Why Life is Like Footy

Well it is farewell to yet another season of football and all across the country for every one team celebrating a premiership win, there are a dozen or so already well into planning for season 2016. One of these teams is my old side The Old Trinity Grammarians (OT’s) who finished runners up in the VAFA A Grade Grand Final last Sunday. Despite the loss I was tremendously proud of the boys and was also reminded of how much football is like life.

When I joined OT’s, we had just come up from E Grade. For the next 10 years we worked our way slowly up the grades, playing just about every team in Melbourne along the way. We wore bright yellow jumpers and bright yellow (very tight in those days) shorts and had names like Jonathan, Charles, Edward and William. Our opposition in those days were usually sponsored by a butcher or a panel beater and they seemed to spend most of the game butchering the English language, while panel beating our heads. One club in particular, had an on-ball contingent consisting of ‘Killer’, ‘Psycho’, ‘Crazy’ and ‘Clutch’.

It was a tough introduction to life and as private school boys, we were pretty much punched up every week. But we did keep winning. As with life, victory rarely came when we expected it, but the longer we stuck at it, the more victories we managed to rack up. There were losses, heartbreaks, nose, arm and knee breaks; there were freezing cold nights where you’d ask yourself ‘why the hell am I doing this?’; there were some great and memorable victories but above all what emerges and remains are the stories of mateship and helping each other to stand tall in tough times.

Funnily enough these stories occurred off the field as much as on it. They endured long after the final siren rang on your last game and as the years passed, the goals got longer, the marks got higher and the antics more outrageous. Like life, you grow up watching something to which you aspire; then one day you are involved in it; you discover it is a lot harder than it looks; you discover luck plays a big part; you learn to win; you learn to lose; you learn to take a punch and give a punch. More often than not you learn you are no-where near as good as you thought you were and on the humbling journey to try and get somewhere in your chosen field, you learn that the crowd in the ‘cheap seats’ rarely understand what it takes to be in the arena.

Most of us ‘in the arena’ are not super stars. We’re just people doing our best and not always looking too good in comparison to those who excel in the fields we have chosen. We work, we push, we fail, we succeed, sometimes we even give in, but in the end we always get up. And to me that is the quality which is most valuable in life and most learned in football.

I’d love to be able to tell you stories about the times I flattened ‘Killer’, ‘Psycho’, ‘Crazy’ or ‘Clutch’, but I can’t because I never did. I was usually on the receiving end which looking back was a gift because the more times you get knocked down, the more practice you have at standing up and in the end, it is the capacity to get up one more time that you are knocked down which determines the difference between success and failure.

Go the OT’s.
**DECV**

Thanks to the consistent effort everyone put in over the course of Term 3, all students are on track to successfully complete DECV. Our VCE’s will finish up DECV submissions by October 30th. Juniors will have until the 27th of November. Please be aware that JCS classes and activities run until the end of term. With the exception of ATAR students, all students are expected to attend 9:30am to 3:00pm until the end of Term 4.

**DECV Dates**

- **28th OCTOBER: 9:00AM English Exam**
- **29TH OCTOBER: 9:00AM Psychology Exam**
- **30th OCTOBER: Final date for VCE submissions**
- **27th NOVEMBER: Final date for Year 7-10 submissions**

**Thailand Camp**

Thailand camp was once again a highlight of our camp program. This year we travelled to Phuket and Phi Phi Island.

Jason took us fishing around Kho Phi Phi for his birthday and bagged an impressive mackerel. Marty got the best bargains at the markets. Dean and Finn got up close with tigers. Ching was by far the most adventurous; python taming, tuk tuk driving, fishing on the high seas and boxing with the locals.

Marty, Finn and Jason were put to the test straight off the plane after a day in transit. It was up to them to arrange transport and accommodation late at night in a foreign city. The boys learned about the importance of bartering, getting the right info and different definitions of ‘distance’. Tied to a tree Marty and Finn learned the importance of the little things in life (like toilets) as well as the kindness and generosity of strangers. Miles from home and her usual support network, Ching learned more about her ability to adapt and be independent. Out at sea Dean and Jason learned the beauty of nature and the vulnerability of humans. And Kate learned she needs to brush up on her geology before taking students out on boat rides again.
Exams

YEAR 12
The VCE exam period runs from the 5TH of October to the 18TH of November
28th OCTOBER: 9:00AM English Exam
29TH OCTOBER: 9:00AM Psychology Exam

Save the date
Speech evening will be held on the 10th of November. All students are expected to attend.

Important Dates

Term 4
Thursday 8th October: Term 4 commence
Friday 30th October: Halloween day
Monday 2nd November: Pupil free day
Tuesday 3rd November: Melbourne Cup
Mon 23rd Nov – Thu 26th Nov: Road trip
Wednesday 2nd December: First Aid Day
Thursday 3rd December: Photo Day
Monday 7th December: VCE celebration dinner
Wednesday 9th December: Term 4 concludes
Thursday 10th December: Speech Evening
Don't just give a kid a fish... teach him how to fish.