

WHERE ARE THEY NOW!

OLYS KOWAL

Where were you born?

- Germany. Came to Australia 1949 and brought up in Norseman.

Where did you play your junior footy?

- Norseman. Colts juniors.

What was your playing number as South Bunbury?

- #7

Regarding football in general - who were the most influential people for you?

- 1st Senior Coach Bob Harvey, Norseman Rovers FC. (Ahead of his time in regard to training methods. Player mentality.)
- Brian Douge for his helpful advice whilst I was coach of Newdegate.

How did you get to South Bunbury?

- Being friends with John Whitfield, the handful of ex Norsemanites, Alec Beange, Graham Bassett, Brian Bastow and George Sharpe talking to me and selling South.
- The work put in by Syd Armstrong to make sure I got here impressed, Syd was a tireless marvel.

At South Bunbury who were the most influential people for you?

- Doctor Manea, no words necessary.
- The tireless trainers don't get enough praise.
- Doug Peake, for encouraging you to play your game.
- Doopa, for sheer hard work, guts and love of the Club.
- Many of the players in my early times at South.
- The Constantines, Davies, Armstrongs, and the many passionate workers you rarely hear of.

What are some of your Football Highlights outside of your time with South?

- Premierships with Norseman Rovers, Playing for the Goldfields beating Eastern Districts in Merredin after many years.
- Playing and Coaching in Newdegate winning their First Premiership in 23 years.
- Watching my son and daughter in their sports, becoming the citizens they are. Now the grandchildren.
- The younger players I had the privilege of coaching grow not only in football but in success for themselves.
- The many good people I have met and friends made on my football journey at Club and Association level.

What are some of your Football Highlights at South Bunbury?

- The players I played with and some of the wonderful people working for this great club over 10 years.
- Winning Premierships in 1976, 1980 and 81 with the band of players of the time.

What is your greatest achievement at South Bunbury?

- Being fortunate to have the privilege of being a part of a very well structured and run Football Club and the success we had.

The infamous 1985 SWFL Grand Final – what are your memories?

- Unfortunately I was not here and only heard of it. We won didn't we!!

Any funny stories you can share?

- I remember well the Mad Monday when Tom Trigwell auctioned off the Proprietor of the local wine bar in Victoria Street.
- Bruce Crabb having beers sitting around the room and drinking none.
- Funny stories can sometimes bite you.

Who is the best player you played with at South Bunbury & why?

- There were many great players. Crabb, Old, Wright, Watterson, Rendell, Prosser etc etc.
- The standout to me would be Leon Baker an out and out champion with a fantastic temperament. When we beat Carey Park I asked their CHB Len Clarke what he thought and his answer was, "Baker made me feel like a fair dinkum school kid".

Who was your toughest opponent in the SWFL?

- I can think of two. Mick Bagetta and John Cormack both very good players and never beaten.

How many games did you play for South Bunbury?

- 174 games I think.

Where are you now?

- Living in Bunbury with my wife Lyn.

What do you do now?

- Enjoying retirement, playing some golf and doing a little mentoring at a Primary School.

Do you have an interest in footy at the moment?

- Only from afar.

Who will win the 2020 AFL Premiership? Strange season and reasonably open.

- Eagles I would hope.

Do you like how football is played today?

- I do for the most part but there are some ugly aspects that I don't like.

Any other things you'd like to share with South Bunbury members?

- You are part of one of THE BEST Clubs in Australia
- I know how proud you are.
- The people in charge have South on the right path.
- To the young ones coming through,
- I would say, listen, learn, work hard at your game and work harder on yourself becoming the best you can be.

Thanks for the opportunity. Cheers, Olys