

RUGBY

Well, what really can be said about the 1994 inter unit rugby season. The season that was to offer so much to the players, supporters and the unit ended in what could only be described as disappointment.

The year started well, with both the 'A' and 'B' sides looking particularly strong in both playing and coaching staff. With the 'A' side being reigning premiers Graham Kent took on the huge task of ensuring the trophy stayed with us, while big Al Gilman decided to give it one more year with the 'B's.

Early games for the 'A' team saw huge wins with good open and fast rugby played. The skills displayed by the players was awesome. While many should be mentioned for their form, it would be an injustice not to mention the early season efforts of players like Jason Watene and Marcus Constable. These two, who partnered each other in the centres played strong football with the highlight being some of the huge hits they put on their opposite numbers. In the forwards, lads like Bob Grimes and Daryl Egan always led from the front. In most games these two either gave away plenty in weight or height, however it rarely mattered, with both giving their all and always figuring highly in the after match awards.

As has happened over recent years the REDBACK bogey side, 1RAR, came out of their shells and left their very best rugby for us. The 'A' team had the opportunity to play 1RAR on two occasions, the first being the last game of the season and then in the major semi final. Both of these games were hard, fast and open games of rugby, with the lads in blue winning both. While it may read as being a little biased, I believe our team had in both games, ample opportunity to win. Our mistakes inside our 22m being very costly in both games. It can only be said that our effort in the prelim final was our worst for the year and we were made to pay dearly for it. Our loss to the BASB is one that should remain with us, as it proves that motivation and desire to succeed can overcome other factors. For the 'A' squad the season ended early, this however was not the case for the REDBACK 'B's.

Against the odds and with a little bit of luck and plenty of guts and determination the 'B' side edged their way into the play-offs for the reserve grade. With all players giving their utmost the side fought courageously to first pip 5 Aviation Regiment in the minor semi 9-7 and then after being down 15-3 come back to beat 1RAR 'B's 20-18 in the prelim final. With players like Guy Tuxworth, Scooter Magee, Spike

Milligan and Dean Gulgan hitting their straps a grand final win was not far off.

With the 'A's dead and buried the 'B' team had the full focus of all REDBACK rugby supporters behind them. Big Al attacked grand final week with much conviction. His efforts at training (clip board in hand) was something to watch and marvel at. On grand final day the lads were ready and played a terrific game, however, victory was not theirs. Final Score 2 Field Support Battalion 15 defeating 2/4RAR 13. Well done lads a good effort.



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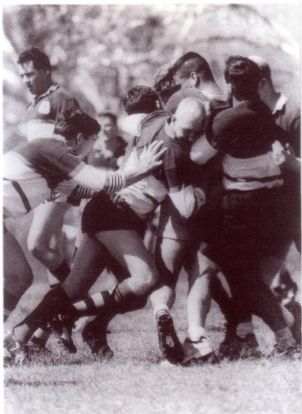
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Davo positions the ball for Spike while Sterlo and Emmett look on in the 2nd XV Grand Final



Big Tom airborne



Noel Elms on the move against the Yanks