

Note of Apology from Geoff 'Godfrey' Russell

Hi all, my apologies for not being able to be there tonight so have a beer for me if there is enough.

Started at Ormond when I was 7yrs old and just loved playing footy and the club. Growing up watching Ormond dominate in the 70s was great and then being fortunate enough to play a small part in the 80s which was a pretty special time is something that will always stay with me.

I saw so many good players in these 2 decades but to not only play footy with them but the friendships you made are also something you don't forget, not just the players but the families of the players, people on the committees, supporters, even people with no connection to the club that just came out of the woodwork just to see great football sides of those eras.

I saw and played with a lot of great players in my time but to say who was the best?, not sure but I am gunna have a crack at it, sorry Stoop not even close, apologies to B. Bourne, Cookie, Jobbers, Chunky, Kingo and Paul Cox, sorry have missed a few but Alan Naylor will always stick in my mind, not just the great ruckwork in making me and others look good but the way he looked after us young idiots off the field as well, drinking ales in the rooms hours after a game talking shit with Forsey and myself was always great.

To Mike, Geoff Reilley and the rest of coaching staff thanks for the great years, even though I was probably one of your worst nightmares because I loved training so much (Barney I love you but you didn't make training very enjoyable either you psycho).

People have their likes and dislikes on who they wanted to play against but mine were De La, Xavs, Collegians and the wankers at Old Scotch (shit I hated them), I actually used to get a kick against them but having said that I hated all schoolboy sides.

Highlights

After training on Thursday night and well into Friday morning drinking obviously, eating leftover cold toasted sangers and frozen dim sims, and having stacks on jumping off the pool table onto 15 people, great prep for a game. Dos was always on the bottom of the stack which made it even more enjoyable.

Strahany getting knocked out against Parkside is always good to remember, we won the game and I had to celebrate with Parkside after the game to congratulate them on knocking the little rodent out although the drive home with Greg Fisher and Stoop was unbearable. I think Fish was ready to throw stupid out of the car, he just would NOT shut up, even death threats didn't shut him up.

And although I did my knee in the 2nd semi in 1990 (thanks Barney) playing in the other Grand Finals were also obvious highlights.

PS: To quash the rumours spread by Dos and Steve Aarons on the morning of the 87 Grand Final it was said I drank a carton of beer before the game, I can assure everyone that it is not true, I will let that myth grow.

Have a great night all and thanks for the good times.

Godders