

Felix Hudson

CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 GAMES

- **What does playing 100 games for the UFC mean to you?**

It's a big honour, and has provided me with some fantastic memories both on and off the field that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Being involved with the weird and wonderful blokes that make up the UFC over the past 8 years has resulted in many laughs and some good friends.

- **Who are the coaches you have had in your time at the club and can you tell us a bit about each of them?**

Simon Growden (2002-2003)

I rocked up for my first training session and having been told to check in with Growdy, I approached a bloke who seemed to know what was going on and asked if his name was Simon Growden. This guy looked at me as if I had just insulted his ancestry before asking me not to ever make that mistake again, and that his name was in fact John Rock!

Such was the aura around Simon Growden, based on an exceptional ability to get a team to gel together off the park, which made for a couple of great seasons. He created an environment where guys just wanted to be involved, not just the 22 playing each week but the broader squad. We lost the 2003 GF by 2 points but if we had won the celebrations would have been something to see. 4 years later, we managed to get Growdy a Dingoes flag in his final game, and I don't think anybody in that team deserved it more.

Andrew Mason (2004-2006)

Brought a comprehensive support staff and as much stability to the team as possible during a couple of years of fairly high player rotation. With a lot of guys from 03 not continuing, Mase poured a lot into the side, ensuring the Dingoes didn't slide down the ladder. I think a fair bit of the success over the last couple of years is due to having a core group of guys in that 40 – 100 game bracket who have played a fair bit of footy together, and a lot of the guys came into the side during Mase's tenure. Had a simple, uncomplicated way of coaching where you knew where you stood.

Trent Smoker & Jordan Owenell (2007–2009)

I love their passion for the dingoes. They handle a squad of 50-60 blokes who rock up at preseason and over the last couple of years have generated an environment where most of these will hang around, play footy and enjoy a few beers, and the team has enjoyed the ultimate success. Both put a lot of thinking into their coaching, and provide counterpoints of inspiration whether it be on the field or with whiteboard in hand.

- **Can you give us a few of your highlights both on and off the field since being at the club?**

Premierships naturally provide the on field highlights, but the experience extends further than that into the night, the medal count the next day and then the relative calm of Monday, sitting at some pub nursing a sore head, small beer, and a warm fuzzy premiership glow. After having been so close for a number of years, 2007 was absolutely awesome. There was a feeling in the rooms that it was our year, and after CBC kicked the first goal, we slammed on the next 8 and weren't going to be beaten from there.

2008 was a different feel, as we came in as the defending premiers and had different expectations on ourselves, and to meet those expectations and back up with another flag was fantastic.

2003 was also a ripper year...It was also an honour to play a couple of years with club legend \$8...I could go on...

- **Why did you come to the Great UFC?**

A couple of mates at uni were keen to get back into footy after playing through high school so suggested we join the UFC. Signed up to play colts at Uni O-Day in 2001, only to discover that it was some Collegians who had set up a stall on our turf.

Had a bit of a crook back that hindered me from getting into pre-season, probably from carrying a bit of podge around and decided to get fit before having a serious go with the lower grades the next year. Went back in 2002, made sure it really was the UFC, and haven't looked back...of the two guys I came down with, one managed a couple of games a few years ago, while the other's contribution to the club was crashing one of Crusty's delivery vans...

- **Now, you are well known for having massive piece. In fact Simon Growden often said he swore it had an elbow in it. As a result of this massive manhood, I am sure you have had many nicknames during your time at the club. What are some of them and their brief origins?**

I don't know how these rumours start Trent. I like to think that I have nothing to be ashamed of downstairs, but there is no way I will willingly put myself into a position to allow comparisons with Clap or Cookie....

As for nicknames, Cat/Catta/Cattery are pretty obvious ones. Have also been known as the One Eyed Mexican and Cock Eye, due to the fact that I have a lazy eye which kicks in after a few beers.

- **You are currently involved with the sister of a UFC player. Was the AJ involved in the beginning, and is there any animosity between you and Cambo?**

The AJ had absolutely no involvement, and Cambo and I get along just fine. Was looking forward to playing a bit of footy with him this year before his back packed it in.

- **Greatest player you have seen to pull on the UFC Jumper?**

In fairness, probably haven't seen as much of A-Grade as I should have in the last couple of years, but Matty O'Hara was a gun.

Deane Fairfoul was a magnificent player when he played Dingoes, and unsurprisingly progressed up the grades.

Booga McKinnon and Rhys Gardiner were great to watch, and I used to love Matty Terry's hardness and willingness to run...always wish I had Lingas skills.

More than a few guys in the current team are fantastic contributors – Franko, Stix reads the play so well, Macca, Smokes, Wooda, Labba, and I'm going to regret saying this but Gameplan makes a difference...

- **Greatest UFC team you have been involved with?**

Can't split 2008 and 2007, with 2003 a very close third...we are only 2 rounds into 2009 though so watch this space...

- **Greatest Victory you have been involved in?**

The 2007 Grand final nudges out last year as it was the first premiership.

Winning the 2006 qualifying final against North Freo by a point after Stix scored the last seven points of the game was the best non premiership win.

- **Playing with the Dingoes, you've played with a fairly weird bunch of blokes. Who is the Most Memorable Player you have played with and why?**

John Lawton is one of a kind.

Aven the Moot Stallard (2004?) was a weird cat, you've got to respect anybody with the balls to put his nickname down as the Avantor when joining a new club.

Sleepy Franklyn was always amusing, watching him slap blokes in the face before taking hangs on their shoulder and kick goals was a laugh and for me he will always have the best telling of the \$8 story

Growdy's off field banter, laef's reign as joint pooh bah, stix's rigorous pre game preparation and Rhys' post game rehabilitation joints indicate the special sort of guys we get down at the club.

- **You are always a solid performer on bus trips, often a big fan of belting out an 80's tune or two. Who do you sit next to on the bus trips both there and back?**

No real preference on the way there. On the way back, often next to one of the newer blokes in the team. In no circumstances near the looser units in the team, so at least 3 rows from Bully or Digger.

- **Who do you sit next to in the change rooms?**

Wherever there's room.

- **Favorite position both on and off the field?**

On – half back flank. Off – anything that takes the weight off the hammies...

- **Favorite Movie, Food, Beverage?**

Last of the Mohicans, my Mum's lasagna, ginger beer

- **Funniest situation on the field?**

Matt Terry getting a spray from the umpire in 2003 for coming off the ground through the interchange bench, and heading straight to the marquee bar for some rehydration.

Sammy Binder used to provide some magnificent calls from the sideline. Lawto's goal celebrations are worth the price of admission, or at least they were before the shoulder went...

- **Off the field, when drunk you often end up with one eye closed. Surely this physiological predicament has caused some embarrassing moments for you?**

I'm certainly not the most photogenic person going around. By the time the eye kicks in though it is usually one of the less embarrassing things going on...

- **We all know you are the coaches dream when it comes to playing the game, but what would you say are the strengths of your game?**

You need to set your dream goals a bit higher Trent. I like the fisting and tackling, and am reasonable by hand. You'd be surprised at the illusion of talent which can be created with a bit of effort.

- **And the weaknesses?**

Would love to take a few more grabs and get more of the pill. The speed has gone downhill with the hamstrings sadly. Even playing in the backline, with 5.7 and two out on the full over 7 years you'd have to say the goal kicking needs a bit of work too...

- **Where do you see yourself in 5,10 and 20 years?**

5 years: Still going with more premierships in the bank. If that is as a forward pocket option, so be it...

10 years: The odd game in the masters league? Who knows...

20 years: Getting involved with my kids sport, eying off retirement, and reminiscing of the Dingo days.

- **Word Association. What do you think of when I say the following?**

Simon Growden - Always delivers

Arthur Korovesi - That laugh.

Bus Trips - No death policy, nearly broken when Mase got dropped on his head.

Mexicans - Will Gow is a forgiving man.

The Mackinnon's - Dingo Footballing Dynasty.

Sleepy - Slapping

Converse All Stars - I've always known they were cool

John Farnham - Woooo-oooohhohhh-ooohhooohooo-oohhoooah

\$8 - 50c 50c...

Cat it's been great playing with you over the years - Best of luck for your 100th game and let's celebrate with a great win!

Cheers Smokes, lets teach the beach.