

BATTALION SPORTING TEAMS

Australian Rules

The 1990 campaign for the inter-unit Australian Rules trophy started well with many believing that this was the year the drought would be broken. Indeed CPL Grace and CPL Bergwerf were heard to say, "If we don't win this year then I'm no judge of a football team". Bad luck Brian and Wayne.

Early victories were more like training turns for the 1RAR games the challenges for the Aust Rules warriors. Victory followed victory with the backline of Hatfield, Grundy and Robbo giving us a spring into attack. Indeed, Bob Hatfield "blossomed" toward the end of the season as he overcame injury.

Elvis is not dead!!! he is playing Centre Half Back for the Battalion team under the name of Mal Grey, supported by his partners the "nugget like" player Hally and Tucker from the workshop (not the sheltered workshop). Much of the reason we only lost three games all year.

The Centre Line was an example of flexibility with many players filling the Wing position. Bakes and Dunny would run all day on the games or training then again if you had pure red or pure white hair you would too. The two stalwart of the Centre Line were Jeff Rule (Centre), some say the best looking player — definitely one of the toughest and Drabbs the player/umpire. Drabbs known for dashing runs down the wing was also able to combine playing and umpiring, often not too successfully. The Half Forward Line was at times inspiration with Shaun O'Leary and Paddo producing what would only be called 'incredible' football. Both were known to say "everyone is entitled to an off day".

The Full Forward was that "Brick with eyes", Merro whose hands were second to none all year, he provided a focal point for attack.

The followers and utility player were the ball getters for the team. The small men of Stu Smith and Gracey always set the example in personal commitment, to the larger team members. The ruck roving team of Larks and George always worked hard for the ball. George had a superb season and hot favourite for Best and Fairest.

The talent discovery of the season was PTE Pain, D Coy, who combined well with the timeless talent of PTE Smith. The team received a late boost to its ranks with the dangerous CAPT Mark Nolan and the darting LT Dick Parker joining the squad. A special thanks or congratulations must go to those players such as PTE Wilson, PTE Garham, PTE Fricker who trained religiously and were always available for games but sat on the side line. Next year the commitment will pay off. To the coach CAPT Gavin Bourke a thank you, for the drive, enthusiasm which carried the team through some bad patches. A grand final victory was all you deserved. Rumour has it that it will be a player/coach role next year.

The support of SSGT Browne and the guest stars of CPL McQueen and PTE Brown showed that old men can still participate in contact sports.

The Battalion's Australian Rules team says goodbye to the services of Brian Grace after 7 years. He has captained and coached the team and been Best and Fairest and runner-up numerous times. Good luck in Singleton. We acknowledge all your effort, injuries and future arthritis in playing for the Battalion.