

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB - DECADE FIVE

“THE UNCERTAIN 1940s”

1942 to 1945 WORLD WAR II INTERVENES

and

1946 to 1949 POST-WAR RECOVERY

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1942 to 1945 WORLD WAR II INTERVENES

Because of World War II, the Amateur League went into recess from 1942 to 1945. This decision was made at the AGM of the Amateur League on 24 March 1942. Although University ranks were depleted due to War service, there were many fine footballers who were studying or in reserve occupations and were still looking for that Saturday game of 'footy'.

A competition evolved on a week-to-week basis where matches were arranged with Service teams and the League Reserves. Researching the SANFL records, one will see that in those years the eight League Clubs combined to form Norwood/North, Port/Torrens, Sturt/South and West/Glenelg.

This concept was the idea of former University Football Club player and coach S.H. (Stanley) Lewis.

After the League teams had been chosen for Saturday, each combination would nominate six players to constitute the League Reserves for that week, which made the competition almost up to League standard.

'Varsity played a high percentage of matches against the League Reserves. However, to assist in the soldier sports program, University formed a team to play against teams from the Army, Navy and RAAF. The first of these was a match between University and a combined team of amateur players serving in the Army. The match was played at University Oval, with Ian Disher kicking ten goals.

Players of that era will remember Air Force teams from Port Pirie, Mallala, Springbank and the School of Technical Training, stationed in the old Exhibition Building, North Terrace.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB **A GRADE TEAM, 1943**



Back Row: M.T. Frayne, H.M. Douglas, D.E. Woodard, J.P. Keeves, W.W. Solly, D.M. Eldridge, B.H. Coulls.
 Middle Row: D.J. Stalley, B.R. Goode, D.N. Robinson, L.G. Viney, A.D. Hickinbotham, J.G. Bunday, T.B. Cullity,
 H. Wilson (Trainer).
 Front Row: J.B. Day, R.A. Russell, N.D.G. Abbott (Capt.), I.M. Disher, D.L. Davies, G.E. Wall.

Competition was pretty keen, and the Air Force would pull out all the stops to win. Players of the time remember a train trip to the Mallala Base, the hospitality of the RAAF, and experiencing the thrills of a 'Link Trainer' at the hands of the opposing team.

The matches between University and teams from the forces continued during the 1943 season, culminating in University playing the Navy as a curtain raiser to the SANFL Final between Norwood/North and Port/West Torrens. Ian Disher was again prominent, kicking eight goals in a convincing University victory.

During the Finals round, 'Varsity gave a League team match practice, whilst having a bye prior to a Final. On the day of the 1944 Preliminary Final, 'Varsity played the Norwood/North combination on Adelaide Oval No. 2. It was a very close game. 'Varsity was proud of their narrow defeat as Norwood/North went on to win the Grand Final the following week.

Former players on leave from the Services were always welcome for a game, N.C. (Norm) Shierlaw and P.A. (Peter) Dalwood once displayed their former skills by playing without training and in Army boots.

Maybe it was only a make-shift competition, but it definitely kept the game alive and fulfilled the aims and objectives of the University Football Club during those years when the Club could easily have gone into recess, as did the other Amateur clubs.



1944 UNIVERSITY TEAM IN SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Back Row: R. Cowper, D.J. Stalley, J. Bunday, B. Basedow, T.B. Cullity, K. Rilestone.

Middle Row: Sgt G.F.S. Monten (Coach), D.A.L. Abbott, J.P. Keeves, C.C. Dewar, D.M. Eldridge, A.G.A. Tregonning, D.E. Woodward, R. Thompson, H. ('Long'un') Wilson (Trainer).

Front Row: G. Cheeseman, D.N. Robinson, B.R. Goode (V-c), J.B. Day (Capt.), H.M. Douglas, T. Wall, N.G. Hosking.



1945 UNIVERSITY TEAM IN SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Back Row: D.J. Stalley, C.C. Dewar, J.P. Keeves, J.L. Whittle, D.M. Eldridge, G.M.E. Mayo.
 Middle Row: Sgt G.F.S. Monton (Coach), P.W. Butterworth, R.G. White, T.L. Judell, R.M. Holmes, D.A.L. Abbott, T.B. Cullity, P.J. Young, H. ('Long'un') Wilson (Trainer).
 Front Row: D.N. Hosking, H.M. Douglas (V-c), B.R. Goode (Capt.), G.E. Wall (Secretary), A.G.A. Tregonning, R.W. Cowper.

Dr F.A. (Fred) Bloch's *History of the SAAFL 1911 – 1994* comments on football during this period in the following paragraphs.

"During the Second World War, 1942-1944, the Allied Forces Welfare Co-ordination Committee requested a football competition be established. The concept was to provide entertainment for the public and troops when returning on leave.

Amalgamations of clubs were necessary because of the shortage of players. The concepts were developed by Stanley H. Lewis, the Vice President of the SANFL, and later to be Chairman and President between 1950 and 1961. Stanley Lewis had been at player with 'the Blacks' and the third Club Coach and first player to be appointed.

A League Reserves team was also initiated to play against the Service sides and the University Football Club.

As a result of this initiative, the SANFL donated £30,000 to the patriotic funds."

Hone Certificate

In 1940, the donor of the A1 medal, Dr. F.S. Hone, a previous President of the SAAFL, requested that in lieu of a medal, the Best and Fairest player in A1 be awarded a certificate, and that the usual £2/2/- outlay be donated to the Red Cross. Mr. Chambers, the donor of the A2 Medal, did likewise.

The Hone Certificate was therefore presented until the Medal was re-instated in 1946 following the end of the World War II.

A goalkicking spree

University Football Club played a team of amateur players serving in the Army in 1942 on University Oval. The Club later played against the R.A.A.F. at Mortlock Park. 'The Blacks' full forward, Ian Disher, had big days out against both these sides.

Ian kicked 10 goals against the Army and followed it with 18 against the RAAF. However, five of these goals he scored for the RAAF as he swapped guernseys at three-quarter time to even up the match.

As an interesting by-line the Army game at University Oval was preceded by a rugby league match between two Army teams. This was thought to be the first rugby league match played in South Australia

AUFC 1946 to 1949 POST-WAR RECOVERY

When the 1946 season arrived, the community was ready for life to return to normal again, and organised sport was high on the agenda.

In 1946 the Amateur League recommenced its competition with two grades, namely A1 and A2. The University Football Club was represented in both of these grades and performed quite well in the years immediately after World War II. Although Premierships eluded 'the Blacks' in these years, the A1 side played in the Finals in all but one season. The Club was most unfortunate to be disqualified in 1947 when a Premiership looked a distinct possibility.

On the administrative side, 1949 saw the retirement of Dr N.S. Gunning from the Club Presidency after a long association with the Club that dated back to the early 1920s. His place was taken by Dr C.B. Sangster, who had been an outstanding player with the Club in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

On the playing side, Harold Page returned to the University Football Club as coach and established the foundations for a most successful era in the 1950's. A.G.A. (Alec) Tregonning, winner of the Gunning Medal in 1944 and 1946, captained the Club in 1947 and 1948 and also led the State Amateur side in 1947, 1948 and 1949. In 1948, the State Amateur side won the Amateur Carnival for the first time, with Harold Page as coach and a strong University representation.

This period represented an era of consolidation for the Club and, although Premierships were not won, there was a building up of Club strength that was to show itself in spectacular fashion in the 1950s.

1946 Season

The Amateur League resumed in 1946 after a four-year break due to World War II. The Club was expected to field strong sides, with the growth experienced during the previous two seasons predicted to continue. Teams had given a good account of themselves during the War years. The Club had nominated teams for A1 and A2 in the SAAFL, and a third side was proposed for the Students' Association.

L.J. (Lloyd) Tugwell had been appointed coach and it was D.N. (Don) Robinson's responsibility as Secretary to arrange a meeting to launch a new era of the Club. Before the first game, B.R. (Ben) Goode (Captain) and A.G.A. (Alec) Tregonning (Vice-captain) were elected to lead the A1 side and J.L. (Jim) Whittle (Captain) and D.G. Stalley (Vice-captain) to lead the A2 side.

The A1 side started the season brilliantly, winning the first four games to head the Premiership table. Two of these wins were away from University Oval against Semaphore Central and Exeter, traditionally strong teams. In these games C.C. Dewar, A.G.A. Tregonning, B.R. Goode, B.H. Coulls and D.A.L. Abbott had all been in excellent form, and T.B. Cullity had kicked 20 goals.

The first defeat for the season came at the hands of Walkerville when a weakened team was fielded around the time of the Inter-Varsity Carnival in Hobart.

The team had a good season and finished up Minor Premier with the good chance of taking out the Premiership. 'The Blacks' had beaten Woodville, a strong contender for the Flag, during the season so confidence was high.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1946

Club	<i>Pl</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Pts</i>
University	16	14	2	0	28
Woodville	16	12	4	0	24
Colonel Light Gdns	16	10	5	1	21
Semaphore Central	16	10	6	0	20
Exeter	16	8	7	1	17
Walkerville	16	8	8	0	16
Payneham	16	7	9	0	14
St. Peter's O.C.	16	1	15	0	2
S.A. Railways Institute	16	1	15	0	2

In the Semi-final 'the Blacks' played Colonel Light Gardens and were outplayed to lose 10.13 to 12.12. In this game R.M. Holmes, R.E. Dunstan, D.E. Woodard, F.C. ('Chester') Bennett, B.H. Coulls and D.N. Robinson all played well, whilst D.L. Davies kicked five goals.

As Minor Premier, University had the right of challenge and in the Challenge Final 'the Blacks' played Woodville and lost by two points in a closely fought game - 9.5 to 8.13.



1946 INTER-VARSITY TEAM

Back Row: R.G. White, K.T. O'Loughlin, C.C. Dewar, R.E. Dunstan, D.A.L. Abbott, J.P. Keeves, G.E. Wall, A. Keeves.
 Second Row: H. ('Long'un') Wilson, N.G. Hosking, T.B. Cullity, D. Eldridge, G.M.L. Mayo, G. Vernon, D.E. Woodard, D.J. Stalley, L.J. Tugwell (Coach).
 Front Row: D.L. Davies, D.E. Robinson, A.G.A. Tregonning, B.R. Goode, H.M. Douglas, F.C. Bennett, B.H. Coulls, R.M. Holmes.

The A2's also commenced the season in good form, beating PAOC, Kings' Old Collegians, Old Scotch and Kelvinator in the first four games. The side did not have a home ground at this stage and so these performances were all the more praiseworthy. Ligertwood kicked six goals against Kings to be best player and earn promotion to the A1 side. Others to play well in these games were K.T. O'Loughlin at centre, new player D.L. Davies (later to win a Gunning Medal) at centre half forward, D.M. Brebner (also later to win a Gunning Medal), P.W. Butterworth, R.E. Dunstan, G.E. Wall and J.L. Whittle.

The team faltered a little in mid-season and losses to Kings' Old Collegians by eight goals, Kelvinator by seven goals, Goodwood by four goals and Kelvinator by one point in the space of five weeks were not confidence builders for the Finals. In these games R.G. White, D.M. Brebner, R.E. Cowper, G. Cheeseman, G.E. Wall, D.G. Stalley and J.L. Whittle were playing consistently good football.

Wins at the end of the minor round over Alberton Church United and Pulteney Old Scholars ensured a place in the Finals.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1946

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Goodwood	18	15	3	30
Kings' O.C.	18	14	4	28
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	14	4	28
University 'B'	18	11	7	22
Kelvinator	18	10	8	20
Alberton Church Unit.	18	10	8	20
Kenilworth	18	8	10	16
Teachers College	18	4	14	8
Pulteney O.S.	18	2	16	4
Scotch O.C.	18	2	16	4

The side, however, did not progress any further and was eliminated by Kings' Old Collegians in the Semi-final by eight goals (13.18 to 22.11).

A 'C' grade team had been formed for the first time since 1940 and the Club had entered it in the Students' Association. This side played some practice matches early in the season because of the later start in this competition. 'The Blacks' comfortably accounted for PAOC 'B' and Teachers College in these games, but the team was expecting stiffer opposition in the regular program of matches. Players like White, Nicholls, Otto, Hillier, K. Rook and Lindon had all stood out in these games.

The team experienced a reasonably successful season with good wins over Rostrevor and AHS and a narrow defeat by PAC during the vacation amongst their better performances. K. Rook was best in two of these games and Nicholls played very well in the AHS game.

The Club had thus re-established itself as one of the strongest clubs in Amateur League and the number and standard of the players was very encouraging. There were many players in the A2 side who had shown excellent form and this would mean that the A1 side should remain strong.

1947 Season

The 1947 season saw Harold Page return to the Club as coach. Harold had coached 'the Blacks' in 1940 and 1941 until War service interrupted his football commitments. He was now attempting to win the Premiership that had eluded the Club since 1932. A.G.A. (Alec) Tregonning had been elected Captain of the A1s, and it was hoped that a slight improvement in the form shown in 1946 would result in a Premiership.

The A1s played brilliant football in the first game to avenge their defeat in the 1946 Final by beating Woodville 12.17 to 11.8. In this game D.L. Davies at half forward, D.I. Harris, R.M. Holmes, P.W. Butterworth (four goals) and D.G. Stalley all played very well.

The side continued to play good football and by mid-season were in the top two on the Premiership table. Two of the performances during this period included encouraging wins over Payneham and PAOC. Payneham were beaten 11.11 to 7.7 at Payneham Oval, with C.F. Robertson kicking seven goals in a brilliant debut. Captain A.G.A. Tregonning, D.G. Woodward, C.C. Dewar, C.F. Robertson and D.L. Davies all played well. In the Princes game, 'the Blacks' ran out winners 9.12 to 7.6, with D.G. Woodward, A.G.A. Tregonning, J.B. Day, D.M. Brebner, D.N. Robinson and C.F. Robertson being the best of an even team.

Late July saw the team falter in its run to the Finals, with losses to Exeter and Walkerville on successive Saturdays. In a game that was to decide top place, Exeter stormed 'the Blacks' to lead by eight goals at half-time. A recovery was staged, but poor kicking for goal made it ineffective.

Final scores were 11.15 to 17.7. D.N. Robinson, playing his 100th game for the Club, rucked superbly to be best player, whilst his best support came from R.G. White, D.A.L. Abbott, R.M. Holmes and D.L. Davies. In a closely fought game against Walkerville, 'the Blacks' went down 14.12 to 14.17. D.N. Robinson, D.M. Brebner, K.T. O'Loughlin, B.R. Goode and O.G. Woodward were the pick of the side.

Recovering from these two games, the side still finished in second position and considered themselves a good chance for the elusive Premiership.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1947

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Exeter	14	12	2	24
University	14	11	3	22
Woodville	14	11	3	22
Payneham	14	7	7	14
Walkerville	14	6	8	12
Semaphore Central	14	3	11	6
Colonel Light Gdns	14	3	11	6
Prince Alfred O.C.	14	3	11	6



In the Semi-final 'the Blacks' defeated Payneham, 9.18 to 6.11. The Club was confident of success as it departed for the Inter-Varsity Carnival in Hobart.

However, Payneham, the vanquished Semi-finalist, had protested about University playing 'a professional' and the SAAFL had disqualified 'the Blacks' from competing in the Final. One of the University players had received money for umpiring a game some years before. On these grounds, proceedings were initiated by the Club against the Amateur League. As a result the League offered certain apologies, but by this time, nothing could be done to reverse their decision. This was a severe blow to the Club as the much sought-after Premiership looked within reach.

D.L. (Don) Davies won the Gunning Medal for the Best and Fairest player in a year when many players performed well.

The A2 team won their first game against Kelvinator by five points in an encouraging start to the season. T.B. Cullity, C.F. Robertson, B.J. Micheltmore and R.S. Bungey had all been in good form.

By mid-season, however, the team had slipped to sixth place and some improvement was necessary if they were going to make the four. Some results in this period included a six point loss to Kings' Old Collegians, a two-goal win over Kenilworth and a 12-goal thrashing by SPOC (1.2 to 12.15). Best players for the season had been D. Watson, H. Welch, J.L. Whittle, Sandover, H.M. Douglas, B.J. Micheltmore and R.S. Bungey. J.R.N. Twopenny had kicked 20 goals and B. Basedow 13.

The team's form in the latter part of the season did not improve and the side finished bottom in what was an even lower half of the table. Calls on players by the A1 side affected the side adversely on many occasions.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1947

Club	<i>Pl</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Goodwood	14	9	4	1	19
Kelvinator	14	9	5	0	18
Alberton Church Unit	14	9	5	0	18
St. Peter's O.C.	14	7	6	1	15
Kenilworth	14	5	7	2	12
Kings' O.C.	14	6	8	0	12
Teachers College	14	5	9	0	10
University 'B'	14	4	10	0	8

The performances of the 'C' grade side, which played in the Students' Association are largely unknown, although they defeated CBOC 10.7 to 3.6 early in the season. Potts, Morris, Downing, Watson and Lindon were high in the best player lists.

1948 Season

The 1948 season started with an air of determination due to the events of 1947 and the fact that Adelaide was hosting the Inter-Varsity Carnival. A.G.A. (Alec) Tregonning was elected Captain at the AGM and D.M. (Don) Brebner and C.F. (Colin) Robertson assumed the important administrative roles of Secretary and Assistant Secretary. Dr N.S. Gunning, President, since 1937, was re-elected to this position.

The trial game gave the promise of a successful season with new players such as A.L. Dowding, I.N. Broadbent, M.R. Basheer and K.R. Seedsman showing out. All these players were destined to play significant roles in the Club in later years.

Great interest surrounded the first game as the Club was programmed to play Payneham and

memories of 1947 were still fresh. 'The Blacks' played very well, winning 23.23 to 11.8 with B.J. Micheltore, D.L. Davies, A.L. Dowding and R.M. Holmes leading the way – some revenge had been extracted.

The early season form was good with the pre-season training of Harold Page was paying dividends in tight finishes. A fine win over Woodville was followed by a tight game against Exeter at Largs Oval, where the side trailed by four points with two minutes left to play. With D.I. Harris inspiring his teammates, the forwards peppered the goals to score four points, and the game ended in a draw.

J.B. Day was in good touch against Colonel Light Gardens with six goals in a comfortable win and Kelvinator was defeated in the following round.

The team's first defeat came at the hands of Semaphore Central on 29 May on a day when *"the ground was swept by a gale, the like of which only Sir Douglas Mawson, Amundsen and a few others have felt"*. This defeat was followed by a strong win against PAOC the following week (15.14 to 5.8), and a thrashing of Walkerville on 12 June (19.8 to 5.3). In this latter game rovers P.W. Butterworth and M.R. Basheer played well and were admirably assisted by ruckmen J.B. Day and D.I. Harris and full back C.C. Dewar.

On 10 July 1948, 'the Blacks' met Exeter who had been undefeated to this stage, while the A1's had lost three games. The victory in this game reassured the side that they were a side to be reckoned with in the Finals. This game was not decided until late in the last quarter when P.W. Butterworth kicked a 30 metre left foot goal to place 'the Blacks' in front.

Final scores read 8.13 to 7.7 with O.G. Woodward, D.M. Brebner, R.M. Holmes, C.C. Dewar, D.N. Robinson and M.R. Basheer being instrumental in the victory.

After winning the last three games in convincing fashion, 'the Blacks' retained second place and then prepared for the Inter-Varsity Carnival hosted by Adelaide.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1948

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Exeter	18	16	1	1	33
University	18	14	3	1	29
Woodville	18	12	4	2	26
Semaphore Central	18	12	5	1	25
Goodwood	18	8	9	1	17
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	8	10	0	16
Walkerville	18	7	11	0	14
Kelvinator	18	6	12	0	12
Payneham	18	3	14	1	7
Colonel Light Gardens	18	0	17	1	1

In the Semi-final against Semaphore Central the side was sluggish after a hectic week's activities and never really reached top gear. The defence played superbly, led by C.C. Dewar, R.G. White and K.R. Seedsman, but could not see 'the Blacks' through to a victory. Finals scores were 12.5 to 12.12, with best performers being K.R. Seedsman, C.C. Dewar, R.G. White, R.M. Duffy, D.N. Robinson and D. Watson. J.B. Day and D.L. Davies each kicked three goals.

Exeter, unable to defeat University in the minor round, beat Semaphore Central to take the Flag.



Very little is known about the A2 and 'C' grade sides of this period. However, the A2 side, after an average season, failed to make the final four.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1948

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Alberton Church United	18	16	2	0	32
Kings' O.C.	18	15	2	1	31
Teachers College	18	15	3	0	30
St. Peter's O.C.	18	11	7	0	22
S.A. Railways Institute	18	8	9	1	17
Kenilworth	18	8	10	0	16
University 'B'	18	7	11	0	14
Christian Brothers O.C.	18	6	11	1	13
Payneham 'B'	18	2	15	1	5
Pulteney O.S.	18	0	18	0	0

The results of the A1's had been a little disappointing around Finals' time during the past few seasons and much of this was attributed to the Inter-Varsity being so close to the Finals. It was mooted to have this Carnival switched to May to try to improve the Finals' record of the Club.

1949 Season

The 1949 season opened with a significant change on the administrative side when Dr. N.S. Gunning retired as President. He had been associated with the University Football Club as a player in the early 1920's, being one of the University representatives in the first State Amateur side in 1925. As President, he had served the Club since 1937 and was one of the most respected people connected with the Club.

Dr C.B. Sangster, a brilliant player in the late 1920's and 1930's, and winner of a Hone Medal, was the person elected to replace Dr Gunning.

D.I. (Digby) Harris was elected Captain of the A1 side when A.G.A. (Alec) Tregonning relinquished the position because of pressure of work, and D.L. (Don) Davies was his deputy. D.M. (Don) Brebner took the unusual step of continuing on for a second term as Secretary. Confidence was high as over 70 students had been training regularly and the top two sides seemed assured of strong line-ups.

The A1s faced a challenge in the first round as they were due to play Exeter, the 1948 Premier, at Largs Oval. After an even first half, 'the Blacks' drew away to win 12.9 to 6.16. M.R. Basheer kicked five goals, whilst the best players were C.C. Dewar, R.M. Duffy, A.G.A. Tregonning, R.M. Holmes, O.G. Woodward and D.M. Brebner. The following week the side lined up against the 1948 runner-up, Semaphore Central, and defeated them 17.14 to 13.16. Ladd at full forward kicked five goals and D.L. Davies four goals. D.L. Davies, C.C. Dewar, A.G.A. Tregonning, O.G. Woodward, A.L. Dowding and P.W. Butterworth were the most conspicuous players.

The form of the side continued to be so good that eight players were chosen to play in the State Amateur game against Victoria with H.E. Page as coach. The Club was thus considerably weakened when Kelvinator was played at the Weigall Oval on 11 June 1949. The performance proved that the strength of the Club lay with its depth of reserves as they won convincingly. J.F. Walsh played brilliantly for 'the Blacks' and snared ten goals from full forward.

A further victory over Exeter on 25 June reconfirmed the side's position at the top of the ladder - they were undefeated at this stage. This game was won 18.16 to 13.5 with M.R. Basheer kicking six goals and K.R. Seedsman, P.W. Butterworth and B.J. Michelmores all playing very well.

Defeat finally came to the side the following week against old rivals Semaphore Central. Bad kicking for goal kept 'the Blacks' in the game, which was eventually lost by five points - 7.8 to 6.19. Best players were B.J. Downing, I.N. Broadbent, D.M. Brebner and R.G. White.

The team ended the season as Minor Premier after convincingly beating PAOC by ten goals in the last minor round game.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1949

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	18	16	2	32
Exeter	18	15	3	30
Walkerville	18	14	4	28
Semaphore Central	18	14	4	28
Woodville	18	9	9	18
Kelvinator	18	7	11	14
Alberton Church Unit.	18	5	13	10
Kings O.C.	18	4	14	8
Goodwood	18	3	15	6
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	3	15	6

In the Semi-final against Walkerville at Teachers College Oval, 'the Blacks' could not open up the game to play their natural style of football and were soundly defeated. Final scores were 9.13 to 15.7 with B.J. Michelmore, M.R. Basheer, D.I. Harris, A.G.A. Tregonning, D.G. Woodward and C.C. Dewar being the most prominent players.

The team exercised their right of challenge and played Semaphore Central in the Challenge Final. Unfortunately, in this game too, the side did not play up to its minor round form and lost 4.10 to 8.11. R.G. White played brilliantly in defence and was well supported by B.J. Michelmore in ruck and D.I. Harris, both in ruck and in set positions.

M.R. (Max) Basheer was the leading goalkicker in A1 with 59 goals, a terrific effort for a small forward/rover.



1949 INTER-VARSITY TEAM

Back Row: G. Nitschke, K.R. Seedsman, A.G.A. Tregonning, M.R. Basheer, H.E. Page (Coach), L. Robertson, D.M. Bednall,
R.M. Duffy, D.H. Giles, H. ('Long'un') Wilson (Trainer).

Second Row: L.K. Burton, J. Swain, B. Downing, D.I. Harris (Capt.), J.R.N. Twopeny, L.M. Otto, R.L. Griggs.

Front Row: J. Walsh, P. Waye, D. Macky, D.R. Watson, J.D. Harris.

The A2 side commenced the season with a good win over CBOC, 13.17 to 2.6, but then went down to Railways at Railways Oval the following week, 7.12 to 9.12. Conditions were very hot on this day and the rock-like surface took the sting out of the University boys.

In mid-season, a good win over Kenilworth when all the State players were away, and a solid win (9.10 to 4.8) over Teachers College, saw the side challenging for a place in the four. The team did

not quite sustain these performances and fell out of contention late in the year, finishing one Game out of the four.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1949

Club	<i>Pl</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Colonel Light Gdns	18	18	0	0	36
Payneham	18	14	4	0	28
Teachers College	18	12	5	1	25
St. Peter's O.C.	18	12	6	0	24
University 'B'	18	11	6	1	23
Kenilworth	18	9	9	0	18
S.A. Railways Institute	18	7	11	0	14
Scotch O.C.	18	3	15	0	6
Christian Brothers O.C.	18	2	16	0	4
Goodwood 'B'	18	1	17	0	2

The 'C' grade side played in the Students' Association again and had an enjoyable season. Little is known of the results of individual games.

Again the A1's had failed to annex the Flag, however the Club had steadily built up its strength and a 'Blacks' Premiership was not far away.

Special players of this era.....



A.G.A. (Alec) Tregonning

In the days when the University of Western Australia did not have a Medical School, the Adelaide University Football Club profited considerably. One such find was A.G.A. (Alec) Tregonning who joined the Club in the mid-1940's and proved to be a magnificent centreman and leader. He played Inter-Varsity from 1946 to 1949, captaining the side in 1947 and 1948.

Alec was the outstanding Amateur League player of his day, captaining the State side in 1947, 1948 and 1949. In 1948 Alec led the State side to its fourth victory against Victoria and its first Carnival championship win in Perth. He featured prominently in best player lists in this Carnival.

Alec also captained University in 1947 and 1948. Gunning Medals were awarded to him in 1944 and 1946, one of the few players to achieve the honour of multiple medals.

Alec was awarded Club Letters in 1944 and his Football Blue in 1946.



D.M. (Don) Brebner

In 1946 D.M. Brebner joined the University Football Club and embarked on what was to become a most successful amateur career. In this year he played in the A2 and A1 sides before establishing himself in 1947 as the A1 centre half back.

Don played Inter-Varsity in 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1950, the last year as Captain when he was also Captain of the A1 side. Although Premierships eluded him while he was at the Club, the 1947 was most unfortunate to be disqualified after winning the Semi-final.

Don played State Amateur football in 1948, 1949 and 1950 whilst with the Club and was a member of the inaugural All-Australian Amateur team in 1950. In the great win against Victoria in the Perth Carnival in 1948, Don was the best player on the ground from centre half back.

He was awarded a Blue for Football in 1947, the Sangster Medal as the Most Improved in the A1 team in 1947 and won the Gunning Medal in 1949.

Don was a very active Club member, being Secretary in 1948 and 1949 and the inaugural Treasurer in 1949.

After leaving the University Football Club he played 20 games of League football for Norwood before returning to Amateur League where he played for Walkerville. Don captained and later coached this club and was Captain of the State Amateur side while playing for them in 1953.

Don later returned to 'the Blacks' in 1962 and was assistant coach to A.S. Greer.

Don was prominent in football administration in this State, being Vice-President of the SANFL for a number of years and President from 1966 to 1978. Don rated the promotion of the game through organised school competition and the development of Football Park as the highlights of this period.

Life Membership of the SANFL was conferred on Don Brebner in 1972 and he is a member of the Hall of Fame.



Max Basheer

M.R. (Max) Basheer had an impressive record at the University Football Club, playing for the A1 side and being active on the Committee. He commenced his career in 1946 and played through to 1951. Max was Chairman of the Social Committee in 1950.

At the 1948 Inter-Varsity in Adelaide Max was best in the Final against Melbourne University.

Max's form in 1949 was outstanding and he was selected to represent the State. In the game against Western Australia, Max was best player and kicked three goals as a rover.

In 1949, Max was the leading goalkicker in A1 with 59 goals. He was awarded Club Letters in 1948 and a Full Blue in 1949.

Max continued an interest in the Amateur League and for 21 years from 1956 was the SAAFL solicitor.

He has a magnificent reputation as a football administrator in South Australia, having been President of the SANFL between 1978 and 2003. Life Membership of the SANFL was conferred on Max Basheer in 1972 and he is a member of the Hall of Fame.



K.R. (Ken) Seedsman

K.R. (Ken) Seedsman first played for 'the Blacks' in 1948 and continued to play as a defender until 1950. He played in the Inter-Varsity games of 1948 and 1949, playing very well against Melbourne in 1948.

Ken was awarded Club Letters for Football in 1949 and a Blue in 1950.

He represented the State Amateur team in 1949 and 1950 whilst playing for 'the Blacks' and in 1952 when playing for SPOC. He played on the half-back flank, often alongside teammate Don Brebner.

As an active Club member, he served as Assistant Secretary and Treasurer in 1950.



D.I. (Digby) Harris

D.I. (Digby) Harris was a rugged, dependable ruckman in the period from 1947 to the early 1950s. He attended Inter-Varsities in 1947, 1948 and 1949, the last as Captain of the side. He captained the Club again in the 1952 season and had the misfortune to be deprived of a place in the Premiership team due to injury.

Digby was awarded Club Letters in 1947 and his Football Blue in 1951. He represented the State as a follower in 1952.

ANECDOTES

Players to progress to SANFL

Players from the 1946 to 1949 period who graduated into League ranks were D.L. Davies, D.M. Brebner (Norwood), D.R. Watson, K.R. Seedsman (Norwood), A.G.A. Tregonning, D.A.L. Abbott (Sturt), A.L. Dowding (Sturt), B.J. Michelmore (South).

D.A.L. Abbott played 58 games for Sturt between 1948 and 1952.

In 1949 Alan Dowding was 'borrowed' by Sturt to play in a Semi-final after playing most of the year for University Football Club.