

West Adelaide- Riverland Connection

The West Adelaide Football Club has bolstered some great Riverland football talent over its long and rich history. Legends including Waikerie's Brownlow medallist Mark Ricciuto, Loxton's Magarey Medallist Grantley Fielke and cult hero Tony Modra are just few that come to mind. In recent years, it has been a breeding ground for aspiring Riverland draft prospects, with Loxton born Docker, Byron Schammer and St Kilda pair Barmera's Sam Fisher and Berri's Rhys Stanley being drafted in the last seven years.

There are currently seven Riverland players playing senior football at the Bloods. These players are, Barmera young gun Jonathon Beech who played his first league game at just 17 years old, who is turning heads at the club playing an exhilarating brand of football as a hard running wingman/ half forward. After both overcoming injury setbacks this year, Waikerie's Wade Champion and Loxton North's Aaron Fielke have put their hands up for senior selection with some promising games. Former Tiger Braydn Fisher has come of a Best on Ground 3 goal performance in the Reserves, after coming back to the club after a year playing Amateur League at Gepp's Cross. Barmera Monash's Martin Barber has had to put season '09 on hold after the 20 year old dislocated his shoulder and requires surgery. Former Roo Ben Fisher has found himself in the headline news, after being a victim of a dangerous 'spear' tackle from Adelaide Crows listed Robert Shirley. The highly skilled 23 year old, showed his toughness by playing the following week against Port after being knocked unconscious from the tackle.

The newly formed U18's Macca's Cup also boosts an encouraging amount of Riverland players. Michael Ward a former Loxton North junior who was named captain of the squad, is playing consistent polished football, Waikerie pair Josh Schiller and Brad Helbig are both creative skilful, running type players who have cemented themselves in the team and agile tall, Corey Seimers and Brad Kirk are showing that they can adapt at both ends of the ground.

The club are finding themselves in an unfamiliar winning position, after back to back wins against Port and Woodville West Torrens it is making so called experts take notice. In his second year at the helm experienced coach Andy Collins, a Hawthorn best and fairest winner, has breathed a breath of fresh air into the club, rejuvenating both players and fans alike, with a game plan full of flair and controlled risks.