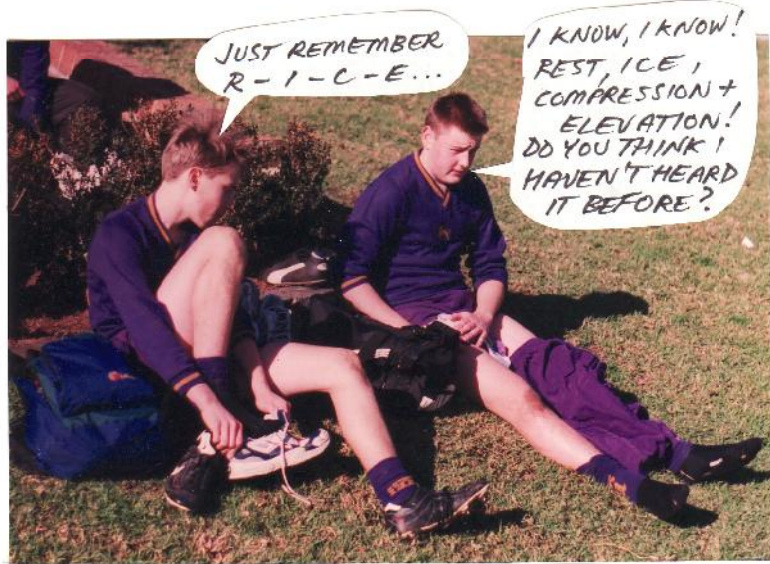
brought to  
you by

**DEEP HEAT**

**ANATOMY  
OF A  
FOOTBALLER**



Aussie Rules is a fantastic spectacle with its high marking, long kicking and skilful manoeuvring, but spare a thought for the players whose bodies are subjected to all kinds of stresses and strains! Imagine the constant twisting and turning of knees and ankles, the sudden stretching of hamstrings, the bone crunching collisions as opposition hips and shoulders meet, and worst of all, the insidious deep seated agony of a corky! Ouch! I'm in pain just thinking about it.... I'll have to go and have a lie down.



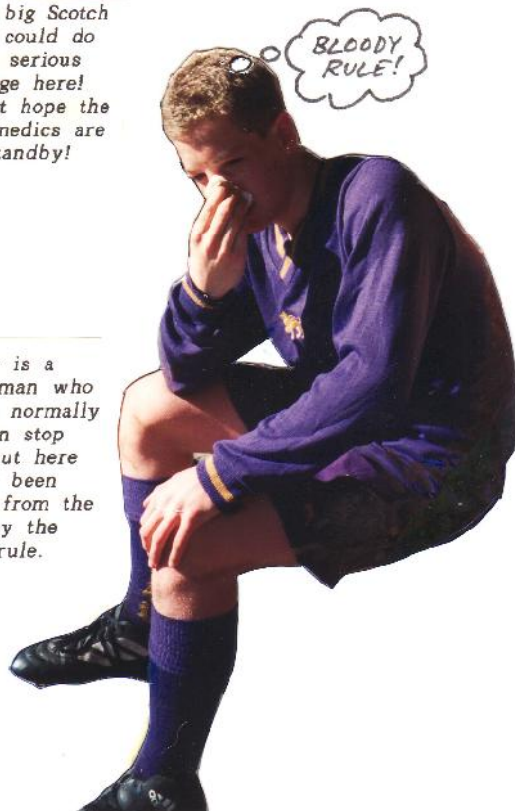
Here you can see me giving Tully a few words of comfort and advice after he copped a corky against Scotch. James had a bad season with leg injuries that all started one lunchtime when Rowsta sat on him.



This big Scotch thug could do some serious damage here! I just hope the paramedics are on standby!



Injury prevention should be an important part of any footballer's match preparation. Here Nick Crema adjusts his thumb bandage whilst Rowsta makes another dumb joke. Ollie is taking good care of his all important mouthguard. Never leave home without one!



Franky is a brave man who doesn't normally let pain stop him, but here he has been forced from the field by the bloody rule.



Only  
**\$249**  
(UNFRAMED)



# “Never before, never again...”

Now, you can own this magnificent, signed limited-edition Commemorative Lithograph.



**On Saturday, August 5, 2000 the Wesley College 9As passed into history....**

By defeating Haileybury on the Front Turf in the final game of the 2000 season the Lions staked their place in the glorious history of Wesley College. Eight victories, a narrow loss and a healthy percentage cemented 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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IN THE FIRING LINE with *Franky J*



I like my sport with a bit of body contact! Whether it's in the pool or on terra firma I get a real rush when things get willing. I know some of my team mates like the fancy stuff but I reckon I play my best footy when I'm under the hammer. You know the old saying... "When the going gets tough the tough get going!".

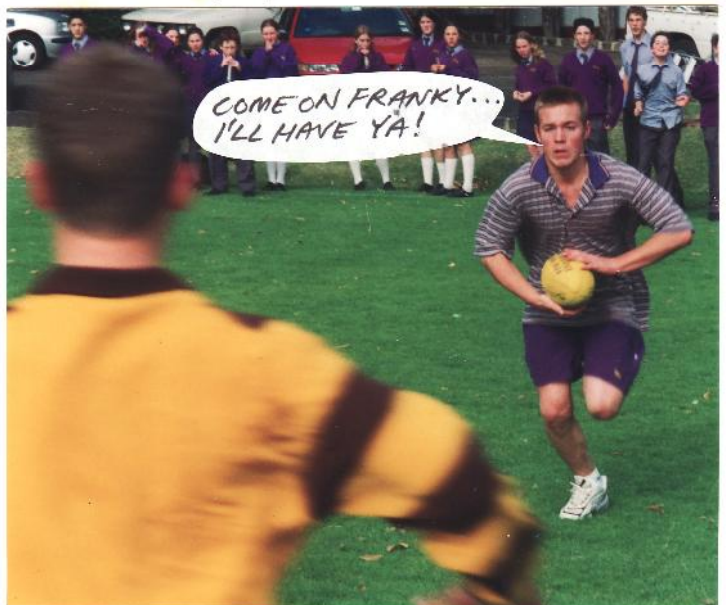


**STANDING YOUR GROUND!**



**ABOVE:** I like Rick Baldock's attitude. He goes in hard and he never gives an inch! Even against the fatty boombahs.

**LEFT & BELOW:** These shots from the House footy final show you what I mean. Stand your ground and don't flinch!

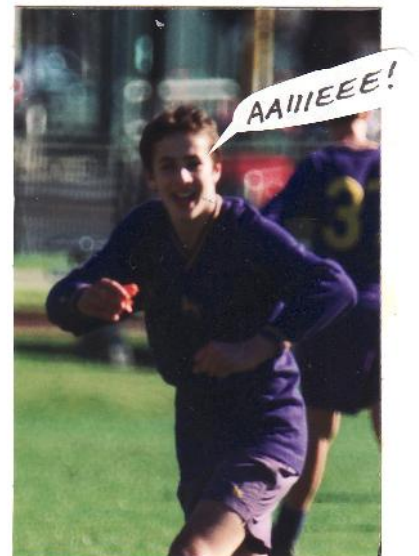


**DISHING IT OUT!**



**LEFT:** Leigh might be getting the stat here, but Cam's doing the body work!

**BELOW:** Full marks to Ollie and his mates for sharing a cabin at Clunes with Ryan. That's what I call real courage!





with

**BEN  
SIDDONS**



# TALKING FOOTY

**MILESTONES COMINGS GOINGS COMINGS GOINGS MILESTONES**

Special congratulations are in order this season for the 9As who were selected in the **Wesley Team of the Year**. Mr. Ashman and his advisors chose **Leigh, Grant, Rick and Dion** to represent the school. It was planned that the team would play a demo match against **Sydney Grammar** at the Olympics, but SOCOG stuffed up the venue and the ticket sales and the game had to be cancelled.

Quite a few of the boys find that Saturday morning footy is not enough to satisfy their hunger for the game so they pull on their boots again on Sunday. **Krafty** and **Kages** of course were members of the **AJAX U/15** team, following in the footsteps of some famous Wesley stars such as Ari Lewski and Darren Sutton. Also playing in the MSJFL were **Rowsta** and **Ferg** who lined up for East Sandy under the watchful eye of Super-coach "Lofty" Rowston. To see these teams fighting it out for a flag would have been great fun, but they both bombed out! Also turning out this season were **Tully** at Ashburton and **Willo** for Glen Iris. **Willo** tells us he almost got a run for the Saints as well! (I reckon they could have used him too!)

Table Tennis has developed a bit of a cult following this season. Just about every recess and lunchtime you can find an assortment of Lions up in the **Stone's Gentlemen's Club** enthusiastically supporting their team mates and competing for table space. It's like a parallel universe up there! In 2000 they've had the French Open, the Davis Cup, Wimbledon, the US Open and various challenge tournaments organised by **Max** and his committee. Of course all the players have good and bad days, but I've done a bit of research and have come up with a ranking table based on the year's performances so far:

1. **Leigh** - a cool customer who knows how to play the important points. A master of psychology!
2. **Aaron** - highly competitive and highly annoying! Thinks

he has a God given right to play on Court Centrale. Treats balls and bats as if they grow on trees, but has a whippy forehand.

3. **Ollie** - Talented tennis star who adapted well to the indoor game.

4. **Cam** - Awesome control but chokes on the big points

5. **Marty** - Brilliant early, but form slipped in 3rd term

6. **Kages** - Unpredictable and excitable. Don't be around when he loses! Weird sound effects.

It's hard to put the others in order, but here they are:

**Josh** - not a footballer but up with the best...**Grant** - will never play top level with that serving action... **Max** - much improved...**Dion** - clever, but injury prone...**Broomy** - will be better when he gets his contacts...**Sutton** - stick to footy mate!...**Stoney** - should be more passionate...**Willo** a dead set hack

*Siddo*



## QUIT

**SMOKEFREE HEROES**

**Name:** Grant Rowston

**Date of Birth:** 22/4/85

**Sporting hero as a kid:** My dad Lofty

**Biggest influence on your game:** My dad

**Most embarrassing moments in footy:**

When I hit the post from less than a metre out against St.Kevins and when my dad said something rude about school footy the next week

**Most memorable match:** Grand Final for East Sandy against Sth.Districts, 1999



*Rowsta*

## Dreams of Court Centrale...

**Funniest moment in footy:** When Aaron tried a drop kick in house footy and missed the goals from point blank

**Sporting ambition:** To play a first round table tennis match on Court Centrale

**Most annoying team mate:** You know the answer!

**Favourite food:** Muesli bars

**7 Dream guests at a dinner party:**

My good mates Ashy and Harps, Lofty, Anna Whats-her-name, Jenny Krafchek, Laurie Humphries and James Jorgensen



# LAIRISING

The footy field is a great place to do a bit of lairising. To the lucky few it all comes naturally but some of us have to work at it! Daryl White is a fair dinkum legend when it comes to being a lair. I love it when he takes those one handers as cool as you like then does a quick 360 before snapping an impossible goal. If only....

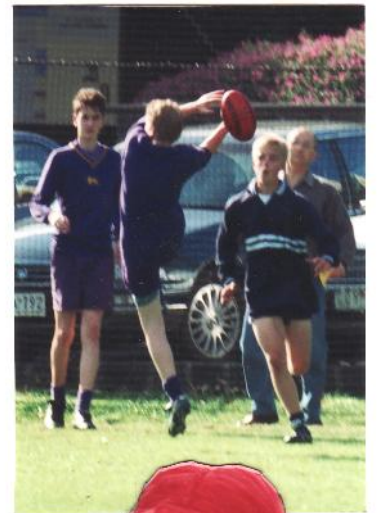
with Willo



Most players grab the ball and run away from their opponent but Leigh has decided to save wear and tear on his boots by hovering to safety! Amazing!



Cam demonstrates a fancy bit of deception known as "selling the dummy" or "showing him the footy". Believe it or not, most players still fall for this old trick!



Will and Buster are attempting to lairise by taking "blind marks" i.e. not looking at the footy. OK if it comes off but...



The swimming pool is the perfect place to show off to members of the opposite you know what. Here a few Lions present their pecs for inspection. I'm not sure what Crothers is trying to prove!







## The Clunes Connection

*This season presented new challenges to players and coaching staff alike as the second and third batches of Clunes Kids took up residence in the old gold mining town. During the first part of the season almost half of the Lions' list had gone bush, but most of these players returned for third term footy. (We're still not sure what happened to Will, Max, Al and a few others!) They replaced a smaller group of Lions who travelled north for the new term. Overall, a total of 35 players turned out for the Lions at some stage during the season.*

*Amongst the Clunes second termers were Cam, Ollie and Ryan. Here they share some of their experiences....*

**Ollie:** We thought we'd miss footy at Clunes, but somebody had souvenired a good Sherrin from Blacker's bag and we quickly got down to some serious kick to kick.

**Cam:** The main street was perfect...no cars and the street lights meant that you could play all night...

**Ollie:** ...and we found that most of the old shop windows were about 21 feet wide - which as you know is the same width as the goal posts on a footy ground.

**Ryan:** Eeeeh!!!!

**Cam:** ...and the old ladies doing their shopping were just right to do hovers on.

**Ollie:** They were good for tackling practice too!

**Cam:** What about the handball competitions in the cabins? Ten points through the kitchen window, five for the microwave and a bonus point for every bottle you could knock into the sink!

**Ryan:** Aaaaeeeh!!!

**Ollie:** And on Saturdays we actually got to play with the local team. The Juniors was OK, but the Seniors was a bit on the rough side...

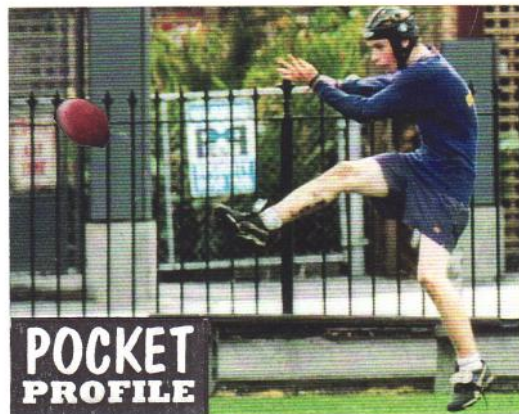
**Cam:** The coach was a good bloke though.

**Ollie:** What about the free cordial after training?

**Cam:** Was that cordial? I thought it was....

**Ryan:** Aaaaeeiiiioouuuu!!

*Ollie, Cam, Ryan*



**POCKET PROFILE**

## The singing chef...

**Name:** Dominic Delany

**Date of Birth:** 2/4/86

**Sporting hero as a kid:** Merv Hughes

**Scariest moment:** I'd rather not talk about it, but it has to do with singing in public....

**Apart from football what is your greatest talent?** Cooking

**Most admired team mate?** Glen Sunderland

**Why?** Sheer courage in the face of danger

**Interests outside football:** Cricket and various sports, violin, piano

**7 dream guests at a dinner party:**

Anna Kournikova, Nelson Mandela, Michael Jordan, Pete Sampras' girl friend, Mr.Lee, Glen Sunderland & Ludwig van Beethoven



**FACES GOING PLACES**

## Go the Blueboys!

**Name:** Leigh Krafchek

**Date of Birth:** 5/10/85

**Sporting heroes as a kid:** Craig Bradley and Ari Lewski

**Sporting ambition:** To beat Aaron 21 zip at table tennis

**Biggest influence on your game:** Bronson Ritterman

**Most disappointing moment in footy:** Missing everything in the dying minutes of the game against Melbourne Grammar

**Most satisfying moment:** Winning all of Aaron's pocket money

**Scariest moment:** Everytime Ryan screams!

**Favourite footy team:** Carlton

**Most entertaining team mate:** Alex Maxwell





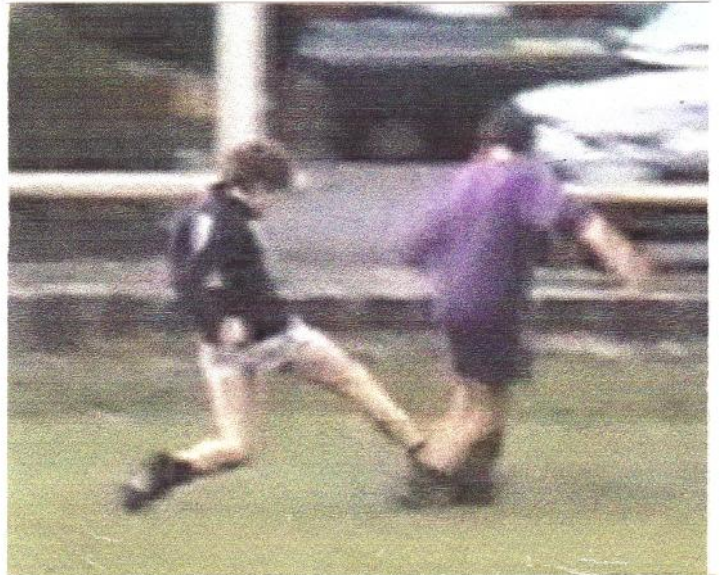
*"What's your decision umpire?" asks Ben*



Umpires can be the difference between a good game of footy and a disaster. Like a flat footy a dud umpire can stuff up all the good work us players might do. We were lucky this season with our field umpires and Adey's old man did a good job waving the flags at our end, but the same cannot be said for Melbourne Grammar's goal ump who pretty much lost us the match when he gave a very dodgy decision late in the last quarter of Round 8. I know, because I was there!



1. The Melbourne player - let's call him Mr.X - has fumbled the ball because of the immense pressure I have applied, and he is being forced to soccer it...



2. At this point I have swung my foot towards the footy to spoil his attempt to goal. As you can see, Mr.X's right leg is at full stretch and he is not in a position to apply much force to the ball...



3. On the other hand my left leg has swung through its arc at a tremendous speed and my foot has no doubt made contact with the ball, thereby ensuring a minor score.



The goal umpire - let's call him Mr.Y - has not yet given a decision, and the field umpire - let's call him Simon Sayers - is telling him to hurry up and make up his mind. Meanwhile, I am looking on in disbelief.



The scoreboard says it all - Grammar up by a point!



# Game, Set & Match



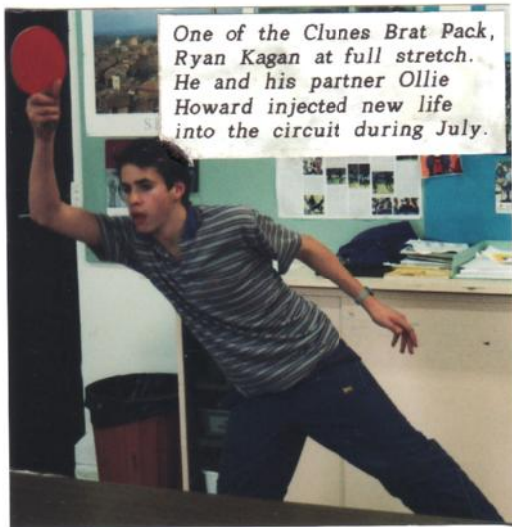
with **Azza**

Table tennis is a great way to sharpen your reflexes and make a boring day at school interesting. In fact, it's the only reason I get out of bed most mornings. (Apart from the ice cream of course!) The only problem with the game is the crappy equipment. I only have to look at a bat after I've lost a crucial point and it breaks!



Panoramic view of Court Centrale during the 2000 French Open. Williams vs. Krafchek  
Two sets all. Fifth set, Krafchek to serve,

## A GAME OF PASSION & EMOTION!



One of the Clunes Brat Pack, Ryan Kagan at full stretch. He and his partner Ollie Howard injected new life into the circuit during July.



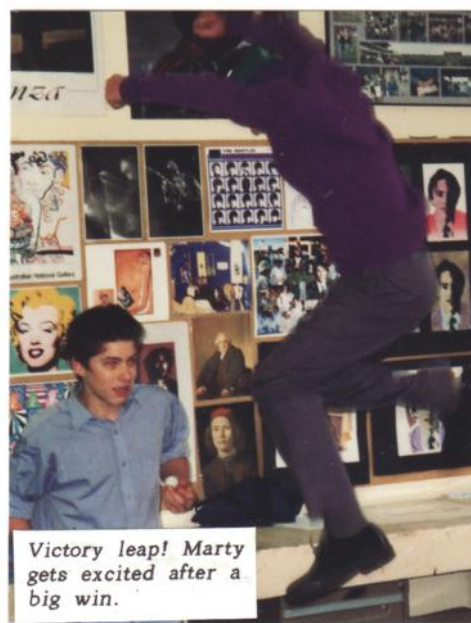
Josh's emotions spill over!



Royal patronage! Mr.Loader squeezes in a set between important meetings.



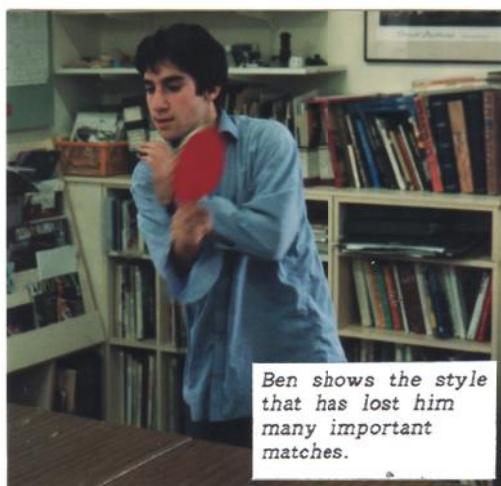
Worst case scenario. Leigh loses a point and the ball goes behind the cupboard.



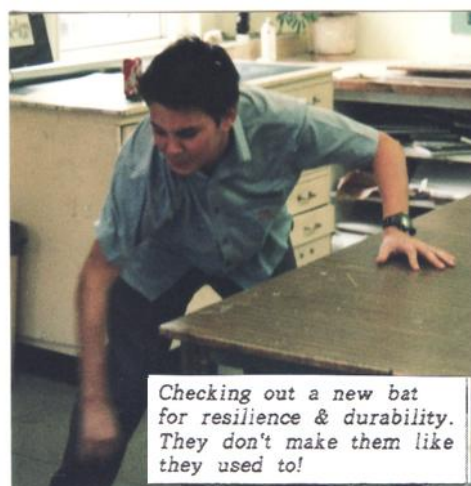
Victory leap! Marty gets excited after a big win.



Court maintenance. Preparing for a big tournament.



Ben shows the style that has lost him many important matches.



Checking out a new bat for resilience & durability. They don't make them like they used to!



# Blockbuster Video's Pie Night.

BLOCKBUSTER  
VIDEO

presented by

**Julian Cohen**



## TEAM AWARDS

- 1st. Leigh's team
- 2nd. Rowsta's team
- 3rd. Sutton's team
- 4th. Willo's team

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**Long Kicking:** Ave. Leigh (40 m) **Ind. Kick.** Rowsta (49 m)  
**Goal Kicking:** Rowsta (25 / 30) **Handball:** Willo (35 / 50)  
**Agility Run:** Rowsta (12.39) **Pie Consumption:** Aaron (3.5)

The Annual Pie Night provides a great chance to test out your skills (& to pig-out on pies and chocolate donuts). Here are the results of this year's big event.



# CULTURE CLUB

Who's reading and watching what

## MOVIES

**TIM ENGLISH:**  
*Trainspotting & Murder on the Orient Express.*

**NICK BOBEFF:**  
*The Never Ending Story.*  
 That little furry thing with the big ears is cute as!

**COURTNEY DATE:**  
 I like cult movies like *Bigfoot*. It's about the Yeti. He's a sort of abominable snowman with attitude.

## BOOKS

**TIM:** I love all the *Thomas the Tank Engine* books especially the ones about Percy.

**NICK:** It's gotta be *Where the Wild Things Are*. It's sort of scary and funny all at once.

**COURTNEY:** My all time favourite is *Puss in Boots*, but I only look at the pictures.

## TV

**TIM:** *Thomas* is number one, but I like old reruns of *Casey Jones*.

**NICK:** I never miss the *Teletubbies*. The orange one is so cute, but I think he might be gay.

**COURTNEY:** *Wallace & Gromit* are great. Have you seen Wallace's Docs? They are awesome!



# UNDER THE HAMMER



with **James Tulloch**



## Life in the Back Half



Will Grainger



Chris Chartres

What do you like best about playing on the backline?

If you're playing at home you get a good view of the netball for half a match.

You can run heaps and you don't have to be too flash with your disposal.

Is there a downside to playing a defensive role?

It's not that easy to kick goals, but if you do everybody notices you.

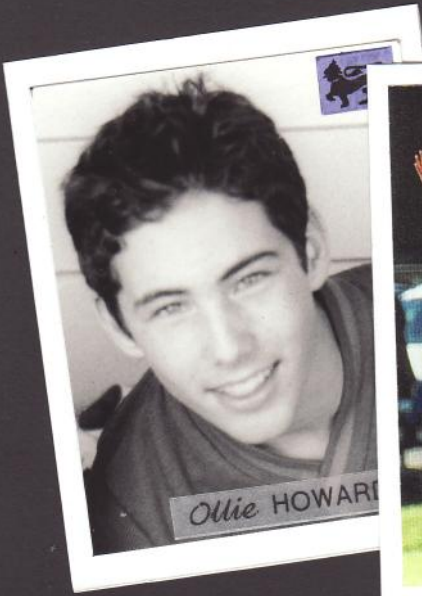
If you're playing a dud team the ball doesn't come within coo-ee of you.

How do you fill in the boring bits?

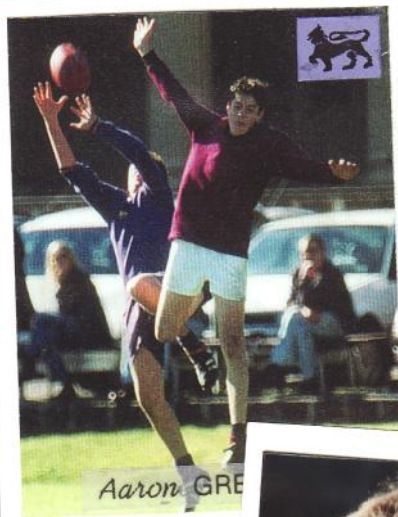
"I Spy" is a fun game and I can always practise my mental arithmetic or share a joke with Franky.

I chew the fat with my mate Siddo and he gives me some hints about what to do.





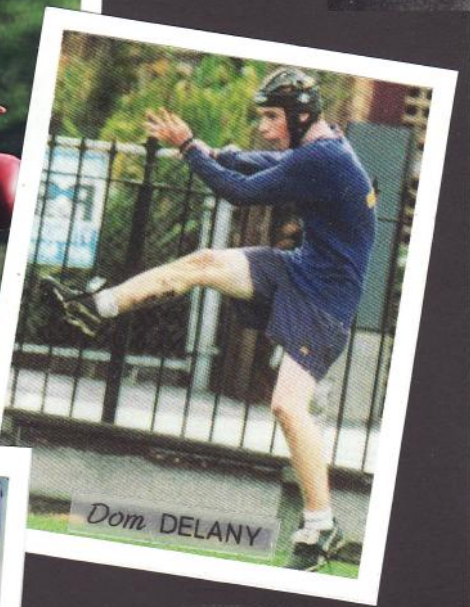
Ollie HOWARD



Aaron GREIG



Ben SUTTON



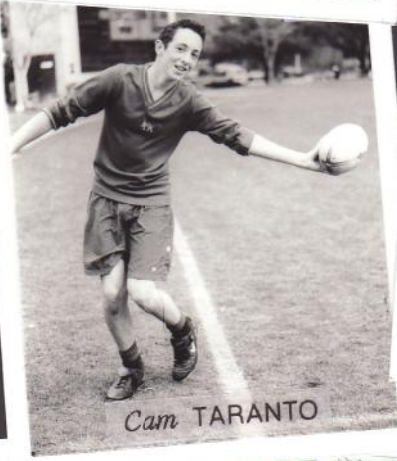
Dom DELANY



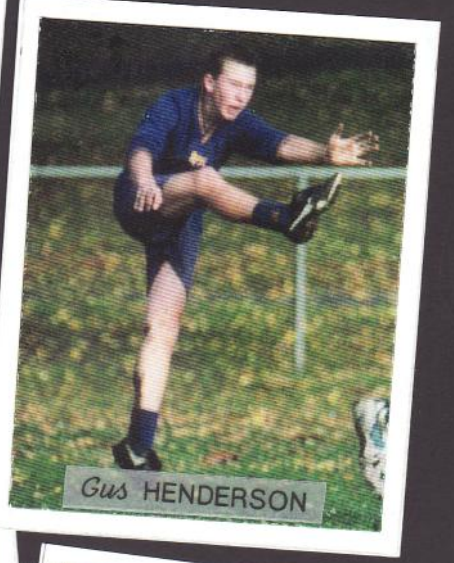
Matt FELD

Collect the full set!

# 2000 SELECTION Y2K MILLENNIUM AFL FOOTBALL CARDS



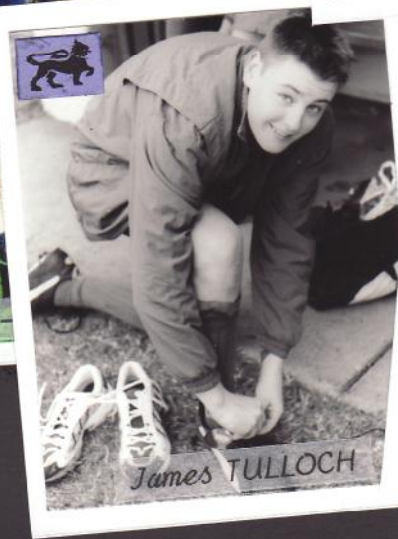
Cam TARANTO



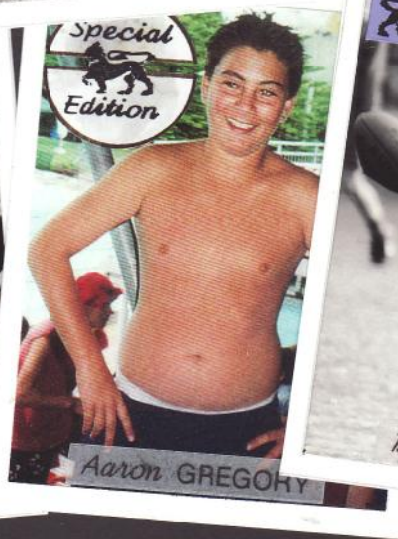
Gus HENDERSON



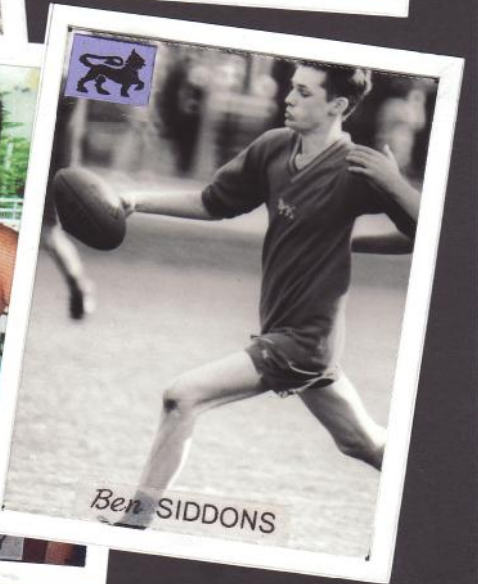
Adam WRIGHT



James TULLOCH



Aaron GREGORY



Ben SIDONS





**MELBOURNE**  
with  
**Angus**  
**Henderson**

**It's a Grand Old Flag**  
**G'day Dees!**

Well, you wouldn't read about it would you? Fourteenth last year, runners up in 2000! What a difference a year makes. I was about to throw away my membership badge after the dismal effort in '99 and then next thing you know the Dees are in the grandy and Woeza wins the medal. The last time we made it to that one day in September I was still wearing nappies (mum says I was a bit of a slow learner). Dad can remember our last flag in 1964 with Ron Barassi and all those old blokes and he still plays the video of it to cheer himself up after we lose. I probably won't be watching the video of this year's final too much though, except perhaps the first twenty minutes, because we got done like a dinner. I reckon Essendon must all be on drugs or something because they were better than all the other teams put together. For me the **real** final was the week before when we did a demolition job on the Roos. Ingers shut Carey right up and the Wizard was unstoppable! My favourite player is Robbo and when I go to the games I always keep his personal stats. In the preliminary final he got 11 kicks, 7 marks, 9 handballs, 1 spoil and a hitout and he booted 3 goals 2 behinds. He also had about 27 drinks from a waterbottle and he ate half an orange at three quarter time. Not a bad day's work!

Well that's it for another season. Let's hope the bombers all kick up during their end of season trip and get put in jail for a year. Then it'll be the Dees turn!

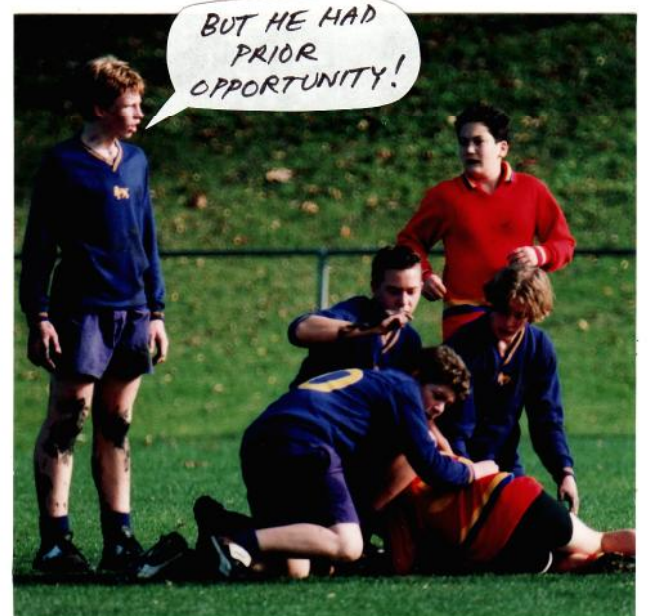
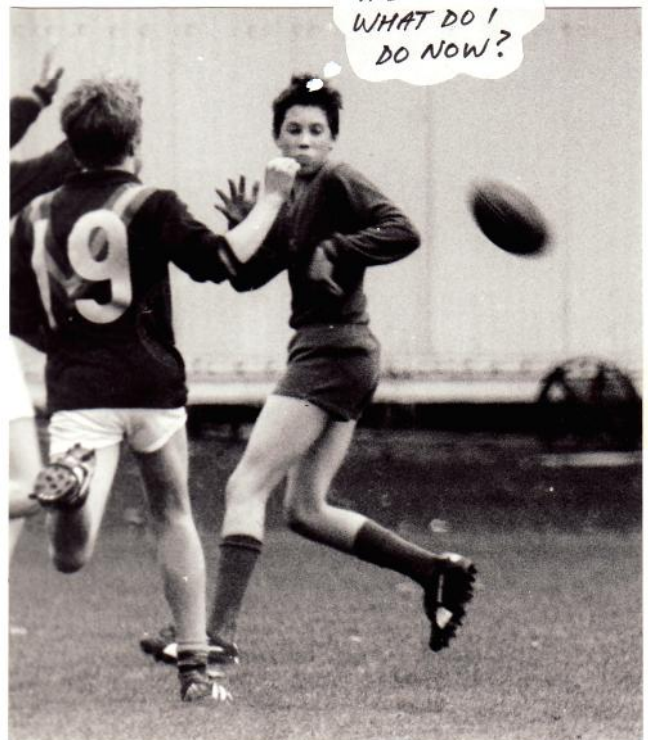
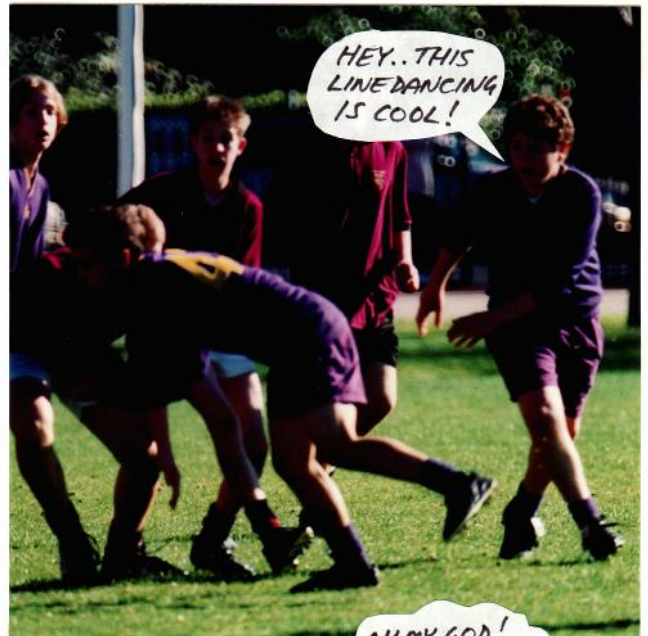
*AUS*

**Russell Robertson**



Number: 24  
Height: 184  
Weight: 88  
Games: 34  
Goals: 36  
Nickname: Robbo  
Recruited From: Tassie Mariners  
Previous Clubs: Burnie (TAS)  
Date of Birth: 24/11/1978  
Debut: 15/8/1997

*My Hero!*





# THE BIG MEN FLY with Jonno



A good ruckman can set his team up at the centre bounce with some pinpoint palming or a powerful punch.

This season the Lion's big men were pretty successful, but take it from me - it's not as easy as it looks on TV!



**LEFT:** Courtney is a much improved ruckman. Here he gets plenty of palm on the ball and Dion will get the benefit!



**RIGHT:** Yours truly about to feed the crumbers at Xavier.



Tully has executed a perfect take off and is well placed to punch the ball to Ollie.



Mmm...a slight miscalculation here! Tully has misjudged the flight of the ball. Prepare for an emergency landing!



Oops! I'm not sure what Courtney is doing here



As I said...it's not as easy as it looks!



# Please, please help Me be a star

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

## TRAINING TIPS

with  
**Jonny Dewar**



Dear Nick Crothers,  
My problem is an off-field one. I never get scared in a game, but when it comes to chatting up chicks I'm a bundle of nerves. I've tried dressing in drag to see things from their perspective and I've tried to loosen up with a few drinks, but I only get into trouble. What's your secret Nick?  
Adam Heuskes  
Adelaide

Dear Adam,  
Sorry to hear of your problems mate! The trick is to pace yourself. Approach a young lady as you would a footy match. Suss out the conditions early, don't try to do too much the first time you get your hands on the footy and don't go for the winning goal in the first quarter!  
**Nick Crothers**

Dear Jim Curtis,  
I've been playing footy for a few years now, but my form has been a bit like a yo-yo. I used to have long hair but after a few dud games I cut it short and it worked. I started playing good again, but then I lost it and couldn't hardly get a touch. I reckon I need a new look. How do you get your hair to stay all spiky? It's looks cool!  
Matthew Richardson  
Richmond


Dear Matthew,  
I struggled a bit with my form this season too, so I know how you feel. The hair is a crucial factor and I hope I get it right for next season! I use this amazing stuff called *Tiger Balm* that I found in my dad's old footy bag. Just rub it in and don't ever wash your hair. If a new haircut doesn't work, change the colour of your jox!  
**Jim Curtis**

Someone once said that practice makes perfect, but I reckon the saying should go "practice makes coaches get grey hairs". Have you seen Leigh Matthews lately? I reckon Stoney must dye his hair because some of the training sessions this season were pretty stressful! Most of the time I can follow his drills and most of the time I can see what he's getting at, but there were a couple that I still don't get. For example, we all split into groups of anything from 2 to 6. Some groups go to the orange markers on the 50 metre line, one group goes to the goal square and a few more people go into the centre. Leigh and Grant start kicking the yellow balls towards the goals, Stoney yells something about remedial maths and Feldy runs to the tap for a drink. The first player from Group A kicks a ball towards a leading player from Group C. Cam and Ollie start wrestling and Marty and Max run off to the Art room for a quick game of table tennis. Aaron has been annoying everybody in his group and is being chased around the scoreboard by Crothers and Willo. Franky has gone for a quick dip in the Lake, and Rick and Jonno have jumped on a 72 tram. Ferg is chatting up some chick on the netball court and Dion has gone to get an icepack from the sickbay. Meanwhile, Ryan has climbed the goalpost and is making strange high pitched noises...I just don't get it!

 **Lucas Brown**  
LIONS Wesley



**PRSTAR HEADLINERS**  
COLLECTOR NUMBER: AFL 49

 **Glen Sunderland**  
LIONS Wesley



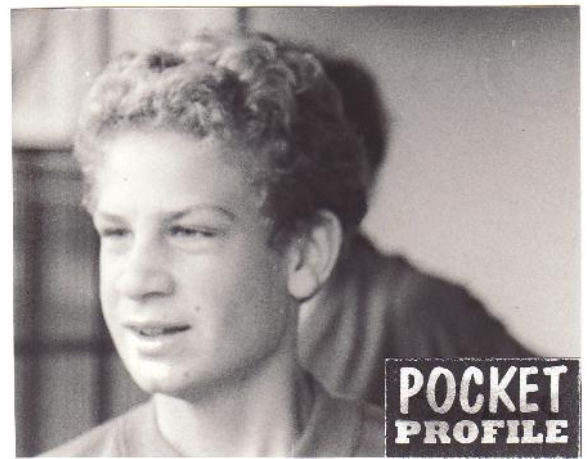
**PRSTAR HEADLINERS**  
COLLECTOR NUMBER: AFL 52

 **Nick Crema**  
LIONS Wesley



**PRSTAR HEADLINERS**  
COLLECTOR NUMBER: AFL 17





## Eyes on Wimbledon

**Name:** Martin Williams

**Date of birth:** 18/7/85

**Sporting heroes as a kid:** Wally Masur & Pete Tramachi

**Ultimate non-footy fantasy:** Winning Wimbledon

**Most memorable match:** 1998 U/14 Grand Final (Club footy)

**Scariest moment in your life:** Waiting for the kick after the siren to decide the above match

**Apart from football what is your greatest talent?** Table tennis, tennis, chatting up chicks

**Biggest influence on your game:** Alex Maxwell

**Most admired team mate:** Francis John Boland, because he puts his heart and soul into every match

**7 dream guests at a dinner party:** Wayne Carey, Tiger Woods, Jenifer Lopez, Nelson Mandela, Shane Warne, Shannon Motlop and Anna You-know-who

**Favourite footy team:** North Melbourne





STONEY!  
I NEED  
ICE-CREAM!



MY  
HERO!

BURP!



NOT YET...  
BUT I'M  
GONNA BE  
DRAFTED!

SO DO YOU  
PLAY AFL?



STRENGTH!  
THEY CAN'T  
ALL PLAY ON  
THE FORWARD  
LINE!

YES MARTY...  
I'LL DO MY  
BEST...



THEY HAVE  
GOT NO  
IDEA!

WOEWODIN FOR  
THE BROWNLOW  
AND THE BOMBERS  
BY AN EVEN  
TEN...



DO YOU THINK  
THEY'LL OFFER  
ME THAT  
SPONSORSHIP  
DEAL NOW?







Coca-Cola

*Special Collector's Edition*



# FOOTBALL Record

2000



9A  
LIONS

*Special Collector's Edition*



WESLEY V THE REST

