

Celebration of an Era 1985-90

I would like to start by wishing the Club every success in the 2015 season.

Premierships are what playing football is all about, however it is important to remember where it all started.

There are 4 games that stick in my mind as games that played a large part in the Era of success that was to follow.

They are 1983 when we played arch rival De La Salle and defeated them at their home ground. It was the first time in 22 matches that we had beaten De La and was certainly a monkey off our back. Who can forget the Roo Hops and elation after the siren sounded and if I remember correctly we partied at Chunky and Eggshells folks Muzza and ETs home into the early hours while the Aussies won the Americas Cup.

In 1984 we reached and played our first Senior GF in 10 years again vs DLS and were comfortably beaten. I think it was then the playing group made a mental decision that if we ever played in another GF we would never lose again.

In 1985 when we played at home against a Xavs side containing Nick Wilton ex Hawthorn, Danny Corcoran ex Bulldogs Nick Burne ex Hawth and a couple of other ex AFL Players and after been 20 points down 24 minutes into the final quarter we came back to win by 4 points. We then knew as a side that we could win any game from any position against any opposition.

However the game that started everything without any doubt was in Rd 12 of the 1983 season when we were last on the ladder 2 games behind the 2nd bottom side and playing the top side Marcellin at their ground in our traditional Sth Melb clash strip and lose and we are gone. Well we come out and play like men possessed with the passion and intensity that has made this club FEARED and won by 12 goals. We partied hard at Burkeys 21st that night and won 5 of the next 6 games to comfortably stay up. The Era had begun.

All these games helped form the mental strength and Self belief that we could achieve the success which followed.

To win a Premiership is what playing football is all about to win 5 in 6 years and be the BEST TEAM in the VAFA is what dreams are made of. It is the best feeling in the world.

After been presented with the Premiership Cups in 1985 in my speech I said that ORMOND is the greatest club that I have ever been part of.

Well Steve Dos Oatesy Cookie and all my mates kept telling me it was the only club I Have ever been involved in.

Thirty Years later having coached at 6 other VAFA clubs I think I am now qualified enough to say categorically

ORMOND IS THE GREATEST CLUB I'VE EVER BEEN INVOLVED AT