

## **DETECTIVE BLOODHOUND REPORT**

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2006**

Welcome to Detective Bloodhound's thoughts and news of what's happening at Westies both on and off the field. We should first say that the views expressed here are not necessarily those of the West Adelaide Football Club and although the Bloodhound has been so far been actively encouraged by the Club, we're not sure how long this will last after we warm up! We would also appreciate any news, questions or feedback, which will reach us by contacting our Marketing Manager, Angela Jacka, [angela.jacka@westies.com.au](mailto:angela.jacka@westies.com.au) who will forward all comments to our secret kennel. We're hoping this will be a howling success.

Let's face facts right away. Last year we finished bottom of the ladder, so there's a lot of work to be done. The Bloodhound has had a look at training, quietly questioned a few insiders, and is pleased to report that progress looks good. The coaching staff, along with Stephen Schwerdt, has planned a very detailed and rigorous pre-season fitness programme, administered by Fitness Coach Brian Gates, and the players look to be responding well. After so many retirements of club stalwarts last season, the new leadership group is leading the way by example and our fitness levels appear to be improving greatly, as was needed. It's also pleasing to note that the playing group seems to be relatively injury-free at the moment.

The weekend of February 24th and 25th will see players, coaches and support staff head to Victor Harbor for the pre-season camp. We'll see what we can dig up (sorry, report) about that weekend.

All Westies supporters want to know about our recruits. We lost a lot of experienced players last season, so we've checked out some of the new players. Ben Haynes from Essendon and Kyle Archibald, a tall forward from Richmond are looking good. Key position player Marcus McMillan and mid-fielder Lance Oswald, both from Yarrowonga, Brydan Morgan from Gisborne and Ryan O'Sullivan, a ruckman from Swan Hill are settling in nicely. Several other players new to Westies are training, complementing many of our promising juniors looking to step up to league football.

Returning to the club after some time interstate is classy Ben Hollands, who has been working hard and losing plenty of weight since arriving. Good to see our AFL listed players attend training recently. Mark Riciutto, Tyson Edwards, Adrian Bonaddio, Scott Welsh, Ben Rutten, Jason Porplyzia and Luke Jericho from the Crows and Peter Walsh, Dom Cassisi, James Ezard and Michael Pettigrew from Port renewed acquaintances with players and coaches. Not sure if Wayne could fit them in to our team, but I'm sure he could be persuaded, if necessary.

Further detective work has uncovered some possible difficulties coming up at selection meetings when they start. Word has it that the Senior Coach is insisting on a minimum of 15 left-footers in the team.

The Bloodhound got a shock trying to sneak into the rooms for the first time this season. Since the club started, the first person everyone saw was club legend and Property Steward Malcolm McCracken. Well, perhaps not quite that long, although..... Malcolm has now retired and the first face you now see is that of "Big Dave" McKenzie. Now we all know that generations of Property Stewards think they would run a great operation if it wasn't for players wanting things, so it's been reported to me that it's taking a while to get used to Dave's habit of immediately saying "Yes" when players ask him for something. On the other hand, nobody is going to argue with him if he says "No". It's also great to see Malcolm coming along now and again to ensure a smooth transition. With another club stalwart Tom Winter assisting, we think Dave's in for a long and enjoyable ride.

We've also noticed that Committeeman and Reserves Team Manager, Trevor Pickering has been appointed as Wayne Weidemann's new League Team Manager.

Getting our teams on the field requires a lot of support from many people and a lot of time given by so many volunteers and professionals. Joining our Club Physiotherapist, Matthew Pilla from PhysioOne, is Andrew Darcey from Wakefield Sports Clinic. Your Bloodhound has also noticed that the Club has appointed Angela Barker, from Tripod Podiatry, to our medical staff. If you need Physio or Podiatry services, I'm told they would be pleased to help any Bloods supporters and have a chat about the footy.

Watch out!

Seeing that we're talking about volunteers, it's only fair to issue a warning about our methods. In future editions we'll try to get behind the scenes of the best BBQ in the SANFL, find out more about our dance troupe and we'll quietly join some of our supporter groups at games and report their ideas on how we can win the flag.

Perhaps the Westonians aren't safe from us either and it would be a dereliction of our duty not to review the Richmond Restaurant. Remember, no player, official, administrator or even supporter is safe from a visit by the Bloodhound.

Of course, we'll have to spend a fair bit of time in the Member's Bar to keep up with all the news.

Ben Grieger had a promising start to his league career last year. Issued with number 71 at the start of the year, we're very pleased to report that he'll have a bit of weight off his back this year. He's taking over No. 26, worn with great distinction in recent years by one of everyone's favourite players, Chris Chubb. Chubby was forced to give league footy away last year because of a bad knee injury, but we believe he's now shifted to the Geelong area to start a new business. We suspect he might not be able to resist having a kick over there.

Talking numbers, new recruit Brydon Morgan will wear No 1. We've managed to sneak a look at the secret list of new player numbers. While nothing's official, the Bloodhound is looking forward to seeing Kyle Archibald in No.2, Ben Haynes in 7, Lance Oswald in 12, and Marcus McMillan in 25. We've sniffed out that Ben Hollands will be reunited with 8 and Crows recruit Adrian Bonaddio will wear 15. Speaking of Adrian, we think the usual expression is "he's a big boy".

We'll also look back a bit at past players who have worn all the numbers, obviously starting now at Number 1. In recent times, it was worn with distinction by Centre-Half-Forward, Tim Symes, who played over 190 games for the Bloods. Timothy is now successfully coaching Rostrevor Old Collegians in A1 Amateur League. Before Tim, possibly the best known recent wearer would be Premiership Player, Larry Watson.

No 1 has a proud history at the West Adelaide Football Club, worn by many great players, including several Hall of Fame members and the winners of 5 Magarey Medals, J Tierney, H R Head, R Barnes and dual medal winner, Bruce McGregor.

Want to enjoy the atmosphere of league footy? We've found out that the club is looking for water-runners on Saturdays at both League and Junior levels. There is a small payment for expenses, clothing is supplied and you'll

love the involvement. Minimum age is 15 and no experience is necessary. Contact the club.

There's plenty more to talk about, but we'll save some for next time. Things like hairstyles, featuring Simon Munn and Kyle Archibald, how accurate are Skinny and the Statsmen, who are Sarge and The General, which recruit played for Tooleybuc-Managatang last year, how can Mark Rattley run 4 kms that quickly and much more. We'll continue our dogged sniffing out of information, gossip and rumours. Speaking of rumours, all Bloods fans want to know if our recruiting is finished. The cards are being kept close to the chest on this one, but my guess is that it's not quite finished. Only a guess, though.

And finally. If you think that you're safe from the Bloodhound, ponder this. Who was the member of the playing, coaching and support staff group spotted skiing on the River Murray? Nothing strange about that? Maybe you might think there is if the only item worn was a pink G-string!