

TIGER TALK



2023 SEASON GUIDE

CLAREMONT FOOTBALL CLUB



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2023 FIXTURES

ROUND	DATE	VS	LOCATION	TIME
1	April 7	West Perth	Pentanet Stadium	1:40
2	April 15	South Fremantle	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10
3	April 22	Subiaco	Leederville Oval	2:10
4	April 30	West Coast	Revo Fitness Stadium	12:40
5	May 6	East Perth	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10
6	May 13	Swan Districts	Steel Blue Oval	2:10
7	May 27	East Fremantle	Broome	2:10
8	June 3	Perth	Mineral Resources Park	2:10
9	June 10	Peel Thunder	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10
10	BYE			
11	June 24	West Coast	Revo Fitness Stadium	1:10
12	July 1	Subiaco	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10
13	July 8	South Fremantle	Fremantle Community Bank Oval	2:20
14	July 15	East Perth	Leederville Oval	2:10
15	July 22	West Perth	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10
16	BYE			
17	August 5	East Fremantle	WACA	2:10
18	August 12	Peel Thunder	Lane Group Stadium	2:10
19	August 19	Swan Districts	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10
20	August 26	Perth	Revo Fitness Stadium	2:10





FROM THE CEO

How quickly a new season comes around. It seems like only yesterday the final siren of 2022 sounded at Leederville Oval, our league side within a whisker of securing the ultimate prize for the first time in a decade. But whilst disappointed, the result on that Saturday afternoon didn't define our year as a club.

Our teams played exciting football, we unearthed new gems along the way, and they demonstrated a tenacity and desire that all in Tigerland can be proud of. We continue to strengthen our connection to our community – not only being a place for the best and brightest football talent to thrive, but a place for all our local stakeholders to come together and enjoy our magnificent facilities. We have an exceptional group of people that commit their time, energy and finances – from our Board, to our Patrons and Sponsors, and our Staff & Volunteers – their investment in the Club is phenomenal. We got a lot right and we can all be proud of that. In 2023 we will continue on this path. I can feel the zeal.

Our financial benefactors have been eager to throw their support behind us yet again. Our staff have been feverishly planning and putting things in place for the year ahead.

Our female programs are already off to a flyer with round 1 wins in a grand final rematch, looking to add to their maiden League flag in '22 just three seasons into the competition.

Even our volunteers have a spring in their step (or maybe that's just getting in first for morning tea).

And the ambition of the players and coaches is palpable. I was lucky enough to witness the senior preseason camp in Albany and their drive & cohesion is certainly something to behold.

All this tells me we're still on the right track. I'm looking forward to his year, thanks for getting on board and being a part of it.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2023 season for the Claremont Tigers. As President of this proud club, it is my honour to officially launch what promises to be another thrilling year of Football.

The Claremont Tigers have a rich history and tradition in our game, with a legacy of success that spans nearly 100 years. We stand on the brink of a new WAFL season, this is the moment all our coaches and players have been working towards for months since our narrow loss in last year's Grand Final.

Our players, coaches and staff have worked tirelessly over the off-season to ensure that we are in the best possible position to continue that legacy and achieve the ultimate success this season. We know what it takes to be successful in this game – commitment, dedication, skills & working hard for your teammate.

But I remind everyone that BELIEF is just as important as those traits I just mentioned. Belief in ourselves, Belief in our teammate, belief in our coaches, our staff and volunteers.

I have the belief that we have what it takes to win.

When the players take the field this year, they do so with the knowledge that we are representing not just our club but also our community. The Tigers have always been a club that inspires passion and loyalty in its supporters, and we are acutely aware of the responsibility that comes with that.

Ash Prescott, our league coach and his assistants and players have worked extremely hard over the pre-season. The board has the utmost faith and belief in our players to execute the coaches game plans and play unselfishly with 100% effort and tenacity and spirit that has come to define the Tigers.

It is with great pride and excitement we welcome the Claremont Women's Football Club into our constitution. Even though we have been working closely with the Women's club over the past few years this is our first year as ONE CLUB.

We welcome Jack Schwarze into a dual role as Club Coach and Football manager and it's great to see the Women's League and Rogers Teams get off to a great start for season 2023. We wish him and his fellow assistants all the best for the remainder of the season.

I would like to thank all our sponsors, patrons, staff, volunteers, coaches, medical staff, trainers and board members. Your unwavering support and dedication is what makes this Club special.

I look forward to seeing you all down at the club this year.

Go the Tigers



2023

SAVE THE DATE

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

SEASON LAUNCH

WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH

CFC LADIES DAY

SATURDAY 6TH MAY

CFC QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 19TH MAY

COMEDY NIGHT

FRIDAY 16TH JUNE

1993 PREMIERSHIP REUNION LUNCH

SATURDAY 22ND JULY

WHAT YOU NEED - INXS TRIBUTE

SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST

CFC FIRST FRIDAY IN SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER





FROM THE COACH

After a long preseason we are finally approaching the opportunity to test ourselves against opposition teams, we get the sense that the players are looking forward to competing against someone other than themselves. It's been a summer that started in October for most of the group and we have collectively lived our mantra of constant improvement, getting 1% better every day and searching for any marginal gain possible. This looks different for everyone as so many of our boys are at differing stages of their development, but we can confidently say across the summer months we have seen tremendous growth in speed, endurance, body mass, skill, our game plan and building our connectiveness on and off the field. The level of intensity, physicality and the attack on the ball has been very strong, it doesn't count for much in March, but it does set a standard of what's required at the Claremont Football Club. Our habits are improving, as is our capacity to practise and play at a high capacity for longer.

What you cannot measure but has been most pleasing are the observations and conversations the coaches are having amongst individuals, there has been a strong shift in a true team first mindset, more conversations like 'I want to play midfield' has been replaced with 'I will play anywhere the team needs me', this has been evident in practice drills where players are providing stronger direction and support for the ball carrier and blocking and screening for each other, I have mentioned to many people in passing this has been a real stand out, it is not just about running around and getting the ball, it is about how we become more productive on offense, defence and around the contest, simply put, being unconditionally team first. We need to really maintain this WE not ME mindset once the pressure increases and the games start.

We would like to take this opportunity to announce our club leaders for 2023, we offered our captain Declan Mountford the opportunity to sit outside of the full club leadership nomination process, but he declined and requested to be treated the same as his teammates. Declan received an overwhelming amount of nominations to be the club captain again as he should be. He is joined by Ronin O'Connor who has been selected as our Vice Captain in just his second year back at the football club, I speak on behalf of everyone in acknowledging Ronin's character, in every interaction I have had with him its always been about helping others and the team and club functioning as best it can, it's very pleasing that the rest of the club feels the same way and recognises his traits. In no order he will be joined by Jack Lewsey, Jye Bolton, Alex Manuel, Bailey Rogers and Lachie Martinis as our leaders, a magnificent group of men who bring different personalities and strengths to their role. I look forward to working closely with this group over the course of the year.

We are blessed that the coaching team has remained similar to previous years but with the great addition of Glenn McCallum, for those that haven't met Glenn yet, you will enjoy getting to meet him. He is not only an extremely competent and knowledgeable coach but hardworking, passionate and great person who lives the qualities we value so highly at our football club. It's also great to have Dale Kickett at the club. A few days after last year's grand final Dale so kindly reached out to me, in our conversations it wasn't about him giving me advice it was about support, I could hear and feel in his voice a steely resolve to get his hands dirty in helping this current group of players. Whilst Dale never left the club, we will be better for having him around more. Damian Crimmins a past player and great clubman has also joined the coaching team to help his great mate Darren Harper and the Development team, welcome back Crimmo!

A quick thanks to the so many people who have played their role in preparing the group for the 2023 season, thanks to the playing group yourselves, next to my own flesh and blood you are the most important people in my life, I mean that, we have pushed hard, we have not taken one short cut, we have driven high standards, we are going about it the right way, building a strong culture, valuing and rewarding the right actions, habits and behaviours. We look forward to seeing you at the football soon, and win, lose or draw have you walk away proud of a team that is unconditional in its effort and leaves nothing out there.

Eat Em' Alive
Ashley Prescott

TIGER

Bar

EVERY THURSDAY | FROM 4PM
HAPPY HOUR 4PM-6PM



TALENT DEPARTMENT

Before diving into 2023, I wanted to start by taking this opportunity to acknowledge Ed Allan (Pick 19 – Collingwood), Hugh Davies (Pick 33 – Fremantle) and Conrad Williams (Category B Rookie – Fremantle) who were selected in the AFL National Draft late last year. Don't expect to see Ed back in Claremont colours any time soon, as he's already signed a contract extension to keep him at the Pies until at least the end of 2026! As for Hugh and Conrad, let's hope they can earn AFL selection quickly to avoid returning to Tigerland in Peel Thunder colours come Round 9 of the WAFL Season! All the best boys!

Our Colts & Futures programs are currently in full swing under the stewardship of second-year coaches Ashley Clancy and Ben Willett respectively, while our 14s and 15s Development Squad Programs will take place later in the year. The Colts are training strongly with a key focus on enhancing our alignment with the Senior Program both on and off the field, which has been exciting to watch unfold.

2023 shapes as a highly anticipated year from a regional perspective, with the Kimberley Spirit returning to the CBH Country Colts Championships for the first time since 2012, while also making their maiden appearance in the WAFC Regional 15s Carnival. A massive thank you to Ben De Meo and the team at Garnduwa for the work that continues to go into these initiatives

The Great Southern Storm will be participating in both carnivals as well, while also looking to defend their title at the Great Southern Colts Carnival in Lake Grace. We will once again be taking a Colts Home & Away fixture to Albany in Round 12, with our Futures team having already travelled to the region in February. Thanks as always to Darrell Panizza and the team in the Great Southern for all their efforts.

It's impossible to mention by name everyone who contributes so heavily to the delivery of our programs, but thank you to all those who work so hard to make the wheels turn. Welcome to our new staff – Andie Fagan who has been a fantastic addition to our coaching group this preseason, Jackson Edgar who has ably stepped into our Futures S&C role, and Elly Crowhurst whose experience will be valuable in leading our trainer group this year. Also, special mention to Brendan Arundell whose move into a Player Development role across all programs has already proven highly beneficial. I'd like to thank Darcy Coffey, Grant Povey, Tony Evans and the board, with the recruitment of Bec Davis to support across our talent programs a key indicator of their ongoing desire to invest strongly in our next generation. Thanks also to Kepler Bradley and Ashley Prescott for their ongoing guidance within the Football Department.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the footy in 2023 – Go Tiges!

Jordan Smith
Talent Manager





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2023 TEAM LIST

1



JACK
LEWSEY

HT: 180 cm
WT: 80 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 75

2



FRANCIS
WATSON

HT: 187 cm
WT: 84 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 62

3



BAILEY
ROGERS

HT: 185 cm
WT: 85 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 120

4



ANTHONY
TREACY

HT: 182 cm
WT: 83 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 26

5



DECLAN
MOUNTFORD

HT: 183 cm
WT: 78 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 70

7



RONIN
O'CONNOR

HT: 193 cm
WT: 93 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 17

8



BEN
EDWARDS

HT: 180 cm
WT: 81 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 47

9



JACK
MAIBAUM

HT: 195 cm
WT: 94 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 2

10



LACHLAN
MARTINIS

HT: 184 cm
WT: 83 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 75

11



JYE
BOLTON

HT: 187 cm
WT: 89 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 132

12



MORGAN
DAVIS

HT: 182 cm
WT: 75 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 55

13



TEIA
MILES

HT: 180 cm
WT: 75 kg
LEAGUE GAMES:

14



SAMUEL
ALVAREZ

HT: 185 cm
WT: 78 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 6

15



TIMM
HOUSE

HT: 195 cm
WT: 95 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 25

16



JACK
BULLER

HT: 199 cm
WT: 99 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 41

17 CALLAN ENGLAND
HT: 182 cm
WT: 74 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 67

18 ANTHONY DAVIS
HT: 196 cm
WT: 89 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 36

19 TALON DELACEY
HT: 185 cm
WT: 81 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 5

20 BAILEY BENNETT
HT: 177 cm
WT: 15 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 18

21 OLIVER EASTLAND
HT: 199 cm
WT: 98 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 77

22 BENJAMIN ELLIOTT
HT: 183 cm
WT: 84 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 18

23 JASON CARTER
HT: 184 cm
WT: 86 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 45

25 OLIVER SHELDRIK
HT: 183 cm
WT: 85 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 15

26 STEVEN MILLER
HT: 198 cm
WT: 98 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 27

27 ALEXANDER MANUEL
HT: 188 cm
WT: 90 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 88

28 LOUIS PASSERA
HT: 190 cm
WT: 84 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 3

29 COEN JACKMAN
HT: 191 cm
WT: 93 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 2

30 KIERAN GOWDIE
HT: 200 cm
WT: 104 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 12

31 TYRON SMALLWOOD
HT: 179 cm
WT: 78 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 50

32 MAX MINEAR
HT: 195 cm
WT: 88 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 11

33 ZAC MAINWARING
HT: 180 cm
WT: 74 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 7

34 JOEL WESTERN
HT: 173 cm
WT: 73 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 23

35 DECLAN HARDISTY
HT: 188 cm
WT: 84 kg
LEAGUE GAMES: 90



36



LOGAN
GUELF

HT: 182 cm
WT: 80 kg

LEAGUE GAMES: 4

37



MAX
MUMME

HT: 180 cm
WT: 73 kg

LEAGUE GAMES: 13

39



BENJAMIN
CLARKE

HT: 193 cm
WT: 84 kg

LEAGUE GAMES: 1

40



RHORI
WILLIAMS -
JOLLEY

HT: 186 cm
WT: 85 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

41



KENDYLL
BLURTON

HT: 175 cm
WT: 76 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

42



DYLAN
MULLIGAN

HT: 195 cm
WT: 90 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

43



SAM
GILBEY

HT: 188 cm
WT: 75 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

44



FELIX
ROGERS

HT: 175 cm
WT: 78 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

45



FINN
MOLONEY

HT: 187 cm
WT: 85 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

46



GEORGE
GRAHAM

HT: 194 cm
WT: 89 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

47



LOUIS
WILSON

HT: 184 cm
WT: 79 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

48



JOSHUA
SUKUROSKI

HT: 196 cm
WT: 89 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

49

COREY
MITCHELL

HT: cm
WT: kg

LEAGUE GAMES: 1

50



HARRY
COLE

HT: 187 cm
WT: 77 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

51



ROHAN
MACNEILL

HT: 191 cm
WT: 85 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

53



MITCHELL
BARRON

HT: 179 cm
WT: 89 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

54



CAMPBELL
ROGERS

HT: 192 cm
WT: 89 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

55



SEAN
WILLIAMS

HT: 187 cm
WT: 82 kg

LEAGUE GAMES:

56  **HEATH RAVENHILL**
 HT: 188 cm
 WT: 83 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

57  **RORY CHARLES**
 HT: 183 cm
 WT: 65 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

58  **WILL BAILEY**
 HT: 183 cm
 WT: 76 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

59  **LUKE BROWN**
 HT: 200 cm
 WT: 80 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

60  **WILLIAM WOLF**
 HT: 200 cm
 WT: 94 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

61  **JOSHUA LEDGER**
 HT: 176 cm
 WT: 72 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

62  **JACK BURTON**
 HT: 200 cm
 WT: 85 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

63  **MENNO INVERARITY**
 HT: 183 cm
 WT: 75 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

64  **JULIAN MACERI**
 HT: 182 cm
 WT: 81 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

65  **TED BARRASS**
 HT: 188 cm
 WT: 77 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

66  **KOSTYA DAYLIGHT**
 HT: 170 cm
 WT: 78 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:

70  **HENRY KEMP**
 HT: 178 cm
 WT: 85 kg
 LEAGUE GAMES:





TRIO REVEL IN ICY PRE-SEASON

BY KEN CASELLAS

While the Claremont players sweltered in the summer heat at pre-Christmas and early January training sessions three adventurous Tigers stars Dec Hardisty, Jack Lewsey and Ben Elliott were rugged up as they cavorted in the snow with temperatures below freezing point in Canadian ski resorts.

Snow boarding and skiing were their preferred options for their early pre-season fitness programs before they returned to Perth's summer warmth for training in January, February and March to get ready for the start of the 2023 WAFL season.

Canada was in the grip of a huge snowstorm before the Claremont players arrived, with Hardisty saying that the temperature plunged to 29 degrees below zero when the storm struck.

Elliott travelled to Canada with his mother and father, sister and brother --- after they were marooned in Sydney for four days because the massive snow storm forced Canadian airports to shut down.

"So, we had four days at Bondi before being able to fly to Vancouver where the weather was perfect and there was plenty of snow," said Elliott.

"Snow boarding definitely burns your legs; it's a different kind of fitness, not running fitness but it's good for cardio. I'm getting a lot better as a snow boarder. I was 15 the first time I saw snow, and now I've been to Vermont (north-east America), Japan twice and New Zealand to enjoy snow boarding.

The Elliott family spent time at Whistler and Sun Peaks, and it was at Whistler where Lewsey caught up with his teammate. "We had a couple of days in the snow together," said Lewsey. "Snow boarding keeps you fit. You use your legs mainly and a little bit of your arms. I fell over a bit and spent a bit of time trying to get back up. I also did some treadmill running."

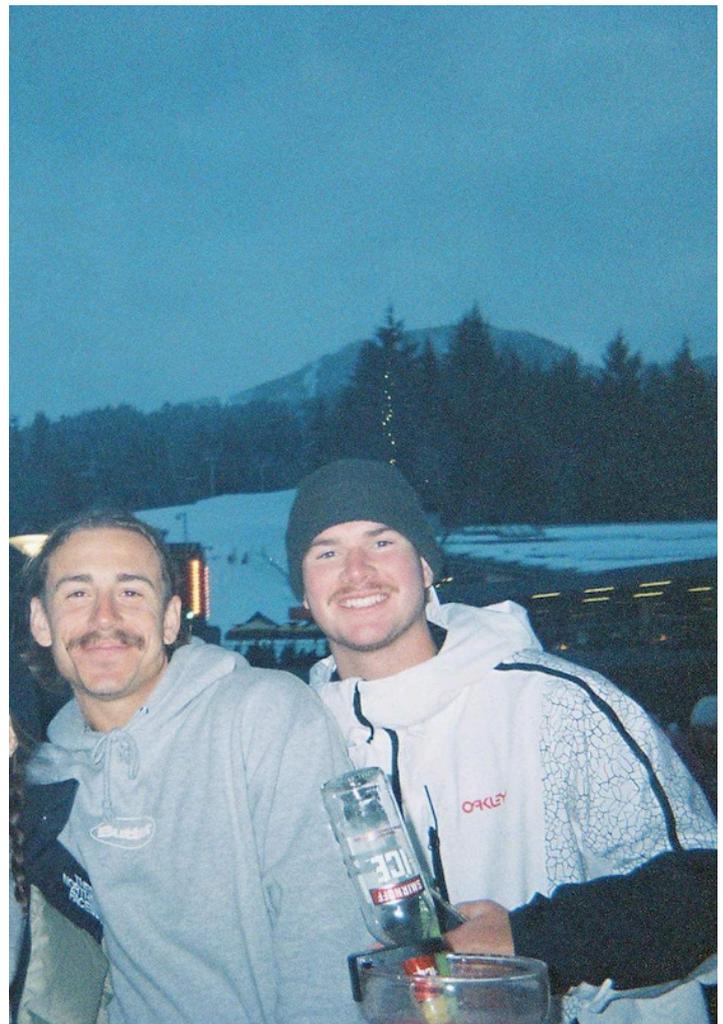
The Canadian adventure was just a part of a hectic time for Lewsey after the 2022 football season. "The weekend after the grand final I went to Melbourne to do my thesis in psychology at the Cairn-millar Institute," he said. "I had been studying online during the year which enabled me to play footy.

"I've just done my honours in psychology and now I'm doing my Masters in Sports Science. I'm an avid snow boarder as well as being into long-distance running."

Lewsey and his housemate Addison Dew (who made his league debut for Claremont on the same day as Lewsey in the round 16 match against East Perth in 2018) ran a 42km marathon in a three-lap circuit around the river in December before they left for Canada.

Hardisty and his family arrived in Canada shortly before Christmas. "We went to Kelowna, a four-hour drive from Vancouver, just before the storm hit," said Hardisty. "That's where we have some family. Mum's sister lives there, and Mum's dad as well.

"We were unable to move into our holiday home because the pipes had frozen and burst. So, we ended up sleeping on the floor in Mum's sister's place before we went to the ski resort at Big White where the temperature was between five and ten below. We were skiing and skating every day and also played a few games of ice hockey, and we actually got to play on a frozen lake."



Jack Lewsey & Ben Elliott



BEN ELLIOTT



DEC HARDISTY



DEC HARDISTY



WOMENS

2023 brings a whole new challenge that this group has never before faced, becoming the hunted. After winning our first WAFLW premierships, including the reserves as well, we no longer wear the mantle of underdog. On top of this success, we had the highest number of drafted players to AFLW out of all clubs in WA. We saw Ella Smith, Sasha Goranova, Emily Elkington and Mikayla Western sign with West Coast Eagles. Madi Scanlon went to Fremantle FC and Tessa Doumanis to Port Adelaide.

Unfortunately, the 2023 season would be without the Reserves competition, meaning we had to say goodbye to many loved players that helped establish our culture. We wish all those players who did not make our final selection all the best in their respective football journeys.

And so, our Pre-Season began in November with the mantra “we’re better when I’m better, and I’m better because you’re better”, an idea that if we push each other to grow and improve we ourselves grow and therefore the group as a whole improves.

Late November saw the senior squad make the trip down to Albany for our annual camp. The coaching staff took a workshop for local coaches as well as a clinic for the Storm Academy which identified several talented junior players who will look to make the most of the pathway through Claremont to the highest level they can. The players also used the camp to get increasingly close to each other and continue to build on the values of 2022. It was incredibly rewarding to be able to sit back and allow the leaders to take control and run some powerful activities with the group.

In January we were lucky enough to participate in the Cazaylys NT Representative match in Darwin. We took a solid representation of our senior squad to take on the NT rep team and walked away with the win.

Beyond the game itself it was yet another opportunity for the group to become tighter as we became connected to the land and sea, to each other and to our gameplan.

As I write this, we are two rounds in, having won both games in League and Rogers including the highly anticipated Grand Final rematch. We look to continue this form as we balance the influx of AFLW players requested by their clubs to play some games early in the season.

In just under two weeks time we will have the supplementary AFLW draft where we are hoping more of our players will see their way on to an AFLW list. We embrace the challenge of creating an environment for players to thrive and move on to the next level while developing the next group to take the opportunity to fill their positions. That group may just come from a number of state academy members such as Ella Slocombe, Mackenzie Webb, Eva O’Donnell, Claudia Wright in the U18s as well as Juliet Kelly in the U16s

Looking forward to the rest of the season which includes a trip to Broome for a shared home game with the Men’s League. While in Broome we will be able to reach communities in the week prior and the week post to continue to strengthen our relationship with the Kimberley.

I’d like to thank the CFC Board and all administration and Operations Staff as well as the Men’s coaches on the integration of the women’s team into the whole club. It’s exciting to see how we can work together to grow all programs and share each other’s successes. Flagmont2.0 let’s do it!



2023 MEMBERSHIP PACKS

ROARING TIGER

\$190



TIGER INSIDER

\$95



SOCIAL TIGER

\$50



COUNTRY TIGER

\$60



FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

\$400



JUNIOR TIGER

\$40



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WESTERN RETURNS HOME

BY KEN CASELLAS

Joel Western is noted for his speed, acceleration and goalkicking ability. But the small and skilful midfielder/forward stands out for another remarkable aspect of his game --- his defensive pressure and willingness to tackle.

Ever since his brilliant performance as a 16-year-old when he starred in Claremont's colts premiership side in 2019 when he had 23 disposals, plus six crunching tackles, Western has earned the plaudits of football fans for his selfless team play.

In his 31 appearances in colts ranks for the Tigers he laid 90 tackles, and in his 23 league matches for Peel Thunder in 2021 and 2022 he made 44 tackles.

Now the 20-year-old Western is back with Claremont and looking forward to helping the Tigers have a successful season.

"You don't have to be the biggest player on the field to lay tackles," he explains. "I think it is more effort and your mindset rather than your size. I just want to make sure I'm doing everything for the team, whether it is tackling or getting the ball myself. I want to make sure I'm contributing in any way I can."

Western was captain of the Claremont colts side which lost to Subiaco in the grand final in 2020 before he was taken by the Fremantle Dockers in the 2020 AFL national draft.

"We had a really good culture at Claremont, led by our coach Matt Angus, and as captain I wanted to drive that culture and make sure that everyone was on the same page," he said. "Being drafted was a big relief, with all the hard work paying off, and getting my shot on the big stage.

"I got to play four AFL matches which was an awesome experience, and that experience is something I can bring down to Claremont where I'm keen to pass on everything I've learnt."

It was in 2021 that Western appeared in his four matches for the Dockers --- against Gold Coast, Richmond and Brisbane at Optus Stadium and against St Kilda at Hobart's Bellerive Oval --- before he was delisted at the end of that year.

"It's definitely tough, being delisted," said Western. "Now I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my life, and it's good to be back at Claremont where I grew up and made my foundation in football and good friendships. I'm working at Dale Alcott's in the building industry and am looking forward to being a site supervisor. I'm happy to be building my own pathway and journey."

Western said that his toughest AFL rival was young Brisbane defender Keidean Coleman, and that it was a surreal feeling to hear the roar of the crowd and perform in front of so many people.



JOEL WESTERN #34

A CHANGE OF SCENERY

BY KEN CASELLAS

Two promising young players from the Sydney Swans academy arrived in Perth late last year anxious to make their mark in Western Australia with the Claremont Tigers.

They are 19-year-old Louis Wilson and 20-year-old Felix Rogers, who have impressed with their skills during the pre-season training sessions.

"Felix and I have been at the Swans academy since we were about nine or ten," said Wilson. "The quality of footy in Perth was the attraction. I have had a lot of connections at the Sydney University Football Club where there have been several Claremont past players who have spoken highly about the Tigers."

Last year Wilson and Rogers played for the Sydney Swans VFL side, and Rogers, a small left-footer, also shone when he scored three goals and was the best afield for the New South Wales-ACT side which defeated South Australia by 24 points in an AFL under-18 match at Thebarton Oval.

Rogers kicked two of the Swans academy side's three goals in a 69-point loss to Northern Knights last April. He was born in London and was four when his family settled in Australia, and he played soccer before his first involvement in football when he was ten.

"He knows his way around the goals very well," said Wilson. "Originally, I was a chubby, stay-at-home forward, and in the past couple of years I have played a high half-forward role. And recently I've found a position on a wing."

Wilson, who studied physiotherapy at Sydney University last year, has a part-time coaching role with the WA Football Commission, teaching schoolchildren the art of football. "I have found pre-season training here intense and challenging, but I have loved every bit of it since I've been here," he said.

"I had the luxury of playing a VFL game against the Casey Demons at the MCG last year, which was quite an experience. I was coached at the Swans academy by Jared Crouch, a very wise head and a big influence. Tom Morrison, at the Sydney Uni club, has also been a massive influence as well."



Felix Rogers



Louis Wilson



BLACKWELL IS 2023 CLUB LEGEND

BY KEN CASELLAS

Rarely has there been a Claremont footballer with such a selfless attitude, with such balance, precise skills and a calm temperament as Luke Blackwell.

He wasn't a towering muscular giant, he wasn't blessed with sizzling speed, he didn't boot the ball out of sight or fly high to take spectacular marks. But he ranks as one of the club's greatest players because of his rare ability and his team-first disposition.

His insatiable appetite for hard work and unselfish attitude made him an inspiring leader during his six years at Claremont. His unerring foot-passing, great proficiency with handball on both sides of his body, his nous at knowing where to go to get the football, his ability to think quickly under pressure and to invariably select the right option were the hallmarks of a wonderful career.

Now 36 and living in Victoria, Blackwell has been honoured as Claremont's 2023 match-day legend.

Blackwell, a champion centreman, retired from senior football at the tender age of 27, mainly because of the wear and tear on his body. Always hard in and under, Blackwell received a constant buffeting from opponents. Never did he shirk any issue or complain. His professionalism and devotion to training made him a great role model for younger players.

He won the E. B. Cook Medal in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2014, equalling the feat of club legends Denis Marshall and Graham Moss. He also finished third in 2012 when he missed three matches, and was 20th in 2013 when a serious ankle injury kept him on the sidelines for three months.

Apart from his four Cook medals, Blackwell won the Sandover Medal in 2011 when he polled 42 votes and finished nine ahead of Subiaco's Kyal Horsley. He received 34 votes and finished third behind Perth's Ross Young in the 2009 Sandover Medal, and a year later he was second to Swan Districts rover Andrew Krakouer.

In 2012 Blackwell polled 33 votes and finished in seventh place in the medal. After being injured for more than half the season in 2013 he received 22 votes and was 13th behind East Fremantle's Rory O'Brien.

Then in his final year, in 2014, Blackwell polled 46 votes to finish second in the Sandover Medal, one vote behind West Perth's Aaron Black. He was awarded the Simpson Medal as Western Australia's best player against Victoria in 2010, and a year later he headed the voting with East Perth's Josh Smith for the Simpson Medal in the match against Queensland. But Smith was awarded the medal, with the umpires casting the deciding vote.

Blackwell was a shining light in Claremont's 2011 and 2012 league premiership sides, after the disappointment of playing in the 2010 grand final in which Swan Districts snatched a one-point victory.

He was the captain in the 2012 grand final victory over East Fremantle. He also was a member of the Claremont side which won the Foxtel Cup, beating Werribee by 44 points in the grand final in 2012.

Blackwell appeared in 114 WAFL league matches for the Tigers and he played in three Foxtel Cup matches and represented WA on four occasions.

Blackwell is the elder son of Claremont's 1981 premiership vice-captain Wayne Blackwell, who played in 112 league matches for the Tigers before representing Carlton in 110 VFL matches.

Luke Blackwell was recruited by Claremont at 22 at the start of the 2009 season after he had been delisted by Carlton where he represented the club in 23 AFL fixtures in 2006 and 2007 before a torn quadriceps muscle in his right leg kept him out of action for much of the 2008 season.

At Claremont, Blackwell was the epitome of a team player par excellence who shunned the limelight and simply got on with the job with the minimum of fuss or fanfare. He was modest, unassuming, self-deprecating and a harsh self-critic whose professionalism and exquisite skills earned him the reputation as a superstar and one of Claremont's all-time greats.



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OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE

BY DECLAN MOUNTFORD

Carrying heavy rocks through heavy sand and in and out of the ocean, crawling backwards in the sand, running up the sandhills. They were just some of the tasks we enjoyed during our weekend pre-season camp in Albany in February.

The guys are out of their comfort zone a bit, being out in the country and sleeping under the stars.

The overarching goal is to get a greater connection with your teammates. Being a WAFL player you don't get exposed to too many trips where you go away overnight or for multiple days. We come into the club on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to train and then go home to eat because it is pretty late when you finish training.

For a weekend like this we can enjoy each other's company, particularly getting to know the new guys coming up and the players coming over from the east.

Our first night was at Neil Ray's farm in Mt Many Peaks, and we spent the second night at Morgan Davies' family farm just a couple of kilometres down the road. We roughed it out in our swags, and I think that Callan England was the only one who slept inside on the first night --- after he had troubles setting up his swag.

Our Sydney imports Louis Wilson and Felix Rogers brought a tent, obviously considering they were too good to sleep in a swag. We were up at six o'clock on Saturday morning and down at the beach before seven, while the rehab group, including myself, went into Albany and did a full session at the leisure centre. For the rest of the guys there was a lot of physical exertion activity, lumping heavy rocks, rolling in the sand, swimming, et cetera.

We were all pretty tired on the Saturday night, and on the Sunday we got into groups for different activities. Some boys played golf, some had a look around the farms, and Matt Orzel took a few boys to Cheynes Beach, and at night we enjoyed a barbecue and a couple of beers.

A great time was had by all, with some of the boys realising that it was unwise to touch the electrified fences, while Jason Carter provided a highlight by slapping an Aberdeen Angus bull on the rump after he had lost a silly heads and tails game. He had to sneak up behind the bull in a paddock, and after slapping him he was able to run away at top speed.





BOLTON'S DARWIN ESCAPE

BY KEN CASELLAS

Claremont champion Jye Bolton's insatiable appetite for playing football knows no bounds, and he achieved a long-held ambition to compete in the Northern Territory Football League when he turned out for the Southern Districts Crocs last November.

Not only did he want that experience but he was able to boost his fitness during the pre-season in a bid to be in top shape for the start of the 2023 WAFL season by playing in Darwin in the summer months.

"A few clubs had been trying to get me to play in the NTL for a few years, but Claremont were quite protective of me and not wanting me to go up there," he said.

"Finally, they relented and gave me the chance to play in Darwin. It has been a good experience."

Bolton made his debut for the Crocs in a match against PINT (Postal Institute of the Northern Territory) in November and had the misfortune of being concussed when he was the victim of a sling tackle, with his head hitting the ground

This kept him out of action for a few weeks, and he managed four games for the Crocs, the first two as a forward and the second two as a midfielder.

"I loved playing up there and made some good mates and went fishing and caught Spanish mackerel, jewfish, schnapper and cod," he said.

Bolton, who celebrated his 31st birthday on March 3, has enjoyed an excellent and injury-free pre-season with the Tigers, frequently impressing with the way in which he led his teammates on a merry dance in some of the running drills.

Bolton, winner of the Sandover Medal in 2016 and 2018, has won the E. B. Cook Medal as Claremont's fairest-and-best player three times, he has won the Simpson Medal a remarkable four times and has been named in the WAFL Team of the Year in all of his seven seasons with the Tigers. Also chosen in last year's WAFL Team of the Year were Bolton's teammates Bailey Rogers, Lachie Martinis and Ryan Lim.



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LIM TAKES A BREAK

BY KEN CASELLAS

Ryan Lim, a permanent fixture and leading light in Claremont's league side for the past eight years, has decided to take a well-earned break from football and he will leave Perth for the northern hemisphere on April 12.

Lim, who celebrated his 27TH birthday on March 20, will leave a considerable gap in the Claremont side, following his outstanding 2022 season which saw him make his interstate debut with a strong performance for WA against South Australia, and finishing fourth in the club's fairest-and-best award.

He also starred with 37 disposals when, as Claremont's acting captain, he led the side to a magnificent come-from-behind 15-point victory over reigning premiers Subiaco when the Tigers were decimated by the loss of several players suffering from the coronavirus infection.

Lim, who made his league debut in the round one match against Subiaco in 2015 after 30 matches in three seasons with the colts, celebrated his 150TH league appearance in the semi-final against Peel Thunder last September to earn life membership of the Tigers.

"Going away is going to be a big change," he said. "I've been training and playing football pretty much since I've been able to kick a footy. So, it will be bitter sweet to move overseas for the next couple of years.

"What I'll miss the most will be running out with the boys on Saturday arvos, having a crack and trying to win a flag. In London, I plan to work full-time in the finance area. Sporting-wise, I've pretty much been training for football every day of my life, so I will have to look for something else.

"I'm pretty keen to get into running and training a couple of times a week, seeing if I can have a crack in the London marathon next year. As a by-product of my running, hopefully I will stay fit for when I return to Perth and hopefully being able to resume playing and not being a liability on the football field."

Lim, who will travel with his girlfriend Sophie Abramo, said: "I've been really lucky and

have hardly missed a game. I have enjoyed being a member of the leadership group. I have a premiership with the colts in 2013, and I've definitely got some unfinished business with the league side."

Regarding his regular spot on a centre wing, Lim said: "I think I've got a good combination of work rate and a desire to never stop running. I think I have a good football brain, knowing where to run and how to navigate myself around a wing in the best interests of the team.

"I have enjoyed playing with Jye Bolton, who has been the benchmark of the competition for seven years. I've been playing with Bailey Rogers since our colts days, and also Lachie Martinis, a mate from Hale School, as well as many other great players, including Ian Richardson, Jake Murphy and Ryan Neates."

Coach Ash Prescott said that Lim would be greatly missed. "Humility is one thing that jumps out with Ryan," he said. "He is so coachable and so team oriented, and he sets an unbelievable example. On game days he has provided us with 14 kilometres of great up and down running on a wing. He always gets back to help the defenders, and vice-versa, when the ball is going into the forward line.

"We will miss him on all fronts. But we're really excited that he gets an opportunity to do something he really loves, and that is travelling, and we are understanding as a football club."

Prescott also will miss Jared Hardisty (retired), Tom Baldwin, Max Spyvee, Lawrence Evans (retired) and Marc Boyatzis.

Baldwin has returned to the country to help his parents with their tyre business, while Spyvee and Boyatzis have study, work and travel plans.

Baldwin has returned to the country to help his parents with their tyre business, while Spyvee and Boyatzis have study, work and travel plans.

IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

BY KEN CASELLAS



Claremont fans have fond memories of the high-flying Geoff Miles in the 1980s and early 90s --- and they are looking forward to watching his son Teia in action for the Tigers in 2023. The 26-year-old Teia Miles joins Jack Maibaum as Claremont's prized recruits this year and he promises to provide football followers with great excitement, considering his daring and dashing play.

He will line up on a half-back flank where he not only will keep a close eye on his opponent but will also look to be a creative and attacking player.

"Hopefully, I will be able to play for Claremont for many years," said Miles, whose assets are reading the play and kicking efficiency. "I like taking the game on; that's what small half-backs have to do these days."

Miles was born in Geelong and played his junior football with Barwon Heads when his father was president of the club. He then graduated to the Geelong Falcons in the TAC Cup competition. "I never saw myself playing in WA," he said. "I always saw myself playing AFL or VFL."

In 2014 Miles won the fairest-and-best award for the Geelong Falcons. He also stood out when playing for the Victoria Country team in the national under-18 championship series, and he was drafted by Hawthorn at the end of that year.

"My brother-in-law Mitch Duncan was at Geelong and I was a mad Geelong supporter," said Miles. "But at that age all you wanted to do was to be picked up by any club and I was thrilled to be taken by Hawthorn." Then, for the next two years Miles played for Box Hill in the VFL competition. "I was playing on a half-back flank and was lucky enough to sneak forward a kick a few goals in 2016 when I was the club's leading goalkicker with about 16 goals," he said.

Miles played four AFL matches for Hawthorn in 2017 and another eight the following year in an eight-game stretch from round 16 to round 23 before being dropped for the first final.

"Things worked out in my favour, going back to Box Hill to play in the VFL final series and winning the premiership by beating the Casey Demons in the grand final," said Miles.

It was in round 19 of the 2018 AFL season that year that Miles made his first appearance at Optus Stadium when he stood out with four marks, 18 kicks, five handpasses and four tackles against the Fremantle Dockers. "I also was able to sneak forward and get on the end of an Isaac Smith kick and score a goal," he said. "That match stands out as one of the highlights of my career."

Miles did not play an AFL match in 2019 and was delisted by Hawthorn at the end of the season. He then signed with the Geelong VFL team, but the 2020 season was abandoned because of the coronavirus pandemic.

He joined Williamstown and played for them in the VFL in the past two years, during which he notched his 100TH VFL appearance in a match against Port Melbourne last June. He also was chosen in the VFL Team of the Year in 2022.



AN EASY DECISION FOR MAIBAUM

BY KEN CASELLAS

A glowing recommendation from Collingwood ruckman Darcy Cameron made it a simple choice for powerful defender Jack Maibaum to join Claremont.

“Darcy was my housemate for a year after I was recruited by the Sydney Swans in the 2016 national draft,” said Maibaum.

Cameron was also taken by the Swans in the 2016 national draft after playing 40 league matches for Claremont.

“He told me that Claremont was a great club, with great people and a great winning culture,” said Maibaum. “So that put three big ticks in my book, and since I’ve been here I have experienced all that.”

Maibaum, who turned 25 on March 27 this year, was an outstanding defender for the Vic Metro side in the national under-18 championship carnival in 2016 and was selected at full-back in the all-Australian under-18 side. He also shone that year when he was playing for the Eastern Rangers club in the TAC Cup competition in Victoria.

“I spent the first two years in Sydney playing for the club’s reserves side in the NEAFL competition, and I was injured in the following two years before being delisted at the end of 2019,” said Maibaum.

“I had a really good pre-season in 2018, leading into the 2019 season but I did my ACL in my right knee and was out for a year. It happened at training when I went to tackle Luke Parker, and I was just coming in too quickly and tried to change direction, going full pelt. It wasn’t a good idea, and the knee just buckled.”

This required a knee reconstruction, and after being delisted Maibaum joined VFL club Coburg. “I had two seasons (2021 and 2022) at Coburg and absolutely loved my time there,” he said. “Coburg is a great club, with great people, and I made a lot of friends there, with people I’d known for only a year or two.”

Maibaum was a shining light with Coburg and was selected at centre-half-back in the VFL Team of the Year in both seasons at the club.

“Half way through last year my partner Chloe and I were looking at moving somewhere a bit warmer, and for a change of lifestyle,” said Maibaum. “We decided to come to WA where we have some family. I came across and spoke to a couple of WAFL clubs, and Claremont stood out from the start.”

Maibaum, who is a fire technician, and Chloe are enjoying life in the west and they have just bought a house in Balcatta. “The rental market has been a bit crazy; fifty people were showing up at every available rental, so we decided to buy our own home,” he said.





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