

The idea of a Port team of the SGL followed on from the centenary celebrations when there was great deal of debate amongst the Board about a team of the century. It was decided not to proceed with a Team of the Century which did cause a bit of angst amongst some Board members. In a recent trip to Adelaide discussions between the Chairman & Secretary reflected on the success of the centenary celebrations and the lack of any planned major celebrations by the SGL to celebrate the SGL turning 50. After discussing what the Port Club could do the Chairman suggested a team of 50 years, this was put to the Board and unanimously accepted.

The 50 year Port team of the SGL 1961 – 2011 was based on only a couple of criteria, to be eligible you must have played a minimum of three years in the SGL and therefore by reasoning a minimum of three good years. The emphasis was on a balanced team.

Ironically 50 players were nominated by the selectors. There were 10 selectors 8 of whom submitted sides. Ten players were unanimously selected. 2 players were selected by all but one selector and 6 players selected by all but 2 selectors. These 18 players came to make the starting 18 and surprisingly produced a very balanced side. The selectors elected to select a side of 25.

As expected the team is dominated by players from two eras, the 1960's and the last 20 years. Only one player selected is not a premiership player but he played in numerous premierships elsewhere. All teams require support staff and the selectors have picked some great servants of the Club.

Forward Pocket / Ruck Rover - Damien Mellow

Four time leading SGL goal kicker all in premiership years. Hard running, hard working, versatile on ball, forward or half back. A prodigious kick especially on the run, able to break lines either with his kicking or running. Great skill combined with pace made Damien one of the great players of the Boston era. League Premiership player 1997, 1998, 1999 & 2003. Was a unanimous selection.

#### Full Forward – Chris Pollard

One of the most versatile players to ever play for Port. Played in a variety of positions including the wing. SGL leading goal kicker in 2004. Ideally suited to full forward with his high marking ability, strong leading, good recovery and long kick. Kicked over 100 goals in 2004 including 17 goals, a Club record against the Wolves in round 19. Connelly medallist 1998 grand final. League Premiership player 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004. 200 League game player. Was a unanimous selection.

#### Forward Pocket / Rover – John Pasculli

A very tough and determined player. A great in and under rover who won the Port goal kicking on two occasions in 1970 a premiership year & 1978. Best & Fairest in 1974. A team man of the highest quality. League Premiership player 1967 & 1970. 200 League game player. Was a unanimous selection.

#### Half Forward Flank - Mick Tattoli

A versatile player who played forward, back or on the ball. Strong, skilful and like all the Italian players of his era another great team man. Started out as a teenager with his first full year being 1961 with Mick being an influential member of the side in the 1960's. Leading goal kicker in 1967 a premiership year under Bob Hammond. League Premiership player 1961, 1965, 1966, 1967.

#### Centre Half Forward – Tom Keain

Arguably the best Centre Half Forward Port Pirie has had. A brilliant high mark and long kick. Won the Clubs Best & Fairest in the inaugural year of the SGL, 1961 in what is regarded as one of the great Port sides. Recorder Medallist and Club best & fairest in 1962.

Played in 7 Club premierships, SGL League Premiership player 1961, 1965, 1966. A unanimous choice by selectors at Centre Half Forward in what is considered to be the hardest position on the ground to play.

#### Half Forward Flank – Norm Wombat

Walked in off the street looking for a game, what a moment for the Club. Could play in a number of positions including half forward, wing or on the ball.

One of the most exciting players to have ever put on the green & white guernsey. Big time player who performed in finals. Skilful with plenty of pace and very elusive. Could kick very important goals as shown in the 2008

grand final. Connelly medallist 2004 grand final, arguably could have won more, especially 2008. League Premiership player 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007 & 2008.

#### Wing – Craig Blieschke

Could play in a number of positions, on ball, centre, half forward or wing. Very skilled and courageous. Great hands both in marking and for disposal. Had the ability to set up the play for others. Three time best & fairest winner 1986, 1990, 1991. League Captain 1988 – 1991. League Premiership player 2003, 2004. 200 league game player.

#### Centre – Lynden Bow

An outstanding player who possessed great skill. An immaculate long kick able to break lines with elusive play and kicking. A great team man who had a great engine. Is undoubtedly one of the greatest recruits this Club has seen. Travelled from Adelaide each week to play quite often with the family. Best & Fairest winner and Recorder medallist in his first year at the Club, 1997 and one of the main reasons the drought was broken. League Premiership player 1997, 1998, 1999. Was a unanimous selection.

#### Wing – Salvatore “Shorty” Mezzino

Played nearly all his football on the wing and regarded as one the finest wingman ever in the SGL. Dedicated, skilled, courageous with a flawless kick Shorty was a very popular player. Started his career as a teenager and was a very important cog in the great Port era of the 1960's. Best & fairest 1968. League Captain 1968, 1970. 6 Club Premierships. SGL League Premiership player 1961, 1965, 1966, 1967 & 1970. 200 league game player whose league playing career spanned 17 seasons. A unanimous choice by the selectors on the wing.

#### Half Back Flank – Jamie McNamara

Versatile, half back, wingman, back pocket or onballer. An inspirational leader who always put his body on the line. Sure hands with good disposal combined with great rebound from the half back meant he was never beaten. League captain 1996 to 2006, 11 seasons a Club record. Six time league premiership captain, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004. 200 league game player. Was a unanimous selection.

#### Centre Half Back – Hugh Murphy

Either at Centre Half back or as a Ruckman he was reliable and tough. Never flinched from a contest taking on some of the best big men the SGL has had and never afraid to stand up for the Club. Played Centre Half Back in the 1965 & 1966 Premiership sides. Became the second Port player to play 200 SGL League games. 6 Club premierships. SGL League Premiership player 1965, 1966, 1967 & 1970. Missed the 1961 premiership with a broken jaw, some one finally caught up with Hughie.

#### Half Back Flank – Adam Magor

Part of the great backline that dominated his era. Had the ability to play on taller forwards and out mark them, was rarely beaten. Would use his strength to great effect. Put his body on the line meeting the ball straight on and creating plenty of drive from the half back.

Six time league premiership player, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004. 200 league game player. Was a unanimous selection.

#### Back pocket – Ben Luteria

Joined the 200 league games Club for Port today. Uncompromising back man who has tackled all of the best forwards of his era. Will always stand up for those around him. Strong at a contest, rarely outmarked. A two time premiership captain, 2007, 2008. Has a strong and powerful voice as he urges his team mates along. League captain 2007 – 2011.

League premiership player, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008.

Graeme O'Dea – One of the great sights of SGL football was to see Daisy kick those magnificent booming drop kicks from full back to just short of the centre. A good mark who had great mobility for a tall player. Rarely had many goals kicked on him. A two time best & fairest winner 1969 & 1973, a top achievement for a backman. League premiership player 1966, 1967.

#### Back Pocket – Don Rafanelli

Close checking, courageous, long kicking, versatile backman. Regarded very highly by his coaches and team mates. Another of the Italian players who started their careers as a teenager in the 1961 premiership year. An integral member of the great team of the 1960's. League premiership player. 1961, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1970.

Was a unanimous selection.

#### Ruck – Michael Burford

As a ruckman is a great exponent of tapping the ball and widely regarded as the best tap ruckman of his era. Instrumental in the team dominating clearances in the 2007 & 2008 premierships seasons. Has an exceptional understanding with his fellow on ballers. A very disciplined ruckman around the ground who has a great spoil and is never beaten in a marking contest. In his fifth season of travel from the family station north of Peterborough and makes the effort to attend training on a regular basis.

League premierships player 2007, 2008.

#### Ruck rover – Peter Murphy

Skilful, creative and elusive on baller. Integral part of the Port side at the creation of the SGL. Club record 4 time best & fairest, 1956, 1963, 1964, 1966. 9 Club Premierships. SGL League Premierships 1961, 1965, 1966, 1967. Was an important vice captain to three captain coaches, John Connelly, Jim Deane & Bob Hammond. One of five Legends in the St Marks / Port Football Club Hall of Fame. Was a unanimous selection.

#### First Rover – Simon Pisani

Started in 1961 as a 16 year old and went on to play in a premiership in only his 7<sup>th</sup> game of league football, an outstanding achievement in a strong side. After starting his league career on the wing went on to be the Clubs number one rover for many years. Skilful with good disposal and had the ability to kick goals, League Best & Fairest 1965. League Leading Goal Kicker 1965, 1971. League Premiership Player 1961, 1965, 1966.

#### Second Ruck / interchange – Damien Walker

The story of when Damien came to Port in 1970 is legendary. With the Club sitting bottom half way through the season and lacking big man support for Hughie Murphy the Club recruited Damien. In a remarkable turn around the Club basically had to win every game to make the finals and win the premiership, which they did and Damien had a huge part to play in this. A strong and competitive ruckman who could take big marks around the ground. Damien travelled for four years from Adelaide to be the dominant big man of the competition. League Best & Fairest 1971. League Premiership player 1970.

#### Interchange – Tim Jackson

During a time when the Club lacked success Tim was a shining light. A very good mark, highly competitive and a versatile player either as a key position player or ruckman. Travelled for 6 seasons in two separate stints to be a highly regarded team man and great contributor to the Club. League Best & Fairest 1976. The only player in the side not to be part of a premiership but this makes his selection even more meritorious as it shows what the selectors thought of him and his contribution during this time of disappointment. Tim did manage to play in four premierships for Angaston.

#### Interchange – John Murphy

Remarkably still playing league football after making his league debut in 1987, 24 years ago. Primarily a rover, very competitive, a great tackler and an in and under type of player. Integral part of the Boston era. League premiership player, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004. 200 league game player. Makes up the only father / son combination in the team with Peter.

#### Interchange - Frank Hackett

Skilled and stylish wingman. A Club man through & through. 6 Club Premierships. SGL Premierships 1965, 1966, 1967, 1970. League Captain 1969. Coach of the incredible 1970 Premiership.

#### Interchange - Ernie Rafanelli

One of the toughest players to ever don the green & white guernsey. Never took a step back from anyone. Had men a lot bigger than him backing away from a contest. Fearless in his approach on the ball. Above all though Ernie was highly skilled. Had a great stab pass and was a great team man. League Premiership player 1966, 1967, 1970.

#### Interchange - Greg Collins

Remarkably played 152 league games before playing his first seconds game deciding in 1998 to retire from league football upon which he became seconds captain. An on baller who had a great engine. Courageous he was able to bring others in to game. League Best & Fairest 1988. League Premiership player 1997.

Interchange - Kevin Connor

Part of a full back line with Biff Martin & George Pepe, in the late 50's and early 60's that were automatically selected as Port Pirie's combined full back line. Reliable and a great team man. Would keep the best rovers the opposition had quiet, including some of the greats of Whyalla & Port Augusta. 5 Club Premierships. SGL premiership player 1961, 1965.

Team Manager – Geoff Keane

Perhaps the longest serving team manager the Club has had, certainly the longest SGL team manger Port has had. Dedicated to the cause, hardly misses a game, will do anything to assist the players. Has been team manager during 8 SGL premierships.

Trainer – Ernie Farley

Was a trainer for an incredible 16 years including head trainer from 1964 to 1967. Was a trainer for 9 Port premierships. SGL Premierships as a trainer 1961, 1965, 1966, 1967.

Trainer – Jack Evans

One of life's gentlemen, a great Club man who spent many hours after work at the Club looking after injured footballers. Level headed, nothing fazed Jack. Head trainer for many years and involved in the magnificent 1970 premiership.

Trainer – Steve Gadaleta

Dedicated head trainer who was unlucky enough not to see all his efforts rewarded with a premiership. Steve lives in Deloraine, Tasmania these days and can not be with us tonight.

Trainer – Brenton Brooks

Continues the great tradition that our head trainers have given this Club. Hard working putting in long hours at the Club seven days a week every day of the year. Has a refreshing toughen up attitude towards players. Not only looks after footballers but any one who drops in.

Administrator – Midge Johnson

The Clubs longest ever serving Chairman 1996 – 2004, 9 years. President 2006 – 2011, 6 years. Committeeman for many years. Dedicated with vision. Has been very active in recruitment and deserves high praise for being a significant part of the success that the Club has enjoyed on & off the field since the mid 90's. Has served as either Chairman or President during eight premierships.

Coach – Bob Boston

The most successful coach Port has had. Demanded commitment & dedication from his players which he received. Managed to break a long sequence without success. Taught not just the players but the Club about winning and to win multiple premierships. 6 Premierships 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003 & 2004. One word to describe Bob, indefatigable. Was a unanimous selection.