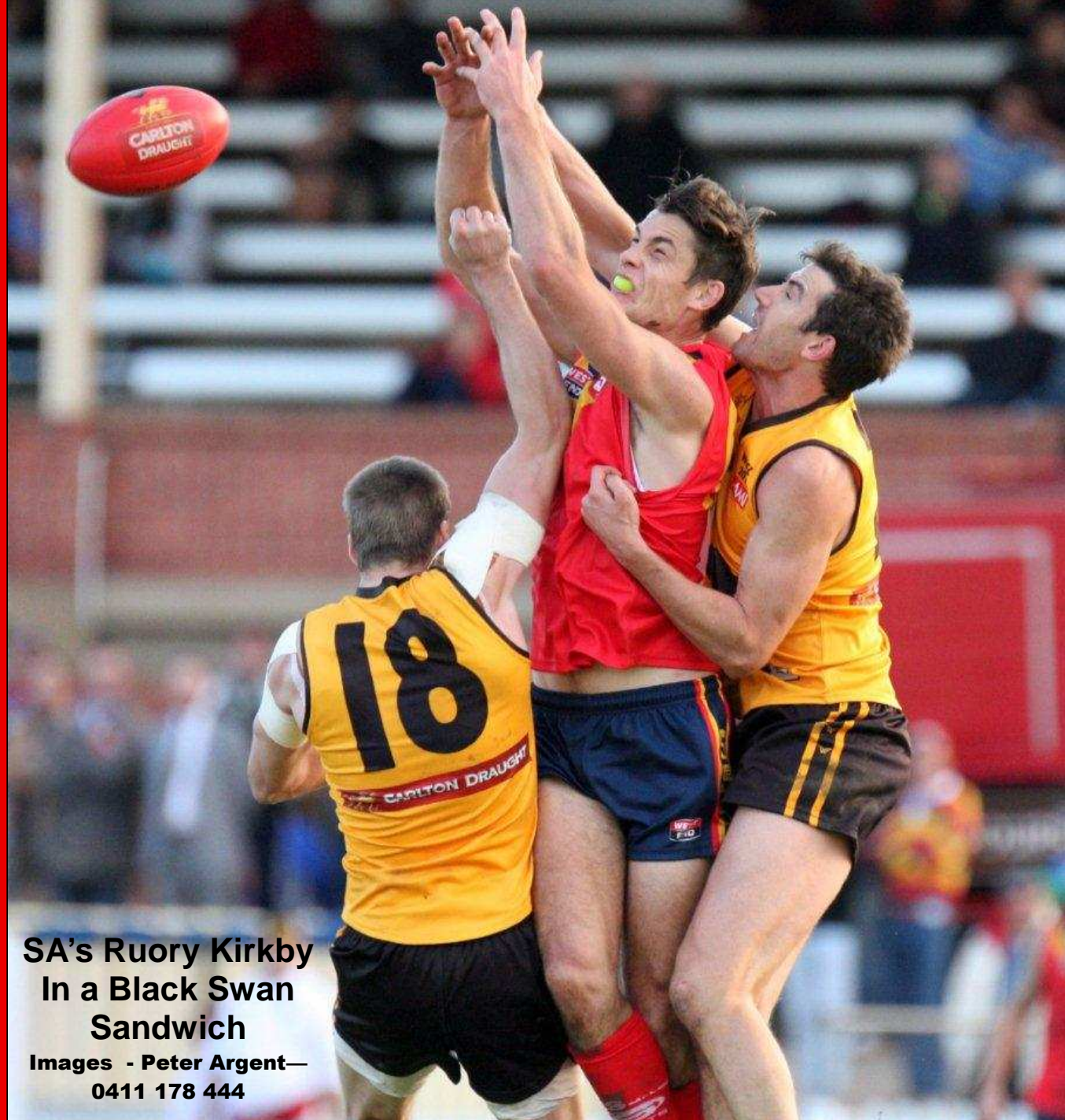


FOOT-e TIMES SA

Comprehensive Coverage of South Australian Football

Rd 10 Mid Week Edition : Wed 30th May

SANFL Pride Restored



SA's Ruory Kirkby
In a Black Swan
Sandwich

Images - Peter Argent—
0411 178 444

Reserves Issue In Review

FEATURE STORY



Western Australia

Currently the arrangement for West Coast Eagles and Fremantle Dockers players are very similar to that in the SANFL with all on the list allocated to one of nine WAFL clubs.

However in 1999 for three seasons the WAFL tried a "Host Club" arrangement where all the Eagles players went to Claremont (1999) & East Perth (2000-01) and Dockers players went across the oval to South Fremantle (1999-01).

As the South Fremantle web site history page illustrates it did not work as planned.

"In season 1999, the club's one hundredth, South Fremantle became the 'host club' for most of the spare players for Fremantle Oval co-tenants, the Fremantle Dockers.

Boosted by the injection of talent the Bulldogs climbed from sixth to earn the minor premiership. However, the host club arrangement saw much home-grown talent leave the club (a career move that brought Gus Seebeck a Sandover Medal) and which saw local draftees playing against their old clubs, to the fury of rival clubs and their supporters.

The club entered the finals with the worst of both worlds - antagonism from the football public and muted support from the Dockers who refused to release all eligible players for the finals campaign" (www.sffc.com.au)

Claremont ditched the deal after just one season having lost many players who left for greater opportunities at other clubs, these departures not offset but the addition of available Eagles.

East Perth decided to have a go in 2000 and it paid instant dividends, the Royals ending 22 years in the

wilderness rising from 8th to secure back to back flags, the 2001 premiership against fellow Host Club, South Fremantle.

With the competition appearing to have become unbalanced WAFL club presidents voted 8-1 (East Perth the sole objector) to go back to spreading the players around, the only difference being interstate players for the Eagles would go to the four clubs north of the Swan River, whilst interstate Dockers recruits would go to the five clubs South.

What should be noted from this failed arrangement is that it corresponded with both the Eagles & Dockers dropping down the ladder.

	West Coast	Fremantle	Total win
Spread			
1998	12-10 (7th)	7-15 (15th)	19
Host Club			
1999	12-10 (5th)	5-17 (15th)	17
2000	7-14-1 (13th)	8-14 (12th)	15
2001	5-17 (14th)	2-20 (16th)	7
Spread			
2002	11-11 (8th)	9-13 (13th)	20
2003	12-8-2 (7th)	14-8 (5th)	26

So if the whole purpose was to enhance the depth and preparation for the AFL teams, even at the expense of the WAFL as a league competition, that was not reflected on the scoreboard.

**Would Jason Davenport
have developed better
in a Power Reserves Side?
Images - Peter Argent
- 0411 178 444**

