

Tim “BANNERS” Banfield

CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 GAMES

Subject to making it through training this week Banners will play his 100th game for the club this weekend against Mt Lawley at Hamer Park in what is a massive game as the A reserves grade side looks to consolidate top spot. In a pipe dream that has taken about 11 years to eventuate Tim will be lining up alongside brother Drew and following in the footsteps of his Father former UFC star Ross and his brother Greg in representing the club with distinction. A former A grade F&B Winner, great servant of the club and all round great bloke, “Banners” has spent many seasons roaming the hallowed McGillivray turf, causing headaches for opposition. Fellow teammate Peter Toll caught up with Tim this week to find out about his stint at the club covering a period of 20+ years.....

- **Tim, great to catch up with you prior to this weekend’s game it has been a long time coming and we have discussed this over many beers but it has arrived! It is an important and celebrated milestone 100 games at the club, but what does playing 100 games for the UFC mean to you?**

Well Tolly, when you look at the A reserves and A grade on top of the ladder and what could be achieved this year it is another game we have to win to get to the finals - where anything could happen, its quite exciting. I have had lots of good times at the UFC over the years and have made, and are still making, many good mates along the way so I suppose 100 games gives you a chance to reflect on all that which is great.

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

Leaving school, my best mates Jamie Mann and Nath Ledger and I decided we were all going to play at the UFC to so we all joined Colts together down at James Oval. As you mentioned, Dad played down here, and my uncle Greg also played here so there was a family connection which was also big factor for me. They always would talk about their days down at the UFC with fond memories. Manny and I have had many, many good times at the UFC, one of the best decisions we ever made

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

John “Fish” Taylor, A Colts: A legendary coach. A very fair bloke who had huge respect, he made us train hard and play hard as footballers but would always make sure we had sponsors to fill a large esky full of beer for the boys to drink after the game – a key part of being a colt. He moulded a group of blokes from different schools and backgrounds into a tight knit undefeated premiership team.

Cam “Shep” Shepherd, A Grade: A very successful A grade coach and unlucky not to have won a premiership. Shep knew his footy very well (I remember him always saying “Count your possessions”) and was always good to have a beer and a laugh with.

Brad “Les” Mumme, A Grade: The 1996 A Grade premiership coach - speaks for itself. I played a lot of my A Grade footy under Les but went to Claremont in 1996 and missed that premiership.. A very, very good footballer and equally as good a coach. The years of football under Les’s guidance were some of my best. Good times.

Greg Erskine, A Reserves: Erkdog has got the A Reserves firing. Great coach and nothing gets in the way of a laugh.

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

When I arrived at the club in 1990 Ken Hunter was the A Grade coach. For a colt it was awesome to have this Claremont/Carlton icon involved in the club and the UFC was buzzing. Roger Steinepreis, an A Grade/UFC legend, was President, and AJ shows had lines of people out the door to get in. An awesome period of time.

Many bus trips have been had and all are highlights – Jim Malone was a master of the bus trip and “first to finish the Port bottle” races were often the end of most. Nothing like singing the song on the way into the AJ particularly after a win

The Backs v Forwards keg off was always a highlight, being backmen we always ended up defending our leads or trying to gain a lead anyway we could – this often resulted in a wrestling event between the backs and forwards where inevitably the venue would get trashed.

Highlights on the field over the years have been to name a few; Benny Mathews high flying marks, Mike Simpson winning the A Colts Assoc medal after dominating all year, Percy Caldwell dominating the wing, Killer being the competitions best Centre Half Forward in his prime, Critta Prendiville at Centre Half Back, A Colts premiership, winning against Wembley was always good. Lately, the A Grade Coach Luke Dwyer has set the standard on preparation and training and his coaching, along with Erk Dog in the A Reserves, has put the club in a really solid position heading into the second half of the season. It is good to be a part of it.

- **Speaking of off-field highlights, you have a reputation for putting in some outstanding performances at all social occasions. Walk us through a couple of them.**

Enough said

- **There have been some very handy players rocking around in the UFC jumper over the years, but who are the greatest players you have seen to pull on the UFC Jumper? You excluded of course...**

Chris "Chips" Massey
 Shaun "Bob" Massey
 Brad "Les" Mumme
 Nick "Stoney" Stone
 Ty "Killer" Kilburn
 Peter "Huddo" Hudson

- **What was the Greatest Victory you have been involved in?**

A Colts premiership against Nollamara was a good one.

- **Over the distance there have been some successful teams you have been involved in across various grades at the UFC. What do you believe was the greatest UFC team you have been involved with?**

1990 A Colts undefeated Premiership team is hard to beat.

- **Apart from me, who is the Most Memorable Player you have played with?**

Apart from you Tolly, a tie between Chips Massey, an inspirational A Grade Captain who led the team from the front, and his brother Bob Massey, a ball magnet who had (probably still has) a beautiful stab pass that never missed a target.

- **Bus trips are a massive part of UFC culture, and you have definitely contributed to this, who do you sit next to on the bus trip, both there and back?**

Its been a while Tolly, can't really remember. Generally wouldn't be able to answer that one the day after a bus trip let alone now! I was next to Tommy Lowe one bus trip when we were all attached to a colt, that was a large one!

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

It's a challenge trying to get there on time mostly Tolly – no time for sitting

- **What is your favourite position both on and off the field?**

Half forward these days on the field and on the couch horizontal off the field after the game (usually with an ice pack!)

- **Favourite Movie, Food, Beverage?**

Movie - Braveheart

Food - Gemma's (wife) cooking – she would dominate Masterchef if she went on

Drink - Beer

▪ **Funniest situation on the field?**

Gars knocked out a seagull with a kick two weeks ago at North Fremantle
Got told on the field once that I wasn't even my brother's bootlace which made me chuckle

Wasn't that funny at the time but watching Nollamara unravel in the A Colts GF was on reflection humourous – they just went the knuckle and at one point one of them karate kicked a water bottle out of my hands

▪ **What would you say are the strengths of your game?**

Feeding off the good players

▪ **And the weaknesses? (if any)**

Many

▪ **I note it has been 11 years between season at MacGillivray what if any differences have you noted?**

I have got much slower

I think the AJ used to have carpet?

▪ **How long since you have played in the same team with your brother Drew, I remember he played a few games for Uni about 20 years ago while Subi and Perth were arguing over his services but if my memory is right you may have been at a WAFL club at the same stage?**

We haven't played together since under 15's for Quairading so its been a while. When he played for Uni in 1992 (10 games undefeated) I had gone to Subiaco and he had to wait for a clearance. I have to thank Amber his wife for giving Drew a leave pass to play this year – they have just had their fourth child. We have both had a lot of fun playing in the A Reserves alongside a great bunch of blokes who are pretty motivated so we'll see how we go.

▪ **As you have four young children you must be using a number of credits with your wife, but is there a chance to go around again next year?**

Correct Tolly, I am using up credits. To confirm, my football leave pass runs out this year (I am lucky to have a very patient and understanding wife to get this season in, well done Gem) - don't know if the body would stand up to another season anyway.

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

Its great being back in Perth after 10 or so years in Sydney, so wont be moving far.

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

Triple P – Critta Prendiville wrapped a fish around his belly knowing he was likely going to be nominated to get up on stage. He did get up and the stage show stopped.

AJ – Hasn't changed, still an institution

Medal Count - Subbing beer

Ross Banfield – Captain of A Grade in 1972. The many times told over golden story of him and his brother Greg taking some sheep from McGillvray oval paddocks after a game and cooking them up for an A Grade BBQ gets more and more legs each year by those that were there.

Drew Banfield – legend ex West Coast Eagle of some 265 games turned UFC A Reserves centreman - hope he keeps on getting the ball this year so he can keep giving a few off to me, he kicked a nice left foot goal on the run the other day amongst a large number of possessions so definately hasn't lost it, his hair is going greyer than mine

Neil Donaldson – Club legend, fantastic supporter of the UFC, it was good to catch up with Neil again recently

Greg Erskine – a privilege to play in his 250th game last weekend. Can still turn a game off his own boot. Coaching very well.

Ty Kilburn – a long time proven no nonsense, hard at the ball footballer – still splitting forward line packs and scoring goals this year in the A Reserves, have played a lot of footy together, manages to somehow keep his body going, can sub a beer better than most

Peter Toll – An very good A Grade footballer over a very long period of time and still playing well in A Grade, an outstanding President of the UFC, can deliver a shirtfront like no-one else, very fast over 2 metres, excels in post match celebrations

The Massey Brothers - Chips, Bob and Luvy – am lucky to have played with them all and awesome to drink beer with

Brad Mumme – Champion, also awesome to drink beer with

Tim Fox – skillful onballer, could go very hard off the field as well. Solid contributor at medal counts, backs v forwards and bus trips to mention a few.

Bus Trips – A quality experience

Keg Off – Backs usually win, they have more ticker

Gemma Banfield - Amazing

Fatherhood - Gold

Thanks Tim, as always a pleasure to catch up with you. You've been a good sport and provided plenty of humour again. I have been lucky enough to play a fair amount of footy with you, and let me say I consider it a real honour! You are a legend of the club, and thoroughly deserve your name on the 100 game board. Congratulations mate and look forward to seeing you get amongst the action this weekend. Best of luck and go Uni!!