



# THE EAGLE FAMILY

## THE WHITE EAGLES FAMILY 1961 - 2021

The success of the Club over the years has been built upon a family type atmosphere that encourages hard work, mutual respect for each other, and a never say die attitude, trademarks of the Polish Community that established the Club in the early 60's.

When looking back over the history of the Club it is interesting note the "family ties" that keep appearing, some commencing in the early days of the Club's formation and some that are still continuing to this day. Many of these have played significant roles in the Club's successes over the years.

### RYBAK

<b>Zygmunt Rybak (Dec.)</b>
Committee Member
Life Member 1984

<b>Henry</b>
Player 70's
Volleyball - State Representative
Volleyball Premiership Player

<b>Richard</b>
Player 70's
Volleyball 70's

<b>James</b>
Player 90's

<b>Matthew</b>
Senior Player 00's
Youth Coach 00's

<b>Michael</b>
Senior Player 90's

<b>Robert (Bobby)</b>
Senior Player 70's - 80's
Volleyball 70's
Senior Team Captain
Premiership Player 77,78,81,86
Senior B&F 1982
Senior Coach 1987, 1993
Team of the Decade 80's
Trainer 1990's



1972 - Under 19's Premiers featuring the Rybak's

**Back:** E. Rosinski, C. Slater, C. Kolabinski, H. Rybak, A. Bevan, R. Gobbey, S. Matusek, B. Rybak  
**Front:** J. Rosinski, R. Rybak, J. Biernacki, A. Stiberg, G. Thompson, S. Polacik, G. Rosinski

## ROSINSKI / WASS

<p><b>Eugene Rosinski</b>          Senior Player 60's          Premiership Player 60's          Youth Coach 70's          Volleyball Premiership Player 70's          Club President 1983-84          Team of The Decade 70's</p>	<p><b>Irene Rosinski</b>          Committee Member</p>
<p><b>Jola</b>          Senior Player 80's          Premiership Player 1981</p>	<p><b>Anna</b>          Senior Player 80's          Premiership Player 1981, 1987</p>
<p><b>Peter Wass</b>          Senior Player 70's - 80's          Premiership Player 77,78,81,84          Team of The Decade '80s          Team Manager 00's,10's          Assistant Coach 00's          Goalkeeper Coach</p>	<p><b>Greg</b>          Senior Player 80's          Premiership Player 1984          Player 1990's          Volleyball Premiership Player</p>
<p><b>Christopher</b>          Senior Player 00's          Team of The Decade '00s          Senior B&amp;F 2007,2009</p>	<p><b>Kim Watson</b>          Senior Player 80's          Premiership Player 1987</p>
<p><b>Elissa</b>          Senior Player 00's</p>	<p><b>Zachary</b>          Youth Player 00's</p>



Back: Peter, Christopher, Kim, Eugene, Greg Front: Elissa, Anna, Zachary, Irena, Jola

## It's a polished family act as the Eagle soars

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 22 MAY 2002

THREE generations of the Rosinski family have served the 40-year-old New Town Eagles Soccer Club as players, coaches and committee members. The oldest is Eugene Rosinski, 62, who came to Australia in 1960 and started playing with the club the following year, only a few months after it was formed as White Eagles.

His wife Irena has served on the club committee, while daughters Jola and Anna, and son Greg, have played for the club's women's and men's teams respectively. Daughter-in-law Kim and son-in-law Peter Wass have also turned out for the club, while the third generation of the family is represented by Peter and Jola's 15-year-old son Christopher.

Christopher has just joined Eagles from Metro-Claremont and made his senior debut for Eagles in the recent 2-0 win over DOSA. Zac, the seven-year-old son of Greg and Kim, plays primary school soccer but one can guarantee that his eagle shirt is already being prepared for him.

"I joined the club a few months after it was formed as someone found out I knew how to kick a ball," said paterfamilias Eugene. "I played from 1961 until about 1971 and I've seen a lot of changes and many coaches in that time. "There was a big difference in skills, even in the period from when I started playing until I finished. "When we started, we had about two players, while the rest didn't even know how to kick the ball. "The club moved on and improved a lot when we got into the first division and got a few extra players and better coaching.

Eugene and wife Irena would take their children to games and, with Eagle's fielding both women's and men's teams, it was a natural meeting ground for youngsters. Their children met and eventually married partners who also played soccer.

Son-in-law Peter Wass started playing for Eagles in 1970 as goalkeeper and is now the club's goalkeeping coach. Son Greg, 40, played for Eagles from many seasons while Jola and Anna and daughter-in-law Kim graced the club's women's teams for a combined total of more than two decades. In the years to come, Christopher and Zac will continue the Rosinski family tradition of playing for Eagles.

"I think the club is pretty right now and has many young players," said Eugene as he surveyed Clare Street last Thursday evening and the 50 or more players of both sexes training there. "We've got quite a few good youngsters coming through the club that can only be good for the club." It probably explains why Eagles are on top of the senior and reserves ladders and second in the under 22 league.

## Stopper Wass flying with Eagles

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 24 JUN 2003

NEW Town Eagles 16-year-old defender Christopher Wass has established himself as a regular in the senior side in only his second year at the club.

He made a senior appearance for Metro-Claremont in last year's Summer Cup pre-season competition but transferred to Eagles, a club for whom his father, Peter, was a noted goalkeeper. "Dad gives me some advice now and then, but never during a game," Wass said. In last weekend's 2-1 win over reigning champion South Hobart, Wass had a difficult task as a man-marker.

In the first half, he marked striker James Hedge and in the second Ben Crosswell because Hedge was substituted at half-time. "Hedge is really strong physically, which makes him a difficult player to mark," Wass said. "And Crosswell is also a difficult customer because of his fine ball work and speed."

Hedge was unable to score, while Crosswell netted in the first half and before Wass was assigned to mark him. Wass, who began his playing career in the under-7s at Rosetta Primary, said he would love to play in the national soccer league and hopes to have a trial with South Melbourne. He has represented Tasmania in under-16s and participated in the talent identification series in Sydney.

"That was a good experience, but we're up against it because we train for four months before we go there, while the other states train all year," he said. Wass began his playing career as a striker but switched to defence at under-12 level. He enjoys playing as a defender in a wide position and marking opposing players down the flanks. He believes the Eagles turned a corner at the weekend and that they should finish within the top five teams.

"We've had a few injuries to key players such as Damien and Rodney Bones and we hadn't been playing as a team," he said. "It was good to get a win last Saturday and we were all rapt. "We've started to work as a team now and I think we can finish better than fifth, our current position." Mathew Sanders, of Metro-Claremont, the league's leading scorer, is the best striker Wass has faced this season. "I used to play in the same team as Mathew when I was with Metro and the Metro supporters gave me a bit of stick when we played them this season," Wass said. "We won 1-0 and I didn't worry about them and blocked it out."

## STEENHUIS

<b>John (Titus) Steenhuis</b>
Senior Player 60's
Club President 1985-86
Team Manager 70's
Team of The Decade 60's

<b>Magda Steenhuis</b>
Committee 80's

<b>Marianne</b>
Senior Player 80's
Premiership Player 1981

<b>Gilbert</b>
Premiership Player 80's, 90's
Trainer 90's - 00's
Coach 90's

<b>Carol</b>
Senior Player 80's
Premiership Player 1981

<b>Tim</b>
Youth Player 90's



1981 Division 1 Premiers featuring members of the Steenhuis and Rosinski families

Back: D. Dolliver, T. Steenhuis, K. Lawler, D. Ackerley, M. Steenhuis, K. Dolliver, L. Foulkes, A. Krambousanos, M. Steenhuis (Mgr)  
Front: A. Rosinski, J. Rosinski, M. Glass, B. Rekawiecki, K. Fehlandt, E. Plachta, C. Steenhuis.



Gilbert Steenhuis following in his father's footsteps as goalkeeper in the U17's in the late 70's

## LESZCZYNSKI

<p><b>Alex Leszczynski (Dec.)</b> Volleyball 60's</p>	<p><b>Ingrid Leszczynski (Dec.)</b> Life Member 1990 Bill Jones Memorial Award '91</p>
<p><b>Christopher</b> Senior Player 80's-90's Premiership Player 81,84,86,88-90 Team of The Decade 80's Assistant Coach 2016-2020 Life Member 2021</p>	<p><b>Mark</b> Senior Player 80's-90's Senior Team Captain Premiership Player 86,88-91 Senior Coach 88,91,95,96,04,05 Premiership Coach 88,91,95 Leading Goalscorer '85 Senior B&amp;F '89 Life Member 1996 Coach of The Decade 90's Team of The Decade 80's &amp; 90's</p>
<p><b>Alexander</b> Senior B&amp;F 2012 Team of The Decade 2000s, 2010s</p>	<p><b>Andrew</b> Senior Player 80's-90's Volleyball Premiership Player Premiership Player 86,88-91,95 Senior Coach 1997-98, 2016-20 Premiership Coach 1997 Leading Goalscorer 83,87,88 Senior B&amp;F 83,87 FFT Coach of the Year '97, '19 Life Member 2009 Team of The Decade 80's &amp; 90's</p>
<p><b>Tatiana</b> Premier Women 2013</p>	<p><b>Richard</b> Senior Player 80's-00's Premiership Player 86,88-91,95,97 Leading Goalscorer 86,91,95 97, 98, 01, 02, 03 Leading Goalscorer Other Divs. Div1R '06, Div1 '07, '08, Div2 '09 Senior B&amp;F 90,91,95,97,98,01-03 Team of The Decade 80's, 90's, 00's</p>
	<p><b>Bridget Curtain</b> Committee Member 80's Senior Player 1986</p>
	<p><b>Samuel</b> Senior Top Goalscorer 2015-2021 Senior B&amp;F 2019 Team of The Decade 2010s Vic Tuting Silver Medal 2021</p>



Leszczynski Brothers - Chris, Mark, Andrew and Richard

## Young Alex upholds family ties with Eagles

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 20 JUN 2006

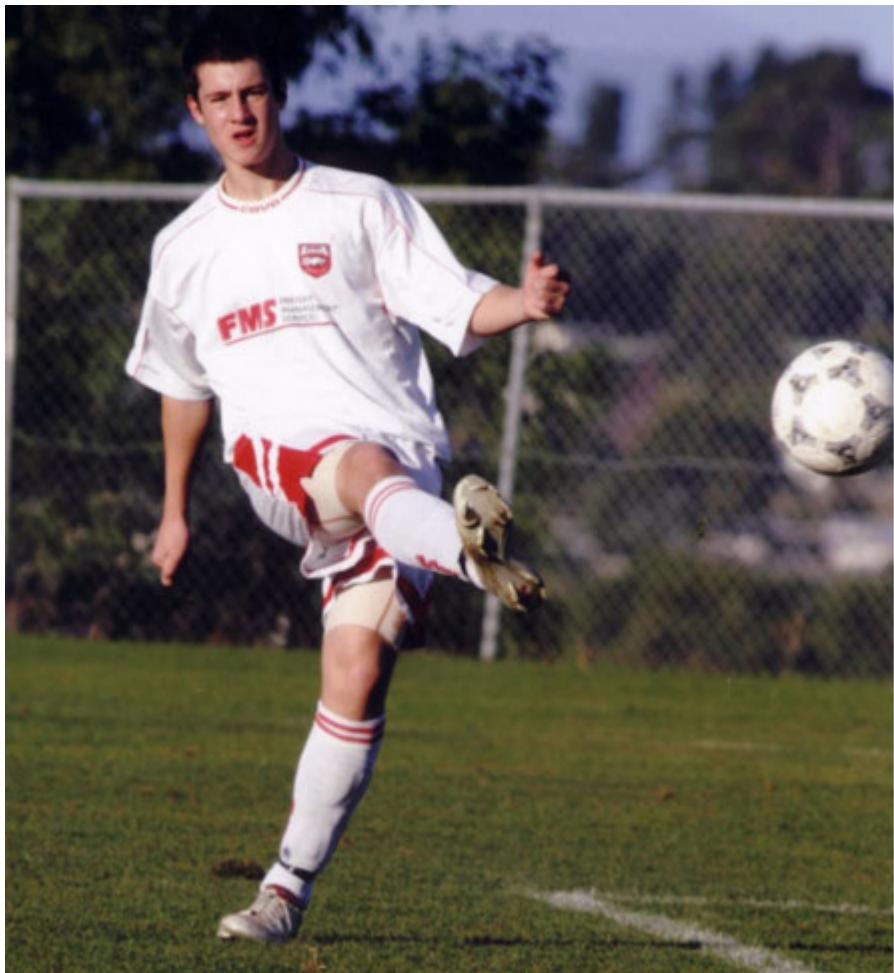
ALEXANDER Leszczynski is continuing a long family tradition at New Town Eagles. The 16-year-old winger is the son of former Eagles player Chris Leszczynski, and the nephew of Andrew, Mark and Richard Leszczynski. All four Leszczynski brothers were key members of the great Eagles sides of the 1980s and 1990s and Alexander is the first of the new generation coming through to senior ranks.

"It's pretty good to be the first of a new generation, but it feels as if I've got some responsibility to continue the family's playing tradition," said Alexander, a Year 11 student at Elizabeth College. This is his first year in the senior Premier League team and he has played in nine of the 10 league matches to date but has yet to score a goal. His crosses from the right wing are dangerous, however, and he sets up many chances for team-mates.

Leszczynski is the youngest player in a very young team, with Captain Andrew Telega the oldest at 24. Eagles went down 2-0 away to Kingborough Lions United on Saturday and remain in second-last place, but Leszczynski remains optimistic. "We're playing all right, but we've just been a bit unlucky," he said. "Some chances haven't gone our way and that can change games and our season basically. "Against Kingborough, there was a lack of concentration and two unlucky goals. "We missed a few chances and could have levelled the game, if not won it."

Chris and Mark Leszczynski were interested spectators on Saturday, while Richard sometimes still plays in the seniors. "Dad talks to me after the game and he tells me a fair bit, such as how I could have done better," he said. Leszczynski has represented Tasmania at under-15 and under-16 levels and hopes to make the state under-19 side next season. After playing in the Eagles under-19s last season, he is finding the senior Premier League challenging.

"It's much more physical and faster, and the players are bigger and stronger than in the under-19s," he said. He believes Eagles can move up the ladder and certainly avoid last place. He would like to play interstate, but he also has ambitions to study architecture at university. The TV coverage of the World Cup is currently a focus of attention for Leszczynski.



Alexander Leszczynski



Samuel Leszczynski v University

## MURRAY

<b>Steve</b> Player - 60's Coach, Manager 90's	<b>Maria</b> Committee Member 90's
<b>Paul</b> Senior Player 90's - 00's Youth Coach 00's	<b>Michael</b> Senior Player 90's - 00's Senior B&F 2001 Top Lge Goalscorer - Reserves 1995 Players Player of the Year 2003-04 Committee Member 10's Reserves Assistant Coach 2011
<b>Christopher</b> Youth Player 90's Youth Coach 90's Committee Member 10's Womens Senior Coach 2012-13	<b>Jodie</b> Committee Member 2010's
<b>Nikki</b> Premier Women 2010's	



1992 Premier Reserves side featuring the Murray family

Back: S. Murray (Manager), M. Pitt, G. Mason, J. Proud, P. Murray, J. Joyce, F. Previdi, L. Ware (Coach)

Front: M. Murray, R. Lebski, A. Leon, R. Ketchell, S. Gorringe, A. Wisby

## STODDART

<b>David Stoddart Snr (Dec.)</b> Senior Player 70's Club President 1988-92 Senior B&F 1974 Team of The Decade 70's	<b>Joy Stoddart</b> Committee Member 80's 90's
<b>David Jnr</b> Senior Player 80's-00's Senior Team Captain Club President 1995-99 Senior B&F 85,86,88,92,3,94,96,02 Premiership Player 84,86,88-91,95,97 Leading Goalscorer 1992 Vic Tuting Silver Medal 1992 Team of The Decade 80's, 90's, 00's Life Member 2011	<b>Brett</b> Player 90's-00's Coach 90's



**1991 Premiership Celebrations featuring the Stoddart and Morrison families**

Back: C. Pitt, M. Driessen, N. Morrison, S. Young  
 Front: B. Stoddart, D. Stoddart Snr (Dec.), E. Mycak, P. Morrison, F. Previdi, A. Wisby, Z. Belanic, E. Banasik, D. Stoddart Jnr, A. Leszczynski, R. Ketchell

## JONES

<b>Craig</b>
Senior Player 1990's
Club Vice-President 2006-07
Premiership Player 84,97
Senior Coach 2001-03
Womens Senior Coach 2004-05
Womens Premiership Coach 2005
Team of The Decade 90's

<b>Adam</b>
Senior Player 90's-00's
Premiership Player 95,97
Senior B&F 2003
Players Player of the Year 2002
Team of The Decade 90's, 00's

<b>Paul</b>
Player 90's

<b>Christopher</b>
Senior Player 00's
Player 2021

<b>Lauren</b>
Senior Player 00's
Premiership Player 2005
Senior B&F 2005

## **Sky the limit as a young Eagle takes off**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – August 14, 2002

SOCER for New Town Eagles' 17-year-old midfielder Christopher Jones is a family affair. His father, Craig, is senior coach at the club and his uncle, Adam, plays in defence for the seniors.

Christopher played his seventh senior game for the club last Saturday, a 2-1 home defeat to University at Clare Street. "Uni are marathon runners," Jones Jr said. "They didn't stop, and they're the hardest team I've played against. "Raymond Benson ran rings around me, and Colin Shepherd was magic."

Jones won the most consistent player award for Eagles' under-22 side last season and made his senior debut this year in the 3-0 home win against Hobart Olympic on 22 June.

He scored his first senior goal in the 3-0 win over Clarence United and was elated. "It was awesome," he said. "I was thrilled to get the first one out of the way, and I just hope there are many more to come."

Jones is in Year 12 at Guilford Young College and hopes to take up a trade apprenticeship next year. He first played soccer in grade three at primary school, and his father was the team coach for every year after that except one.

"I'm stuck with him again," Jones Jr said. "It can be a bit frustrating as there's extra pressure on me, and he always wants me to work harder at the game. "I have to do that to prove that I'm in the side because of my ability and not because my father is the coach."

Jones was disappointed with Saturday's loss to University, but Eagles can still finish third, which would mean the double chance in the finals. He would love to play in the National Soccer League, but that would mean a move interstate. He said there was talk of a State under-20 side next season, which would play against interstate opposition, and the idea attracts him.

In the meantime, games against Hobart Zebras and league-leader South Hobart are looming. "I'm looking forward to seeing what they're like," he said. "I hope we can finish them off."

He is also keen to achieve a special aim -- he hopes to play in a senior Eagles side with both his uncle and his father. Achieving the aim is not beyond the bounds of possibility.

Christopher and his uncle Adam are regulars in the senior side, and there is a chance that his father could name himself on the substitutes' bench for a game and take the field at some stage.



**2001 Senior Squad featuring the Savage, Murray and Jones families**

**Back:** W. Savage, B. Zielinski, S. Louden, P. Murray, M. Murray, T. Burn (Manager) **Middle:** C. Jones (Coach), R. Leszczynski, M. Proud, A. Jones, D. Frost, D. O'Brien, M. Fong **Front:** R. Bones, A. Bates, A. Wisby, A. Savage, S. Kruijver, J. Potts, R. Lebski

Although the focus is mainly on the playing achievements of the families involved, (as these are the things we tend to remember and acknowledge), many of the above individuals also feature prominently in the day to day running of the club, with many doubling as committee members. The wives deserve a special mention, as many were the driving force of the committees, making sure things happened and were not just talked about.

Featured below are some of the families that have played for Eagle sides over the years. Many of these brothers and sisters have had the great fortune of playing together at a senior level.

**ANGEL – Paul, Peter, Glenn**

Paul was a player in the 60's, youth coach in the 70's, committee man and subsequently club President in 1987. He was awarded Life Membership of the club in 1969 for his outstanding contribution to the club. Peter a hard-working mid-fielder was a senior player in the mid 80's, was a victim of playing in an era where there many fine midfielders in the club, and he found it hard to get consistent game time in the senior side. Peter also went on to become a well-respected senior referee. Glenn the youngest son played in a number of youth teams in the early 80's.

**AYRES – Carol, Alex, Russell, Bradleigh**

Carol was a youth coach and team manager in the 2010's. Alex and Bradleigh both played at a senior level in the early 2010's. Alex was a gifted player who had the ability to play in a number of positions, although he played up front for the majority of his time at Eagles. He was the u19's top goalscorer for three consecutive seasons in 2008-2010. Bradleigh, although not as naturally gifted as his older brother, was a quick striker with a tenacious attitude.

**BIGGAR – John, Bobby, Neil, Ian**

Strong defensive players who played in the 60's and early 70's. John was a member of the team of The Decade 70's. Bobby sons, Neil and Ian have also played for the club in various youth teams and were also members of the 1992 Division 3 team that were premiers and Knock-Out Cup winners, and Neil was awarded the Player of the Year award.

**BILAC – Jasmine & Donna**

Played for our senior women's team in the mid 80's and were members of the 1987 Premiership team. Jasmine was crowned Miss New Town Eagles in 1983.



**2013 Senior Team featuring the Burn and Ayres brothers**

**Back:** O. Shabanah, C. Stingle, A. Ayres, S. Telega, J. Quan, MacDonald, Marcus Burn,

**Front:** B. Ayres, E. Idstrom, J. Graham, G. Nutting, Matthew Burn, S. Lagu

**BLIZZARD - Raymond, Callum, Ben**

Callum, a youth Best & Fairest winner was a talented goalkeeper in the 00's and "Blizz", was an enthusiastic participant in the club's "Social" roster over many years whether it be on the field or in goals. He also assisted with a number of youth teams. Ben played at a youth level.



#### 2007 Division 3 Team featuring the Blizzards

**Back:** A. Leszczynski, J. Bukowiecki, A. Colgrave, C. Bradley, M. Shreeve, M. Pitt, W. Cuellar

**Front:** C. Blizzard, A. Czyzowicz, B. Pope, K. Quan, D. Donohoe, R. Blizzard, J. Large

#### BONES – Damien, Rodney, Vicki, Tom

Damien and Rodney were very active in the club (along with mum Vicki and dad Tom) from the early 90's, both in a playing and coaching capacity. Damien was part of the "Grand Slam" team in 1997, scoring a goal in the Grand Final win over Devonport. He was also a senior Best & Fairest winner in 1998, a member of the Team of the Decade 90's and 00's, and also coached the seniors towards the end of the 2003 campaign. He was also awarded Player Life Membership at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration dinner. Rodney was a skillful left sided player who worked his way up through the youth ranks to a senior position in 1999 where he played for a number of seasons. He was reserves coach in the late 00's and senior coach from 2014 to 2015 before moving to Queensland in 2016. Rodney was also a handy goalkeeper and performed well when called upon to fill this role.

## ⚽ Brothers make no Bones over Eagles' future

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 13 JUL 1999

STATE League soccer club New Town Eagles has always been family orientated, with many brothers playing together in the senior side. Mark, Andrew, Richard and Chris Leszczynski, Adam and Craig Jones, and David and Ricky Turner are just some of the names that spring to mind. Damien and Rodney Bones are the latest brothers to see action in the Eagles' senior State League side this season. Damien, 23, is the side's established sweeper, while 20-year-old Rodney has made five senior appearances this year, either at left-fullback or left-midfield.

Damien made his senior debut as a 14-year-old, under coach Mark Leszczynski, and was an attacker in those days. "I'm quite happy at sweeper now as it suits my style of play," Damien said. Rodney, who is left-footed, said: "I usually play at left-back in a marking role, but if I was fitter I'd like to play left-midfield."

Both brothers are confident Eagles can overcome what has been a poor season for the club, which has dominated soccer over the past decade. "This year's team has the potential to be the best ever," Damien said. "In a couple of years, we could be the Eagles of old. "We've got good young players such as Matthew Holloway, Mark De Vries, Tommy Fotak and Michael Fong and, potentially, the club could have another 10-year reign at the top."

Rodney, who is in his first year in the seniors, regards this season as one for rebuilding. "We've lost Scott Slugger' Young and Richard Leszczynski, while David Stoddart and Colin Shepherd have been out for long periods because of injury," Rodney said. "Now that Shepherd is back, Michael Fong should be back to his best because he can play off Shepherd."

"Michael had a big load on his shoulders with Shepherd missing, despite the presence of the experienced David Turner up front." Damien put Eagles' mixed results at the club's Clare St headquarters down to the fact that the team plays better on the spacious KGV Soccer Park in Glenorchy. "Clare St has great training facilities, but the cricket pitch presents problems and hinders our style of play," he said. "KGV suits us better because it's big and open and we're good at passing and we're a skillful and fast team."

Damien's words will be tested in the next four weeks as Eagles play away from home and visit KGV twice to face title contender Hobart Olympic and the unpredictable Hobart Zebras.



Rodney and Damien Bones

#### **BROWN-PRICE – Chris, Richard**

Chris was predominantly an attacking player who made a number of senior appearances in the early 80's before becoming more defensive minded, and displayed a robust enforcing style when playing in the lower leagues. Chris moved to the North of the State in the early 90's, and was President of Launceston Juventus for a number of years. Ritchie came to Eagles after moving from Launceston. A former NPL player with Launceston Juventus, Ritchie is a player with great positioning and a calmness that transfers to the players around him. He is a fine distributor of the ball with an excellent passing range. He is an old-style defender who likes to dominate his opponent with his tight marking.

#### **BUKOWIECKI – Steven, Jason**

Steven was a senior player in the 00's. A skillful player who was a regular goal scorer, but was troubled by persistent injuries, which made it difficult for him to maintain a regular spot in the senior side. In 2000 Steven was the leading scorer in the Southern Premier League Reserves competition with 18 goals. Jason played in a number of teams over the years and was a solid contributor although he did not make a senior team appearance.

#### **BURN – Matthew, Marcus, Tony**

Matthew came to the club in the 90's from Glenorchy Knights and always had the ability to score goals in whichever team he has played. His most prolific period for Eagles was in the early 00's when he scored in excess of 25 goals in the 2002 Southern Premier Reserves League which earnt him a spot in the senior side. He managed to score a hat-trick early in his senior career against Hobart Olympic, when brought in to replace the injured Richard Leszczynski. Injuries and inconsistency, plus having to fight for a spot in the front-line with some very strong and experienced players made it difficult for him to maintain a regular senior berth. Getting sent off early in his career didn't help either. Marcus was a solid defender who spent some of his youth years at Eagles before moving to the Glenorchy Knights. He returned in the early 2010's and made a number of appearances in the senior side of 2013 and was always an honest performer who did his job with a minimum of fuss. Tony was a youth coach and team manager for a number of teams, from the 90's to the mid-2000's.

#### **CLAMP – Jacob, Tom, Kevin**

Jacob broke into the senior team on a regular basis in 2009. He is a tall player who has played the majority of his senior games in midfield but has also been utilised in defence, where his aerial ability has been of great value. He has the ability to score goals, particularly from set pieces where once again his height can be a major weapon. After a time away from the game, Jacob returned to the Eagles nest in 2019 and is currently a permanent fixture in the senior side. Brother Tom played in the Division 3 side in the late 00's before moving to another club to play at a higher level. Father Kevin was an assistant senior coach (under George Krambousanos 2009-11), and also coached the u19's during that period. Kevin an ex-Metro legend, brought great experience, and a calm and thoughtful approach to his roles.



Kevin Clamp (standing) deep in thought as Wass, Vernon and Muir watch on, and Krambousanos wonders what's going on

#### **CLARIDGE – Laura & Emily**

Laura was a member of the 2008 Under 17 Premiership team which subsequently moved into the senior women's ranks. Emily joined her sister in Women's Division 1 in 2010. Mum Patricia has also been very active as manageress of the team.

#### **COLLINS – Sean, Cormac, Oisin, Fionn**

Sean was a solid hard tackling experienced defender and was a premiership player in the late 80's. After a time away, Sean returned back to the club in the mid 00's to coach at youth level. Sean was also a qualified senior referee. Son Cormac was a dangerous left sided player, who broke into the senior squad in 2005 after impressing in the u19's with his scoring prowess and ability to beat players. Cormac was inducted into the team of the Decade 00's at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner. Cormac's brothers Oisin and Fionn also played for the lub at a youth level in the 00's.

## **Modest Collins' class lifts Eagles**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 25 AUG 2004

CORMAC Collins, New Town Eagles' talented 15-year-old midfielder, is a modest, articulate young man, but one of few words.

After scoring one of the best goals seen in senior competition this season to help New Town Eagles earn a 1-1 draw with Metro-Claremont away at North Chigwell, the youngster had to be coaxed into describing it. Collins, whose father, Sean, once starred for Eagles as a defender, showed great skill in putting Eagles ahead just before the break. He took on experienced defender Daniel Hanna and feinted outside, inside and outside again before hitting a great shot at goal. The ball swerved in flight and gave Metro goalkeeper Neil Biggar no chance as it whistled past him and into the roof of the net.

Asked to describe his first senior goal in only his third first-team appearance, Collins simply said that he had felt good about it. After some prompting, the youngster added: "I took a shot from outside the box and from an angle and it went over the keeper." After some more encouragement, he ventured: "I put the defender off balance and once the ball got to the keeper I knew it was a goal because he couldn't get to it."

Such modesty from one so talented is refreshing. It augurs well for the youngster's future. Collins is in Year 10 at New Town High School and has played for Eagles throughout his high school years. He was in the southern Tasmanian under-15 side last year and is in this year's state under-16s, who will participate in the national talent identification series in Sydney later in the season. "I'm looking forward to it and I think Tasmania can do all right," he said

"It'll be tough, but hopefully we can do well." He has no definite ambitions in the game other than to become a better player. His father gives him advice when he watches him play, but he was refereeing at another venue when Cormac scored his marvelous goal.

Collins thinks that Eagles, who are third-last in the nine-team roster, can avoid this year's wooden spoon. "We've got a game in hand over Metro [second-last] and I think Olympic [last] will finish last," he said confidently. Eagles have a heavy program of catch-up games and scheduled matches next weekend. It would not surprise to see Collins start in most of those after his performance and goal against Metro.



Eagles' Cormac Collins is challenged by Clarence's Adam Hedge [PlessPix]

#### **DeVRIES – Mark, Luke**

Mark and Luke played for the club in the early to mid-00's after moving from Hobart Olympic. Both were fast and very skillful players that could tear up any defence on their day.

#### **DWYER – Gemma & Aelia**

Gemma was a member of the 2008 Under 17 Premiership team which subsequently moved into the senior women's ranks. Aelia joined her sister in Women's Division 1 in 2010.

#### **FENNELL – Matt, Dylan**

Goalscoring brothers who played for the club in the mid-00's to early 10's. Dylan was the club's top goalscorer in the Premier Reserves in 2005 and Matt was the League's Premier Reserves top goalscorer in 2009, and followed this up with being Eagles top scorer in 2010. He had the ability to score a spectacular goal out of nothing.

#### **FERRALL – Nick & Liam**

Nick had been with the club for a number of years before breaking into the senior team in 2008. Although starting out as a striker, Nick was converted to a defensive player whether in midfield or defence. A skilled tenacious player he had a year off in 2010 but returned to the team in 2011, which was a big boost to the side, and he scored Eagles' goal in the play-off final against South Hobart in 2011 to show he hadn't lost his striking ability. Injuries and a career in the Police force curtailed his playing days, but he did return briefly in 2018. Unfortunately, injury cut short his come-back, which was disappointing as his quality and experience would have been invaluable for a young Eagles side. Liam was a highly rated goalkeeper who in 2011, at 16 years of age was the club's reserve senior keeper. He showed great maturity in a very specialised position, and had the ability to be an outstanding keeper for many years to come. Unfortunately, a serious hand injury and subsequent career in the armed forces, meant Eagles missed out seeing him mature, and build on a promising start to his soccer playing career.

## **Versatility shows just in the Nick of time**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 10 JUN 2008

NICK Ferrall is making the most of his debut season at senior level for New Town Eagles and is impressing stand-in coach Stephen Pitchford. The 19-year-old Ferrall can play in midfield or as a striker, and Pitchford has used him in both roles.

"He's given 100 per cent right from the first minute he's been in the seniors," said Pitchford, who played with Nick's father, Andy, for many years at Metro. "We've asked him to step up a level and he's actually surprised us with the skill level he's displayed when he's been in the senior side. "Against Zebras on Friday, he actually turned a couple of people inside out and knocked the ball past them, got it back, and that's exactly what we've been looking for in our play. "We played him up front

as a striker early on, but he's got that tenacity of a midfielder and he really keeps going and doesn't stop for 90 minutes. "When he gets the ball, he generally looks to hit people's feet, which is, again, what we're looking for."

Ferrall also began his career with Metro, his grandmother was an official at the club for many years and his father was a club stalwart and joined Eagles four seasons ago. He went to Japan with a Tasmanian under-13 side while he was in Year 7 at high school and played mainly in the reserves at Eagles until his elevation to the seniors this year. "I'm really happy about that," Ferrall said. "It's only a matter of time before we start competing on the scoreboard."

"If we keep playing the way we have been, we'll avoid a relegation playoff and stay up in the Premier League." Eagles are currently third last on the ladder and four points adrift of seventh-placed Kingborough Lions United. The bottom two sides will be automatically relegated and the third-last faces a playoff against the Division One champion.

"All we need to do is to convert our chances into goals, which is where we're struggling at the moment," said Ferrall, whose father watches most of his games. "My Dad goes to most of our games to support me and he tells me exactly what I do wrong in each game. I'd like to stay at the level I'm at now, or go higher if I can." Ferrall finds Hobart Zebras his most difficult opponents, but thought the side did well against them in Friday's 3-1 loss. "Towards the end, we really took the game to them, and they were lucky to get away with a 3-1 win," he said.



Nick Ferrall closing down South Hobart's Brennan with help from Page and Whitehall

#### **FONG – Michael, Patrick**

Michael broke into the senior side in 1997 and proved an instant success playing in the finals campaign that year. He was also named FFT Young Player of the Year in his debut season. A fast, damaging player with an enormous leap, he proved his worth to the club by winning the senior Best and Fairest awards in 1999 and 2000. Patrick played for the reserves in the early 00's and was also a skillful player whose career unfortunately was cut short by injury.

#### **FRACALOSSI – Alex, Joe, Daniel**

Alex came through the youth ranks to be a contender for a senior spot in a very short period of time. His development in 2018 in the Division 3 side, under the tutelage of Shane Revell saw him flourish and turn into an impressive overlapping full back with great speed, athleticism, and anticipation. Alex has a bright playing future ahead of him but unfortunately for the club he

has moved interstate for study reasons, so his playing career is on hold for the time being. Joe came to the club in 2018 at the age of fifteen, and although not possessing Alex's speed and athleticism, he more than makes up for it with his quickness of thought, and his high-quality distribution has caught the eye. He uses his body well and receives numerous free kicks as he outmaneuvers bigger opponents. Joe has made his senior debut in this current season (2021) against Beachside. Daniel (the eldest of the three) was a Best & Fairest youth player and was a natural goalscorer. Unfortunately, his time with the club was brief.



**Fracalossi Brothers as part of 2019 Division 3 – KO Cup Winners**

**Back:** R. Leszczynski, C. Anderson, S. Revell (Coach), S. Heathcote, J. Hadolt, L. Backhouse, G. Deayton, B. Hawkins  
**Front:** A. Fracalossi, R. Brown-Price, R. Longden, L. Tolland-Williams, H. Stanton, B. Crossan, J. Fracalossi, G. Nutting.

#### **GORNIAK - Henry, Eddie, Robert, John, David**

The Gorniak brothers played in various teams in the 70's and 80's. Henry was a member of the all-conquering 1975 A Reserve team, (coached by Harold Nelson) and 1978 Winfield Combined League winning team. He also made a number of senior appearances in the '77, '78 premiership seasons. The sheer quality of players available for the senior team in this era, limited the opportunity of appearances for a number of talented players, Henry being one of those. Robert was a senior player and an ex-State representative. Eddie was a talented player who made a handful of appearances in the senior team in the early 80's. John (Chief) was well known around the club for many years and assisted in team management and trainer duties. David, the son of sister Krystina was a youth player in the 2010's and was a prolific goalscorer.

#### **KRAMBOUSANOS - George, Anna**

George was a senior player in the early 80's and also a senior coach in a number of spells in 2000, and 2009-2011. He was named coach of the Team of The Decade 2000's, at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Sister, Anna, was a member of the Women's premiership winning team of 1981.

#### **KRUIJVER - Gerrit, David, Sam, Lucy**

David or "Gary" as he is affectionately known joined the Club in 2009, and has been a true club man, playing wherever he has been required. He was Eagle's senior keeper from 2016-2018 having previously played in numerous different teams since his arrival (apart from a spell at University in 2013). A magnificent shot stopper, he also has a prodigious throw which has surprised many a defender over the years as they have watched the ball go over their heads. David is also a more than useful on-field player who has made several senior appearances, and many more in the lower divisions. He is still actively playing, and recently (2021) played his first senior game in three years, and showed he still has what it takes to play at the top level. As well as playing, David is coaching our Championship 1 Women's team in 2021.



Dave showing his athletic ability in a recent game (2021) at Clare Street (Photo courtesy of Mark Philips)

Sam was another talented goalkeeper that progressed through the Eagle's youth ranks to become the Senior keeper in the early 2000's, having played for Eagles since the u12's. He later made a successful move to play for South Hobart.

## New Town Eagles' youthful goalkeeper has a level head

By WALTER PLESS

BEFORE the Summer Cup soccer game between New Town Eagles and Hobart Olympic, Eagles' coach George Krambousanos predicted his side would win 6-0.

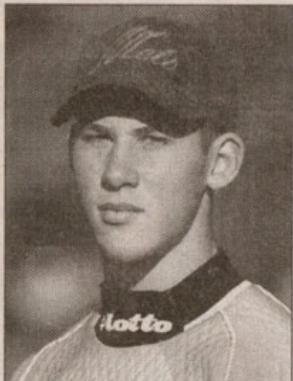
It didn't turn out that way, the sides drawing 1-1 and Eagles winning the subsequent penalty shoot-out 7-6.

Many observers were of the opinion Eagles should have won 1-0 and Olympic's controversial equaliser should have been disallowed.

Eagles' 18-year-old goalkeeper Sam Kruijver remembers the goal well.

"I came out for the cross and I didn't know anyone was near me so I just jumped and grabbed the ball," Kruijver recalled.

"All of a sudden, I just felt someone come up and hip and shoulder me and I started to fall back over the line.



**Sam Kruijver: likes the goalkeeping excitement.**

"I thought I can't let the ball go over the line so I threw it away. I thought I've got to keep it out at all costs.

"Then, Trevor Carson knocked the ball into the net. I was expecting a free-kick, but it didn't come."

The incident gave Kruijver,

who is a first-year commerce student at university, an indication of what life as a goalkeeper in the top flight can be like.

But, it did not deter him and he has maintained his senior berth and is as keen as ever to continue.

"I like the excitement of goalkeeping and getting that adrenaline rush," Kruijver said. "If you pull off a good save, everyone cheers you."

Kruijver is in his 12th year as a goalkeeper. He started with Brighton Primary School under-7s and has been with Eagles since the under-12s.

This year's Summer Cup win was his first trophy success at senior level and Saturday's 0-0 draw with University, the reigning league champion, in the opening league match of the season, did not make him despondent

because he did, after all, keep a clean sheet.

"I thought it was a bit sloppy," he said. "We could have done a bit better."

"When we get under pressure, we have to keep our heads and just make sure we don't give away any goals and that we score some."

"We've got a good side and we've bonded well, and we have a lot of guys with lots of skill. I think we should go well and finish at least in the top two."

Kruijver had thought of going to England at the beginning of last season, but he abandoned the idea because of financial reasons. "I plan to go in a few years' time, when I finish university," he said.

There is a saying that goalkeepers are crazy. Kruijver seems to have his feet firmly on the ground, however, and he has a level head to go with it.

David's daughter Lucy is the latest goalkeeping Kruijver to join the Eagle's ranks as part of the Women's program in 2021. She is hedging her bets however, and is also working on her outfield skills as well as her keeping ones. At this early stage, it looks as if she will handle both with aplomb. Father Gerrit only played the one season for Eagles in the late 90's but has always been a strong supporter of the club.

#### **LARGE - John, Debbie, Nick, Daniel**

John started playing for the club in the mid 70's and continued to do so on an ongoing basis until the late 2000's. He was also a long serving committee member, club President from 2000-04 and a youth team coach. He made numerous senior appearances in the late 70's and 80's and has been part of many reserves and premiership teams in the club's "social" roster, and was part of the 1992 Division 3 team that were premiers and Knock-Out Cup winners. He was awarded Player Life Membership at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration dinner. Nick was a youth player in the 90's before moving up the ranks and being a regular reserve player who made several senior appearances in the 00's. Work commitments led to a move interstate. Daniel was a youth player for the club and mum Debbie has been heavily involved on the club's committee and as a trainer for numerous teams over the years.

#### **LUTTRELL - Matthew, Alex**

Matthew joined the club from Beachside in 2018 and quickly established himself in the senior team. Predominantly playing in a central defensive role, Matthew is an intelligent player who possesses a good range of skills and works hard to improve his game. Unfortunately, injuries have plagued his short time with the club, and he is currently not playing. Alex joined his brother at Eagles in 2019 and was making strides to earning a senior spot after a solid pre-season in 2020, when an ankle injury in an early practice match cut short his senior team aspirations and in fact ended his season prematurely.

#### **LEBSKI - Robbie, Krys**

Robbie was a senior squad member throughout the mid 90's to the latter 00's, equally at home in defence or in midfield. He was part of the senior and reserves squads in the "Grand Slam" season of 1997. Krys is a solid defender who after making a promising start to his senior career under the coaching of Mark Leszczynski didn't manage to kick on and maintain a senior squad position, although he did make a number of appearances in the mid 00's. He has returned to the club this season 2021, and is predominantly playing in the club's social side.

#### **MORRISON - Neil, Paul**

Neil joined the club in 1984 and made a big contribution to premierships in 1984, 86, 88, 89, 91 and finally in 1995. He was a talented left footer with a raking pass and ferocious shot, and many attacking moves were started when he was in possession. Neil is a dual Team of the Decades member in the 80's and 90's. Paul was a regular in the seniors from the early 90's after forcing his way into the side with strong performances in the reserves and played in the 1991 premiership year. He was an integral part of the 1997 premiership side with versatility being the key to his game. Paul is a member of the Team of the Decade 90's.

IN last season's Summer Cup soccer final, New Town White Eagle found itself 2-0 down at half-time against Hobart Juventus.

Eagle went on to win the final 6-4 and the key to the side's second-half comeback and ultimate success was a positional change made by coach Mark Leszczynski five minutes before the interval.

Leszczynski moved Paul Morrison from sweeper to midfield and Scott Young from midfield back to sweeper.

It was Morrison's performance in midfield that swung the match in Eagle's favour as he organised, prompted and inspired his team-mates to lift their performance, enabling Richard Leszczynski to score four goals and Colin Shepherd and Adam Jones to hit one each.

Morrison made two of the goals and had a hand in one other, a superb performance in anyone's book.

The 29-year-old defender-cum-midfielder is again a key player in this year's Eagle side, but he is modest about his performance in last season's Summer Cup Final, and

## **Morrison the heart and soul of Eagle**



about his influence this season for an Eagle side that is on top of the ladder.

"It's a team-oriented game," Morrison said. "Maybe a player might be able to spark the team, but it still relies on the whole team lifting as a team."

Modest Morrison may be, but a neutral observer of the game could not fail to notice that, at the end of last season, Morrison was absent from Eagle's grand final line-up because of injury, and Eagle lost 2-1 to Olympia.

Morrison is given a relatively free role in midfield by this season's coach, Andrew Leszczynski, unless, of course,

he is assigned a marking job.

"If I play in midfield, it's pretty much a free rein for me, although I guess you could describe it as probably hanging off David Stoddart a bit and not pushing forward as much as he does," Morrison said.

This does not stop the mobile, intelligent and aggressive midfielder from scoring, as he did twice in the 4-0 win over Eagle's main rival, Devonport City, at Clare Street in April this year.

With Eagle leading 2-0, Morrison hit the third with a splendid volley just before half-time, while in the second half he struck his side's fourth goal after outwitting two defenders.

Clare Street is where Eagle trains, and it has also become the venue for the club's State League home games.

"I think we really like play-

ing there, but I wouldn't say we feel any more confident there than anywhere else," Morrison opined. "I just think the actual surface is a much better surface than elsewhere."

"We're a fast-moving sort of team and it suits our style of play down to the ground."

Eagle is the highest scoring team in the State League competition, netting an average of four goals a game.

Morrison credits his own scoring record, as well as that of the team, to the emphasis placed on shooting during training sessions.

"We spend at least one night a week just on shooting, and everyone, from defenders up, all train at shooting, so that's why I suppose we've got a very attacking side," he said.

If Eagle does reach this season's grand final, the club's supporters will no doubt be hoping that Paul Morrison is in the line-up.

**NEADS - Ricky, Kris, Paul**

Brothers that played for the club in the 1984 premiership season after transferring from Croatia.

**NUTTING - Roger, Grant, Kirby**

Grant first played senior soccer in the mid 00's and was a solid defender who was very consistent. Work commitments prevented him from playing for Eagles for a number of years, but he took on the club Presidency whilst working as a FIFO engineer in WA in 2014, and it wasn't until 2018 that he returned full-time to Tasmania. In 2021, Grant is still the club's President, and this makes him the club's longest serving one in its history. As President, Grant has added a professional touch to how the club is managed, and has played a big role in lifting the club's profile and relevancy in the soccer community after the turmoil the Club was in following its omission from the 2013 V League. Grant also resumed his playing career both on the field and in goals, and has been a consistent performer, winning the 2018 Reserves Best & Fairest player. In 2020 following an injury to senior goalkeeper Jamie Cook, Grant took over as senior team goalkeeper, and produced several best on ground (and match winning) performances, showing his skill and versatility. Ryan, came through the youth ranks (mainly playing on the field) to make senior goalkeeper in 2014-15 where he performed strongly, but following a serious back injury, his career has been put on hold. Father Roger (dec.) was a former committee man and youth coach. Kirby played a season for the Premier Women in 2002.



Ryan and Grant Nutting

**McKENZIE – Russell, Craig**

Both brothers started their playing careers for Eagles in the late 70's, although Russell only played for a brief time. Craig continued to be an active participant in a number of teams over the years, but did not make a senior appearance although he did make the match squad in 1986. Craig was also involved in coaching and managing various senior teams.

### **OLA – Joanna & Suzie**

Played for our senior women's team in the mid 80's and were members of the 1987 Premiership team.



**1984 Women's Team featuring the Bilac, Ola and Rosinski families.**

**Back:** Baker, C. Steenhuis, D. Bilac, G. Hickman, E. Plachta, J. Bilac, M. Glass

**Front:** K Watson, Rosinki, B. Rekawiecki, S. Ola, J. Ola, A. Rosinski

### **PAGE – David, Mark, Jenny**

The Page family have been involved with club for a number of years at a playing level (David and Mark, both youth and senior) and team management and committee work (mum Jenny). Mark was part of the premiership winning u17 side in 2005 which was the source of a number of high-quality senior players. A fast and aggressive defender he was senior team captain in 2011-12. David (also a strong defender) has also played at a senior level in the mid '00's, and has made a return to playing this season (2021), in the club's Division 6 side, and is playing with his trademark hardness and enthusiasm.

### **PHILLIPS – Mark, Ben, James, Luke**

Mark was a youth player for Eagles in the late 70's playing in the u15's in 1978 (coached by Eamon Kelly) and the u17's in 1979 (coached by Glyn Jenkins). James joined the club in 2015 from Olympia. He has been a consistent performer in a number of defensive positions and although he has played a number of senior games over the past six years year's, in recent times he has been unable to lock down a permanent senior spot. Elder brother Ben joined the club from the Glenorchy Knights in 2019 and he added some quality to the Eagles midfield, with his excellent technique and eye for a goal. He is currently not playing, as his focus has shifted to work and study commitments. Hopefully he will return in the near future. Cousin Luke joined the club also from Olympia 2017, and a strong showing in the pre-season enabled him to lock down a permanent senior starting berth as an attacking wide-player. He struggled to maintain a senior position in 2018 and in 2019 was having success as an attacking full-back, when his season was prematurely cut short when a serious injury (a badly split shoulder blade) kept him out of the game for much of the season. He did return towards the latter stage of the year and in his only appearance after his injury, he scored a hat-trick for the reserves.

### **PITCHFORD – Nathan, Stephen**

Nathan joined the Eagles from Hobart Zebras at the start of the 2005 season, but he began his career at Metro-Claremont, where his father, Stephen, is a life member. "I went through the ranks at Metro and then joined Zebras' under-18s, where there were a lot of the state under-age players I'd played with in state sides," Pitchford said. "I was in the reserves last season, and I joined Eagles this year because of the opportunity to play in the seniors. I was offered the full-time senior position, whereas at Zebras, my security as a senior player wasn't confirmed. Eagles offered me a solid spot and it seemed a better opportunity at the time." Zebra's loss was definitely Eagles' gain, as Nathan went on to be a match winning keeper for the club. Injury setbacks didn't stop him from working hard on his game and being regarded as the best keeper in the league. He was also a very handy on-field player with an eye for a goal, which came to the fore in 2013 when he was recovering from a hand

injury which kept him out of the goals. Nathan, who was inducted into the team of the Decade 00's at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner currently plays for the Devonport Strikers in the NPL. Stephen was briefly caretaker coach in 2008 when Ian Parker was in the UK for 5 games and then took over from George Krambousanos midway through 2011 and led the team to the final play-offs, where they were beaten in extra time by South Hobart. He took the reins once again in 2012, and Eagles again missed out on claiming the premiership on the last day of the season and lost the Lakoseljac Cup Final to the Glenorchy Knights. His time at Eagles was very successful, but unfortunately didn't end in any silverware to show for, but his sides highly attacking approach to their games brought a lot of belief and more importantly joy to the supporters that had been lacking in previous seasons. Stephen moved to Hobart Zebras in 2013 at the start of the new V League.

## **Long journey to 100 league games**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 27 APR 2010

NEW Town Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford had mixed feelings after he reached his long-awaited 100th Premier league cap on Saturday.

The 21-year-old conceded three goals in a 3-1 loss to league leader South Hobart, but the custodian produced a string of exceptional saves to prevent South further extending its lead. "Although we lost and I was a bit disappointed about the goals, it still feels pretty good to reach 100 games and I was reasonably happy with how I performed," Pitchford said.

South was continually frustrated by Pitchford, particularly in the first half, and his double save to foil Tom Roach and then Bart Beecroft on 34 minutes was a highlight. His drew praise from opposition coach Ken Morton. "Pitchford was outstanding and some of the saves he made were terrific," Morton said.

The day may have been bittersweet for the keeper, but achieving the milestone was a welcome relief for Pitchford, who spent the 2009 season sidelined after he hyper-extended his knee in a pre-season friendly last year. "I was disappointed I couldn't do it last year, it's been on my mind since then because I was still only 20 last year," Pitchford said.

Pitchford underwent rigorous rehabilitation following surgery on the injury and despite returning to action in this season's Summer Cup, the keeper was again sidelined after he injured the AC joint in his shoulder. With his senior caps stalled on 93 for over 12 months, Pitchford recovered in time to start all seven league games this season to boost his career appearances to 100.

Pitchford made his senior debut for Hobart Zebras in 2004 at the age of 15, before moving to Eagles the next year where he established himself as one of the best keepers in the Premier League. Pitchford made a name for himself when he produced top-class performances for the under-21 state exhibition side in a four-match series against A-League youth teams. Eagles struggled with goalkeeping cover in the absence of Pitchford last year and will welcome his return.



Eagles' keeper Nathan Pitchford climbs and takes a cross [PlessPix]

# Cup passion decides as two families clash

FORGET recent results. Disregard player form and southern Premier League status.

The Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy decider this afternoon will come down to the team that is psychologically prepared, attacks the ball with the greatest vigour and punishes its opponent in a cut-throat manner.

Not disregarding the importance of other recent editions, this final is all about history, passion and emotion and when the whistle sounds at KGV Park from 5.30pm, Glenorchy Knights and New Town Eagles will attempt to write a new golden chapter in their respective soccer history books.

Such is the significance of this match that both clubs' seasons could be defined by it.

The Knights' six-year wait to once again lift the trophy it has significant attachment to and which is named after one of the club's late greats looms as the biggest emotional motivator.

But not when you consider the Eagles' 15-year major trophy drought and the fact that New Town came agonisingly close to achieving final success in the Statewide finals series last season.

If Glenorchy's name is etched on the legendary huon pine trophy, it could provide the boost necessary for Knights to resurrect its flailing league season. If New Town prospers, it will not only end a decade and a half without major silverware but propel it towards further success in the Premier League.

Then there's the unique family affair that this tie serves up - both coaches, the Eagles' Stephen Pitchford and the Knights' Chris Hey, have sons playing in the side and family pride is on the line.



JULIUS ROSS

"There's no doubt that if we come out on top, it'll be a great day," Stephen Pitchford, father of Eagles keeper Nathan, said.

Nathan is a pivotal character in his father's team in goal, but there are match winners across the park and red-hot strike partners Alex Leszczynski and Adam McKeown are likely to have an important role to play in the result.

Hey affords his son Jayden the same treatment as any other player in his squad, but there is no doubting the significance of the combination to the Knights' success.

"It's sometimes difficult, and I'm sure Steve would agree, coaching your own son, but you treat them as an equal with everybody else, no more, no less," Hey said.

"If we hold the trophy up, it'll be a proud moment for me."

## THE SQUADS

### LIKELY LINE-UPS

**New Town Eagles:** Pitchford, Page, Cox, Anderson, Clark, Whitehall, Scott, Hudson, Collins, McKeown, Lesczynski

**Glenorchy Knights:** Le Rossignol, Clay, Holmes, Johnson, Nowicki, Hugloot, Hey, Griffin, Letko, Strange, Mamey/Robb

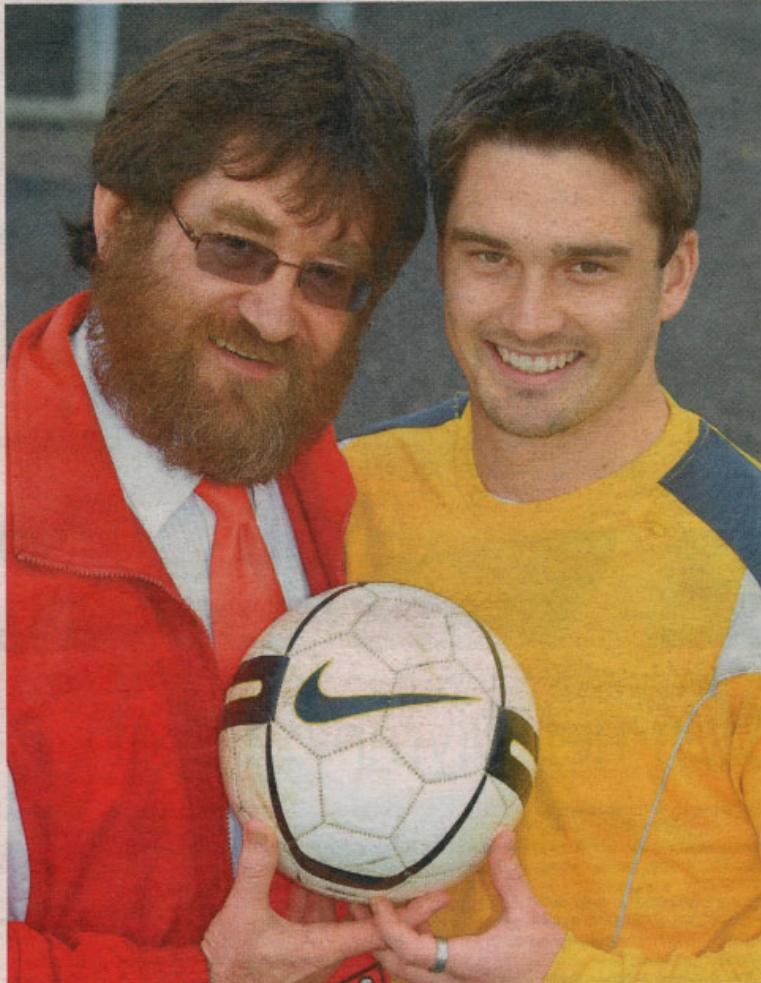
### TODAY'S SCHEDULE

**10am:** U-19s: Kingborough Lions United v Clarence United

**12.30pm:** Vase Final: Olympia Warriors v Devonport City

**3pm:** Women's statewide cup final: Olympia Warriors v Clarence United

**5.30pm:** Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy Final: New Town Eagles v Glenorchy Knights



TOGETHER: New Town Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford with his son Nathan, who is the goalkeeper in the senior side.

Picture: RAOUl KOCHANOWSKI

## PITT – Craig, Mark, Joshua

Craig joined the club in 1987 from Metro and it wasn't long before he was a senior squad member. He was a premiership player in the 1988-91 period. He also played in the '95 and '97 premiership winning teams. A versatile player who spent the majority of his playing career at Eagles in a midfield role, combining a high work rate with an eye for goal, he finished his Eagle's career at sweeper in the "Grand Slam" team of '97. Craig is also a member of the Team of the Decade 90's. Mark played for the club from the early 90's and played as high as the reserves and continued to play for the club's "social" sides for many years. He was awarded Player Life Membership at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration dinner. Joshua was a talented youth player who won a Best & Fairest award in 2016. He is currently focused on his cricket ambitions, but hopefully he will return to play in years to come.

## White Eagle veteran enjoying his new role with club

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 06 MAY 1997

CRAIG Pitt, the 27-year-old sweeper of State League soccer competition leader New Town Eagle, has come home in a sense. Pitt has played in most positions on the field and spent the past few seasons in midfield. He first started as a sweeper, however, and played in that role when a State representative at under-15 and under-16 level, so he feels quite comfortable this season.

"The retirement of our previous sweeper, Scott Young, prompted the current move," Pitt said. "I enjoy midfield, but last year I played in the defence in a marking role, and it's harder to mark opponents. My role now is to organise the other defenders, but I don't mind it." He also manages to find time to push forward into attack and have the occasional crack at goal, which is typical of Eagle, which has players in every position who can score, a key factor in the team's high scoring rate.

"As sweeper, you've got the advantage of seeing the whole ground in front of you," he said. "The real challenge is getting the psyche right so that you can get in the attacking frame of mind when you do get forward. "If you don't, you're struggling because suddenly you're in an attacking frame of mind rather than a defensive one, and you're not watching everything from the back. "You have to be able to make that adjustment and I just have to get better at it."

Pitt started his career at South Hobart and then moved to Metro-Claremont, where he got the occasional senior outing under coach David Smith. He moved to Eagle 10 years ago, starting in the reserves coached by Dale Itchins, and won a premiership first up. It was the first of many at senior level. He believes the championship should go to the team which finishes first and that the Statewide Cup competition caters for those who desire a grand final format.

"Olympia, who beat us in last year's grand final, feel as if they won a final, but I don't think they feel like they've won the premiership," Pitt said. "If grand finals are for the sake of sponsors, I think Soccer Tasmania should push the cup competition and make the Statewide Cup the big prestigious event. "It's not sour grapes because we've won some premierships under the final four and grand final format, and we've lost some that way." Pitt rates the Hobart Zebras, South Hobart and Devonport City as Eagle's main rivals this season. "We've got a very good quality side all over the field," he said. "We've got the players and it's just a matter of putting it all together."



Craig Pitt scoring against Launceston at KGV, as Scott Young watches on.

## **PROUD – Julian, Marcus & Nick**

Julian was a senior player in the late 90's who played his best soccer up front where he could use his great strength, particularly in the air to best advantage. Julian was the club's leading scorer in 1999 and he became Eagles second Vic Tuting Silver Medal winner in the same year. Marcus has been with the club since the early 90's and was a part of the 1997 State-wide Cup Final win over Launceston Zebras, scoring one of the goals in the 5-0 win after coming on as substitute. He also scored a memorable goal in the qualifying final against Hobart Zebras in a 4-1 win also in 1997, again after coming on as a substitute and was a member of the successful 1997 reserves "Grand Slam" team and the all-conquering Division 2 team of 2007. Nick played in a number of the club's youth teams.

## **Medal shocks modest Proud**

By YVETTE MCGUIRE [THE MERCURY] - 04 NOV 1999

NEW Town Eagle midfielder-cum-striker Julian Proud is still in shock after taking out the state's most prestigious soccer award – the Vic Tuting Medal. The 26-year-old had to be cajoled into attending the vote count presentation because the thought of winning it had never occurred to him.

"The president of our club called me a couple of days before the dinner to say he wanted as many of our players there as possible and wanted me to go," he said yesterday. "He also invited my parents, and it wasn't until afterwards that I worked out something was going on." Proud said that during the count held at Wrest Point Casino last Saturday night he still had no idea what was going to happen.

"After about 11 rounds I was on four votes and the leaders were on 13," he said. Obviously a big second half of the season helped Proud storm home to win the award with 17 votes, one clear of three players tied on 16. Proud credits his team-mates and coaches for his success and played down his own role.

"I am by no means the most talented guy at the club and my team-mates helped me through," he said. Proud, a construction site supervisor, has played with New Town Eagle for the past 11 years. "We had a fairly new team this year with a few of the older players moving on," he said. "We had a good mix and with a few injury problems we also had quite a few players coming up from the reserves, which was very encouraging." While Proud was the state's most outstanding player for the 1999 season he was not able to crack it for his own club award, finishing runner-up.



Proud clears the lines with the help of Adam Jones

**QUAN – Josh, Jordan, Kenny**

Josh worked his way form the u19's to become a regular senior squad member in the early 2010's. Mainly used as an impact substitute, Josh was very quick and skillful, and had the useful knack of either scoring, or being involved in a goal scoring situation. He was made club Captain in 2013, but didn't see the season out, as the strain of captaining a struggling senior side at a very young age got the better of him. Jordan was also a regular in the senior team in 2013. Unfortunately, like for Josh, other commitments became a priority, and this meant Eagles did not get to see their undoubted talent develop. Father Kenny has been a regular and enthusiastic participant in many of the club's social sides, and continues to play in 2021.

**REVELL – Shane, Daniel, Nicholas, Natelie**

Shane joined the club in the mid-2000's. An ex-Juventus player, Shane was a highly experienced youth coach and administrator when he arrived, having served as President of the Northern Suburbs Youth Soccer Association for a number of years. As the club's youth Technical Director, he made an immediate impact, and raised the standard of coaching at the club immeasurably, and his hands on approach (he has coached teams every season since his arrival), has seen him help develop a number of the club's current senior players, and players who have subsequently left the club to further their NPL aspirations. His ability to quickly identify "football problems" is unparalleled and has made him a vital component of the Eagle's coaching setup. Shane is currently the club's Senior Technical Director, and in 2021 he is coaching our Premier Women's team. Daniel and Nicholas are knowledgeable players, whom we have not seen the best of yet, but both are young enough to make an impact in the future, whether it be in a playing or coaching capacity. Daniel has regularly assisted in various coaching roles over the years. The club welcomed Natelie in 2021, as she joined our newly revamped women's program.



Youth team featuring the Revells – Daniel, Shane and Nicholas

**SAVAGE – Andrew, Wade**

Andrew was a talented goalkeeper who first made the senior squad in the mid 90's. A solid and reliable keeper, Andrew was a fine shot stopper. The latter part of his playing career was dogged by serious injuries which ended his career prematurely. In 2009 he assisted Rodney Bones in coaching the reserves side. Wade made the senior side in the 00's and was a tough tackling defender. Continual knee problems curtailed his senior playing days, however he has returned in our 60<sup>th</sup> year to play in the club's social side in the Division 6 competition. Wade was also involved in coaching numerous youth and men's teams over the years



Wade Savage breaking up another attack v Olympia

#### **SHACKCLOTH – Adam, Patrick, Bill**

Adam a skillful left-footer, made his senior debut in the mid 00's after some strong performances in the reserves and under 19's. He was equal top-scorer in the senior side in 2007 and was the premier reserves Best & Fairest player in 2009. Adam has regularly coached youth teams, and in 2020 coached the Championship 1 team. His is currently focused on assisting the senior coach Tommy Fotak, and continues to coach the Championship 1 team, whilst also continuing to play in the Division 6 side when time permits. Adam as the club's Sponsorship and Marketing coordinator has done an amazing job lifting the club's profile in the local community and accessing valuable sponsorship dollars. Patrick progressed through the youth ranks and played in the premier reserves, however studies and work opportunities have seen him leave the state. Father Bill was the club's Vice-President for a number of years before taking on the Presidency in 2012 to 2013, although he also fulfilled a number of other roles including team, match and canteen manager and trainer when-ever required.

## **Shackcloth a striking success**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - WED 14 JUN 2006

STRIKER Adam Shackcloth is one of the players being blooded by New Town Eagles as the club seeks to climb up the Premier League soccer ladder.

The 18-year-old, who made five appearances for the seniors last season, made his third start this season on Friday against league leaders Glenorchy Knights. Eagles lost 3-0 and remain second last on the ladder, but Metro-Claremont and Hobart Olympic are only two and three points, respectively, above them. One good win could see Eagles climb from ninth to seventh. As it is, they are five points clear of last-placed Hobart United, and Eagles should be capable of picking up more points as the season progresses to stay clear of the relegation threat.

Shackcloth started playing at primary school for West Hobart, then moved to St Virgil's, where his coach was Michael Edwards, currently coach of rivals Zebras. He joined Eagles three seasons ago and is content with his progress under current coach Ian Parker. Shackcloth was thrilled with the recent 3-1 win over Devonport City in extra-time in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy statewide competition. "We had a very different line-up than we usually have out on the park because there were quite a few players missing," Shackcloth said.

"The missing players will have to prove themselves to get back into the line-up. "If the side that played against Devonport keeps performing, we should stick to it. "I should have put a few goals away, too. I put four on the goalkeeper, which I should have put to the left or right of him." Eagles have one win, three draws and five losses on the board at the halfway mark of the season, but Shackcloth remains optimistic. "I think we can definitely improve," he said. "We just have to show a bit more heart, as we did against Devonport."

Eagles face a difficult away game against third-placed Kingborough Lions United on Saturday. Parker watched the Lions against Hobart United last Saturday and is sure to come up with a strategy for the game, with Shackcloth likely to play a key role as an up-and-coming striker.



**2008 Under 19's featuring the Shackcloth's**

**Back:** K. Davey, C. Minty, J. Clamp, A. Ayres, P. Shackcloth, M. Ball, A. Shackcloth (Coach) **Front:** J. Andrews, A. Gadd, A. Kelly, C. Blizzard, R. Nutting, A. Hagger, J. Quan

#### **SIKORA – John, Mark, Stefan, Christopher**

Mark a cultured defender was a premiership player in 1977 & 1978. Stefan a skillful midfielder was a senior premiership player in the early 80's and continued to play for the club into the 00's in various teams. Stefan was part of the 1992 Division 3 team that were premiers and KO Cup winners. Stefan also coached a number of youth teams over the years. Father John a long serving committee man, is a Life Member of the club an honor bestowed upon him in 1974. Stefan's son Christopher has also played for the Club at a youth and social league level.

#### **SNAPE – Joseph, Peter & Michael**

Joseph played for the club at a youth level in the first half of the 00's. Peter and Michael joined their brother at the club in 2006 and quickly progressed through the club's youth ranks and performed well to make the premier reserves squad. Both possessed great speed and commitment, and all their coaches were impressed with their willingness to learn. As identical twins they caused some confusion amongst coaching staff who found it difficult if not impossible to tell them apart. Other interest took them away from the game, which robbed the club of two potential long-term players.

#### **STERPIN – Aaron, Luke**

Skillful players that played in the early to mid-2000's, with Aaron making a number of senior appearances.

#### **TELEGA – Andrew, Scott**

Both joined the club in the mid 00's from Tilford Zebras although Andrew started his youth career at Eagles. Andrew has captained the club at senior level and has been a multiple Best and Fairest winner (2005, 2006, 2015 and 2018). He has been a

strong reliable player, fast and hard in the tackle and strong in the air. A quiet achiever who rarely breaks a sweat (due to great positioning and game sense), he lets his play do the talking. Andrew has also helped coach at a youth level in his time at the club and continues to be a member of the current senior squad (2021), although recently he has been hampered by some niggling injuries which has limited his game time. Scott was a left sided player that liked to attack and had a powerful shot but lacked consistency throughout his time at the club to maintain a regular senior berth.

## ⚽ Leader's reward in Eagle lift-off

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 05 JUL 2006

NEW Town Eagles captain Andrew Telega always had faith in his side moving out of the Premier League soccer competition relegation zone.

His faith was rewarded when the Eagles scored a shock 3-2 win at home at Clare St over title-chasing South Hobart on Saturday. The win lifted the Eagles up a place from second-last to eighth on the ladder and it was the 24-year-old Telega who scored the third and winning goal with a free-kick. A central defender, Telega is noted for his ability at set pieces, even when he was with Zebras, and they won the title two seasons ago.

His move from the Zebras to the Eagles at the beginning of last year came as a surprise. "I have no regrets about the move," said Telega, whose brother Scott also made the move. "I left Zebras at their pinnacle, when over two years we had only one or two losses. "I came to Eagles knowing full well they had a young side and hoping I could help them build up and, within a couple of years, be top of the ladder. "We're clear of bottom side Hobart United and I think we can stay ahead. "I can see us moving up at least a couple of places because we have the ability to do that. We just have to maintain our concentration the full game."

Telega has a lot of responsibility on his shoulders. He is the captain, the oldest in the side and the only one to have won a senior championship. He is the powerhouse of the side, marshalling the defence and moving forward at every chance. "We've shown the ability to be higher on the ladder but it's quite daunting when you look at the side and realise that, at 24, you're at least three years older than the next bloke," Telega said. "We are looking at things as a rebuilding year and, hopefully, we'll get some of these young players established as senior players.

"We are often using youngsters from the reserves and the under-19s to build a new team. "I've got good support from guys like Chris Jones, Grant Nutting and Brian Zielinski and I try to give everything I have in games." Eagles face Launceston City, which knocked out title-holder Glenorchy Knights, in this Saturday's quarter-finals of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy competition. The Eagles will attempt their giant-killing act at Launceston's Mitsubishi Park, in Prospect.



2007 Senior Team featuring the Telega brothers

Back: S. Telega, A. Telega, M. Rybak, C. Collins, A. Leszczynski, N. Pitchford Front: C. Jones, A. Clark, G. Nutting, J. Hadfield, C. Stingle

#### **TRUEMAN – Dennis & Derek**

Dennis played in the 1977 & 1978 Premiership sides and was a versatile player, a hard tackling defender, and a strong midfield option. Derek joined the club in the mid 80's and although not as talented as Derek, was a reliable, hard-working midfielder who was strong in the air despite his lack of height. Dennis also coached a number of youth teams in his time at the club in the late 70's.

#### **TURNER – Rick & David**

Both brothers came to the club in the mid-90's from Launceston and slotted in nicely from day one. Rick was an old-style defender who rarely had a bad game and David was an attacking mid-fielder with a ferocious shot and a throw in that was as good as a corner. Rick was a premiership player in 1995 and David in 1997. Both played integral parts in the 1997 season in the senior and reserve "Grand Slams".

#### **VERNON – Stevan, Jamie, Mark**

Stevan has been with the club since the early 80's making several senior appearances in 1983. He has played in numerous teams and has a strong presence on the field. His strength in the air and tough tackling, plus his sheer resilience to perform at a good level, have been the hallmarks of his game. Stevan has won multiple Reserves Best & Fairests, and was awarded Player Life Membership at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration dinner. Jamie who broke into the senior squad in 2008 following a fine season in the under 19's, where he was the leading goalscorer in the league, is a versatile player who is strong in the air and has good skills at ground level. Coming back from a knee injury in 2015, Jamie has worked hard to earn a regular senior spot, and his all-round ability has seen him play in multiple positions with aplomb, from centre-forward to centre-back. He has been an excellent role model for the younger players coming into the senior squad. Mark played with the club at a youth level for a number of seasons, before taking a break from the game. He returned in 2016 and immediately showed the ability that was always present at a young age, being awarded the Best & Fairest in the Championship 1 team.

## **Stalwart's injury may spell end of fine career**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] – 30/7/1997

THE news from the doctor this week was not good for New Town White Eagle's Premier League stalwart Steve Vernon. The 34-year-old defender is probably out for the season, and forced retirement after a long career spent with the one club is a distinct possibility. Vernon was diagnosed as having stress fractures in the left foot, ankle and the bone just below the knee.

"The injury was caused by road runs, which I've been doing because I can't always attend training," Vernon said. "I had a bone scan and I'll see the doctor again this week for the final verdict. "I'm hoping it won't be the end of my playing career, because I'm not a good watcher.

"I left before the start of Saturday's game because I wasn't able to play and I just couldn't bear to watch, Eagle beat Metro-Claremont 2-1 but had three players sent off."

Vernon has been with the club since 1983 and has played mainly at reserve level, although he did make two senior appearances, both as a substitute.

It was in 1983 that the club was relegated from the top-flight, most of the players went on to achieve outstanding success in later seasons as Eagle rose to become one of the forces within Tasmanian soccer. "That was the year Simon Templeman was centre-forward, Andrew 'Dreamer' Leszczynski went to Brisbane for a trial, and David Stoddart was a raw 16-year-old," Vernon recalled.

"Most of the players are still at the club, or at least the nucleus of that side is." Vernon has seen many changes over the years, including the cessation of player payments, the abandonment of player contracts, and the rise of the club to the pre-eminent position in Tasmanian soccer.

"No other club can boast of having a team in the top three leagues, that is, the State League, the State Youth Reserve League and the Premier League," he said. "The Premier League side is, in effect, the third-team, but it plays in a strong competition against the likes of University and isn't really the third team in the usual sense of the word.

"We've got good young players coming through, players such as Chris Cox, Michael Rybak and Robbie Street, and they'll probably be through to the State League side next year." Vernon has won two best-and-fairest awards for the reserves in seasons past and rates his marking ability, strength in the air and tackling as his strong points. Hobart Zebras State League striker Sergio Pace has been his most difficult opponent over the years.

"Sergio has a leap on him like a kangaroo and when he played for PO Saints against us in the Summer Cup final I was marking him, but he scored with a header after only about 15 or 20 seconds," Vernon said. If it is, indeed, the end of Vernon's career, he is already grooming his successor.

"I coach the Rosetta under-sevens, where my son Jamie plays, and he'll join White Eagle when he's old enough. As it is, he's already at every Eagle game with me."

If Jamie displays the same passion and commitment to Eagle that his father has done, the club will be well pleased.



The Vernon's, Mark, Stevan and Jamie

#### **ZIELINSKI – Brian & Andrew**

Brian was a senior player in the 00's and continued to play in the lower divisions for a number of years. An intelligent player, he was a strong competitor and good at bringing other people into the game. Used mainly as a target man, his senior career was hampered by numerous. Andrew played for the club in the 00's in the lower divisions.