

AN ERA OF SUPREMACY -DECADE THREE

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB - 1920 to 1929

written by David Bartlett #11

The years 1920 to 1929 can be considered as some of the most successful in the Club's history. The 'A' grade team competed in the Finals every year, winning Premierships in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1926 and 1929 and finishing runner-up twice and third three times.

During this time the 'B' grade side also won Premierships in the Adelaide Students' Football Association in 1920, 1922 and 1924.

The 1922 season was the most successful during this period, with both the 'A' and 'B' grade sides winning Premierships and the Adelaide University side defeating Melbourne in the Inter-Varsity match for only the second time ever. H.G. (Henry) Prest also won the Naylor Medal.

The 1923 season saw the formation of the Club's third side competing in the Students' Association.

Although it was not an immediate success, the depth of players created by this team assured the future strength of the Club. Other highlights in this period were the effort of W.R. ('Jogger') James, being the first full forward to kick over 100 goals in the Amateur League in 1927.

The Gunning Medal for the 'A' grade Best and Fairest also commenced in 1927.

The 1928 season saw the formation of the A2 grade in Amateur League. This initiative was the start of an extended expansion program. In 1929, the Hone Medal was awarded to C.B. (Chris) Sangster, the University Captain.

A brief summary of each of the years during this period follows.

1920 Season

The 1920 season saw the re-formation of the Amateur League after World War I, with University Football Club fielding an 'A' grade team in this League and a 'B' grade team in the Adelaide Students' Football Association. Under the leadership of A.H. White (Captain) and D.J.R Sumner (Vice-captain), the A's lost only two matches for the season - to Semaphore Central and to Kingswood and thus finished Minor Premier.

It is interesting to note that the team played North Adelaide, the ultimate League Premier, in a pre-season match and, although beaten, put up a very creditable showing.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

Premiership Table 1920

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	15	12	3	24
Henley and Grange	15	12	3	24
Glenferrie	15	10	5	20
Kingswood	15	9	6	18
Semaphore Central	15	9	6	18
St. Peter's College	15	3	12	6
East Adelaide	15	3	12	6
Prince Alfred College	15	2	13	4

The Premiership match was a relatively tame affair, with University defeating Henley and Grange 21.11 to 10.18. The best players were H.G. Prest, T.D. Finey, W.M.C. Symonds, G.M. Hone, A.H. White, G.H. Jeffrey and F.B. Leditschke. R.O. Fox kicked three goals.

The outstanding player for the season was A.H. White, who won the Club's Best and Fairest award (this was prior to the Gunning Medal for the Best and Fairest in 'A' grade). Others to play consistently well were H.G. Prest, G.H. Jeffrey, E.H. Johncock, T.D. Finey and E.J.K. Harbison. The main goalkickers for the year were W.M.C. Symonds, R.O. Fox and E.J. Swann.

The 'B' grade team had a very enjoyable and successful season in the Adelaide Students' Football Association. This was not only due to their Premiership win, but also because the matches were more in keeping with the team's standard than those of previous years. Much credit for this was attributed to the Captain-Coach of the 'B' grade, B. Roberts, who not only organised the University team, but also organised the matches for the Students' Association.

The committee for the 'B' grade team comprised S. Melville (Secretary), Pierce and B. Roberts. When S. Melville relinquished the position due to injury partway through the season, it was taken over by C. Koerner.

There were 16 matches played during the season (15 were in the Association program) of which ten were won, three lost and two drawn, giving the team the Minor Premiership, with Adelaide High School second. The most interesting match during the minor round was against PAC on University Oval. The game was abandoned just after half time when a heavy downpour flooded the oval. The match was awarded to University as they were leading 6.4 to 5.2 at the time.

In the Semi-final against Kenilworth, University won with comparative ease, but lost the Final to AHS by two points in a hard-fought game. University used their right to challenge as Minor Premier, however, and defeated AHS by three goals after a strenuous match.

The most outstanding player in the 'B' grade team was B. Roberts at centre, wing or roving. He was chosen as the Fairest and Most Brilliant player in the Association.

Other consistent performers were C. Piper, C. and J. Koerner, S. Melville and C. Hannan, with A. Welch kicking seven goals in one match.



1920 UNIVERSITY 'A' GRADE TEAM - PREMIER

Back Row: A.F. Hobbs, F.B. Leditschke, T. Finey, G.M. Hone, A.B. Jones, I.C. Barton, F.H. Fischer.
Middle Row: E.H. Johncock, W. Symonds, D.J.R. Sumner (V-c), A.H. White (Capt.), T.W. Tassie, G.H. Jeffrey, R.O. Fox.
Front Row: E.J.K. Harbison, E.J. Swann, H.G. Prest, C.E. Willing, J. Ashton.

1921 Season

The 1921 season was again a successful one for the Club, with the 'A' grade team going through the season with only one loss and taking out the Premiership for the second year in a row. The 'B' grade team performed creditably in the Adelaide Students' Football Association.

The teams competing in Amateur League were University, Glenferrie, SPSC, PAC, Henley and Grange, Kingswood and Prospect, the latter being in place of East Adelaide who had competed in the previous year.

Under the leadership of H.G. (Henry) Prest (Captain) and T.W. Tassie (Vice-captain) the A's won nearly all their matches by convincing margins, except for their one loss, and a two point victory over Kingswood (10.3 to 7.19). If it were not for poor kicking by the latter, this could easily have been another defeat.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

Premiership Table 1921

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
University	14	13	1	0	26
Prospect	14	9	5	0	18
Semaphore Central	14	9	5	0	18
Kingswood	14	8	6	0	16
Henley & Grange	14	6	8	0	12
St. Peter's College	14	4	10	0	8
Glenferrie	14	3	10	1	7
Prince Alfred College	14	3	10	1	7

In the Semi-finals University defeated Semaphore Central, 10.13 to 8.7 and Prospect beat Kingswood. In the Final 'the Blacks' were too strong for Prospect, winning 9.10 to 7.11. This was the Club's fourth 'A' grade Premiership.

Players who consistently appeared in the best player lists during the season were H.G. Prest, G.M. Hone, T.W. Tassie, A.S. de B. Cocks, I.C. Barton, H.L. Davie, W.M.C. Symonds, D. le R. Boucaut and E.H. Johncock, with the prolific goal scorers being Tassie, L.T. Gun and E.J. Swann.

The 'B' grade team was led by C. Piper, but apart from this, and the fact that they lost a very close game to Adelaide High School 10.6 to 10.9, little else is known. The team quite probably played in the Finals as it had won the 1920 Premiership and went on to win the 1922 Premiership. Two of the known Finals sides were AHS and Kenilworth.



1921 INTER-VARSITY TEAM

Back Row: W.R.G. Coleman, J.E. Ashton, D.K. McKenzie, W. Hutton (Coach), C.K. Haskard, O. Ziegler, F.H. Fischer.

Middle Row: W. Symons, I.C. Barton, T.W. Tassie (V-c), H.G. Prest (Capt.), R.O. Fox, G.M. Hone, H.I. Davie.

T.A. Farrant, C.E. Willing, A.S.de B. Cocks, L.T. Gun, E.J. Swan

1922 Season

The 1922 season was one of the Club's most successful years in its history. Continuing on with their good form from the previous season, the 'A' grade team won their third Premiership in a row - the first time that this had occurred in Amateur League and a feat not to be repeated by the Club until the early 1960's. It also won the Inter-Varsity match against Melbourne University in Adelaide, 9.14 to 8.12, for only the second time in 14 attempts.

The 'B' grade team also took out the Students' Association Premiership.

The 'A' grade side, coached for the first time by former Norwood player and coach, W.H. 'Billy' Hutton and led by H.G (Henry) Prest (Captain) and T.D. (Tom) Finey (Vice-captain), only lost one game for the season - the first match. The team scored a mammoth 1358 points for, to only 397 points against, for the season, with over 20 goals per game being kicked on several occasions.

With some great results, University again finished on top of the table at the end of the minor round for the fourth year in succession, being its sixth Minor Premiership in eight seasons.



1922 INTER-VARSITY TEAM - WINNERS

Back Row: J.E. Ashton, O.L. Zeigler, F.H. Fischer, W. Hutton (Coach), C.K. Hoskard, A.S. de B. Cocks, H.L. Davie.
Middle Row: W.M.C. Symonds, R.O. Fox, T.D. Finey (V-c), H.G. Prest (Capt.), G.M. Hone, D.J.R. Sumner, E.H. Johncock.
Front Row: G.A. Cain, S.J. Scoble, D. le R. Boucaut, J.F. Koerner, N.S. Gunning.



This is a copy for the original 1922 picture. All of our historic team photos and memorabilia are stored in the Archives of the University Of Adelaide. Temperature-controlled and mould-free.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

Premiership Table 1922

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	12	11	1	22
Semaphore Central	12	10	2	20
Goodwood	12	8	4	16
Kingswood	12	6	6	12
Dulwich	12	5	7	10
Henley & Grange	12	1	11	2
Y.M.C.A.	12	1	11	2

The Premiership match against Semaphore Central was very close with 'Varsity winning by eleven points, 9.9 to 8.4. Best players in this game were W.M.C. Symonds, A.S. de B. Cocks, H.G. Prest, D.J.R. Sumner, C.K. Haskard, T.D. Finey and E.H. Johncock. Goals were scored by D.J.R. Sumner, N.S. Gunning, W.M.C. Symonds, C. Koerner and G.M. Hone.

It was noted in the *Adelaide University Magazine* that this match was poorly patronised by the students in general.

H.G. (Henry) Prest had an outstanding season, winning the Naylor Medal, which was awarded to the Best and Fairest player in Amateur League. Other players who performed consistently well were H.L. Davie, D.J.R. Sumner, W.M.C. Symonds, C.E. Willing, G.M. Hone, T.D. Finey and A.S. de B. Cocks, with the most prolific goal scorer being D.J.R. Sumner.

Thanks to the efforts of Professor Darnley Naylor, Patron of the Amateur League, the standard of the League was being raised to such an extent that it was second only to the S.A. Football League (now the SANFL).



1922 UNIVERSITY 'B' GRADE TEAM - PREMIER (STUDENTS' ASSOC.)

Back Row: J.F. Koerner, P. Shanahan, C.W. Crompton, F.B. Leditschke, F.L. Collison, D.K. McKenzie, G. White.

Middle Row: N.A. Plunkett, F. Finlay, T.A. Farrent, E.J. Swann, C.T. Piper, R.T. Kleeman, C.E. Roberts.

Front Row: S.Krantz, K.B. Gross, R. Walsh, K.D. Gray.

Absent: L.N. Allen, B. Roberts, P.A. Read.

The success of the University 'B' grade team was largely due to its great camaraderie and *esprit de corps*. It was renowned for its "*strong back line, erratic forward line and its last quarter rallies*".

The 'B' grade team scored a total of 1103 points for, and had 524 points against, for the season, and lost only one of 14 matches.

The Final against Adelaide High School was played immediately after the vacation. Inaccurate kicking caused the team to lose 4.15 to 6.5. Being Minor Premier, the 'B' grade had the right to a Challenge Final, which was won easily 12.11 to 5.7 to bring home the Flag.

E.J. Swann was Captain of the side and his outstanding leadership, along with that of Vice-captain T.A. Farrent, was a major factor in the team's success. Top goal scorers for the season were Gross (39), E.J. Swann (23) and Gray (16) with J.F. Koerner kicking 23 goals in seven matches before being promoted to the 'A' grade team.

Good players throughout the year were P.H. Read at centre, Finley at centre half back, Crompton in goal, Allen in the back lines and Plunkett in the ruck.

T.W. Ashurst, who had been a good player for the B' grade over the preceding four seasons, was given a farewell in mid season and presented with a set of hair brushes prior to his departure as the 1922 Rhodes Scholar.

1923 Season

The 1923 season began with half the team from the previous year missing - players such as D.J.R. Sumner, J. Ashton, W.M.C. Symonds, G.A. Cain, E.H. Johncock, O.L. Zeigler, S.J. Scoble, C.K. Haskard and R.O. Fox, who were all good players. The 'new look' side, however, under the leadership of H.G. (Hugh) Prest (Captain), T.D. (Tom) Finey (Vice-captain) and Coach W.H. (Billy) Hutton, once again went through the minor round with only two losses and narrowly lost the Final.

The minor round losses were to old rival Semaphore Central and to Teachers Training College (12.8 to 9.15), who were enjoying their first season in the Amateur League. The latter match was played on the Hindmarsh Oval (which was West Torrens' home ground) as a curtain raiser to the Torrens v. Sturt League game for that week. University's best players in this game were H.G. Prest, N.S. Gunning, T.D. Finey, C.E. Willing, T.A. Farrent, E.J. Swann and F.H. Fischer, with Farrent kicking three goals.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

Premiership Table 1923

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Semaphore Central	12	12	0	24
University	12	9	3	18
Teachers Train. College	12	8	4	16
Dulwich	12	4	8	8
Goodwood	12	3	9	6
Y.M.C.A.	12	3	9	6
Kingswood	12	3	9	6

In the Semi-final, University easily accounted for Dulwich. The Final against Semaphore Central

was played on Norwood Oval under very bad conditions, it having rained throughout the night. The match was even all the way through with Semaphore Central taking the lead in the last five minutes and running out winners 5.11 to 5.6. Best players for 'Varsity were the Walsh twins (L.S. and N.A.), H.G. Prest and H. Fischer.

Consistent players throughout the season were N.S. Gunning, F.H. Fischer and J.F. Koerner, who were awarded Blues, C.E. Willing, T.D. Finey and L.S. and N.A. Walsh. W.R. ('Jogger') James, playing at half forward, was the team's main goal scorer.

The 'B' grade team again competed in the Students' Association, but did not do as well as in previous years and finished fourth. E.J. Swann was re-elected Captain, but on many occasions was promoted to the 'A' grade team, thus depriving the B's of his valuable services.

Ten matches were played during the season, with the team managing seven wins and three losses at the hands of Adelaide High School, Concordia and SPSC - the latter by one point after a very exciting game. As no Finals were played in this particular year, the team was not able to improve on fourth position that it occupied at the end of the minor round.

At the end of the season, a social match was played against the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company's Sports Club in the hope that it would become an annual event. 'Varsity won 4.8 to 4.3.

The best players for the 'B' grade team throughout the season were F.B. Leditschke, Allen and Walsh, all of whom were in the strong backline. W.R. James scored 16 goals in two games before being promoted to the 'A' grade team, and Dodd scored 12 goals.

It is interesting to note that over 30 players were involved in kicking the team's 173 goals for the season. This shows that the team varied greatly throughout the season.

The 1923 season also saw the formation of the Club's first 'C' grade team, initiated by the 'B' grade team committee. This 'infant' side competed against student teams, but did not record a win. The team justified its existence by providing opportunities for the weakest player to get a game and by being a good recruiting ground.

1923

INTER-VARSITY FOOTBALL

1923



BACK ROW:- K.M. Bennett, W. Sparks, G.R. Fisher, B.S. Hanson, F.W. Wagner, R.C. Walsh.

MIDDLE ROW:- W.R. James, R. Treloar, N.H. Stuart, W. Hilton (coach), S. Lewis, L.S. Walsh, F.L. Collison.

FRONT ROW:- N.S. Gunning (s), A.S. de B. Cocks, T.D. Finney (v.c.), H.G. Prest (c), F.H. Fischer, J. Koerner, D. le R. Boucaut.

Won by Melbourne, 14.0 - 5.16

1924 Season

The 1924 season was only partially successful in that the 'A' grade team finished third, but the 'B' grade team, under E.J. Swann, took out the Students' Association Premiership for the fourth time in eight years - a great record.

The 'A' grade team played 14 matches for the minor round, winning ten and losing four matches - to Kenilworth, Teachers Training College and to Semaphore Central twice - and thus finishing third.



1924 AUFC 'B' PREMIERS ASFA

BACK ROW: C.M. Adamson, N.E. George, D.F. McKenzie, A.G. Alexander, L.D. Hodley, H.P. Matthews, W.D. Walker, L.N. Allen.
MIDDLE ROW: E.C. Playford, B.S. Hanson, C.W. Crompton (Vice-Captain), E.J. Swann (Captain), F.W. Wagner, T.A. Farrant, F.L. Collison.
FRONT ROW: R.C. Walsh, S. Krantz, R.R. Van Senden.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

Premiership Table 1924

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Semaphore Central	14	14	0	28
Teachers Train. College	14	11	3	22
University	14	10	4	20
Kenilworth	14	9	5	18
Kingswood	14	4	10	8
Goodwood	14	3	11	6
Dulwich	14	3	11	6
Y.M.C.A.	14	2	12	4

The Semi-final against the top side Semaphore Central was played at Alberton Oval, with a

superb game resulting. The scores throughout were within a few points of each other with University leading right up to within 30 seconds of the final bell. Semaphore Central then scored a goal, which was immediately followed by the ringing of the bell, giving them victory by four points, 9.10 to 8.12.

Best for University were D.G. McKay, T.D. Finey, H.L. Davie, L.S. and N.A. Walsh, J.F. Koerner, J. Harris and D. le R. Boucaut, with McKay kicking four goals. Semaphore Central advanced to win the Final against Teachers College which meant that they remained undefeated for the second consecutive season.

The most consistent players for the 'A' grade team throughout the season were T.D. Finey, K.D. Gray, C.E. Willing, K. Bennett, L.S. and N.A. Walsh, N.S. Gunning, J.F. Koerner, D.G. McKay and N.H. Stuart. N.S. Gunning kicked 43 goals and finished second in the Amateur League goalkicking. W.R. James kicked 32 goals.

The 'B' grade team took out the Premiership in their Association, which now consisted of 14 teams, having gone through the season with only one loss. E.J. Swann was again Captain of the side and C.W. Crompton was Vice-captain. Consistent performers throughout the year were F.A. Farrent, Symons, and F.W. Wagner, with L.D. Hody and Mathews being amongst the goal kickers.

The 'C' grade team had a better year, although the team seemed to have lost most of their matches once again. Some of the players playing in this side were Phillips, A. Smith, Gillette, Hone, Dawkins, Griff and Webb.

It is interesting to note that concern was expressed in *The Medical Students' Association Review* at both the number of players attending practice and the low number of new players, as it "*appeared that the quieter and less strenuous games were coming into favour*". This was followed by an appeal for more interested players for the 1925 season.



1925 UNIVERSITY 'A' GRADE TEAM

Back Row: F.L. Collison, D.K. McKenzie, W.C. Alexander, B.W. Hone, L.H. Hodby, W.R. James, L.N. Allen, T.K. Moorhouse, H. Lloyd, J.Davis (Trainer).

Middle Row: E.N. Howard, L.S. Walsh, S.L. Lewis, H.L. Davie, T.O. Finey (Capt.), D.G. McKay (V-c), N.S. Gunning, D. le R. Boucaut, P.H. James.

Front Row: F.W. Wagner, B.S. Hanson.

1925 Season

In his report at the 1925 AGM, Secretary N.S. Gunning, stated that the standard of football at the University had fallen from the high standard of previous seasons and that so far in the 1925 season little improvement had been shown. Indeed, several members of the 1924 side were not available, namely K.Bennett, C.E. Willing, K.D. Gray, J.F. Koerner and G.A. Cain. The University Football Club had just secured a new coach in S.N. (Stephen) McKee, whom it was hoped would improve the team sufficiently to win both a Premiership and the Inter-Varsity match against Melbourne.

Under the leadership of T.D. (Tom) Finey (Captain) and D.G. (Doug) McKay (Vice- captain) the team went through the 11 minor round games, losing only four of 11 games, finishing third on the Premiership table as shown below. The highlight of the minor round was the three point defeat of Semaphore Central 8.5 to 6.14 in the last game which was the first time in three seasons that 'Centrals' had been beaten (ending a 41 game winning streak). Best man on ground was N.A. Walsh at half back with the rest of the team playing exceptionally well.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

Premiership Table 1925

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Semaphore Central	12	11	1	22
Kenilworth	12	10	2	20
University	12	8	4	16
Kingswood	12	7	5	14
Teachers Train. College	11	2	9	4
Y.M.C.A.	12	2	10	4
Goodwood	11	1	10	2

Unfortunately, the result of this last game could not be repeated in the Final. University went down to Semaphore Central, the eventual Premiers, 9.10 to 11.11. giving 'the Blacks' third position.

The best players over the year were L.S. Walsh, who was in the best players eight times in 11 matches, H.L. Davie at centre, D. le R. Boucaut and F.W. Wagner, the rovers, T.K. Moorhouse, S.H. (Stanley) Lewis and N.S. Gunning in the back lines and D.G. McKay, D.K. McKenzie, B.W. Hone and J.H. James in the ruck. The Club's leading goal kickers were W.R. James and D.G. McKay, both with 21 goals.

Both the 'B' and 'C' grade sides played in the Students' Association once again. Although exact details are not known, the former had a successful season, whilst the latter showed considerable improvement.

One of the unusual features of the season was a match between two combined Amateur League sides on University Oval in late May, with the University representatives being L.S. Walsh, N.S. Gunning and J.F. Koerner.

1926 Season

The signs for the 1926 season were promising. A good year for 'the Blacks' was predicted, as only one player, T.K. Moorhouse, was missing from the 1925 side and S.N. (Stephen) McKee remained as coach. The team was thus settled from the start, with T.D. (Tom) Finey as Captain once again (until he left for overseas) and D.G. (Doug) McKay as Vice-captain.

The team completed the minor round with only one loss in 14 matches, kicking a mammoth 1471 points (or an average of 17.3 goals per match) and taking out the Minor Premiership.

It is interesting to note that during this era, all minor round games were not completed at the same time. University completed its minor round on 20 August, but did not play its Semi- final (both Semi-finals were contested on the same day) until 4 September 1926. This break gave the Club time to compete in the Inter-Varsity match against Melbourne.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

Premiership Table 1926

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	14	13	1	26
Semaphore Central	14	12	2	24
Kenilworth	14	10	4	20
Kingswood	14	8	6	16
Marryatville	14	6	8	12
Teachers College	14	4	10	8
Prince Alfred O.C.	14	2	12	4
Y.M.C.A.	14	1	13	2

'Varsity defeated Kenilworth by five points, 15.13 to 14.14, in the Semi-final at Glenelg after a very close match, whilst Semaphore Central defeated Kingswood. In the Semi- final Doug McKay *"carried the team on his shoulders"* and his eighth goal, right on the siren, put 'the Blacks' in front.

This victory led the way for the traditional rivals to meet in the Final. This game was held on Unley Oval. Although University had won on the two occasions the teams had met in the minor round, the 'Seasiders' struck form at the right time and won 5.15 to 8.14. The result was in doubt until very late in the game. Semaphore Central was coached by Port Adelaide legend 'Shine' Hosking and Tim Wall, an Australian Test cricketer, kicked two long drop kick goals for 'Centrals'.



1926 UNIVERSITY 'A' GRADE TEAM - PREMIER

Back Row: N.A. Walsh, M.W. Evans, F.H. Finlayson, H. Wilson (Trainer), L.N. Allen, F.W. Wagner, L.S. Walsh.
 Third Row: H.L. Davie, B.S. Hanson, W.R. James, A.D. Smith, B.W. Hone, C.B. Sangster, G.W. Nunn, W.R. Baker.
 Second Row: S.N. McKee (Coach), D.G. McKay (Capt.), Prof. Darnley Naylor, N.S. Gunning (V-c), D.K. McKenzie.
 Front Row: A.E.C. Treloar, D. le R. Boucaut.
 Inset: S. Williams.

'Varsity exercised the right to a Challenge match and the replay was held at Norwood Oval in front of a large crowd. The match was close and the result was in doubt until a few minutes before 'time' when S. Williams kicked a goal to make the game safe and give University its sixth Premiership.

Final scores were University 9.15 to Semaphore Central 7.18. Best players were F.H. Finlayson at half forward, D.G. McKay and C.B. Sangster in the ruck, N.A. Walsh on the wing, F.R. Booker in the centre, W.R. James at full forward, S. Williams and A.E.C. Treloar roving and G.W. Nunn in the ruck. W.R. James kicked three goals in the Final and kicked a record 78 goals for the season. 'Jogger' was awarded a medal for this feat.

The 'B' and 'C' grade teams once again enjoyed successful seasons in the Adelaide Students' Football Association. The 'B' grade was top in early August, however their fortunes

after that time are not known. Some of the players in the 'B' grade team for the year were Gray, Forgan, Schultz, Evans, Chapman, Lloyd, Mitchell, Flaherty, Gillespie and Key.

1927 Season

S.N. (Stephen) McKee was appointed coach for the third successive year in 1927. Doug McKay was elected Captain, after being Vice-captain for two seasons, and C.B. (Chris) Sangster was elected Vice-captain in only his second year with the Club. Several older players, namely D. le R. Boucaut, H.L. Davie, L.S. and N.A. Walsh, A.E.C. Treloar, G.W. Nunn and N.S. Gunning were missing from the 1927 side. Players such as E.A. Schultz, H.L. Abbott, D.L. Richards, T.W. Rieken and L.B. Power filled their places admirably.

The 'A' grade team completed the minor round with only two losses, one of which was to Semaphore Central by only four points, and finished as Minor Premier. The other teams in the four in finishing order were Semaphore Central, South Adelaide Ramblers and Kenilworth as shown in the Premiership table below.

The highlight of the minor round was the splendid goalkicking of full forward W.R. ('Jogger') James with 78 goals at the end of the first round and 124 goals by the end of the minor round. ('Jogger' kicked 16 goals in one game against Marryatville.) This was the first time that 100 goals had been scored in Amateur League and was truly a remarkable record that stands to this day.

Another feature of the minor round was the record score of 41.42 kicked by University against YMCA. This record stood for many seasons and is still the second highest score in A1 games, behind the 49.16 kicked by Greenacres against West Croydon in 1988.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

Premiership Table 1927

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	18	16	2	32
Semaphore Central	18	14	4	28
South Adel. Ramblers	18	14	4	28
Kenilworth	18	13	5	26
Kingswood	18	12	6	24
Teachers College	18	7	11	14
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	6	12	12
Henley and Grange	18	6	12	12
Marryatville	18	1	17	2
Y.M.C.A.	18	1	17	2

University defeated South Adelaide Ramblers 17.11 to 9.15 in the Semi-final, with Chris Sangster, best on ground, giving a fine display of high marking and long kicking. 'The Blacks' advanced to meet Kenilworth, who had defeated Semaphore Central by eight points in the other Semi-final.



1927 INTER-VARSITY TEAM

Back Row: R.J. O'Connor, C. Symonds, H.L. Abbott, F.H. Finlayson, E.A. Schulz.
 Middle Row: D.L. Richards, M.W. Evans, R.LeP. Muecke, F.R. Booker, W.W. Evans, N. Stuart, W.R. Baker.
 Front Row: J.N. Smith, L. Smith, C.B. Sangster (V-c), D.G. McKay (Capt.), B.W. Hone, T.W. Rieken, D.T. Mitchell.

The Final was played at Prospect Oval and was won by Kenilworth who dominated the game for the first three quarters. University staged a gallant last quarter comeback to almost win the game, but did not quite get there. The right to a Challenge match was immediately used and a replay arranged.

An interesting facet of the Challenge Final was that no metropolitan ovals were available for the game. It could not be played as a League curtain-raiser as other teams were already committed to this. After much searching, SAAFL Secretary, H.V. Millard, made an 'eleventh hour' booking of the main oval at National Park, Belair, which was reported to be in good condition, rather than postpone the match.

'The Blacks' lost this Final 10.9 to 10.18. Kenilworth, who had finished fourth at the end of the minor round.

The 'B' grade team in the Students' Association had a good season with only two losses (against CBC and SPSC) to the halfway mark of the season, whilst the 'C' grade team was winning some matches, but was being let down by a lack of teamwork. Details of the performances of both sides in the latter half of the season are not available.

Another feature of the season was the donation of a medal by N.S. (Norm) Gunning to the Best and Fairest player in the A1 side for the first time. This award is still presented and is the most prestigious trophy at the Adelaide University Football Club.

1928 Season

The 1928 season was an important year for both the Club and the SAAFL as it saw the formation of the A2 grade, with the University 'B' grade team being entered. As stated in the history of the SAAFL, *"the strength of University was such that a second team from that club was accepted into the competition"*.

The 'C' grade team remained in the Students' Association competition.

The A1 side (new designation as there were now two grades) was coached by S.N. (Stephen) McKee for the fourth successive year, with C.B. (Chris) Sangster being elected Captain and W.R. ('Jogger') James the Vice-captain. Apart from D.G. (Doug) McKay, most players from the previous year were available, with the outstanding prospects amongst the Freshers being A.J. Clarkson, Cadzow, A.O. McPherson, Besanko and J.M.J. Jens. D.T. (Bert) Mitchell, the 1927 Hone Medal winner from Teachers Training College, also joined the University Football Club in this season.

'The Blacks' played a total of 12 matches for the minor round, winning eight and finishing third on the ladder.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1928

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Semaphore Central	12	10	1	1	21
Kenilworth	12	8	3	1	17
University	12	8	4	0	16
South Adelaide Ram.	12	7	5	0	14
Henley & Grange	12	5	7	0	10
Kingswood	12	3	9	0	6
Teachers College	12	0	12	0	0

'The Blacks' were easily defeated in the Semi- final by Semaphore Central, after displaying disappointing form and thus remained in third spot.

The outstanding player for the season was Chris Sangster at centre half back, who won the Gunning Medal as the Club's Best and Fairest player. Others to play consistently well were W.R. ('Jogger') James, A.D. Smith in ruck, B.W. Hone at centre half forward, D.T. Mitchell, R.F. Booker, S. Williams and F.H. Finlayson. 'Jogger' James once again headed the Amateur League goalkicking at one stage he kicked 33 goals in five SAAFL games, four in the Inter-Varsity match and eight in the State Amateur game.

The A2 team performed creditably in its first year in Amateur League, playing its games at Barton Terrace, North Adelaide. The side was defeated in the Semi-final by St. Augustine and finished fourth. The higher standard of play in the Amateur League in preference to the Students' Association benefited both the players and the Club as the performances of both improved. The better players for the year were A. Magarey, White, Lewis, Pengilly, Chapman and R.J. O'Connor.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A2 is shown below.

A2 Premiership Table 1928

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Underdale United	12	12	0	24
St. Augustine	12	10	2	20
Prince Alfred O.C.	12	6	6	12
University 'B'	12	4	8	8
Y.M.C.A.	12	3	9	6
St. Peter's O.C.	12	1	11	2

The 'C' grade team was only moderately successful as difficulty was experienced in building up and maintaining a regular side. It was reported that the members however, enjoyed the matches.

1929 Season

The activities of the University Football Club in 1929 were influenced by two important changes. These were the appointment of P. (Percy) Lewis, a former State player, as coach in place of S.N. (Stephen) McKee, who was unable to resume because of a leg injury, and the fact that players could play for both the 'A' and 'B' grade teams.

Under the leadership of Chris Sangster, who was only in his third season with the Club, and M.W. (Mervyn) Evans (Vice-captain), who later coached 'the Blacks', the team annexed the Minor Premiership in the last game of the minor round after an exciting four point win over Semaphore Central.

The Premiership table for A1 at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A1 Premiership Table 1929

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	12	11	1	22
Underdale United	12	10	2	20
Kenilworth	12	9	3	18
Semaphore Central	12	5	7	10
St. Augustine	12	3	9	6
Henley & Grange	12	3	9	6
South Adelaide Ramb.	12	1	11	2

'The Blacks' lost the Semi-final by two points to Kenilworth on a very wet day, the week after the Inter-Varsity match that had been played in Melbourne. Semaphore Central went on to win the Final against Kenilworth and then 'Varsity exercised its right to a Challenge match.

The Challenge Final was played on Jubilee Oval, now the site of the University buildings, and was won by University by seven points. 'The Blacks' held a big lead at three-quarter time, but three easy shots for goals were missed in the last quarter, which enabled 'Centrals' to get close.

Best man on the ground was I.H. (Ian) Seppelt, who kicked and marked well. W.R. Baker at centre, A.J. Clarkson, R.P. Larkin, A.O. McPherson across half back and C.B. Sangster also played well. F.H. Finlayson kicked seven goals, but missed a few easy chances.

The outstanding player for the season was C.B. (Chris) Sangster, who won the Hone Medal for the Best and Fairest in Amateur League. Chris Sangster also won the Club's Gunning Medal. F.H. Finlayson won the Amateur League goalkicking medal.

Others to play consistently well were D.L. Richards at full back, B.W. Hone in the ruck, H.L. Abbott, W.H. Baudinet, E.A. Schulz, I.H. Seppelt and A.O. McPherson.

The A2 side did not have a very good year, winning a few games and finishing well down on the Premiership table. This was the first year that the new University playing fields at Urrbrae were used by the 'B' grade team.

This failure was attributed to a *"lack of keenness by a great number of the players."* It was only halfway through the season when S.H. (Stanley) Lewis started coaching the team on Monday nights (Percy Lewis coached on Wednesday nights) that the team began to improve. Some of the players in the 'B' grade team at this time were Colebatch, O'Connor, Mitchell, Maitland and Braison.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A2 is shown below.

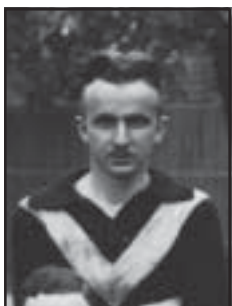
A2 Premiership Table 1929

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Kingswood	12	12	0	24
Teachers College	12	10	2	20
Prince Alfred O.C.	12	7	5	14
St. Peter's O.C.	12	7	5	14
Y.M.C.A.	12	3	9	6
Scotch O.C.	12	2	10	4
University 'B'	12	1	11	2



The 'C' grade team once again had an enjoyable, but unsuccessful year, in the Students' Football Association, with Reynolds, Collins, Price and Welch being some of the players in that side.

The Special Players.....



W.R. 'Jogger' James

'Jogger' James began playing with the University Football Club in 1923 and developed into one of the most prolific goal scorers ever seen in the Club and in the history of the Amateur League.

In his first year, 'Jogger' started with the 'B' grade side but, after kicking 16 goals in two games, he was promoted to the A's, where, according to the *Adelaide University Magazine*, his total in three games was 15 goals from the right forward flank.

In 1924, he was equal leading goalkicker with 21 goals. In 1926, the year he was awarded his Football Blue, he established a new Amateur League record, kicking 78 goals for the season from full forward, including three in the Final. He was also presented with an Australian Universities Sports Association Award during the year for outstanding play in a Combined University contest.

In 1927 'Jogger' broke his own record and became the first person to score more than 100 goals in Amateur League. He had kicked 72 goals at the end of the first round, 124 by the end of the minor round. He increased his tally during the Finals. Truly an amazing feat considering there were still 18 minor round matches at the time.

In 1928, his last year with the Club, 'Jogger' was elected Vice-captain of the A1's and once again headed the League goalkicking list with 74. In one period during the season, he kicked 33 goals in five games, scored four in the Inter-Varsity match and seven in the State match.

During his career with University, 'Jogger' played in five Inter-Varsity games, missing only the 1927 match due to injury.

On leaving the Club in 1929 'Jogger' played two League games with Norwood.

To demonstrate his all-around talents, he was also awarded a Tennis Blue in 1924.



D.G. (Doug) McKay

D.G. (Doug) McKay joined the Club in 1923, although he did not play many games that season due to injury, and remained with 'the Blacks' until 1927. He was a talented ruckman / forward and in 1925 he was equal leading goalkicker in the Club with 21 goals.

Doug was elected Vice-Captain of the team in 1925 and 1926, becoming Captain in the latter year when T.D. Finey left the Club for overseas. He was Captain again in 1927.

In his two years as Captain, 'the Blacks' won a Premiership in 1926 and were runner-up in 1927.

During his years with the Club, Doug also played in four consecutive Inter-Varsity matches from 1924 to 1927, leading the 1926 and 1927 sides. His outstanding play in the matches in 1926 and 1927 earned him two Australian Universities' Sports Association Blues, having been awarded an Adelaide University Blue in 1925. He is the only Adelaide player to have been awarded two AUSA Blues.

D.G. McKay's sporting prowess was not confined to football, however. He was Secretary and Captain of the University Cricket side for two years, scoring three 'A' grade centuries. This included the 1925-1926 season when University won its first SACA 'A' grade Premiership. Doug was also a member of the side that won the triangular University contest between Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne Universities in the same season. He was awarded a Cricket Blue in 1925.

As a fast bowler, Doug had the unenviable record of having bowled Jack Hobbs on Adelaide Oval and claiming the wickets of Sir Donald Bradman and the legendary Charlie McCartney.

In the 1926-1927 season, his last with University, he was in the State cricket team (along with C.B. Sangster and B.W. Hone) which won the Sheffield Shield.

In later years he became involved in the administration of the Amateur Football League, being Chairman from 1936 to 1949 and President from 1938 to 1949 to continue the tradition of University men in senior administrative positions. Doug was subsequently elected a Life Member in 1949 and was Patron for the years 1952 to 1957.

Dr Doug McKay had a great career with the University Football Club (and Cricket Club) and an equally impressive one as an administrator with the SAAFL.



T.D. (Tom) Finey

T.D. (Tom) Finey played for the Club from 1920 to 1926 and played in five Inter-Varsity matches during that time in 1920, 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925. He was an outstanding ruckman and a fine high mark.

Tom received his Football Blue in 1920. He also received a Cricket Blue in 1922. He was Vice-Captain of the 'A' grade side in 1922 and 1923 and was elected Captain of the side in 1924 and 1925. Tom was also elected Captain again in 1926, but left for overseas during the year and was replaced by D.G. McKay part way through the season.

The football, which was used in the 1924 Inter-Varsity match in Adelaide, and which bears Tom's signature as Captain, along with those of all the other participating Adelaide and Melbourne players, can be found in the Sports Association Office.



D. le R. Boucaut

D. le R. Boucaut played for the University Football Club from 1922 to 1926 and was in five consecutive Inter-Varsity sides.

He played in the powerful 1922 team which won the Premiership and Inter- Varsity against Melbourne. As a back pocket in the early years he was always reliable, and in later times he served well at full forward and roving.

He was awarded a Football Blue in 1922.

ANECDOTES ON THE 1920s

End of season finale, 1923 style

The end of season function was a quiet affair, reinforcing the spirit of the League at the time.

Dr F.A. Bloch's book on the history of the Amateur League reports,

"An SAAFL smoke social was held at the Arcadia Cafe at the end of the season. There were musical items, recitations and speeches. President Professor Darnley Naylor spoke and suggested that three things should be kept in view.

- 1. More people were now playing football and fewer were watching.*
- 2. They were an amateur football league. It was the pleasure of playing football that they sought, and they should keep money out of the question.*
- 3. They played football not because they made anything out of it or to attract large crowds, but because they loved the game and wanted to keep the spirit friendly.*

A highly decorated 1924 team

The 1924 'A' grade side included nine players who had earned Football Blues, namely T.D. Finey (captain), C.E. Willing (Vice-captain), G.A. Cain, K. McQ. Bennett, J.F. Koerner, N.S. Gunning, H.L. Davie, N.A. Walsh and D. le R. Boucaut.

There would be very few University sides who could boast this many Blues.

Your numbers up!

The SAAFL Executive followed through on earlier recommendations in the 1924 season when players wore numbers on their guernseys so the spectators could more easily identify *"who was doing what to whom"*.

The luxury of great forwards

'The Blacks' were well off for full forwards in the late 1920's. W.R. (Jogger) James had been an outstanding goalkicker in the mid 1920's, setting an Amateur League record in 1926 with 78 goals and then surpassing this in 1927 with 124 goals for the minor round (18 games). This still stands as the goalkicking record.

'Jogger' also won the goal kicking in 1928 with 74 goals.

In 1929, F.H. (Frank) Finalyson was the replacement forward for W.R. James. He had enjoyed a fine season in 1929 in front of the goals. He won the goalkicking medal for the Amateur League with 53 goals. Frank enjoyed a most consistent season, also performing well with the State side. Tallies of ten goals against South Adelaide Ramblers and seven goals in the Final against Semaphore Central were highlights.

While Frank was away with the State Amateur team, H.L. Abbott took over at the goal front and kicked 13 goals against South Adelaide Ramblers.

What a luxury – key forwards have often been a problem for ‘the Blacks’ in many eras.

End of season finale, 1927 style

The Amateur League’s end of season function in 1927 was extremely positive and ended in what would be considered today as quite ‘tame’ fashion.

Dr F.A. Bloch’s book on the history of the Amateur League reports.

“A dinner was held at the end of the season at the Earl of Zetland Hotel for the delegates from the clubs “to celebrate in a sociable and harmonious manner the close of what has probably been the most successful year in the history of the league” (Advertiser October 19th). Trophies were awarded to Bert Mitchell, the vice captain and centre half back from Teachers College, who won the Hone Medal, to ‘Jogger’ James of University, the leading goalkicker with a record 124 goals (beating his previous season’s record by 46), and to Bert Mitchell again for the Best Placed Man. Presentations were also made to the SAAFL secretary Hugh Millard and Treasurer L.S. Walsh. “The enjoyment of the evening’s proceedings were enhanced by a musical programme contributed to by Messrs. D.C. Lane (songs) and T.C. McGregor” (ibid).”

Players could play A’s or B’s, but not both!

Prior to 1928, players were confined to either the A1 or ‘B’ grade teams and could not transfer between the sides as the season progressed. This obviously had a detrimental effect in the case of injuries sustained by the A1 side.

The move to abolish this rule delighted the Management Committee.

Sports Association finances

In 1928 the Sports Association grant to the University Football Club was £102, with a further £55 allocated for a changing shed. This compares with the initial grant in 1911 of £27 and in 1933 of £47, obviously impacted by the Depression.

A newspaper report on the University Football Club during the 1928 season hinted at the style of play in these early years when it stated that *“handball has been indulged in at practice”*! How the game has changed!

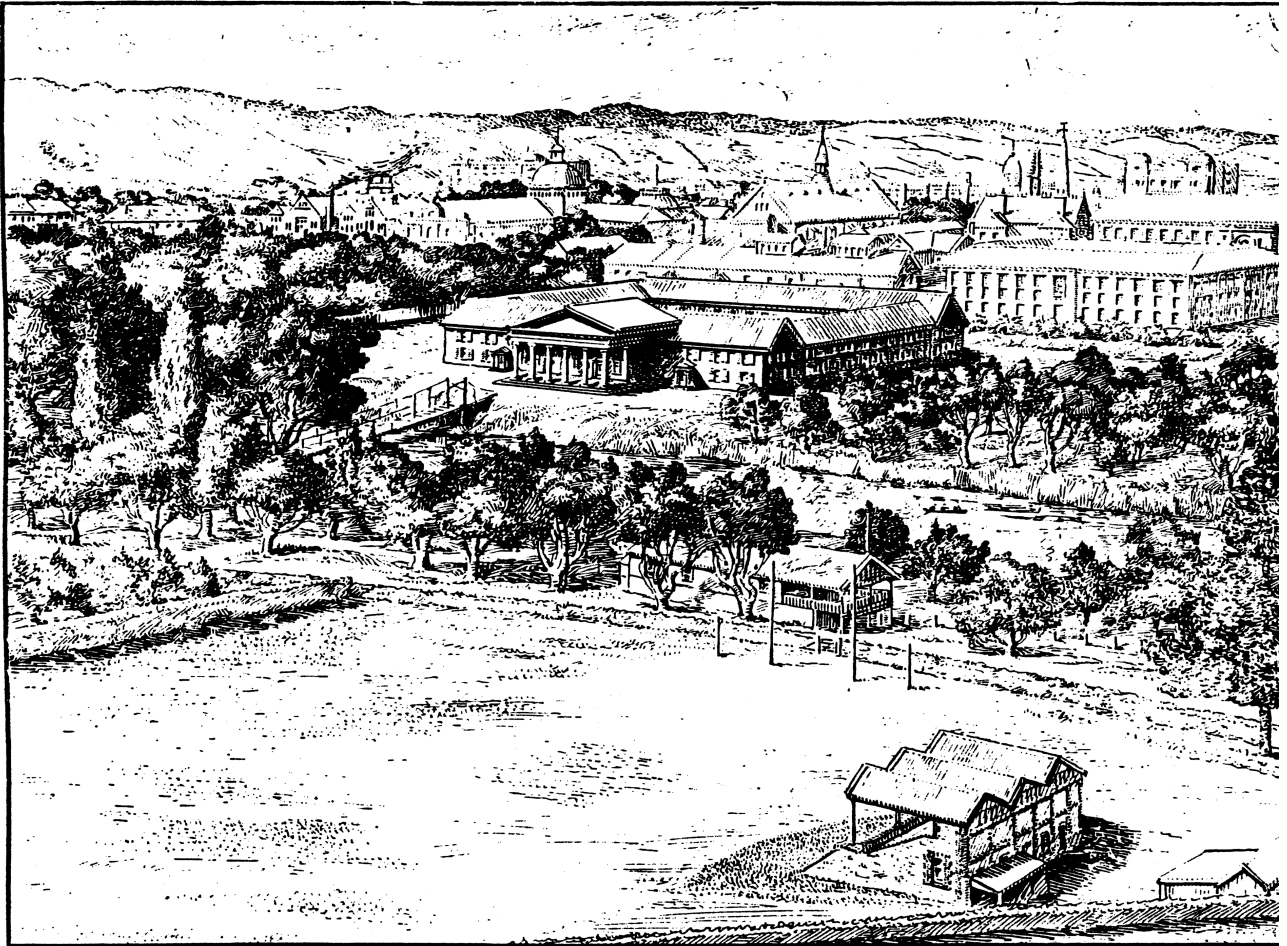
What a thrashing!

In 1929 Teachers College ‘A’ grade team defeated the University ‘B’ grade team by 27.14 to 1.7. The game was reported as being *“willing and interesting despite the great difference in the scores”*.

These games developed their own traditions and were treated very seriously with intense rivalry between the two clubs.

Fortunately, the scores were generally very close over the decades.

1



The 1926 view across University Oval towards the footbridge and the University

