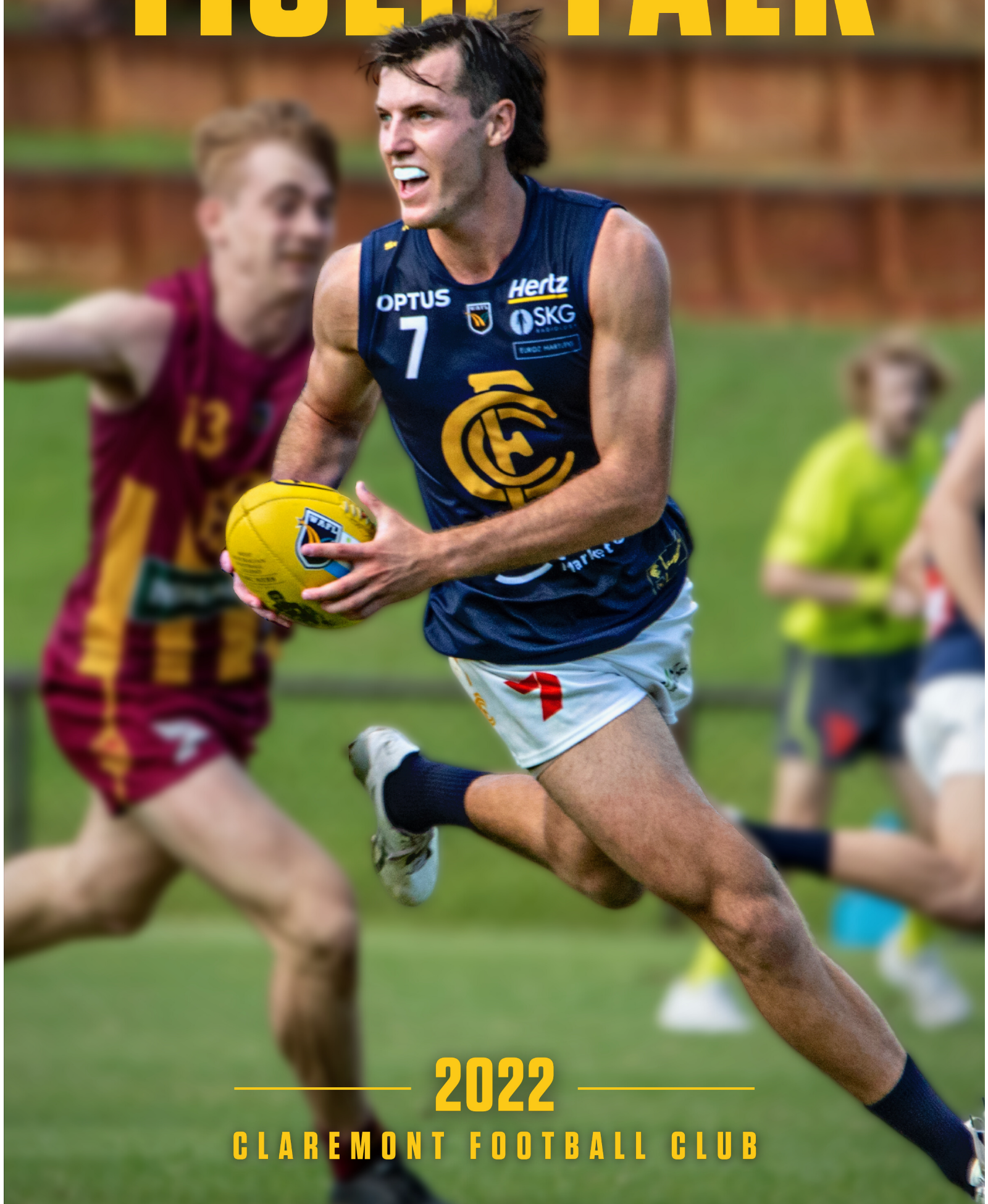


TIGER TALK



2022

CLAREMONT FOOTBALL CLUB



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2022 FIXTURES

ROUND	DATE	VS	LOCATION	TIME
1	Fri 15 April	West Perth	Provident Financial Oval	2:10pm
2	Sat 23 April	Subiaco	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
3	Sat 30 April	South Fremantle	Fremantle Community Bank Oval	2:10pm
4	Sat 7 May	Swan Districts	Steel Blue Oval	2:10pm
5	Sat 21 May	East Perth	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
6	Sat 28 May	Peel Thunder	Lane Group Stadium	2:40pm
7	Sat 4 June	Perth	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10pm
8	Sat 11 June	West Coast	Revo Fitness Stadium	12:40pm
9	Sat 18 June	East Fremantle	WACA	2:10pm

*The second half of the 2022 Season Fixtures will be released at a later date.





FROM THE CEO

As we embark on another season in our 96-year history there is plenty to be excited about.

- A new generation of players coming into our colts program and pulling on the famous navy and gold jumper. Those keen to establish themselves as State league footballers noticeable in their commitment to the gym and training intensity.
- Our graduating colts moving into the Senior program after a nail-biting defeat to Swan Districts in the final game of 2021. If rough seas make better sailors, this experience will hold them in excellent stead and drive their improvement.
- Our burgeoning female football program going from strength both on and off the field. A clean sweep in their Round 1 fixture with a bumper crowd in attendance a testament to their progress
- The youngest average senior squad across the WAFL competition in 2021 having yet another preseason under their belt – their growth, both physically and mentally – clear following a big summer.
- Our outstanding Senior Coaches coming into their second season with the group. The noticeable rapport between Ash and his players, and their evolution in football knowledge indisputable.

- A united Board of directors and Staff with a common goal, their positivity, hard work and intent in creating the best possible environment makes for a very enjoyable and effective workplace.

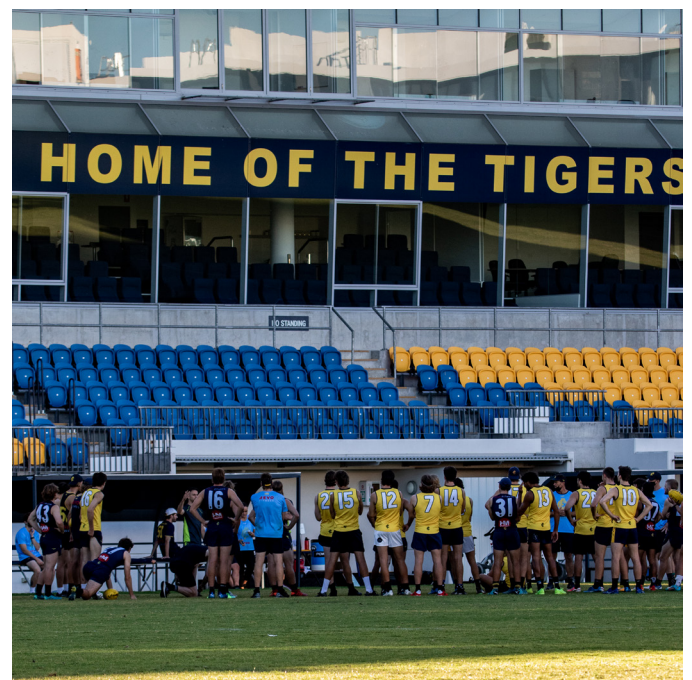
- Our Coterie of Loyal Tigers who continue to put their hand in their pocket; these Patrons, Sponsors and Donors fund our strategy and ambitions as a club.

- The volunteers, supporters and people who come along to our games and events. You can be assured those running around on a Saturday are aware of your contribution and are grateful for your support, they know this club is a sum of many magnificent parts.

- Our outstanding facilities are utilised to their maximum both internally for our own programs and set the standard in the community for external functions and events.

- Our grant application to improve our sports lighting has been successful over the summer with the state and local government committing funding to a significant upgrade – this should be completed in the first half of the year

So we're in a pretty good place at Tigerland; and there's lots to look forward to - its officially the Year of the Tiger after all!



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 - 2 CHOOSE WHICH EXERCISE TO START FROM
 - 3 40 SECONDS OF WORK & 20 SECONDS OF REST
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 - 6 ROTATE THROUGH THE CIRCUIT 3 TIMES TO COMPLETE THE WORKOUT



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I believe that the Claremont Football Club is on the cusp of great success on and off the field. Success is not only measured by wins but by the club culture we are building. It's about our values at each of the following levels; board, employees, volunteers, coaching, playing, football support staff, Monday Crew, Ladies Committee, Platinum members, sponsors, Patrons, family members of players'. When I talk about "we" I refer to all these great people who combined make up the Claremont Football Club.

We are about creating a Team First culture. If everyone plays their role GREAT THINGS WILL HAPPEN.

I would like to wish Ash and his team of coaches all the best for the upcoming season.

Kepler Bradley (Football Manager) is doing a magnificent job in looking after 70 players during the pre-season. It's great to see so many players wanting to be part of the club.

Congratulations to Declan Mountford on being selected captain and Jye Bolton as Vice Captain

Darcy Coffey (CEO) has been doing a terrific job and has been working extremely hard to lay the foundation for a successful year.

The off-season has been busy and I would like to welcome Carly Higgins as our new bar manager who will be working closely with Lisa (Finance Manager), Emma (Functions Manager) and Holly (Admin & Marketing) who have all been working tirelessly for the club.

Ella Smith our Captain of the Tigers WA-FLW side has been a valuable addition to our staff in administration and football operations. Enthusiastic, bubbly and gets the job done attitude.

I've been following the Futures and Colts pre-season closely and Ash Clancy and Jordan and their team have done a superb job in laying the foundation for another strong season.

I wish all the teams all the best on behalf of the board for season 2022.

I look forward to seeing everyone down at the club this year and working together as ONE team for the benefit of this great club.

Regards
Grant Povey



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FROM THE COACH

After a demanding preseason that started back in October last year it's extremely exciting that the WAFL Premiership season is getting close.

The level of commitment and contribution demonstrated by the playing group and support staff has been first class and will put us in a position to compete hard against any team, at any venue and on any day.

Our vision is to play an explosive, direct and exciting brand of football both with and without the ball, underpinned by an unconditional and ferocious attack on the ball, players that run hard and straight at the ball every time. Everything we have done 3 nights a week on the track, every weight we have lifted, every football educational session we have had is about bringing that vision to life on a consistent basis and driving each other to get 1% better every day.

Off field the playing group took the initiative to invest time in developing a list of shared expectations that are important to them, it reflects what the club means to them, these behaviours and actions we will celebrate, acknowledge, and hold ourselves accountable to on a daily basis. The amount of genuine care and passion our people have for the Claremont football club is so powerful and inspiring, for the Claremont people reading this article rest assured the club is in great hands due to the standard of people currently involved at the club.

A few weeks back the playing group along with coaches and some staff members ran a Leadership selection process, our current philosophy is that everyone can lead and is responsible to demonstrate leadership in their own way. After time exploring what we value from our leaders and most importantly each other, Declan Mountford was selected

by his peers to be our captain for the 2022 season. Dec sets the standards in so many ways, an elite preparer, team first, and cares so deeply about his teammates, a person of enormous integrity and great leader. Last year's co-captain Jared Hardisty was nominated heavily by his peers but selflessly decided to step aside from a formal leadership position into the Leadership Group to concentrate on getting his body right, a selfless decision and reason why he's respected and loved by everyone at the club. Jye Bolton's will be our Vice Captain, his leadership capacity has really developed, Jye's passion for the club, strive for excellence, ruthless approach, and desire to drag others along with him is so highly valued by his teammates. In no order Jared Hardisty, Alex Manuel, Jack Lewsey, Ryan Lim, Lachie Martinis and Ronin O'Connor in his first year back at the club form the broader leadership support group. Well done to those lads and I look forward to working closely together with you in the year ahead.

I just cannot mention everyone that contributes so much and have done so over the preseason period. We are so blessed to have such a capable, committed group of coaches, conditioning, medical, support staff and volunteers that serve the Claremont football club with so much passion and dedication. To you all thank you so much you are the fabric of what makes Claremont such a great football club, we are truly indebted to you.

Look forward to seeing you at the footy in 2022!

Eat Em Alive

Ashley Prescott



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TALENT DEPARTMENT

With the Talent Programs having now been back under the Claremont banner for over 12 months, we have been able to develop some great stability across our programs to ensure that we continue delivering strong outcomes. Our Colts & Futures programs are currently in full swing, while our 14s and 15s Development Squad Programs will begin to fire up as the year progresses.

Excitement is high in the Colts group this year, with a number of returning players from last season's youthful Grand Final side eager to atone for a second successive loss on the big stage. The Futures Program is entering its final stages for 2022, with a group that has really bought into the way we want to go about things. We hope they can have a strong finish to their carnival in the coming weeks.

Our regional programs have had to overcome plenty of challenges since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, with events in the early months of 2022 still being impacted by cancellations, but we are hopeful of getting some exciting engagements away as the year unfolds. In particular, we are really looking forward to getting down to Albany for a Colts Home & Away fixture again after the success of last year's trip. Thanks to everyone that continues to support the Great Southern Storm and Kimberley Spirit programs.

With the WAFL Season about to get underway,

this is always an opportune time to acknowledge our many hard-working staff across the programs.

From a coaching perspective, Ashley Clancy steps up from his previous positions of Futures Head Coach and Colts Assistant Coach to take the reins of the Colts group for 2022. Ash brings a wealth of football experience to the role and shows great passion for developing himself and those around him. Chris Wallace has been a great addition to an otherwise stable Colts coaching group featuring Brett Bowker, Brendan Arundell, Ryan Pontifex, Chris Bandy, Matt Sofoulis and Ben Willett.

Ben has also taken on the Futures Head Coaching role this season and is supported by Craig Rogers, Ritchie Hore, Ryan Pontifex and Tom Willett.

Andrew Jonson enters his third season as our Colts Strength & Conditioning Coach, with Emmett O'Brien also continuing as our Futures S&C Coach. Senior player Ben Rushforth is our new Colts Physiotherapist, with Ariane Burton heading up our Colts trainers. Ben Willett is back for another year as Colts Team Manager while also performing the same role for the Futures.

Thank you to all these amazing people for their efforts in preparing the boys for the 2022 season. I'd also like to thank Kepler Bradley, Darcy Coffey, Grant Povey and Darrell Panizza for their ongoing support of the Talent Programs.

There seems to be a sense throughout the WA Football industry that this could be the most challenging season out of the last three since the pandemic began, but I am confident that the club is well-positioned to negotiate anything thrown our way.

Whatever we encounter, let's hope it includes plenty of joy for the Mighty Tiges!

Talent Manager

Jordan Smith



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2022 TEAM LIST

1



JACK
LEWSEY

HT: 180 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 54

2



FRANCIS
WATSON

HT: 187 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 62

3



BAILEY
ROGERS

HT: 185 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: MID/FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 99

5



DECLAN
MOUNTFORD

HT: 183 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: MID/BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 52

6



RYAN
LIM

HT: 186 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 130

7



RONIN
O'CONNOR

HT: 193 cm
WT: 93 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

8



BEN
EDWARDS

HT: 180 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 28

9



JACK
BEECK

HT: 181 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 70

10



LACHLAN
MARTINIS

HT: 184 cm
WT: 83 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 55

11



JYE
BOLTON

HT: 188 cm
WT: 92 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 111

12



MORGAN
DAVIES

HT: 182 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 55

13



JARED
HARDISTY

HT: 180 cm
WT: 95 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 80

14



SAM
ALVAREZ

HT: 185 cm
WT: 77 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 3

15



TIMM
HOUSE

HT: 194 cm
WT: 98 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 6

16



JACK
BULLER

HT: 198 cm
WT: 97 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 21

17



CALLAN ENGLAND

HT: 182 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 26

18



ANTHONY DAVIS

HT: 195 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 21

19



TOM BALDWIN

HT: 177 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 30

20



BAILEY BENNETT

HT: 177 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 13

21



OLIVER EASTLAND

HT: 199 cm
WT: 97 kg
POSITION: RUCK
LEAGUE GAMES: 62

22



BENJAMIN ELLIOTT

HT: 183 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 4

23



JASON CARTER

HT: 184 cm
WT: 86 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 35

24



MAX SPYVEE

HT: 176 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 15

25



LEWIS DAISLEY

HT: 189 cm
WT: 90 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 1

26



STEVEN MILLER

HT: 198 cm
WT: 96 kg
POSITION: RUCK/FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 10

27



ALEX MANUEL

HT: 188 cm
WT: 90 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 70

29



ISAAC BARTON

HT: 174 cm
WT: 68 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 27

30



JACOB BLIGHT

HT: 197 cm
WT: 95 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 3

31



TYRON SMALLWOOD

HT: 179 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 32

32



MAX MINEAR

HT: 195 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 3

33



CAMERON ANDERSON

HT: 178 cm
WT: 69 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 3

34



BEN RUSHFORTH

HT: 183 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 4

35



DECLAN HARDISTY

HT: 189 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 69



36



LOGAN
GUELF

HT: 173 cm
WT: 73 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 3

37



ALEX
PEARCE

HT: 187 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 2

38



CHARLIE
MALONE

HT: 182 cm
WT: 83 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 2

39



BEN
HARDING

HT: 179 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 12

40



TALON
DELACEY

HT: 180 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

41



KENDYLL
BLURTON

HT: 175 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

42



DYLAN
MULLIGAN

HT: 195 cm
WT: 86 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

43



OLIVER
SHELDRIK

HT: 183 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

44



MARC
BOYATZIS

HT: 178 cm
WT: 73 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

45



KAI
HARWOOD

HT: 184 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

46



LAWRENCE
EVANS

HT: 180 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

47



BENJAMIN
SCHUHKRAFT

HT: 197 cm
WT: 95 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

48



LOUIS
PASSERA

HT: 190 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

49



BEN
RAMSHAW

HT: 194 cm
WT: 92 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

50



DYLAN
SMALLWOOD

HT: 195 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 57

51



WILLIAM
REILLY

HT: 196 cm
WT: 93 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

52



JAKE
WILLSON

HT: 177 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

53



LUKE
KNIGHT

HT: 193 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

54



CAMPBELL
ROGERS

HT: 191 cm
WT: 83 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

55



BLAKE
JOHNSON

HT: 191 cm
WT: 89 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 28

56



KIERAN
GOWDIE

HT: 199 cm
WT: 103 kg
POSITION: RUCK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

57



ZAC
MAINWARING

HT: 179 cm
WT: 74 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

58



MAX
MUMME

HT: 179 cm
WT: 79 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

59



HENRICK
ALFORQUE

HT: 167 cm
WT: 60 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

60



LEITH
FITZPATRICK

HT: 190 cm
WT: 77 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

61



GEORGE
GRAHAM

HT: 194 cm
WT: 85 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

62



COEN
JACKMAN

HT: 191 cm
WT: 95 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

63



SEAN
WILLIAMS

HT: 186 cm
WT: 81 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

64



PETER
COLES

HT: 190 cm
WT: 90 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

65



RILEY
WATERS

HT: 191 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

66



KIERAN
KAVANAGH

HT: 178 cm
WT: 78 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

67



PATRICK
KITCHENER

HT: 175 cm
WT: 69 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

68



TOM
LAWSON

HT: 193 cm
WT: 84 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

69



DANIEL
FARMER

HT: 178 cm
WT: 77 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

70



BEN
CLARKE

HT: 193 cm
WT: 80 kg
POSITION: MID
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

71



MATAO
OWEN

HT: 186 cm
WT: 77 kg
POSITION: BACK
LEAGUE GAMES: 0



72



REECE
KELLY

HT: 176 cm
WT: 76 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0

73



JACKSON
MERILLO

HT: 179 cm
WT: 75 kg
POSITION: FWD
LEAGUE GAMES: 0



WOMENS

FROM THE CLAREMONT WOMEN'S FC PRESIDENT

What a start we've had in 2022! After two years with very disrupted preseasons, it has been an absolute pleasure being able to come into 2022 prepared and in fighting form. I'll start by running through a couple of highlights since the last Tiger Talk update in 2021.

We finished the 2021 season with the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of a number of players: Our Captain, Ella Smith, won the competition's fairest and best - The Dhara Kerr Medal
Amy Franklin drafted to Fremantle pick #14
Emily Bennett drafted to the West Coast Eagles pick #47
Jessica Low drafted to Fremantle pick #52
Mikayla Western debuted for Fremantle 5th March 2022

While our players were enjoying a much-deserved break, our staff were hard at work and were delighted with the opportunity to travel up to the East Kimberley and deliver football programs to boys and girls in Kununurra and Halls Creek. Later in the year we traveled with the team from Garnduwa, delivering their Making Her Mark Program. The sessions aim to empower and engage young women in the communities of Broome, Noonkanbah, Yiyili, and Fitzroy Crossing.

As with 2021, our preseason started in November, with an open invite to amateur players and junior players looking to move up the ranks into Rogers Cup (U18s). We had really impressive numbers down, which gave our coaches a difficult time selecting squads for the season. The growth in women's football in the Claremont District has been incredible across all age

groups. We're now starting to see players coming into our program after already playing upwards of 100 AFL games, which would have been unheard of even a couple of years ago.

We had the pleasure this year of returning to Albany for our preseason camp, which we haven't been able to do for two years. It was great to catch up with familiar faces in the GSFLW and meet the new and emerging talent, of which there is plenty! Thanks to the WAFC and the North Albany Football Club, who helped us organise a scratch match and hosted us in their facility for the weekend, it's greatly appreciated.

As I write this, we've just finished Round 6 in 2022, and our girls are off to an incredible start with all 3 grades in a strong position to compete for finals this year. I'd like to commend our Head Coach, Jack Schwarze on his outstanding work with the girls so far. We're very lucky to be able to promote internally and have retained our coaches from 2021, with Zeb Pawlowski leading our Development League and Amanda Robertson our Rogers Cup squad.

This year, our strong focus is winning the 2022 League Premiership, and plan to do so with our locally-developed squad; as with the boys, our focus for many years has been the progression of young talent through the pathway and up to League.

We'd also like to congratulate our 2022 State Representatives:
U16s: Harper Gamble, Bec Anderson, Claudia Wright, Ella Slocombe and Ruby Freeman
U18s: Tamashya Blurton, Makayla Rogers, Eva O'Donnell, Rogers Cup Coach Amanda Robertson, Jorja El-liseou, Charlotte Tompkin, Mackenzie Webb & Emily Elkington

As we look to 2022 and beyond, we will continue to work very closely with the CFC Board and Operations Staff and we plan the complete constitutional merge into CFC, to create one club inclusive of both the men's and women's teams. This will be a significant change for both clubs, but a change that will ensure the prosperity of women's football in perpetuity.

I hope to see you at the footy!

Rachel Asquith

MALAXOS IS 2022 CLUB LEGEND

BY KEN CASELLAS

In the early 1980s Claremont went on an unprecedented scoring spree, and in the midst of this feast of goals was youngster Steve Malaxos, who laid claim as the best permanent forward pocket player in the history of the WAFL competition.

Malaxos was 17 when he made his league debut in 1979 when he played on a half-forward flank, booted 44 goals and won the award as the side's best first-year player.

He lined up on a half-forward flank and revealed an indication of his ability with two six-goal hauls before he managed 34 goals as a flanker in 20 matches the following year.

Then half-way through the 1981 season Malaxos was switched to a forward pocket to form a remarkable full-forward line with the mercurial Warren Ralph and the dynamic Brett Farmer. This trio capitalised on the brilliance of ruckman and captain-coach Graham Moss and the skill of Jim and Phil Krakouer, Wayne Blackwell, Darrell Panizza and Allen Daniels to score a combined total of 278 goals.

Ralph scored 129 goals from 24 matches, Malaxos 82 from 17 matches and Farmer 67 from 22 games.

The Tigers scored a total of 3352 points in their 21 qualifying-round matches --- a national record for the highest number of points in a season --- which equated to 160 points per game (or 27.7 goals a match).

Claremont went on to win the premiership, beating South Fremantle by 15 points in a memorable grand final at Subiaco Oval, with Malaxos scoring five goals.

Now 60, Malaxos has been honoured as Claremont's 2022 match-day legend, a richly deserved reward for his outstanding career which saw him switch from a superb forward to a champion centreman.

In his first season in a forward pocket in 1981 Malaxos bewildered his opponents with his ability to score goals. In quite an amazing sequence in June and July he chalked up scores of six, six, seven, eight, eight and seven goals in consecutive weeks.

In 1982 Malaxos, Ralph and Farmer again proved to be an irresistible force, with Malaxos scoring 96 goals (including three seven-goal hauls), Ralph

booting 117 and Farmer 48.

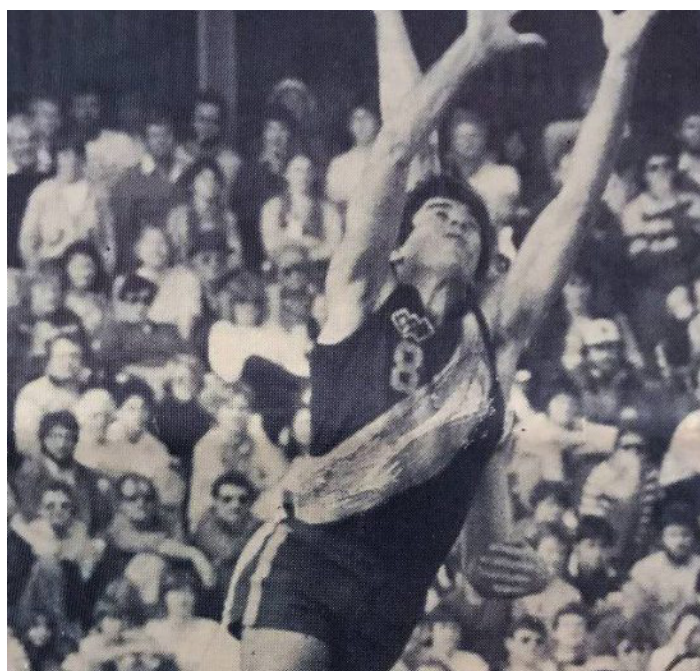
Then, after 84 league games as a forward, Malaxos was switched into the centre for the 1983 season when his fearless determination and creative play made him a star and earned him Claremont's fairest-and-best award. He again was a shining light in the midfield in 1984 when he won the club fairest-and-best award and the Sandover Medal in a three-way tie with teammate Michael Mitchell and East Perth's Peter Spencer.

Malaxos was rewarded for his fine form for the Tigers by being named as West Australia's captain against South Australia in June 1984. He led the side to a one-point victory and was WA's best player. He also was captain of the Australian side which played a series of matches against Ireland in Ireland that year and was named in the all-Australian side.

He was recruited by Hawthorn and played nine VFL matches for the Hawks in 1985 before returning to Claremont as club captain in 1986. Then, he was chosen by the West Coast Eagles and was the club's inaugural fairest-and-best player in 1987 before earning the captaincy of the AFL club in 1990.

After 66 matches for the Eagles Malaxos returned to Claremont and played another seven league matches in 1990 and 1991 before joining East Fremantle. He was captain for six seasons and played 138 matches for the Sharks, including premierships in 1992 and 1994, and he also was the club's fairest-and-best player three times.

Malaxos retired after a distinguished career as a true champion in 365 senior matches.





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GILCHRIST IS CLAREMONT'S NO. 1 TICKET HOLDER

BY KEN CASELLAS

Adam Gilchrist, one of Australia's most famous sportsmen in the 21ST century and arguably the greatest wicketkeeper-batsman of all time, is the Claremont Football Club's No. 1 ticket holder for 2022.

The dynamic Gilchrist mesmerised cricket followers throughout the world during his 12-year international career when his ferocious batting revolutionised the game and helped Australia to rise to the top in Test cricket and one-day internationals.

Records toppled to the dashing and destructive left-hander, who was named one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year in 2002 before he was voted Australia's one-day international Player of the Year in 2003 and 2004. He then was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2012 and the ICC Hall of Fame the following year.

For many years Gilchrist has been involved in several charitable organisations, and in 2010 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to cricket and the community.

Gilchrist, born in Bellingen in Northern New South Wales 50 years ago, moved to Western Australia for the 1994-95 season and his magnificent unbeaten 189 off 187 balls in the drawn Sheffield Shield final against South Australia at the Adelaide Oval the following season was major launching pad to his glittering international career.

He earned a silver medal as a member of the Australian side which lost to South Africa in the final of the cricket competition at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

He made his Test debut against Pakistan at Brisbane's Gabba ground in 1999, and then in the second Test at Bellerive Oval in Hobart he scored a magnificent 149 not out in a record-breaking sixth-wicket partnership with Justin Langer to engineer a remarkable victory.

Gilchrist frequently saved his best for the big stage, and he is one of three players to have represented Australia in the side's triumphs in three consecutive World Cups (against Pakistan in 1999, against India in 2003 and against Sri Lanka in 2007) when his scores were 54 (36 balls), 57 (48 balls) and 149 (104 balls). His superb 149 (13 fours and eight sixes) is rated as the greatest World Cup innings of all time.

It was at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg in 2002 that Gilchrist recorded the fastest Test double century (off 212 deliveries) when he launched a brutal assault against a formidable attack led by Allan Donald, Makhyar Ntini, Jacques Kallis and Andre Nel.

In the third Test against England in searing heat at the

WACA Ground in December 2006 Gilchrist was at his savage best, smashing a 57-ball century which was the second fastest in Test history at the time, just behind the 56-ball hundred of West Indies maestro Viv Richards against England in 1986.

Gilchrist hammered the England attack with a breathtaking display, cruising to 50 off 40 deliveries, before unleashing a vicious assault on left-arm orthodox spinner Monty Panesar. He plundered 24 runs off one over, including three sixes over the long-on fence, and his second 50 came off just 17 balls.

Gilchrist changed the course of so many matches, as an exhilarating big-hitter at No. 7 in Tests and as a dashing opener in limited-overs contests. He served as vice-captain in both forms of the game and had the distinction of leading Australia in six Test matches, winning four of them. He was captain when Australia defeated the home side in India in 2004, giving Australia its first series win in India in 35 years.

He represented Australia with rare distinction in 96 Tests for 73 wins, 11 losses and 12 draws. He retired from Test cricket with a record number of sixes --- exactly a hundred --- and his 5570 Test runs at an average of 47.60 included 17 centuries and 26 fifties. Apart from his one hundred sixes Gilchrist also hammered 675 fours.

In Tests he took 416 catches and made 37 stumpings, and in an outstanding feat he scored a century against all other nine Test-playing nations. Gilchrist was also a devastating and explosive batsman in his 287 one-day internationals, amassing 9619 runs at 35.89 and including 16 centuries and 55 fifties. Those innings included 149 sixes and 1162 fours. And, for good measure, he held 417 catches and effected 55 stumpings --- a world record for a wicketkeeper.

Claremont welcomes Adam Gilchrist, truly a sporting great, with open arms.





O'CONNOR TO BOOST THE MIDFIELD

BY KEN CASELLAS

Twenty-one-year-old Ronin O'Connor is back at Claremont after two years with the Adelaide Crows, and he will be a welcome addition to the club's powerful midfield group.

O'Connor, captain of Claremont's 2019 colts premiership side, has been a stand-out at Claremont's pre-season training sessions, and he is looking forward with great anticipation to helping the Tigers have a successful season.

"It's really exciting; we have a very good young group, and everyone is hungry for success," he said. "We have a really good culture building here, and I'm looking forward to getting some success, but at the same time my personal aspiration is to get back into the AFL."

O'Connor was recruited at pick number 42 by the Crows in the 2019 AFL national draft, but unfortunately the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic seriously affected his chances of proving his worth.

He was unable to play in a competitive match throughout the 2020 season when the Crows were not permitted to field a second side to play in the SANFL competition because the club would be breaching its Covid bubble.

"We did play a couple of 14 versus 14 games against Port Adelaide, and the best part of the year was going up to the Gold Coast and hubbing," he said. "We were in a Covid bubble there and were able to get some practice games against other AFL second sides from Gold Coast, Brisbane and Fremantle."

"I used the 2020 year to develop myself in a physical way and also in a mental way, including being able to follow the game plan and learn the structures to prepare for the 2021 season."

Excellent form in the SANFL competition resulted in O'Connor making his AFL debut in the round nine fixture against the West Coast Eagles at Optus Stadium in May 2021 and then appearing in the match against Collingwood the following month.

"It was very fast, and your head is all over the shop because of nerves and trying to live up to the expectations that you have probably put on yourself," said O'Connor.

"There's a lot going on, but you gradually settle into the game and start playing the footy the way it is meant to be played. The biggest change I found from going from a State league to the AFL was the speed of the game, with no-one making mistakes. It's red-hot football, so you've got to be on the ball all the time."

Apart from his two AFL appearances and being the medical sub for another match, O'Connor played in several SAFL matches for the Crows State league side in 2021, and his excellent form earned him third place in the club's fairest-and-best award.

However, he was delisted by the Crows at the end of the season. "I was disappointed," said O'Connor. "I had put in a solid effort and my form was deserving of another couple of years, or another year at least."

"But that's the way the AFL industry works. It is cut-throat, and clubs have their own image, agenda and vision, and I think the Crows wanted a bit more flexibility going into the draft, looking for key position players, and therefore my head was on the chopping block."



"It's what it is, and now I'm looking forward to the next chapter of footy. The future is ahead of me and I'm looking forward to getting stuck into it at Claremont."

O'Connor said that he had learnt a lot during his time with the Crows, particularly from the midfield group. "The likes of Ben Keays, Rory Laird and Rory Sloane," said O'Connor. "The one who stands out is Rory Sloane, who always cracks in hard, is just a genuine football player and is a wonderful leader."

"Leadership is something that I see myself going into in the future. I'll be looking to model myself on the way he went about his business, both on and off the field. He was definitely someone I looked up to at the club, and I also worked closely with Nathan van Berlo and Michael Godden, who helped my development."

Apart from his natural ability, O'Connor is a ferocious tackler, even from his early days when he chalked up 88 tackles in his 18 matches for the Tigers colts in 2019. He said that he was looking forward to playing this year as an inside mid around the stoppages.

"I like getting in and under and winning the ball at the source," he said. "I would also like to develop my game on the outside as well and maybe even drift forward and hit the scoreboard more than I have in the past. We have a lot of great midfielders, so I'll be happy to spend time in attack."

O'Connor, who was a member of Claremont's 14s, 15s and 16s development squads, went to Newman College and played his under-age football with the Marist club. He was captain of the Marist side which won the 2018 premiership in a north metropolitan competition, and then he was a member of WA's under-18 side which won the national championship in 2019 before he led Claremont to a thrilling victory over Peel Thunder in the colts competition that year.

"It was a great experience to play with some of the likes of Jeremy Sharp, Luke Jackson and Trent Rivers in the WA side," said O'Connor. "I then enjoyed three premierships in the space of a year, so I count my lucky stars."

"It is now a joy to be reunited with my former colts teammates --- Anthony Davis, Stephen Miller, Jack Buller, Cam Anderson, Tom Baldwin and Louis Passera --- just to name a few. So, it's nice to come back to a friendly environment."

O'Connor, who is studying for an engineering degree at Curtin University and is working with Red Bull in a marketing capacity, said: "I'm looking forward to some further successes with Claremont where we have something special brewing which is exciting for the club and the fans."



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WATSON AIMS TO OVERCOME SETBACK

BY KEN CASELLAS

Francis Watson's dreams of returning to league action with Claremont in the round one contest against West Perth --- 2057 days after his most recent senior match for the Tigers --- have been cruelly dashed by a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in the second week of March.

The gifted 26-year-old defender was poised to line up on a half-back flank for the Tigers this year after training with great dash and enthusiasm during the pre-season sessions. But his world was shattered when he damaged his right knee while playing in a semi-social match at High Wycombe.

However, Watson is determined to overcome this latest setback and, though he will be out of action for 12 months, he has high hopes of resuming his football career with Claremont.

"I'm back to square one with my ACL rehab," he said. "More challenges only make the man stronger, mentally and physically, and if you have setbacks, you don't let them hold you down."

Watson, ever cheerful and optimistic, has suffered some serious injuries since he joined the Tigers in 2013 and played in the club's colts premiership side that year.

He made his league debut in the round seven match against West Perth at the Showgrounds in May 2015, and in the round 18 match, also against West Perth, at Joon-dalup, he was badly injured and forced to miss the rest of the season, including the elimination final against East Perth.

"I snapped my left ankle," he said. "I fractured my tibia and fibula and had surgery when I had two plates and eleven screws put into my ankle. After the operation the surgeon told me that I might not be able to play footy again."

Watson did not give up, and he recovered so well that he returned to league ranks midway through the 2016 season --- and he performed so well in ten league appearances that year that he was recruited as a category B rookie by the West Coast Eagles.

He remained on West Coast's list for four years, during which time he appeared in two AFL fixtures in 2019 as a half-back flanker in the side which beat Melbourne in Alice Springs and defeated North Melbourne at Optus Stadium.

"I had been training well and playing well for the West Coast side in the WAFL, and I travelled to Alice Springs as an emergency when I was a late replacement for Shannon Hurn, who had injured a calf during training," said Watson.

"It was awesome; my best experience in football. I played on Bayley Fritsch, who nearly took a hanger on my head.

Then I played in the next match against North Melbourne."

The future was looking rosy for Watson, but in July 2020 he ruptured his ACL in his right knee when he was changing direction during a training session at Lathlain Park.

"I had surgery and was unable to play a match in 2020," Watson said. "And then in October that year I was delisted by the Eagles. I spent the year in rehab, strengthening my quads and calves, and after being delisted I decided to return to Claremont for the 2021 season, much of which was spent in rehabilitation for my knee injury as well as a hamstring tear."

He managed to play four reserves matches for the year and was looking forward with great enthusiasm to returning to league football this year.

Watson has played 62 league matches --- 19 for Claremont in 2015-16, 29 for West Coast's affiliated WAFL club East Perth in 2017-18, and another 14 for the Eagles WAFL side in 2019.

His most recent league appearance was for West Coast against Claremont in the second semi-final (won by the Tigers by six points at Claremont Oval on September 8, 2019). He has yet to play a league match at Claremont Oval, with his 19 games for the Tigers including ten at the Showgrounds.

Watson, who is in his third year as an apprentice heavy-duty diesel mechanic with Ausdrill, last appeared in a league match for the Tigers against Peel Thunder at the Showgrounds in a round-23 contest on August 27, 2016.

Claremont fans wish him well in his recovery and are keenly anticipating his return to league action some time in 2023.



DAVIES REUNITES WITH MOUNTFORD

BY KEN CASELLAS

Morgan Davies and Declan Mountford have been best mates for much of their lives and now the 25-year-olds are poised to realise a dream of playing together in a Claremont league side for the first time, with Davies returning to the Tigers after a three-year stint with East Fremantle.

The joyous occasion may be delayed because Davies' pre-season preparation has been interrupted by a nagging ankle injury.

Nevertheless, Claremont supporters will be delighted to welcome the return of Davies, a gifted left-footer who excels as a midfielder.

Davies and Mountford are from Albany, and as youngsters travelled to Perth regularly to participate in Claremont's under-13 and under-14 development squads before they were teammates in the Claremont colts side which defeated Swan Districts by 69 points in the 2015 grand final when their teammates included Bailey Rogers, Matt Guelfi, Jake Waterman, Sam Petrevski-Seton and Bailey Banfield.

Davies went on to appear in 23 league matches for the Tigers, while Mountford was spending 2016-17-18 with North Melbourne before returning to Claremont for the 2019 season, the year that Davies, seeking greater opportunities, joined East Fremantle.

Mountford and Davies are members of farming families in the South Stirlings. "Our parents would drive us up to the city to train with the development squads twice a week," said Davies, who became a boarder at Christ Church Grammar School in Year ten.

It was in Year 11 that Davies remained at Christ Church during the winter holiday break when the only other student living in the boarding house was Lawrence Evans. "We were the only boys in the boarding house," said Davies. "We stayed purely because we wanted to get a game with the Claremont colts side." They achieved their aim when they played together in one game with the Claremont colts in 2013.

And, in further good news for the Tigers, Evans has returned to Claremont after a five-year absence, and has impressed with his tremendous enthusiasm, pace and skill during the pre-season training sessions.

Davies made his league debut, along with Guelfi and Waterman, in the round-19 contest against Peel Thunder at Rushton Park on July 30, 2016. He retained his place in the side for the remaining four qualifying-round matches. With the Claremont league side boasting a powerful midfield, led by Jye Bolton, Davies had limited opportunities and managed eight senior matches in 2017 and ten in the following year.

"I played mainly on a wing, and a little bit as an inside midfielder," said Davies. "It was then that I got an offer to play for East Fremantle. I was in a bit of a rush, wanting to play as much footy as I could. I wasn't getting a regular game with Claremont, and I thought that while I was still young, I should take the opportunity to play more senior football. "During my time at East Freo I was given a tagging role, which I wasn't happy about. I was hoping that I had a bit more to offer a side, apart from tagging.

"A number of things have transpired to see me back at Claremont. Probably the major reason was the fact that Dec Mountford is my best mate (and a former housemate), and other boys including Bailey Rogers and Jye Bolton were pretty keen to get me back.

"They got into my ear in the middle of last year, saying 'would you like to come back?' I was a bit hesitant at the start because I had walked away from the club. But after speaking with Ash (Prescott) and Kepler (Bradley) I made up my mind. They were so positive, and I decided it would be a good time to come back."

Davies is seriously disappointed that injuries have interrupted his pre-season preparation. "It's not what you want when you come back to your old club," he said. "You want to impress and put yourself in the best position to have a good year.

"Up until Christmas I was sort of flying along and feeling good. Then I had a hammy setback after the Christmas break, and it lingered on into a new ankle injury which has been causing me grief."

Davies, who made 32 league appearances for East Fremantle, has started a lawnmowing business (Morgan's Mowing) to enable him to be his own boss and to be flexible around football.

"If it wasn't for footy, I'd probably be back on the cattle farm in Albany, so I figured that while I'm up here I should give myself the best opportunity to play well and to do everything that is required to play at this level," he said.



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BULLER AIMS TO CONQUER SECOND-YEAR BLUES

BY KEN CASELLAS



Jack Buller exceeded his expectations in his debut season last year when he played in all of Claremont's 21 league matches, and he has been working hard during the pre-season in a concerted bid to avert the second-year blues in 2022.

The towering 198cm and 97kg Buller was a revelation last year as a key forward, soaring high to take many spectacular marks, kicking 31 goals, using his strength to apply crunching tackles and excelling in ruck contests.

History shows that many times a player who has shone in his debut season has been less prominent the following year when opponents have devised tactics to reduce his efficiency.

Buller, who turns 21 on May 16 this year, said that he didn't expect to play in every game last year. "But things worked out nicely for me," he said. "Playing league footy compared with reserves was definitely a big step up.

"My message to the young players and those who will be graduating to league ranks is to take it one game at a time and don't look too far into the future. You need to focus on playing your role. You don't have to go out there, trying to be best on ground. You will have your moments and you have to make sure you stand up to the task and be physical and don't let things overpower you."

Buller, who shone at full-back and in the ruck in colts

football, and as a key defender in the reserves side in 2020, is expected to begin this season at centre-half-forward, with Timm House at full-forward, with the option of them interchanging.

"There is a lot more pressure being a key forward," said Buller. "And I like to be able to help out in the ruck at the forward 50m stoppages as much as I can to allow Stevie (Steve Miller) to set up behind the ball.

"I'm lucky that I'm a fairly large player, pretty heavy and big. But obviously there have been times when I came up against certain full-backs when it was very challenging, and you had to find ways to get separation from them.

"A real focus of mine this year is being better aerobically, and I've been working on that off-season. I found last season that opponents who were stronger than me were able to bully me out of a few contests. So, I have worked on the running side of my game.

"Physically, I was able to manage last year, but mentally it does get quite tough. Once you get into the league team you don't want to give up that position. After an average game or an average training session you find yourself thinking about it a bit at home.

"Going into my second year I can sort of relax a bit more, and I hope that all the work I have put in pays off."

Buller is looking forward to a successful season for the Tigers and said that some of the club's younger players would be pressing hard for league selection.

"I'm really liking Sam Alvarez, who got a few games last year," he said. "I love his professionalism and his ball use. He has been a real stand-out. Kieran Gowdie is a big bloke who has worked hard in the off-season and has put on some more muscle. He'll be exciting.

"Work-wise, everything is going well. I have just started working as a scaffolder, which is good in the off-season as it helps building your body for footy. And I'm in my final year, studying finance management at UWA."



TIGERS SHOW THE WAY IN AFL DRAFT

BY KEN CASELLAS

The Claremont Football Club maintained its standing as Western Australia's premier nursery of young players when four talented teenagers were snapped up in the 2021 AFL national draft in November.

Angus Sheldrick was selected as pick No. 14 by the Sydney Swans, Jacob van Rooyen was chosen as pick No. 19 by Melbourne, Arthur Jones was taken as pick No. 43 by the Western Bulldogs, and Eric Benning went at No. 54, chosen by the Fremantle Dockers.

This meant that Claremont was the best WA club in providing draftees, and the club also had the distinction of being the equal second most successful club in Australia, with the Sandringham Dragons showing the way with eight drafted players --- well ahead of Claremont, the Dandenong Stingrays and the GWW Rebels, with each club having four draftees.

Once again, Claremont's performance is testimony to the club's successful youth policy and development programs in both the metropolitan area and in its country zones of the Kimberley and the Great Southern.

Sheldrick and van Rooyen are products of Claremont's metropolitan development programs, with Jones hailing from Mt Barker and Benning from Kununurra.

Sheldrick, a tough as nails inside midfielder and a fierce contested ball winner, made giant strides last year after missing the entire 2020 season as he recovered from a fractured collarbone. He also made a late start to pre-season training as he fought off the effects of a bout of tonsillitis.

Last year it was considered by some that Sheldrick was too slow to graduate to AFL ranks. A firm believer that there is no substitute for hard work, Sheldrick responded by arranging individual training from a sprint specialist. Also, unbeknown to his colts teammates he got out of bed at six o'clock in the morning three times a week to go to the gym to work on improving his strength.

This was all part of his determination to succeed at football, and the former State junior hockey representative and water polo player revealed great character to manage himself in Year 12 at Christ Church Grammar School where he was a prefect and captain of the football team, as well as juggling his football commitments with the Tigers and State junior squads.

Not only was he Christ Church's fairest-and-best player last year, but he also was the fairest-and-best player for the Claremont colts, despite appearing in only nine matches. Remarkably, he was judged as his side's best player in seven of those matches, including the grand final against Swan Districts when, in the space of one minute in the third quarter, he snapped two goals, one on each foot from opposite pockets. That effort followed his three goals against Swans in a semi-final when he was badly hampered by a bruised leg.

A strongly-built 88kg left-footer, Sheldrick, who admits he has modelled his game on Luke Hodge, was one of WA's best players in two matches against South Australia last year. A fierce tackler and strong runner, Sheldrick was named in the 2021 WAFL colts Team of the Year. For the Tigers he averaged 26 disposals (16 contested), six clearances, four tackles and six inside 50s. It was great to see him make his AFL debut in Sydney's round-one victory over GWS in March this year.

Van Rooyen is a prodigiously talented key forward, who revealed last year that he is also a highly capable defender. His competitiveness and wonderful aerial ability are his major strengths. He made his debut in colts football as a 16-year-old, and then was named at centre-half-forward in the WAFL colts Teams of the Year in 2020 and 2021.

Early last year he battled glandular fever and missed a month of football. He then booted 34 goals in nine colts matches, including six against Subiaco and five against Perth before scoring 11 goals in three final-round contests.

He got a taste of senior football in five league appearances for the Tigers when he produced some exciting moments as a forward. Impressive features of his game include his strong contests in the air and on the ground.

In the WA versus SA curtain-raiser before the AFL grand final at Optus Stadium van Rooyen played strongly in defence before giving further proof of his versatility by moving up the ground to kick the winning goal 56sec. before the final siren.

Jones, a willowy 65kg speedster, comes from Mt Barker and is closely related to the famous brothers Jim and Phil Krakouer. An athletic wingman with elite speed and endurance, he has shown that he is at home playing in attack and in defence where his run and carry makes him an extremely exciting performer.

He graduated from the Great Southern Storm program, and a lad with a bubbly, extroverted personality he stood out with his confidence and being the loudest character when he joined Claremont's development squads for 15-year-olds when many boys are introverted and quite shy.

At the start of the second term in 2020 Jones was awarded a scholarship at Wesley College, and after only a week he was added to the school's football team's leadership group. He then was vice-captain of Wesley's first 18 in 2021 and made ten appearances with the Claremont colts side when his best football was on a wing where his speed, agility and evasiveness became hallmarks of his game.

He sparked in an interstate contest against South Australia when he booted two goals and sent the ball inside the side's 50m attacking zone six times. He also shone with 16 disposals, including two goals, in the curtain-raiser before the AFL grand final.

Jones designed Wesley College's 2021 Indigenous jumper and the school's new Indigenous ties. He is looking forward to modelling his game on Western Bulldogs captain Marcus Bontempelli.

Benning is an athletic and agile high-leaping ruckman who was a member of the Dockers Next Generation Academy last year. He graduated from the Kimberley Spirit program and is studying for a Bachelor of Sports Science at the University of WA.

Softly spoken, humble and unassuming, Benning moved to Perth in February of last year and he certainly has considerable scope for developing into an exciting footballer.

He represented WA in three NAB under-19 championship matches, and in 13 colts matches he achieved 221 hit-outs. His outstanding third-quarter performance in the colts grand final against Swan Districts swung the momentum of the game in Claremont's favour.

Apart from his excellent work in the ruck Benning shone as a key forward with four goals in a round 18 match against Subiaco. His vertical lap and his agility are his major strengths, and he has the credentials to follow his brothers Shane McAdam (Adelaide Crows) and Ash Johnson (Collingwood) as a polished AFL performer.





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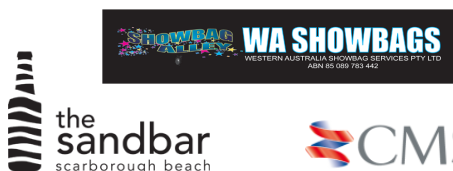
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