

OFFICIAL SEASON GUIDE



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

What a rollercoaster already and we haven't yet played a game! With the delay of the season and postponement of our Season Launch we don't want to lose momentum and I know the playing group for one are doing everything they can to ensure they are ready to win the next WAFL league premiership. Darren and Kepler along with our Player leaders are ensuring our entire football department are staying focused and connected to ensure we hit the ground running as soon as we are back on the field. With that in mind we are keen to deliver you the 2020 Tiger Talk. Though things have certainly changed externally, we are keen to provide this unabridged version to honour the effort that has gone into more than 4 months of preseason preparation. Whilst the extended break is extremely frustrating, a benefit is all the injured guys will be now ready to go for round 1... no extreme sports over the next few weeks please Crackers...

This delay will bring many unique challenges to the Club and all our stakeholders, and we need your support more than ever during this difficult time. Our reality is that Claremont Football Club is a community, not-for-profit organisation. Our finances are tightly balanced to offer value to our Members, Partners and Sponsors while continuously needing to deliver programs to over 500 male and female players between the ages of 14-32 annually.

We are going to need the support of the Claremont Football community more than ever over the coming months to ensure that we can remain financially solvent during this time.

With 95 years of history behind us and a wonderful community that values the Club so strongly, we are confident we'll emerge from this crisis stronger than ever.

Enjoy the read and we'll continue to keep you updated through our communication channels as we build up to our new season start.



FROM THE PRESIDENT GRANT POVEY

WELCOME TO SEASON 2020

The Oval is looking magnificent after major renovations and there is a buzz in the air as we eagerly await the start of another season.

Straight up, I would like to thank ALL our sponsors, patrons, platinum members, members, player sponsors, volunteers who you can't put a dollar amount on. Without YOU we would not EXIST.

As a Club, let's make sure we stay positive and invest in each other. Let's commit to enjoying the season and celebrate our success but, more importantly, enjoy the journey.

Strong relationships are built on camaraderie and trust, which is defined as "a feeling of good friendship among the people in a group." I am watching this playing group from afar and close, and have seen this feeling cultivated and transformed into an extremely powerful, positive energy that I believe will lead to major accomplishments in 2020.

When you care for someone else, you'll work harder for them and sacrifice for them. The bond of competing together for a prize is special. There is no limit to what a team with great camaraderie can do.

When all players are on the same page, giving maximum effort, teams can enter into a new stage of confidence and maturity. When I talk about teams, I talk about the Claremont Football Club that is made up many small teams working for a common cause.

The teams include:
Darcy and his administration team.
Darren and Kepler and their football team.
Carol and the Ladies Committee's team
The Monday Crew Team.
The Bar staff team.
The Medical team.
The Board team.
The Past Players team.
The Sponsors, Patrons, Members, Volunteers team
The Talent Development Team.

As a Club, let's all be COMMITTED to the "1 percenters" that make big things happen. "The little things," are the crucial details that determine the outcomes of life.

I would like to acknowledge the amazing job that Darcy Coffey, our new CEO, has done over the past 12 months.

Kepler, has stepped into the Football Manager's role like he has been doing it for years. We have a strong list including mostly home grown talent and I believe they have a big opportunity to create something special in 2020.

I would like to wish the whole Football Department, including the players, all the best for the upcoming season.

I'm so proud of the strong culture I see being built in front of us. I believe we have the best coaching team in the business looking after our players.

We believe our game plan and brand of football, combined with our emerging team, is capable of not only competing against the best teams but also beating them.

We all agree that the Club is bigger and more important than any one individual. In order to prosper within an environment of intense and often critical scrutiny, everyone, without exception, must present a cohesive message of a strong football club.

Teamwork, both on and off the field, is required if we are to achieve our ambitious goal of working towards playing finals and pushing for our 13th premiership.

I am very grateful and thankful to all our PATRONS and SPONSORS and PLATINUM Club members. Without YOU we would not exist.

Go the Tigers



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A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

BY KEN CASELLAS

Claremont House has provided a wonderful sanctuary for recruits from the football club's far-flung country zones of the Kimberley and Great Southern for the past 15 or so years and the club is delighted to welcome the Broome-based building company H&M Tracey as valued sponsors of the house in 2020.

H&M Tracey is a residential and commercial building company in the north-west of the State. The business was created in 2000 by Harold and Maureen Tracey, who are dedicated to providing opportunities for young people by offering apprenticeships in office administration or a trade.

Harold Tracey is a strong believer in the youth of today, something which inspires him to be a role model for younger generations.

The Claremont House in Mount Claremont was purchased by the Claremont Football Club in 2004 and was sold to Noongar Mia Mia, an indigenous housing corporation, the following year. Since then the club has been able to lease the house at a subsidised rate.

The house has provided a happy and safe environment for young footballers from Claremont's country zones. So far, 14 players who have enjoyed living in the Claremont house have been drafted by AFL clubs. They are: Clint Benjamin and Carl Peterson (2006), Alroy Gilligan and Warren Benjamin (2008), Gerrick Weedon and Lewis Broome (2009), Zephaniah Skinner (2010), Jack Martin (2012), Rowen Powell (2013), Brenden Abbott (2014), Francis Watson and Sam Petrevski-Seton (2016), Shane McAdam (2018) and Anthony Treacy (2019).

Keifer Yu (Broome) and Matt Palfrey (Albany) are a couple of long-term residents at the house who developed into outstanding league footballers for the Tigers.

Darcy Coffey, Claremont's CEO, said that the house has provided a refuge for players from the Kimberley, initially, and from the Great Southern over the past decade.

"It's an affordable housing option for short and long-term stays, predominately assisting indigenous players who do not have family in the metropolitan area," he said. "We have always had a house parent who is responsible for coordinating the house, mentoring the younger people in the house, assisting with all the life skills required for independent living, all while committing to the vigorous training program we require at a State sporting level.

"Key people who have assisted in running the house over the journey have been Eric Wade, Layla Yu, the Terry family (Hertz), Grant Povey (supplying white-goods) and, of course, Noongar Mia Mia."

The current house parent is Claremont league footballer Tom Curren, a former AFL player with St Kilda, who keeps a watchful eye over Kimberley players Ed McGinty and Shaq Morton.

"For me, the house has been a place of development," he explained. "It was the first house that I moved into after leaving home in Melbourne. If it wasn't for the Claremont house, I would have found it difficult to move to Perth as a full-time student. So, to be able to call it home for my first couple of years in Perth has absolutely helped me both personally and professionally.

"It's not a right; it is definitely a privilege to have the opportunity and that, along with wearing the Claremont jumper, are humbling experiences and things that I do not take for granted.

"When the Claremont Football Club first proposed the opportunity to come across to play football as well as residing in the house as the house parent, I knew it came with great trust and responsibility. It has been a learning curve and knowing what was required of me in this role meant that I had to be organised and I didn't want to let down the club or the young men I was living with.

"The decision to accept this role is a decision I would make again. I significantly underestimated how I might be able to help those I've lived with, especially those who have relocated from the Kimberley. But I never thought they could teach me so much. I've learnt things I otherwise wouldn't have from the boys I've lived with.

"Like everything, it has its challenges at times, but so far it has been such a rewarding experience and something I'm going to be genuinely forever grateful for. I hope I have imparted some help with their general life skills as well as the off-field requirements of what it takes to prepare and perform in a semi-professional football environment. That's the common ground we share; that's the reason that brought us all to Perth.

"There is an enormous contrast from coming from rural communities to the big smoke here in Perth and this is a major transition. Conforming to a westernised society and the expectations that we deem the norm, or the homesickness that comes after moving away from support networks, are matters that many people in Perth or at the footy club haven't experienced. It can be tough for some of the boys, so I try to support and help wherever possible."



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FROM THE CEO

DARCY COFFEY

At the dawn of another season at Revo Fitness Stadium, I feel some genuine excitement and a quiet confidence about what the season ahead holds for us. Although far from a perfect trifecta in 2019, a third-place finish in the league, a disappointing grand final loss in the reserves and a premiership win in the colts has put us in a great position to attack the year ahead.

I truly believe this unfinished business at a senior level combined with a wealth of quality coming from underneath forms the scaffolding of a group not only keen for success, but also well placed for it. Kepler Bradley and Darren Harris remain at the apex of our football department and a couple of new, but very familiar, faces round out the other key coaching positions with rugged 104-game defender Simon Nimmo and 2009 premiership colts coach Matt Angus taking on the reserves and colts coaching roles, respectively.

The continued expansion and development of the women's game adds further anticipation for 2020, with a reserves premiership in the inaugural 2019 WAFLW season providing an excellent platform for more success this season. The addition of CFC women's president Rachel Asquith as a seconded director adds further advocacy at board level for this rapidly growing arm of the club.

Moving away from the playing groups, the recent redevelopment works to the oval, namely reticulation replacement and turf restoration, have resulted in a huge upgrade in the quality and resilience of our ground. This is critical to not only cope with the training every night of the week, but also to engage junior clubs, schools

and community groups in using our fantastic facility more often. These works not only facilitate increased use, but also increases the safety of the space and provides our players and coaches a level of comfort in this regard that we haven't had in years.

Speaking of junior clubs, after the resounding success of junior clinics on Thursday and Friday evenings last year, 2020 will see junior matches fixtured at our ground on many Friday afternoons during the season. This provides another opportunity for junior players from the district to engage with the club and is undoubtedly a precursor to when they pull on the famous navy and gold at league level in a few years' time. Thanks to Dec Cormack and Zoe Moss for their work in making this a reality and to our women's teams for being accommodating and sharing the oval on Friday evenings.

This commitment to our juniors is symbolic of our community connection. While the club has long been a critical part of the talent pathway and industry leaders in this respect for decades, we want to provide a positive and meaningful experience for every person who is engaged with the club. Be it players, coaches, parents, sponsors, members, supporters, and even those who frequent our Tiger bar and function facilities, we want to provide the best experience we possibly can. I urge everyone to get involved.

While we have such wonderful facilities, these and the programs we run simply would not exist without the investment of some special people. Particular mentions to Peter Laurance and Anne Kyle, who have been incredible long-time patrons of the club. In terms of sponsors, Andrew Holder & George Gelavis from Revo Fitness; along with Kevin and the entire Terry family at Hertz are again major partners of the club in 2020 and we are extremely grateful. This year they are joined by the Singh family from Foodies IGA and Harold Tracey from H&M Constructions who mirror our community philosophy, and both of whom will also be represented on our playing jumpers for the next few years. So, if you love the club, please support the businesses that support us – and how could you not with fitness, great cars, some wonderful food and a new house at the top of everyone's wish list!

Thanks for your support and see you at the footy in 2020



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FROM THE COACH

DARREN HARRIS

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

This is a quote by Theodore Roosevelt and is sticky taped to the fridge of the coaches' room. It is the same quote that was on my toilet door

when I got my first coaching appointment in 1997. Some quotes have come and gone but this one remains and I'm grateful for the fact it crossed my path and resonated when I was a much younger man. Why? Because I don't want to ever forget how hard it was to play the game. It still remains my belief that the credit truly belongs to the player who is having a crack in what I see as an incredibly dynamic, physically and mentally challenging game.

I've always seen how easy it is to judge someone from outside the playing arena. This often comes without the understanding of every individual's personal situation. At the Claremont Football Club, while we might be imperfect, we be, we will support you. This brings with it positivity and solutions to improve. WAFL football has become a demanding commitment. We are competing with full-time footballers, and a club in Subiaco which has raised the bar. Our job is to support these players who have the courage to commit to these demands and put themselves out there. We also need to challenge them.

This buy-in we are pushing for, links to purpose. If the purpose of our players or (their Why?) is linked to "We" not "I" then success will follow. Knowing your role and playing your role to help the team win is fundamental to a "We" mindset. It is not about how many touches you have or linked to individual honours. It doesn't manifest itself in frustration, impatience, anger or laying blame. All of these attributes are ego driven and relate to self. Great teams are committed to a cause that is bigger than themselves. They help and support each other through good and bad. They stay the course. They play their part.





The leaders of the CFC are working hard to be connected. In order to be truly connected we need to embrace vulnerability. That is why we want our players to be the best version of themselves. Their individual stories are all different. If you are from Fitzroy crossing, a farm in the Great Southern, a lawyer's son from Cottesloe, or a recruit from interstate there is a story there.

These differences in backgrounds are important to our success. Once you walk through the doors of the CFC you are all equals. The volunteer who runs the water or maintains the clubrooms is no less important than the Sandover medallist. Our job is to make sure it is okay to be the best version of yourself. Who you really are needs to be our strength and will lead to the quality of our Mateship.

Finally, we can't shy away from the fact that we are a high-performance outfit in an elite environment. We have to be demanding on players to 'buy-in' to our system as it will set them up for success. As the connection between our players and coaches has grown we are able to respectfully challenge all parts of our program. Not with negativity, but with solutions to get better.

If it is a "We" environment as a clear purpose, there is great relationships and connection, then we get to be in the moment and focused on our job. That is what our challenge is. Be the best you can be. All this hard work will be witnessed on field with a relentless, never give in attitude. The players with the courage to be in the arena are the ones we need to encourage.

To our loyal and passionate members, we thank you for playing your role. Supporters is an apt name. Your support and positive energy help us to be successful. If you want to know how we are going, please come down to the club, come to the Tiger Bar and ask the players how they are going. The colt's group has been fantastic with its commitment to the program and effort. Ryan Nyhuis has had an instant impact and, like Dec Mountford the year before, is a quality human being. At our cent camp we challenged the "We", Connection and performance of our playing, coaching and support staff. Four practice games followed the camp, leading into the season. Can't wait.

Darren Harris
League Coach

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COLTS COACH RETURNS

MATT ANGUS

It's great to be back at Claremont looking after our valued colts players. This will be my third stint of coaching at the club and first since 2009. While the surroundings are new and fresh, the spirit of the volunteers, staff and supporters has not changed at all.

First, I wish to acknowledge the outgoing talent manager Warren Parker. He formed close relationships with players from when they were as young as 13 and respected this throughout their journeys at Claremont. His countless hours of nurturing young men have served Claremont well and continued the legacy of ensuring our talent gets the opportunity to thrive so we can "Promote from Within".

Taking over from Warren, in at least the interim, is Jordan Smith. After several seasons assisting in the colts and development squads in a coaching capacity, Jordan began this season's pre-season assisting Warren in a talent admin capacity. Jordy has already put his strong organisational skills to good use and has taken on huge workload of the talent manager's role. He is a valuable resource to the colts program and will no doubt have a future in sports administration.

The 2020 colts group is a younger squad than in previous years. It has some emerging talent with an appropriate work ethic to match. The squad is almost finalised for the season and will have the usual mix of metro, Great Southern and Kimberley boys.

We have a mostly new colts coaching group. We have elevated Ben Willett to be one of the three senior assistants. Ben, son of team manager Bern, has coached in the district and spent the past two seasons as a development coach for the colts.

Joining Ben will be Jake Colvin, who has been coaching in junior football (Marist) and at amateur levels (UWA). Both coaches have taken to their roles with vigour and have the complete respect of the playing group.



Also returning to the club in a coaching capacity is Brett Bowker, who was coach of the colts in 2006 and coached the 16's development squad for several years before that. He also is a highly successful first-grade grade cricket coach and has launched several cricket careers as head coach of the Subiaco-Floreat club.

His wisdom and experience add credibility to our talent program.

The new season has seen a new strength and conditioning coach in Andrew Jonson. He has built a great rapport with the players and has them in great shape to commence their Claremont journey. He is ably assisted by Oliver and Joel who have been beasts in the gym.

Kara Malkovic has returned as head trainer and continues to lead a committed group of trainers. Hopefully, we're not looking for Kara to be too busy. Also, Kim Manolas from Lifecare is our physiotherapist. Kim has been very professional in the rehabilitation of some of our players with long-term injuries.

The February-March period is often referred to as the "in love" stage of the footy season, with not a lot of opposition or pressure giving a feeling that everything is going well. I look forward to being a part of the CFC community again and wish everyone a successful 2020 season.



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2020 TEAM LIST SENIORS



1



**KANE
MITCHELL**

HT: 174 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 116

2



**TOM
CURREN**

HT: 178 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 18

3



**BAILEY
ROGERS**

HT: 185 cm
WT: 86 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: 68

4



**JACK
LEWSEY**

HT: 177 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: 28

5



**DECLAN
MOUNTFORD**

HT: 181 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 22

6



**RYAN
LIM**

HT: 186 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 99

7



**TOM
LEE**

HT: 194 cm
WT: 94 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 88

8



**ALEC
WATERMAN**

HT: 185 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 20

9



**JACK
BEECK**

HT: 181 cm
WT: 87 kg
POSITION: DEF / MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 70

10



**LACHIE
MARTINIS**

HT: 184 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: 38

11



**JYE
BOLTON**

HT: 187 cm
WT: 88 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 80

12



**RYLIE
MORGAN**

HT: 181 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 3

13



**JARED
HARDISTY**

HT: 179 cm
WT: 92 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 60

14



**TOM
LEDGER**

HT: 179 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 96


15



**HAYDN
BUSER**

HT: 191 cm
WT: 94 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: 124



17 **CALLAN ENGLAND**

 HT: 181 cm
 WT: 73 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 15

19 **RYAN NYHUIS**

 HT: 189 cm
 WT: 89 kg
 POSITION: DEF
 LEAGUE GAMES: 48

20 **BAILEY BENNETT**

 HT: 179 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 13

21 **OLIVER EASTLAND**


 HT: 196 cm
 WT: 94 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 35

23 **MATTHEW PALFREY**

 HT: 189 cm
 WT: 90 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 41

24 **JEREMY GODDARD**

 HT: 202 cm
 WT: 105 kg
 POSITION: RUCK
 LEAGUE GAMES: 25


25 **LEWIS DAISLEY**

 HT: 189 cm
 WT: 88 kg
 POSITION: DEF
 LEAGUE GAMES: 1

26 **ANTON HAMP**

 HT: 190 cm
 WT: 88 kg
 POSITION: DEF
 LEAGUE GAMES: 145


27 **ALEX MANUEL**

 HT: 188 cm
 WT: 87 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 43

28 **TOM BALDWIN**

 HT: 178 cm
 WT: 72 kg
 POSITION: DEF
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

29 **ISAAC BARTON**

 HT: 174 cm
 WT: 65 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: 1

30 **JOEL WESTERN**

 HT: 174 cm
 WT: 64 kg
 POSITION: MID/FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

31 **TYRON SMALLWOOD**


 HT: 179 cm
 WT: 79 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: 17

32 **EDWARD MCGINTY**

 HT: 180 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 POSITION: FWD
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

33 **BEN EDWARDS**

 HT: 181 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 POSITION: MID
 LEAGUE GAMES: -

34 **ISAAC WALLACE**

 HT: 179 cm
 WT: 85 kg
 POSITION: DEF
 LEAGUE GAMES: 5

35 **DECLAN HARDISTY**

 HT: 186 cm
 WT: 84 kg
 POSITION: DEF
 LEAGUE GAMES: 38

36 **SHAQUILLE MORTON**

 HT: 179 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 POSITION: DEF
 LEAGUE GAMES: 2

37



HARRY McCRACKEN

HT: 181 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: MID/DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: 43

38



CHARLIE MALONE

HT: 183 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: -

39



LEWIS DAVIS

HT: 197 cm
WT: 94 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: -

40



STEVEN MILLER

HT: 197 cm
WT: 92 kg
POSITION: FWD/RUCK
LEAGUE GAMES: -

41



JACK COOLEY

HT: 190 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

42



JACK BULLER

HT: 198 cm
WT: 92 kg
POSITION: FWD/RUCK
LEAGUE GAMES: -

43



JYE CLARK

HT: 197 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

44



JORDON REID

HT: 195 cm
WT: 94 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: -

45



BEN RUSHFORTH

HT: 178 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: 3

46



NICHOLAS ALLAN

HT: 193 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: -

47



BEN SCHUHKRAFT

HT: 197 cm
WT: 88 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: -

48



LOUIS PASSERA

HT: 190 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: -

49



BEN ELLIOTT

HT: 183 cm
WT: 86 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

50



DYLAN SMALLWOOD

HT: 194 cm
WT: 83 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: 31

51



BILLY REILLY

HT: 195 cm
WT: 88 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: -

52



ANTHONY DAVIS

HT: 193 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: -

53



JAKE ANDERSON

HT: 181 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 2

54



COOPER NITSCHKE

HT: 181 cm
WT: 72 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: -



55 

CAMERON ANDERSON

HT: 176 cm
WT: 62 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

56 

COREY HITCHCOCK

HT: 182 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

57 

MAX SPYVEE

HT: 176 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

58 

NICK CRUMP

HT: 183 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: -

59 

MAX GRANT

HT: 177 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

60 

COREY MITCHELL

HT: 165 cm
WT: 65 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 1

61 

JOEL KRAUSS

HT: 186 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: -

62 

LUKE KNIGHT

HT: 194 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: -

63 

WILL STOCKWELL

HT: 186 cm
WT: 72 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

64 

KADE LINES

HT: 175 cm
WT: 65 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: -

65 

LACHLAN DAVIS

HT: 187 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

66 

BEN MORGAN

HT: 177 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

67 

MARC BOYATZIS

HT: 178 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: -

68 

MAX MINEAR

HT: 193 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: FWD/RUCK
LEAGUE GAMES: -

69 

TYSON ENGLAND

HT: 178 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

70 

JAMIE PAUL

HT: 184 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: DEF
LEAGUE GAMES: -

71 

REECE GUELF

HT: 188 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: -

72 

HEZEKIAH MCCORRY

HT: 183 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: -

NYHUIS MAKES THE RIGHT MOVE

BY KEN CASELLAS

Ryan Nyhuis, who made an explosive start in AFL ranks two and a half years ago, is Claremont's star recruit for 2020 --- and after four months of rigorous pre-season training he is convinced he has made the right decision to join the Tigers after being sought by other WAFL clubs.

"Talking to my parents and family and friends, I think I've made the right move by choosing Claremont," he said. "I'm really comfortable here; I think I have gelled well with the other defenders and with the team in general. I'm really enjoying the culture."

"When Kepler (Football Operations Manager Kepler Bradley) was showing me around I could see that the club was in a good spot with its culture and the direction it was heading. I'm pretty settled here, and I've really clicked with Harro (coach Darren Harris)."

Nyhuis, a quietly-spoken, unassuming 23-year-old, was left without a club late last year after being delisted by the Fremantle Dockers, following four years on the club's list and appearing in 17 AFL matches.

"I was born in Darwin and spent all my life there before being drafted by Fremantle (as a rookie in the 2016 draft)," he said. "As a kid it was predominately soccer, even though I played Auskick all the way through. I enjoyed soccer and was probably better at that game than I was at footy in my teens."

"But I also played football with the Nightcliff Tigers from the under-13s all the way through to the seniors in the Northern Territory Football League before joining the NT Thunder side as a rookie in the NEAFL competition."

He was a member of the Thunder's 2015 premiership side which beat Aspley by a point in the grand final at Darwin's TIO Stadium when his opponent was current Brisbane Lions star forward Eric Hipwood. It was then that Nyhuis came on to Fremantle's radar and in his first season as a Docker he played exclusively for Fremantle's affiliate club Peel Thunder in the WAFL competition.

"I spent two good years with Peel and played in their premiership sides in 2016 and 2017," Nyhuis said. "That's where I developed my craft as a defender really well."

In the 2016 and 2017 grand finals Nyhuis played on current exciting West Coast Eagles forward Liam Ryan, who managed only one goal in those two contests. "Liam is definitely a human highlight reel and being used in lock-down roles set me up well for when I cracked into Fremantle's side," Nyhuis said.

A superb 30-disposal performance by Nyhuis which helped Peel to beat Claremont by two points in a round-15 match at Rushton Park on July 1, 2017 paved the way for his memorable AFL debut in the match against North Melbourne at the Docklands eight days later.

Originally, he was an emergency, but got his chance in the big time when David Mundy was too ill to play. "I got the lock-down job at half-forward to play on Robbie Tarrant, with the aim to stop his influence off half-back," Nyhuis said.

In a remarkable debut, Nyhuis took a mark 40m out and booted a goal with his first kick in AFL ranks. He scored another goal in the second quarter and the side's final two goals in the last term to help the Dockers win by four points.

"Todd Goldstein missed from right in front late in the game --- and I've got to thank him for that," said Nyhuis. "That game remains as the highlight of my career so far. It felt surreal, just like a dream."

Nyhuis wrote his name in the record books by becoming the player to have scored the most goals on debut by a Docker. He also became only the thirteenth first-game player in VFL/AFL history to kick four or more goals.

"After that, my second game was against the Eagles in an away Derby at Subiaco Oval," Nyhuis said. "It was an amazing experience and I played on Jeremy McGovern, which was a big task. I didn't do much and my forward career fizzled out pretty quickly after that."

"My remaining games were in defence, mostly the deeper back, playing on the deepest small forward. I learnt a lot from playing against Eddie Betts and Robbie Gray. Playing on Betts was an awesome experience and his instinct and awareness were amazing. At times, he'd be running back towards his goal while watching the big screen to see where the ball was."





After four AFL appearances in 2017, Nyhuis played another eight games in 2018 and five in 2019 before being delisted by the Dockers last September. He said that Dockers coach Ross Lyon had wanted him to not only be a consistent lock-down defender, but to develop the attacking side of his game by becoming more dangerous offensively.

“That didn’t come naturally to me,” he said. “My awareness and first instinct is to defend and allow others to run off. In the end, I didn’t progress as quickly as they would have liked. I was in two minds about what they were expecting of me.

“It’s not a good experience being delisted. It’s a ruthless industry and I was always on the edge. However, I have no regrets about my time at Fremantle. I gave it everything. Now, at Claremont, I’m really open to playing a multitude of positions, not just being pigeon-holed in that lock-down defender role.

“I’m keen to develop that high half-back running side of my game, even exploring other avenues. And maybe even being used up forward and, hopefully, kicking some goals.”

Nyhuis is doing an on-line university course, studying secondary physical education. He is also working a couple of days a week at Scotch College as a teacher aid.



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MITCHELL WANTS TO CLOSE THE GAP

BY KEN CASELLAS

Inspirational leader Kane Mitchell has been chosen by his peers to be Claremont's league captain this year and the indefatigable, hard-running midfielder declares that his main aim in 2020 is to be a premier-ship captain.

"But I know that just doesn't happen," he says. "So, my role is to develop really, really good young men ... to look after them as people first and then football second.

"I find if you deal with them as young men first and build relationships, then we can have open and honest conversations, looking forward to building a strong culture, and that often leads to on-field success.

"Last year we played some really good football but there was that gap between us and the top two sides (Subiaco and South Fremantle), as we discovered in the finals. So, my job is to help the young boys close that gap and be the best people in football they can be."

Anton Hamp and Dec Mountford have been chosen as vice-captains, with Hayden Busher and Ryan Lim making up the five-man leadership group.

"It's a good mix of youth and experience and we should get to most of the guys in the group," said Mitchell. "It's a well-balanced leadership group and there's the potential for a few more to step up and take leadership roles."

With retirements and players being drafted by AFL clubs, there will be ideal opportunities for young players to press for league selection. "We've got a fair number of young guys capable of breaking into league ranks," said Mitchell. "Alex Manuel is ready to go after missing most of last year and there's a whole bunch of guys, including Callan England, Rylie Morgan, Isaac Barton, Jake Anderson and Ben Rushforth, who are capable of stepping up. And the list can go on.

"And there's players coming up from the colts, guys like Tom Baldwin and Charlie Malone and big boys like Ben Schuhkraft, Jack Buller and Steven Miller.

What we, as senior players, have enjoyed is seeing how much these young men compete --- and that's the culture we're trying to build. We want to fight and to compete."

Mitchell said that star recruit Ryan Nyhuis would be a valuable addition to the team. "Dutchy is very level-headed and switched on," he said. "He is just out of the AFL and knows how the modern game works; he's going to add plenty to the team." "We've got a well-balanced midfield, with some elite runners and inside ball-winners. It's a strong group of inside and outside midfielders which includes two-time Sandover medallist Jye Bolton, Dec Mountford, Lim and Jared Hardisty. Lim is a running machine and there's England, who is built for speed and can run all day. If we play our roles as a unit, we're going to be a very good group."

Mitchell said that he was excited at the prospect of Anton Hamp switching from defence to play as a key forward. "He's in his prime and is developing into a great leader. He's got the backline going in the past two years and now he will have a young forward line to look after. He's such a smart footballer and is so level-headed. He's got great skills and reads the game very well."

The 30-year-old Mitchell, Claremont's fairest-and-best player in 2012 and last year and the 2012 Sandover medallist who finished third in the medal count last year, is looking forward with keen anticipation to Claremont playing good football and contesting the finals this year under coach Darren Harris.

"Walking into the club lights me up, gives me energy and makes me feel young," he said. "The body is feeling great. I'm aware that I'm at the latter stage of my career. I want to play as good football as I possibly can, and I don't want to be a detriment to the team. I don't want to put a time on it, but I'd like to play for a few more years."

Apart from football, Mitchell is thoroughly enjoying teaching years six, seven and eight at Scotch College. "I'm teaching PE and maths and with boys aged between ten and 14 you can make a real difference" he said.



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NIMMO READY FOR THE CHALLENGE

BY KEN CASELLAS



Simon Nimmo has an impressive background in football and a massive involvement in the sport ever since his first season with Claremont in 1995 when he was a member of the colts premiership side.

Now, the 42-year-old Nimmo is thoroughly enjoying his latest role --- as coach of the club reserves side.

"My main task is to create a match day experience, an environment which is close to the league side as possible, and to assist the development of young players and help them to acclimatise to senior football," he said.

"And for me, it is to learn how to coach in the mould of Darren Harris and his assistants. I'm thankful for Harro, Kep (Bradley) and Darcy (Coffey) for showing faith in me. It's an honour to be coaching at Claremont. Pre-season has been awesome on many levels, working under Darren and his team. As reserves coach I'll be following the guidelines of the league side and getting to know the players and the game plan."

Nimmo was a resolute and dependable defender, on a half-back flank or in a pocket, throughout his 104-game league career with the Tigers, with his final appearance being in the losing grand final to Subiaco in 2007. He also was a member of losing grand final sides in 2003 (reserves) and 2005 (league).

Nimmo has had long, hands-on association with the Clontarf Academy. "I was basically there from the start in 2000, with Gerard Neesham, setting up the program," he said. "Since then, I've held almost every job, apart from CEO, with the Clontarf foundation, until 2017.

"I've worked in Geraldton, Alice Springs (as regional manager for two years) and have travelled around WA and the Northern Territory, setting up programs and coaching a lot of staff. It's been a huge involvement.

"I coached the South Fremantle colts in 2010, a side which included Ben Newton, Haiden Schloithe, Mason Shaw, Steve Verrier, Jason Maskos and Shane Kersten, and in 2011 I coached Kelmscott in the amateurs. I've also worked 20 years in school football and spent two years with David Wirrpunda coaching girls in school football." Two of Nimmo's assistants this year will be Ryan MacKenzie (38) and Cardin Langer, president of the Claremont Junior Football League. MacKenzie played for Corowa-Rutherglen and won the Morris Medal as the fairest-and-best player in the Ovens and Murray League in 2004 before playing 47 league matches with East Perth, mainly on a wing, between 2005 and 2008.

Nimmo helped out at Claremont in 2019 as a player development officer and as the league side's runner in the second half of the season. This year he plans to call on former Tigers David Crawford and Aaron Holt for assistance either in the box or on the field as a runner.



HARDISTY'S FREAK SETBACK

BY KEN CASELLAS

He's a human cannonball, tough, uncompromising and a fierce tackling machine on the football field. But an errant snowboarder has laid him low and wrecked his pre-season preparation with the Tigers.

However, Jared Hardisty is a resilient character and after spending two months with his right knee supported by a cumbersome brace, he is planning to make a return to league action early in the season.

After setting a great example with his dedication and strong work ethic at pre-season workouts in November and December, Hardisty was looking forward keenly to his first experience as a snow boarder when he travelled to Japan on Boxing Day with eight of his former schoolmates.

"We were at the Niseko ski resort for nine days and on day three I was just starting to get the hang of things," Hardisty said. "I was building up a bit of confidence and had graduated from the family run to one of the longer runs. I'd got down to the bottom of the slope and was getting ready to get on to the ski ramp when someone came through and slammed into my right knee which just sort of caved in.

"At the time I was still pumped with adrenalin and thought I was all good. But once I got back to the hostel, I realised that I was in a bit of strife. Luckily there was a physio staying in the hostel and he strapped the knee up and I was able to get some anti-inflammatories. One of my mates had hurt his shoulder and we were able to get around without too much trouble."

Hardisty returned to Perth on January 11 and a scan on his knee revealed a grade 2 or 3 MCL sprain and some bone bruising. "Since then I've been going to the gym three times a week and have been limited to upper-body work," he said. "I'll begin my rehabilitation soon, starting with a slow jog and progressing to a run, to a sprint, change of direction and then, hopefully, resuming full training."

Hardisty's latest unfortunate knee injury followed a most disappointing year with injuries in 2019 when he managed just six appearances in the league side and two in the reserves.



Photo by Simon Nimmo

In a practice match two weeks before the opening round of fixtures in 2019 Hardisty damaged his right hamstring. Initially, it was thought to just a minor strain, but a precautionary scan showed that there was a big tear in the hamstring tendon. This forced the powerfully-built left-footer out of action until he was fit to resume in a round 10 reserves match against Swan Districts on June 16.

After playing in a round 11 reserves match against East Perth, Hardisty made his long-awaited return to league football in the round-12 contest against East Fremantle at East Fremantle Oval. But there was no joy for him. "I copped a cork in my left quad, and it was the worst cork I had ever had," he said.

"I thought that, maybe, I'd miss one week." But he missed Claremont's next four matches after a scan revealed a grade 1 tear. Hardisty then played in Claremont's final four league contests, including three finals.

Now a fully-qualified electrician, Hardisty, a robust midfielder, has endeared himself Tigers fans in his 60 league appearances with his skill and ferocious attack on the ball. Few players in the WAFL competition tackle with Hardisty's ferocity. He has made 390 tackles in his senior career --- an outstanding average of 6.5 per game.

MCGINTY IS BACK IN TOWN

BY KEN CASELLAS

Livewire small forward Ed McGinty has emerged from the football wilderness and aims to make his mark in the game after a seven-year hiatus.

Now at the age of 25 and possessing magical skills, McGinty is back at Claremont and says: "I've missed football and I want to play at a high level. I want to have a crack and give it a go."

Born in Kununurra, brought up in Halls Creek and then settling in One Arm Point, McGinty excited fervent Claremont fans in 2012 when he revealed awe-inspiring ability in a few brief appearances with the Tigers colts side.

But like a meteorite, he, too, was a dazzling shooting star, lighting up all around him before fading into oblivion.

"It was a really good experience, playing in the colts team," he said. "But I became homesick and was struggling down here, working and lacking support. I went back home and didn't play any football for four years until I finally got back into it over the past three years.



"I played a couple of games with the Bidyandanga Emus in 2017 before I really got into it the following year when I played for the Looma Eagles and we beat Cable Beach by a point in the grand final." His teammates included CJ Oakley and Anthony Treacy, each of whom have had stints in Claremont's league side.

"I played about six or seven games for the Looma Eagles last year and Anthony (Treacy) really wanted me to come down to Perth to play," said McGinty, who has shown sparkling form throughout the pre-season training sessions.

He is a dedicated family man and speaks with great affection for his wife Chenoa, their five-year-old son Tkai and two-year-old daughter Elaina. He is living at the Claremont House with Tom Curren and Shaquille Morton and works as a gardener at Curtin University.

For the record, McGinty played five matches for the Claremont colts in 2012 --- in rounds 1, 2 and 3 and 11 and 12, kicking one goal and nine behinds. He has been far more accurate in kicking goals under pressure in match simulation drills during pre-season workouts in the summer.



HAMP SWITCHES ENDS

BY KEN CASELLAS

Goals have been at a premium at Claremont in recent years and in a bid to boost the league side's forward firepower in 2020 Anton Hamp will be switched from deep in defence to the main focal point in attack.

"I'm looking forward to having a change of role to keep things interesting --- and kicking a few goals is fun," said the 27-year-old Hamp, who was named in the last line of defence in the 2019 WAFL Team of the Year.

Goals are essential ingredients in the make-up of successful sides and Claremont's attack has been depleted with the retirements of outstanding forwards Ian Richardson and Jack Bradshaw. The Tigers will also be without exciting newcomer Anthony Treacy (drafted by the West Coast Eagles) and defensive forward Jordan Law, who has retired. In 21 matches last season Claremont managed just 227 goals (a miserable average of 10.8 goals per match) after only 224 goals from 20 matches at an average of 11.2 the previous season.

This is a far cry from the halcyon days in the 1980s when the Tigers boasted terrific attacking sides. In Claremont's magnificent premierships year of 1981, the side piled on 539 goals (at an average of 23.43 goals a match). Then, in recent years when the Tigers were a dominant force in the competition a decade ago the side scored 423 goals (average of 19.22) in 2010, 375 goals (17.04) in 2011 and 394 goals (17.90) in 2012.

Last year, Richardson (24 goals), Bradshaw (25) and Treacy (18) scored 67 of the side's 227 goals and they will be sorely missed this year when Tom Lee (the side's leading goalkicker last year with 33 majors) will provide a tall, marking option in attack. Matt Palfrey kicked 18 goals in 13 matches last season and is a mercurial performer on his day.

Hamp started his career as a key forward before becoming a superb defender with the ability to shut down a dangerous forward and also being able to read the play astutely. Towards the end of last season Hamp was switched from defence into attack in bids to enliven the forward line. "I played about four or five games in which I played at both ends," Hamp said.

"I'll probably be a permanent forward this year, but who knows what will happen during the season. The forward line still has some good experience with Tom Lee and Ollie Eastland, and from there it will be a pretty young group in attack, lots of excitement, lots

of new faces."

Captain Kane Mitchell agrees that the Tigers need to score more heavily than they have in the past couple of seasons, saying: "I think that in the past couple of years we have concentrated on being as good a defensive side as possible. That has been slightly detrimental to our offensive run.

"Our defence has been the first or second best in the competition in the past few years. We want to continue that, but we also want to build our offensive game. We do need to kick goals to win games and I believe that we have some really good firepower up forward, with some exciting young forwards and some talls that we know can kick goals when the midfielders put the ball in the right spots. There are a lot of cogs that go into kicking goals, and it's not just the forwards."

Hamp said that in answering the question about who would be kicking the goals for the Tigers this year, he suggested that it would be a matter of sharing the load.

"We have the talls in Lee and Eastland and lots of good young forwards like Alec Waterman and Harry McCracken," he said. "And Ed McGinty looks very promising and several other young guys are capable of bobbing up."

Regarding his elevation to sharing the vice-captaincy with Dec Mountford, Hamp said: "I'm there to help Kane where I can. In my opinion, we've got the best captain in the league. He's one of the best captains I've played under."

Hamp said that he has made a full recovery from serious ligament damage to his right ankle, an injury which forced him to miss four matches late last season. He started his career at Claremont as a forward with the colts in 2010 when the side lost the preliminary final in a golden point to Peel Thunder. He was then drafted as a rookie by the West Coast Eagles in November that year.

In the following two years Hamp played in three NAB Cup matches for the Eagles but found it difficult to break into Claremont's league side which boasted tall key forwards in Lee, Chad Jones and Beau Maister. He made four league appearances in 2011 and six in 2012 and was a member of Claremont's reserves premierships sides in those seasons.

He was delisted by the Eagles at the end of 2012 and then booted 34 goals for the Tigers in 2013 when the side finished on top of the premierships table before being beaten by West Perth in the second semi-final and by East Perth in the preliminary final.

Hamp was again used as a forward in 2014 before switching to the full-back position in 2015. He has played 139 league matches for the Tigers, as well as another six in Foxtel Cup games.

NOSTALGIA WILL BE RUNNING HIGH

BY KEN CASELLAS

Nostalgic tales will flow freely at Revo Fitness Stadium on May 16 this year when the Claremont Football Club will celebrate the many wonderful premierships in all grades of the WAFL competition. The Tigers, originally known as Claremont-Cottesloe, joined the WAFL (then the WANFL) in 1926 and in 94 years the club has contested some of the most exciting and memorable league grand finals, winning the premiership 12 times and being losing grand finalists on 13 disappointing occasions. Premiership players from all eras will mingle at a special luncheon at the club on May 16 when Claremont will clash with the Perth Demons.

The Tigers have enjoyed a colorful history in league grand finals, figuring in the only drawn grand final (against East Fremantle in 1938) since the Page system of a first and second semi-final, a preliminary final and a grand final was put in place in 1931. And the club also has the dubious distinction of being the only side to lose a grand final by the narrowest margin --- when a goal to Andrew Krakouer in the dying moments gave Swan Districts a one-point victory at Subiaco Oval in 2010.

Between 1926 and 1935 (the year the club dropped Cottesloe from its name) Claremont won 40 and drew two of 183 matches before the Tigers blossomed and were a powerhouse in the competition, finishing second in 1936 and 1937 before winning the premiership in 1938, 1939 and 1940.

East Perth beat Claremont by 11 points in the 1936 grand final and East Fremantle were ten-point winners over the Tigers in the grand final 12 months later. Claremont led by 19 points at the 11-minute mark of the fourth quarter before East Fremantle levelled the scores in the final minute of the 1938 grand final which ended in a draw.

In the re-match a week later, Claremont had first use of the breeze, but managed an inaccurate 2.9 in the first quarter, while restricting East Fremantle to a solitary point. Old Easts led by three points at half-time, but the Tigers steadied and went on to win by 22 points, 14.17 to 11.13.

East Fremantle led 5.4 to 2.2 at quarter-time, but the Tigers added 12.9 to East's 6.6 in the final three quarters to win the 1939 grand final by 19 points. Claremont led throughout and beat South Fremantle by 17 points in the 1940 grand final. Johnny Leonard was coach and George Moloney was captain in this notable premiership hat-trick.

Twenty-four years elapsed before the Tigers shocked the football world after finishing in last place in 1962 and 1963 by notching their fourth league premiership, with a thrilling four-point triumph over East Fremantle in 1964. The side, with Jim Conway in his first season as coach and with star rover Les Mumme in his first year as captain, scraped into fourth spot before beating Subiaco in the first semi-final and Perth in the preliminary final.

Champion ruckman Graham Moss was captain-coach and led the Tigers to a superb 15-point victory over South Fremantle in the 1981 grand final and the innovative Gerard Neesham was coach in a golden era for the Tigers when they won premierships in 1987, 1989, 1991 and 1993. Mark Hann became the first four-time Claremont premiership player, and when Darrell Panizza coached the Tigers to a thrilling two-point victory over East Perth in the 1996 grand final Scott Edwards joined Hann as the second Claremont player to appear in four league premiership sides.

Simon McPhee was coach and Clancy Rudeforth the captain when the Tigers crushed Subiaco by 56 points in a one-sided grand final in 2011. McPhee was recruited by St Kilda as an assistant coach and former Subiaco stalwart Marc Webb took over the coaching reins in 2012 when the Tigers, with an 8.6 to 1.1 first quarter, went on to defeat East Fremantle by 26 points in the grand final.

Apart from 12 league premierships, the Claremont club has won the 2012 Foxtel Cup, 11 reserves premierships, including the 1937 flag when the secondary competition was known as the WA Band of Hope Football Association, two fourths premierships and 16 in the colts competition.



CLAREMONT WOMENS

FROM THE COACHES

2020 has started off strong for the women's section of the club with a huge influx of new faces at training. The success of the Reserves side winning their 2nd Premiership in as many years has certainly had a positive impact on cementing Claremont as a club of choice.

We have welcomed a number of new members onto our coaching team: Jack Schwarze as Assistant Senior Coach, who has been managing pre-season training while our Head Coach, Andrew Di Loreto focuses on his role at West Coast Eagles as their AFLW Backline Coach. Wes Moran has also joined us as a Senior Assistant Coach, we're greatly looking forward to the experience these two will bring to our 2020 season.

We have 9 tigers playing at the top tier with Fremantle Football Club and West Coast Eagles, in the 4th year of the AFLW competition. This has allowed a number of other senior players to step and lead the pre-season which has seen over 80 players come down to training. We have been able to recruit a number of girls from junior and amateur clubs in our district, who will be a great addition to the club this season.

This year it will be great to see a number of our Rogers Cup players elevated into the senior teams. These players have come through our development pathway and are on their way towards AFLW. Keep your eyes on Bella Lewis, Bridget Camisa and Sasha Goranova.

Other players to keep an eye on at both AFLW and WAFLW level are:

- Parris Laurie (WCE) who was just nominated for AFLW team of the week (Round 2) with 27 hit outs. #25
- Kate Orme (WCE) who debuted in Round 2, an outside/inside mid who is lightning fast #32 at WCE, #2 at CFC
- Jasmin Stewart (FFC) who kicked 2 goals in the inaugural female Western Derby. #7
- Emily Bonser (WCE) who debuted in Round 3, inside mid, reliable, small, strong, quick and versatile. #6
- Laura Pugh (FD) a consistent and reliable back-liner #32
- Sophie McDonald (WCE) consistently gets the tough matchups, originally hailing from Albany, Sophie is a brick wall in defence #35 at WCE, #15 at CFC
- Sarah Garstone (FD) a young recruit for Freo, has a massive kick and is a fiery defender #12
- Matilda Seargeant (FD) recovering from injury #23
- Andrea Gilmore (WCE) has recovered from an ACL reconstruction, has a great set of hands, can't wait to see her debut #TBA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2020 has started with a strong sense of anticipation for the Claremont Women's Football Club. Last year, with the inaugural year of the WAFLW, we saw increased interest, support and spectator numbers at our Home and Away games. We were also thrilled to participate in a massive Grand Final at Mineral Resources Park, where our Reserves came away with the Premiership for the second year in a row. Following the same ethos as the boys, we have had a strong focus over the past few years on developing our local talent and have a number of talented players coming up through the ranks. 2020 should shape up to be another very exciting year for us.

2019 ended with a bang, with an additional 4 Tigers drafted into the AFLW: Emily Bonser (WCE), Kate Orme (WCE), Sophie McDonald (WCE) and Sarah Garstone (FD). Andrea Gilmore has also recently been elevated onto the Eagles list, as a long term injury replacement. They'll be joining existing AFLW players Parris Laurie (WCE), Laura Pugh (FD) Jasmin Stewart (FD) and Matilda Sergeant (FD) in the 2020 AFLW season. Bella Lewis, one of our Rogers Cup players has also been participating in the 2020 NAB AFL Women's Academy.

We're looking forward to our annual trip to Albany on the 27th March, to run the Great Southern Women's Festival of Football. If you know of any girls or women in the region who are interested in AFL, please let them know! There will be a number of games and a clinic to participate in. This program has been in place for the past 5 years, and each year has more interest and increased community engagement.

We'd love to see some new and familiar faces down to cheer on the women's teams. We are also actively seeking Game Day volunteers if you're interested in supporting the women. You can contact me on president@claremontwfc.com.au.

Rachel Asquith





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IRWIN LEWIS, A TRAILBLAZER

BY KEN CASELLAS

Irwin Lewis, in every sense of the word, was a trailblazer in a memorable lifetime.

A member of Claremont's 1964 league premiership side, Lewis died in Morawa (his birthplace) on January 28 this year at the age of 80, leaving fond memories with all of us who crossed his path.

He survived pneumonia as a toddler and went on to become a scholar, talented sportsman, public servant and a distinguished artist.

Lewis received a scholarship in 1953 to attend Christ Church Grammar School where he was dux of the junior school, a school prefect and captain of the first XI in cricket and the first XVIII in football.

Then, in 1957 he graduated from Claremont juniors to to play for the Tigers in the first season of the WAFL's

thirds competition. He also was recognised as the first Aboriginal to attend the University of Western Australia.

A skilful and physically robust half-back flanker, Lewis made his senior debut against East Fremantle at East Fremantle Oval on August 16, 1958, making him the second Aboriginal to have represented Claremont at league level (after Maley Hayward, from Tambellup, played in all 18 matches in 1928).

Lewis was a great team player with the Tigers where he enjoyed wonderful long-lasting friendships with many of his teammates, including Lorne Cook, Les Mumme and Denis Marshall.

In paying a touching tribute, Cook declared that if he ever went to war, the first man he would want at his side in the trenches would be Lewis. It was in the memorable match at Leederville Oval in September 1964 when the Tigers had to win to scramble into fourth spot and earn a place in the finals that Cook and West Perth's Ray Lucev came to blows.

Lewis sprinted from defence to Claremont's forward line and used all his pugilistic prowess to flatten Lucev. This earned him a two-week suspension for striking, causing him to miss wins in the first semi-final against Subiaco and preliminary final against Perth. He was 19th man in the grand final and came on to the field in the final quarter when two late goals to Ian Brewer gave the Tigers victory by four points.

Lewis retired in 1965 after 75 league matches and his sons Clayton, Cameron and Chris followed in his footsteps at Claremont. Clayton made 25 league appearances from 1979 to 1982 and Cameron played 92 matches between 1980 and 1990, including the 1987 and 1989 premierships.

Chris Lewis played in 53 matches for the Tigers, including the 1996 grand final when Claremont defeated East Perth by two points. He was also a star for the West Coast Eagles in AFL ranks, playing 215 matches, highlighted by premierships in 1992 and 1994.



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FAREWELL TO THE CARNAMAH KID

BY KEN CASELLAS

Few of Claremont's 1200-odd league footballers have epitomised the Tiger spirit with such passion and exuberance as Kevin Clune, the much-loved Carnamah Kid who died in December at the age of 84.

Also known affectionately as Cluney or Mister Football, he was talented, tough and tenacious --- and was much admired for his indomitable spirit.

Unconventional at times, he prepared for football in his early days by running alongside his father's tractor on the family farm, and then at Claremont he developed the unusual habit of having a swig of sherry at half-time and again at three-quarter time when a trainer brought out the wine, concealed in a brown paper bag.

The zenith of his career came in his twilight years as a player in 1964 after he was lured back to the club by recently retired champion full-back Ken Caporn and the newly-appointed coach Jim Conway, following his season with the Northam Towns in 1963.

He excelled in his comeback year, winning the fairest-and-best award at the age of 29 (after his success in 1960), scoring a remarkable and inspirational goal when he ran almost the length of Fremantle Oval to help the Tigers beat the Bulldogs by seven points in a round-20 match to keep alive the side's hopes of qualifying for the finals.

Then, after Claremont scrambled into fourth position after defeating West Perth in a memorable round-21 contest at Leederville Oval the fearless Clune made one of the most significant statements ever made

by a Claremont player when, mindful of the constant barbs that the Claremont team was made up with a bunch of handbag-carrying private schoolboys, he stunned the Lions with his powerful physical clash with Wally Martin which left the star Subiaco wingman bloodied and befuddled in the first quarter.

Claremont beat Subiaco, the hot favourites, by two goals and then came from behind to beat Perth by nine points in the preliminary final to earn the Tigers a spot in the grand final against East Fremantle. This was Clune's 200th league appearance and he had the honour of leading the side on to the field. He was one of the side's best players and scored a vital last-quarter goal against the wind in the historic four-point victory to break a 24-year premiership drought.

Clune was born in Three Springs on April 3, 1935 and at the age of 16 he was a premiership player with Carnamah's senior side and two years later he won the club's fairest-and-best award. At 19 he made his WAFL league debut, playing in the centre against East Perth's Tom Everett.

He played in all of Claremont's 20 matches in his first season when he finished second to Les Mumme in the club's fairest-and-best award, as well as polling 11 votes to be Claremont's top player in the Sandover Medal.

Clune was Claremont's captain in 1958 and again for the second half of the 1960 season. He represented Western Australia with distinction in eight interstate contests and retired in 1966 after a wonderful 231-game career with the Tigers.

He then served as reserves coach with Swan Districts for four years and two years with Perth before returning to Claremont in 1976 to coach the club's reserves side for its first premiership in the competition.



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CLARKE IS 2020 CLUB LEGEND

BY KEN CASELLAS

Tall, long-legged and lean, Sammy Clarke belied his skinny frame to become a champion footballer whose special claim to fame is that he was the first man to win the coveted Sandover Medal twice.

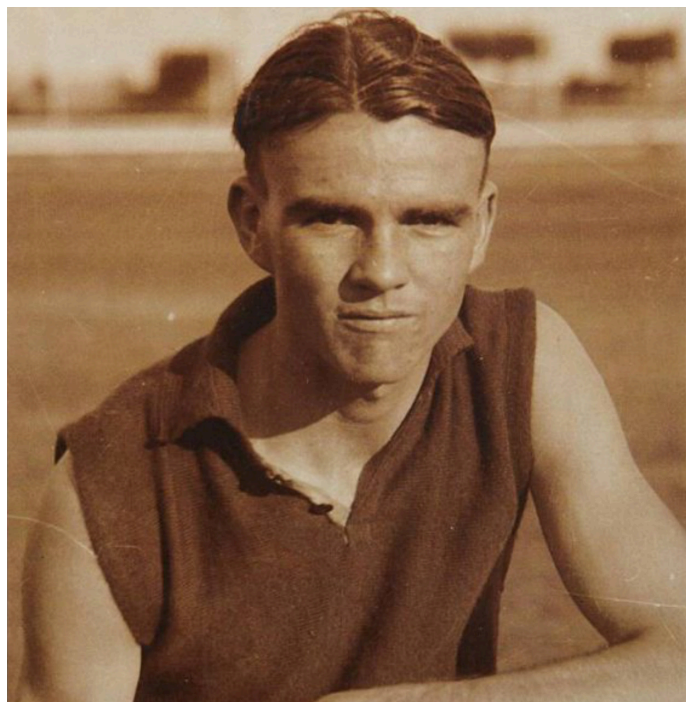
He was only 19, when in his first season in league ranks in 1933, he won the medal for the first time and remains as one of the youngest winners of the award.

Playing mainly on a half-back flank for Claremont-Cottesloe, Clarke was a stand-out performer for a side which managed just five wins and finished in last position in 1933. He polled 15 votes and beat East Perth rover Herbie Screaigh by one vote.

Even though he was out of action for two matches with a wrist injury in 1934 when the Tigers won two matches and finished in last place Clarke, then firmly entrenched at centre-half-back, polled 24 votes and won the medal by five votes from East Fremantle's Bub Jarvis. Clarke also won his club's fairest-and-best award in 1933 and 1934.

A champion high jumper who was admired by football fans for his spectacular high marking, his agility, skill, courage and his scrupulously fair attitude, Clarke has now been honoured as Claremont's 2020 match-day legend.

Sydney Campbell (Sammy) Clarke was acknowledged as the best junior footballer in WA when he was captain of the State schoolboys' team in 1928 and captain of the Hale School first eighteen in 1930. He was captain of Nedlands in 1932 when he led the side to the premiership in the Metropolitan Juniors and also won the Stempel Medal as the fairest-and-best player in the competition.



Claremont-Cottesloe changed its name to Claremont in 1935 and there is no doubt that Clarke helped to lift the club from the doldrums to great heights, with the Tigers contesting the grand final every year from 1936 to 1940.

After shining in losing grand finals in 1936 and 1937, Clarke travelled by ship to England in 1938 to train with the RAF to be a pilot. This meant that he missed the 1938 grand final when Claremont drew with East Fremantle before winning the rematch by 22 points.

He returned to Perth and enjoyed another outstanding season in 1939, culminating with a superb performance at centre-half-back when Claremont beat East Fremantle by 19 points in the grand final. Clarke then purchased a business in Busselton and did not play in 1940 when the Tigers completed a hat-trick of premierships.

Clarke made his 133rd and final appearance for Claremont in the losing first semi-final against South Fremantle at Subiaco Oval on September 28, 1941. He also represented Western Australia in eight matches. He made his interstate debut at 20 against South Australia at Perth Oval in 1934 and three days later he was elevated to be captain of the side against SA at Leederville Oval. He was listed among the best players in both contests.

Tragically, Clarke died at the age of 30 on his first operational flight as pilot of a RAAF Bristol Beaufort bomber on January 24, 1945. The aircraft, on an anti-submarine sweep near Tadjj in the territory of New Guinea, was lost in bad weather and never found.

He was inducted into the WA Football Hall of Fame in 2005 and into the WA Hall of Champions in 2009.

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