

Nathan Hogg

CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 GAMES

From humble beginnings as the slightly overweight and fairly lazy younger brother of then Australian cricketer Brad, Hoggy has developed into a role with the Leadership Group as one of the senior players in the A-Grade side. He played his 100th game for Uni in the Round Four win over CBC. His old mate Mayo caught up with Hoggy over Skype from his office up north. This is what Hoggy had to say ...

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

Yeh its definitely something I feel very privileged to achieve and getting my name up on the board with some great players and blokes (a few I've been lucky enough to play with) of the club is something I will cherish.

I guess, when you start to reminisce over the 7 or so years you've had down here you realize how many great moments (e.g... that euphoric winning feeling after games I talked about in my much hyped pre 100th game speech) the club has given you, and how special a place it is to you.

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

- Barts (05 Ressies): Very good coach and bloke, bit pussy whipped that year though. Had the boys training hard and didn't mind a spray. Coached most successful team I've been in down here.

- Chips (05) League: Got splinters from riding the pine so hard in those 3 games. Don't really know enough about Chips to comment further.

- Ben "Jam Roll" McKinnon (06) Ressies: Good lad, loves 6 on 7 drill inside the 50m zone. Loves even more being the 7th man in that drill and directing everyone else to man up so he gets heaps of possies.

- Howard Styles (06-07 League): Hard nosed coach, liked unconditional effort from his players (don't think my laid back attitude sat too well with him). Loved Brendan May cause of his style and most hated man in WAAFL status). Definitely credit him with getting me to take my footy a bit more seriously and improving me as a player. Put a lot of work in to the team/club and have a lot of respect for the guy.

- Ian Rakich (A grade 08-09): Put so much time, effort and \$ (from all reports) in to making the team a success after years of A grade just missing relegation. Can't have enough people like this involved at the club and its great to see him still rocking up to games to watch. Hope he gets a lot of satisfaction out of watching us now as he definitely set the foundation for getting the current core group of players playing together in A grade.

- Greg Erskine (A Ressies 10): only a couple of games under the great man but have also played many with him. Good on bus trips. Keeps all the young lads entertained

with stories at fine sessions, a few of us older guys have heard about 15 times (for example: the one involving a former player giving sit ins with the lads wearing motorcycle helmets in the closet). Definitely gives the club a great atmosphere and I think fair to say has legend status down here. Enough said.

- Tom Matson (10 league): I think brought a really professional attitude to the group through training and match day. Really did put effort in to making the team a success (shown by him flying back from Sydney to play in games). A lot of people that come to amnies from WAFL can just walk in and think they own the joint but not Matto. You could tell he really wanted to be involved and the lads highly respected him greatly for that.

- Damien Crimmins (10 league): Great bloke, just seems like he was born to coach. Pity he couldn't continue after the birth of his child. Very calm, but focused approach and instilled a lot of confidence in the team. Unlucky not to take us further I thought.

- Luke Dwyer (11 league): Kind of have to be nice here so I still get a game. Great communicator, gets message across well. Can definitely tell he is a school teacher. Has the lads firing with the best start we've had to a season for 12 years. Hopefully can keep it going and be the first A Grade premiership coach at UFC this century.

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

- Probably a couple of 50m goals, left foot snaps for goal and few runs taking a few bounces down the wing would make up most of my highlights package.

Off field

- Knocking it right next to the whole 1st shot at 2010 \$1000 draw day.
- Bus trips, 1000 dollar draw day and medal counts I'm a big fan of.
- Every Saturday night out with the ressie boys back in 05 was very enjoyable.

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

Came down and played C Colts for 2 games. Very lazy footballer back then and lack of effort/care resulted in me not getting around it too much and leaving.

Two seasons later was weighing up were to play footy and prob wasn't gonna come back down. Then you (Mayo) pretty much said to me "Stop being such a faggot and just come down and play with us". So I did along with the Labrat! Got way more involved when I came back down and enjoyed a great year with the ressie lads. Haven't looked back since. Very glad I listened.

▪ **Success rate at the AJ?**

Doughnuts.

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

Been a lot. Instead of sitting on the fence I will say Matthew "Big Horse" Breen. Mobile, great pair of hands, can go fwd and difference between best and worst is always marginal.

Following players very close behind:

- James Grabski: great skipper, always at the coal face from start to end of games.
- Simon Jones: Always presenting and leading straight up the ground, no better player to kick the ball to, great hands, always competing.
- Matt O' Hara: Silky smooth one touch player, does some ridiculous things.
- Paul "Jesus" Galloway: Probably played most footy with this guy. Hard at it, reminds me of G Ablett Jnr the way he moves, very classy.
- David Crudeli: Less niggly/painful version of H. Ballantyne. Rarely plays a bad game and kicked best goal I've ever seen live at Dalkeith one day.
- Steven Wood: Best tackler I've seen, hard it strong leader.
- Senior "Flying Fist" O'Rourke: Most improved player I've seen at club. Reinvented himself as a jet FB in A grade from being just reasonable A Res player. Think his brother Junior could end up being the best player we see down here in future if he keeps going the way he is.

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

Hopefully the one I'm in currently can keep going. Great bunch of lads and would be great if we can grab that A grade flag that's eluded us for too long.

Previously has to be 05 Ressies team. Great fun winning games almost every week and theme was 'get loose' afterwards. Great bunch of blokes. Made the preliminary final and fell short in controversial circumstances. Playing with these guys definitely more than justified my decision to stop being a faggot (in Mayo's words) and get down here.

▪ **Greatest victory you have been involved in?**

Beating North Beach in A Grade for the 1st time last year. Have copped a fair few floggings from them and was ultra satisfying to see all their supporters and coach losing it like they did on the sidelines. Wins like that have really given us the belief that we are building something special at the moment.

Also winning final in rессies to be guaranteed prelim was good. Pity couldn't go further.

▪ **Who do you sit next to on the bus trips both there and back?**

On way there usually on spare seat at the front due to being last one there (poor

punctuality).

On way back at least 5m away from Erk Dog so I can clearly hear/enjoy his ra ta ta's but not lose an ear drum in the process.

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

Not exclusive with who I sit next too. But always sit right next to the door to the toilets for easy access for my pre game journey to the sh*tter.

▪ **Favourite position both on and off the field?**

Wing/Half fwd.

Flat on my back/Cowgirl position. Nice and laid back, best viewing spot.

▪ **Funniest situation on the field?**

Probably can't single out one situation. But your good self and Chris Marshall have provided a few entertaining moments:

You (Mayo) for some of your ordinary sledges over the years. The intensity and abruptness of these are well and truly matched by their complete lack of wit. One I can remember:

- Against North Beach (we were getting towelled by about 7-8 goals in last quarter) yelled a few words to NB player on other side of ground who looked in pretty good shape (definitely no Lance Whitnall)
"Go on, have a look at ya, what are you doing playing, your too fcken fat for A grade".
Gems like this were a weekly occurrence which I always got pleasure of having a little giggle from opposite wing. Think you should leave the sledging to Warney & co.

Marshy (Dolph Lundgren) when:

- Eating an Avocado and listening to Enya (sail away, sail away, sail away) track on his I-Pod pre match.
- During game: Bloke from other team with one arm had picked off a couple of smaller/younger guys in the team. Grabbed by the big fella with the words "do it again and I'll rip your other fcken arm off" before smashing him to the ground.

▪ **Most embarrassing moment?**

- On field was couple of years ago falling asleep for a bit when sitting on the pine in a game after bit of a Friday night after work blow out. This was after having a couple of no doze pre game to keep me awake. Never drank Friday pre match again.
- Off field was attending my 1st A-Grade function (at Wiesey's house), cocktail theme or something and I got in to what were back then my very best threads (short sleeve button up shirt and very non trendy early 90's style business tie, also rocking a combover hair style). Informed some time after the event by

Wiesey that the common response/thoughts to my arrival was (to grab a couple of quotes from the Hangover)

“You're not really wearing that are you?”, “You actually gonna wear that or are you just fuckin' with me” and “Who brought this guy along??”.

Obviously this lad from the country's A game was not enough to match it with the Western Suburb boys fashion sense. Like to think I've improved in this area over the journey though.

▪ **Worst injury?**

- Adductor injury obtained from trip with lads to Bali/sheer stupidity. Note to self, don't think your Mick Doohan along Kuta Beach Drive when riding a scooter, and brakes are included on a scooter for a reason. Have to say I feel pretty lucky coming out of that one with just an adductor injury, some cuts, bruises, severed nose, concussion, 3-4 weeks on the sidelines and a fair few less rupiah.

▪ **Strengths in your game?**

Skills, 2 way running, smarts.

▪ **And the weaknesses?**

Need more aggression/mongrel, sometimes consistency and too laid back (although have got a bit more intense with age).

▪ **People are often confused whether you are a right or left footer. How did you get such a good left boot?**

Consider it a mixture of natural talent and a by product of my sad deprived young primary school life on the farm. Pretty much an only child (Brad was in Perth full time) on farm, strict parents (no computer games or anything) and after I'd done my homework (if dad was on our other farm or out in paddocks) wasn't much else to do (no other kids anywhere around the place) and I loved my sports. So I'd kick the footy a fair bit (at goals I'd set up). Got bored of kicking on right so thought I'd start going on left a bit.

Gee writing that made me extra thankful to the olds I got shipped off to boarding school early on.

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

5 years: Still playing in some capacity (definitely fwd) after doing some travelling.

10 years: Successful 36 yr old employee/share market investor, probably sponsoring the club and getting down to watch a few games in the much anticipated new ground/bar facility (is that still happening?).

20 years: No idea, but definitely would have stacked on a few kegs. Fingers X I'll be semi retired from work.

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

PPP: 1st show was educational as a youngster (C colt) and good to see some tits for a change back then. Special mention to Nathan Dovey on busting a knee in best jelly wrestling effort with strippers I've seen a few years back. Got right around it, but left a big hole in team not playing for about 8 weeks.

LEFT FOOT: = money. (had to sneak some arrogance in here).

LEADERSHIP GROUP: A group of leaders?

HANDBALL: received many, given nil - minimal. Watched too much Scott Lucas.

MAYO: The "Beaka", Animal turned family man. Social sports are unknown to this guy.

PARAMOUNT: Much poorer/sh*tter cousin of the Shed. Possibly the worst place I've been.

Its been great and hopefully few more games/ wins to come.

