



WYOMING 35DN CHRONICLES

Written by: Andrew Kennedy-Schultz

PROLOGUE

That crazy covid-clad 2020 season ended with a sizzle rather than a bang. No premiership trophy, no League Champions tokens due to a CCF blunder and not even an end of season trip away. Despite the best efforts of Andy and McGarvey to lock something in, it soon capitulated with a lack of interest as the beast that was the summer holidays loomed too near. The best we could do was a drinking day at the Grange organized by O'Connor. Well at least we think he was there or someone who looked remarkably like him was parked at the pokies most of the night. With a shorter off-season than usual, the chatter soon turned to 2021 plans. Who would be returning, who was sitting out and what star-studded new recruits would Luca conjure this year?

THE FALLEN COMRADES

Aaron Quill would be the first obvious omission as he remains on the waiting list for ACL surgery. Hope it all goes well buddy. Original team stalwarts Kevin Flanagan (retired from an ACL injury), Nigel Mead (shoulder injury, hopes to only miss one year) and Gregg Marlow (old age) also called it quits. Colin Atkins opted to retreat to the Mountains and play 45s where the pace is slower (he ended up joining their 35s team, oops). The enigma that is Mark Wallace was in, then out, then in again when the team was too full. He has gone to the All Ages but welcomed to return when we're short. Will miss you guys and hope to see you on the sideline this year cheering / sledging us on.



AARON QUILL



COLIN ATKINS



GREGG MARLOW



KEVIN FLANAGAN



NIGEL MEAD



THE RETURNEES

Eleven of last year would return. Like a bad smell that won't go away, Andrew Kennedy is the only remaining player from the original 2011 team to have played consecutive years. Iron Man Brad Avery returns for his 9th year and the Italian Stallion that is Luca Scuri returns for his 8th. Stewart Webb survived the cricket season - he even reached the semifinals (there was a rumour there were only four teams) to return for his 6th year. Paul Ashton's comeback last season was a success, so he is back for his 5th year. Reaching their 4th year are Mark Fitzpatrick, Ryan Lawes, and Michael McGarvey though the latter was initially in doubt due to coaching commitments plus Ourimbah 45s did try to poach him, those bastards. Returning for their second year are Paudel (who took his sweet time confirming) and O'Connor who continued to keep us guessing. He was flirting with the idea of playing grade in Sydney but thankfully his partner Jo convinced him otherwise. Welcome back all! Former player Elton Richardson also makes a return having sat out of 2020.



ANDREW KENNEDY



BRAD AVERY



JAY PAUDEL



LUCA SCURI



MARK BOHRINGER



MARK FITZPATRICK



MICHAEL MCGARVEY



MICHAEL O'CONNOR



PAUL ASHTON



RYAN LAWES



STEWART WEBB

HELPING HANDS

Andy tried to pass on managerial duties but there were no takers. Nevertheless, coming to his aid ... Boz stepped in as coach, Brad as captain and Fitzzy as gear steward (though he almost left the balls and jerseys at the ground after the trial game). Elton originally put up his hand as the esky caretaker but due to a broken lid we could not padlock it to stop him from drinking all the beers mid-week. Julia returns as strapper and Amy has joined as treasurer, perhaps a tad over-zealous with a new swipe card toy to collect ref fees and bar payments.

THE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

On the recruitment front, Luca delivered yet again. He signed up Jay Mashman (who almost joined the team a few years back), Cliff Kroemer and an Italian mate who had some experience in the lower leagues of La Liga. Two out of three signed up, the latter injuring his shoulder during a scuba diving incident. Not quite done and with only a week remaining till the season kicked off, Luca secured the signature of former Premier League star Neale McAndrew who was keen for a run after horrifically breaking his leg two years ago. As 19th man, he was still willing to sign up without guaranteed playing time. Legend! Flanno bought in Michal "Shorty" Karas who had been on the team's radar for quite a while. O'Connor recruited Geoff Milham who has not played in 10 years but keen for a run and to help emptying the esky after each game. We are also hopeful to secure the services of Scott Lee who is hopeful of returning from a back injury. The search for a goalkeeper was a saga in itself. At one point we had a Brazilian not only keen to don the gloves but also a left footer keen for a run at left midfield (Andy was nervous he would be dumped). Ultimately, he declined due to having elbow surgery. Stephen Bech also expressed interest in playing again but the U21s rudely snatched him up. Luck would come via email when Robert Malone contacted the club asking to join an Over 45s team. He turned up for the first training session and injured his elbow ... we are hopeful he'll be right by the start of the season. Welcome aboard to all!



CLIFF KROEMER ELTON RICHARDON GEOFF MILHAM JAY MASHMAN



MICHAL KARAS NEALE McANDREW ROBERT MALONE SCOTT LEE

TRAINING AND TRIALS

Early Sunday morning training sessions saw most of the players make an appearance. Despite carrying injuries, Luca (knee) and Boz (pelvis) were there for a run nearly every weekend. Even Gregg turned up for the first session where Flanno confused most of us by setting up a training drill that involved running from one cone to another. Mashman overcame week-to-week mishaps of falling in dog shit, invisible snipers and copping one in the gonads to nevertheless remain keen. Andy showed mercy by keeping Cliff in the team despite copping a shoulder to the jaw. Not enough time has passed for poor Fitzy who upon a miss at goals was reminded of a howler at Toukley last year. "Nieva mok a mystache!" he warned the new recruits. Luca used google translator to assist them... "Never make a mistake!" is apparently what he said. Some even turned up for the Wednesday open 35s sessions. Geoff, in particular, got acquainted with the A-grade players by way of a few slide tackles.

Two trial games were planned but wet weather cancelled the second. The first was against Woy Woy from the 35DS - last year's premiers and our Grand Final opponents in 2019. With heat in the high 20's and only 12 players available we borrowed Wallace, Colin Atkins and his Mountains teammate "Pumpy". Despite having once called Bloodtree Oval home, Boz was concerned he was going to get lost when Elton suggested a dirt road shortcut. Andy had remembered to bring the jerseys but had forgotten how to wear them correctly. Thankfully, Wallace was there to tell him he had it on back to front. Paudel, in classic Paudel style, did not arrive until after kick off. To be fair, if we had of made the Grand Final last year, he would have known how to get this ground. With our keeper unavailable, Boz had declared those who had not turned up for any training sessions would be donning the gloves. Ryan stepped up first. Elton somehow got out of it with Boz in goals for two quarters and Paul for another. McGarvey had not lost his aim netting four goals in total. Shorty impressed in the middle and slotted one away whilst Cliff got a header to an Andy cross. We led 6-1 at one point but Woy Woy's star striker was given a bit too much room and a few moments of slumber for the Tigers saw the blue and whites net three more. McGarvey calling the defensive line "statues" did not go down too well. All in all, a good hit-out. Other than a slight groin strain for Ashton and Shorty suffering from cramping, we came away unscathed.





WYOMING 35DN 2021



RD		OPPOSITION	GROUND	DATE	TIME
1	vs	 THE ENTRANCE	PAT MORLEY 1	APRIL 10	13:25
2	vs	 GWANDALAN	ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL 1	APRIL 17	13:00
3	vs	 TOUKLEY	HARRY MOORE OVAL 1	APRIL 24	13:55
4	vs	 OURIMBAH	OURIMBAH OVAL 2	MAY 1	14:25
5	vs	 WYONG	ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL 1	MAY 8	13:00
6	vs	 KANWAL	KANWAL OVAL 1	MAY 15	13:50
7	vs	 KILLARNEY	ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL 1	MAY 22	13:25
8	vs	 MOUNTAINS	ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL 1	MAY 29	13:15
9	vs	 WOONGARRAH	HAMLIN TERRACE 2	JUNE 5	12:00
10	vs	 GWANDALAN	ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL 1	JUNE 12	13:00
11	vs	 THE ENTRANCE	PAT MORLEY 3	JUNE 19	12:10
12	vs	 TOUKLEY	ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL 1	JUNE 26	11:45
13	vs	 OURIMBAH	ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL 1	JULY 3	13:00
14	vs	 WYONG	BAKER PARK 1	JULY 10	11:30
15	vs	 KANWAL	ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL 1	JULY 17	13:00
16	vs	 KILLARNEY	JUBILEE OVAL	JULY 24	12:30
17	vs	 MOUNTAINS	BLOODTREE OVAL 1	JULY 31	11:45
18	vs	 WOONGARRAH	ALAN DAVIDSON OVAL 1	AUGUST 7	12:00