





WYOMING 35DS CHRONICLES

9th September 2014

by Andrew Kennedy-Schultz

RD	HOME		AWAY		GROUND	DATE	TIME
GRAND FINAL	 KARIONG	VS	 WYOMING		Frost Reserve Oval 1 (Kincumber)	August 23	12:00

Photos by Ngari Kennedy-Schultz

GRAND FINAL - VS KARIONG

With a week of steady rain threatening to delay proceedings, nobody was certain whether the ultimate decider would go ahead as scheduled or be postponed for another week. With Woy Woy's ground almost under water, the newly resurfaced Frost Reserve Oval at Kincumber came to the rescue. Several of the player's phones were a buzz with activity that Friday afternoon when they received news of the alternate fixture. It was game on!! The teams who finished 2nd and 4th on the ladder would battle it out for the top prize. After Wyoming had defeated League Champions Woy Woy in the penultimate encounter last weekend, could they conquer their final adversary - a team they'd convincingly beaten both times - and claim the premiership for 2014 ??





Austin Butler Oval the day before (courtesy of Framey)

WORDS OF REFLECTION

Alan Davidson Oval, Wyoming. 7:30am, Saturday, August the 23rd. A man who had shed sweat, blood and tears on these very blades of grass, trekked across the dewy fields with his dog Ziggy. He may not have perfected the calmness of zen on the battlefield but here he was at peace, breathing in the misty fog and reflecting on this day of days for the beautiful game -- Grand Final Day !! Ziggy may have temporarily distracted him when he lifted a hind leg and attempted to sully the hollowed ground but a quick swear word in Italian prevented such horror. Another deep breath, a hint of enlightenment, and the following words came to the Wyoming Club Captain of 2014

"On the fields where boys became men, men became heroes and dreams are for those who want to return boys again, go you Tigers ! ... Let's Go F#\$%@! Mental !!!" - Luca Scuri, 2014

The encouragement continued that morning. Kev Lee posted this image ...



**Surround yourself with those
on the same mission**

And the romantic that is Nate sent out this group message of inspired poetry ...

"Happy GF day mother f@#ers!" - Nate Donzow, 2014



THE GRAND FINAL BREAKFAST

Nearly all the team - and a few groupies - convened that morning for a hearty breakfast at Hungry Wolves in Wyoming. Some ate, some had coffee - if not stolen by queue jumpers - and some just soaked up the relaxed, jovial atmosphere to calm the nerves. For others, the anxiety remained. The jinxes and superstitions taunting their minds. The successful finals run thus far had Luca noticing a particular pattern - his family had been late to both previous games. Wishing to take no chances, he decided to slash their tyres - even the spare - to ensure there would be no breaking of such a pattern; Dean shared his score line premonitions by telling us they occur whilst standing over a toilet bowl - a revelation that perhaps doesn't need to be shared over breakfast; and Framey - continually declaring this to be his last game before retirement - shared his dream of this day, part of which had Andy scoring the 3rd goal from 30 out. After the embarrassment of last weekend, Andy's eyes lit up. Could he finally move into the Grand Final Goalscorer Heroes quadrant alongside Chris, Paul, Tony and Dean?? In a few hours time, such pondering would be revealed ... Latecomers Tony and Nate may have driven into the KFC lane by mistake but all else seemed to be veering into perfect alignment, illustrated perfectly when club captains of 2012 (Meady), 2013 (Flanno) and 2014 (Luca) were serendipitously standing together in that order. There were patches of blue appearing amongst the clouds. The mood was calm. The usual laughter and smiles gleamed amongst the group. The additional joy that all but five of them had that Manly lost the night before. Was all this the sum total to indicate another triumphant day for Wyoming's favourite sons?



The Club Captains of 2012-14 align / MEADY's dinner the night before.

THE FOUR

Unfortunately with a squad of 20 only 16 names can be recorded on the playing sheet. Four of the team bravely stepped down. Three were marred by injury. The flu had turned Dave's normally loud, boisterous voice into a muffled, croaky one; Asthma had gotten the upper hand on Jason, though we suspect some disgruntled referees during the season may have tampered with his inhaler; Nate's knees are still aching after all the beer cans he's crushed throughout the season to aid Ryan Wallace's recycling collection business. Rather than using your knees, a few of Nate's teammates demonstrated that you can actually crush a can without injury by using your heel ... but by this stage it was already too late. Finally, Geoff had volunteered to step down but at the last minute it was revealed Gregg had been called into work. Gregg was the only one of the 20 not at the ground this day. You were sorely missed brother.



The boys inspect the Kincumber surface

FIELD ANOMALIES

A few of the boys asked similar questions when walking onto the field of Frost Reserve: What sorcery is this below our feet? Grass was the answer. Is it synthetic? No. It can grow and cover a whole field? Yes. Andy noticed another anomaly during the warm-up -- both goalmouths were blocked by meter-high barriers. This bothered him as his goal-scoring chances were already highly unlikely and this minimised the target area by at least fifty percent. Luca came to the rescue by asking the officials to have them removed as our game plan didn't account for that. Tony had no problem with the barriers unless they had've sat them on top of the crossbar - his usual target area. The starting 11 was for the most part the same as the past fortnight with two exceptions ... With Gregg's absence, Stevie G found himself in the left back position for the first time this season and Flanno returned to the squad, absent whilst leading the U11Bs through their finals. A few of the guys - particularly Jono - asked to be re-introduced to that Flanno guy who hadn't played for over a month. He reclaimed the captaincy duties but in doing so was promptly reminded that the past two games under Framey's helm had resulted in not only victories on the scoreboard but also in the coin toss. Big boots to fill. Boots that Framey claimed were going in a bonfire that evening to commemorate his retirement, a retirement nobody wanted to accept as true. Flanno's claims that Framey would play again next year if we kept the services of strapper Julia were quickly declared as fabricated lies.



The goal barriers / Not sure what area FLANNO is stretching



Preparing for battle / BENNY fraternising with the enemy ?



Final Pep Talk

WYOMING 35DS proudly sponsored by ...

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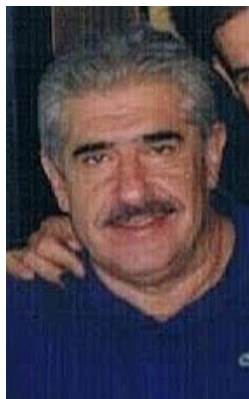
A Minute silence for Kevin's father, Jimmy Lee

TRIBUTE

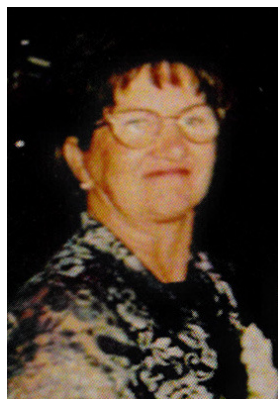
Before I get to the game itself, I wish to pay tribute to a few of the guys who have lost a parent over the past two years. During the week, Kev Lee's father passed away. The team honoured his memory with a minute's silence before kick off. I never had the honour of meeting Jimmy Lee but based on the son I do know, he has left a legacy of humility, compassion and someone naturally blessed with the gift of the gab. Margaret Ashton delivered us a star striker who was instrumental in winning us a premiership last year; Catherine Flanagan spawned that cheeky enfant terrible who not only assembled this band of misfits but created lifelong friendships; June Frame introduced the world to a true mentor whose wisdom and encouragement made us an even better team; and Gianni Scuri gave us just what we needed, another crazy passionate Italian footballer whose love of the game and sheer joy of being in this team has been infectious and inspiring. A tribute to those we've lost but whose spirit and memory remain with us.



Margaret Ashton



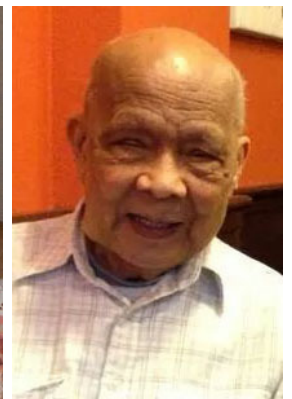
Gianni Scuri



Catherine Flanagan



June Frame



Jimmy Lee

THE FIRST HALF

And so here we were. The noise clouds of pep talks and the LGFM chants had faded into the wind. The starting eleven of the Wyoming 35DS faced north, flanked by a massive crowd along the eastern sideline. The referee blew his whistle and the third successive grand final for a few of the boys commenced. The Tigers started strong instantly reaping pressure on the Kariong backline. Within minutes, a defender fouled a fuming Luca just outside the box. Andy took the free kick. It curled towards the top left corner of the goal but the keeper managed to tap it over the crossbar. Corner kicks ensued and as did more shots on target but the chance for an early lead passed by. The tide started to turn with Kariong making a few dangerous runs, particularly down their left attacking flank. Meady, who had claimed to be in doubt of playing during the week - a healthy dinner (see picture above) the night before helped overcome this - was outstanding during this first stanza, ruining any chance Kariong had hoped of breaking the deadlock. Not to be outdone, Brad too was as solid as ever. Nevertheless, Aaron was kept busy. Not only did he have a scary moment or two of loose ball but also endured some up close and personal attention from some of the Kariong strikers. Protective big brother Flanno was on hand though to deter any future heavy contact. Aaron may have appreciated that but the ref did not quite agree on Big Kev's methods. The rain's arrival did little to propel either team into finding that edge. The half time whistle blew. Wyoming returned to the sheds knowing any pre conceived notions that this would be an easy victory had well and truly subsided by now.



LUCA is fouled / Kariong Keeper's taps ANDY's free kick shot away









ADVANTAGE WYOMING !!

Framey's half time speech illustrated quite simply that this game was anyone's for the taking. The team to rise victoriously from the current quagmire would be the one comprised of players with raised hands declaring they'd given their one hundred percent. The boys from Tigertown appeared to heed these words immediately. Whilst the planned kick off to Andy didn't quite go as planned, Framey managed to receive the ball back almost immediately. He found Mark to his left. Mark passed it to Andy further down the wing. With a trio of players roaming around the goalmouth, Andy crossed it. It whirled past Jono and seemed to be out of Paul's reach as well ... until ... Paul got a touch to it. The ball arched over him. He turned, tapped it once for good measure and then smacked it into the net. The keeper never had a chance. Euphoric cheers from the Wyoming crowd ensued as the players rushed to congratulate Paul. Advantage Wyoming !!





DEADLY CORNERS

With Wyoming's goal occurring within the first two minutes of the second half, Kariong had plenty of time to hit back. It only took them six minutes to grab the equaliser. Whilst they never looked particularly threatening in front of goals during open play, their persistence forced many corner kicks. Most were on target and kept the Wyoming boys busy trying to repel the repeated pressure. Eventually it took its toll. With only ten minutes remaining, Kariong won the battle in the air yet again and found the net with, like their first goal, another solid header.



KARIONG's first goal





... and their second.

CRESTFALLEN

As the clock ticked down it was slowly dawning on Wyoming that their dream of back-to-back premierships was slipping out of grasp. Something was off. The magical passes were for the most part lacking. Shots at goal either lacked venom or veered off target. Jono, Paul and Ben worked hard up front but the equaliser never came. Injuries weren't helping. Tony had suffered a groin ache early on; Brad started to hobble after a tackle and took a brief stint on the sideline; and Dean took a hit in the ribs. He knew there was a crack there as the 8th beer later that night still hadn't numbed the pain. Positional changes saw Andy shift to left back in Brad's absence. Nevertheless he pushed up front for a chance to make Framey's dream come true. 30 meters out, he took a shot. It curled down towards the top left corner but the keeper averted the danger for Kariong. Andy realised it was never going to be a goal as it wouldn't be the 3rd goal that Framey foretold. And a minute or two later it was all over. The full time whistle had blown.











No victory song but the team harmonises 'Happy Birthday' to JONO's son Brayden.

FLANNO'S PAIN

The pain of losing a Grand Final wasn't quite all Captain Flanno had to endure. He thought he'd escaped strapper Julia's sadistic wrath by shaving off a fair portion of hair above his troubled ankle. He wasn't getting away with it that easy, he wouldn't ruin her fun. She placed the tape over the hairline and removed it at full time.



THE PRESENTATION

Wyoming had enjoyed a remarkable ride from 4th place to be a grand finalist but they wouldn't be taking home a Premiers bag this time. Kariong had fought harder today and became the deserved Premiers of 2014. A more remarkable feat when they announced they'd been wooden spooners the year before.





2014 CENTRAL COAST 35DS RUNNERS-UP



POST-GAME PARTY

A disappointing day yes but it cannot dampen what has been otherwise another brilliant year for this awesome team. And of course it wasn't going to end there at Frost Reserve, there was much drinking to be had. Unfortunately with all the rain the Singleton paddock was in no condition for such an event so at the eleventh hour the Quills kindly offered their residence - albeit with a Manly decorated garage - for the big night. The team did some decorating of their own to the "beer" tree out front ...



WINNERS !!

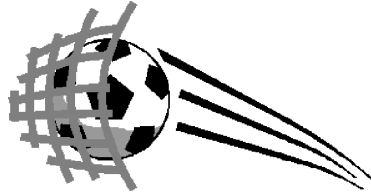
If it's any consolation, this is how the finals ladder looked on the CCF website

M35 / M35DS		P	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
1	Wyoming	3	2	0	1	3	6
2	Kariong	2	2	0	0	2	6
3	Woy Woy	2	0	0	2	-2	0
4	Gosford	1	0	0	1	-3	0

THE RAFFLE WINNER

The raffle was drawn during the Wyoming FC juniors bowling night on Friday, August 29. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Michael Dubbelde. A huge thank you to all who bought tickets, the team raised over \$1500.





GOAL SCORING TALLY

- Jono - 19
- Paul - 7
- Framey - 5
 - Ben - 4
 - Andy - 2
 - Tony - 2
- Brad; Chris; Gregg; Luca - 1

GOAL ASSISTS

- Andy; Paul - 5
- Aaron, Framey; Jono; Luca; Tony - 3
- Ben; Brad; Flanno; Gregg; Jason; Steve G - 1



NUDIE RUN CANDIDATES

Dave, Dean, Geoff, Mark, Meady (-2) [Premier League don't count biatch!], Nate

** Voted by committee, those on the goal assist list are also now exempt*

*** Own goals are deducted from the goal / assist tally.*



LADY LAVENDER'S LAUNDRY WOES

- #4 (Mark) - 3pts
- #17 (Dean) - 2pts
- #18 (Ben) - 1pt

WYOMING WAA5's (SEMI FINAL)

A day after the 35DS Grand Final, the WAA5 League Champions Wyoming Tigers trekked up to Mangrove Mountain for a physical and muddy encounter against Gosford City in the Major Semi Final. Goalkeeper Pauline Hillard kept the scores level at half time by making a great penalty save but her most impressive feat of the game was for her clearance kick to land directly into the field's only puddle. The ball came to a complete stop. It took until the second half for Wyoming to find the winner courtesy of a brilliant free kick from Mel Fisher. The girls held on for victory and advanced to the Grand Final in a fortnight's time. Unfortunately today marked the last game of the year for Mel who made the silly mistake of booking a holiday during finals season.



WYOMING WAA5's (GRAND FINAL)

The girls found themselves transferred to Toukley for the ultimate decider. Their opponents were the much improved East Gosford who'd battled their way from 4th beating out Doyalson in a penalty shootout and then 1-0 over Gosford last weekend. Despite the distance away, Sharon Singleton made the location more homely by bringing with her a jar of Alan Davidson Oval soil that she sprinkled onto the field. The game kicked off in the worst possible way for Wyoming. A mix-up at the back saw the Rams capitalise and lead 1-0 after a mere minute into the game. The fight back was even more daunting when they led 2-0 midway through the first half. To their credit, Wyoming never gave up and dominated the second half. Unfortunately they were unable to get onto the scoreboard and finished the season as Runners Up. Today's result though should not sour a brilliant season for the League Champions. Congratulations again to all the girls and to coach Dave Stanbury.





2014 CENTRAL COAST WAA5s LEAGUE CHAMPIONS / RUNNERS-UP



THE COOLING OFF PERIOD

A few of the boys may need the 7-8 months off to recover from possible pneumonia as the ice bucket challenge has come their way. So far Framey, Luca, Flanno, Mark, Tony, Aaron and Kev Lee have: stepped up in the name of charity; had loved ones revel in the chance to pour ice cold water on them; and dob in their teammates to do the same. Meady, Andy and Jordanna have since had their names called.



FRAMEY



FLANNO



MARK



LUCA



AARON



TONY

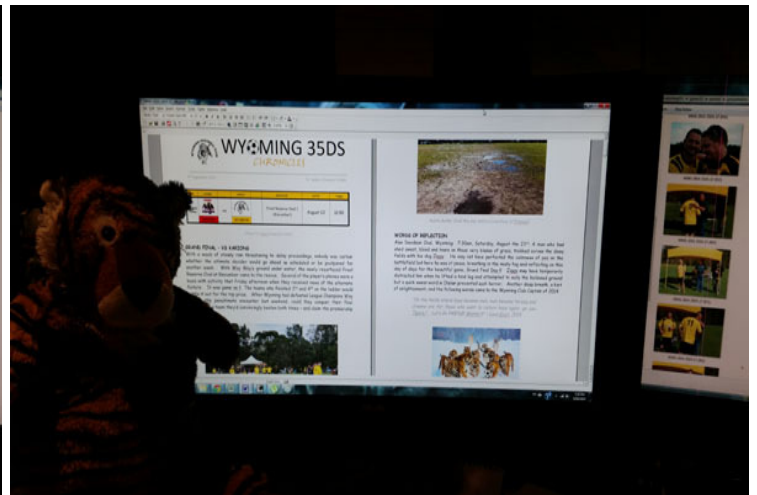
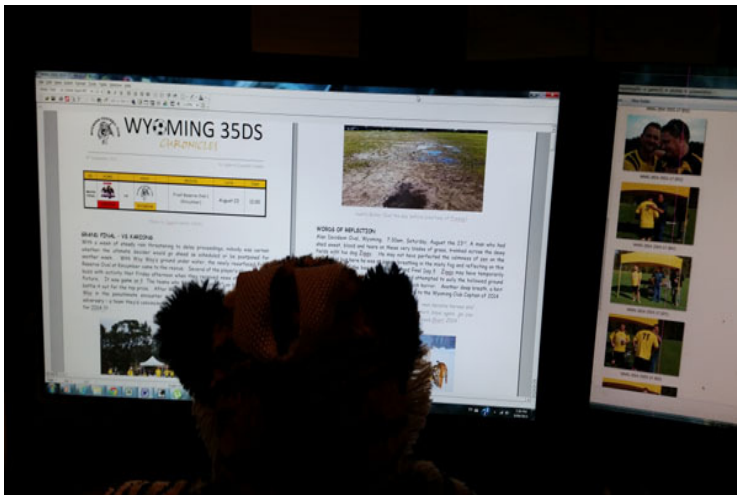


KEV LEE

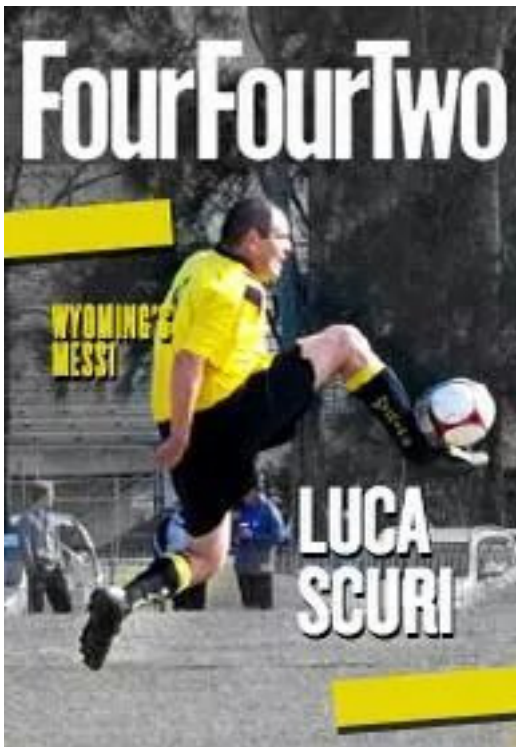
A LONG-WINDED, FINAL THANKS

Well, another season has come to an end. I want to thank everyone who made it this far in reading these reports and for all your words of encouragement. It's been an absolute joy yet again in being a part of this team and having an audience for these silly documents that spring up during my late night deliriously long train trip commutes. Primarily I need to thank / blame my partner-in-crime, Ngari for standing on the sideline every single game taking a copious amount of photos that fill these pages. I know there's been times she would've loved to have just crashed onto a fold-out chair and watch the game with other spectators but she continued clicking on regardless. I, on behalf of everyone, thank you for all your brilliant work. A huge thanks to Kev Lee for providing fantastic photos during the year as well. To Sharon, thank you for all the laundry work you did over the year and providing me with the extra material with your 3-2-1s. To Flanno and Meady, thanks for being at the helm of this great team. You probably don't get thanked enough for all the hard work you put in this and every year but believe me it doesn't go unnoticed. To Luca, grazie for giving me a fresh wealth of material this year and for all the facebook love. To Jason for giving me an extra sentence to write about whenever you picked a fight with a referee. To Benny for dazzling us with goals I could only dream about scoring. To Gregg, you may be the oldest player but you're the first to warm up and the last to give up, you're an inspiration. To Brad, the red card grub, another stellar year at the backline not only in defending but coming up with the best one-liner retorts with referees and opposition players alike. To Tony for being the upfront and honest person that you are and for seeing past any misunderstandings that arose over the year, love you brother ! To Jono for introducing the team to a new motto and for almost honouring that contract of scoring two goals a game. To Dean, the heart of this team who gives so much without any thought of return. To Nate for the hilarity and laughter you bring to this team, never underestimate the high morale that brings. And in the same league, Chris whose zany drunken antics and songs have us all in an equal state of hysterics and fear. To Paul for overcoming that horrid injury and coming to every game whilst you recovered to support the team. To Mark for showing us all how to play golf - two amazing par 3 hole shots that only God could believe! - and for not drinking all the bourbons. To Stevie G (the human one), for continuing the tradition of getting other teammates cards on his behalf. Last year it was a yellow card for Dave, this year a red for Brad. You're the master of deception, bravo! To Aaron, the mighty president, the last line of defence. For your hospitality and always taking a good ribbing, okay that was a bad joke. To Dave and Geoff, you may get the least game time, but you're just as part of this team as anyone, your selflessness inspires us all. Also Dave, thank you for your coaching heroics with the WAA5s this year. You made those rookies playing their first ever season feel very supported and part of the team. And to Framey, if this is to be your last year, I want to thank you for all the guidance, encouragement and confidence you've given us these past three years. You are the sensei, the sage grandmaster of this team and you'll sorely be missed. Thanks to the committee of the Wyoming FC, particularly Alistair Kennedy who posts the chronicles on the website each week. To Julia for patching the team up and for not killing Framey for calling you Julie. And finally, thanks to the families,

the supporters and all other riff raff who took part in the crazy ride of the Wyoming 35DS in 2014. Have a great off-season and hope to see you all back for 2015.



STEVIE G signs off on the final Chronicles of 2014



Cya in 2015 ... okay, maybe not that bald guy

