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2021 FIXTURES

ROUND	DATE	VS	LOCATION	TIME
1	Sat, April 3	Swan Districts	Steel Blue Oval	2:10pm
2	Sat, April 10	South Fremantle	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
3	Sat, April 17	Perth	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
4	Sat, April 24	Peel Thunder	David Grays Arena	2:10pm
5	Sat, May 1	West Perth	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
6	Sat, May 8	Subiaco	Leederville Oval	2:10pm
7	Sat, May 22	East Fremantle	New Choice Homes Park	2:10pm
8	Sat, May 29	East Perth	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
9	Sat, June 5	West Coast	Revo Fitness Stadium	12:10pm
10	Sat, June 12	Peel Thunder	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
11		BYE		
12	Sat, June 26	West Perth	Provident Financial Oval	2:10pm
13	Sat, July 3	Swan Districts	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
14	Sat, July 10	South Fremantle	Fremantle Community Bank Oval	2:10pm
15	Sat, July 17	East Fremantle	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
16		BYE		
17	Sun, August 1	East Perth	Leederville Oval	2:10pm
18	Sat, August 7	Subiaco	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
19	Sat, August 14	Perth	Mineral Resources Park	2:10pm
20	Sat, August 21	West Coast	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
TBC		WAFL FINALS		
TBC		GRAND FINAL		





FROM THE PRESIDENT

WELCOME TO SEASON 2021

You've got to love the smell of newly cut grass, and even better a magnificent surface to play on. The extensive turf renovation we undertook last year has paid off with the oval now looking like a bowling green.

This year we will be undertaking a process of replacing the lights. This will be trialled with the upgrade of one tower initially due to budget constraints with a view tackle the remaining 3 towers in due course.

It is a fantastic result to have the Talent Program back inside our four walls being employed directly by the Claremont Football Club. This program encompasses the Year 8's, 9's, Futures and Colts Development Programs and as the WAFC benchmark for decades in promoting our own, this is something we are very proud of.

I would like to thank ALL our sponsors, patrons, platinum members, members, player sponsors, volunteers. Without YOU we would not EXIST.

Heading into my 4th year as President of the Tigers, I couldn't be prouder of the Board. They are working hard behind the scenes as a strong cohesive team.

- Brian Beresford – Vice President (Finance/Legal)
- Tony Evans – (Football Director)
- Jeremy Sims – (Facilities Director)
- Jenny Rogers – (Event and Sponsorship Director)
- Darrell Panizza – (Talent Director)
- Tim Sullivan – (Finance)
- Rachel Asquith – (Women's President)

Strong relationships are built on camaraderie and trust, which is defined as "a feeling of good friendship among the people in a group." 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 an organisation is on the same page, giving maximum effort, they can enter into a new stage of confidence and maturity. When I talk about teams, I talk about the Claremont Football Club as a whole.

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

In Jim Collins book "Good to Great" he writes " The old adage 'People are your most important asset' is wrong. People are not your most important asset. The RIGHT people are."

"A key psychology for leading from good to great is the Stockdale Paradox: Retain absolute faith that you can and will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties, AND at the same time confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."

I believe that we have the "RIGHT PEOPLE ON THE BUS". This has to do with character traits and innate capabilities than with specific knowledge.

- The board is very proud of our team.
- Darcy Coffey – CEO
- Kepler Bradley – Football Manager
- Jordan Smith – Talent Manager
- Lisa MacNeill – Accountant
- Emma Woods – Events Coordinator
- Holly Reed – Administration/Marketing
- Ari Kane – Administration/Bar
- Mitch Lim – Bar Manager
- Pat Coffey – Mr Fixit
- Ashley Prescott – Senior Coach
- Matt Angus – Colts Coach

The Board appointed Ashley Prescott to the Senior Coaches role for the next 3 years. We are very fortunate to have a person with Ashley's attitudes and outlook on life and football. Ashley and his team of outstanding coaches have been working hard with the players in the off-season to be ready for combat this season.

I know we are on the right track when Ken Casellas whispers into my ear, "I think this could be the best coaching group we have ever assembled at the Tigers". With effort comes the unknown quantity of time. That is one thing our Football Department put in spades.

I would like to wish the whole Football Department including the players in all our teams from the Development Squads up to the League side all the best for the upcoming season.

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. Go the Tigers.

Grant Povey
President

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FROM THE CEO

What a whirlwind 2020 turned out to be. From being locked down in our own homes to mere months later watching three CFC teams play in grand finals in front of a capacity crowd at Fremantle Oval – I doubt the most creative minds could have scripted it.

Despite the heartbreaking losses on the that final day last year, I feel genuine excitement and a quiet confidence about what season 2021 holds for us. There is unfinished business at a senior level; combine this with a wealth of quality coming from underneath and we have the scaffolding of a group not only keen for the ultimate success, but also well placed for it. Ash Prescott steps into the top seat via 12 years as an AFL assistant coach at Essendon, Fremantle and Gold Coast respectively. Joining him is Sandover medallist and club legend Anthony Jones, former NMFC champion and Fremantle assistant Anthony Rock, and dual premierships Tiger Andrew Foster and we are clearly in the best possible position to fast track our player education and development.

Our women’s club continues to grow with the reserves again taking out the premierships in a nail-biting win in 2020. The work of women’s president Rachel Asquith, Coach Andrew Di Loreto and Ops manager Jodi Mills continues to set the benchmark for WA women’s football and with their season underway already in 2021, we are excited about what their season holds.

With our Oval surface undergoing major reno-

ventions across last season, it is now in the best condition it has likely ever been as we not only provide a space for our state league footballers, but also for the community to engage and utilise. This flows through to our function areas which has played host to a myriad of events over the past year. I believe we continue to establish a fantastic reputation not only regarding our venue but also the staff we have. Big thanks to Emma Woods, Ari Kane and Mitch Lim in particular for their work and leadership in this part of the club.

Community Engagement is a clear goal of our Club. 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. We have a small staffing team consisting of the aforementioned in the bar & functions, as well as Lisa MacNeil, Holly Reed, Kepler Bradley, Jordan Smith & Pat Coffey – they all carry more than their share of the load around the club and please thank them when you see them. Our Board was returned unopposed leading into this year and that is attributable to the strong leadership they provide. I must also extend particular thanks to Peter Laurance and Anne Kyle, who have been incredible long-time patrons of the club in both the past and ongoing. In terms of sponsors, Andrew Holder & George Gelavis from Revo Fitness; the Singh family from Foodies IGA and Harold Tracey from H&M Constructions along with Kevin Terry at Hertz are again major partners of the club in 2021. This year they are joined by Euroz Hartleys as a major support partner, and all of whom will be represented on the senior jumpers in 2021.

There is plenty to be excited about this year. Thanks for your support and see you at the footy in 2021

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FROM THE COACH

For the players as well as coaches the start of March brings that excitement of the pre-season winding up and the real stuff commencing where you can really challenge yourself against a team-mate under match day pressure, or an opposition player who has been preparing to beat you since October. It's both exciting and challenging, you wouldn't want it any other way.

Since I turned up at the club what has been overwhelmingly inspiring to me is the passion and effort that the players, the staff and the new coaching team are putting in. The playing group has been so welcoming and to a man they have demonstrated with their actions that they have the will to prepare very hard for the season ahead. They are sponges to learn and have taken on the coaching team's methods and messages extremely well.

I want to acknowledge and thank the efforts of football manager Kepler Bradley, who is both a sharp football administrator and people's person. He genuinely cares for others and does the right thing. Darcy Coffey (CEO) has been great for me as a new person coming in, providing a steady hand and sound advice on many topics off the football field. We really do look forward to building on these relationships over time so we are fully aligned and can both support and challenge each other for the betterment of the Claremont Football Club.

To Holly, Lisa, Emma and Jodi Mills (FM women's) it has been really nice getting to know you all, having some intelligent females in the building to control and balance us blokes out is al-

ways a good thing! Together we have been putting some processes in place to have a real 'one club mentality' so linking the futures and colts, colts and senior men's and women's programs together whenever possible is both aspirational and a work in progress. To Matt Angus (colts coach) Jordan Smith (talent/development) Ashley Clancy (futures coach) and your respective coaches and staff your energy and willingness to see the value in this, and drive it, has been tremendous.

Jake Shaw (head of conditioning) and his team have put together a first-class fitness and strength program that has the group fit and available and when you consistently see players investing in themselves on non-training nights, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays you know they have been educated well and the motivational climate is strong. Thanks Jake and your team. Also, team physiotherapist Kim Manolas, who is always ready and available to attend to the needs of the players.

One of our main priorities since late last October was to assemble the best possible coaching team we could, surrounding the playing group with people of high character with strong football knowledge, and who genuinely care for people was our goal and our obligation. We feel we have been able to do that, so to Darren Harper (reserves coach) Andrew Foster, Anthony Rock and Anthony Jones (assistant coaches) and your families, thanks for supporting the club and for investing your valuable time into the players the way you have over pre-season. Personally, I feel very privileged to be able to build this football team together with you guys.

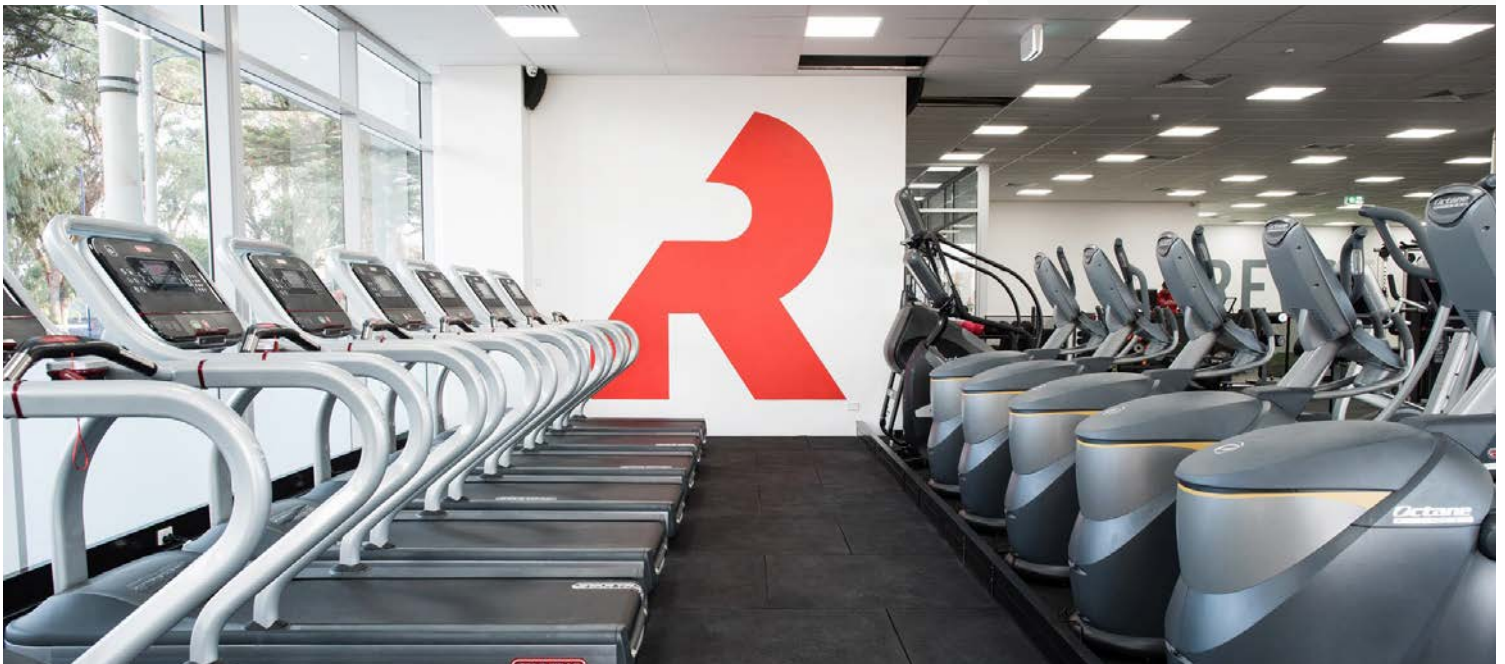
As I write this, we have a month to go before our Round 1 fixture, so it's our noses to the grindstone as we continue to work hard together on being a connected team with a strong game plan built on our attack on the ball, playing to our strengths and working hard for each other with and without the ball.

Go Tigers

Ashley Prescott

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TALENT DEPARTMENT

2021 marks the return of our talent programs to the purview of the Claremont Football Club, having been overseen by the West Australian Football Commission for the last couple of years.

Already, the support from Grant Povey, Darcy Coffey and the board and Kepler Bradley and Ashley Prescott from a senior football perspective has been highly valuable. It goes without saying that everyone involved within our talent programs is very excited to continue the redevelopment of the strong bonds with our senior program that have been tougher to maintain in these last 2-3 years.

As one example, this year the Colts squad will train together with the senior squad on Monday evenings – something which has not happened for a number of years and will no doubt be a great education for our next batch of senior footballers coming through.

Another exciting initiative brought about by talent's 'return to the club' has been our Community Coach Education Program. As we go to print, we currently have over 150 coaches, predominantly from our twelve Claremont District junior clubs, registered to participate in a wide-ranging education session on Tuesday 23rd March with an array of high-quality in-house presenters from across our Senior, Talent and Womens programs.

Before touching more on the year ahead, I'd like to formally congratulate 2020 Colts Captain, Joel Western, on being drafted to the Fremantle Dockers at the end of last year. Joel's maturity, leadership, skill and passion were clear for all to see throughout what was a difficult year where he missed almost half the home and away season through injury. Joel remains a regular at Revo Fitness Stadium, currently assisting our coaches at Colts trainings once a week. I wish Joel all the best for what we hope will be a long career ahead.

2021 shapes as a busy year in talent, with our four major metro programs all planning for a return to normality, with some changes and enhancements thrown in as always. Our Colts program will once again be underpinned by the Futures (16s), 15s Development Squad and 14s Development Squad programs.

Our Colts squad takes on a very young complexion this year, with the bulk of last year's highly talented Futures list joining the group as we aim for a third successive Grand Final appearance.

Of great excitement this preseason has been the depth of re-

depth of regional talent involved in our Colts program. We started preseason with no fewer than 35 regionally-zoned players and this number remains high as we close in on Round 1, with our number of Kimberley products in particular having risen sharply in comparison to previous years. A big thank you to Carl Merrison (Kimberley) and Darrell Panizza (Great Southern), among many others, for their assistance in helping set these boys up to chase their footballing dreams in the city.

On the topic of our country zones, it promises to be an exciting year for both regions, with the return of our major regional carnivals and collaborations after the frustrating cancellations of 2020. Already our Futures side has travelled to Albany to take on the Great Southern Storm in an exhibition match last month, with further opportunities and initiatives continuing to be locked away for the Storm and the Kimberley Spirit this year.

A key strength of our programs remains our coaches and support staff, with experienced mentor Matt Angus leading our Colts program again this season. Existing assistant coaches Ben Willett, Brett Bowker and Matt Sofoulis are this year joined by Brendan Arundell and former CFC player Chris Bandy. Ben Willett is back for another year as Colts Team Manager.

Our Futures assistant coaching group also adds some fresh blood in 2021 with Ritchie Hore and Ben Noakes joining returnees Craig Rogers, Ryan Pontifex and Scott Thornton in support of second-year Head Coach Ashley Clancy. I must also mention Sam Wallace, Sam Marson, Jake Colvin, Ricki Smith, Declan Cormack and Chris Tan, whose support throughout preseason training in varying capacities across both programs has been of great value.

Andrew Jonson again leads our Colts Strength & Conditioning team, while Emmett O'Brien has been a fantastic acquisition as our Futures S&C Coach. It's been brilliant to welcome Chloe Phelps back into the fold as our Head Physio, ably supported by experienced Head Trainers Katie Hanrahan and Kara Malkovic.

I'm a firm believer that our programs are what our people make them, and we continue to have great people investing lots of time and energy while making plenty of personal sacrifices to assist in the on and off field development of the young men in our talent programs.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the footy throughout 2021!

Jordan Smith
Talent Manager





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 <p>Placement + SPP \$62.5 million Joint Lead Manager + Joint Underwriter Euroz Hartleys Aug 20</p>	 <p>Placement + ANREO \$98.5 million Joint Lead Manager + Underwriter Euroz Hartleys Apr 20</p>	 <p>Placement + ANREO \$55 million Lead Manager + Underwriter Euroz Hartleys Jul 20</p>	 <p>Placement \$25.5 million Joint Lead Manager Euroz Hartleys Jul 20</p>	 <p>Placement \$25 million Joint Lead Manager Euroz Hartleys Jul 20</p>

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2021 TEAM LIST

1



KANE MITCHELL

HT: 175 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 132

2



TOM CURREN

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

3



BAILEY ROGERS

HT: 185 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 78

4



JACK LEWSEY

HT: 178 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 38

5



DECLAN MOUNTFORD

HT: 183 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 31

6



RYAN LIM

HT: 186 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 109

8



BEN EDWARDS

HT: 180 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 8

9



JACK BEECK

HT: 181 cm
WT: 88 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 70

10



LACHLAN MARTINIS

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

11



JYE BOLTON

HT: 187 cm
WT: 88 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 90

12



RYLIE MORGAN

HT: 181 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 9

13



JARED HARDISTY

HT: 179 cm
WT: 86 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 68

14



TOM LEDGER

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

15



HAYDN BUSER

HT: 191 cm
WT: 93 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 134


16




FRANCIS WATSON

HT: 187 cm
WT: 83 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 62

17  **CALLAN ENGLAND**
HT: 182 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 25

18  **JAKE PATMORE**
HT: 183 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

19  **TOM BALDWIN**
HT: 177 cm
WT: 73 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 10


20  **BAILEY BENNETT**
HT: 177 cm
WT: 73 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 13


21  **OLIVER EASTLAND**
HT: 198 cm
WT: 98 kg
POSITION: RUCK
LEAGUE GAMES: 45

22  **ANTHONY TREACY**
HT: 182 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 17

23  **JASON CARTER**
HT: 183 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

24  **MAX SPYVEE**
HT: 176 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 3


25  **LEWIS DAISLEY**
HT: 189 cm
WT: 89 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 1

26  **ANTON HAMP**
HT: 191 cm
WT: 86 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 153

27  **ALEX MANUEL**
HT: 188 cm
WT: 89 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 49

28  **STEVEN MILLER**
HT: 198 cm
WT: 95 kg
POSITION: RUCK/FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

29  **ISAAC BARTON**
HT: 174 cm
WT: 64 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 7

30  **ANTHONY DAVIS**
HT: 195 cm
WT: 83 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 6

31  **TYRON SMALLWOOD**
HT: 179 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 26

32  **JACOB VAN ROOYEN**
HT: 194 cm
WT: 89 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

34  **BEN RUSHFORTH**
HT: 183 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 3

35  **DECLAN HARDISTY**
HT: 188 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 48



36



SHAQUILLE MORTON

HT: 177 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 2

37



HARRISON McCRACKEN

HT: 180 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 53

38



CHARLIE MALONE

HT: 183 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 2

39



ISAIAH BUTTERS

HT: 185 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

40



BEN ELLIOTT

HT: 184 cm
WT: 83 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

41



ALEX PEARCE

HT: 186 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

42



JACK BULLER

HT: 198 cm
WT: 101 kg
POSITION: RUCK/FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

43



MAX MINEAR

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

44



MARC BOYATZIS

HT: 178 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

46



JACOB BLIGHT

HT: 195 cm
WT: 93 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

47



BEN SCHUHKRAFT

HT: 196 cm
WT: 92 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

48



LOUIS PASSERA

HT: 190 cm
WT: 83 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

49



BEN RAMSHAW

HT: 192 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

50



DYLAN SMALLWOOD

HT: 195 cm
WT: 82 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 39

51



WILLIAM REILLY

HT: 196 cm
WT: 92 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

52



JAKE WILLSON

HT: 176 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

53



NATHAN PEARCE

HT: 185 cm
WT: 88 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

54



SAM HUMPHRY

HT: 183 cm
WT: 87 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

55  **CAMERON ANDERSON**
HT: 177 cm
WT: 65 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

56  **KALIN LANE**
HT: 204 cm
WT: 95 kg
POSITION: RUCK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

57  **ZAC MAINWARING**
HT: 177 cm
WT: 71 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0


58  **LOGAN GUELF**
HT: 183 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

59  **SAM ALVAREZ**
HT: 183 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0


60  **LEITH FITZPATRICK**
HT: 191 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

61  **JOEL KRAUSS**
HT: 185 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

62  **LUKE KNIGHT**
HT: 193 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0


63  **SETH ROBERTS**
HT: 183 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

64  **KADE LINES**
HT: 176 cm
WT: 68 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

65  **OLLIE SHELDRIK**
HT: 184 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0


66  **KOBI MARTIN**
HT: 189 cm
WT: 88 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

67  **CHARLIE MORFESSE**
HT: 192 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

68  **DECLAN CARRUTHERS**
HT: 183 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

70  **KIERAN GOWDIE**
HT: 199 cm
WT: 105 kg
POSITION: RUCK/FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

71  **KAI HARWOOD**
HT: 185 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

72  **BROCK ANNING**
HT: 177 cm
WT: 66 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

74  **MARCUS ROMANO**
HT: 170 cm
WT: 68 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0



WOMENS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2021 has been off to a strong start for all three of our teams. Late last year, the decision was made to pull the WAFLW season forward; starting in February to better align with the AFLW season. For us, this meant a quick turnaround to get preseason up and running. I'd like to commend all of our staff and volunteers for their professionalism and ability to adapt over this period.

The new season started with a Come "N" Try Day in December 2020 followed by preseason tryouts, we have recruited a significant number of seniors from local amateur clubs and 18 new Rogers Cup recruits from local junior clubs. 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 exciting players coming up through the ranks.

We have also had some fun with Camp Claremont over a day early in the New Year, our Preseason Launch in the Tiger Bar as well as a fundraiser in round 3 for International Women's Day collecting donations for Zonta House Refuge. We're also looking forward to hearing from keynote speaker Lucy Peach as well as connecting with more coaches of female footy in the district.

While we weren't able to make it down to Albany before preseason as we normally do, we're looking for opportunities to engage players, clubs and the community in the Great Southern and would welcome any suggestions!

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

FROM THE COACHES

2021 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 3rd Premiership in as many years has certainly had a positive impact on cementing Claremont as a club of choice.

We have managed to retain all of our coaching staff from 2020; this has given our players consistency and stability as we change from a short season directly into a new, early season. Some positions have been juggled; Zeb Pawlowski taking on the Reserves Head Coach role and Amanda Robertson stepping up to coach League Back Line as well as Rogers Cup Head Coach. We have complete confidence in our team and their ability to work as a cohesive unit, with a whole club coaching strategy.

We have 8 tigers playing at the top tier with Fremantle Football Club and West Coast Eagles, in the 5th year of the AFLW competition. This has allowed a number of other senior players to step and lead the preseason which has seen over 90 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 young Emily Elkington, along with all of the girls named below.

We'd like to congratulate a couple of players on their achievements:

- Ella Smith (Captain), Madi Scanlon, Jessica Low and Sasha Goranova, who have all been named as train ons to the Eagles
- Eva O'Donnell, the 2020 Rogers Cup Competition Fairest and Best
- Matilda Dyke, Emily Bennett and Amy Franklin, named in the 2021 WA U19 State Squad




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

- Bella Lewis (WCE) #6
- Parris Laurie (WCE) #25
- Kate Orme (WCE) #32
- Jasmin Stewart (FFC) #7
- Laura Pugh (FD) #32
- Sophie McDonald (WCE) #35 at WCE, #15 at CFC
- Matilda Sergeant (FD) #23
- Andrea Gilmore (WCE) #22



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JONES IS 2021 CLUB LEGEND

BY KEN CASELLAS

Anthony Jones is one of those rare footballers who was a champion in defence and attack.

He was an outstanding centre-half-back both for Claremont in the WAFL competition and for the Fremantle Dockers in the AFL before becoming a brilliant centre-half-forward for the Tigers in his final years in senior ranks.

Jones was Claremont's captain in 2007 and 2008 and won the Sandover Medal in 2007, and this year he has been honoured as Claremont's 2021 match-day legend.

A member of the 1993 Claremont colts' premiership side, he made 147 league appearances for the Tigers and was the club's leading goalkicker in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, finishing his WAFL career at the end of the 2008 season with 280 goals for Claremont. He represented Western Australia in six interstate matches and was captain of the State side against South Australia in 2006.

The 46-year-old Jones also played 82 AFL matches for the Fremantle Dockers between 1995 and 2003 and he has been an assistant strength and conditioning coach with the West

Coast Eagles for the past 12 years before returning to Claremont this year as an assistant to league coach Ash Prescott.

He never lost his enthusiasm for the game during his nine seasons with the Dockers during which he missed many matches when suffering from a punctured lung and hamstring, foot, knee, rib and shoulder injuries. A stress fracture of a foot forced him to miss the entire 1999 season and he was out of action for the second half of the 2002 season, suffering from a ruptured tendon in his chest.

Jones says that he enjoyed playing as a defender and forward. "They both had positives," he said. "As a centre-half-back you set yourself for a real challenge because you know you are playing on a key forward who has a fair bit of ability.

"As a forward, there's more creativeness in that you are dictating where you're going, beating your opponent, one-on-one, and creating opportunities for your teammates.

"When I returned to Claremont I really enjoyed playing as a forward because I was a bit burnt out as a backman at AFL level where it was just relentless in terms of the guys you had to play on."



ANDREW FOSTER

BY KEN CASELLAS

Claremont's midfield, led by dual Sandover medallist Jye Bolton, is bursting with talent, and Andrew Foster is looking forward to his first senior coaching role --- as the man in charge of the midfield this year.

The 35-year-old Foster said: "As a coach I won't forget what it was like as a player; it's a hard game to play, and I'd like to keep it as basic as possible."

Foster, a hard-running, creative midfielder and a highly skilled half-forward flanker, was an outstanding performer during his five years with the Tigers, during which he enjoyed premiership successes in 2011 and 2012.

He began his career with East Fremantle and played 49 league matches for the Sharks before spending three years with the Fremantle Dockers where he managed just nine AFL matches because of a damaged right shoulder which required surgery and a serious back injury. He then joined Claremont and was a shining light in his 86 appearances for the club.

"It's good to be back at Claremont," he said. "It has changed a lot since I was here last, and we were playing across the ground at the Showgrounds. When I finished playing, I did a year (as an assistant) with Ross McQueen



Anthony Rock, a tigerish midfielder and a key member of North Melbourne's 1996 AFL premiership team, is a welcome addition to Claremont's coaching panel this year as the man in charge of the side's defensive unit. He has an impressive list of achievements as a player and a coach and has learnt a great deal as a player under eminent AFL coaches John Kennedy, Wayne Schimmelbusch, Denis Pagan, Ken Judge and Peter Schwab.

"As a backman, firstly you have to defend," he said. "That's first and foremost. I'm really just about the basics, executing the basics over and over again, and the fundamentals, whether that be midfield, forward, chasing or tackling.

"As a defensive group, we really want to defend first, and then, obviously, as that plays out, we need to start to attack and go forward. It's really about the basics, technique and method, and the more often you execute the basics in a game of football, the more often you are going to be successful.

"Success is about hard work; it doesn't come overnight; it is a continual habit. We need to stick to the fundamentals; there's no secret magic formula for success. You



with the Claremont colts and then did a couple of years assisting my brother Mark with the South Fremantle colts.

"It is a bit different now as a coach with the seniors; they know a bit more than the young colts players. Rocky (Anthony Rock) has been in the AFL system as a midfield coach, so there is a fair bit of support there, for me to bounce things off.

"I am enjoying the challenge of getting to know the 60-odd players on the senior list. We have a strong midfield group, a good balance between senior players and the young guys coming through. And it will be challenging to fit everyone into the side."

Foster certainly has excellent credentials as a midfield coach, and among his highlights for the Dockers was the experience of being matched against the powerful Geelong midfield trio of Jimmy Bartel, Paul Chapman and Joel Corey, as well as his being opposed to the dashing Port Adelaide duo of Peter and Shaun Burgoyne.

ANTHONY ROCK

BY KEN CASELLAS

need a collective buy-in, and everyone swinging in the same direction --- and that includes from the top down to the bottom --- players, staff and the CEO. We need a good culture, driven by the leadership within the club.

"There are lots of things I have learnt along the way. Little things make the difference around a sporting club; they often get overlooked. Whether it's a piece of tape, a drink bottle or boots lying on the floor."

The 50-year-old Rock played 178 matches in 11 seasons for North Melbourne and a further 44 matches in three seasons with Hawthorn. A year after retiring from AFL ranks Rock was a VFL premiership player for Box Hill in 2001 (his final game of competitive football) and then coached the North Ballarat Rebels in the TAC Cup for three seasons before assistant coaching stints at Melbourne (2005-06), St Kilda (2007-08), North Melbourne (2009) and the Fremantle Dockers (2016-20).

He also was the premiership coach of Greenvale in the Essendon Eastern District Football League in 2012 and 2013 before coaching St Bernard's to a flag in the Victorian Amateur Football Association in 2015.

"Hopefully, I can contribute in some small way to Claremont, whether that be a premiership or whatever," he said. "It's not going to be easy; it's not just going to roll on from last year. This year it's going to be a whole different season."



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ANTHONY JONES BY KEN CASELLAS

Former Claremont champion and the 2007 Sandover medallist Anthony Jones freely admits that his official coaching experience is zero. But the man who has joined Ash Prescott's coaching staff this season as the mentor of the forwards comes with exemplary credentials.

He has spent the past 12 years with the West Coast Eagles as part of the club's rehabilitation and conditioning team.

"I was doing a lot of coaching football type things, and obviously being involved for so long you pick up quite a few things and a few philosophies on how to play as a forward or as a back or in the midfield," Jones said.

"It is really exciting being back at Claremont and getting back with Prezza and Harpsy (reserves coach Darren Harper). Anthony Rock has a wealth of experience and Fozzie is a dual premierships player.

"Being a forward coach, I think it is just simplicity in terms of relying on the senior players to direct traffic a bit. In the end, it is a simple game. Forwards need space to lead into and when they get the opportunity, they've got to kick goals.

"Forwards definitely perform better when they work together to create these opportunities and shots at goal. Forward craft these days is not confined to just the 50-metre arc.



Players have got to work right up the ground and work back. Underpinning all that is having a good level of fitness in order to enable players to do all the work and eventually get shots on goal."

Jones, an outstanding centre-half-back in his early years with Claremont and again during his 82 AFL matches with the Fremantle Dockers, blossomed into a superb centre-half-forward in his final years of WAFL football with the Tigers when he was the club's leading goalkicker four times and became the oldest Sandover medallist at the age of 32 in 2007.

Agreeing that a dominant midfield made life easier for forwards, Jones said that he was looking for this year's forwards to develop into a tight group and that it was important for the players to learn the little idiosyncrasies of their teammates.

"That enables a player to gain that half metre on his opponent, whether a teammate is going to turn naturally on his left or right, or whether he normally kicks the ball long or short," he explained.

CARRUTHERS VAULTS INTO A NEW ERA

BY KEN CASELLAS

Cruelly denied the opportunity to represent Australia at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Queensland and the postponed 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, star pole vaulter Declan Carruthers has quit the spectacular high-flying sport and is pursuing his sporting dreams as a Claremont footballer.

The 23-year-old Carruthers started pole vaulting when he was 12 and he has been fully immersed in the sport for the past five years, competing in Australia, New Zealand, China, South Korea, Germany, France and Finland.

He had considerable early success and represented Australia as a 17-year-old schoolboy at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing in China where he recorded an equal personal best of 4m 80cm and finished second in the B final and tenth overall.

Carruthers, born in Toogoom on the Queensland coast and moving at the age of two with his parents and sister to Glenelg in South Australia, has retired from competitive pole vaulting with a personal best of 5m 60cm (the eighth best all-time by an Australian), and now he aims to make his mark on the football field.

A smooth-moving left-footer, Carruthers has impressed throughout Claremont's pre-season training sessions and is looking forward to playing in his first match since he lined up for Henley High School in 2015.

"As a junior I played as a midfielder and on a wing, and I've always had the speed and the power, with an X factor of running with the ball," he said. "I don't have any expectations at Claremont where I have loved training and have been welcomed by everyone.

"Initially, I was scared, coming to a club and joining a big bunch of blokes who have been together for quite a while. They were joined by a bloke from a different sport who hasn't played for five or six years. They could have easily turned their heads, but I was made welcome and there is an awesome camaraderie around the boys."

Carruthers said that the disappointment of being injured on the eve of the 2018 Commonwealth Games and then the postponement of last year's Olympic Games in Tokyo had prompted his decision to quit the sport.

"I had been a pole vaulter for almost 12 years," he said. "And the Tokyo Games had always been my goal, and around about August and September last year pole vaulting didn't get me up anymore. It is a very hard sport in Australia if you're not the best, funding wise, and you have to work.

"I felt I needed to progress in other aspects of life. At the end of the day, it was me trying to jump over a pole with another pole. I lost the passion and the competitive edge, and I decided that I wasn't going to put my life on hold again for Tokyo 2021.



"I had missed footy; I'm a mad Brisbane Lions supporter and all I have done for years on weekends was to watch the footy. I wanted to be part of a team environment and I wanted to give footy another crack."

Carruthers started pole vaulting when he was 12 after renowned Adelaide coach Kym Simons had been impressed with the youngster's ability to transfer his horizontal speed into vertical power when competing as a long jumper.

"I loved all the power events --- long jump, high jump and sprinting," said Carruthers. "Pole vaulting became the most progressive sport I have ever done, and it started pretty much with a broomstick and a sand pit."

In his formative years Carruthers combined football with pole vaulting. He played with the Plympton Bulldogs and then was a member of the Glenelg colts side for two years before being promoted to the senior squad.

"Nobody told me to give up football or pole vaulting until I was 17 or 18, and it was during the pre-season with Glenelg that I realized I couldn't do both," he said. "And I don't really know why I chose pole vaulting."

In 2016 Carruthers started studying human movement at the University of South Australia. "But after the first semester I wasn't having the best success with pole vaulting, so I went to Perth during the semester break and spent three weeks at the WA Institute of Sport," he said. "I absolutely loved it and at the end of three weeks I called Mum and Dad and said I wanted to stay."

That was the beginning of five years training as a pole vaulter at WAIS under expert guidance, and in 2018 Carruthers finished second to Kurtis Marschall at the national championships to earn selection in the Australian team for the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

This was a notable achievement, but two days before he was due to compete at the Games Carruthers suffered a grade three tear of a hamstring when practising on the warm-up track, an injury which ruled him out of the Games. He watched from the stands as his mate Marschall cleared 5m 70cm to win a gold medal.

The damaged hamstring prevented Carruthers from competing on the European athletics circuit later in 2018 before he had the experience of a European season in 2019 when he competed strongly over a two-month period.

"I was in really good shape and had put some really good scores on the board which I was hoping would earn me selection for the world championships," Carruthers said. "I had just jumped 5.55 to win in Finland and when I was attempting 5.65, I tore my quad," said Carruthers.

"That ended my European season and I returned to Perth to rehabilitate my quad. Then after three months of rehab I got back to jumping for a month before damaging the quad again, which required another three months of rehabilitation." He regained full fitness early in 2020 and was on track for the Tokyo Olympic Games before the coronavirus pandemic saw the Games called off and postponed for at least another year.

Carruthers, who will always recall fondly the euphoria of soaring skywards, upside down, clearing the bar and falling safely on the foam pads, has spent the past five years in Perth. He now runs a small photography business, Putherup, and works for a global company which supplies chemicals to hospitals and other organisations which have major water systems.



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GOALS ARE HIS GOAL BY KEN CASELLAS

Seventeen-year-old Jacob Van Rooyen blossomed as a key forward of exciting ability in Colts football last year, and now he has his sights set on kicking goals for Claremont's league side in 2021.

"Of course, I'm hoping to play league football this year, and I think I have given myself the best opportunity to achieve my goal," he said. "I have been really pushing to play in the league side."

Tigers fans had an early opportunity to admire his skills in a round four colts match against Peel Thunder at Revo Fitness Stadium last year when few, if any of them realised the drama surrounding his five-goal effort.

"During the first quarter someone stepped on my left boot and all the eyelets were ripped and I had no laces," he said. "I didn't bring a spare pair of boots, which was pretty silly.

"So, I went into the rooms at quarter-time and asked if anyone had a spare size 13 pair of boots. Haydn Busher handed me a pair of his

boots. He had about five pairs in his locker. "I was playing at full-forward and managed to kick five goals with those new black and blue boots in the final three quarters. And we beat Peel by five or six goals.

"Later at training Haydn came up to me and said I could keep the boots. I saved them until the finals and used them in the semi-final and grand final against Subiaco when I didn't capitalize on my opportunities and scored 3.4."

Van Rooyen, who took five marks and had 17 disposals in the losing grand final, in which he excelled in the ruck in the second half, was a keen basketballer in his younger days before he concentrated on football.

The 194cm and 88kg Van Rooyen impressed AFL talent scouts as a member of the WA 16s side in 2019 and 18s side last year and he is one of four West Australian teenagers chosen in the AFL academy squad of elite prospects. The squad is coached by former Collingwood defender Tarkyn Lockyer and will participate in camps during the year.

Van Rooyen, who has been outstanding during pre-season training with Claremont, worked as a labourer in the summer months and is studying human biology at the University of WA.





ILLNESS ENDS LEE'S GREAT CAREER

BY KEN CASELLAS

Much-admired and loved Claremont stalwart Tom Lee has been struck down by an attack of Ross River virus, a debilitating sickness which has forced him to retire from football.

Lee, who celebrated his 30TH birthday in January, will be a significant loss. He has been an enthusiastic worker at pre-season training and was looking forward keenly to continuing his decorated league career.

A tall, high-marking key forward, Lee was Claremont's leading goalkicker in 2012 (60 goals), 2018 (41) and 2019 (33) and he finished second to Kane Mitchell in the count for the E. B. Cook Medal as the league sides' fairest-and-best player in 2012 when he was also named in the WAFL Team of the Year.

An emotional Lee informed the club and his teammates of his decision, saying that the virus had sapped his energy and had left him with no alternative but to hang up his boots.

He is a proud member of Claremont's 2011 and 2012 league premiership sides, and in 2012 he was the star of the show with six goals in Claremont's winning grand final side over Werribee in the Foxtel Cup at Subiaco Oval. In WAFL matches that year Lee booted seven goals in a round-16 match against Swan Districts and four bags of six goals.

Born in Dowerin and educated at Scotch College, Lee, affectionately known as Tet, retires after 91 league appearances and 169 goals for the Tigers.

In recent years he has been a wonderful leader at the club and has been an inspirational mentor to young players.

A variety of injuries has blighted much of his wonderful career. He has suffered from loose joints and has undergone two operations on each shoulder (two reconstructions



and two clean-outs) in 2013 and 2014, as well as reconstructions of both ankles in 2015., He also had surgery to repair a fractured bone in his right hand.

He was drafted at the age of 17, taken at pick No. 60 by the Adelaide Crows in the 2008 AFL draft after having played only a couple of matches the Claremont colts side. With his young, slim and immature body struggling against bigger and far more experienced players, he was delisted by the Crows after one year at the club.

He returned to Claremont and made only four league appearances for the Tigers in 2010 before quickly developing into a star and playing in league premiership sides in the following two years.

After Claremont's 2012 premiership triumph, Lee was recruited by St Kilda and spent four seasons with the Saints before returning to Tigerland for the 2017 season.

Sadly, he was beset by injuries and managed just 17 AFL matches for St Kilda (ten in 2013, three in 2014, none in 2015 when he was laid low by a serious ankle injury, and four in 2016. As well as that, Lee played 42 VFL matches for Sandringham.

An outstanding clubman, the ever-cheerful Tom Lee leaves a big hole at Claremont as well as many unforgettable memories.



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PATMORE'S UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BY KEN CASELLAS

Skilful midfielder Jake Patmore has returned to Claremont this year after a three-year absence --- with some unfinished business he aims to achieve.

A member of the colts premiership side in 2016, Patmore has unhappy memories of his most recent match for the Tigers --- when the colts side was soundly beaten by East Fremantle in the grand final in September 2017.

"It's my ambition to play for a Claremont league premiership side, and I think we've got the side to do it this year," he said. "And, hopefully, I get a chance of being re-drafted this year."

Patmore, who celebrated his 22ND birthday in January this year, retains a positive outlook after suffering a major knee injury which wrecked his hopes during his three seasons with Port Adelaide.

After a magnificent season with the Claremont colts side in 2017 Patmore was drafted by Port Adelaide. He played all 18 matches for the Port Adelaide Magpies in the SANFL in 2018 but failed to make his AFL debut after being named as an emergency for a couple of matches. Then his immediate dreams were shattered when he was badly injured in a pre-season SANFL scratch match at Noarlunga which forced him to miss the entire 2019 season.

"I went up for a mark, got hit from the side and landed awkwardly," he said. "I ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in my left knee and also damaged my meniscus and MLC (medial collateral ligament). This required a full knee reconstruction, and then I didn't play a single match last year when the season was shortened due to the coronavirus pandemic."

Patmore was delisted by Port Adelaide at the end of last year and he decided to return to Perth.

"It was reasonably tough to be delisted, but I had a bit of time to come to grips with it," he said. "I had a great

support base around me. I'm so excited at the prospect of playing again, and hopefully the virus stays away. I decided the best option to play really good footy was with my mates at Claremont.

"It's very exciting to be back at Claremont and I can't wait until the season starts."

Patmore was born in Broome and studied at the North Cottesloe Primary School before starting in Year Six at Christ Church Grammar School. "I played most sports growing up; my Dad played hockey for Australia and I had early ambitions to follow in his footsteps and played hockey until the under 12s

"Dad was encouraging, and he wanted me to do whatever I wanted. Eventually I realised I was probably a bit better at football and enjoyed it a bit more."

Patmore's father Nigel represented Australia at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles when he scored a goal in the losing bronze medal match against Great Britain. He was also a member of the Australian team which won the 1983 Champions Trophy in Karachi and the World Cup in London in 1986.

It didn't take Jake Patmore long to develop into a wonderful young footballer. Fast and agile, he represented Western Australia at the under-16 national championships in Victoria and South Australia in 2015 and was selected in the AFL's national under-16 side. In the following two years he was chosen in the WA under-18 carnival side.

Patmore gave a further example of his class with a magnificent season with the Tigers colts in 2017, during which he amassed 39 disposals against South Fremantle, 42 against Subiaco and 48 against Swan Districts before he shone in four final-round matches with 102 disposals and 19 tackles. He was a star in the losing grand final against East Fremantle, taking four marks, having 15 kicks and ten handpasses as well as four tackles.

Patmore, who has just started working as an apprentice plumber, said he had learnt a great deal during his three years with Port Adelaide. "All the players were unreal to train with. Ollie Wines is just a beast, and I had a close association with Travis Boak, who was probably the biggest influence. He helped me with heaps of stuff, on and off the field."



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A TEAM WITHIN A TEAM

BY KEN CASELLAS

A common perception in football is that defenders are big, tough and unsmiling. But that is not always the case. The Tigers have two skilful and highly efficient small backmen in Jack Lewsey and Tom Baldwin.

Lewsey (22) and Baldwin (20) played in all of Claremont's ten league matches last season when they complemented the great work of their bigger colleagues in defence, Haydn Busher, Dylan Smallwood, Bailey Rogers, Ryan Nyhuis, Dec Hardisty and Anthony Davis.

Lewsey, a product of Christ Church Grammar School and the Swanbourne juniors, shone as a high half-back in junior ranks, but he also showed considerable promise as an outside and inside centre in rugby union with the Associates club's junior teams, as well as being an enthusiastic cricketer in the summer. He played as a defender in the WA under-16 football carnival side, but it wasn't until a couple of years later that he made the decision to concentrate on football. "I've always had the passion for football ahead of rugby, and all my mates played footy, so it was an easy decision in the end," he explained.

Lewsey finished sixth in the fairest-and-best count for the Tigers colts in 2017 and he made his league debut in the round 16 match against East Perth the following year. He has not missed a league game since and has strung together a consecutive run of 38 league appearances.

"At times last year I was assigned the task of shutting down a dangerous small forward, and Tom Baldwin also was given that role which freed me up a bit to become more of an offensive player," he said.

"Delivering the ball (accurately) from half-back definitely sets up the game. Our aim is to get the ball to our midfielders as much as possible, and our tall defenders make it a lot easier for us when they bring the ball to the ground."

Lewsey relishes his partnership with Baldwin, saying: "He's a zero to a hundred real quick; he doesn't have an off button --- and that's what we love about him. He's relentless and always wants to learn. You know exactly what you get from him every time he steps out. He gives a hundred per cent, is flat out and just does whatever the team needs."

Baldwin, born in the Great Southern town of Jerramungup, has overcome two broken legs on the way to becoming a splendid league footballer. In Year 8 he fractured his right tibia playing for his school in Albany, and after representing WA in the under-18 national championships in 2018 he fractured his left fibula when an opponent slipped over and landed on his leg at the opening bounce of a colts match in wet weather. He still has a metal plate in his left leg.

It was in an 18's carnival match at Kardinia Park in Geelong in 2018 that WA coach Peter Sumich gave Baldwin the task of tagging Victoria Country's captain and superstar Sam Walsh, a lesson that taught Baldwin plenty about defensive football. In previous matches for WA Baldwin had played as a half-forward and in the midfield, and he said that he enjoyed the experience of tagging Walsh, who was taken at pick one by Carlton in the 2018 AFL national draft and went on to be the NAB Rising Star the following year. "And it was good to win that match in Geelong," said Baldwin.



"I have always been quite an attacking player and I pride myself on having clean hands and being tough inside as well. I suppose those defensive skills and playing in the midfield translated into developing into a defender.

"I played as a lock down defender in my first four league games last year. It probably took those four games to get the balance of defending and knowing when to attack. Last season was definitely a learning curve. This year I aim to be adding a more attacking style to my game."

Baldwin said that he had learnt a lot from his co-defenders last season. "Jack Lewsey is really solid and compact and his disposal by hand and foot is really clean. He has also got a bit of size on me and you can see by the condition of his body that he trains really hard and looks after himself.

"He is a very good leader, and he has helped me a lot. I jumped under his wing last year as well as learning so much from Haydn Busher and Ryan Nyhuis."





EASTLAND LEAPS AT THE CHALLENGE

BY KEN CASELLAS

Ollie Eastland has completed his apprenticeship and he is now looking forward to the responsibility of leading Claremont's ruck in 2021. "Who would of thought when I was 18 that I would be the senior ruckman at the club at 22? he mused as he pondered over his standing as one of the league side's senior players.

"It's pretty exciting and I'm looking forward to the challenge. Jeremy Goddard has left the club and I'm looking forward to leading the ruck this year.

"Last season I was playing mainly as a forward and wasn't ready, physically or mentally, to take over in the ruck in the final few qualifying-round matches and the second semi-final and grand final against South Fremantle after Jeremy was dropped back to the reserves side," Eastland said.

Eastland was then given the task of lining up against East Fremantle's Jon Griffin and South Fremantle's Brock Higgins, the competition's most experienced ruckmen. It was a daunting task for the 196cm and 86kg Eastland to compete against the 36-year-old 201cm and 101kg Griffin and the massive 30-year-old and 103kg Higgins.

"I went kind of well against Griffin, and after that I was more prepared mentally for my bat-

les against Higgins in the finals," Eastland said. "That was a really good challenge, and the experience will help me to bring some confidence for the start of the coming season.

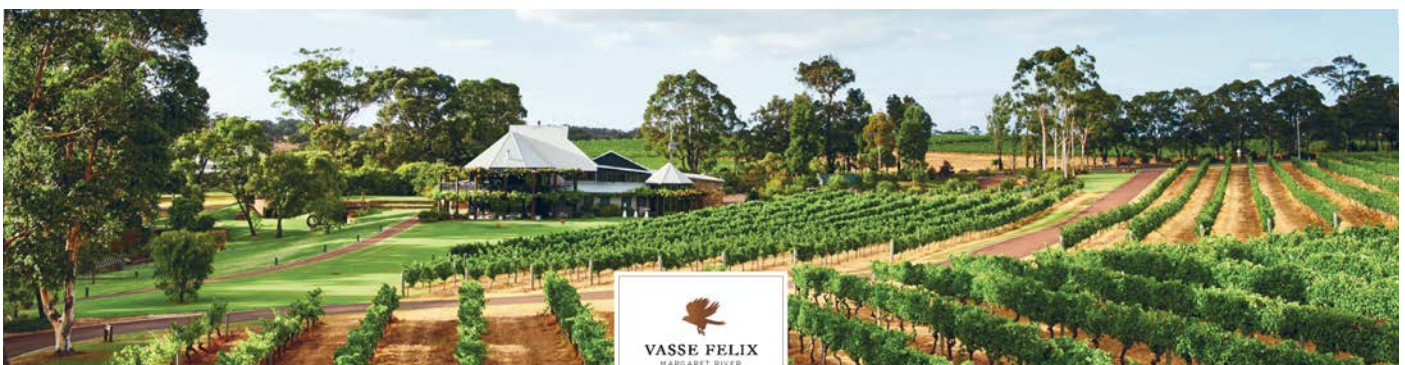
"Griffin was coming to the end of his career, but I still found it so difficult to move under him. His positioning was so good that I was able to learn a lot from him. And you simply can't move Higgins. I think he's got about 20 kilos on me, but I enjoyed the challenge.

"I love rucking; it's always a massive challenge and one that I look forward to every game."

Eastland was hampered in the latter stages of last season with a hip and pelvis issue, a problem that has been solved by club doctor Lionel Lim. "I had a cortisone injection in January, and it has really helped," said Eastland. "I have been able to train fully for several weeks now and it is the best the body has felt for the past six months.

"If I kick some goals it will be good, but my main job is to compete for the team, help around the ground and be a competitive force."

Eastland is a left-footer who prefers tapping the ball with his right hand after jumping off from his left foot. But he is also a capable left-handed tapper who will celebrate his 23RD birthday eight days before Claremont's round one fixture against Swan Districts at Bassendean Oval on Saturday April 3.



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BULLER AND MILLER ARE READY TO STEP UP

BY KEN CASELLAS

Jack Buller and Steve Miller are towering figures at Claremont, powerful young men who are driving each other in their bids to take another step up the ladder by progressing from the reserves side last year to achieve their target of gaining league selection in 2021.

"We're both very competitive and we always push each other," said the 19-year-old Buller. "Sometimes we get pretty angry with each other. But Steve is one of my best mates who pushes me the hardest at the club."

Miller is 20 and six months older than Buller, and he and his mate enjoyed the taste of success when they helped the Tigers win the colts premiership in 2019, beating Peel Thunder by five points in a thrilling grand final. They then went on to play in all ten matches for the reserves side last year, including the disappointing grand final defeat at the hands of East Perth.

"We hate losing, and if you hate losing then you're bound to win more than you lose," said a philosophical Miller. "When I came down to join the colts Buller and I connected. We were mates before that, and we always push each other. He is an elite player, and we will do anything for each other. Hopefully, I can step up this year as a key position player."

Anthony Davis, Charlie Malone and Max Spyvee, teammates of Buller and Miller in the 2019 colts grand final, graduated to league ranks in 2020, and now the two big men are desperately keen to follow in their footsteps. Buller and Miller have shown abundant ability with Claremont, playing in the ruck as well as performing strongly as key position backmen and forwards.

"My ambition this year is to break into the league side," said Buller. "If you work hard enough there's definitely a

spot that is there for anyone to grab it. I'm now focusing on lining up in the forward line and being able to help in the ruck as well.

"I reckon I started pre-season training a bit slowly this summer and was feeling a bit comfortable. But then a month or so ago I had a real look in the mirror and thought that I wasn't going to get where I wanted to be if I wasn't fully committed on and off the field. I'm getting there now."

Buller said that last year was mainly about becoming acclimatised to the seniors' program, understanding that senior football is a lot tougher and a lot sharper.

Buller, a ruckman-forward in the 2017 WA under-16's side that won the national championship on Queensland's Sunshine coast, made his colts debut later in the season. He was also chosen in the WA under-18 sides in the following two years.

In the 2019 colts grand final Buller lined up at full-forward after playing in defence for most of the season, and last year he was used as a key defender in the reserves side before being switched to centre-half-forward for the second half of the grand final --- when he booted two goals. "It's good to play at both ends of the ground," said Buller. "Playing on key forwards enables you to judge what works well."

Miller, a member of Claremont's under 14 and under-15 development squads, played much of the 2019 season with Wembley's league side in the amateurs before playing in Claremont's final six matches in the colts competition.

"I think playing as a ruckman comes more naturally because it suits my competitiveness," Miller said. "However, I have always liked playing as a forward." Little separates the two young big men in the height stakes. But Buller proudly declares that he has "got" his mate by a quarter of a centimetre, with Miller saying: "We are both listed at 198cm (a fraction under 6ft. 6in.), but if we stand back-to-back, he's taller than me, just."





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