

The Old Boys Dream League Team for the 2000's

In the event that my dream will come true and one day old boys will be able to take on the opposition in a game of league here is how the boys will suit up. Probably one of the more exciting rosters a league team has seen since St George dominated the game in the early 60's. A range of talent and depth would see this team competing come finals time, and with some inspiration from some of the games greatest talents, could easily go all the way to the premiership.



Geoff (Thommo) Thompson, July 2007

As per the programme – here they are:



Fullback – Vaughan Hartland – A swift runner with one of the best swerves in the game, oppositions will struggle to bring Hartland down on the kick return. With a great number of years experience the high ball doesn't seem to faze him and defensively there is none better around. The halves will also look to Hartland to take some pressure of them in the kicking department, especially when field position is required.



Wing – Michael Wilson – A Michael Hancock type winger, Wilson's never say die attitude and aggression will have him scoring try after try. Playing outside Searle will excite Wilson and if he can keep up with him in the speed department, he is bound to be the benefactor of many great tries. Defensively Wilson is all heart and not many wingers will score in his corner.



Centre – Andrew Searle – One of the games great movers. His raw speed and size will be a nightmare for the opposition, for which he will look to open up down the flanks. Defensively Searle can be found out as he looks for the big hits probably too often instead of bringing the man to the ground. The opposition coaches won't be able to work this man out and he can surprise with match winning performances.



Centre – Jared Young – A player who could easily find himself in the forwards as well, Young will be looking for offloads to put the more inexperienced Byrne away. One of the big hitters in the game today he can turn a match for his side when the boys look to be beaten. His fitness can be questioned by the media, but where he may not be the fittest in the competition he can't be beaten for determination. When the forwards are tiring he will look to get out of dummy half.



Wing – Josh Byrne – A raw talent of the game and picked to be one of the games greats. His speed is his asset and most opposites won't be able to match this man. Inexperience is his biggest weakness and the coaching staff will look to get into him to make sure he isn't exposed.



Five Eighth – Geoff Thompson – One of the more exciting signings in a long time, Thompson will add the necessary spark this league team needs. The player all rugby league fans come to watch as his attacking prowess has been described as unbeatable. Defensively Thompson is consistent rather than damaging and few attackers get through him. His kicking game is outstanding and when the forwards are getting tired he will get them down the other end of the park. Probably his most exciting attribute is work rate. Thompson will lead the tackle count in most games and will pop up all over the park for his beloved men. Slotting beside his brother in the halves will make this league team the

team to beat.



Half Back – Patrick Thompson – The player who past greats are picking to win the Dally M Medal for player of the year. With his brother he will guide his team around the park and make sure they are there at finals time. His ability to put his outsides through holes and pinpoint kicking game on attack means most outside backs are frothing at the mouth to be on his team. Some have spotted a weakness on defence but his fellow team mates will give their right arm to make his tackles so that won't be a problem.



Lock – Jeremy Allen – Calls himself the 'hard man' of rugby league, Allen only knows one way and that is forwards. You won't see him drop off a tackle all season and will get around the park to make them. The tireless work rate of one of the games old warhorses means when the competition gets tight, Allen will be a man the team will look for. His experience will be essential to help out some of the raw backs, and as long as injury doesn't hit – he'll be involved in every game.



Second Row – Andrew Nation – Nation has been a standout in the game for a long time now. His extra height means he is not only a hard man to bring to the ground but to secure the ball. Nation will look to range wide, providing offloads for his speedy backs. With a deft turn of speed this player is one that provides extra attacking brilliance for a league team when they seem out of ideas. His work rate is always outstanding and a player the youngsters will look to for inspiration.



Second Row – Raj Menon – Many fans are saying that Menon has had his day, but his performance on the field speaks the tune of this epic man. Placed in the second row, he will look to make plenty of metres for his side which he leads most seasons. Probably his true strength is his ability to pop up wherever a try is on, a natural finisher not through speed but by being in the right place at the right time. The type of player others will want to win a championship for and his experience will keep this team building throughout.



Prop – Andrew Timlin – If you ever wanted a front row forward in your team, Timlin would be it. Not only does he have size, speed and strength but his ball playing skills are second to none. The most courageous player the game has seen in a long time, Timlin will never shirk his responsibility of getting his team to the right end of the park. Timlin is testament to the saying that 'fortune not only favours the brave, but the bravest of all' and when something special is required Timlin will be the man there. The type of player who will lead the team song in the changing sheds.



Hooker – Ben Chorley – Chorley was destined to be a rugby league hooker the moment he was placed on this earth. His determination, guts and passion means he has the necessary mental game to hold the forwards together. His ability to read the game and quick turn of speed means he will eat up metres out of dummy half. If a fight erupts on the field Chorley along with Young will be the players to be amongst for sure. Chorley has also been known to put in massive hits to change the momentum of the game.



Prop – Ash Neale – A natural front row forward. Neale has the perfect physique to perform in this arena and will look to model himself on the more experienced Timlin. Picked to be one of the games future great bookends, Neale will look to get on top of his opposite all season. A tireless worker who doesn't always get the credit he deserves, Neale turns up in places no other front rower would.



Interchange – Steve Christensen – Christensen will provide cover for the backs and is desperately unlucky not to make the starting line up. He seems to glide through tackles with ease and is unlikely to be beaten on defence. Could quite easily work his way into the starting line up and his experience is something that money can't buy. He will keep this team focused on achieving their goal of grand final winners. And for the critics who can't see why he's on the bench, don't forget Shaun Berrigan started on the interchange for the broncos last season, only to win the Clive Churchill medal for the greatest performance in the finals series in 2006, and was lately called an origin great by

Queensland coach Mal Meninga.



Interchange – Ivan McAuley – A player not many know a lot about. Has just come on to the scene and there is a lot of interest about how McAuley will perform on the greater stage. He will slot in either in the back row or halves if injury strikes but many people say his versatility is a real strength. A tireless worker around the park and with sound advice by senior members of this team McAuley could be a standout. Watch this space.



Interchange – Ben Hayes – This old campaigner never seems to give up. Never dumps the dirty work on to any of his team mates and will produce honesty out of his opposite. Hayes will get game time in the forwards, when the big men start to tire. Hayes is the man every team needs as he will work hard all year and his sort of style will add motivation to some of the younger players. It seems as though he will need a wheelchair when he gives the game away for his outstanding commitment towards getting the result.



Interchange – Anthony Thomas – Another player who some are saying should have hung up the boots a long time ago. Thomas will never surrender to that pressure and his place on the interchange means he will slog his guts out for another premiership. Again his experience will mean that this team won't lose close ones and defensively there has never been a better player. When a team needs a spark, Thomas has been the man to provide.



COACH – Devan Menon – He’s been around for a long time now and seems to have won every title there is in the game. A coach who wants to win more than anyone and understand his individuals are a greater priority than his record. If any team would want a coach this would be it. He creates a winning atmosphere at every league club he’s been involved in and has an alarming sense for getting things right.

Extended Squad



Jan Peterson – “The best attacker around” Rugby league weekly. His Polynesian style means he can offload the ball wherever and whenever. Players need to run off this man all day and will be a handful up the middle of the rock and out wide. He could find himself in the centres, second row or lock and some of the greats of the game say he will make the team come finals time. Another player who would want nothing more than to win a premiership this year and will celebrate accordingly. Hasn’t played league this season due to personal reasons, but he will return to give back to the game that has given so much to him.



Murray Yeoman - Also a great knowledge for the game and could easily find himself in the halves if injury strikes the Thompson brothers. He has good pace and will try and get himself through holes up the middle of the ruck when opposition forwards get tired. A great team man, who remains positive throughout. Will be playing representative football and will be a threat come finals time due to his experience. Yeoman is sorely missed not just for his magical talent but also his ability to get his team over the line in tough situations.



Shea McAleese – Is tipped to be one of the best ever centres this game has seen. McAleese’s size, speed and power will have the opposition fearful as he looks to create havoc down the sides. Could easily be starting but another who has not been able to play for sometime now. Versatility is a huge strength of this man and the coach may look to rejig his team to get him suited up. Defensively there possibly has been none better with a combination of big hits and consistency.



Sanj Menon – Signing to go abroad seems to have held this Legend back. His natural talent and leadership will be sorely missed by a team needing a premiership. Menon’s consistency in performance means he would have been a player that you could expect 26 great performances out of in the regular season. He makes it look so easy and for the youngsters trying to get into the game, model yourself on Menon. Has all the skills and it will be interesting to see how his departure will hit this team.



Ali Addison - An erratic player of which you don’t know whether he’s coming or going. Will give opposition coaches a headache as they try to work this player out and will set up surprise tries for the team he plays for. With good coaching and a good work ethic at training he could find himself in the first grade squad sooner rather than later. With his off field prowess Addison will look to gel this team together with a few late nighters.



Paul Derham – A bulldozing front rower that doesn't regard his safety as a priority. He will get metres that no other front rower would or perhaps should. One of the games great impact weapons and mentally he is one of the toughest going around. The league community understands that Derham isn't one to mess with this type of attitude he can provide match winning performances.



Murray Chesterman – one of the games greatest mates. A club personality who provides a spark both on and off the field. Chestermans ability to keep going forward when it seems as though he should give up is a great example he sets to his fellow forwards. There is no better man to have on your roster when it comes to wanting to win for your mates and if Chesterman continues to work hard at trainings you will see him starting.