



Media Release

St Patrick's College announces best football team of 120 years

Ballarat's St Patrick's College has honoured the best football players in its 120-year history by announcing its greatest team of all time.

Widely recognised as one of the best football nurseries in Australia, the College held a black-tie, fund raising dinner on February 7, 2014 to formally name the greatest football stars to ever emerge from the school.

A selection panel spent four months collating information to select the team which features players from the 1920s right through to some current stars.

Former Geelong premiership coach and captain Reg Hickey was named as captain of the team and was represented at the dinner by two of his daughters. Legendary former 1st XVIII coach Br W.T. (Bill) O'Malley was named as coach.

The final 22 represents a list of some of the best football talent Ballarat has ever produced, according to St Patrick's College Director of Football and chair of the selection panel Mr Howard Clark.

"Nearly every player named in the team has either played 100 senior VFL/AFL games or has played in a premiership team," Mr Clark said.

"The only exceptions are 1957 Brownlow Medallist Brian Gleeson, whose career was tragically cut short by a knee injury after only 70 games, and North Melbourne's Les Mogg who finished his VFL career after 75 games but became a legend in bush footy.

"Four current players have made the final 22 with Matthew Rosa named on a wing, Clinton Young on a forward flank, Drew Petrie in a forward pocket and Nathan Brown on the interchange bench.

"The rest of the team is filled with great football names from previous eras including Mick McGuane and Danny Frawley from the 80s and 90s, triple Richmond premiership hero Barry



Richardson, the trio of McDonald brothers – Alex, Anthony and James and, of course our two Brownlow Medallists Brian Gleeson and John James.”

Mr Clark said some of the deeds of older players named in the team may not be as familiar to today’s football fans but were still held in the highest regard at the College.

“Not many footy fans today would be aware that our full forward Robert Johnson Senior kicked six goals and was best on ground in the 1926 grand final, helping the Demons to a win over Collingwood, and he also finished runner-up in the Brownlow in that year,” Mr Clark said.

“Similarly half back flanker Dick Hingston played in two premierships for Melbourne in the late 1930s before war intervened. He represented his country in World War II for five years before returning to football in 1946.”

Headmaster Dr Peter Casey said the College was enormously proud of its football heritage and sought to honour those men who had enhanced the school’s reputation over the decades.

“St Patrick’s has a long and proud history of providing some of Australia’s very best footballers,” Dr Casey said.

“That tradition continues to this very day as we presently have 20 Old Collegians on senior AFL lists and this year we are striving to become the first school in history to win five consecutive Herald-Sun Shields.”

Dr Casey said the team would be forwarded onto the College’s governing body, Edmund Rice Education Australia, which is looking to name the greatest team from all Christian Brother schools in Australia in 2014.

“That will be a very tough team to break into as it will be chosen from Old Collegians from schools such as St Joseph’s in Geelong, St Bernard’s in Essendon, St Kevin’s in Toorak, Parade College in Bundoora and, of course, St Patrick’s – as well as Colleges from other states in Australia,” Dr Casey said.

“However, given the quality of the players we have announced we would be hopeful of having strong representation in that team as well.”

For Further Media Information please contact: *Director of Community Development, Mr Paul Nolan on 5322 4450 or pnolan@stpats.vic.edu.au*



The Team

Back Line:

John Devine (SPC 1952-55): John played 118 games with Geelong and was a member of the 1963 premiership team. He also coached Geelong from 1986-88.

Danny Frawley (SPC 1976-79): A star full-back and captain for St Kilda, Danny played 240 games for the Saints, won the club best and fairest and was named All Australian in 1988. Danny also represented Victoria and was coach of Richmond from 2000-2004.

Gerald "Terry" Gleeson (SPC 1947-50): Terry was a key figure in the dominant Melbourne teams of the late 50s and played in the 1955 and 56 premiership teams. The younger brother of Brownlow Medallist Brian, Terry retired in 1962 immediately after playing his 100th game.

Half Back Line:

Dick Hingston (SPC 1927-29): The classy flanker was a key member of the 1939 and 1940 premiership teams for the Demons. Dick's footy career was interrupted by war and he missed playing in the 1941 grand final because of his duty to his country. He missed five years of football while serving in the army before returning to Melbourne in 1946.

Reg Hickey (Capt.) (SPC 1921): Reg is a Geelong hero, with his name synonymous with the Cats. A dual premiership player in 1931 and 1937, Hickey played 245 games in the blue and white hoops and is a member of the Geelong Team of the Century. He also coached the Cats in 304 games, and built the club into a powerhouse in the early 50s winning the 1951 and 52 premierships with a team many describe as being among the greatest ever. He has been named captain of this team.

John James (SPC 1948-52): 1961 Brownlow Medallist John James is revered at Carlton. A three time best and fairest winner for the Blues, James played 195 games and is a member of the Carlton Team of the Century. He was also runner up in the Brownlow Medal in 1957.

Centre Line:

Tony Sullivan (SPC 1963-66): Tony Sullivan played 192 games in the red and blue and was also named in the Victorian team in 1971. Tough and relentless, he finished in the top six in club best and fairest six times.



Mick McGuane (SPC 1980-85): A Collingwood premierships hero in 1990, McGuane played 152 games for the Magpies and won the Copeland Trophy as club best and fairest in 1992 and 1993. Mighty Mick also played a further three games with Carlton.

Matthew Rosa (SPC 2004): Matt Rosa has been a dynamic piece of the West Coast Eagles midfield for a number of years and has accrued 137 games. A winner of the Glendinning Medal in 2012, has recently overcome quad injuries and looks set to star further in 2014.

Half Forward Line:

Clinton Young (SPC 2003): A raking left footer and premierships player with the Hawks and now Collingwood, many judges had Young as best on ground in the 2008 grand final before injury struck in the second half. A veteran of 118 games Clinton is looking to make an impact this year with the Magpies as a running attacking option.

Barry Richardson (SPC 1961-64): Three-time Richmond premierships hero and a veteran of 125 games, Barry Richardson is a Tiger icon. A member of the Richmond Hall of Fame and a former senior coach, Barry starred in grand finals in 1967, 1969 and 1974 as Richmond enjoyed its greatest era. He was also club president in 1985.

Alex McDonald (SPC 1982-87): Alex McDonald played 108 games for Hawthorn and Collingwood after being selected as the top pick in the 1988 national draft. Alex is now a successful manager of many current AFL stars.

Forward Line:

Peter O'Donohue (SPC 1931-36): Peter O'Donohue played 109 games for the Hawks and was captain from 1950-52. A versatile footballer, he started at Hawthorn in 1942 before serving in the Navy during the second world war. Peter coached the Hawks in 1966 and was a life member of the club at the time of his death in November 2012.

Robert Johnson Senior (SPC 1918-20): Robert Johnson Senior was the star for the Demons in the 1926 premierships decider when he booted a six-goal bag against the Magpies and was named best on ground. He finished runner up in the 1926 Brownlow and was a Victorian representative. Bob played 113 games for the Dees, kicking 302 goals.

Drew Petrie (SPC 1995-2000): Drew Petrie has been a dominant force at the Kangaroos for a decade. An All Australian in 2011 who has now played 244 games, Drew was also given the chance to captain North Melbourne in 2009 and 2013. He was his club's leading goal kicker in 2009, 2011 and 2012.



Followers:

Brian Gleeson (SPC 1947-52): Brian Gleeson dominated the 1957 season, representing Victoria and easily winning the game's highest individual honour – the Brownlow Medal. All in just his fourth season! He was named captain of the Saints for 1958 but, tragically, injured his knee in a practice game and never played VFL footy again.

Anthony McDonald (SPC 1988-89): A member of Melbourne's team in the 2000 grand final, Anthony McDonald was a late starter to AFL footy making his debut at 24. But that didn't stop him from playing 107 games for the red and blue midfield.

James McDonald (SPC 1989-94): James was named All Australian in 2006 and captain of the Melbourne Football Club in 2009 and 2010. He won the Melbourne best and fairest in 2006 and 2007. James finished his playing career in a mentor role at the Greater Western Sydney Giants where he still coaches. James played 264 games at the top level.

Interchange

Mario Bortolotto (SPC 1972-75): Two time Carlton premiership player Mario Bortolotto was a tough, tall defender who started his career with Geelong before later being recruited by the Blues where he played in the 1981 and 82 premiership teams.

Les Mogg (SPC 1942-48): A bush legend from Cobram and a member of North Melbourne's 1950 grand final team, Les played 75 games for the Roos before heading home to the Murray to dominate the Murray Football League for many years.

Maurice Sheahan Senior (SPC 1920-25): A double premiership player with Richmond in 1932 and 34, Maurice played 121 games for the Tigers as a tough-as-nails defender. He was also a member of losing grand final teams in 1929 and 1933.

Nathan Brown (SPC 2002-06): A premiership defender with Collingwood in 2010 who played a fantastic game restricting St Kilda spearhead Nick Riewoldt. Nathan has overcome knee injuries to be a pivotal anchor in the Magpie defence and looks set to play his 100th game in 2014.



**TEAM OF
120
YEARS
1893-2013**

BACKS
John Devine (SPC 1952-55) Gerald Gleeson (SPC 1947-50)
Danny Frawley (SPC 1976-79)

HALF BACKS
Dick Hingston (SPC 1927-29) Reg Hickey (C) (SPC 1921) John James (SPC 1948-52)

CENTRES
Tony Sullivan (SPC 1963-66) Mick McGuane (SPC 1980-85) Matthew Rosa (SPC 2004)

HALF FORWARDS
Clinton Young (SPC 2003) Barry Richardson (SPC 1961-64) Alex McDonald (SPC 1982-87)

FORWARDS
Peter O'Donohue (SPC 1931-36) Robert Johnson Snr (SPC 1918-20) Drew Petrie (SPC 1995-2000)

RUCKS
Brian Gleeson (SPC 1947-52)
Anthony McDonald (SPC 1988-89)
James McDonald (SPC 1989-94)

COACH
Brother W.T. O'Malley (SPC Staff 1928-1976)

INTERCHANGE
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Les Mogg (SPC 1942-48)
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Nathan Brown (SPC 2002-06)