

PROFILE

DES. SCROOP

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Des Scroop at work in the North Adelaide clubrooms strapping a player's ankle.



With the football season over, the boots hung up and the shouting died down, one could be forgiven for thinking that all is quiet until April next year when our National game starts all over again.

Such may be the case for some, but for those closely involved, there is time for first a quick breather and then preparation starts all over again, in fact next month.

Des. Scroop knows all about it — football has been very much part of his life and now as Head Trainer for the "Roosters", he has his time well and truly taken up.

Sport has been part of Des's life since his school days — football, cricket, basketball.

Des was educated at Marist Brothers College at Thebarton and a couple of his school mates were Norm Lockhart and Frank Richardson (Norm

recently retired as State Communications Officer) and Frank, our Communications Project Officer.

Des started his working life with the State Bank (6½ years) as a Teller and then transferred to the Mines Department for 2 years. Following a short time with Myer Stores he joined the Regular Staff of St. John and at present is one of the Metropolitan Centre Officers.

His introduction to St. John came in 1960, when he joined the West Torrens Transport Division. He was one of the first members of the Transport Division at Tea Tree Gully when it was established in 1967 and is now one of the Divisional Officers.

But back to his sport. As a cricketer, he played for Flinders Park, St. John and the Brompton Ramblers and was known for his prowess as a

batman and bowler. He played a leading role in the St. John A. Grade Cricket team which took out the Premiership in 1966/67.

For basketball he adopted a different approach and played for St. John against the Paraplegics, using of course, wheelchairs for mobility instead of legs. Frank Richardson and the late Vic Lavelle were also members of the team, and according to Frank, Des was a very determined player.

His real love was in football and prior to 1963 he played for Flinders Park, Loxton and the West Torrens 2nd 18's before a knee injury forced him to give the game away and he took on a position of Trainer with the West Torrens Second 18's.

In 1964 he changed clubs and joined up with the "Bulldogs" who had just entered the league and after 2 years, moved again — this time to Sturt — where he was to spend the next 15 seasons, during which time the Double Blues took out 7 Premierships — 5 of them consecutively between 1966 and 1970. (Their fortunes haven't been quite so successful in the past few seasons. Ed.)

His skill as a trainer was recognised in 1973 when he was selected as a trainer for the State Second 18's and his dedication to his job was recognised when he was granted life membership of the Sturt Football Club in 1975.

At the end of the 1980 season, "Scroopy" was approached by North Adelaide to join its training staff as Assistant Head Trainer, but before he took up the position, the Head Trainer retired due to ill health and he commenced his association with the "Roosters" as Head Trainer.

As mentioned earlier, the break from training between seasons is short lived and this year training started in January four nights a week until the matches commenced when it was reduced to three.

A Head Trainer has a very heavy commitment — training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday nights, the match on Saturday, arriving at the Oval at 10.30, finishing about 5.45 p.m. and then returning on Sunday morning for at least an hour to attend to injuries from the previous day.

In addition to these responsibilities, Des supervises a staff of 9 other trainers and purchases all of the supplies required to attend to the players injuries.

With such an involvement with football and St. John, it makes you wonder how he fits it all in but then for relaxation between footy commitments, he relaxes by working in his house and garden.

Des has a very understanding wife and 2 boys, without whose support he would not be able to do so much.

A fairly quiet fellow, but known to "play", Des is still very fleet footed and this was shown when he won the "Old Buffers Race" at the Staff Social Club Picnic last year.

When asked where he thought the "Roosters" would be on the premiership ladder next year, Des had to be drawn out and although it was a tentative sort of answer, we are sure that he is quietly confident that the Roosters will be up there pecking them off one by one.

Des comes in for a bit of ribbing from some of his one eyed working mates, but one thing is quite certain, the players are in good hands.

READER SURVEY

The results of the "Spotlight" Reader Survey in the June/July 1981 Issue have now been compiled, and will assist the Editorial Committee to plan the magazines content in the future.

The general response to the survey was most pleasing, with the results indicating a high level of acceptance and interest in the magazine. Many thanks to all those who replied.

Although not everyone commented on all sections of the questionnaire, the top ten subjects which attracted the most positive response were, in order:

	YES/MORE	NO/LESS
1. Is "Spotlight" a worthwhile communicator?	95.3%	1.6%
2. News Briefs	90.6%	1.6%
3. Profiles on personnel	84.4%	12.5%
4. Spotlight on country towns	82.8%	15.6%
Information from H/quarters	82.8%	10.9%
Articles on St. John activities	82.8%	9.4%
5. Back Patters	81.2%	17.2%
Stories about St. John people in action	81.2%	14.1%
6. Requests for a regular "Letters to the Editor" section	79.7%	17.2%
7. Human interest articles	76.6%	15.6%