

Nathan Preyser

(1982-3)

'Brotherhood, camaraderie, community, companionship, company, comradeship,



fellowship, society', these are the words that define any sport team, and in my case four soccer teams in my 12 year football career and later to help juniors in their football career.

As an only child, being part of a team defined me as person. My parents always said, 'you can only do your best', 'treat everyone with respect', 'no I in team' , 'work hard play fair and the rewards will come' and 'it's not all about winning'. These are just some of the sayings that I grew up with, and still resonates with me in my sporting, career and parenting.

When asked to write my Biography I never thought I could compete with the likes of Siggy, Marty & Stuart, but 'I can only do my best'. They were and still are much older than me.

My life at Bendigo CAE, as it was known in 1982, began at the Osbourne St Student Accomodation Halls one February Sunday evening, waiting in line for dinner. There was a round faced kid, who welcomed me to stand with him, obviously a regular in the food line, named Porridge, for the obvious round face! We had a few things in common,

studying business, both migrants, him from a strange speaking place, Scotland and me from South Africa, he pronounced that funny too together with the lion and tiger questions (he was a Tigers fan). Last but not least he asked what sport I played and that's where the journey into the BCAE Football Club began. I think before I enrolled into my first class, he had me sign up to the BCAE Soccer Club!

That first year of cold training nights, hopping on the 3.30pm train on a Friday to fulfil my night fill job at Coles, and return by car or train on Saturday / Sunday be on time for game day was the 'work hard' mindset was a commitment in itself.

With the commitment came rewards by playing in the Reserve squad and a few go's in the Firsts. The rewards, were many, as listed in other biographies and together we celebrated hard, built those friendships, that could I thought, would never be able to be relived.

Gameplay there was some memories I can recall; Wayne Sharpe (Zulu), have been long time family friends and still remain friends. I can recall the thunderous hooves down the right hand side before squaring a cross while Porridge (Glenn Wilson) on the left, often behind the pace and reliant on the odd free kick 😊. In the Centre and Backline there was curly haired Voldi Snijders (if he was fit enough after missing training) or on time (he would sleep in on Sundays) but I felt he always had my back. There were some weeks

I'd miss the odd one on one with the goal keeper and he'd take me into the hall at the hostels, and we'd go for hours me trying to beat him. Now this goodwill was, as I figured out, was to his benefit; there were a group of netballers in view of us and I often wondered why he would come in shorts and a vest for a one on one on a cold week night, I was the one who was sweating!

One memorable game was a cold wet day on a waterlogged pitch in Castlemaine and the ball would skid and I was up against, a much older back. I was a few goals behind the goal scorer leader board and saw it as a great opportunity to score a bag. I scored 2 or 3 we won 6-0 and my recollection was it's ok, 'I had respect for the back man' he was old and slow and couldn't take advantage of him, albeit he getting a yellow for fouling me at some stage of the game. As for the leading goal scorer, missed out but, 'its not all about winning'

The last game I played was in the knockout cup final (we won 2-1), I lasted 10minutes due to my ankle being taken from under me at the Bendigo Stadium against Colts. My 'crutch', no not the one you thinking of Siggy, was the microphone and everything else that night of celebration, and that's how I recall the BCAE Team of 1982 and 1983!!

Over time and through a longstanding College friend, I reconnected with Glenn and that friendship rekindled,

culminating in our 'loving banter' on the created BCAE group chat, and slowly others became connected and now the reunion, we all would never have thought could have occurred. We will pay respect to those who unknowingly have passed but 40 years on and still kicking literally is a fantastic achievement.

After college I went into the Corporate world of retail and Coles Myer, married Marisa and in 1995 & 1998, we had Caitlin & Marisa and a few pet dogs on the way. We lived in Sydney for 3 years, travelled a lot (Marisa being a travel consultant) and are now empty nesters.

After venturing into a number of family run SME's businesses as a C-Suite executive, volunteer Chair FRAC & Treasurer, Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation, I am now consulting in my own right to Disability Care Providers on Merge & Acquisition opportunities in the Non for Profit sector.

In 2006, the hunger for being involved in a team environment re-emerged and I approached the local Ashburton Soccer Club about, firstly enrolling my youngest daughter, Nicola for goal kick and me coaching underage kids. I was successful on both counts but Nicola preferred Ballet. I co-ordinated 100+ kids every Sunday and then coached the U9's – U12's boys and girls on game day for the next 8 years to 2016, when hung up the boots.

Thanks to Siggy, amongst all of his other retirement roles, for organising our reunion and I'm sure it won't be the last.