

Ben Owenell

CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 GAMES

Tony what does playing 100 games for the UFC mean to you?

It means a great deal. Friendships I wouldn't have had, the ability to play football with my brothers and a good old fashioned social footy club.

Tell us how you first came down to the Great UFC?

I bumped into Jammers at CBV one night and wanting to have a bit of fun with footy was told when training was. I was then introduced to Erk Dog as my coach and the rest is history.

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

My first coach was Erk Dog a man that reintroduced me to footy the way it should be played. He was a great tactician as everybody knows but what a lot might not know is that he was a great teacher and leader of young men. I am a big fan of actions rather than words and Erk Dog took us in and taught us many life lessons.

I then went on to be coached by Jim Malone and Chips Massey unfortunately though it did not last long as I was injured after 1 season and disappeared for 6 or 7 years

I came back through Dingoes with Jordy and Smokes as my coach and I really have enjoyed playing on average 5 games a year for the past 4 years!

As one of the leaders of the team, you're known as a man who doesn't mind speaking up on occasion. What one piece of advice do you wish someone had told you as a fresh faced young colt?

I am not sure my words are totally appreciated all the time but I mean well. I was lucky enough to have an absolute bucket full of advice given to me from Erk Dog. Not just in footy terms but little life gems. Stories that I wish I could remember much more clearly but laughs I can't forget.

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

On the field would be celebrating our 3 premierships in a row for Dingoes and being able to achieve it with my two brothers. Also I really enjoyed my year under Jim Malone playing full back even though we were getting smashed in those days. Great fine sessions from Bob Massey and then onto Diggers and Roids.

Off the field I think a Colts bus trip was a highlight coming back from Balcatta/Osborne Park, the many medal counts and 100th shows and my first triple P as a naive 20yr old!

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

I really enjoy playing with guys that are incredibly passionate like Smokes, Jordy, Digger, Bully and Cat. Even though not all the time the passion comes across in words that we can mention like Smokes pre game address' and his vocabulary. I think one of the best players was Bob Massey in the early days, Maccanui at the height of his powers and Mr Contest Lab Rat

Greatest UFC team you have been involved with?

Dingoes 3 years in a row then just being unlucky to miss out on a 4th.

Greatest Victory you have been involved in?

I think it was the semi final to get into the GF against North Freo a few years back, as we all know CBC and North Freo have been our competition for the last few years.

Who is the Most Memorable Player you have played with and why?

Fables as he is my brother and he will absolutely love the shout out. What a player! Oh... and anyone who kicks it to me and honours my leads.

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

Anywhere near Fables or Bully as the stories as the funniest.... there is a reason they call him fables.

Who do you sit next to in the change rooms?

No particular seat, just wherever I can get because normally I get a lift with Fables and he is at least 15 late to every game!

As the richest bloke in the team, how have you so successfully managed to combine a lucrative career with footy?

Not entirely sure of this statement as I will be out of a job in 3 weeks (any offers??) but as you would know my body has allowed me much time off from footy so there is plenty of time to stretch around the office and do warm ups on the track.

Is there any chance of a Dingoes sponsorship role when you have hung up the boots?

I would hope so, I try and buy a few cartons when needed and would love to offer my services in any role financial or not to the club but I need a company and a job first!

Favorite Movie, Food, Beverage?

Blood Diamond for drama but also a bit like Jordy and Fables and love a little Rom Com when needed. Oh and to keep up the image... anything with sub titles
Food would be anything anyone else cooks for me, before a game normally red wine and steak

Funniest situation on the field?

I have spent most of my career as a running forward but the last few years have just stayed close to goal. I remember Jordy telling me in my comeback game from a few weeks off a few years ago to stay close to goal. I took this on board and decided to go for a gallop up onto the wing getting a few kicks and then my biggest mistake was trying to chase and tackle an opponent. I tried, pulled my hammy off the bone and that was the end of my first 4 game season. A little note for kids.... Chasing and tackling should be done by midfielders, not power forwards.

What would you say are the strengths of your game?

Voice and structure

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And the weaknesses?

Durability and lately pace

You've gathered yet another hard ball across the wing, swung around onto the left and you have Jords and Fables leading out of the square. Both have got the drop on their respective opponents...which one do you go to?

Tough one as I would like to go for Jords but his goal kicking is atrocious.... Fables is better on the run (after 7 bounces he would say) so I would probably take on my opponents and have a go from 60.

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

In 5 years I will probably be sponsoring a Chinese Massage shop as I am already paying their wages...

10 years I will be in my 40's and I assume coaching Jordy's son in under 9's football

20 years hopefully be around.... haven't really thought that far in front

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

Fables - pace and great entertainer

Who's the Boss? – What a great show

Structures – People should listen to me!

Defensive accountability – Whats that?

Best of luck for your 100th game and let's celebrate with a great win