

## "The Lakers Dream"

Throughout this past year I have been having this same dream, it's about a dream of the 'Premiership'.

The dream starts this Saturday when my football team plays our first final. What is truly amazing is the dream so far has come true, the setting at the beginning of my personal dream is of us making the finals in fourth place behind Craigieburn, Greenvale and Tullamarine so far has come true. The rest of my dream always happens the same way, we play Tullamarine this week in the first week of the finals and win by 3 goals, the second game of my dream is that top placed Greenvale loses their first final to second placed Craigieburn. This then means we play Greenvale in the second week of finals and Tullamarine is eliminated and Craigieburn advances to the Grand Final. In my dream the game against Greenvale is a close one, they are undefeated so far until the finals but we have come close on two occasions. By the end of the game we have won with a kick at goal after the siren which in my dream is always me from 50 metres out. My dream always ends with the same vision of my team Taylors Lakes playing against Craigieburn at Coburg or Windy Hill football ground, my dream has never showed me the end of the Grand Final but it definitely shows us in the game.

To play finals this year and to possibly make it to a Grand Final would really be special. My last 4 or 5 years of football hasn't been very successful. My last finals game was an under 14 Grand Final where we lost to Hoppers Crossing, this is when I played at St Albans. After that year I played one more year at St Albans which was Under 16's and that year we didn't win a game, not even one of the practice matches. After that year I came over to Taylors Lakes where I had started being friends with a few people through school here.

So my first year at 'Lakes' was as a top age U16 player we didn't have much success that year only winning 5 or 6 games. After that season personally I felt drained and tired of football and didn't intend to play Under 18 football but I did and last year we struggled once again, we finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 10 teams which is average considering how strong our line up was. This year also has been a struggle but a good one. We had to fight hard to make finals this year and now that we have accomplished that together as mates after 3 years is something we are proud of, now we have to take the next step before our Junior footy ends at the end of this month.

Last week I was talking to one of the club's best senior players at a club function. We had a long talk about his football career up till now and where our club is heading and we kept coming back to thinking how important it is to make the most of those opportunities in junior to win games and be successful but also to perform well and have a future in football.

As long as you enjoy your football as a kid is the main thing because once you hit senior footy like I am in a matter of months and through my taste of it earlier this year when I played in the seniors, I can definitely see that it is a lot harder to maintain the level of fitness required, but it is rather important to make the most of those finals you play as a junior, especially Under 18's but also at the same time enjoy your footy.

Through just thinking about all this my burning desire is back to play finals footy one more time, I can tell that this desire is back because of my dreams and the way I feel when I think of this Saturday. You can never tell what's going to happen later on in life so it's always better to make the most of your opportunities now while they're here. That's what I intend to do this Saturday when I run out there with my team mates.

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*From a dream I had to play one more year of finals before playing Senior Footy.*