

FOOTBALL RECORD

2003

9/10B
LIONS

WESLEY
V
THE REST

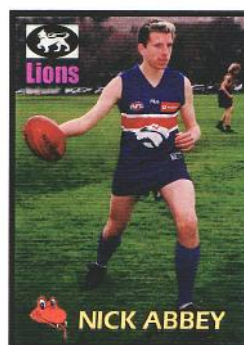
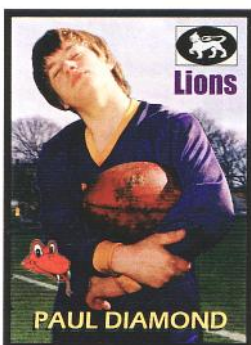


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The 2003 FOOTBALL RECORD

The Football Record is an
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WESLEY 9/10B TEAM OF 2003



FIRST RUCK MULCAHY

HERBERT

ROVER SKURRIE

SECOND RUCK MURDOCH

ABBEY

ROVER WILLMOTT

SMITH

L. DAVIS

SUSSEX

McMULLIN

PENBERTHY

OSOWICKI

GINN

HENDERSON

McDONALD

FORD

THOMPSON

FRANCIS

A. DAVIS

PAYKEL

SAUNDERS

INTERCHANGE

BETTS
NAYLOR
CASTAN
DIAMOND
HOWARD
WOODS
DALLING
PEARSON
STUBBS
GEORGIU
MELLINGTON
EFRON
BLUZER-FRY
HAYLOCK
OBERKLAID

COACH

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COACH'S ASSISTANT
JORGY
SPECIALIST COACH
S. JENKIN
TEAM MANAGER
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GOAL UMPIRES

MR. HERBERT
MR. SMITH
MR. SKURRIE

VIDEOISTS

C. WEBSTER
S. WOODS

CATERING

MRS. ABBEY
GLUCOSE HITS
MR. PENBERTHY
MRS. DAVIS
CHEER SQUAD
ALL THE OTHER
MUMS & DADS
(& DOGS!)

**2003
MATCH RECORD**

WON	6
LOST	4
DRAWN	-

Lions land in the deep end....

Scotch too strong for youngsters

WESLEY COLLEGE *Not much*
SCOTCH COLLEGE *Quite a lot*

BEHINDS: Saunders, Osowicki, Davis
BEST: Murdoch, Herbert, Osowicki, Bluzer-Fry
 Howard, McMullin, Willmott, Abbey
INJURIES: Herbert (ankle), Howard (head)
 Stone (nose), Osowicki (elbow)
BEHIND of the DAY: Osowicki
MARK of the DAY: Abbey
TACKLE of the DAY: McDonald

Fronting up for the opening round of the 2003 APS season, the young NATSEC Lions faced a number of challenges, not least of which was an experienced, well prepared Scotch College on their home turf. With only a handful of training sessions under their belts and a number of unfamiliar musicians joining the lineup, the Lions were barely past the introductory how-do-you-do-who-are-yous, when the ball was bounced for the new season. A blend of seasoned campaigners from the successful 2002 team, talented Year Niners and a handful of raw recruits took the field under the leadership of Jesse "Elbows" Osowicki.

Kicking to the boatshed end for the opening term the Lions made a few promising moves forward, but the home team was quick to stamp its authority on the game, and it wasn't long before the Lions realised that they would have their work cut out for them. "Lanky" Lachy Murdoch was taking the game right up to his opponent and Deano Herbert and the skipper were in the thick of the action from the word go, but the Lion defenders were under immediate pressure. Lethal Leigh Saunders was using a bit of muscle at full back and Nick "The Blonde Bombshell" Abbey was doing his best to cut off Scotch's supply, but the opposition had the numbers and the Lions were struggling to stay with their opponents. Josh Howard was showing creativity and courage on his wing and "Macca" McDonald was persistently harassing anybody in a red jumper. At quarter time the Lions trailed by 22 points and had yet to trouble the scorers.

Despite some adjustments to the lineup, and words of encouragement from their adoring fans, the Lions continued to be tentative in their approach to the ball during the second term. The Scotchies seemed to have the edge in determination, numbers at the ball and free kicks, and when the inexperienced Lions turned the ball over they were made to pay. Dayne and Smithy were playing close on the last line, but Rowan was still adjusting from lunchtime games on the Front Turf. Up forward, Alex "Culture Vulture" Davis was providing a strong



Lions ruckman, Lachy Murdoch lifts off during Saturday's big game at Lower Scotch

leading target, but his opportunities were few. Matty Willmott was attacking the ball with gusto, but Mulla was having trouble holding front pozzie against the Scotch CHB and Effers was not enjoying the tight pockets. The coach was busy rearranging his exceptionally large bench, but he just couldn't find the right combination and Scotch continued to pile on the goals, adding six to their tally and stretching their halftime lead to a handy 63 points.

As the Lions extracted the juice from their citrus segments the coaching staff worked frantically to find some answers. Adam had a few ideas, Jorgy volunteered to stand at Centre Half Back and Leigh made a few suggestions about improving the umpiring, but the coach had standards and all he could really do was redraft the lineup. Bluzer was shifted to full back and Mulla was moved into defence, and it did make a difference. Supported by Hendo and Flynn at half back and with Lloyd and "Mad Dog" Smith in the pockets, Scotch found their forward assaults meeting with unexpected resistance. Meanwhile, "Moptop" Thompson, Abba and Nayls were trying hard to set up a Lions thrust from half forward, but the critical move came from the skipper whose pass found the Disco King within range of the big sticks. Disappointingly he could only manage a minor, but at least the Lions were on the board! Their spirits were rising and Paul and Woodsy were providing great support with water bottles and words of encouragement. Jimmy D was lively on one wing whilst Macca, then Stu were checking closely on the other. Defensive pressure was restricting the Scotchies scoring efforts, but they snuck a few more majors in before the three quarter time siren and at the final change they were not in any immediate danger.

However, the Lions were not going to hand the game to their opponents and led by Lachy in the ruck and

Deano on the ball, the boys in purple maintained enough pressure to restrict the home team to just three further majors. A behind on the run to Osowicki gave his team some heart, but the elusive goal remained just that, despite the presence of Betsy at full forward, Josh in the pocket and Woodsy on the field. The final margin was substantial, but can have come as no surprise to the Lions who had been chasing bums for most of the day. Now the real test begins - can the Lions learn from their first round experience? Paid up and passionate Lion fans pray that it happens sooner rather than later!



Stuart Ginn prepares to pounce. But is it too late?



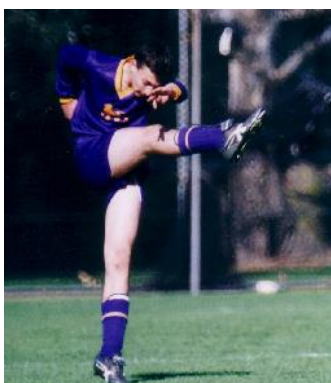
Jesse Osowicki and Stuart Ginn attempt a rare buttress tackle



*ABOVE: Lethal Leigh flies for a mark
LEFT: Stuart Ginn attempts to retard a Scotchy. Tom Henderson assists.*



Once again a Scotchy gets a kick despite Wesley pressure



Dave McMullin and Paul Diamond sink their respective slippers



Bluzer waits for spillage



Mike Efron lays a mean tackle

Lethal Leigh kicks Lions clear!

Wesley spearhead has a day out...

WESLEY COLLEGE 14 10 94
MELBOURNE GRAMMAR 10 8 68

GOALS: Saunders 8, Francis 3, Herbert, Paykel, Penberthy

BEST: Herbert, Henderson, Saunders, Abbey, McMullin, Francis, Skurrie, Davis

INJURIES: Howard (air supply), Abbey (thigh & ear), Skurrie (jetlag)

GOAL of the DAY: Francis

PLAY of the DAY: Herbert

RUN of the DAY: Penberthy (How far ump?)

SMOTHER of the DAY: Georgiou

The disappointing first round loss to a powerful Scotch unit gave the Lions plenty to think about during the week. The coaching panel was keen to reinforce some basic patterns of play and what better way to get the message through than a hard fought prakky after Thursday's training session. Woodsy's conversion in the dying seconds of the game lifted the Lions' spirits as they approached Saturday's contest with Melbourne Grammar. The selectors' optimism, however, was tempered by a growing list of injuries and unavailabilities. Ozzy, Tommo and Alex were doing a gig at a B & S ball in Mt. Gambier, Matty Willmott and "Sticks" Murdoch had been advised to rest their troublesome injuries, and at the last moment Tom Haylock was recalled by the Crows. Macca's feet were playing up and Bettsy's thumb was still swollen, but the return of Sam Skurrie from his successful tour of the West Indies with the Aussie test team would help offset the selectors' headaches.

The clouds hung low over the Front Turf as Umpires Abbott and Lynch took up their positions for the St.Kilda Road Derby. Wesley skipper, Bluzer-Fry directed his enthusiastic squad towards the Boulevard end for the opening term, but it was the visitors who made all the early moves. An embarrassing oversight by the Lions' match committee had left one Grammar wingman without a direct opponent, and the visitors took advantage of Macca's undetected absence to register two quick goals. Fortunately for the Lions, the onball contingent of Abba, Hendo, Deano and Skuzz were approaching optimum arousal level at the seven minute mark, and they began to take control in the midfield. Soon the ball was heading in the direction of makeshift CHF Dickie Penberthy and his first run of the day put the ball in the path of "Lethal Leigh" Saunders who soccered a major. Minutes later a second came from the same boot as Saunders was unfairly dealt with by a Grammar defender. The Lions had stabilised and obviously excited by the upcoming FA Cup, half forward



A happy Leigh Saunders after his big day out. Saunders boots one of 8

soon put a second ball into the back of the net. Meanwhile the Wesley defenders were providing good support for their offence and Davo and Mad Dog were giving nothing away. At the first change the Lions held a narrow five point advantage and were looking to go on with the job.

The first half of the second term was all Lions as their confidence grew and their teamwork began to pay dividends. Mulla and Bluzer were cutting off the Gramarians primary avenue to goal and Nayls and Casta were restricting their opponents' opportunities on the flanks. Abba was getting a purposeful hand on most of the ball ups and Deano's strength was giving us the edge around the packs. Hendo was dominant in the pivot and the ball was finding its way forward with pleasing regularity. Flynn was a dynamic force across half forward and when he drew a strong lead from Leigh the Lions' fourth goal was soon on the board. Adam was being creative in the left footers' pocket and shortly after a rangefinder narrowly missed the target he benefited from a Hendo pass and secured another major.



Ruckman, Nick "The Blonde Bombshell" Abbey in action

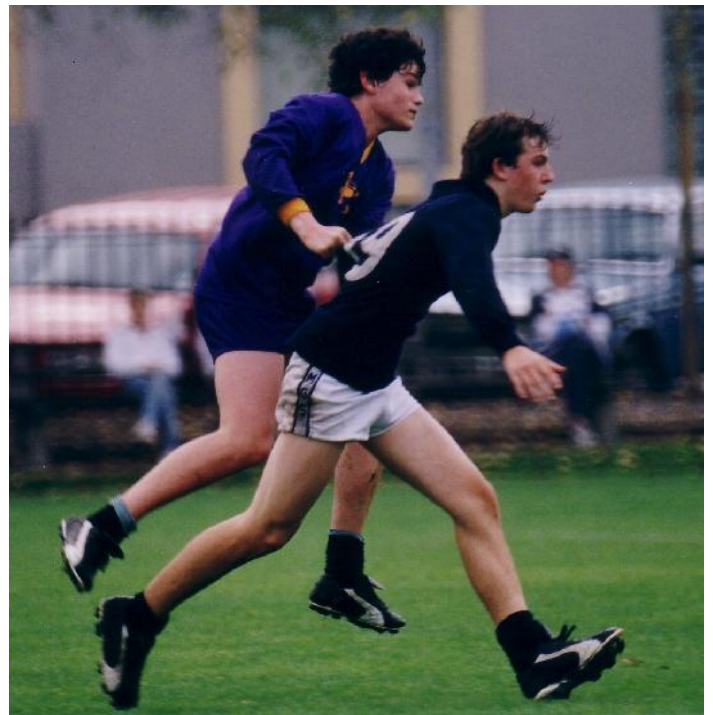


Lion defender, Lloyd Davis slips a handball to Dave McMullin

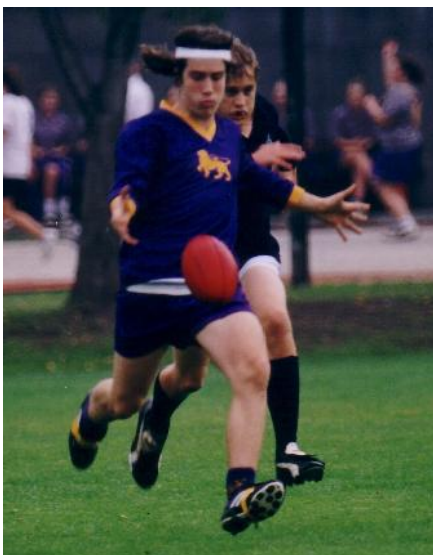
A marvellous piece of team footy soon allowed the Lions to advance their lead by a further six points as Hendo's pass to a running Paul Diamond was relayed towards a leading Saunders. Unable to hold the slippery ball it fell to ground, but Deano was quick to pounce and post his team's sixth. Both Hendo and Josh Howard had been copping a bit of unnecessary attention from the opposition, but neither player shifted his focus from the Sherrin. Josh was alternating with a jet lagged Skuzz and their continued efforts to manoeuvre the ball through the midfield were appreciated by the hungry Lion forwards like Flynn, who found the target for the second time with a long raking kick that just kept on bouncing. With the lead stretching out the Lions made the fatal error of taking the foot off the pedal momentarily, and the visitors seized the resultant window of opportunity to stage a mini-comeback. Two quick goals took some stuffing from the Lions' cushion, but the oranges still tasted pretty good at the long break.

The Lions were intent on consolidating their good work after half time, but the visitors were not about to lie down, and when they opened the scoring for the third term there was tiny shiver of panic in the Lions' camp... but not for long!

Lethal Leigh was rewarded for being sat on and the answer was soon on the board. A brilliant second and third effort from Deano set the big man up for his fifth, but the Grammarians were not yet done with and they capitalised on a turn over to stay in touch. James Dahlling was a busy little bee in a forward pocket, and Betsy was throwing himself into the action at half back, despite a heavily bandaged hand. Effers had been hit by a bug early in the week and had come into the match a shade underdone, but he was able to feed the ball off to Penbers who made no mistake with his shot on goal. Anthony Pearson was another Lion who was pleased to be on the field after a medical scare early in the week, and a clever kick off the ground put the ball in the path of Lethal Leigh who banged it home. The Grammarians had no answer to the powerhouse at full forward and it wasn't long before he had booted his seventh and split the pack open for Skuzz to procure the ball and set Flynn up for yet another. At the final break the Lions held a handy 29 point lead.



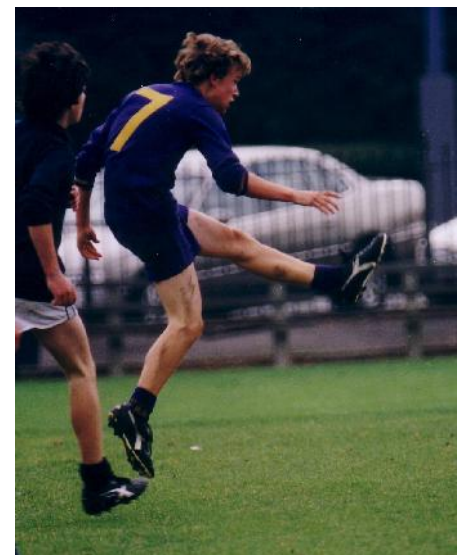
Lion on baller Flynn Francis hitches a ride with a Grammarian



Daniel Bluzer-Fry clears from defence



Defender Dayne Georgiou lands a tackle



Pin point accuracy from Tom Henderson



Jet setter, Sam Skurrie takes a strong grab under pressure

The last twenty minutes of the match proved to be a bit of an arm wrestle as neither team was able to gain the ascendancy. An early goal to Saunders provoked an answer from the visitors, but for the duration of the match majors were as rare as the proverbial hens' teeth. Grammar's scoring potential was restricted by the close checking, negating football of Dayne and Mulla and some frustration was creeping into the opposition's game. Abba copped a knee to the head and was forced from the field, but Stewy Ginn was up to the task and took a run in the ruck. Woodsy, meanwhile, was finding plenty of space on the Moubray Street wing and Josh had returned to the fray after having the wind squeezed out of him. Bluzer was solid at full back, and with ongoing support from Lloyd and Smithy the Lions were able to maintain the status quo for the remainder of the quarter. The final margin of twenty six points gave the Lions a much needed ego boost, and after their quiet suffering the previous week, the Lions' supporters were delighted to have something to cheer about!



Dayne Georgiou squeezes a kick out in the nick of time

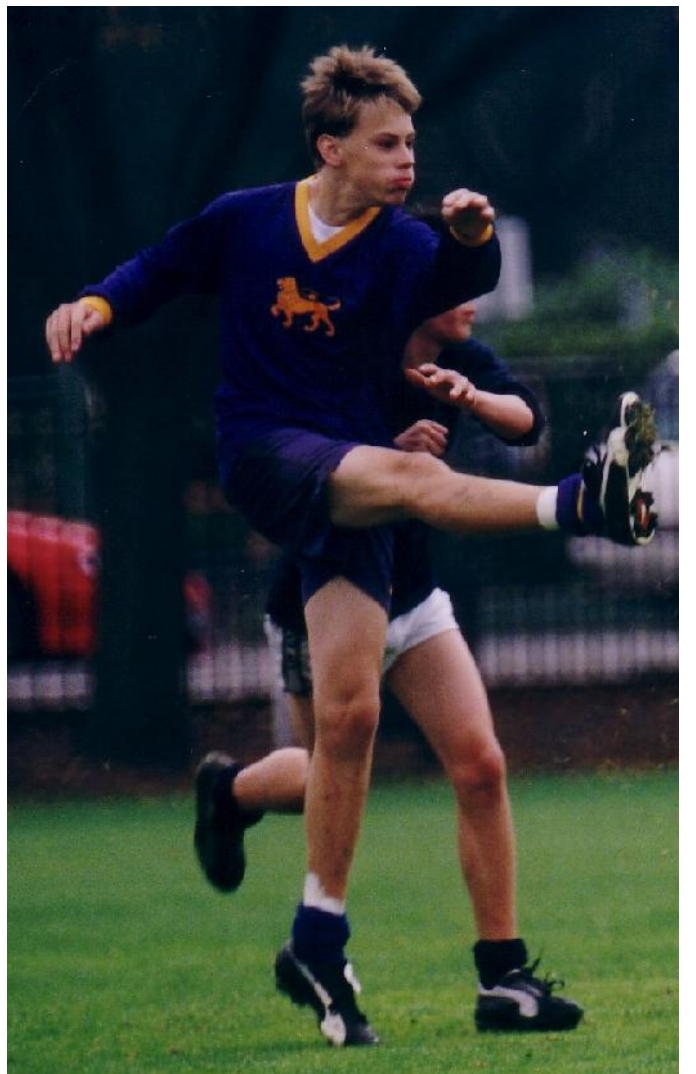
Lloyd Davis sinks the slipper into a long bomb



Dave Sallman-Betts forces the ball clear of his opponent



Centreman, Tom Henderson is scragged as he takes his kick



Lions finish with a flourish

WESLEY COLLEGE 9. 11. 65
P.E.G.S. 4. 12. 36

GOALS: Haylock 3, Skurrie 2, Castan, Francis, Paykel, ?

BEST: Osowicki, Skurrie, Haylock, Abbey, Herbert, Francis, L.Davis, Efron, Bluzer

INJURIES: Skurrie (leg), Naylor (shoulder)

GOAL of the DAY: Haylock

MARKS of the DAY: Abbey, Ginn

PLAY of the DAY: Osowicki-Haylock-Davis

SMOTHER of the DAY: Bluzer-Fry

RAINMAKER AWARD: Alex Davis

Their second round victory over Melbourne was a great confidence booster for the young NATSEC Lions, and they were eager to take up the next challenge thrown at them by the APS fixture. Excitement had reached fever pitch by Thursday evening and thoughts of Saturday's game against PEGs prevented a number of players from decoding the more complex training drills. The coach tried several structured alternatives, but in the end only a prakky could provide a constructive release for his team's pent up energy and redirect their focus towards the big game.

The star of last week's match, Lethal Leigh, had announced his unavailability due to an important birthday party and defender Dane Georgiou was committed to the defence of his Championship Belt at the All Australian Kung Fu Titles, and would also be a non starter. To make matters worse for the selectors, injury clouds hung low over several key players during the week and Murdoch, Mulla, Diamond and Macca were forced to withdraw from the squad on Friday. Hendo was rewarded with a promotion but an equal exchange was effected when one Tom was replaced by another Tom and Haylock came into the side. Ohsowacky and Big Al Davis would be returning to the team and Jeremy Stubbs' clearance had finally come through, but Pearson had gone AWOL. All of this presented a challenge to the selection panel, but, as they say, life wasn't meant to be easy!

Dicky Penberthy was appointed skipper for the match against his old school and he had arranged a special team breakfast for the Lions followed by a short historical tour of the Keilor district to help his urban team mates adjust to the rural atmosphere. All was in readiness, but the coach was nowhere to be seen! His Lear Jet had been prevented from landing at Essendon airport when a wombat wandered onto the tarmac. He was forced to set down at Tullamarine and by the time he had travelled cross country to the PEGs oval the preliminaries were over, the croissants were finished and the game was about to start!



Centremen Tom Haylock feeds the ball to a running Herbert

Fortunately the Lion support crew was on hand to ensure that boot laces were tied and socks were on the correct feet, so after a quick word of encouragement the Lions took up their positions. PEGs started strongly with several forays forward, but thanks to the pressure applied by Ohsowacky, Mad Dog and Davo they were only able to convert one of their forward thrusts. The Lions seemed to be suffering from a touch of jet lag after the long journey west. Fumbling and fiddling around they were definitely off the boil, but a word from experienced jet setter Sam Skurrie set them right and with Hayloft and Skuzz showing the way the Lions began to get their act together. Abba and Deano kick started the Lions midfield engine, but the offensive cogs had not quite dropped into place and conversion was proving difficult. Stuart Ginn was sent on to ginger up the Lions attack and he produced instant results. Sending the ball deep into the offensive zone, Stu was delighted to see "Erroll" Flynn pounce quickly and put the ball in the back of the net to open the Lions' account.



Stuart Ginn poised to deliver a delightful foot pass.

Effers seemed to be enjoying the deep pockets of the PEGs oval and a few minutes later he was instrumental in centering the Sherrin to "Beatle" Thompson. The relay pass found Haylock and BANG another goal was on the board. At the first break the Lions had snuck to a three point lead, but there was a lot to talk about!

The second quarter confirmed that the Lions were the better team, yet by half time their lead had been cut to two points. How was this possible? Well, I'll tell you...

The Lions got the ball often enough, but finding targets was another matter altogether! They struggled all over the ground to hit their team mates with the footy and when it came to finding the gap between the big sticks... well you wouldn't want to know! Thankfully, the opposition were also struggling in the accuracy department due to consistent hassling by Daniel "I Don't Want to Play Full Back" Bluzer-Fry and Tim "Tough as" Nayls. Josh replaced Skuzz on the ball and quick hands from Erroll found the resting rover perfectly placed to bring up his team's third. Jesse was continuing to be a steadying influence across half back and Abba was working hard around the ground, but for all their efforts the next fifteen minutes remained goal free



"It's mine! I saw it first!" Dicky Penberthy stakes his claim

A behind to Deano was doubled by the PEGGERS, and another opportunity went begging when good work from the skipper gave Stu the chance to set up Haylock, but the attack was thwarted. A sensational passage of play by Jesse and Tommy H gave Big Al a mark deep in the scoreboard pocket, but his kick faded when it should have surged. Minors to Deano and Haylock advanced the advantage fractionally, but one straight kick by PEGs closed the gap as the long interval approached.

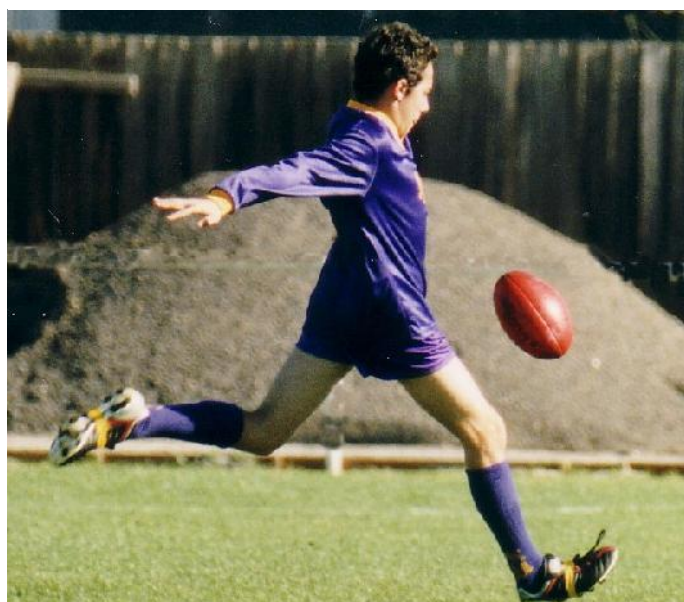
There was much animated conversation during the break and some minor shuffling of the team resulted, but the coach could only pray that his charges would soon start finding the right targets. An early goal and a pair of minors to the home team was not good news, and it was frustrating to see the efforts of the onballers go unrewarded. Tommo had an opportunity when the PEGGERS forgot to stand the mark inside the fifty, but his wobbly bomb wobbled the wrong way. Both Erroll and Adam muffed difficult chances, but eventually the

drought was broken by Hayloft when he converted a pass from Effers, but another goal to PEGs put them back in front by two points at the final change.

The Lions' cheer squad offered moral and glucose support while the brains trust considered the available options. Betsy was sent to full back to free Bluzer up for a running role, but there were no ready solutions. The Lions would have to rely on good old fashioned G&D and an ounce of luck to get them through.



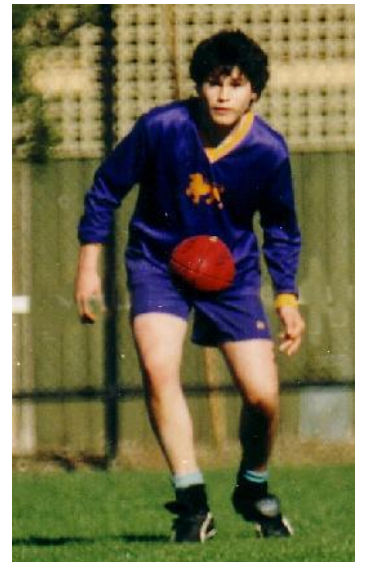
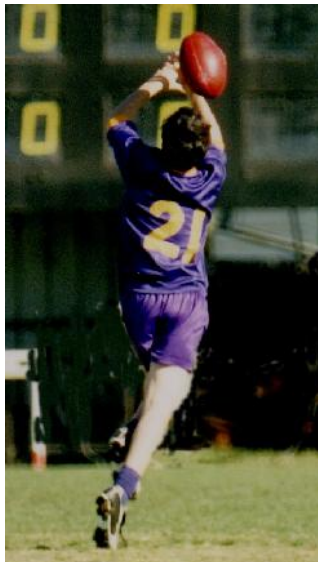
Nick Abbey contests the bounce whilst Sam Skurrie crumbs



Adam Paykel launches a long bomb goalward

The final twenty minutes was all Lions. Reaching deep inside they produced something special when it was most needed. Under the experienced leadership of the Year 10 veterans, Jesse, Tom, Abba and the skipper, the Lions took control of the game. Deano and Flynn were magnificent and Matty Willmott was providing an extra target at half forward. Jimmy D was adding fresh legs and Rowan was delighted to be in the scoring half. Nayls to Matty to Adam brought up the Lions' fifth and

gave them the lead. Frustration was creeping into the opposition's game and an unnecessary shove resulted in one of their big boys being given a compulsory rest. A free kick and goal to Skuzz fired up his team mates and when Haylock threaded his third from the boundary line, the Lions were roaring! Meanwhile, at the other end of the ground, the Lion defence was starving their opponents. Bettsy was using his strength on the last line and Smithy and Davo were continuing their hard, unrelenting work in the pockets. Stubbsy was beginning to get the hang of it all and Woodsy's personal trainer had primed him for another run in the forward line. As the opposition coach discussed the extent of the penalty that had been imposed on his transgressing midfielder a mystery Lion took advantage of the distraction to sneak another through the big sticks. The Lions had moved to an unassailable lead now and it only remained for the icing to be applied to the cake. The honours fell to Rowan Castan who marked strongly and booted his first APS goal. The siren signalled the end of a gallant Lion fight back - a twenty seven point turnaround in the final quarter had brought about a twenty nine point victory, and the spontaneous cheers from the loyal band of Lion supporters was well deserved. Now, as they prepared for the long journey home, they could cast their thoughts forward to the next challenge—Xavier at Xavier!



Rowan Castan buries the opposition with his maiden APS goal

TOP: Castan contests
ABOVE: Butter fingers!
 Effers lets one slip
ABOVE RIGHT: Flynn
 prepares to pounce
RIGHT: "Well played
 mate!" a sporting
 gesture from Tommy



"Off with his head!" Alex Davis applies a headlock to his opponent during the final round



Dicky Penberthy—a happy skipper

Lions rise to the challenge

WESLEY COLLEGE 4. 8. 32
XAVIER COLLEGE 8. 8. 56

GOALS: Efron 2, Paykel, Thompson
BEST: McMullen, Herbert, Davis, McDonald, Thompson, Saunders, Smith, Willmott, Ginn, Osowicki, Efron

INJURIES: Osowicki (complete and utter exhaustion), McMullen (finger)

GOAL of the DAY: Efron

MARK of the DAY: Diamond

PLAY of the DAY: McDonald

TACKLE of the DAY: Davis

SMOTHER of the DAY: Gehrig

The last quarter comeback against PEGs had raised the NATSEC Lions' hopes as they approached their Round 4 confrontation with Premiership favourites, Xavier, but the week held a few surprises and by Friday afternoon the team had been rocked by a flurry of low blows. The news from the medicos was not good. Tim Naylor's collarbone had been broken during a torrid encounter with a PEGGER and he would be out of action for several weeks. Josh Howard had contracted a rare form of foot and mouth disease and had been placed in quarantine and Flynn Francis had dislocated a digit during a lunchtime training session. The A team had been struggling to stay on the winners' board and Abba and Tom Hayloft were promoted to help show their clubmates how to win. To make matters worse, Skurrie, Penberthy, Bluzer-Fry and Alex Davis had been invited to join an A.I.S. training camp on the Gippsland Lakes in an effort to fast track their path to the AFL. The selectors were faced with dilemma after dilemma as they attempted to create a lineup that could hold its own against the ladder leaders. Fortunately,



Centre Half Forward, Simon Thompson swoops on the ball

-son, McDonald and McMullen were returning from injury and illness and Dayne "Call me Bruce Lee" Georgiou would be available for selection. Lethal Leigh Saunders was also returning to the team and it was clear that he would be forced to take on the ruck position vacated by Abba. But who could help him out? The answer came at lunchtime on Friday when an impressive display in a House Football Final from Dan Mulcahy caught the coach's eye. For a packet of Doritos and a Snickers bar, Dan agreed to come out of retirement to take up a key position role in a new look Lions team.

After a week of delightful Autumn weather the wind sprung up unexpectedly as the Lions went through their pre-match paces on the spacious Xavier oval. Conditions would not make for pretty football, but the Lions were determined to commit their bodies to the contest and to take the game up to their more fancied opponents. Unfortunately, the home team had the inside knowledge on how to play the local conditions and they were able to create early scoring opportunities whilst depriving the Lions of offensive action. Nevertheless, the Lion defence soon settled into the groove and began applying the pressure for which they have become famous. Led by Lloyd "Never Give'em an Inch" Davis and new full back, James "Wear 'em Like a Glove" Smith, the Xavvys were forced to earn every point. Mulla was leading the rebound action and Captain for the week Saunders was leading by example with some strong round the ground grabs. Jezza was adjusting well to the pace of Saturday footy and Matty and Deano were working hard in their on ball roles. Although they were yet to trouble the scorers after twenty minutes, the Lions were confident they could close the gap.



Rover Matt Willmott juggles a mark whilst Herbert looks on

The second quarter was a more even affair, and if the Lions had been able to make more of their scoring opportunities they may well have been leading at the long break. An early goal to Effers after receiving a pass from the Skipper gave the Lions' heart, but Xavier were quick to answer. Thommo was reading the game well at CHF and a pass to Lachy McDonald could have produced another major but the gale force wind disturbed the Sherrin's flightpath. Kicking to the Chapel end, the home team was able to thread another major to take their lead to 22 points, but that was their last score for the quarter as the Lions took control of the midfield. Ohsowacky was fighting a severe case of exhaustion, but he kept buttering up in the pivot. Meanwhile, Adam was covering more territory than Burke and Wills in his quest for the footy and Stu Ginn was performing well on his wing. Tony Pearson ran straight into the play from the bench and was soon in the thick of the action at half forward, but it was Macca and Deano who were doing most of the damage. Lachy was in great touch now that he had found the right size orthotics, and he was marking strongly and running the ball with agility. A courageous Flynn had strapped up his ill-aligned finger and he was providing valuable support on the Lions forward line, but apart from a near thing when Dan Mulcahy got a bit carried away and turned a certain goal into a smothered behind, there was little action in the Lions' scoring zone until the third quarter.



Stuart Ginn makes a desperate attempt to reclaim the football

Despite their efforts to reduce the home team's nineteen point advantage, the Lions slipped further behind during the premiership quarter. Whilst they could add no more than a solitary behind, Xavier was making good use of the cyclonic wind and were able to add two more goals, but the constant hassling from Davo, Jimmy Dalling and Dayne the Kung Fu King restricted their opportunities.

At the final change the discrepancy was some 32 points and although the Lions would be kicking to the scoring end, victory would be a big ask. But whatever the odds, they would give it their best shot. Thommo and Effers were quick to team together to register the Lions' second goal for the day—but Xavier had the answer and it was back to square one. Stu and Jesse were



Dave Sallman-Betts prepares to shepherd whilst Dean Herbert shows the opposition a clean pair of heels.

having a considerable influence on the game in the mid field, but it was Deano and Adam who teamed up to produce the Lions' next major. Dan was running in the ruck now and was using his height to advantage whilst the Skipper took a breather at full forward. Woodsy was happy to have found an opponent of similar stature and he was almost able to extricate the ball from a tricky situation and set up another goal, but it was Thommo who seized the initiative by pouncing on a Xavvy kick in and rebounding it straight through the hi-diddle-diddle. Bettsy was enjoying a spell in the forward half and his characteristically persistent play was paying dividends, just as Dymo's gutsy efforts in defence were blocking Xavier's supply route. Flynn and Effers added behinds to the Lions' tally, but Xavier had the final say when they booted their eighth major at the 17 minute mark. Undermanned and under pressure the Lions had performed creditably against their more experienced opponents on a guaranteed bad hair day—and for that their fans were properly proud!



But he hasn't got it ump! Simon Thompson is caught without the footy

Lloyd Davis kicks long and wide



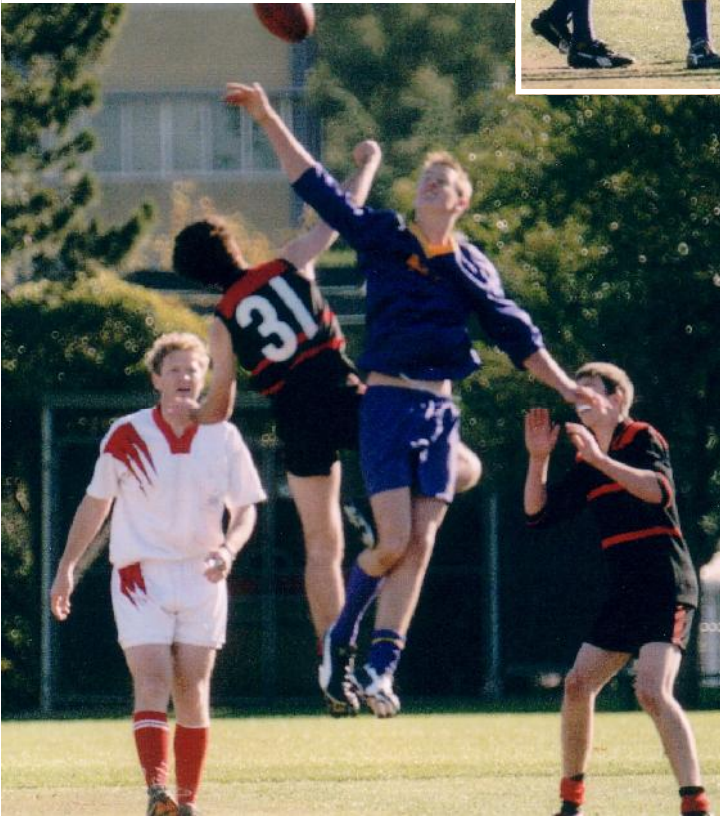
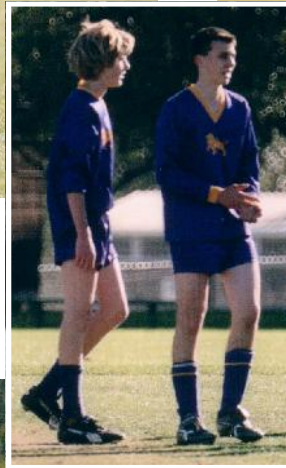


Wingman Stuart Ginn bends the ball back towards the corridor.

*"I thought you played well today, David"
"You did alright yourself, Simon"*



Lion rover Matt Willmott positions himself for a mark during the final quarter



Flynn Francis squeezes a quick kick

Dan Mulcahy flies at a centre bounce



Mike Efron shoots with his trusty left boot

Dave Sallman-Betts watches as Mike Efron prepares to pounce



Lions break shackles!

Wesley kicks away from St.Kevins after a tight first half

WESLEY COLLEGE 9 15 69
ST. KEVINS COLLEGE 5 3 33

- GOALS:** A.Davis 2, Osowicki 2, Henderson, Woods, Pearson, Thompson, Francis
BEST: Penberthy, Herbert, Skurrie, Henderson, L.Davis, Willmott, Mulcahy, Osowicki Francis, A.Davis, Sallman-Betts, etc.
INJURIES: Henderson (Stomach)
MARK of the DAY: L.Davis
GOAL of the DAY: Woods
MISS of the DAY: Penberthy
RUN of the DAY: Have a guess!
SMOTHER of the DAY: Mulcahy
TORPA of the DAY: Penberthy
LOOK MA NO HANDS! AWARD: Bettsy

There was concern in the Wesley camp mid week that last weekend's bye may have thrown the NATSEC Lions off their game. Their training form was down and the rookies concentration levels seemed to have hit rock bottom. Perhaps the excitement of St.Kilda's thrilling victory over the AFL premiers had been too much for the boys, or perhaps the thought of mid year exams was diverting their attention. Whatever the reason, the coaching panel and the senior players harboured some doubts as Saturday approached. Selection was made difficult by the absence of the Elsternwickians who had headed into the wilderness for an extended bonding session, and the injury clouds that hung over Mulla, Deano and Jezza. Fortunately the return of happy campers, Penbers, Skuzz and Alex helped balance the ledger, whilst the return of Castan and Hendo were bonuses. There was some speculation in the media that a dog had made off with Alex Davis's boots, but fortunately these proved easier to locate than Iraq's Ws of MD and when Alex arrived at the ground for the big game against St.Kevins his kit was intact—but Smithy's pet tabby had chewed up his footy jumper and he was forced to don a very ordinary looking windcheater.

Captain Courageous, Lloyd Davis, lost the toss and the Lions found themselves kicking to the Williamstown end of the Front Turf against a fairly stiff breeze. Dan Mulcahy was quick to stamp his impression on the game with strong work in the air and on the ground, and the on ballers wasted no time in working the ball into the forward half. Woodsy was making his debut in the starting eighteen and he was soon in the thick of the action centering the ball from the scoreboard pocket towards Alex in the corridor. Following up for a second effort he was able to crumb a goal from inside the



Dean Herbert breaks the shackles and turns towards goal

square, and the Lions were away! Skevvy's responded with a forward thrust but the Lion defence was quick to assert pressure and the result was a minor score. The skipper was leading the way with his aggressive attack on the ball and his opponents, and with Smithy and Jimmy giving little away the visitors were struggling to take advantage of the wind. Only a dodgy kick in by Mr.X allowed Skevvys to register a major during the first half of the opening term, but a goal to Thommo at the 14 minute mark put the Lions back in front. Skuzz was in everything and Deano was proving a hard man to stop, but the conditions were difficult and it was an effort to pass the ball with precision. Penbers decided that the safest way to move the Sherrin was to run with it, and his dashes from half back brilliantly broke the lines. Flynn was providing a mobile target for Hendo and the midfielders, whilst Jesse was showing a cool head at half back with some clever switches, but a late goal to Skevvys gave them a two point advantage at the break.



Sam Skurrie releases a long handball. Josh Howard looks on.

The second quarter was one of wasted opportunities as the Lions peppered the Rose Garden goals but were unable to make much impression on the scoreboard. Their only goal came in the opening minutes when Alex converted. Thommo had a snap but missed everything and Skevvys responded by working the ball forward for an answer to keep their lead intact. Betsy had been pushed back to bolster the Lions defence and he surprised everyone when he intercepted a Skevvy's missile in mid air and rebounded it forty metres a la Beckham. Dicky was continuing to run rings around his opponents from half back whilst Casta and Jesse were continuing to be valuable allies. Howie and Stu were linking well through the midfield, and Matty Willmott was providing an extra target on the half forward line. He and Deano combined in an effort to give their team the edge, but a poster resulted and the Lions still trailed by a behind. Flynn dodged his way through the traffic but could only manage the same result and a set shot did no better—but at least the Lions had hit the front! Points to Matt and Deano added to the frustration of the Lions' fans and a late goal to Skevvys meant that all the Lions' hard work was for nothing. At the long interval they continued to trail by two miserable points.



Ooops! Jesse Osowicki overruns the ball. Willmott backs up

The oranges, hand picked and cut to perfection by Mrs. Davis did their job and the Lions returned to the fray fresh and rejuvenated. An early goal to the visitors after Hendo nearly had his head torn off, could have set the Lions back, but they were a determined outfit now and Skevvy's were going to pay for their audacity! The Skevvy's fans should have packed up and gone home then and there, because that would be the last time their little darlings would trouble the scorers. The Lions midfield machine stepped on the accelerator and with Hendo and Stewy upping the anti Skevvys began to lose touch with the game. The forward line was alive with targets and Tony Pearson's rugby skills came in handy when he held off the pack to snap his debut goal. Alex added another behind but the Lions were moving the ball forward with greater purpose now and it seemed only a matter of time before they would take the game by the scruff of the neck.



Alex Davis shoots for goal despite desperate Skevvy defence

Jesse had summed up his opponent's limitations and had been pushing forward more frequently since half time. His big moment came when he finally found himself within range of the big sticks and made no mistake! At the final change the Lions were only seven points up, but having held their opponents scoreless for the bulk of the third quarter they had a palpable psychological edge. What's more, the wind would be in their favour as they headed down the home straight.



Breaking the lines. Defender, Osowicki, sets sail for goal



Ruck rover, Dean Herbert in action. Tony Pearson watches



Wingman, Stuart Ginn shapes up for an overhead mark

The onballers were still full of run and Danno's tackling, Deanos pack splitting and Skuzz's set ups were giving the Lions plenty of opportunities. An early point to Alex and another mid air interception by Betty were followed by the Lions' sixth major when Alex was awarded a free and kicked long and true. By this stage a number of the Skevvy's were beginning to drop their heads and the home team went in for the kill! Jesse made another foray forward to dob his second. This prompted Dicky Penberthy to get in on the act, and he took a pot shot on the run which missed everything and was lucky to stay inside College property. Not one to give up easily, Dicky tried again with a humungous torpedo, but it leg broke when it should have off broke and missed again. Flynn had been struggling with accuracy too, but he managed to rectify the situation with a delightful drop punt and the Lions advanced to an unsailable lead.



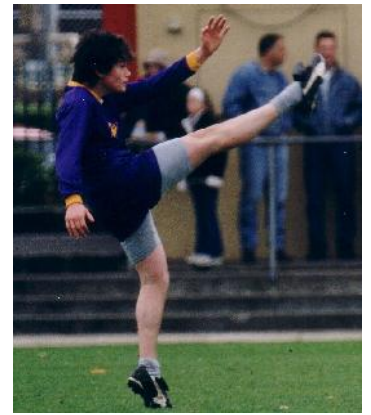
Hendo launches a long bomb



Betty pinpoints a pass



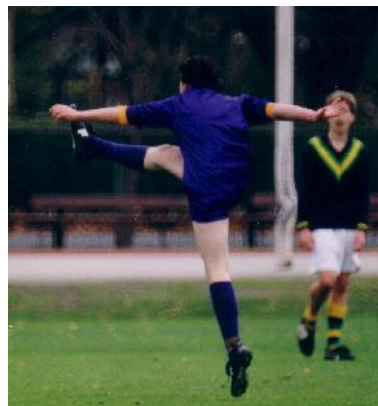
Penbers shows poise



Flynn Francis goals from 45



Sam Skurrie lines up a team mate in the centre of the oval



Nice style! Alex Davis goes long.

The more determined Skevvy's attempted to find an answer but Smithy, Davo and Dymo were not in the mood to be generous and their efforts were to no avail. Thommo had been picking up plenty of possessions and he managed another point, but Hendo punched the final nail into the Skevvy's coffin with a sensational sausage roll from a long bomb on the run. The fans were ecstatic. Their heroes had scored six unanswered goals to run out victors by thirty six points and take their season's tally to three and two.



Happy Lions! A rare photo from inside the victory huddle.

Lions in hard fought win!

Wesley comes from behind to clinch a courageous victory

WESLEY COLLEGE	8 5 55
CAULFIELD GRAMMAR	5 6 36

GOALS: Saunders 3, Ford 2, A.Davis, Paykel, Mc.Mullin

BEST: Mc.Mullin, Abbey, Henderson, Mulcahy Thompson, Skurrie, Saunders, Francis, Penberthy, Ford, McDonald etc. etc.

INJURIES: Francis (lacerated knee) Osowicki (foot), Abbey (thigh), Mulcahy (blood)

GOAL of the DAY: Ford

PLAY of the DAY: Willmott to Francis to Paykel = GOAL!

TACKLES of the DAY: Thompson & Mulcahy

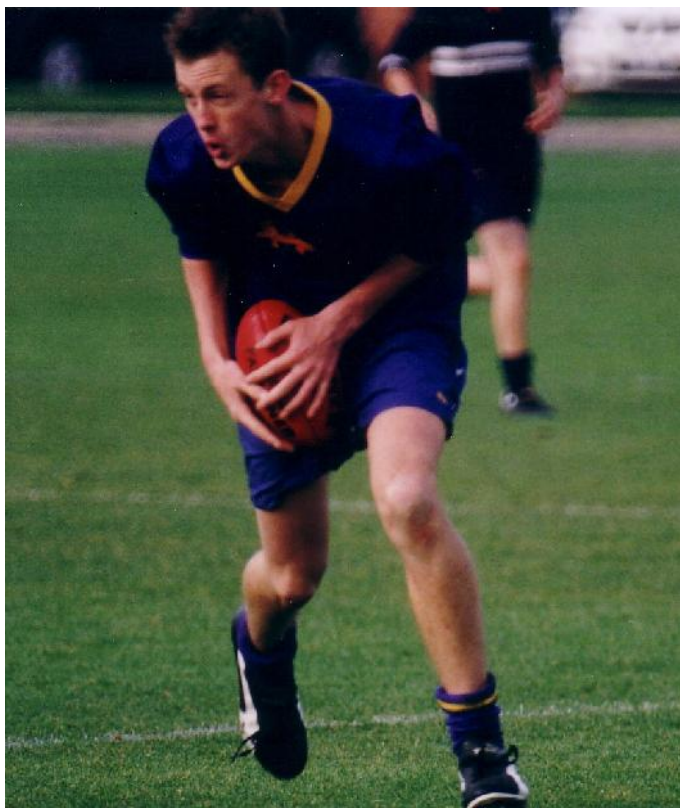
WRONGFOOT WONDER: Mc.Mullin

CLEARANCE of the DAY: Henderson

ALMOST FOOTY LEGENDS: The Grammarian who hit the post from point blank range.

Inspired by their strong finish against St.Kevins and eager to go into the mid season break with an improved win/loss ratio, the Lions impressed on the track as they prepared for the contest with Caulfield Grammar. Whilst the Year 9s augmented their preparation with some fierce lunchtime kick to kick on the back turf, the Year 10s made good use of their exam study time to plan their tactics for the big match. Meanwhile, the coaching panel assiduously studied video footage of their opposition's recent outings and quizzed Mrs.O'Grady for the inside goss on her son's new team. The return of the Elsternwickians from their bonding camp and the recovery of Lachy Murdoch's stressed out foot, Mulla's demented digit and Charlie Ford's broken thumb cheered the selection panel who had done it hard the week before when the bench had been reduced to an alltime record low. There was some concern when star onballer, Dean Herbert was promoted to the A's but the return of Nick Abbey helped balance the ledger.

A mid winter cold snap had hit town late in the week, but the wind that had plagued recent matches had subsided when the Lions arrived at the Glen Eira Road oval. Abba had been appointed captain for the big game and he took the boys through their paces as the umpire brushed his sideburns in preparation for the opening bounce. The non appearance of Effers, suffering from PCS and the delayed arrival of Davo who had read the Melways upside down required a couple of minor adjustments but at 9.05 all was in readiness. Abba had been given a ruck roving commission and he was intent on firing up his team for the crucial first quarter. The Lions did have the best of the opening minutes, and



Ruckman Dan Mulcahy displaying his fierce determination

an impressive passage of play through the midfield by Macca, Penbers and Stu announced that the Lions meant business—but so too did their opponents as Caulfield hit the visitors hard and gave nothing away. The ice was finally broken when a pass from Matty Willmott found Flynn and ball was relayed to the running Paykel who excitedly steered the Sherrin through the sticks with his trusty left boot. Relaxing slightly, the Lions opened a window of opportunity for the Grammarians, and they bounced back with two majors of their own. Betsy was unlucky not to collect a free when his head was squashed and there were a few other instances of questionable adjudicating, but the Lions could only blame themselves when their opponents added a third goal and moved to a handy lead. Despite the hard work of Dan Mulcahy, Abba and Skuzz around the ground, there was a tentativeness amongst some of their team mates as they approached the ball. Macca was setting a great example with his body work and Smithy and Betsy were checking closely, but there was a looseness about the Lions' game which was causing concern.

A breeze had sprung up during the opening stanza, and the Lions were pleased to have the use of it for the second term, but Caulfield jumped them and had added a fourth to their tally before the boys in purple could take advantage of the conditions. Something special was needed now before the game slipped out of reach. It was time for Penbers to give his opponent the slip and go for

an inspirational run. Zig-zagging his way forward from half back to the opposite forward pocket, Dicky showed that it was possible to dictate the terms of the match. Although the immediate result was only a behind to Thommo, the Lions lifted all around the ground and it wasn't long before a neat pass from Willmo found Alex within range. His kick was true and the Lions had begun to claw their way back into the contest. Hendo sparked up in the centre and Osowacky and Mulla pushed up the field to help trap the ball in their team's scoring zone. During his recent layoff Mulla had been working hard on his wrong foot skills and all that kicking in the backyard with his old man now began to pay dividends! A perfect left foot snap into the corridor found Lethal Leigh lurking with intent and a strong overhead mark gave him the opportunity to help close the gap. The kick was accurate and the Lions moved to within striking distance. Howie was given his chance on a wing and Dymo was asked to cover a troublesome opposition forward, but Woodsy was being held back as fresh legs for the second half. Caulfield attempted to get back into the game but the tide was beginning to turn and the Lions' confidence lifted further as they snatched the lead with their fourth major. Another clever left footer from Mulla was marked strongly by Charlie in the pocket and he made no mistake, so it came to pass that at the long break the Lions held the slenderest of leads.

A shortage of oranges due to the ongoing drought meant that the Lions were forced to rely on a glucose hit for their half time refreshment, but the talk in their camp was positive. Attack the ball, hit them hard and talk, talk, talk. Be accountable and minimise their opportunities. Simple instructions that didn't fall on deaf ears!

The third quarter was a real arm wrestle, with neither side able to take control. The Lions edged further ahead as the onballers worked tirelessly and Flynn and Charlie provided plenty of spark across half forward. A minor score to Charlie was all the Lions could generate during



Lethal Leigh Saunders kicks long and straight for goal

the next twenty minutes, despite the hard work of Abba, Thommo and the midfielders. Fortunately, however, the Lion's high pressure defence was paying dividends and the Grammarians were having their share of problems kicking with the breeze. Davo and Lachy "Indian Rubber Man" Murdoch were hassling and harassing in their usual fashion and even though the team was temporarily thrown out of whack when Dan and Jesse were forced from the field with minor injuries, the Lions hung on grimly holding the opposition goalless. At the final change the home team had regained a narrow two point advantage.

With their starting lineup restored and the words of the coach ringing in their ears, the Lions dearly wanted the next goal, but minutes into the final quarter Caulfield had stretched their lead to eight points and the Lions were looking down the proverbial barrel! Now they would have to dig deep to pull their way back into the game. Jesse made a gallant attempt to regain the lost



Lion wingman Stuart Ginn swoops on the ball during Saturday's game at Caulfield. Diamond and Penberthy run in support.



Put down your glasses! Charlie Ford snaps a sealing goal

ground but could only manage a minor score. It was Lethal Leigh who sent the message to Caulfield that the Lions could not be written off. A goal from a free kick took his team to within a point and when he followed up with a behind the scores were level! The Lions' cheer squad was getting right behind their heroes and as they began their chant from the boundary line Abba and Skuzz stirred up the troops. "Come on boys, we can do it! Let's show 'em!" With that, the Lions moved up a gear and the game began to turn back their way. Caulfield were losing their cool and a careless free kick allowed Mulla to post a behind. The Lions were back in front! Not content with his narrow miss, Mulla hung around the attacking zone until he could be sure of making amends. To prove that his previous efforts were not flukes he decided to trust a snap from a sharp angle to his left foot, and sure enough he scored a bulls eye. Now Hendo decided it was time to seal the match once and for all, and grabbing the ball in the centre square he bombed it long and corridorish straight into the waiting arms of Lethal Leigh Saunders. His third goal was the Lions seventh - a seventh that was soon an eighth when Charlie Ford threaded a kick on the run from the boundary. The home team was shell shocked and the Lions were full of running, but the siren soon put a stop to their fun. Their courageous fight back was over and the Lions had taken the points.



Henderson and Francis in a desperate struggle for the ball



Tom Henderson on the burst from the centre square

Lachy Murdoch attempts a bear hug with a reverse arm twist on his unsuspecting opponent.



Winners are grinners! The Lions celebrate a hard fought win

Road Trip Ruined!

Fixture glitch causes heartache for Lions

WESLEY COLLEGE **2. 1. 13**
GEELONG GRAMMAR **Lost count**

GOALS: Sallman-Betts, Penberthy
BEST: Thompson, McMullin, Ford, Penberthy, McDonald, Sussex, Diamond, Smith, Sallman-Betts,
INJURIES: A.Davis (leg, groin, etc)
GOAL of the DAY: Penberthy
SMOTHER of the DAY: McMullin
TACKLE of the DAY: Ford
ALMOST MARK of the DAY: Ford
SLIDE of the DAY: Lloyd Davis
PLAY of the DAY: Willmott - Betts - McDonald in the first quarter. Very smooth.

Coming off the mid season break with a four/two winning record under their belt, the NATSEC Lions were keen to improve their standing during the final part of the 2003 season. Their impressive form on the track augured well for the fixture against Geelong Grammar, but the selectors' plans were thrown into disarray when a shortage of A's players and a series of unexpected injuries drained the squad of a long list of star names. Abba, Hendo, Deano, Skuzz, Lethal Leigh, Murdoch, Ohsowacky and Casta would all be missing from the regular lineup. To make matters worse, Effers and ruckman Dan Mulcahy slept in and missed the 8.00 bus from Moubray Street. Even so, the twenty Lions making the road trip to Geelong were quietly confident that they would be able to give a good account of themselves.



Captain Lachy McDonald roosts the ball forward



Charlie Ford almost takes a specky in a congested pack

Little did they know that the APS fixture was waiting to play a cruel trick on them when they arrived at the school lying in the shadow of the oil refinery. Despite Geelong's consistent outgunning of B Division opponents before the break their expected promotion had not come and the Lions, not the proverbial lambs, were being sent to the slaughter.



A Geelong player gets a handball away despite close attention

Conditions were perfect for footy when Lion captain Lachy McDonald met his opposite number for the toss. Ten minutes later the Lions were wishing that their bus had missed the turn off and had kept going to Lorne. Clearly a cut above their opponents, Geelong had piled on four unanswered goals and the Lions were wondering what had hit them. "This is a long way to come for a shellacking" thought Thommo. "Come on boys, lift your game!" "You're right" agreed the skipper, "we're making them look good!"

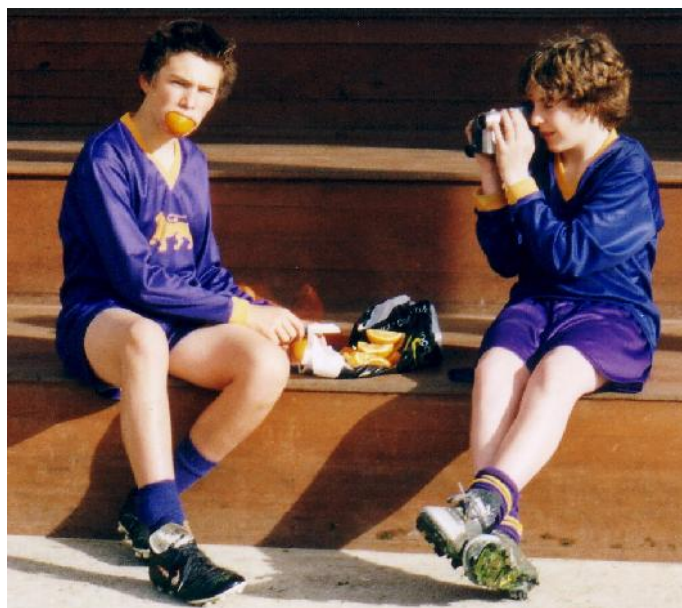
Taking their skipper's advice the Lions began to attack the ball with a bit more purpose and the short steps lengthened to create more of a contest. Mulla was setting a great example with his determined approach at CHB and Alex was getting the hang of his new role as ruckman. Meanwhile, new recruit Teddy Sussex was adjusting to the pace of the game after his stint in the bush. Charlie was everywhere and he narrowly missed registering a confidence boosting goal as the quarter drew to a close, but despite the sparse scoreboard, the Lions had made an admirable effort to be competitive.

The second term opened well for the Lions with



Defender Lloyd Davis attempts to smother a Geelong kick

Betsy pouncing on a stray ball and dribbling his team's first goal. His effort seemed to lift his team mates and Geelong were now finding it much harder to play the sort of game to which they were accustomed. Excellent pressure from Smithy's defensive team was depriving the opposition of easy avenues to goal and Davo, Jimmy and Dymo were giving little away. A series of behinds was the best Geelong could do whilst the Lions were able to make several meaningful forays forward thanks to Penber's run off half back and the consistent efforts of Flynn and Thommo, who had now moved into the ruck to replace the injured Davis. Lachy was working his you know what off and he was giving his team mates downfield the chance to convert, but the strong Geelong defence was difficult to penetrate. Adam and Willma tried hard to finish the midfielders' work but the pressure was constant and the home team were rebounding with confidence. At the long break the Lions trailed by 61 points.



Josh Howard plays mum and cuts the oranges. Woodsy films

The oranges, lovingly prepared by Howie, were delicious and for a few precious minutes the Lions were able to relax and escape their onfield troubles. "Can we go to the beach now?" asked Nayls. "What's the point of hanging around here?" "Yeah, I've got some trees to plant at Apollo, and anyway I'm so sore I can't run..." added Alex. "Can we go to Maccas now?" asked Tony. "I need more than oranges!"

But there was no escape. The Lions had no option but to front up for another forty minutes of torment.

The plot evolved as expected during the third quarter, and although nobody could doubt the Lions' endeavour, the Geelong combination was just too big, too strong and too confident. Whilst they added another swag of goals to their tally the Lions troubled the scorers not at all. Thommo and Mulla continued to take the game up to their opponents whilst Charlie, Flynn and Teddy were tireless in their efforts to set something up for their team mates. Meanwhile, Clunes escapee, Tom I-M was wondering about the wisdom of taking up footy. At the final change the home team had set up a comfortable 101 point buffer.



The story of the game... Dave McMullin is outnumbered

Three quarter time provided one of the day's highlight's as the coach unearthed a packet of team snakes. He had hoped that these monster pythons would provide a powerful glucose hit—enough to swing a close game his team's way. However, he would have needed a truck load to effect an eighteen goal turn around! As Dymo received a belting from his team mates, the coach asked for one last effort from his charges. "Don't go out with a whimper!" he exhorted, "Show a bit of pride in the purple and gold!"



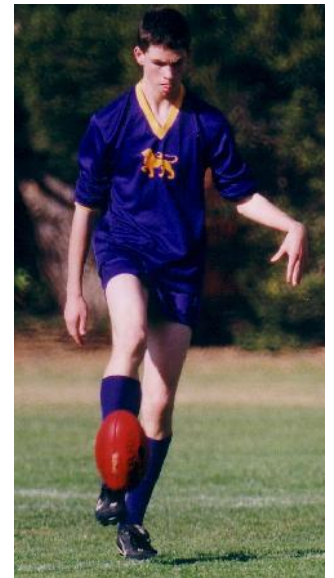
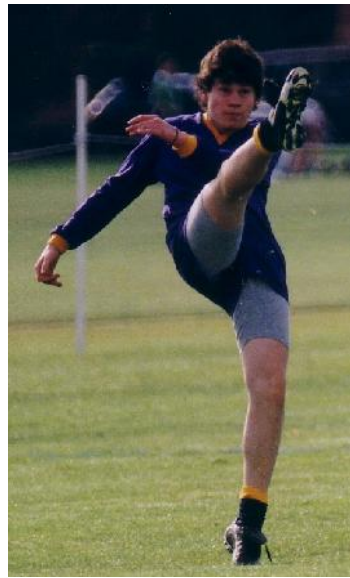
Richard Penberthy scores a memorable goal on the run

Well, the less said about the final twenty minutes the better. Once again the Lions tried gallantly, but they were out muscled, outnumbered and out-scored. Yet, despite another eight goals to Geelong, the undoubted highlight of the last quarter was Dickie Penberthy's sensational goal on the run as he dodged and wove his way towards the fifty and unleashed a long drop punt straight through the middle! If the Lions had had a cheer squad they certainly would have cheered.

After match apologies from the Geelong Sports master and cheap snaggers were little consolation to the Lions, who had only wanted a reasonable contest!



The Lions uncover Geelong's secret. No wonder they're so big!



Francis and Penberthy display their elegant kicking styles



Paul Diamond is almost crushed by his own man!



A Geelong player gives Willmott the slip

Penberthy marks



Steve Woods and Matt Willmott wind down after the road trip

Comeback Kids do it Again!

Lions respond to coach's half time challenge...

WESLEY COLLEGE 10. 10. 70
XAVIER COLLEGE 2. 3. 15

GOALS: Francis 2, Penberthy 2, Thompson 2, Paykel, Sussex, A.Davis, McMullin
BEST: Skurrie, McMullin, Ginn, Penberthy, Ford, Herbert, Francis, Sussex, Abbey, Thompson, Mulcahy, Mellington, L.Davis, Osowicki, Saunders, Paykel, Willmott, Smith, Murdoch, Naylor, A.Davis, Wood, Castan, Sallman-Betts

INJURIES: Saunders (head)
GOAL of the DAY: Penberthy
WRONG FOOT GOAL of the DAY: McMullin
SMOTHER of the DAY: Saunders
360 of the DAY: Ginn
PINPOINT PALMING AWARD: Mulcahy

Although their pride had been dented during last weekend's disappointing road trip, the NATSEC Lions' usual enthusiasm had resurfaced by mid week. The promise by the A's coach that a number of regular faces would be available for selection boosted the team's confidence as they shaped up for the return match against danger team Xavier. With Skurrie, Herbert, Osowicki, Abbey, Murdoch, Saunders and Mellington thrown into the mix, the selectors had the luxury of multiple positional choices. Fortunately the call of the snowfields was too great for Howie, Jimmy and Dymo and Tony and Tom I-M had "other commitments", so the bench would not be of unmanageable proportions.

An unusual spell of precipitation tested out the Lions' wet weather skills on Thursday night, but the boys stood up well in the heavy conditions. Property Manager, Matt Oberklaid had been scrutinising Rob Gell's isobars and in preparation for a wet weekend he spent the best part of Friday morning lovingly waterproofing the Match day Sherrins. So when Saturday rolled around the Lions were well prepared for a soft and slippery Front Turf.

Skipper Sam Skurrie tossed for ends and the Lions found themselves kicking to the St.Kilda Road goals for the opening term. Xavier opened with a point and made



Skipper Sam Skurrie breaks clear as Nick Abbey shepherds

all the play in the opening minutes. Once again the Lions were lethargic out of the blocks and they looked tentative. The conditions were not in their favour, and forays forward were rare as a couple of chunky Xavierians seemed to have more answers when the ball hit the deck. After Charlie narrowly missed registering a behind the Lions had few real scoring opportunities for the remainder of the quarter. The onballers were working hard enough and Stu Ginn was handling the ball as if it were a dry day, but the visitors were playing with more purpose and they ran the ball quickly forward to post two majors—despite the efforts of Lloyd and Mulla to cut them off. Mellers and Teddy were throwing their bodies into the firing line, but the slippery ball was making life awkward for the normally skillful Lions. At the first change Xavs had advanced to a fourteen point advantage and the Lions were forced to do some serious thinking.

Emerging from the huddle with more purpose the Lions gradually began to get a grip on the game. Lethal Leigh started to make his presence felt at full forward and a courageous smother with his head seemed to fire his team mates up. An impressive chain of possessions involving Stu, Teddy and Abba showed that conditions were far from impossible. Just to prove the case Stu and Penbers demonstrated some fancy turns of which Billy Elliot would be proud. Nayls had replaced a sleepy Willma in the pocket and a clever bit of centering put the ball at the feet of Flynn who gratefully slipped it inside the big sticks. The Lions were on the board! Deano and Skuzz were teaming well with their ruckman, and Dan in return was palming the ball with un-



Sam Skurrie is forced to eat dirt by his Xavier opponent

-racy. With Smithy playing close and tight, and with Bettsy sweeping across the backline, Ohso-wacky Mulla and Dicky felt it was safe enough to drift forward and their efforts to run the ball into the attacking zone began to pay dividends. Tommo was being tempted by the lure of the wide ball and the hot spot target was not being the focus it should have been, but Wesley students think outside the square and Dicky's solution was to bomb long and straight and at the thirteen minute mark he brought up his team's second major. Clever play by Charlie failed to reap the maximum reward, but his two behinds equalled the scores and at the long interval the Lions could breathe just a little easier.



The Lions coach lays down the challenge- a five goal quarter

Nevertheless, there was still work to do! The coach asked his team to move up a gear. "If we can get the first goal we'll be on the way" he explained, "but I want you to sew it up this quarter. I am asking for nothing less than five goals in the next twenty minutes. Can you do it? Are you passionate? Let's show 'em how much we love the purple and gold!"



Richard Penberthy prepares for another fifty metre dash



Charlie Ford and Simon Thompson skirmish with the Xavvys

Fired up by the coach's demands and by the skipper's short sharp speech, the Lions hit the ground running. A sensational dash by Dicky Penberthy, capped off with a humungous goal from outside fifty set the tone, and it wasn't long before Mulla slipped down the scoreboard flank and produced a marvellous left foot goal on the run. A deft dodge by the skipper enabled him to pick out Simon "The Blonde Bombshell" Thompson in the corridor and Thommo didn't let him down. The Lions were now three goals clear and before long it was four as Adam dribbled the ball forward and sent in a cross from the left corner. The interception was effected by Alex and in a flash the Sherrin was in the back of the net! The Xavs were shellshocked! Abba and Deano had been sharing the tagging duties on their chunky mover and his team were struggling to make an impact. Skuzz to Thommo to Flynn resulted in the Lions fifth and the coach's target had been met! But the Lions weren't done yet, and when Teddy marked strongly in the hot-spot and goaled, the cheer squad erupted. Not used to being put under the hammer, the Xaverians reacted with a customary burst of aggro as the players headed for their three quarter time huddles. Teddy found himself cornered by a frustrated Xaverian and a brief melee ensued as the Lions, led by the enforcers Murdoch and Mulcahy, went to their centreman's rescue. Order was finally restored by peace keeper Nick Abbey who reminded his team mates that as amateurs, they could ill afford a \$5,000 fine



Xavier frustration. The controversial three quarter time melee

As calm settled over the oval the Lions looked up at the scoreboard — but there was nothing there. The batteries were flat! Not so the Lions' batteries however. The final twenty minutes pushed them further ahead whilst their opponents gained no ground whatsoever. Held to just the solitary behind during the third quarter, the Xavvys were denied even the barest of additions to their score as the Lion midfield rampaged and their de-



The ball eludes the grasp of Ford at the back of the pack

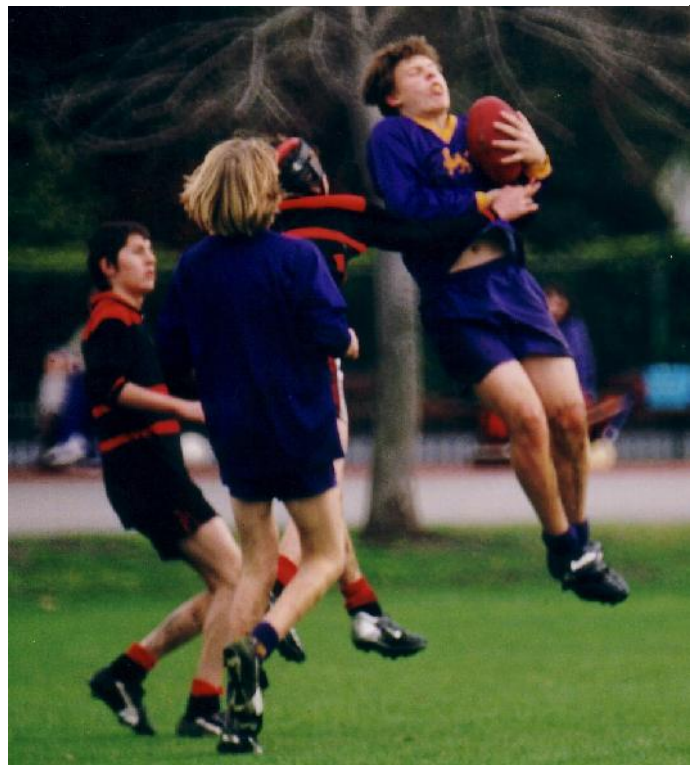
-fence squeezed the life out of their opponents. Official Lions' runner, Tom Henderson had already clocked up some fifteen Ks, but his day was not yet done and the interchange bench was kept busy as the player shuffle accelerated. Casta was braving his wounded leg on the last line and Woodsy had handed over the video camera to take his place on the wing. Smithy and Davo were creeping up the field in their search for a piece of the action, as the ball was barely venturing over the centre-line into their territory, but it was Abba and Flynn who sent the ball in the direction of the opportunist Paykel who finished off their work by scoring the Lions' ninth. A rush of behinds was eventually rectified by Thommo as he slotted through his second for the day and brought up the Lions' tenth and final goal. Once again the Lions had come from behind to clinch a strong win— a win that was even more creditable in the heavy conditions. As the mighty Thirds took to the field for their tussle with Xavier the Lions celebrated their victory with a rousing rendition of the famous Wesley chant that begins "I know not, I care not" and ends in I know not what.



A mystery Lion launches the ball towards the goals



In form wingman Stuart Ginn puts in a one percenter



Centremen, Ted Sussex marks strongly in the corridor



"Well Nick, I was real proud of the boys today..."

TEAM of 2003



N.L. "Abba" ABBEY

Determined utility player whose impressive work ethic and solid performances earned him a promotion to the A's. Showed potential as a ruckman, a ruck rover and a media personality.



Blondes have more Fun Award

R.L. "Dickie" PENBERTHY

Exciting half back with the ability to thrill supporters and inspire team mates through his high leaping, his zig zagging dashes out of defence and his long goals on the run. Set a new PB of 7 bounces.



Circus Oz Award

F. "Flynn" FRANCIS



Cunning as a Fox Award

Consistent half forward flanker whose natural ball skills and ability to read the play made him a valuable team member. A keen student of the game and a creative thinker always on the lookout for a scam.

A.F. "Hollywood" DAVIS



Stars in his Eyes Award

Improving big man who became a useful target on the forward line where he snapped some exciting goals. Extra practice sessions have begun to pay dividends, but TV commitments could restrict his career.

A. "Adam" PAYKEL



Love a Goal Award

Skilful left footer who displayed flashes of brilliance, but whose level of commitment depended on his distance from goals. Inside fifty he was red hot! A bag of 5 against GW was a highlight.

L.J. "Davo" DAVIS

Effervescent defender who curbed his natural exuberance to play a tight, relentless game in the back pocket. Occasional dashes down field helped release his reservoir of energy. Not afraid of physical contact.



Golden Hakki Sak Award

J.C. "Smithy" SMITH

Irrepressible extrovert who found his niche at full back where he could be relied on to play close and in front of an opponent for 4 quarters each week. Saved his most passionate outbursts for lunchtime bouts of hakki



Never Give an Inch Award

D.L. "Bettsy" SALLMAN-BETTS

Keen recruit with good skills who fancied himself as a forward but impressed with his determination in defense. Happy playing close to the ground but less enthusiastic about chasing opponents.



Keep Your Feet Award

M. "Willma" WILLMOTT



The Link in the Chain Award

Valuable addition to the squad who showed courage and talent as a rover or half forward. Read the play well and helped implement many offensive strategies with his clean hands & good disposal.

S. "Woodsy" WOODS



Happy Skater Award

Mini-crumber who sacrificed a promising career on the soccer pitch to join the Lions. Developed a cult following with his cheeky grin and ability to laugh at anything. Handy with the video.

S. "Stu" GINN

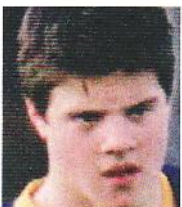


Look on the Bright Side Award

Rangy winger who used his pace and reach to advantage. Although a strong over head mark and a sure kick he rarely met his own high standards. At his best against strong opposition.

L.A. "Macca" McDONALD

Agile, determined mid fielder who provided an excellent example to his team mates with his hard at it, never-say-die approach to the footy. Overcame a painful foot condition but remained vulnerable to flu.



Never Say Die Award

T. "Nayls" NAYLOR

A more than useful addition to the squad who retained a cheerful countenance despite suffering a serious shoulder injury in the front line. Recovered well and impressed on a wing.



Clipped Wing Award

R.M. "Casta" CASTAN

Keen contributor who maintained his enthusiasm despite a series of frustrating injuries. Registered his debut goal against PEGs but also acquitted himself well in defence. A budding Don Juan.



Colgate Smile Award

J. "Jezza" STUBBS



Love You Too Award

Emerged from the supplementary list and made a promising start to the season before an injury laid him low. Demonstrated a new level of commitment before transferring to Clunes mid-season.

M.J. "Mellers" MELLINGTON



Block and Tackle Award

Hard working defender who impressed in 2002 and earned a promotion to the A's for his efforts. Returned to the team for the final rounds and bolstered the rebound line.

D. "Bluza" BLUZER-FRY



I Know Where I'm Going Award

A strong pre-season & impressive early showings earned this solid, straight ahead defender a promotion, but an outward display of conformity in the A's could not fully disguise his hippy spirit.

D. "Mulla" McMULLIN



Rising Star Award

Solid, reliable CHB and occasional ruckman who believes that actions speak louder than words. Good all round skills but a particular talent for using the wrong foot around the goals. Big future predicted.

D.P. "Danno" MULCAHY



Pinpoint Palming Award

Emerged from semi-retirement to add the necessary big man presence around the ground. Not pretty to watch but a hard worker who relished physical contact. Allergic to training.

S.M. "Skuzza" SKURRIE



Front and Square Award

Stepped into the first roving role despite missing the preseason. Burrowed into packs and provided a lively presence around the ground with his quick hands and ability to find space. Earned a promotion

J. "Jesse" OSOWICKI

Experienced campaigner whose cool head and leadership qualities made him a vital presence on the backline except when occasional rushes of blood sent him forward. Promoted to the A's late in the season



Cool in a Crisis Award

S. "Thommo" THOMPSON

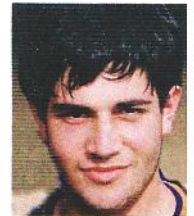
High leaping muso with a distinctive mop top who became a key component in the Lions' offensive strategy. Provided a reliable moving target at CHF and impressed in the ruck. Called up for the final round of the year.



Top of the Pops Award

L.D. "Lethal" SAUNDERS

APS legend with a big reputation as a full forward, umpires' advisor and allround entertainer. Worked hard on the training track and bagged 8 goals against MGS with strong marking and accurate kicking.



Coach's Advisor Award

D. "Deano" HERBERT



Packbuster Award

Key member of the Lion's onball division whose quiet determination, strength in packs and good turn of speed earned him the reward of a mid season promotion. The complete football package

L.J. "Lachy" MURDOCH



Comedy Festival Award

Zany, madcap ruckman whose height and long reach proved particularly useful in defence. Overcame a niggling foot injury to develop a sophisticated cabaret act. The complete entertainment package.

T.L. "Hendo" HENDERSON



Long Bomb Award

Talented centroman who endured another frustrating season courtesy of a chronic back condition. In his few appearances he worked hard in the pivot to set up his forwards with determined dashes and long bombs.

P.J. "Dymo" DIAMOND

Pocket sized dynamo who played his best football in defence where he stuck to his guns and displayed courage under pressure. Frequently used for target practice by team mates.



Rebound Ace Award

E. "Teddy" SUSSEX

Chunky mid season draftee who made an immediate impression in the pivot where he displayed solid skills and a workmanlike approach to the game.



Hardware House Award

C.J. "Charlie" FORD

A naturally gifted, but injury prone sportsman who is capable of surprising everyone with his clever moves. Good value as a rover and forward who plays taller than his height. Loves a hover!



Fly Like an Angel Award

J.D. "Wah" HOWARD



Spin a Yarn Award

Entertaining standup comedian for whom football was just one stitch in the rich tapestry of life. Skilfully scouted packs in his guest appearances and cut oranges with flair and precision.

J. "Jimmy" DALLING



If You Need Me Award

Versatile defender who can also play in attack. Managed to squeeze a few games into his busy social schedule. Performed particularly well under pressure at Geelong.

T.W. "Tommy" HAYLOCK



Thanks for Coming Award

Multi talented sportsman whose ability could not be hidden from the A's coach for very long. After a couple of false starts he was promoted and became an integral part of the senior team.

A. "Tony" PEARSON

Solidly built forward from whom the ball could not be easily dislodged. Suffered from mysterious ailments during tough training sessions but was always fit for lunchtime rugby.



Bear in the Square Award

M.P. "Effers" EFRON

Another interrupted season for this talented left footer. Showed flashes of goal kicking ability before being struck down by injury. (again). *Medicare Award*



D. "Dayne" GEORGIUO

Promising defender who showed courage and strength when closely encountering opponents. Transferred to Clunes mid season



Bruce Lee Award

M. "Matty" OBERKLAID

A frustrating season for this skilled wingmen forced to temporarily hang up his boots due to a back injury. His comeback in the final round reminded us of what we had been missing.

Too Young to Retire Award



T. "Tom" INDIAN-MANNING

Showed potential in his rare appearances. *Lions Roar Award*



Lions stand firm

Country cousins kept at a safe distance

NATSEC LIONS 12. 8. 80

GW LIONS 6. 8. 44

GOALS: Paykel 5, Saunders 3, Sussex 2, A.Davis

BEST: Thompson, Willmott, Paykel, Sussex, Penberthy, Mulcahy, Francis, Saunders, Abbey, A.Davis, Mellington etc.

INJURIES: Mellington (face), Thompson (shin) Dalling (ribs)

GOAL of the DAY: A.Davis

MARKS of the DAY: Sussex and McMullin

DODGE of the DAY: Penberthy

HAIRCUT of the WEEK: Willmott

DODGIEST DECISION: Holding (or dropping?) the ball against Woodsy

SPOIL of the DAY: L.Davis

SPECIAL GUEST RUNNER: Seb

Happy with the form they had shown last week against Xavier, the NATSEC Lions were eagerly awaiting the "grudge" match against their country cousins the GW Lions. The good natured rivalry between the two teams goes back a long way, and any opportunity off the field is a good opportunity to sling a bit of mud in the other's direction. The Lions spent the best part of Thursday's training practising their on field mud slinging, so by Saturday morning they were well primed for the encounter at the Harry Trott Oval. Led by the quiet man of football, full back Jimmy Smith, the Lions entered the contest with a well balanced side. The loss of the roving division of Skurrie and Ford was a blow, but Willma and Davo were delighted to step into the breach. The absence of regular wingers Ginn and McDonald likewise allowed Nayls and Jimmy D to step up. A breeze was blowing off the lake when the skipper tossed and he sensibly chose to take advantage of the conditions for the opening term.



Defender Mike Mellington is pinned by his opponent.



Ruckman Dan Mulcahy squeezes out a handball

The wind may have been in the Lion's favour but the visitors played spirited football and successfully clogged up the scoring zone for much of the quarter. Fortunately the Lions were able to score an early goal courtesy of a clever snap from the boundary by centre-man Teddy Sussex. The kick began as a drop punt but turned into a reverse torpedo just in time to swing back through the big sticks. Big Dan Mulcahy was making an strong impression in the ruck and Willma overcame the handicap of a dodgy haircut to get into the thick of it early. Thommo looked as though he was going to be in for a big day, but his first attempt to score went astray and the Lions next effort was rushed through by a desperate opposition. Flynn was moving well despite having hyperextended his arm moments before Friday's PE class, and he was instrumental in helping Willma to send the ball forward in the direction of Lethal Leigh. A timely kick off the ground by the big fella put the ball in the back of the net and the Lions moved to a handy lead. Until now, thanks to Penbers, Mellers and Mulla, the Lions' half back line had been able to repel enemy advances, but at the fifteen minute mark, a stray terrorist managed to sneak under their guard and register an answering goal. At the first break the NATSEC Lions led by just 8 points, despite controlling most of the play during the opening stanza.

Kicking into the breeze required a change of tactics and the Lions switched to their short running game for the second quarter—and it paid handsome dividends. A delightful pass from Flynn hit Adam Paykel on the chest, but he was deep in the Port Melbourne pocket and his kick slewed across the face of the goals. The GW defenders gave the ball up for dead, but quick thinking by Alex kept it alive and he surprised everybody by gathering the Sherrin on the boundary and slotting it from a standing start. A lovely passage of play emanating from Mulla at half back and travelling for-

-ward via Dan and Willma, found Adam again in the hotspot. This time his kick travelled truly and the Lions moved further ahead. Lethal Leigh was using his strength constructively shepherding and blocking for his team mates - not to mention offering plenty of advice - and he deserved the opportunity to kick his second when Alex fed him a pass. GW rallied briefly and in a flurry of offensive activity they peppered the sticks at the Fitzroy Street end, but courageous play by Mellers, close checking by the skipper and intelligent use of the boundary by Bettsy (once he had set his radar) minimised their dividends. Jimmy had copped an elbow to the ribs and while he rested Woodsy collected a few stats on the members wing, whilst Nayls was displaying impressive form on the opposite side of the oval. Dashing dodging by Dicky set the switch in motion and lively play by Flynn gave Adam another set shot to bring up the team's sixth goal as the quarter drew to a close. GW hearts sunk as the Lions began to play keepings off. In a brilliant passage of play the ball was transported from one end of the ground to the other with a sequence of accurate disposals and clean possessions. Dicky to Adam to Willma to Alex to Flynn was fantastic, and the bushwhackers could only stand back and admire such cityslick football. At the long change the difference was twenty five points and the Lions were comfortably placed.



Rover Matt Willmott spoils a Glen Waverley mark

Making better use of the wind the second time around the Lions remained in control for most of the third term and gave the Channel 9 camera crew plenty of opportunities to record the purple and gold's exploits and boost their ratings. Abba continued to work hard around the ground and Thommo was busy with his characteristic second and third efforts, but it was Teddy Sussex who registered the first goal of the quarter after marking strongly and kicking truly. Adam was drawing the ball like a magnet once it crossed half forward and his trusty left boot didn't let him down as he snapped his third. It wasn't long before the Lion's lead was extended by Lethal Leigh as he brought up his third, but the visitors were able to answer when team comedian, Lachlan "Indian Rubber Man" Murdoch's distracting tactics backfired. His entertaining antics so amused his team mates Mulla and Smithy that their guard slipped mo-



Ruck rover Nick Abbey gets a quick kick under pressure

-mentarily and the opposition took advantage of the situation. The status quo was maintained however, when Paykel responded with a wobbly goal as the quarter drew to a close.

The coach's three quarter time address was punctuated by some curious sound effects from Paul Diamond's direction and the boys were quick to disperse and reclaim their positions for the final quarter.



Dave McMullin is stretched to the limit in this aerial contest



Simon Thompson bottles up the play at a crucial stage

Several special requests had been answered by the coach for the final twenty minutes. Mulla had gone forward whilst Leigh took up a defensive role, and Alex moved from the forward pocket to the back pocket to give the rucks more of a rest. Howie was back on a wing and Dymo was sent to take up his favoured half back position. Meanwhile, the opposition had regrouped, and they were determined to make one last ditch effort to gain the ascendancy. With a rush they attacked the ball and using the wind to their advantage they posted three unanswered goals. The Lions were shell shocked! It was usually them doing the last quarter comeback stuff, not their opponents. As Smithy sent out an SOS to his team mates fate intervened and the onslaught was temporarily quelled. Play was held up at first by a disputed goal umpiring decision, and secondly by a nasty knee injury to an unfortunate Glen Waverlian. These incidents were just what the Lions needed.



Adam Paykel had a field day snapping five of the best

Gathering his troops in the middle of the oval Smithy demanded their attention. "What we need now are cool heads. All we have to do is play percentage football. Hold the ball and share it around. Just don't panic!" Words of wisdom that did not fall on deaf ears. When play resumed the cityslickers wasted no time in wresting back control of the match. A long run by Penbers carried the ball into Paykel territory and the canny left footer slammed it onto his boot to bring up his fifth for the day. As the Lions held the ball in their offensive zone the opposition's enthusiasm began to dwindle, and as the clock ran down there was little they could do. The Lions now face the challenge of a tough return match with Scotch on the opposition's home turf. Can the purple and gold rise to the challenge? Watch this space.....



Goal umpire Smith confirms that the GW boot was over the line



Winger Tim Naylor lets fly with a bomb



Francis on the burst



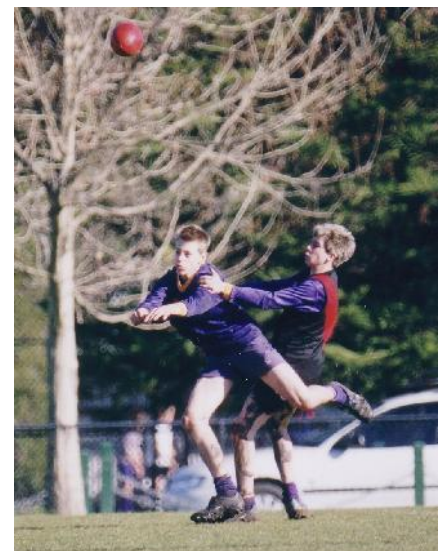
Abby seeks a target



"What did you say about Elsternwick? Lethal Leigh controls the situation"



Ruckman Dan Mulcahy gets his palm on the footy. Ted and Matt prepare to pounce



Lloyd Davis punches the ball clear

Saints champ bows out

but NATSEC Lions are the season's big improvers

WESLEY COLLEGE 7. 8. 50
SCOTCH COLLEGE 13. 11. 89

GOALS: A.Davis 2, Paykel 2, Francis, Sussex, Ford

BEST: Ford, Mellington, Sussex, Smith, Penberthy, Francis, L.Davis, Mulcahy, Oberklaid, McDonald, McMullin etc.

INJURIES: Abbey (Cheek), A.Davis (thigh), Murdoch (corky), Woods (mud in eye)

GOAL of the DAY: Ford

MARKS of the DAY: Ford (2), Willmott

PLAY of the DAY: Francis-Penberthy-McMullin
 -Penberthy-McDonald-Davis = GOAL

MOST COURAGEOUS PLAYER: Mellington

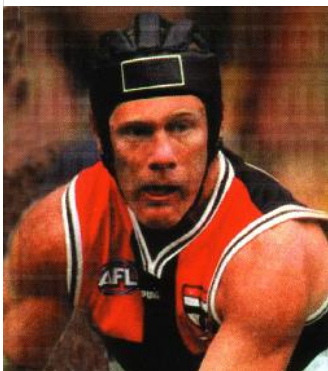
WHITEST SMILE of the WEEK: Castan

HAIRCUTS of the WEEK: Paykel, Stoney

COMEBACK of the WEEK: Oberklaid

It was a huge weekend in football. Not only did Saturday mark the conclusion of Nathan Burke's 17 year commitment to the St.Kilda F.C. but it also represented the end of an illustrious 30 game APS career for Wesley veteran Grant "Rowdy" Rowston. Saturday also signalled the end of an era for the NATSEC Lions who played their last match together as a team on the Meares Oval at Scotch College.

In a curious twist of fate the Lions were drawn to face the same opponents whom they had encountered in the identical place some four months earlier in the season opener. Beaten comprehensively on that occasion, the Lions showed on Saturday just how far they had travelled during the course of the season by taking the game up to their more experienced rivals, holding their own for most of the match and clearly taking the points during the final quarter. An achievement that was made even more creditable by the absence of their star forward Simon Thompson and talented on ballers, Dean Herbert and Sam Skurrie.



Two champions of our game. Nathan Burke & Grant Rowston



McMullin and Alex Davis fly but the Scotchies have the sit

Excitement was high during the week and the Lions found it even more difficult than usual to focus on the demanding training schedule prepared by their coach. A boycott of the warm up by a small lobby group caused some concern, but goal kicking practice and the regular Thursday evening prakky brought out the best in the squad and there was no doubt that the boys would be primed for Saturday's season finale. Goalsneak, Adam Paykel was appointed skipper for the match and the mysteriously absent Alex Davis his deputy.



"It's mine and you can't have it!" A determined McDonald

Overnight rain had softened the oval and for the second week in a row Penbers was concerned that he may not be able to challenge his seven bounce PB. Fortunately the showers had cleared and a wintry sun was illuminating the freeway flank as Umpire Matthews set the ball in motion. Scotch was first to register a major but the Lions bounced back as the skipper slammed the answer through the hockey field goals. The Lions were

matching their opponents in the midfield but some of their team mates were a little tentative and not always prepared to man up closely on the Scotchys. A courageous mark by Mulla showed what could be done, and Lloyd and Dicky were certainly not backward in their attack on the footy, but when the ball moved forward the enemy were able to rebound with relative ease. Charlie was in fine touch early and Matt Oberklaid, making a welcome return to the game after twelve frustrating months on the sidelines with a back injury, was making up for lost time by running from one corner of the ground to the other. Dicky and the neatly coiffured Abba impressed their fans when they performed the old one-two with consummate ease, but it was the Scotchys who added two more majors whilst the Lions could only advance their tally by single digits. Danno was contesting strongly in the ruck and Macca was showing his usual desperation despite a recent bout of flu. At the first change the Lions trailed by just two straight kicks and the feeling in their camp was positive. If his team could increase the pressure on their opponents and be more direct in their attack on goal the coach felt that a victory - however unexpected - was not out of the question.



"Mine!" Davis and Murdoch forced to make a quick decision

The wind became a factor in the second quarter as it appeared to pick up enough to guarantee the home team a decided edge. Nevertheless, Teddy continued to make his presence felt in the pivot as he worked the ball forward where Betsy and Lethal Leigh were presenting themselves with more purpose. In combination they were able to set the skipper up and he made the most of the opportunity to post his team's second, but sadly Scotch replied twice over and the Lions next effort was thwarted. Nails had been continuing his good form on the members wing but it was time for the Colgate Kid, Rowan Castan to strut his stuff. Mellers was playing fearless football at half back and a courageous diving mark encouraged his team mates to take the challenge up to Scotch, but they were continuing to find unmanned targets in the forward line and three successive



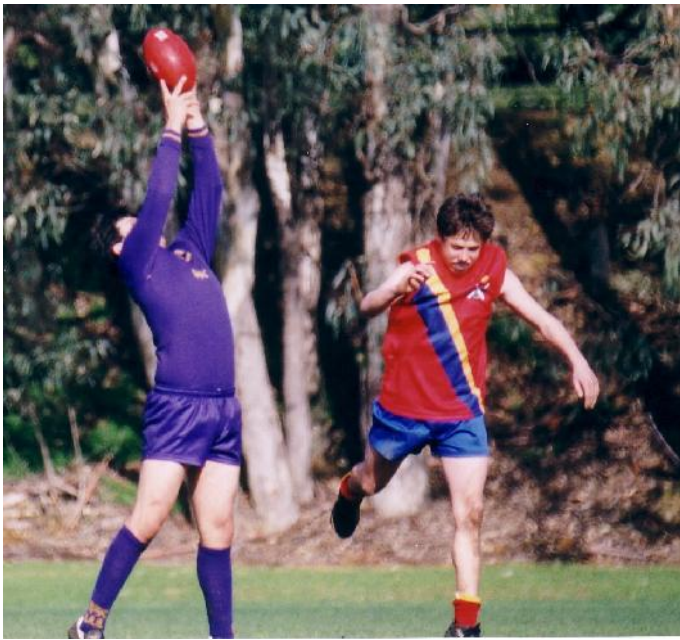
Flynn Francis watches for the ball but Charlie's got it already

goals put a dampener on the Lions' optimism. Flynn and Lethal attempted to set Willma up on the siren for a shot on goal, but as in the case of the skipper's subsequent effort the space between the big sticks proved hard to find. At the long change the Lions trailed by 37 points and were in danger of losing touch with their opponents.

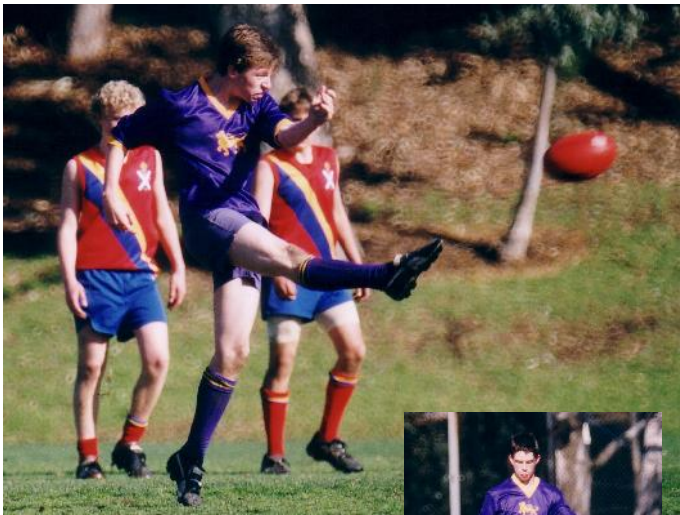
The combination of glucose and citric acid (and a serve from their full forward) provided a powerful hit for the Lions and their performance was enhanced sufficiently during the third term to give heart to their vast army of supporters. Led by their hero "Clever" Charlie Ford, the first year Lions lifted their contributions all around the ground. Dymo put his body on the line in defence, Howie scouted the packs with enthusiasm and "Plugger" Pearson worked hard to lock the ball in the scoring zone. Woodsy would have made an appearance earlier if it hadn't been for his so-called "mate" Matt who ensured his own return to the field of play by temporarily rendering little Stevie incapacitated by rubbing his face in the mud (or perhaps it was revenge for the infamous caramel milk throwing incident of Thursday evening?). Whatever. Eventually Woodsy was given his chance in time to witness Charlie flying high over a Scotch pack to take a screamer.



Charlie Ford crashes to the ground after taking a screamer



Lethal Leigh Saunders holds his ground & takes a strong grab



TOP: Oberklaid clears
ABOVE: Penberthy passes



Nick Abbey shows the scars of battle



Lloyd Davis on the run
RIGHT: The big men fly



Teddy produced a brilliant second effort to kick the Lions' first goal of the quarter and Mellers kicked long to find Lethal who marked strongly, but it was Flynn who registered the follow up thanks to another mark and accurate pass from Ford. Sadly, whilst all this was happening the Scotchies added three goals of their own and at the final change they led by 43 points.

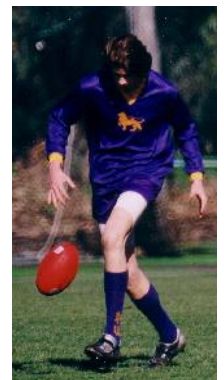
Playing for pride and the pleasure of each other's company the Lions approached the final twenty minutes of their season with renewed enthusiasm. With Lloyd on the ball, Macca at full forward, Mulla at CHF and Lethal in defence the team sparked into life. A clever snap from the pocket by Charlie produced the Lions' fifth goal and the Scotchies attempted to find an answer but Smithy was unpassable at full back, punching and rebounding whenever danger threatened. Danno dropped down to assist and Lachy Murdoch, the team's stand up fall down comedian used his flexible limbs to his team's advantage. A superb passage of teamwork held together by the all dodging all running Penberthy resulted in a goal to Alex as he converted a second effort. With Teddy resting his weary limbs, Obers had moved into the square and a brilliant clearance gave Alex another opportunity to advance the Lions' score and increase the pressure on the home team.. He made no mistake and the purple and gold had registered a very respectable 7.8 on the Moccapan scoreboard. Once again the Lions' had outscored their opponents during the final term and their hearty rendition of the traditional Wesley warcry was well warranted. The turn around since Round One had been appreciable and the Lions could be well proud of their achievements. As the boys gathered for a team-photo to commemorate their season the emotion of the moment was so great that the entire front row collapsed—or perhaps it was something that Dymo had said ... or done.



Mike Mellington



Dave McMullin



Lachy Murdoch





LOVE A GOAL!

There's no doubt about it...the dream of every young player is to snap the impossible goal from the boundary. It's the only reason some of us go to training - except for the prakkys of course!

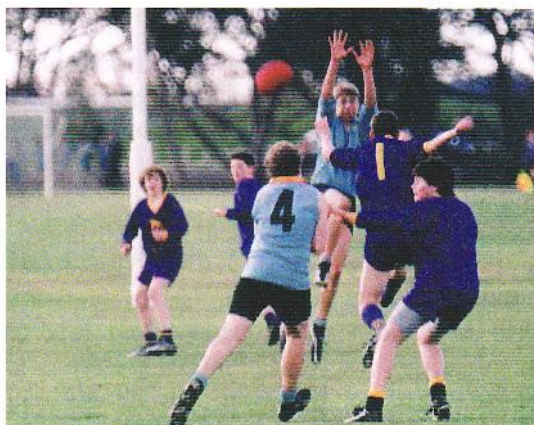
with *Adam*

GOALS OF THE YEAR

Although we don't have photos of all the great goals kicked by my team mates this season we do have a few of the contenders on film.



Charlie's snap from the pocket at Scotch was a beauty, but he also threaded a matchwinner at Caulfield



Goals were pretty hard to come by at Geelong but Penbers booted a sensational one on the run



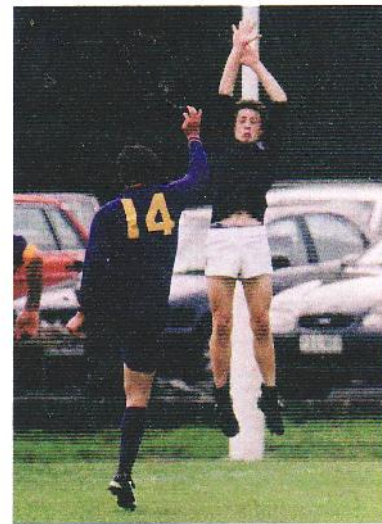
Alex surprised everybody with a clever goal against GW but this one under pressure was very impressive



Dave "Mr. Ambidextrous" McMullin has just snapped a fantastic goal with his left at Caulfield

2003 GOALKICKERS

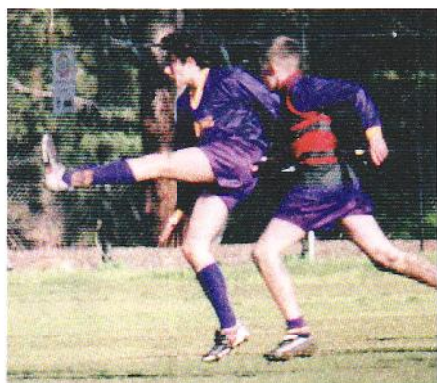
L. SAUNDERS	14
A. PAYKEL	12
F. FRANCIS	8
A. DAVIS	7
S. THOMPSON	4
E. SUSSEX	4
R. PENBERTHY	4
C. FORD	3
T. HAYLOCK	3
S. SKURRIE	2
M. EFRON	2
D. McMULLIN	2
J. OSOWICKI	2
D. SALLMAN-BETTS	1
S. WOODS	1
A. PEARSON	1
T. HENDERSON	1
R. CASTAN	1
D. HERBERT	1



My big mate "Lethal" Leigh Saunders has been known to complain about a few things on the field but he couldn't complain about these photos! He certainly lived up to his nickname with a bag of 8 against Melbourne Grammar.



I prefer the sneaky snaps to the booming bombs. Here are a couple of my successes



Jesse plays most of his footy in defence but he couldn't resist a dash downfield against St.Kevins and isn't he happy with himself!



Practice makes perfect! Woodsy and Matt work late into the night searching for that elusive, impossible goal



FRONT AND SQUARE

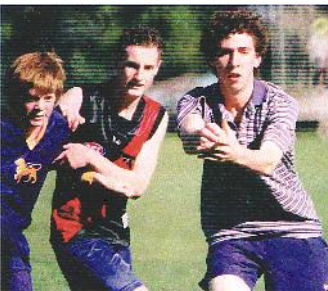


with *Skuzz*

G'day! I did such a good job last year that they invited me back to give you a few more pointers on the ancient art of handball. I've been lucky enough to be joined by some of my talented teammates, so let's go!



Not exactly front and square, but Mell has done well here



Charles is a bit of a Wannabe but he's got the right idea here



Oh, Oh! I reckon Dicky's a goner!



What a great give! Notice how I've gained an extra 2/3rds of a metre by stretching my arms



Good stuff Lloyd! Everybody's after him but there's no way they'll pin him and stop Mulla taking the ball away.



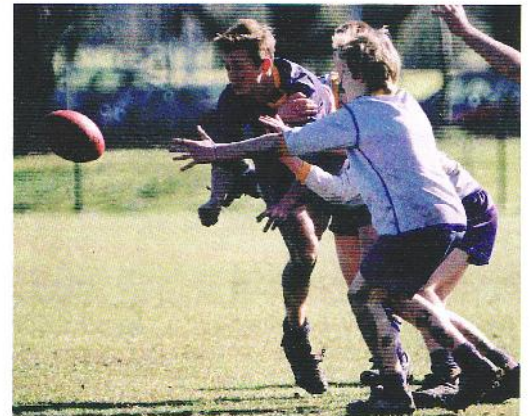
Jesse has done exceptionally well here to extricate the ball from a busy pack and whip the ball out in Jimmy's direction, but I don't like the young fella's chances. He could get hammered here



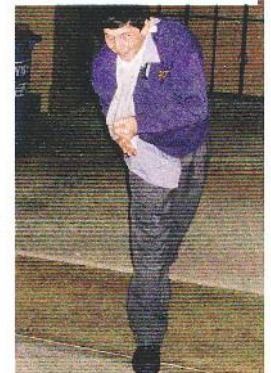
Nice work by the Grammarian here—much to Thommo's disgust



Under a bit of pressure here, but as usual I've re-mained cool and calm as I feed off a slick pass



Best known for his aerial work, Big Dan can be a determined customer when the ball hits the deck. Here he shoots out a lightning pass



Charlie tries a one hander after breaking his wrist. What a brave little soldier



Fit for Footy with Hendo

You might think it's a bit strange that I should be doing a page on fitness seeing as I'm always injured, but when you can't front up on a Saturday you're always looking for ways to amuse yourself and be ready for a comeback.



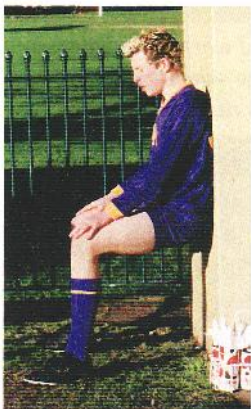
Of course your basic fitness can be maintained by running and jogging. Smithy and Dymo are really pushing the fitness envelope here.



Like a true Wesleyan Dicky is always thinking outside the square. Here he introduces his team mates to Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese fitness program.

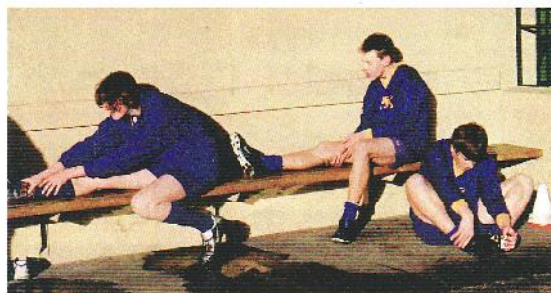


We used to think that the Geelong boys kept fit kicking bags of wheat over the barn or wrestling sheep, but this season we discovered their secret! They work out on these weird rugby scrumming machines. We'll have to get one!



A cool photo of the traditional pre-match run through on the Front Turf

Stretching before a big game is a must if you don't want to do a hammy or strain your groin. In the picture above you can see a group of Lions warming up. Matt and Steve seem to be doing a spot of tongue stretching. Furniture can be useful as a stretching aid. On the right Lachy and Lloyd are doing a lateral split on the bench, but I'm not exactly sure what Nick is stretching in the picture above. Bettsy's showing better balance below than he does on the field!



Matt and Woodsy practise a bit of teamwork whilst Josh tries a spot of folk dancing



Dicky has a pretty amazing leap on the footy field. Here you can see him working out.

I think this is Tyler. A handy lunchtime footballer but clearly a better Acrobat!





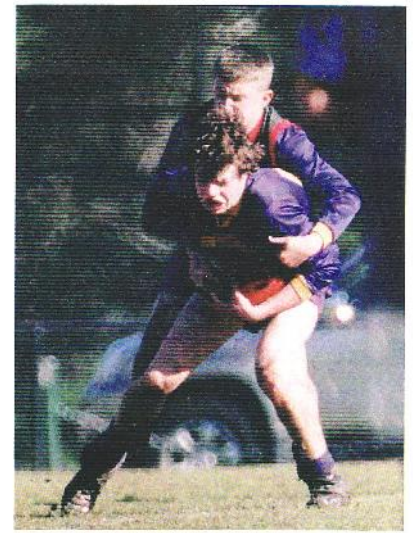
TAKE NO PRISONERS!

says *Jesse*

Tackling really separates the men from the boys. In some forgotten pockets of the Western suburbs tackling and being tackled are important components of the coming of age rituals that still take place to mark the turning point in a boy's life. Are you tough enough to enter into the world of men? I reckon most of my team mates are! Have a look at them.



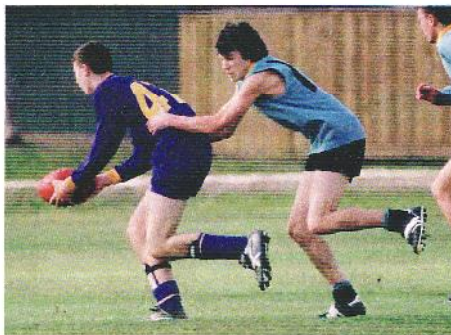
Dayne's martial arts training comes in handy on the footy field. Here he is about to lay a seriously solid tackle



What a top tackle! Poor Mell!



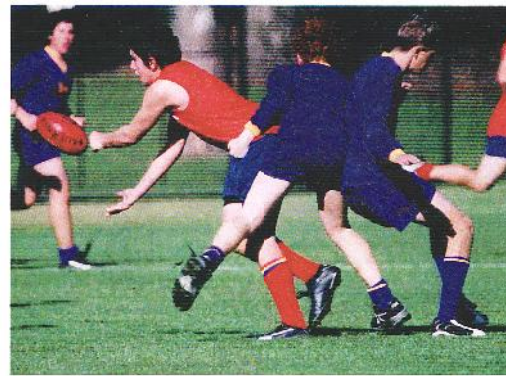
Look at the determination written all over Stu's face! Good to see he's focusing on the Scotchie's hips.



Although under pressure Dave and Thommo have managed to keep their arms clear so the effectiveness of their opponent's tackles is minimised



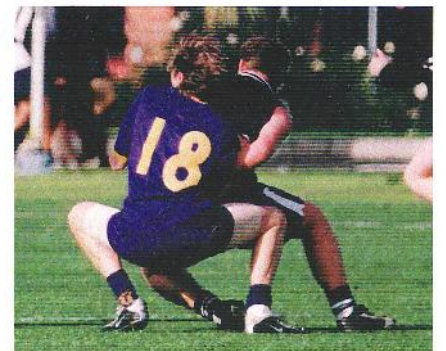
If you're going to lay a tackle you may as well make sure your target remembers it later! Effers is moving into stage two here. In a moment the Scotchie will hit the deck. Dicky has moved to stage three—but the umpire might have some thing to say about this particular move!



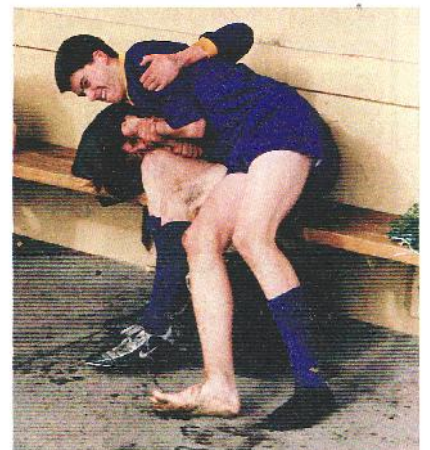
We were getting desperate against Scotch so Stu and I tried a double act. Note how he is providing me with a bit of extra stability.



Alex has slipped a headlock on this unsuspecting PEGGER. Nice move if you can get away with it!



Lachy Murdoch prepares for the old "heave-ho" from a squatting position



Lachy and Dicky spend a lot of time rehearsing their moves but not many of them sit comfortably within the laws of the game. Wrestling is a no-no!



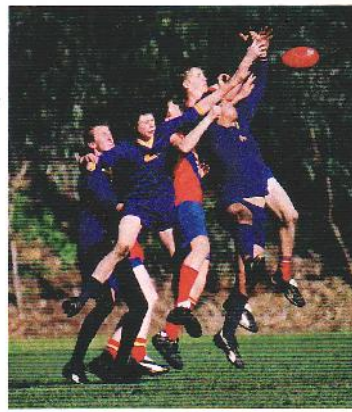
UP THERE CAZALY!

with
Charlie Ford

G'DAY THRILL SEEKERS! What's the point of living if you don't take a few risks? Even though I broke my thumb and my wrist this season I'd do it all again because the buzz of excitement always outweighs the pain and suffering caused by a bandage and a sling. My advice is to go for the specky! Don't wait for the ball just hover!



Stu has a classical style but he doesn't get off the ground much. Perhaps he should be doing ballet with Billy Elliott.



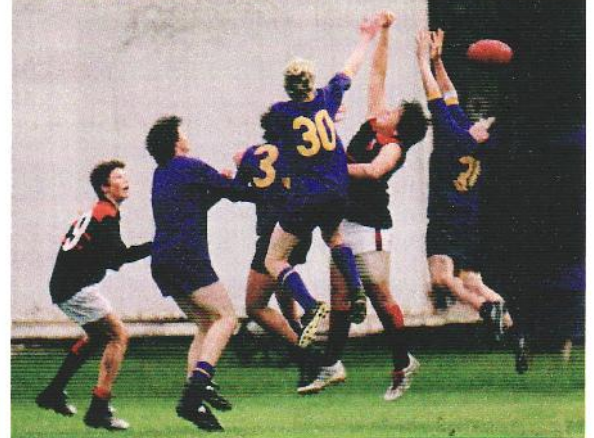
Great choreography fellas but tell me, who's really gonna mark it? Leigh looks more like a bedside lamp. Jump son!



Not one of my better efforts this. Somebody must have pushed me



This was a beauty but Stoney was a bit slow with the shutter. I really flew!



Dammit! I had the back of the pack sit and I muffed it.



Lunchtime is the perfect opportunity to practise taking screamers. You're also guaranteed an audience of girls! This is a nice one hander by young Alex



Thommo has gone the fly but it looks like Alex has out gunned him! Dennis has got no idea! Typical A's player!

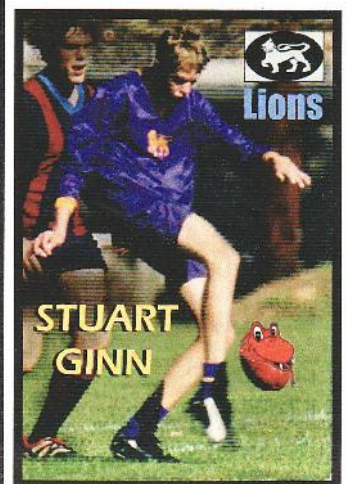


Thommo's got this one, but I'm afraid Dennis just isn't up to it



Great grab from behind by Thommo. Why does Dennis even bother?

Quit Smokefree HEROES



D.O.B. 18/12/88

AFL TEAM SUPPORTED: Bombers

HEROES AS A KID: James Hird

FAVE AFL PLAYERS: James Hird, Matty

Lloyd and the rest of the Bomber team

OTHER CLUBS PLAYED FOR: Aberfeldie

FC and Resurrection FC

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Resurrection vs Calder Rise. We won with a goal kicked after the siren. The ball bounced through and the other team forgot to stop it!

GREATEST FEAR IN LIFE: Nightmares

FAVOURITE FILM: Spiderman or Monty

Python and the Holy Grail

FAVE SINGER OR BAND: Evanescence

TALENTS APART FROM FROM FOOTY:

My singing voice

YOUR ULTIMATE NON-FOOTY FANTASY

To become extremely rich without ever going to school again.



Prakkys after training are an awesome idea and if it's not too dark you can hang around even later to practise your goal kicking or explore your hovering potential. Matty Willmott is my assistant in these shots. Fly like an eagle Charlie Ford!





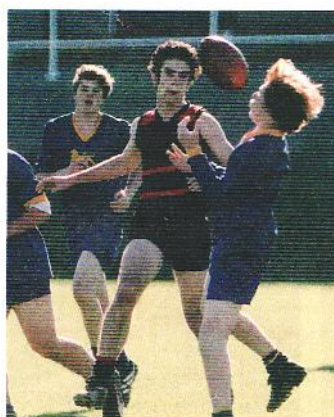
Flynn Francis
says hold your marks and allow

NO SPILLAGE

Marking is such a basic part of our game that most young players don't give it a thought which is all very well if you never drop one but if you do I can help you with some words of advice so listen up!



Not bad Matt but I'd like to see your body a bit closer to the ball



That's better but I don't like the look on the Xavier thug's face!



Thommo has made a lovely cradle for the footy and he's off



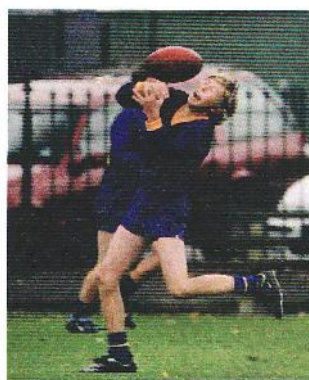
Solid and sure!



Interesting style Dicky



Not exactly a chest mark Tom!



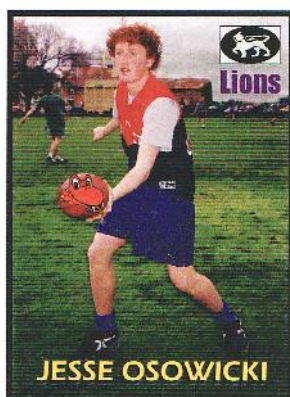
Nothing worse than a greasy ball!



That's better Skuzz!



A rare aerial chest grab by Teddy



Do blondes have more fun?

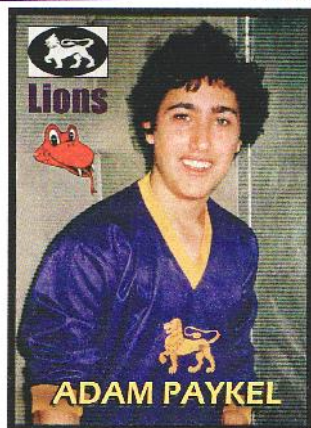
Ask Lion star Nick Abbey or try **PERFECTONE** yourself!



Pocket Profile

Lions

ADAM PAYKEL



D.O.B. 8/12/87

HEROES AS A KID: S.O.S.

FAVE AFL TEAM: Carlton

FAVE AFL PLAYERS:

Fevola, Angwin

CLUBS PLAYED FOR:

Ajax, Bialik College

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:

Against Glen Waverley when I kicked 5 goals to everyone's surprise after a shocking night at training on Thursday

MOST ADMIRED TEAMMATE:

Betsy—determination is written all over him

MOST ENTERTAINING TEAMMATE:

Leigh. Why? It speaks for itself doesn't it?

7 DREAM GUESTS AT DINNER

Steve Silvagni, Pat Rafter, Rove, Pamela Anderson, Greg Norman, Andrew McKay

FAVOURITE FILM:

Shawshank

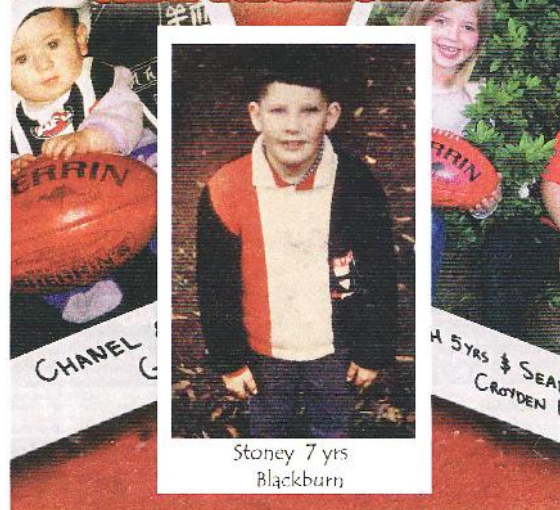
FAVOURITE MUSOS:

Chillies

GREATEST TALENT APART FROM FOOTBALL:

Golf, tennis, playing guitar

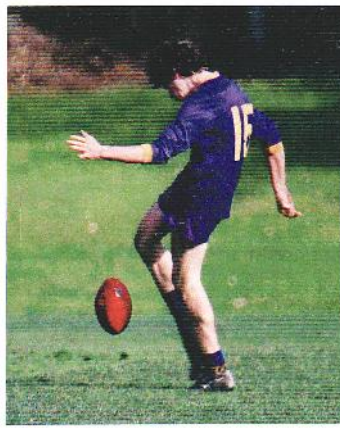
SHERRIN the Fun and Memories





End Over End with Dave McMullin

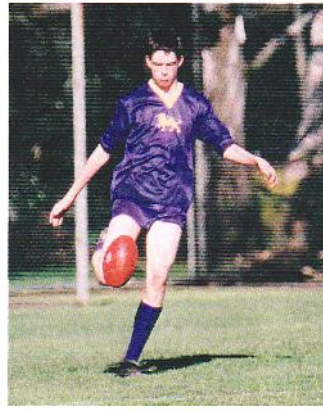
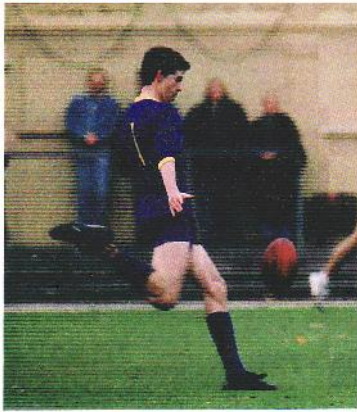
It's a simple game really. One word, two syllables. When your foot meets the ball you get football. So when you get the chance do it properly!



WATCH THE BALL



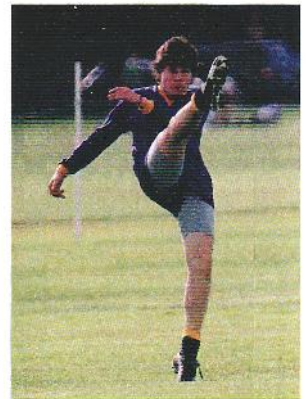
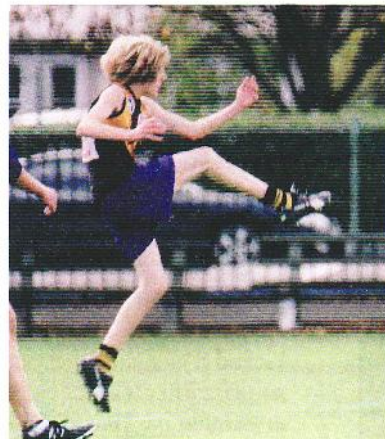
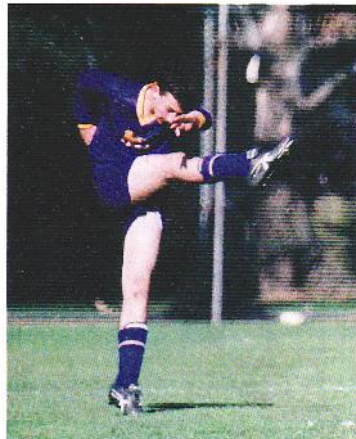
Check out the style of some of my team mates. Dicky is a delight to watch. Beautiful poise. Mell is very intense. His whole body is focused on the ball. Jesse looks like he's practicing his hakki sack skills



KEEP YOUR BALANCE

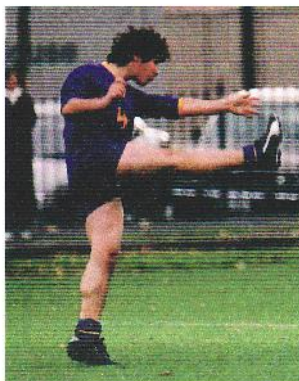


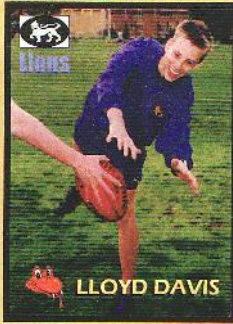
Balance means control so stay on line and keep your feet. Nick and Adam are using their arms for stability but Bettsy's got a bit of a lean up! I hope he's not going to fall over again!



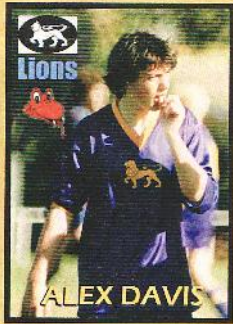
A BIT OF OOMPH!

The follow through is critical and can make the difference between a long bomb and a hospital pass! Don't look sharp! Thommo is all elegance. Flynn's got an awesome extension whilst Deano is chunkiness personified. Paul is a nuggetty little bloke and when he grows a bit his kicks will really fly!

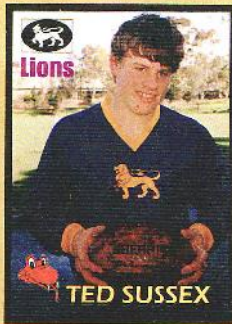




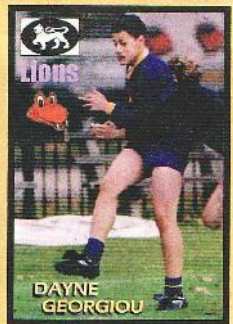
LLOYD DAVIS



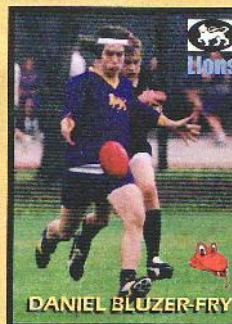
ALEX DAVIS



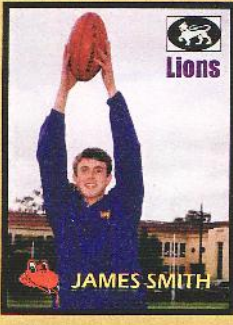
TED SUSSEX



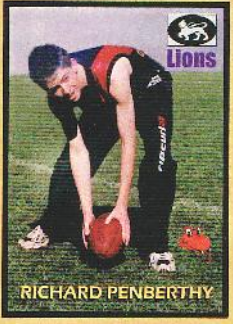
DAYNE GEORGIU



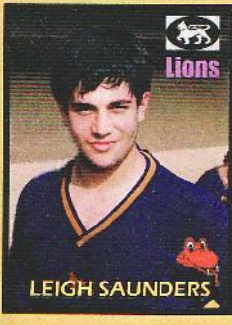
DANIEL BLUZER-FRY



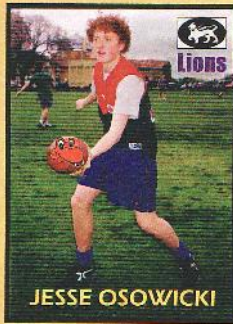
JAMES SMITH



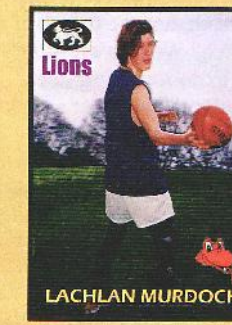
RICHARD PENBERTHY



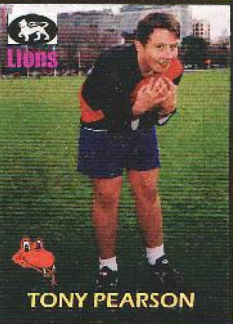
LEIGH SAUNDERS



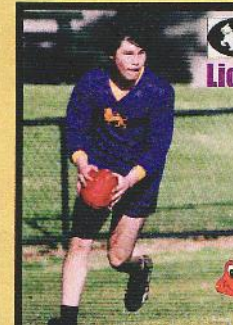
JESSE OSOWICKI



LACHLAN MURDOCH



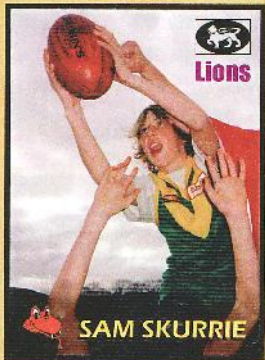
TONY PEARSON



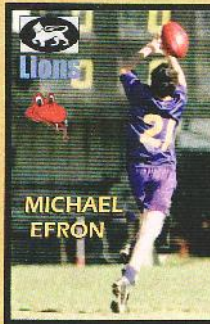
FLYNN FRANCIS



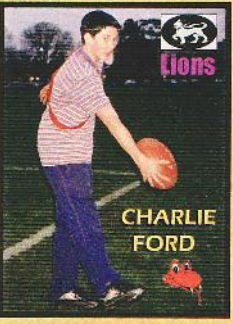
Brought to you by *Natural Snakes*



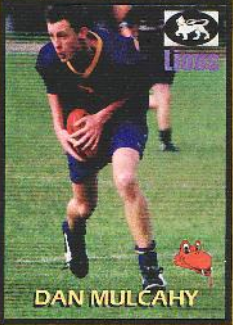
SAM SKURRIE



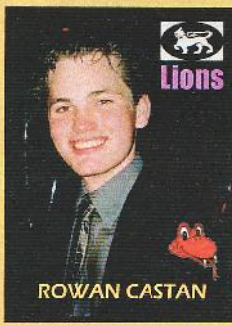
MICHAEL EFRON



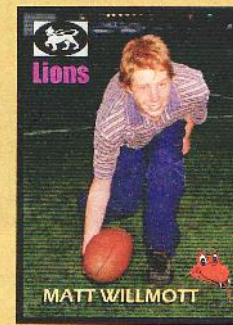
CHARLIE FORD



DAN MULCAHY



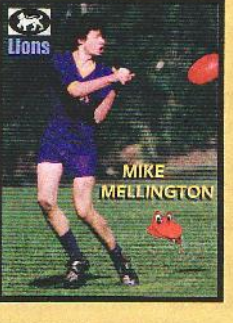
ROWAN CASTAN



MATT WILLMOTT



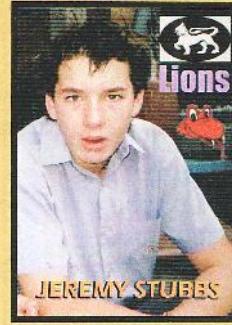
LACHLAN McDONALD



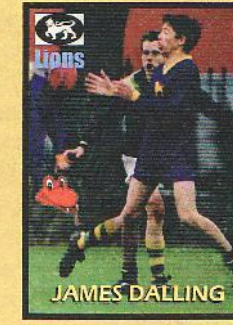
MIKE MELLINGTON



TOM HAYLOCK



JEREMY STUBES



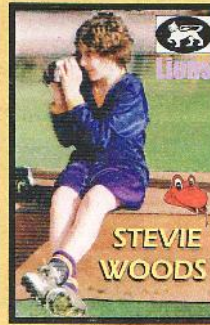
JAMES DALLING



MATT OBERKLAI



TOM INDIAN-MANNING



STEVIE WOODS

2003 Lions Footy Cards

Collect the full set!



1%ERS

with
TEDDY

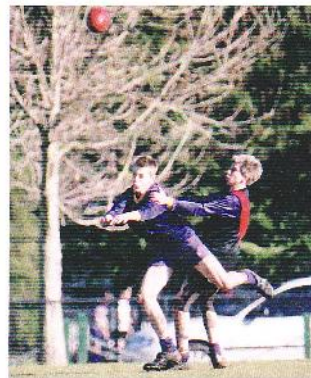
Hi fans!
Do you switch off when you hear the coach say "One percenters"? What's the point you might ask yourself. How can a bump or a dummy run or a shepherd change the course of a match? Wouldn't it be better to do something spectacular like fly over a pack or run the length of the field? Maybe... but how many times have you seen the video of Wayne Harms in the 1979 Grand Final? I rest my case!



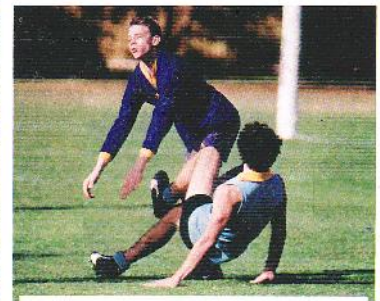
Bettsy holds a Xavvy at bay and clears a space for Deano to escape



Fantastic spoil by Matty Willmott



Smithy spoils with a timely punch



Desperate smothering by Lloyd

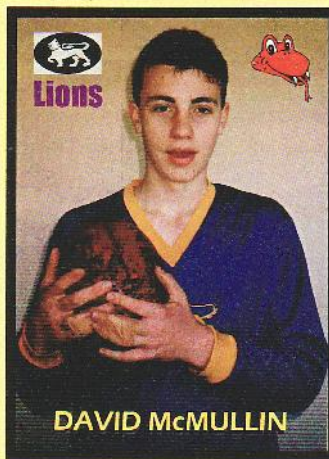


Stu uses his long arms to shepherd

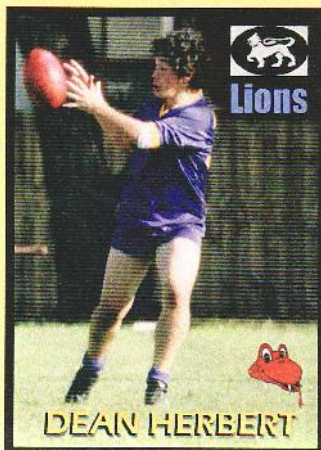
2003 APS RISING STARS

A number of young Lions caught the eye of the AFL scouts this season. Impressive displays by Centre Half Forward **Simon Thompson** and consistent performances from forward flanker **Flynn Francis** earned each player regular **Rising Star** votes, whilst flashes of brilliance from **Charlie Ford** placed him in the spotlight late in the season. However, the joint winners of this year's award are **David McMullin** and **Dean Herbert**.

Dave proved to be a mainstay of the team this year with his solid efforts at Centre Half Back. His no fuss commitment to the Lions' cause was instrumental in the club's success. Dave's ability to read the play, his strong overhead marking and his ambidexterity allowed him to block and rebound at will. Dave has already attracted the attention of AFL scouts and is a member of the Development Squad for the Oakleigh Chargers. A big future awaits!



DAVID McMULLIN



Lions

DEAN HERBERT

Dean was a dominant figure in the first half of the Lions' season before attracting the attention of the A's coach and earning a promotion to the Senior team. His consistently fearless, hard-at-the-ball approach made him an ideal pack hunter, but his value to the team did not stop there! An ability to extract the ball from tight situations, turn on a sixpence and show his opponents a clean pair of heels made him a coach's dream. A future tiger!

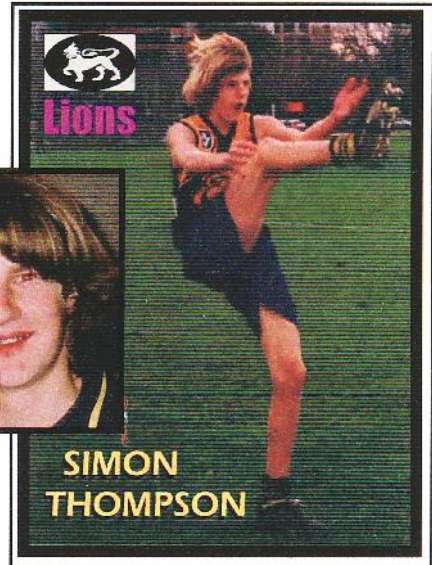
Pocket Profile

Lions

SIMON THOMPSON



SIMON THOMPSON



D.O.B. 30/9/88

SPORTING HEROES AS A KID: Buddha
FAVOURITE AFL PLAYERS: Joel Corey, Paul Chapman, Michael Voss

OTHER CLUBS PLAYED FOR: Williamstown

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: vs. Caulfield

MOST ADMIRED TEAM MATE: Lachy McDonald. He's always hard at it.

MOST ENTERTAINING TEAM MATE:

Flynn— don't ask me why.. He just is!

SCARIEST MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE:

Being locked in my bedroom with the lights out

7 DREAM GUESTS AT A DINNER PARTY:

5 Iron Maidens, Delta Goodren, the Dalai Lama

FAVOURITE FILM: Blue Streak

FAVOURITE BAND: Iron Maiden

APART FROM FOOTY WHAT ARE YOUR GREATEST TALENTS:

Drawing & playing the guitar

YOUR ULTIMATE NON-FOOTY FANTASY:

To play guitar for a multimillion dollar rock band

Never Say Die!



Hi kids! You know what I hate most about footy? I hate EASY BALL GETS. Receivers give me the irrits! I reckon you should earn your pozzys. The same goes for the other team. Don't ever let them clock up uncontested stats. *Never give up!*

with **Macca**



No Scotchy is going to get the ball off me!



You've got to love Bettsy! He mightn't be the fastest thing on two legs, but get him on all fours and he will fight to the proverbial death!



"Come back here and I'll bite your ankle!"



"Damn! I shouldn't have worn the mouldeds!"



"Grab him Effer! He's my man!"



Poor old Jack Watts! He's left himself wide open and is about to be polcaxed by Rocca. His brother Fergus is taking a keen interest in proceedings, but his mate Feldy looks more concerned.

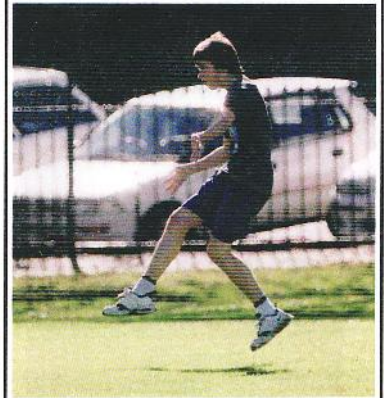


Both Thommo and his opponent seem to know the answer to the \$25,000 question but Thommo looks to be a little more confident.



Lloyd and Frenchy analysing the controversial Front Turf surface.

COULD HAVE BEEN CHAMPIONS DEPT.



Timmy Metcalfe fancied himself as a footy star but he was stuck in a hockey team. When his big chance came and he was actually selected to play against Xavier he forgot to get out of bed.



Seb managed to avoid selection this season by cleverly missing every training session. That's about 25 Friday Detentions coming up Seb!

"Hi mum... I kicked a goal today.."

Join a Telstra plan now!

DAVID SALLMAN-BETTS

Pocket Profile

Lions

TED SUSSEX

D.O.B. 28/12/88

SPORTING HEROES AS A KID:

Steve Waugh, Shane Warne

FAVE AFL TEAM: Carlton

FAVE AFL PLAYERS: Kouta, Darren Hulme

OTHER CLUBS PLAYED FOR:

Fitzroy Lions

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR GAME: Ross McMullin

MOST MEMORABLE GAME: Under 10 Grand Final

MOST ENTERTAINING TEAM MATE: Paul Diamond

7 DREAM GUESTS AT A DINNER PARTY: Pamela Anderson, Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, Delta Goodrem, Miss Labb, Eliza D, Miss Teen Universe

FAVE FILM: Tom Cats **FAVE SINGER:** Eminem

YOUR GREATEST TALENT APART FROM FOOTBALL:

Cricket





KICKING THE COVER

I dunno what it is about a footy, but once I get my hands on a Sherrin I just want to roost a monster torpedo. It feels so good when you get onto one!

With DH



Charlie gives his opponent the slip



The elusive Skuzza in action. A great sight.

GOING LONG



A classic roost from Hendo. Superb!



Hendo again. He is a master of the centre clearance.

BREAKING CLEAR



What poise! Another valuable clearance coming up.



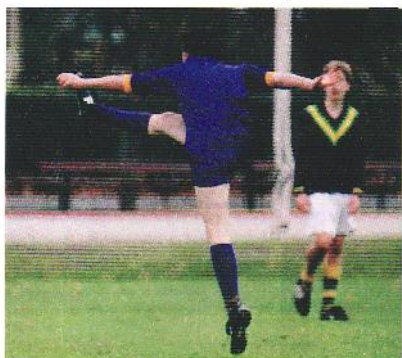
There's not much meat on him, but tall guys like Stu can get plenty of leverage in their kicks.



Paul goes for distance. This one looks good off the boot



Yours truly stretching out. Not always easy to keep your balance kicking on the run.



Maximum extension. Alex is all straight lines here. Mull's a bit tight but has power to



Lachy Murdoch says

*"Drink cheap no-name Cola"
Guaranteed to put hairs on your chest...
(If you're a guy that is)*



ask Rowan
Question of the week



Hey kids, here's a great chance to get the goss on your favourite Lions star. Popular utility player **Rowan Castan** is waiting for your letters. Drop him a line and go in the barrel for some big prizes! *The Question of the Week* will receive a \$50 voucher to the Middle School Tuckshop.

Dear Rowan, I've just had bands put on my teeth and now my mouthguard won't fit. I tried to play footy without it but my mum cracked a spazz. What should I do?
Luke, 13, Brighton PS How do you get the bits of food out of your bands?

Well Luke, it's all ancient history for me, coz I'm band free these days. But I haven't forgotten what it was like! I remember one day when I deliberately left my mouthguard at home but my mum drove all the way out to Essendon with it! Anyway, it was all worth while coz once the bands came off the women came running. So hang in there!
Rowan



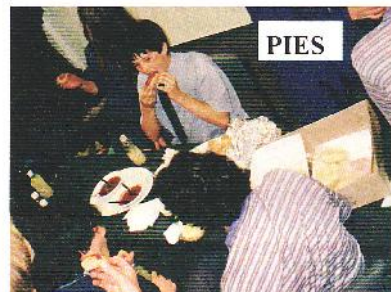
Food for Footy with Tony

Maximise your potential by eating good tucker!

Don't stuff up by stuffing up on the food all those diet and nutrition books talk about. Eat for taste! You can't play good footy if you've just eaten a boring meal of pasta and broccoli. And what's the point of drinking carrot juice when there's a bottle of Coke in the fridge? Build your diet around pies, hot dogs and fizzy drinks.



HOT DOGS



PIES



COLA



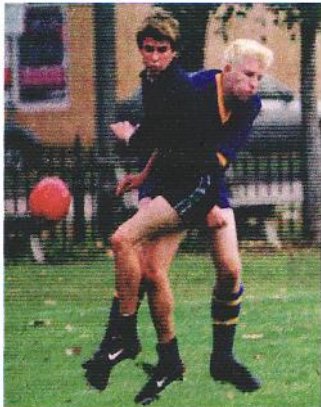
CRUNCH!

Footy's no game For wimps but I can't understand why everybody wants to beat me up all the time.

with Paul



Ouch! You trod on my thumb you careless boy! Go the ball!



I'm not sure if Abba's crash and bash tactics are having the desired effect here. I think he's in pain.



Stu practises a sideways shove on Tom the Red Indian



See what I mean! Even Dicky is trying to squash me. What did I do to him?



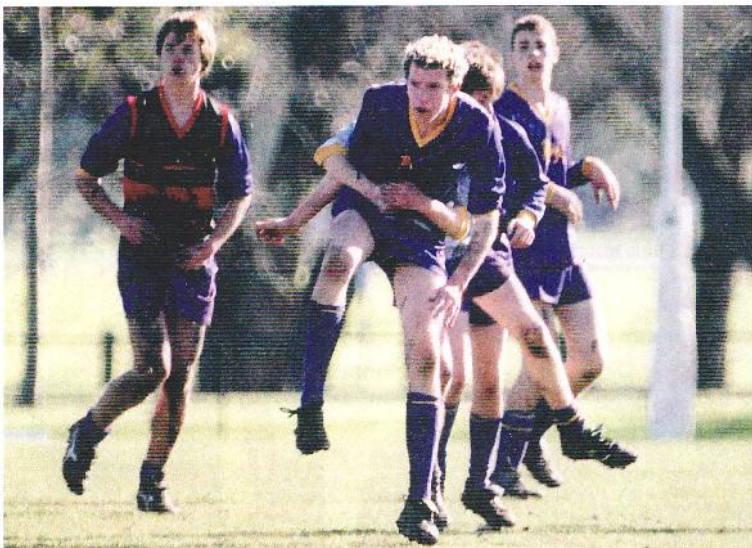
Elliot and Jesse are about to serve Jaxson up in a sandwich!



Will's a soccer player so he hasn't learnt to protect himself—and doesn't Jesse know it!



The ultimate rush! A team crush



Nick Abbey in action against Glen Waverley at the Harry Trott

Pocket Profile

Lions

PAUL DIAMOND

D.O.B. 5/9/88 **FAVE AFL TEAM:** Saints
SPORTING HERO AS A KID: Steve Kernahan
FAVE AFL PLAYERS: Nick Reiwooldt, Xavier Clark
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON GAME: Older team mates
OTHER CLUBS PLAYED FOR: Glen Iris
MOST MEMORABLE CAREER MATCH: My two Grand Finals because they were so fun
MOST ENTERTAINING TEAM MATE: Josh because he's so funny
SCARIEST MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE: When I fell off my scooter
7 DREAM GUESTS AT A DINNER PARTY: Jennifer Lopez, Pamela Anderson, Miss Teen USA, Miss Universe, Claudia S, Calvin Klein and Hugh Hefner.
FAVE FILM: American Pie 1,2 & 3
FAVE BAND: Men at Work
GREATEST TALENT APART FROM FOOTBALL: Breaking wind



Medibank Private

*"Are you injury prone like me?" asks Lion star **Charlie Ford**. "Don't wait for an accident to happen. Cover yourself now!"*



Pocket Profile

Lions

NICK ABBEY

D.O.B. 26/12/87 **FAVE AFL TEAM:** Doggies
SPORTING HEROES AS A KID: Chris Grant, Dougie Hawkins, Brad Johnson
FAVE AFL PLAYERS: Mathew Robbins, Luke Darcy
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON GAME: Dad
OTHER CLUBS PLAYED FOR: Strathmore and Prahran FCs
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Coming from behind to beat Caulfield.
MOST ADMIRED TEAM MATES: Lloyd Davis always goes in hard and never stops trying. Tom Henderson is a fabulous team man and a classy midfielder
MOST ENTERTAINING TEAM MATE: No prizes for guessing this! It has to be Lachy Murdoch
7 DREAM GUESTS AT A DINNER PARTY: Michael "Flea" Balazary, Brad Johnson, Kurt Cobain, Milla Jovovich, Eddie Murphy, John Travolta and Keifer Sutherland
FAVOURITE FILM: Resident Evil
FAVOURITE BANDS: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Nirvana
GREATEST TALENTS APART FROM FOOTY: Hockey, music, writing
ULTIMATE NON-FOOTY FANTASY: To be an awesome musician and to release good albums

Hi kids! This is the part of the Footy Record just for you. We hope that you have as much fun reading it as we had making it!

MYSTERY PLAYER

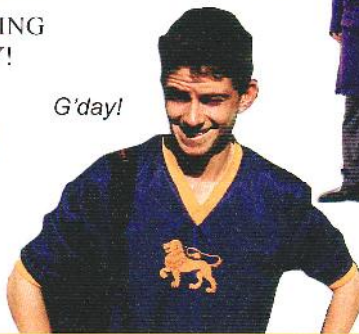


Can you guess who's wearing the hard hat & the flanny?



ME BEING SILLY!

G'day!



Come and get me Jackie Chan!



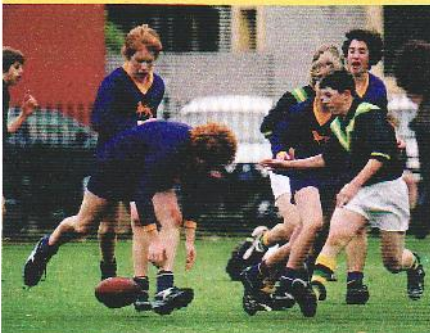
JOKES

Q: Which Lion has the key to the barn?
 A: Tom Haylock
 Q: Which Lion likes to go to the Casino?
 A: David Betts
 Q: Which Lion is worth a lot of money?
 A: Paul Diamond

The winner

Q: Which Melbourne player would have the tidiest room?
 A: David Neitz.

FUNNY PHOTO NO. 1



Poor old Jesse's got a fit of the fumbles - or is he just checking his bootlaces?

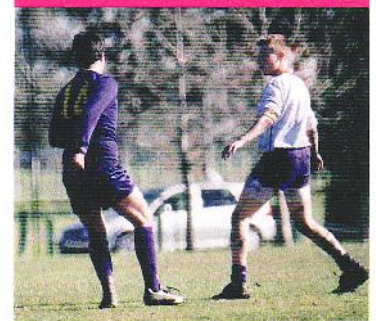
FUNNY PHOTO NO. 2

We know it's not politically correct to make fun of other peoples' misfortunes, but let's face it - a laugh's a laugh and gosh if you can't laugh at our teammates then who can you laugh at? George W?



OUCH! Skuzz is going to make a decent divot with his schnozzer! I hope the groundsman isn't watching

FUNNY CAPTION COMPETITION



What is Leigh saying to his Glen Waverley opponent? Send us your answer.



SEPARATED AT BIRTH

Some of his teammates reckon that Flynn and Freddo might have come out of the same chocolate egg. What do you think?



Bull's Eye Dave!

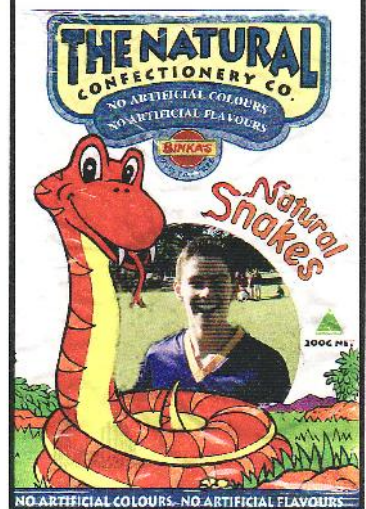
How cute is Saul's little mate?



Ciao

Hi mum

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ATTACK THE HAK!

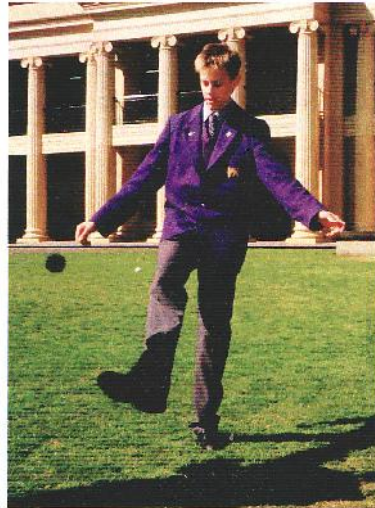


with Lloyd

Hi guys! How much fun is hakki sak? It's gotta be the best invention since Aussie Rules but the really kewl thing about it is that anytime can be hakki time! And you don't need a team—you can play it by yourself or with just your best mate. Even girls can play... well... sort of. Anyway I love it! The other good thing about hakki is that the more you play the better your reflexes, coordination and flexibility become, which can only help your footy. Never leave home without your hakki!



Hakkis come in all weights and sizes. It helps to know the vital statistics before you start playing. Here Kat and Lexi record the details of my new multicoloured hakki.



As you can see, I've developed some pretty fancy moves with the hakki. If you're playing on your own it's easy enough to keep the hakki alive with a series of basic inside kicks, but what you should be trying for is spontaneous improvisation. Don't be afraid to do the Wesley thing - hak outside the square! Learn to expect the unexpected and you'll be in better shape to handle group hakki.



HAKKICAM



Oh my god! Someone forgot to bring the hakki! Bettsy, Matt, Obers and Teddy are improvising with the next best thing



The hazards of group hakki! I don't need to tell you what happened here. Ouch!

2003 GOLDEN HAKKI AWARDS

Here are my nominations for this year's awards



Smithy

Hakki is Smithy's main avenue of personal expression. I've almost seen him get excited over a good rally. Master of the "stall"



Hendo

A dynamic haker with some original moves and a strong team focus. Back problems disrupted his season

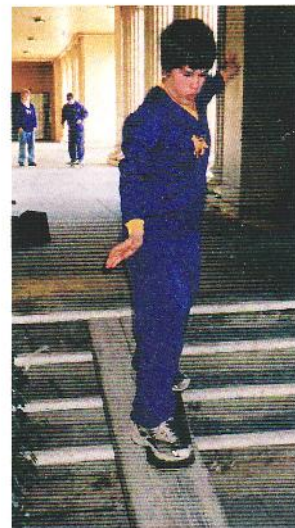


Lindsay

Lindsay is a freestyle haker who haks as though there is no tomorrow! Brings a dynamic daredevil spirit to the sport

KICKFLIPPING

with Matt & Stevie



Here are some pics of us and some of our friends doing tricks. We did a bit of a demo for a few of the footy guys and let them try our decks. Charlie did some rad moves but Paul and Josh were just learning. There's plenty of good spots to skate at school but you've got to watch out for Mr.Drew!

Yo Dudes! We like footy but we love skating to the max! How much fun is it? Kicking a goal is pretty kewl but kickflipping your board can be even better. Sometimes we hangout at the ramps but mostly we prefer to skate the streets coz you never know what's round the corner!



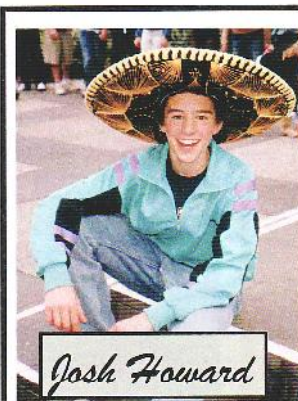
Charlie's kewl coz he's not scared to do something different This is him snowboarding the day he broke his wrist. Ouch!

In the Quad with Jimmy D.

Handball's a good way to fill in lunch-times and keep fit but some people take it too serious and carry on as if they're Leyton Hewitt or John McEnroe!



Oops! A bit of a blooper here!



Josh Howard

SNAKE STARS



FAVE AFL TEAM:
Essendon
SPORTING HERO AS A KID: G. Wanganeen
CLUBS PLAYED FOR:
Ajax and Sth.Melbourne

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR GAME:

Ollie my big brother. What a guy!

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:

The day I kicked my first goal in the Under 9s

MOST ENTERTAINING TEAM MATE:

Woodsy cos he's cool and knows how to treat a woman

7 DREAM GUESTS AT A DINNER PARTY:

Heidi Klum, Mary Shelley, Amy Weiner and her mum and dad, Anna K and Pamela A

FAVOURITE SINGING GROUP:

Spice Girls

YOUR ULTIMATE NON FOOTY FANTASY:

A night alone with Mary Shelley



CENTRE BOUNCE

with *Dan*

Your average footy fan thinks that the ruckman is just the tallest guy in the team, but it aint necessarily so. We shared the work around a bit this season and each of our ruckman brought something special to the centre bounce



I'm pretty happy with these - vertical leap, good balance, and what about the pinpoint palming!



Abba employing "Crash & Bash" tactics



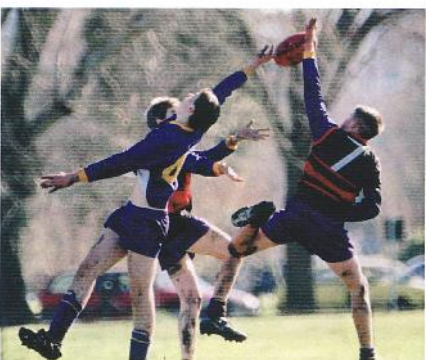
Great leap Lachy!



Don't applaud him Mull! Mark the thing!



Lovely palming Dave!



Oops! Mulla's misjudged the wind here! I think he might have hyperextended himself



Thommo's gone the big punch here. Good tactics.

Pocket Profile

Lions

LEIGH SAUNDERS



D.O.B. 14/12/87 **FAVE AFL TEAM:** Sydney

HEROES AS A KID: Plugger, Mark Waugh

FAVE AFL PLAYERS: Nathan Buckley, Byron Pickett, Barry Hall, Alan Didak etc. etc.

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR GAME:

My dad, Gavan Kaplan and Phil Aarons

OTHER CLUBS PLAYED FOR: Bentleigh, Essex Heights and Ajax

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The day I scored 8.0 against Melbourne Grammar because everything was going right for me—even free kicks and my straight kicking won us the game.

MOST ADMIRED TEAM MATE: Michael Mellington because he is so courageous and is always prepared to put his body on the line.

MOST ENTERTAINING TEAM MATE:

Adam Paykel because you never know what you're going to get out of that left foot, especially because it's the only one he uses.

SCARIEST MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE:

Rock climbing when I was nine metres above the ground. Boy was I petrified!

7 DREAM GUESTS AT A DINNER PARTY:

Nathan Buckley, Barry Hall (as long as he doesn't do anything silly), Michael Jordan, Mark Phillipousis, Cathy Freeman, Becks & GlennMcGrath

YOUR ULTIMATE NON-FOOTY FANTASY

To make the Olympic table tennis team or to win A Wimbledon title.

Add Body and Bounce to your hair Use **AGREE** Shampoo



Recommended by Lion star

Simon Thompson



Out & About

with **James Smith**

Well, it was certainly a big year for the Lions - both on and off the field. As you can see from the snaps on this page life isn't all bench presses and debriefing sessions for the modern day footballer. "Fun" is not entirely out of the question. Even I let my hair down once or twice. Well... almost... but I did try a Vanilla Coke!



Like, how cool are these guys?



Sartorial elegance!



With a blonde like that Lloyd should have been at the Brownlow Medal count!



Lachy is such a comedian!



Boys will be boys!



Dan might look tough on the field but he's actually a big softy. What a lovely couple!



Skuzz the ladykiller



Lloyd is full of hot air (How funny am I!)



I hope this stuff doesn't go to my head!



I bet Alex's kick will be a FLOATER!



Get down and boogie Jesse!



Tuck your shirt in son!



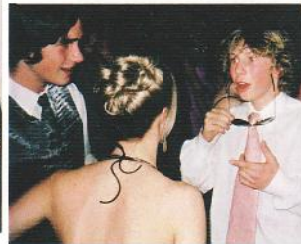
Right on Timmy!



Very suave Dave!



"I wish I could be a ruckman!"



"What! She's only in Year 8!"



They must have disco fever



Haven't I seen that boy on TV?

IN THE FOOTLIGHTS

The Lions featured in this year's Grand Final edition of the FOOTY SHOW. Below you can see some stills from our sensational performances. This sort of activity allows you to forget your inhibitions and get in touch with your inner self. I quite like wearing tights now...



Tim, Sam and Nick

The hit of the show was our performance of "Men in Tights". Notice how the others are having trouble keeping up with me. Come on fellahs... 1 and 2 and 3 and 4



You could hardly call him camera shy!



Rowan at the Brownlow Count with celebs Catriona Rountree & Joahanna Griggs



Yes, that's Skuzz Minogue in the middle



Yo bro! Jesse in the beanie



MEDIA WATCH

with *Charles*

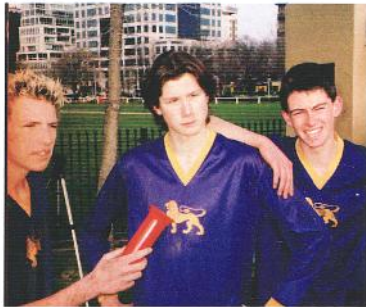
Hi there! My name's Charles. I don't play football (except at lunchtime) but my friend Matt does — or should I say used to. Anyway I videoed a couple of games and I helped Nick with his interviewing technique. Have a nice day!



So tell me Tom, you should know, after all you are his manager... Will Jack be in the draft this year?



I'd like to send a cheerio...



So tell me Lachy, were you involved in the brawl today?



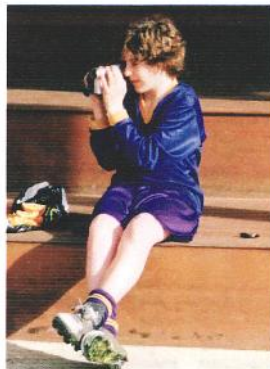
So tell me Mr. Man in White, did you get to bed at all last night? You look hungover to me



Team of the Year award winners at the Annual Mega Night.—Dave, Sam and Simon



Yes well it's a lovely day here at the Harry Trott



Don't forget the lens - cap Stevie!



So Stoney, how many films do you go through a week?



A dangerous mission - filming the post match celebrations...

\$4.50
OCTOBER
6-12 2003

TV WEEK

WIN A WEEKEND IN PARADISE WITH *Jimmy Dalling*

ALEX DAVIS TO HOST NEW GAME SHOW
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH NEIGHBOURS STAR
AT HOME WITH KYAL MARSH

Join me and win a million

Join me for a hot weekend



In close and personal ... was that you Paul?

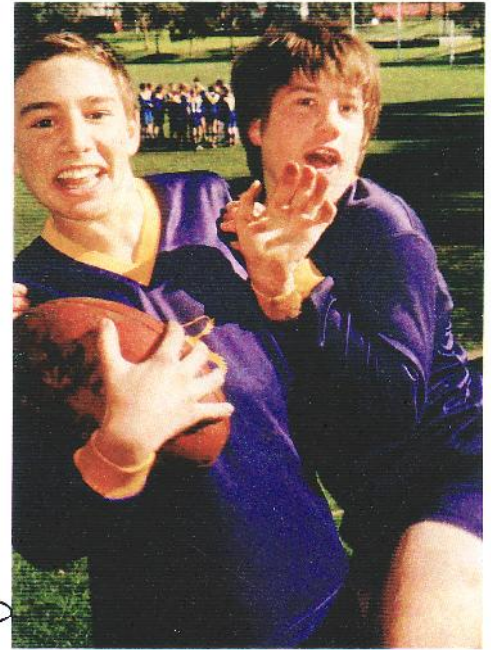
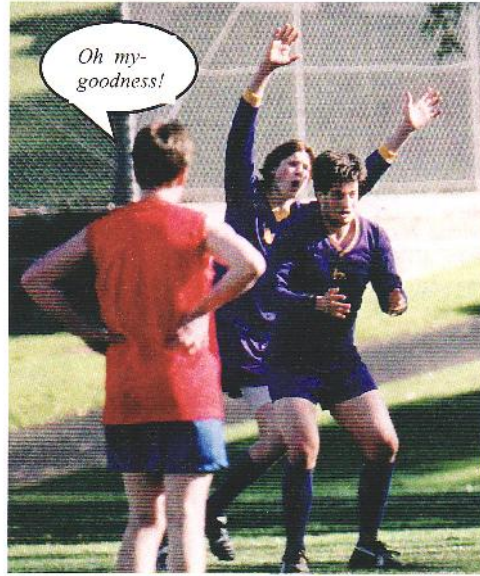
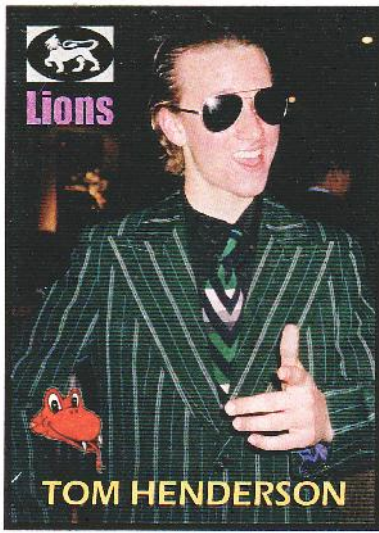


A suicide mission! Interviewing Leigh!



Why would you want to interview a megaphone?

The Last Word...



That's what thinking outside the square must do for you!

Was that you Paul?

Just leave me alone Paul, this is my photoshoot!

"I just wish he'd clean his room occasionally!"
"Mmm... I know the feeling!"



"Come on... somebody must know the words!"

"Sorry boys, but his foot was well over the line!"



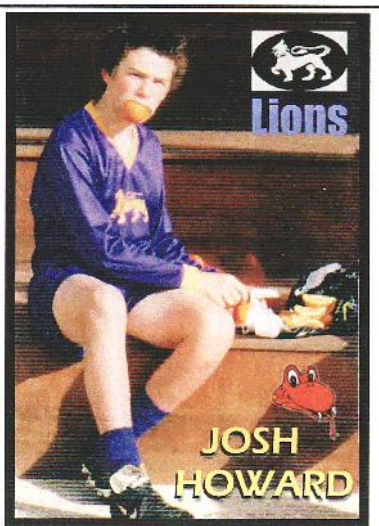
"Don't look now Mr. Stone.. but you're bow tie is crooked..."

"He fell out of his pram when he was a little chap... but he's really quite harmless..."

"All clear, all clear, touched, not sure, no idea"



"Buy Australian Navels " says Lion star Josh Howard. "for a sweet and juicy pick me up. The perfect half-time refresher!"



WESLEY COLLEGE N.A.T.S.E.C. LIONS
Round 10 vs. Scotch 9/8/2003

Special Collector's Edition



Special Collector's Edition



FOOTBALL RECORD

2003

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LIONS



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v
THE REST

