

Melbourne University Football: Some famous Personalities

JOHN ARNOLD SEITZ (1883-1963)

Throughout his life, Arnold Seitz had a keen interest in, and involvement with, University Football Club: first as a player and captain, then club secretary and finally as a loyal donor in later life.¹ Born at Carlton, Victoria, on September 19, 1883, Seitz was educated at Blackburn and Auburn State Schools, before completing his secondary education as Dux at both Hawthorn College and then Scotch College. Initially he studied engineering at Melbourne University, before being elected Rhodes Scholar in 1906. While a student at Melbourne University he successfully captained the University Football Club in the team's inaugural season in the Colleges Football Association in 1904 and then led the club in its first year in the Metropolitan Football Association in 1905. He also held the position of club secretary in 1904-05 and 1910-11. At Oxford he completed a BA and MA and was awarded a Blue for cricket in 1909. Seitz was a skilful right-hand batsman with "plenty of strokes" and "a brilliant fieldsman".² He represented University in intervarsity, played District cricket with East Melbourne (1901-02 to 1905-06, 1910-11 to 1914-15) and Carlton (1921-22 to 1926-27) and represented Victoria from 1910-11 to 1912-13, captaining the state in his last season.³ A prominent educationalist, he taught at Scotch College (1910-14), was headmaster of Hamilton College (1915-21), Inspector of Secondary Schools (1929-36) and Victorian Director of Education (1936-48). He was Victorian Cricket Association president from 1947-63 and Carlton Cricket Club president until his death at Melbourne on May 1, 1963. Arnold Seitz also was a Melbourne Cricket Ground Trustee (1959-60 to 1962-63) and in 1949 was made a Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG). Today the winner of the Premier (formerly District) Club Championship (best performed club taking the performances of all four XIs into account) is awarded the J.A. Seitz Cricket Victoria Club Championship Trophy.⁴

¹ *Annual Report 1938*: Jack McRae (compiler) *Melbourne University Football Club Incorporated: Transcript of Meetings of the Melbourne University Football Club 1925-1955*, p.163

² *Cricket*, Vol. XXX, No. 888, November 25, 1911, p.581

³ Ken Williams *Register of V.C.A. 1st XI Pennant, District & Premier Cricketers (1889-90 to 2003-04)*, unpublished paper, p.27

⁴ Geoffery Searle (General Editor), *Australian Dictionary of Biography Volume II: 1891-1919 Nes-Smi*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1988, pp. 563-64; Ray Webster and Ken Williams are completing *The Australian First Class Cricket Project 1850-51 to the present*, which will include biographical profiles of all Australian First Class Cricketers. They provided background on Arnold Seitz.

HENRY CORDNER (1885-1943) AND EDWARD RAE CORDNER (1887-1963)

Harry and Ted Cordner were the sons of Edward James Cordner and grandsons of Henry, an Irishman who came to Melbourne in 1852. The brothers were both born at Sandhurst (now Bendigo): Henry (Harry) on June 18, 1885 and Edward (Ted) Rae on June 18, 1887. Attending Melbourne Grammar School, both excelled at sport, and Ted was school captain in 1904-05, while Harry was Head Boy and Dux in 1902. Harry Cordner played with Melbourne as centreman and forward in 1903 and 1905 in 11 games and kicked 16 goals. He kicked six goals against Geelong in round 14, 1905 and represented Victoria against New South Wales that same season. Harry was University Football Club captain during the team's successive premierships in the Metropolitan Football Association in 1906 and 1907. During University's League years, Harry captained the club in 1909 and recorded 29 games and seven goals in 1908 and 1909. Ted Cordner also played seven games (0 goals) with Melbourne in 1905 and was then a member of the 1906 and 1907 University Metropolitan Football Association premierships teams. Ted played at centre half back for University from 1908 to 1912 registering 60 games and eight goals. He was a popular player in a public plebiscite, and was University vice-captain in 1909 and 1910. Their father, Edward James, undertook the role of club vice-president. The brothers also appeared in District cricket, Harry with University (1902-03 to 1911-12) and Ted with University (1905-06 to 1910-11) and Fitzroy (1914-15).⁵ Both men completed medical qualifications and saw service in World War I, before returning to practice medicine. Harry Cordner died at Hobart on November 14, 1943 and his brother Edward Rae Cordner passed away at Greensborough on July 21, 1963. Ted's four sons Edward, Donald, Denis, and John all played with University Blacks and for Melbourne in the VFL. Donald won the 1946 Victorian Football League Brownlow Medal, being the only amateur to do so.⁶ A third generation of the family with John's son Ian, Donald's son Chris and Ted's son Ed also appeared with the University Blacks.

⁵ Ken Williams *Register of V.C.A. 1st XI Pennant, District & Premier Cricketers (1889-90 to 2003-04)*, unpublished paper, p.6

⁶ *Liber Melburniensis: Centenary Edition*, Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, 1965, p.96

HERBERT GRINDELL HURREY (1888-1961)

Popularly known as Bert, Herbert Grindell Hurrey was born on February 27, 1888. He attended Xavier College between 1898 and 1901. Hurrey completed his schooling at Scotch College where he played in a joint Associated Public Schools premierships in 1906, before progressing to Melbourne University. He attended Queen's College at the University of Melbourne where he studied medicine, graduating in 1914. (MB, BS).

Bert Hurrey was the most durable and experienced University Football Club representative in the League years, with a career record of 101 games and 29 goals between 1908 and 1913. He holds the club's Victorian Football League games record and was the only player from University's League years to reach 100 games. Hurrey played 93 of those games consecutively, which is a notable achievement in student teams renowned for player absences during holidays and examinations.

A gifted centreman, he gained Victorian selection against South Australia in 1913. In this game he was praised in the *Football Record* as "a king in the centre".⁷ Hurrey was elected club captain in 1913. Prior to World War I he had a successful medical practice in Queensland. During the First World War he served as a Surgeon Lieutenant on the Royal Australian Navy Destroyer *Flotilla*. Dr Bert Hurrey passed away at Warragamba Dam, New South Wales, on December 16, 1961.⁸

⁷ *Football Record*, Vol. 3, No. 19, August 23, 1913, p.23

⁸ David Allen *The forgotten Victorian Football League team: University Football Club 1908-1914*, unpublished document

JOHN (JACK) BRAKE (1890-1970)

John Brake was born at Horsham in the Victorian Western District on November 11, 1890. Popularly known as Jack, he attended Princes Hill State School, Hawthorn College and Melbourne University, where he completed his Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree in 1915. Brake was a versatile sportsman who was awarded a triple Blue for athletics, football and rifle. He was Australasian Amateur Athletic pole vault champion in 1911 (10 ft 9 in), and in 1914 (11 ft 0 in) tied with R.R. Templeton from the U.S.A. He was arguably University's leading footballer for the club's years in VFL ranks, playing from 1909 to 1914 in 81 games and contributing 21 goals. He continued with Melbourne in 1915 and 1920-21 for a further 17 games and two goals. Brake was an outstanding ruckman and was selected to represent Victoria eight times. Although the Students were regularly beaten in the VFL, he always stood out; he was appropriately described in the *Football Record* as "the Man of the Time".⁹ The regular praise included a comment in the *Sport* newspaper, which read: "What a great footballer Jake Brake is! ...Saturday after Saturday his condition lasts. Brake has no superior on the ground."¹⁰ Brake saw service in both World Wars, was Victorian Superintendent of Agriculture and served on the Victorian Football League Tribunal. He died at Castlemaine on 16 May, 1970.¹¹

⁹ *Football Record*, Volume 1, Number 7, June 3, 1912, p.27

¹⁰ *Sport*, June 12, 1914

¹¹ John Ritchie (General Editor) *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 13, A-De: 1940-1980, Melbourne University Press, 1993, pp. 248-49

SIR WALTER BALDWIN SPENCER (1860-1929)

Despite his varied interests and abilities as Professor of Biology at Melbourne University (1887-1919), as an anthropologist and ethnographer, and Honorary Director of the National Museum of Victoria, Professor W. Baldwin Spencer was one of University Football Club's most devoted supporters and administrators. He was a genuine club supporter who regularly attended matches, "his shouts earning him the title of Spencer LLB, Leading League Barracker".¹²

Born at Stretford, Lancashire, on June 23, 1860, Walter Baldwin Spencer was educated at the Victoria University of Manchester and Oxford University. He commenced at Melbourne University in 1887 where he was recognized as an approachable, enthusiastic teacher and lecturer.¹³ His contribution to University sport included his involvement with the establishment of the Melbourne University Sports Union in 1904. Spencer was University Football Club president 1905-20 and Victorian Football League president 1919-25. In 1905 he "presented a silver cup for the encouragement and advancing of University football".¹⁴ The Baldwin Spencer Cup was initially awarded to the best football team from different faculties.¹⁵ He was also determined that University sportsmen and sportswomen be appropriately identified by the distinct black and blue colours. In order to encourage all university clubs to adopt these colours, "he persisted in wearing a straw boater with its essential blue and black diagonal ribbon".¹⁶ Professor Baldwin Spencer was genuinely upset by the League side's poor showing and explained in correspondence to his daughter Aline in 1911, "The team is hopeless this year" and "I think if many more men are going to get smashed up the sooner we are out the better. We should really enjoy the quiet Metropolitan games much better."¹⁷ His enthusiasm for the establishment of the Melbourne University Sports Union was another example of his commitment to amateurism and undergraduate sport. As its president, he was instrumental in landscaping the University oval and financing its pavilion. Spencer was made a Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 1904 and knighted (KCMG.) in 1916. His accomplishments included scientific expeditions to central and northern Australia between 1894 and 1926. He also completed extensive pictorial records of his expeditions. He was a prolific writer and had numerous published works. Spencer was a proponent of Wilson's Promontory National Park. His department appointed the first female academic staff and he nurtured Australian art. In 1929, Professor Sir Walter Baldwin Spencer undertook an anthropological expedition to Tierra de Fuego in Chile. He died on July 14, 1929 at Narvin Island, Chile.¹⁸

¹² R.J.W. Selleck *The Shop: The University of Melbourne 1850-1939*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 2004, p.510

¹³ D.J. Mulvaney and J.H. Calaby 'So much that is new: Baldwin Spencer, 1860-1929: a biography', Melbourne University Press, 1985, p.232-33

¹⁴ *Minutes of Melbourne University Sports Union Council meeting held in Biology School*, 12 March 1906, *MUSU Council Minute Book 1904-09*, p.178

¹⁵ *Melbourne University Sports Union First Annual Report 1905-06*, p.11; Melbourne University Magazine, Vol. 1, No. 2, September 1907, p. 69-70

¹⁶ D.J. Mulvaney and J.H. Calaby 'So much that is new: Baldwin Spencer, 1860-1929: a biography', Melbourne University Press, 1985, p.231-32

¹⁷ *ibid*

¹⁸ Juliet Flesch & Peter McPhee "Walter Baldwin Spencer (1860-1929)" in *150 years: 150 stories: brief biographies of one hundred and fifty remarkable people associated with The University of Melbourne*, History Department University of Melbourne, 2003, p.133; John Ritchie (General Editor) *Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol. 12: 1891-1939: Smy-Z*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1990, pp. 33-36

ROBERT CLIVE HEATLEY (1895-1973)

Robert Clive Heatley was born at Carlton North on July 6, 1895. He attended Princes Hill State School and then Scotch College between 1908 and 1913, captaining the First XVIII in his final year. A law student, his course was disrupted by war service with the 15th Field Artillery Brigade and 7th Field Artillery Brigade, AIF, between 1916 and 1919. He represented University Cricket Club at District level in 1914-15 and 1919-20 and played briefly in the University Football Club League side in four games in 1914.¹⁹ Heatley, however, was captain of the University F.C. team in the Metropolitan Football Association in 1914 and 1915. After the war, he played an important role as captain of University A when the team played in the Victorian Junior Football League in 1919 and 1920. At the time he was appropriately singled out for praise in the *Melbourne University Magazine* in 1919. The comment read, ".....the 'A's being fortunate in having for their captain "Cocky" Heatley, who led our teams before he left for war, and whom we were glad to welcome back safe and sound, with many years of football ahead – Heatley, the inimitable, cool and clever, master of the game in every department, radiating good humour, and teamly spirit, which make sport enjoyable and the game indeed a pleasure."²⁰ Robert "Cocky" Heatley was one of the prominent figures in helping to establish the Old Scotch Collegian Football Club in 1921. Instrumental in the club's early success as captain from 1921, he led the Cardinals to MAFA premierships in 1923-24. Robert C. Heatley Jnr. was a successful lawyer, whose father was a prominent administrator at Carlton Football Club. In 1932 his father was honoured when the R.C. Heatley Stand was named in his honour at Princes Park. Robert Heatley Jnr. was a leading identity in amateur football. He passed away on January 22, 1973.²¹

¹⁹ Ken Williams *Register of V.C.A. 1st XI Pennant, District & Premiers (1889-90 to 2003-04)*, unpublished paper, p.13

²⁰ *Melbourne University Magazine*, Vol. 13, No. 3, October 1919, p. 162

²¹ David Allen *The forgotten Victorian Football League team: University Football Club 1908-1914*, unpublished document

JOHN REID HASKER (1900-1941)

John (Jack) Reid Hasker was born at Ballarat on November 3, 1900. Educated at Geelong Grammar School from 1915 to 1918, he was a prefect, member of the First XVIII (captain in his last year), the First XI and athletics team.²² He then was a resident at Trinity College while undertaking his course in Medicine (MB, BS). Jack Hasker was a leading forward and an important contributor to the 1921 and 1922 University B/ University Blacks premierships in the Metropolitan Amateur Football Association. In all the finals played in both seasons, he was amongst the best players, contributing four goals in the 1922 final against Collegians. In season 1924 he led the MAFA goalkicking with 84 goals. For 1925 Hasker was selected Blacks captain. On completion of his qualifications he played briefly with Old Scotch Collegians, although he did not attend that school. They had actively sought the former University player, because of his talent as a forward. Also a District cricketer, he appeared with University in seasons 1921-22 to 1924-25, and Hawthorn-East Melbourne between 1925-26 and 1927-28.²³ A medical practitioner, Jack Hasker joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1928 and commenced his naval career which included long periods of service at sea. Surgeon Commander John Reid Hasker was the Senior Medical officer and one of the 645 Australian sailors who lost their lives on the cruiser *HMAS Sydney* on November 20, 1941. The *HMAS Sydney* disappeared when sunk after it encountered the German ship *Kormoran* in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Western Australia.²⁴ A contemporary in the navy, Judy Patching (best known as the starter at the Melbourne Olympic Games), recalled Jack Hasker as a popular and respected officer.²⁵

²² *The Corian: Geelong Grammar School, Corio*, December 1941, p.219

²³ Ken Williams *Register of V.C.A. 1st XI Pennant, District & Premier Cricketers (1889-90 to 2003-04)*, unpublished paper, p.13

²⁴ Alf Batchelder *Melbourne Cricket Club Roll of Honour 1939-1945*, Melbourne Cricket Club, Jolimont, 1995, p.12

²⁵ Judy Patching explained how Jack Hasker was a popular officer in the Navy because he was both friendly and approachable.

THE FULL-FORWARDS

In the first forty years of the 20th century University Football Club produced some outstanding full-forwards at both League and amateur level.

ROY LINDSAY PARK (1892-1947)

Educated at Wesley College, Park was a gifted cricketer and footballer. He played District cricket with Melbourne (1911-12), University (1912-13 to 1920-21) and South Melbourne (1921-22 to 1931-32).²⁶ In his only Test appearance for Australia against England in the second Test at the MCG in the 1920-21 series, he made a first ball duck. Accounts surrounding that innings indicate he had been awake all night because he had attended a difficult birth. Another anecdote suggested his wife missed his only Test innings because she dropped her knitting at the appropriate moment. Regardless, the talented right-handed batsman captained a young Victorian team against West Australia in 1912-13 on debut. He played for Victoria in 36 matches between 1912-13 and 1924-25 and recorded a top score of 228 against South Australia 1919-20. He joined University Football Club after experience at Wesley College and Collegians. Roy Park was diminutive in stature - just 5ft 5in (165cm) and weighing 8st 10lb (55kg); yet he led the Student goalkicking in 1912 (22 goals), 1913 (56 goals) and 1914 (36 goals). He also led the VFL goalkicking at the end of the home and away season in 1913. In his 45 League matches from 1912 to 1914 with the Students he kicked a club record of 111 goals, despite never playing in a winning side. The *Football Record* on July 5, 1913 reported: "Little Park, the nippy forward of the 'Varsity team that has not won a match this season, is still at the head of the goalkicking list."²⁷ Upon the demise of University Park joined Melbourne in 1915 where he also led the goalkicking with 35 goals. After service in World War I he appeared with Footscray (VFA) in 1920-21 and was a member of the 1920 premiership side. Dr Roy Park was a highly respected and compassionate medical practitioner to the communities of Footscray and South Melbourne.²⁸

²⁶ Ken William *Register of V.C.A. 1st XI Pennant, District & Premiers Cricketers (1889-90 to 2003-04)*, unpublished paper, p.23

²⁷ *Football Record*, Vol. 2, No. 12, July 5, 1913, p.17

²⁸ *Medical Journal of Australia*, Vol. 1, No. 21, May 24, 1947, pp. 659-660

GEOFFREY ORR “PADDY” EWING (1904-39)

Educated at Melbourne Grammar from 1913 to 1922, Geoffrey Orr Ewing was often referred to as “Paddy”. He was an exciting centre half-forward or full-forward who regularly and fearlessly marked in front. He was a member of the First XI (1922) and First XVIII (1921-22) at school before going on to Trinity College at Melbourne University where he studied medicine. Taking over the full-forward position for the Blues in 1925, he had a stellar season where he regularly booted large tallies of goals. *The Argus* on August 3, 1925 reported: “In the list of goalkickers at the finish of the home and away matches Ewing is leading by a substantial margin...”²⁹ He led the A Section goalkicking, before the finals, with 79 goals. Ewing was awarded his Blue in 1925, selected as an emergency for Victoria (MAFA) against South Australia in 1925, and awarded an Australian University Blue in 1926. Ewing again dominated the goalkicking in A Section in 1926 and 1927 when he led the University Blues goalkickers. He qualified in 1928 (MB, BS) and worked at the Alfred Hospital as a Medical Officer in 1929 and Registrar in 1930. He continued to play football in 1929-30 with Old Melburnians, leading the club’s goalkickers in 1929 before undertaking post-graduate studies in England from 1931 to 1935. Sad news appeared in the *Amateur Football* in 1939 when it was announced that G.O. “Paddy” Ewing had been killed in an accident in Egypt.³⁰

²⁹ *Argus*, 3 August 1925, p.17

³⁰ *Amateur Football Follower*, Vol. 6, No. 1, April 29, 1939, p. 22

JOHN (JACK) JOSEPH PATRICK GREEN (1905-1960)

Jack Green was educated at St Joseph's CBC, North Melbourne, before continuing to Melbourne University to study law. He was both University high jump champion and the University Blacks' champion full-forward. He led the University Blacks goalkicking in 1926 (shared with Stuart Taylor), 1927 and 1928. He was also the competition leading goalkicker in 1927 (106 goals) and 1928 (110 goals). He was selected to play for Victoria (MAFA) against South Australia in 1927. Green was an integral part of the 1928 premiership team and a profile written in the *Amateur Footballer* at the time suggested "that phenomenal success has been due to the wonderful all round ability and accuracy of their star forward Jack Green. Little limbed, cool and calculating, with a powerful spring and sure pair of hands he has been the pivot of innumerable successful 'Varsity onslaughts."³¹ Highly sought after by League clubs, Green played with Carlton in 1925-35 in 82 games for 109 goals. He then joined Hawthorn from 1934 to 1936 for a further 40 games and 167 goals. He led the Hawthorn goalkicking in 1934 (80 goals) and 1935 (63 goals). His tally of 80 goals in 1934 stood as a club record until surpassed by Peter Hudson in 1968. He represented Victoria in 1932 and 1935. His brothers also played VFL football: Robert James (1911-1949) played 187 games (58 goals) for Carlton including the 1938 premiership and Thomas Edward (1909-1979) played three games with Hawthorn in 1935. Jack Green unfailingly assisted University Blacks coach Ray Brew in seasons 1938-1940, which included the premiership years of 1938-39. Green also commentated on and called League football on radio.

³¹ *Amateur Football Follower*, Vol. 3, No. 21, September 17, 1927, p.8

ALLAN FAULKNER LA FONTAINE (1910-99)

Arguably the greatest forward to represent University Blacks, Allan La Fontaine was described as “poetry in motion” and admired for his artistry on the football field. His versatility is reflected by his ability to be a leading full-forward with University Blacks before becoming one of the champion centremen of League football. La Fontaine was educated at Parade College, completing his schooling at St Kevin’s College. He commenced his amateur career with Old Paradians in C Section of the VAFA in 1929, kicking 146 goals at full-forward. He transferred to University Blacks in 1930 where he played until 1933. In season 1932 he was club captain for part of the year. La Fontaine kicked a remarkable 197 goals in fixtured games, representative matches and finals in his last season with the Blacks in 1933. He led the A Section goalkicking that season with 168 goals and also was awarded the A Section Best and Fairest. Allan La Fontaine was also a District cricketer with North Melbourne (1929-30) and University (1930-31 to 1935-36). Recruited to Melbourne, La Fontaine kicked nine goals against Hawthorn in only his second appearance in League football. Remarkably he was to develop into one of the most skilled centremen. He played 170 games and kicked 77 goals with Melbourne from 1934 to 1943 and in 1945. A balanced and elusive player, he was blessed with an ability to instinctively read the play. La Fontaine captained Melbourne from 1936 to 1941 which included the three successive premierships in 1939, ’40 and ’41. He won the club best and fairest a record four times and represented Victoria after just 13 senior games. He also coached the Demons from 1949 to 1951. A qualified industrial chemist, he was a senior executive with Esso. He also owned an oil recycling refinery which he designed and built at Laverton.³²

³² “Obituaries: Allan Faulkner La Fontaine: Footy legend’s hat-trick of flags”, *Herald Sun*, August 20, 1999, p.91

STUART PATRICK KING (1906-1943)

Stuart King was influential as a University Blacks captain of two premierships sides in 1928 and 1929 and later as coach of the Blacks premiership side in 1935. However, despite his immense talent at both cricket and football, it was King's uncanny ability to get the best out of his team-mates as both a player and coach which greatly endeared him to all who met him. Stuart Patrick King was born at Ararat on April 11, 1906 and was educated at St Ignatius Primary School, Richmond, before attending Xavier College. He enrolled at Melbourne University in 1926 to study law. In his first two seasons as captain King led the Blacks to premierships in 1928 and 1929. He was a gifted and frugal full-back; the *Amateur Football Follower* on July 6, 1929 noted that "King the University skipper, was in fine form between the timbers. His kicking in was excellent..."³³ His VFL career with St Kilda (1931-33) involved 43 games and 14 goals. He captain-coached St Kilda in 1932. After his League career King returned to coach University Blacks from 1935 to 1937, achieving a premiership in his first season in that role. One report noted: "King has infused in the Blacks the co-operation that is making them irresistible."³⁴ King played District cricket with Melbourne (1925-26), University (1926-27 to 1930-31) and St Kilda (1931-32 to 1939-40).³⁵ He was vice-captain of the 1928-29 University Cricket Club and captain of the 1933-34 St Kilda Cricket Club premierships sides. A wicket-keeper and right-hand batsman, he played 12 games for Victoria between 1926 and 1933. While a resident at Newman College he completed a Law degree and was practising law when World War II commenced. King enlisted in 1940 and was a Flying Officer with 20 Squadron RAAF. He was presumed dead on 28 February 1943 when the plane he was travelling in went missing while on an anti-submarine patrol over the Coral Sea.³⁶ He was 36 years old.

³³ *Amateur Football Follower*, Vol. 5, No. 11, July 6, 1929, p.7

³⁴ Information from Stuart Patrick King's scrapbook contains a fine record of his many achievements. Held at Xavier College it was provided by his son Gerald King and Xavier College Archivist Peter Rhoden.

³⁵ Ken Williams *Register of V.C.A. 1st XI Pennant, District & Premier Cricketers (1889-90 to 2003-04)*, unpublished paper, p.17

³⁶ Jim Main and David Allen *Fallen: the ultimate heroes: footballers who never returned from war*, Crown Content, 2002, pp. 276-281

JAMES STURROCK PETERS (1913-)

Jim Peters was born at Greendale near Ballarat on October 20, 1913. He attended St Patrick's College, Ballarat, from 1926 to 1930, before gaining entrance to Melbourne University to study commerce in 1931. After one year, however, he decided to pursue medicine. He represented the Blacks from 1931 to 1935, holding the captaincy in 1934-35. One of University's best players, Peters was a centre half-forward, "a brilliant mark and positional player".³⁷ He capped off a scintillating amateur career by leading the Blacks to an A Section premiership victory over Old Scotch in 1935. A resident at Newman College, he excelled at intercollegiate cricket and football, and represented the medical students in inter-faculty competition. Peters was selected to represent the VAFA teams against South Australia in 1933 and captained the side against South Australia and New South Wales in 1935. Although regularly approached by League teams with "very substantial financial offers", he heeded the advice of his mother not to continue playing football. With a concern for his hands, she had tellingly asked, "Will you please tell me the name of any surgeon you know who has played football?"³⁸ So, remarkably, Jim Peters retired at the end of 1935, never to play football again. He did coach the club in 1936 and 1937 when his studies and work commitments permitted. From 1940 to 1945 Lieutenant Colonel J.S. Peters served with the 2/2 Field Ambulance at Bardia and subsequently with the 9th Division at Tobruk. Despite a busy and successful medical career, he has retained a lifetime interest in University Football Club. His sons Justin Sturrock (1970-72), and James Sturrock (1983-85), both played with the University Blacks. James (Jim) Junior won the Blacks best and fairest award in 1983. James Sturrock Peters Snr. is a distinguished figure who leapt on to the stage at the club's Team of the Century function in 2002. He proudly recounted the events and team-mates of his playing days without the slightest hint of his own unquestionable ability.

³⁷ Interview by David Allen with Dr J.S. Peters 2003; Moira and Jim Peters provided many details including access to Jim's scrapbook from where this quote was found. Although the publications could not be identified, it reiterated the description of Peter's skill, mobility, leadership and reliability.

³⁸ *ibid*

**IAN CAMPBELL CAMERON GALBRAITH (1915-1998)
AND COLIN ALFRED CAMERON GALBRAITH (1920-1986)**

Cases of brothers representing University Football Club were not uncommon in the 1930s, but two players of the calibre of the Galbraith brothers were rare. Both were born at Melbourne, older brother Ian Campbell Cameron Galbraith on May 21, 1915 and Colin Alfred Cameron Galbraith on April 3, 1920. Both attended Melbourne Grammar School, where they excelled at sports. Ian, popularly known as "Ike", and Colin studied medicine while at Trinity College. "Ike" played with University Blacks between 1934 and 1940. His team-mate Jim Peters recalled "Ike" as "a popular player who never took his eyes off the football. He was a very strong centre half-back and a good mark."³⁹ "Ike" Galbraith was University Blacks captain from 1936 to 1938. An automatic selection for Victorian teams, he represented the state against New South Wales in Sydney in 1935, captained the side at the First Australian Amateur Carnival in Adelaide in 1936, where he won the best and fairest player award, skippered the team versus South Australia at the St Kilda Cricket Ground in 1937, and finally led the VAFA Victorian side at the Second AAFC Carnival at Launceston in 1938. Colin Galbraith had a career with University Blacks which was cut short by World War II. Colin played in 1939 and 1940, and was identified as a future League footballer. His potential as a footballer was limited because of war service and a serious injury. He was noted for his finesse, an ability to kick well with either foot and excellent marking. During World War II both brothers served in the Navy: "Ike" as Surgeon Commander and Colin as Surgeon Lieutenant. Colin was recruited to Richmond, but before he could appear in a senior match, was swapped to Melbourne in a trade which saw future Brownlow Medallist Bill Morris join Richmond. Colin Galbraith had played four games with Melbourne in 1944 when a debilitating knee injury ended his football career. Col was also a District cricketer with Hawthorn-East Melbourne (1939-40 to 1943-44) and University (1944-45 to 1946-47). Dr Ian Galbraith was a much respected medical practitioner at Ivanhoe. He passed away aged 83 years on August 13, 1998. Dr Colin Galbraith practised medicine at Malvern and was Melbourne Football Club doctor for some years with a similar devotion. He passed away on August 8, 1986. Ian Galbraith's sons Ian and Doug also played with University Blacks, Ian being a member of the Blacks 1965 A Grade premiership side.⁴⁰

³⁹ Interview by David Allen with Dr J.S. Peters 2003

⁴⁰ Doug Galbraith clarified information about his father Ian ("Ike") and uncle Colin.

RAYMOND CHARLES STEELE (1917-1993)

Ray Steele was a champion full-back at both amateur and VFL level and an accomplished District cricketer. In later life he became one of Australian cricket's leading administrators. Born at Yarraville on May 19, 1917, Ray Steele attended Geelong Road and Mont Albert Central State Schools and Scotch College. His brother Stan captained Scotch College in athletics, cricket and football in 1934 and Ray captained the First XVIII in 1935. While undertaking law at Melbourne University, Ray excelled at full-back with University Blacks between 1936 and 1939. Joining his brother in the Blacks team from the commencement of the 1936 season, he quickly developed into a leading defender. He was described in the *Amateur Footballer* in 1939 as the "Champion full back in amateur football. Always in the right position, unbeatable in the air or on the ground. Can be relied on to keep the opposing full forward quiet."⁴¹ He represented Victoria (VAFA) at the 1938 AAFC Carnival in Launceston where he won the Carnival best and fairest award. He captained the state against South Australia in 1939. He missed the 1938 Blacks premiership due to injury but in 1939 led University Blacks to a premiership. He continued his football with Richmond (VFL) from 1940 to 1943, recording 41 games and one goal. His last game was vice-captain of the Tigers' 1943 premiership side. Steele also played District cricket with University (1942-43 to 1948-49) and Hawthorn-East Melbourne (1937-38 to 1941-42). He became a popular assistant manager in 1961 and manager in 1964 and 1972 for Australian cricket tours to England. Steele was an accomplished cricket administrator as Hawthorn-East Melbourne VCA delegate (1953-1974) and club president (1958-1973); VCA treasurer (1962-1972) and president (1973-1992); and an ACB representative (1967-1985). He served as a delegate to the International Cricket Council (1964, 1972, 1977 and 1978), was an MCG Trustee (1973-1992) and chaired the Centenary Test Organising Committee. For his contribution to cricket he received an OBE in 1977. Ray Steele died of cancer on November 22, 1993.⁴²

⁴¹ *Amateur Footballer*, Vol 6, No. 20, September 9, 1939, p.8

⁴² Paul Hogan *The Tigers of Old: a complete history of every player to represent the Richmond Football Club from 1908-1996*, Richmond F.C., 1996, p.217

PROFESSOR ERNST JOHANNES HARTUNG

Despite his Germanic name, was born in Melbourne in 1892, the second son of a musician, and the grandson of a Moravian missionary to the aborigines of East Gippsland. Educated at Wesley, he was a brilliant Science student at the University, graduating through staff ranks to become Professor of Chemistry in 1927.

He had many interests outside his subject, and was a student during the VFL years of the MUFC. He then became a Trinity College resident tutor from 1914 to 1919 - the Club's confused war years. Remaining a resident on the University campus as a staff member, he became a Vice-President of the MUFC in 1928, and President in 1930 - an office which he retained until retiring at the end of 1952. A later he retired from the staff of the Chemistry Department as well. He died in 1979.

He will always be remembered by the players and followers of the Club during those years as an unfailing supporter at home games of both Blacks and Blues. Somewhat reserved by nature, he was always approachable and friendly to those who took the trouble. In his official role as President he provided the continuity necessary in a student organisation with its constant turnover and change. It was fitting, though ironic, that - as the very strong proponent of retaining the Blacks as a 'first' team - his extremely successful reign as President should end with another Premiership - to the Blues!

ERNEST (ERNIE) CROPLEY

Born in 1914, was described most aptly by Alan McLean, former Director of Sport and Physical Recreation at the University as '*perhaps the most colourful, best-known and best-loved character in the traditional cricket and football circles of the University of Melbourne*'. Pre-war apprenticeship under his predecessor Charlie Trippett was followed by five years of war service. He then returned to the sports arena in 1945, 'graduating' into the role of curator in 1947. Initially a bit uncertain about relating to students, he was drawn into closer contact by an invitation from the George Thoms led cricket team to join a pre-season practice trip to Echuca in 1948, an event which was closely followed by his election (against the MUCC President's wishes, in a stacked meeting) as a Vice-President of that Club.

Footballers followed, and his role was quickly established as another of the stable figures around which the eddies of student sport flowed. An expert curator, Ernie also won respect as a guide, counsellor and friend to many, many individual students - as well as also gaining the respect due to the No 1 supporter of the teams which played on the lovely oval and its surrounds. His popularity was certainly not diminished by the risks he took in early days - together with a generally supportive staff - to make a few after game drinks a possibility for his charges. As Alan McLean also put it, ... '*Loyalty, dedication, spontaneity and versatility won him an army of friends*'. Ernie died in 1994.

PETER MURPHY

Born 1922, came to 'the Shop' as a student from Xavier College and played on a half-back flank as a member of the 1941 Premiership-winning Junior side. Leaving to join the RAAF he served in Lancaster Squadron 4/62, he returned in 1946 to complete his Law studies (after sneaking in a couple of subjects at Cambridge). He was then chosen as captain of the Blacks from the small group with both war and former MUFC playing experience, As such he made his mark immediately within a team whose members came from many different directions and had had almost no experience of playing together previously. Greg Forrestal from the 1946 team is very definite that it was Peter's strong personality at centre-half-back, as well as his football ability, which bound together the back-line which was the keystone of their unbeaten success. His role as captain continued into 1947 when the Blacks again finished the home-and-home season on top - though not unbeaten this time! Indeed, in his absence through injury for the Finals they very nearly managed to miss the flag at all that year.

His personal characteristics were to carry him a long way in later years as an outstanding barrister, enquiry chairman and as a Justice of the Victorian Supreme Court.

DENIS CORDNER

Born 1924, the fifth member of his family to play for the University's senior side, left Melbourne Grammar School at 17 and spent a derisory single day as a first year Medical student in 1941 and promptly joined the Navy, becoming an officer. After one war-time game with Melbourne in the VFL while on leave in 1943 (with brothers Ted and Donald that time, the only time they played together), his second enrolment at University was under the CRTS programme, but this time he was in the Science (Metallurgy) faculty .He was a bright student, majoring with a final year Exhibition.

During his Blacks' three years he was an outstanding player, runner-up to the VAFA A Grade Best and Fairest award in 1946 and 1947 and winner (while MUFC captain) in 1948. He is remembered by many contemporaries as having the ability to swing matches by lifting his game when needed, taking control in the ruck and in the air. Tall for a ruckman in those days (195 cm), he was very early in favour of changing the role of the second ruckman from that of a duplicate to one with a function approaching that of today's 'onballer'. - an innovation he eventually succeeded in achieving, in concert with Melbourne's Ron Barassi a few years later, when he enjoyed a trio of VFL Premierships to match his three VAFA ones. In 1948, together with Doug Heywood, he played three consecutive Grand Finals (one in VAFA A Grade, two for Melbourne vs. Essendon - one drawn):

Winning Blues for cricket and athletics as well as football, he later rose to be Joint Managing Director of ICI Australia before changing direction to become, briefly, Australian Consul-General in New York from where he followed on to a number of appointments as a professional non-executive director. He died in 1990.

THOMAS (TOM) HOGG

Born 1926, joined the Navy straight from Scotch College and after three years in the Navy came to the University in 1947. An immediate success on the half-forward flank that year, he became vice-captain and topped their goal-kicking the following. Elected captain in 1949, he was also given for the first time an unofficial role as 'team coach', responding to the Club/Blacks coach Keith Fleming. A great team man, though dogged himself by injury, he led took the Blues through their particular 'sound barrier' into A Grade to be runners-up for the season - allowing them to be promoted to A Grade in 1950. He was also instrumental in obtaining the services of Bill Cartwright as trainer for the team over this period. In 1950 he accepted a request to become (non-playing) Coach - taking the Blues into the A Grade Finals for the first time since 1931. Members of his teams give him a major proportion of the credit for achieving what had been over many years an elusive goal.

Having also completed his Commerce degree, Tom joined his family's business - Millers Rope Works, the Melbourne FC nursery - leaving in 1970 for a career in sharebroking.

GEOFFREY WILLIAM GLADSTONE (GEOFF) SINCLAIR

Born 1930, also a former Scotch boy, was among those first year Medicine students 'shunted' to Mildura in 1948, where he participated that year as a ruckman in the experience of just missing out on the Sunraysia League Grand Final. Then, the following year in the Blues he began to acquire his continuing role as centre-half-back. By 1950, after the loss of a number of senior ex-service players he was elected as captain under newly appointed coach, Tom Hogg.

1951 saw the Blues start with staff member 'Lardy' Pyke as coach, but a new career appointment was to take him away half way through the season, throwing Geoff into an unofficial dual role. Finishing again in the four despite this dislocation, Geoff's appointment as a student captain/coach of the Blues in the following (1952) year was popular - and their success in taking out the A Grade Premiership from fourth position is now a legendary one. One young players from that year records: "*I am still in awe of Geoff Sinclair's performance in 1952... he knew how to get the most out of Uni students!*" Geoff was also selected as vice-captain of a VFA interstate team.

In later years, after a staff appointment at the Queen Victoria Hospital, Geoff was appointed an Honorary Surgeon at Box Hill Hospital in 1965 - eventually leading a team of medical colleagues into the establishment of a successful day surgery radiography clinic there.

JAMES DUNCAN ANDERSON

Born 1931, arrived from MGS with outstanding records in both work and sport (cricket and athletics as well as football), and lived up to his promise to the full at University. In 1950, his record-breaking Public School goal-kicking career made him the focus of the recruiting choice for both Blacks and Blues that year. Joining the Blues he was to top the VAFA A Grade goal-kicking for the next five years (1950-52). Playing as vice-captain on the 1952 Blues Premiership side he became captain the following year, as well as an automatic selection in several VAFA representative teams. John Brady, arch opponent on the field over several seasons (for both the Blacks and Commonwealth Bank), regards him as easily the best forward he ever faced. Despite his own outstanding ability to score, he was universally praised for his unselfishness. That he would have achieved great success in VFL ranks, had he made the attempt, is the concerted opinion of all who saw him play. Continuing his academic successes in the Law Faculty and with a full Football Blue and half-Blues in Cricket and Athletics, it was not surprising that he should then have become the 1954 Rhodes Scholar from Melbourne. Returning from Oxford, he was a Liaison Officer at the 1956 Olympics before joining the Commonwealth Public Service, initially in the Department of Foreign Affairs and then in 1973 the Prime Minister's Department until his retirement in 1991. He died in 1996.

SUPPORTERS AND OFFICIALS 1940s and 50s

There were a number of unforgettable supporters for both Blacks and Blues - doctors always being prominent. Psychiatrist **Dr. Paul Dane** with the perennially hoarse voice, often accompanied by daughter **Winsome**, was an ever-reliable figure at both home and away games from the 1930's until his death in the mid-1950s. Blues' fathers, **Dr. Macdonald and Mr. Lapin** were also renowned - the first for hoisting an umbrella in centre goal as a focal point for University shots - and the latter (showing some disregard for today's values) for the supply of oranges and/or cigarettes to players at breaks between quarters.

Vice-Presidents, mostly fathers of players, were often former players themselves and came and went. A surprising number were doctors - **Drs. Cordner, Atkinson, Jolley, Kerr, Melville, Thwaites, and Sutherland** were all in this category, along with Messrs **Galbraith, Brady and Cuthbertson**. Usually they were donors (around 5 pounds per time) and therefore, as one of the very few sources of Club revenue, they were of great value.

Such a list would be incomplete, though, without mention of the nearby Carlton residents who were able to find their way in for some free football on Saturdays. Referred to by some as the 'local derros' (short for derelicts), their comments usually had a different flavour.

Keith Fleming, a former Fitzroy and Hawthorn player and outstanding Scotch College sportsman of the 1920's, was rung in from his Yarra-side farm and dairy in Fairfield to fill the gap left when John Atkinson was unable to continue in 1948. He stayed on to complete the Blacks 'run' of premierships to 1949, and continued to support their operations, though without the same level of success in later years. He was famous for the personal damage he was willing to inflict on himself if his team "... *could not beat this push...*" (meaning the opposition). **John Atkinson**, himself a former Black, had the distinction of coaching the successful 1951 juniors and the 1946 unbeaten Blacks

Officers and officials of the Club included such individuals as **Mr. Ernest Crawford**, the head of the Sports Union throughout the 1930's and until 1947 an almost ex officio MUFC Vice-President - though he continued his official staff role for a year or two longer. Successfully managing University sport through the pressures of wartime, he was not an easy man to work with.

Alan Brudenell, a sometime Vice-President of MUFC was also, off and on, it's Secretary, as he was for some other University sporting clubs. Though contributing when alternatives were few, his role was often passed on to others who did the job better. **John Grant** was one who was invaluable in covering the wartime Junior years in the same role.

Perhaps the most outstanding servant to the Club was Blues trainer **Harry Taylor**, who was being described in Annual Reports as a 'veteran trainer' in 1926, but who was still assisting the teams in 1940 - appearing to have done so since around 1915. Something really special!! Others included goal/boundary umpire **Howard Marks** and boundary umpire **Alf Lazer**, who used the role successfully for athletics training and whose affiliation with University sport still continues. In addition there were trainers **Frank Vernon** and **Bill Cartwright**, the latter a loom turner at Yarra Falls mill, who never missed a Blues game between 1946 and 1949. All these, like a number of student volunteers (including perennial Med. student **George Hadfield**, whose administrations as trainer included both whisky and benzedrine tablets), gave their services free and unrewarded, and the Club owes them a great deal.