

A DOMINANT ERA -DECADE SIX

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB – 1950 to 1959

Written by David Bartlett #11

Although the post World War II years had been reasonably successful for the University Football Club, there had not been an A1 Premiership. In fact, the last time 'the Blacks' had won the Flag was back in the undefeated season of 1932. This situation soon changed and the 1950's saw the Club return to a position of power in Amateur League.

E.G. (George) Tilley replaced H.E. (Harold) Page as coach in 1951 and continued with the improvement shown by the Club in the years following World War II. During George's six years at the Club, the A1 side played in six Grand Finals, winning four Flags. This matched the results that the Club had attained in the 1920's and early 1930's.

L.G. (Jack) Giles took over the coaching duties from George Tilley in 1957 and was in charge until the end of the 1959 season. The Club enjoyed reasonably successful seasons under Jack, but did not take out a Premiership.

There were many very good players in this era and the representatives in All-Australian Amateur teams fit into this category. J.K.A. ('Wimpy') McLeod (1950 and Captain in 1954), D.M. (Don) Brebner (1950), J.F. (John) Walsh (1954) and B.M. (Brian) Seppelt (1958) were all magnificent players for the University Football Club. The number of State players the Club provided during this time was also very high (seven players per year on average) and George Tilley coached the State Amateur side from 1951 to 1956, after taking over the job from Harold Page.

The University Football Club had expanded and at times fielded five teams, although at this time the Amateur League only had five grades. Teams were fielded in the Students' Association and the Sturt District Association, and both these sides met with success.

The feats of the talented J.C. (John) Lill in this latter Association are worth noting. After winning the Club's Best and Fairest in the 'E' grade side in 1955, he won the Club's Award and the Sturt District Association Medal in 1956 when this team was the fourth team fielded by University. In the 1957 season, John won the Gunning Medal for the A1 side.

On the administrative side, Dr C.B. Sangster served as President from 1949 to 1953 and was succeeded by Dr R.T. Steele, a former Captain of the Club. He served until 1959 in this capacity.

Constitutional changes saw the new category of Honorary Life Membership introduced in 1952 and two worthy recipients, Dr N.S. Gunning and Dr C.B. Sangster, were the first to be accorded this honour. Further men who received this honour in the 1950's were H.E. (Harold) Page and H.V. ('Long'un') Wilson (1953), H.V. (Hugh) Millard (1954), and J.K.A. ('Wimpy') McLeod (1957). All these men were very worthy recipients of the highest level of recognition in the University Football Club. All our life members (118 in the 119 years spanning to 2025) are listed, with their bio, on our website;

<https://uniblacksfsc.com.au/aufc-honour-roll/>

It was a sad moment for the Club when 'Long'un' Wilson died in 1956. He had been a significant part of 'the Blacks' football scene since 1928, and his presence as the Trainer was missed.

This was a very successful era with 'the Blacks' dominating the A1 grade and the lower sides increasing in strength as the decade progressed.

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

1950 Season

The 1950s started on a bright note when it was announced at the AGM that the University Football Club was to create history by being the first Club to nominate three teams in the Amateur League. With teams in A1, A2 and A3, 'the Blacks' now had representation in all grades of the League.

Although ten of the senior players from the previous year's A1 side were leaving the Club, indications were that a promising band of Freshers would fill their shoes. H.E. (Harold) Page had been named coach for his sixth season with 'the Blacks' and D.M. (Don) Brebner was elected Captain. With these able men in control the new decade was heralded in with an air of confidence.

At the halfway mark of the season, however, these hopes had not been realised. The Club had only performed moderately well in each grade. A fourth side had been formed and was competing in the Students' Association when games could be arranged.

The A1 side had lost three games to Semaphore Central, Woodville and Walkerville up until 17 June 1950 in an unexceptional season. However, following a 15-goal win over Kings' Old Collegians the previous week, the team swept aside the formidable Exeter combination to win by six goals (14.10 to 8.10). This win was marked by a degree of teamwork that had been lacking in the side up to this time. There were no stars in this win, but the individual understanding on this day was a boost for the second half of the season that lay ahead.

Three fine wins over Kelvinator at Weigall Oval, SPOC by ten goals and Alberton Church United on University Oval, followed, which seemed to indicate that the side had turned the corner. In a high-standard game against Semaphore Central 'the Blacks, led by four goals at one stage, could not sustain the effort and they lost by one point, 15.5 to 14.12. In this game, centreman R.L. (Gus) Elix and centre half-back D.M. Brebner both starred. R.R. (Richard) Hancock kicked four goals and M.R. (Max) Basheer three goals.

A 16-goal win over Colonel Light Gardens was followed by a four-goal loss to Woodville (7.0 to 9.12) that seemingly had ended 'the Blacks' chances for a finals position. In a magnificent recovery, the side rose to the occasion and defeated Amateur League leaders Walkerville 19.12 to 11.7. Richard Hancock kicked 11 goals in a very good team performance. In this game, many A1 players were in Melbourne with the Inter-Varsity team, which made the win memorable.

Wins then followed in the last two minor round games against Kings' Old Collegians (13.18 to 1.4) and Exeter (14.10 to 11.16) to cement a place in the four.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1950

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Walkerville	18	16	2	0	32
Exeter	18	14	4	0	28
Woodville	18	14	4	0	28
University	18	13	5	0	26
Semaphore Central	18	13	5	0	26
Kelvinator	18	6	11	1	13
Colonel Light Gdns	18	5	13	0	10
Alberton Church Unt'd	18	4	14	0	8
Kings' O.C.	18	2	15	1	5
St. Peter's O.C.	18	2	16	0	4

Exeter was again the Club's opponent in the Semi-final, but this time the game resulted in a draw - 10.10 to 10.10. D.L. Davies kicked five goals to be best player, while others to play well were R.L. Elix, D.I. Harris, B.J. Downing, J.K.A. McLeod and R.J. Lawrence. The team then faced Exeter for the third consecutive week on 9 September 1950, but found them too strong on the day. Final scores were 5.11 to 8.15, with J.L. Whittle, R.J. Lawrence, K.R. Seedsman, B.J. Downing, M.J. Kitchener and P.W. Butterworth being prominent.



The A2 side had struggled to recover from the regular inroads that the A1 side had made into their numbers. Although being a competitive team in most games, the team had not won enough times to give the Club hopes of a finals appearance. A fine win was recorded over Kenilworth in mid-season, with 'the Blacks' running out victors, 18.20 to 5.4. Good wins then followed against

Goodwood (four goals), although the side was not in a position to make the finals.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1950

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Flinders Park	18	15	3	0	30
Payneham	18	13	5	0	26
Teachers College	18	12	5	1	25
Riverside	18	11	7	0	22
University 'B'	18	8	10	0	16
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	7	10	1	15
Goodwood	18	7	11	0	14
Kenilworth	18	5	13	0	10
Scotch O.C.	18	2	16	0	4
S.A. Railways Institute	18*	0	18	0	0

The A3's were enjoying quite a successful season in the new grade. The team dropped out of the four at the conclusion of the first round with a three point loss to Postals. Fine wins over PAOC, SPOC and Payneham saw the team hover about the four. A string of losses late in the season saw the side miss the chance of playing in the Finals.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A3 is shown below.

A3 Premiership Table 1950

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Rosewater	16	16	0	0	32
Goodwood 'B'	16	12	3	1	25
Postal Institute	16	10	5	1	21
Flinders Park 'B'	16	9	7	0	18
Payneham 'B'	16	7	9	0	14
University 'C'	16	7	9	0	14
Teachers College 'B'	16	6	10	0	12
St. Peter's O.C. 'B'	16	3	13	0	6
Prince Alfred O.C. 'B'	16	2	14	0	4

The 'D' grade had been playing games in the Students' Association when they could be arranged.

The Club was very proud of two of its members, Don Brebner and 'Wimpy' McLeod, who were named in the inaugural All-Australian Amateur team to contest the National Football League Carnival, held in Brisbane during July.

1951 Season

After six seasons with the Club, dating back to 1940, H.E. (Harold) Page left 'the Blacks' and was replaced as coach by E.G. (George) Tilley, a former Sturt and State player. C.F. (Colin) Robertson was appointed Captain, and an experienced band of players was expected to form the nucleus of a strong A1 side.

The Club had entered teams in A1, A2 and A3 of the Amateur League and a fourth team was to play in the Students' Association.

The A1's won their first two matches against Alberton Church United and Woodville in good style and continued to play consistent football during the first half of the season. Prominent players were M.J. Kitchener, J.K.A. McLeod, D.H. Giles, R.R. Hancock, C.F. Robertson, W.R. Quintrell and R.C. Bennett.

With one minor round game to be played, the side was sitting on top of the Premiership table. 'The Blacks' forfeited this game because of the Inter-Varsity Carnival in Hobart.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1951

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
University	18	15	3	0	30
Exeter	18	13	4	1	27
Walkerville	18	13	5	0	26
Semaphore Central	18	10	8	0	20
Flinders Park	18	10	8	0	20
Alberton Church Unt'd	18	10	8	0	20
Woodville	18	9	9	0	18
Riverside	18	6	11	1	13
Colonel Light Gdns	18	2	16	0	4
Kelvinator	18	1	17	0	2

In the Semi-final against Walkerville, history repeated itself when 'the Blacks' again drew - 15.5 to 13.17. The best players in this game were D.I. Harris, C.F. Robertson, I.N. Broadbent, R.J. (John) Lawrence, W.R. Quintrell and J.K.A. McLeod. The replay was again a closely contested game and the A1's went down by one goal, 5.13 to 6.13. Prominent players in this loss were I.N. Broadbent, J.B. Laurie, D.I. Harris and J.K.A. McLeod.

Under the Challenge system operating at the time, 'the Blacks' as Minor Premier, challenged Exeter and, in the Challenge Final, the team won by one point, 6.8 to 5.13. A strong University centre-line held off a determined Exeter revival in the third quarter and the team hung on for the narrowest of victories. J.R. (Jim) Lawrence, D.H. Giles, R.J. (John) Lawrence, I.N. Broadbent and J.F. Walsh were the stars.

Although the A1's did things the hard way, the Premiership that had eluded the Club since 1932 had finally been won. There had been many close attempts in the past few seasons, and now it finally had been achieved.

This was a remarkable result – a draw and loss in the Semi-finals and still a Premiership. Thank goodness for the Challenge system!



1951 UNIVERSITY A1 TEAM - PREMIER

Inset: I.N. Broadbent.

Back Row: M.J. Kitchener, K.D. Fitch, P.B. Tunbridge.

Fourth Row: M.E. Lyon, J.R.N. Twopeny, D.I. Harris, J.F. Walsh, D.J. Fuller.

Third Row: J.R. Lawrence, R.C. Bennett, J.K.A. McLeod, D.H. Giles, J.B. Laurie, R.R. Hancock.

Second Row: J.A.G. Redway, J.G. Martin, W.R. Quintrell, J.R. Lawrence, A. McFarlane, A.C. Williams, I.H. Koehne.

Front Row: J.L. Whittle, H.V. ('Long'un') Wilson (Trainer), C.F. Robertson (Capt.), R.L. Elix (V-c), E.G. Tilley (Coach), R.W. Law-Smith.

The A2 side commenced the season well with a fine win over PAOC, but lost to Goodwood in the second game by a narrow margin. J. Redway, G. Wicks, W. McCoy, M. Larkins and Captain W. Lyon had all been in good form.

Wins against Teachers and Kings' Old Collegians and a narrow loss to the undefeated Payneham side, saw the A2's in fifth position half way through the year. Injuries and holidays had affected the team, so it was considered a good performance to be in this position. R. Koehne, H. Brooks, T. Bahr, A. Limmer, T. Baker and J. Redway were prominent in best player lists.

Unfortunately, the team's form could not be sustained and the team missed the Finals.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1951

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Payneham	18	16	2	0	32
Goodwood	18	15	3	0	30
Kenilworth	18	13	5	0	26
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	12	6	0	24
Rosewater	18	11	6	1	23
University 'B'	18	7	11	0	14
St. Peter's O.C.	18	5	12	1	11
Kings' O.C.	18	5	13	0	10
Teachers College	18	5	13	0	10
Postal Institute	18	0	18	0	0

The A3's started the year with a mammoth win over PAOC 'B' grade and were still in the four mid-way through the season, despite having to forfeit during the vacation. One of their best performances during the year was a five goal defeat of Railways. R. Nettle kicked ten goals and Hurst led a dominating centre- line. The team did not quite make the four by the end of the minor round.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A3 is shown below.

A3 Premiership Table 1951

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Semaphore Park	20	20	0	40
Woodville 'B'	20	19	1	38
Payneham 'B'	20	14	6	28
Pulteney O.S.	20	14	6	28
Flinders Park 'B'	20	14	6	28
University 'C'	20	10	10	20
Scotch O.C.	20	7	13	14
Goodwood 'B'	20	7	13	14
St. Peter's O.C. 'B'	20	6	14	12
S.A. Railways Inst.	20	4	16	8
Teachers College 'B'	20	4	16	8
Prince Alfred O.C. 'B'	20	1	19	2

The 'D' grade, under the leadership C.F.R. Ferrett and C. Abbott, were having a good season and, after the May vacation, did not have any difficulty in fielding sides.

1952 Season

The early pre-season form of 'the Blacks' in March 1952 gave every indication that this season would be as successful as 1951, when the A1 side won the Jubilee Premiership of the Amateur League. George Tilley was again appointed coach. D.I. (Digby) Harris, elected Captain of the A1's, and J.L. (Jim) Whittle had accepted the position of A2 Captain-Coach - a position difficult to fill in the preceding years.

The University Football Club had sides in all three grades of the Amateur League and again matches had been arranged for the 'D' grade in the Students' Association.

All University sides started the season in good form with the three top teams winning three of the first four games. The 'D' grade had started a few weeks later due to the school holidays and had won their only game.

The A1 side had beaten PAOC, Walkerville and Payneham, whilst Exeter, runner-up in 1951, had beaten the team by seven points. There was a goalkicking spree in the Payneham game as 'the Blacks' stormed away from the opposition to win 35.14 to 13.11. G.J. Duncan kicked nine goals, J.K.A. McLeod and J.F. Walsh each seven. At this stage, P.G. Pak- Poy, R.L. Elix, J.F. Walsh, J.K.A. McLeod and R.J. Lawrence were the best of a consistent team.

After the Inter-Varsity, the team had to replace several injured players, but still beat Woodville by 20 points in a low-standard game. The next week 'the Blacks' scraped in by 14 points against the lowly ranked Riverside. The team then managed to beat PAOC by one point in the following game. In this latter game the team was 13 points down late in the last quarter, but scored the required goals to record a win. In these games K.D. Fitch, J.G. Martin, J.K.A. McLeod, I.N. Broadbent, P.B. Tunbridge, J.B. Laurie, D.I. Harris and D.H. Giles had played well.

The A1's then shrugged off the lethargy of these games to beat Exeter by 13 goals, Walkerville by nine points after being four goals down at the three-quarter time, and Alberton Church United by 16 goals. This latter game was seen as a preview to the Finals as Alberton were second at this stage. The dominance of 'the Blacks' on this day was shown by the scores, 18.25 to 6.3. J.K.A. McLeod with 6.5 and R.R. Hancock with 5.9 were very strong up forward, whilst the best players were R.L. Elix, J.K.A. McLeod, P.B. Tunbridge, K.D. Fitch, I.N. Broadbent and D.I. Harris.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1952

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	18	16	2	32
Exeter	18	13	5	26
Alberton Church Unt'd	18	12	6	24
Flinders Park	18	9	9	18
Semaphore Central	18	9	9	18
Walkerville	18	8	10	16
Woodville	18	7	11	14
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	7	11	14
Payneham	18	6	12	12
Riverside	18	3	15	6

1952



BACK ROW : R.J. GREET, K.D. FITCH, J.F. WALSH, P.B. TUNBRIDGE, D.J. FULLER, J.R. LAWRENCE.
 3RD ROW : R.W. LAW-SMITH, R.R. HANCOCK, R.C. BENNETT, D.H. GILES, J.B. LAURIE, P.A. HARBISON, M.J. KITCHENER.
 2ND ROW : C. DREW, J.A.G. REDWAY, G.K. POLKINGHORNE, P.G. PAK-POY, R. KOEHNE, G.K. DUNCAN, J.G. MARTIN, R.E. LUXTON.
 FRONT ROW : E.G. TILLEY (COACH), J.K.A. MCLEOD, R.L. ELIX, D.I. HARRIS (CAPT.), I.N. BROADBENT, R.J. LAWRENCE, H. WILSON (TRAINER).
 ABSENT : R.M. LINKLATER.

1952 UNIVERSITY A1 TEAM - PREMIER AND INTER-VARSITY WINNERS

Back Row: R.J. Greet, K.D. Fitch, J.F. Walsh, P.B. Tunbridge, D.J. Fuller, J.R. Lawrence.
 Third Row: R.W. Law-Smith, R.R. Hancock, R.C. Bennett, D.H. Giles, J.B. Laurie, P.A. Harbison, M.J. Kitchener.
 Second Row: C. Drew, J.A.G. Redway, G.K. Polkinghorne, P.G. Pak-Poy, R. Koehne, G.K. Duncan, J.G. Martin, R.E. Luxton.
 Front Row: E.G. Tilley (Coach), J.K.A. McLeod, R.L. Elix, D.I. Harris (Capt.), I.N. Broadbent, R.J. Lawrence, H.V. ('Long'un') Wilson (Trainer).
 Absent: R.M. Linklater.

'The Blacks' had finished the season as Minor Premier, and easily won the Semi-final 17.16 to 6.4. Poor kicking for goal (10.16 to 14.5) resulted in a defeat by Exeter in the Final. The Club exercised its right of challenge and played Exeter again at Thebarton Oval.

Although weakened by the loss of D.I. Harris, J.G. Martin and M.J. Kitchener, the side played excellent football to run out winners 13.7 to 10.7. University were strengthened by the inclusion of R.R. Hancock at centre half forward, J.B. Laurie rucking, J.K.A. McLeod at full forward (seven goals), P.J. Pak-Poy roving and I.N. Broadbent at half back.

This result reversed the result of the Final and gave 'the Blacks' consecutive A1 Premierships.

Captain 'Wimpy' McLeod was the leading goalkicker in A1 with 56 goals.

The A2's beat Teachers College convincingly in the first game, but then lost to King's Old Collegians by five goals in the second game. J.L. Whittle, T. Baker, J. Renney, J. Redway, all stalwarts from 1951, had been in good form.

Injuries at the Inter-Varsity took its toll on the A2's and losses followed against Goodwood and

Kenilworth, before Colonel Light Gardens were easily beaten by nine goals. C. Ketley. R. Southwood, R.S. Greet, Drew, Spain, S. Walmsley and J.L. Whittle were prominent in these games.

A disappointing two-point loss to Rosewater was followed by the team's best performance of the season - a ten-goal defeat of Kelvinator. Although near the four after these games, the side failed to make it into the major round. Good players had been R.W. Law-Smith, J.B. Leverington, Leske, Cox, Mestrov and J.L. Whittle.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1952

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
St. Peter's O.C.	20	17	3	0	34
Kenilworth	20	15	5	0	30
Goodwood	20	15	5	0	30
Semaphore Park	20	14	6	0	28
University 'B'	20	14	6	0	28
Teachers College	20	11	9	0	22
Kings' O.C.	20	10	10	0	20
Rosewater	20	8	11	1	17
Colonel Light Gdns	20	7	12	1	15
Woodville 'B'	20	5	15	0	10
Kelvinator	20	3	17	0	6
Payneham 'B'	20	0	20	0	0

B. Jeffries was Captain of the A3's and the team opened the season with a fine win over a stronger Railways team. In the next game the team defeated North Brighton by 20 goals, with Cox kicking nine goals. Later in the first round, 'the Blacks' lost to unbeaten Commonwealth Bank by only two points, after being four goals up at half time. Strong wins over Teachers College and Goodwood followed, to leave the side around fourth position on the ladder. Prominent in best player lists were Opie, Hurst, D. Reid, B. Polomka, Hurst, W. Boucaut, Marshall, Penny and Raddern.

Although close to a Finals berth, the team did not quite win enough games to gain a spot.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A3 is shown below.

A3 Premiership Table 1952

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Commonwealth Bank	18	17	1	0	34
Exeter 'B'	18	15	3	0	30
Semaphore Central 'B'	18	14	4	0	28
Flinders Park 'B'	18	14	4	0	28
S.A. Railways Institute	18	13	5	0	26
University 'C'	18	9	8	1	19
Nth Brighton/Somerton	18	7	10	1	15
Scotch O.C.	18	5	12	1	11
St. Peter's O.C. 'B'	18	5	12	1	11
Goodwood 'B'	18	5	13	0	10
Prince Alfred O.C. 'B'	18	5	13	0	10
Pulteney O.S.	18	3	14	1	7
Teachers College 'B'	18	2	15	1	5

The 'D' grade team was performing quite well early in the season, and the strength of the Club was demonstrated when they beat Teachers College 'B' grade by nine points. R. Brummit, L. Caust, the skipper, R.L. Whittle, Weaton and Nenke were the stars of the side. This side had played the A3s during the season and lost by only a few goals. A highlight of the year was a two-goal loss to Flinders Park who were playing A3 at the time.

The number of players at the Club was at an all time high and this resulted in an 'E' grade team being formed under the leadership of W. Fotheringham. In a challenge match against the 'D' grade, they lost by only a few goals.

The Club was thus in a very good position at this stage, with the number of teams at a record level and the A1 side having taken out the last two Premierships. George Tilley's record at the Club was very impressive, with two Premierships in two seasons.

1953 Season

With enthusiasm high in the Club following the successes in both 1951 and 1952, members and supporters were expecting 1953 to be a big year. E.G. (George) Tilley was again the coach and R.L. (Gus) Elix had been elected Captain.

The Club had entered sides in A1, A2 and A3 of the Amateur League and the demand for games of football with 'the Blacks' had led to a side being played in the Sturt District Association. The University Football Club was also sponsoring a YMCA team called 'Adelaide Colts' in the newly formed Amateur League Colts grade. This was the first year that the Club had nominated five sides at the start of a season.

The A1's had a challenging start to the season with the first two games against the second and third teams of the previous year, Exeter and Alberton Church United respectively. So effectively did 'the Blacks' start the season that these two sides were beaten by 22 goals and 20 goals respectively. In the Exeter game

J.G. Martin played brilliantly whilst P.B. Tunbridge kicked seven goals and J.K.A. McLeod six goals. J.K.A. McLeod was again in form with 11 goals against Alberton, while M.J. Kitchener and

R.L. Elix dominated across the centre-line.

After 12 games the A1's were undefeated and favourites for their third consecutive Premiership. A feature of this part of the season, as far as the A1 side was concerned, was the goalkicking of D.S. Muecke, who had kicked seven, ten and six goals on successive weeks. The Club was well represented in the Amateur Carnival held on University Oval in July, with George Tilley as coach and seven University players in the squad.

The A1 side was eventually defeated by Walkerville by three goals in a game where R. Koehne, J.Y. Hancock, D.H. Giles, R.C. Bennett and G.J. Duncan played well. The team improved on the performance and by the end of the minor round was on top of the table.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1953

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	18	15	3	30
Walkerville	18	14	4	28
Exeter	18	12	6	24
St. Peter's O.C.	18	11	7	22
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	11	7	22
Woodville	18	8	10	16
Flinders Park	18	7	11	14
Semaphore Central	18	7	11	14
Alberton Church Unt'd	18	3	15	6
Goodwood	18	2	16	4

In the Semi-final against Exeter, 'the Blacks' were defeated 8.11 to 10.12, with R. Koehne, J.R. Lawrence, J.B. Laurie, R.C. Bennett, J.K.A. McLeod and J.G. Martin playing well. Once again the Club made full use of the Challenge system and played Walkerville in the Challenge Final at Alberton Oval.

The team was unsuccessful on this occasion, not handling the strong wind as well as Walkerville who ran out winners by eight points - 7.8 to 8.10. Best players were J.K.A. McLeod, P.B. Tunbridge, J.F. Walsh and D.H. Giles.

R.L. ('Gus') Elix was awarded the Gunning Medal for the Best and Fairest player in the A1 side, repeating his effort in 1950.

Adelaide University Football Club

INTER-VARSITY CARNIVAL, SYDNEY, 1953



Melba
SYDNEY

Back Row: R. LUXTON, M. KITCHENER, R. GREET, H. BROOKS, P. POLOMKA, T. HANSON, J. CLAYTON.
Middle Row: R. TUCKWELL, D. MUECKE, B. SPAIN, D. GILES, P. MUECKE, M. LYON, N. CROWE, R. SOUTHWOOD.
Front Row: H. WILSON (Trainer), K. FITCH, R. LAWRENCE (Vice-Capt.), A. McLEOD (Capt.), J. LAURIE, P. TUNBRIDGE, J. MARTIN.
In Front: R. JOHNSON, G. DUNCAN, J. SMITH, R. KOEHNE.



FRANK BOASE
STUDIO

14 HAMMERSMITH AVENUE
HAMMERSMITH, S.A.

Back Row: J. Martin, C. Bungey, J. Clayton, R. Koehne, G. Duncan.
Third Row: R. Greet, T. Hanson, K. Fitch, H. Brooks, J. Lawrence, M. Kitchener.
Second Row: R. Hancock, D. Muecke, J. Laurie, R. Law-Smith, J. Hancock, M. Lyon, R. Bennett.
Front Row: H. Wilson (Trainer), P. Tunbridge, J. Walsh, A. McLeod (Vice-Capt.), R. Ellix (Captain), R. Lawrence, D. Giles,
E. Tillav (Coach).

The opening four games saw the A2 side under T. Bahr only win one match (against Kings' Old Collegians). In these games R.S. Greet, H. Young, M. Lyon, P. Muecke, J.J. Clayton, D.J. Fuller and J.A.G. Redway had all been prominent.

The side gradually improved on these performances. After sitting near the bottom of the table at the half-way mark of the season, wins over Kings' Old Collegians, Riverside and Semaphore Central saw them move up the list. I.N. Broadbent, V. Nicholls, C.C. Symon, C.L. Ketley, B. Polomka, R.W. Law- Smith, B. Spain, J. Taylor and H. Brooks had all been seen amongst the best players. 'The Blacks' had given the other teams too much of a start, however, and could not bridge the gap.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1953

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Rosewater	18	17	1	0	34
Kenilworth	18	12	6	0	24
Kings' O.C.	18	11	6	1	23
Teachers College	18	10	8	0	20
Colonel Light Gdns	18	9	9	0	18
Payneham	18	9	9	0	18
University 'B'	18	8	10	0	16
Riverside	18	7	10	1	15
Semaphore Park	18	6	12	0	12
Semaphore Central 'B'	18	0	18	0	0

The A3's fared much better early in the season and had only lost one game after the fourth round. L. Caust, Captain of the side, had rucked particularly well, R. Nettle had kicked 17 goals, while N.R. Crowe, D.S. Muecke, J.G. Clayton, R.G. Johnson, T.A.S. Hanson and C.L. Ketley were the better players to this stage.

Good wins over SPOC and Payneham put the side back in the four at the half-way mark and, with a four point break over the fifth team, 'the Blacks' looked as if they could remain there. W. McCoy, Owen, J. Renney, J.G. Smith, Skinner, R.J. Gluyas, and T.G. Murrell had played well in three games.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A3 is shown below.

A3 Premiership Table 1953

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Henley	18	18	0	36
S.A. Railways Institute	18	14	4	28
Woodville 'B'	18	12	6	24
University 'C'	18	11	7	22
Commonwealth Bank	18	11	7	22
St. Peter's O.C. 'B'	18	9	9	18
Exeter 'B'	18	8	10	16
Nth Brighton/Somerton	18	5	13	10
Payneham 'B'	18	1	17	2
Flinders Park 'B'	18	1	17	2

'The Blacks' were beaten by S.A. Railways Institute in the Semi-final, 6.12 to 10.10 in a game where inaccurate kicking was costly.

The 'D' grade, playing in the Sturt District Association, won their second game against Postal Institute, after losing to St. Raphael's in the first round. C.C. Symon, J.H. Alpers, P.M. Wurm, R. St. J.M. Butler and D. Hill, the skipper of the side, had all played well.

'The Blacks' continued to win games, with wins over Colonel Light Gardens (R.J. Nettle seven goals) and Cudmore Park (R.J. Nettle eight goals) being two good performances. A.D. Shepherd, Rice, D. Hill and McInerney had played consistently during the year.

1954 Season

The 1954 season began with many of the 'old faces' missing. Dr R.T. (Bob) Steele replaced Dr C.B. (Chris) Sangster, who retired as President, a position he had filled so admirably since 1949, and stalwarts such as R.L. Elix, D.J. Giles, and the Lawrence brothers had all moved on. However, George Tilley, who had taken the A1 side into the last three Grand Finals, was still at the helm and the experienced J.K.A. ('Wimpy') McLeod was skipper. Much was expected of several new students who had shown good form on the track.

The Club had nominated teams in A1, A2, A3 and the Sturt District Association. Later, the number of players available pressed the formation of a fifth senior side.

Although the A1 team started the year slowly with a defeat by 1953 Premier Walkerville (8.10 to 8.9) and a solid win over SPOC, it was the form of the less experienced players that was heartening. G.E. Krieger, R.G. Strickland and J.W. Downer, all new to the side, had played very well and supported R. Koehne, A. Spain, J.F. Walsh, M.J. Kitchener, R.H. Tuckwell and J.K.A. McLeod.

The Club was very pleased with its representation in the State side - George Tilley as coach, J.K.A. McLeod as Captain, and J.G. Martin, R.G. Johnson, G.E. Krieger, C.H. Akkermans and J.F. Walsh. 'Wimpy' McLeod (Captain) and John Walsh were subsequently named in the All-Australian side to play against Queensland and Tasmanian League teams for the right to play in Division 1 of the Australian Carnival.

Even with these players out, 'the Blacks' managed to defeat the previously unbeaten Semaphore Central, so the prospects of a Premiership looked bright.

By the end of the first round of matches, the A1s had still only lost the one game and were comfortably on top of the Premiership table. However, Rosewater lowered 'the Blacks' colours on 17 July when they won 10.9 to 14.8. In this game G.E. Krieger, D.S. Muecke and H. Akkermans (five goals) all showed out.

Sunday Mail, 1954



The A1's finished the season as Minor Premier. The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.



1954 UNIVERSITY A1 TEAM - PREMIER

Back Row: J.H. Rogers, R.G. Strickland, J.N. Bishop, B.J. Spain, P. Polomka, C.L. Ketley, P.G. Pak-Poy.
 Third Row: C.S. Bungey, G.E. Krieger, R.W. Law-Smith, D.S. Muecke, C.H. Akkermans, N.R. Crowe, J.W. Downer.
 Second Row: R.H. Tuckwell, J.B. Laurie, J.F. Walsh, J.K.A. McLeod (Capt.), J.G. Martin (V-c), M.J. Kitchener, K.D. Fitch.
 Front Row: T.A.S. Hanson, J.G. Clayton, R.G. Johnson, F.W. Altmann.

A1 Premiership Table 1954

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
University	18	16	2	0	32
Walkerville	18	16	2	0	32
Semaphore Central	18	14	4	0	28
Rosewater	18	10	7	1	21
Flinders Park	18	7	10	1	15
Exeter	18	7	11	0	14
Woodville	18	7	11	0	14
St. Peter's O.C.	18	5	12	1	11
Alberton Church Unt'd	18	5	13	0	10
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	1	16	1	3

In the Semi-final 'the Blacks' defeated Semaphore Central in a game in which the defence played superbly. R.W. Law-Smith, R.H.Tuckwell, J.N. Bishop and C.L. Ketley were impassable and, aided by a grand last quarter rucking effort by G.E. Krieger, the side ran out victors. Scores were 11.13 to 10.17, with 'the Blacks' up by only two points.

With 'Wimpy' McLeod (Captain) and John Walsh absent with the All-Australian team, but due back for the Final, confidence was high for the third Flag in four years. This proved to be the case in the game against Rosewater. After an even first half, 'the Blacks' ran out comfortable winners 19.11 to 10.4, kicking eight goals in the last quarter.

In a game where many players contributed, G.E. Krieger kicked six, J.G. Martin five and P.G. Pak-Poy four goals, whilst the best players were J.G. Martin, J.K.A. McLeod, K.D. Fitch, J.N. Bishop and F.W. Altmann.



Sunday Mail, September 1954

This was a fitting end to a very successful season. G.E. (Geoff) Krieger won the Gunning Medal for the Best and Fairest in the A1 side.

The A2's did not have a good first round of matches and had been hard hit by injuries, vacations, and in one game State players were out of the A1 side. They were placed well down the list (eighth). J.Y. Hancock, P.J. Gluyas, P.J. Wurm, D. Evans, McInerney and L.G. Marshall had all played well on occasions. The latter half of the season did not see any marked improvement in the performances of this side and the team finished in the lower half of the table. The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below.

A2 Premiership Table 1954

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Henley	18	17	1	0	34
Payneham	18	15	3	0	30
Colonel Light Gardens	18	11	6	1	23
Kenilworth	18	10	8	0	20
Riverside	18	9	9	0	18
Goodwood	18	9	9	0	18
Kings' O.C.	18	8	10	0	16
University 'B'	18	6	11	1	13
S.A. Railways Institute	18	3	15	0	6
Teachers College	18	1	17	0	2

The A3s, under the leadership of J. McManus had a reasonably successful season and were in second place half way through the season. A 15 goal defeat of Semaphore Central was one of the highlights of their season. The team had to win the last minor round game to gain a place in the four, but lost in a very close encounter.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A3 is shown below.

A3 Premiership Table 1954

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Woodville 'B'	18	16	2	32
Birkenhead Sports	18	15	3	30
Myer	18	12	6	24
Exeter 'B'	18	11	7	22
University 'C'	18	10	8	20
Commonwealth Bank	18	10	8	20
St. Peter's O.C. 'B'	18	7	11	14
Semaphore Park	18	5	13	10
Scotch O.C.	18	4	14	8
Semaphore Central 'B'	18	0	18	0

The D's had a reasonably successful year in the Sturt District Association with players such as M. Rice, George, Mortess, Green and Bonython named in best player lists.

The 'E' grade team, formed later in the season, had games arranged for them when this was possible.

1955 Season

With the increased interest in football and the Club during the previous two seasons, it was decided to field an additional team in the Amateur League, giving the Club sides in A1, A2, A3 and A4, with the fifth side playing in the Sturt District Association.

There were 72 players available for the first trial on 2 April 1955 and, with a liberal sprinkling of talented Freshers, the prospects looked bright for the season.

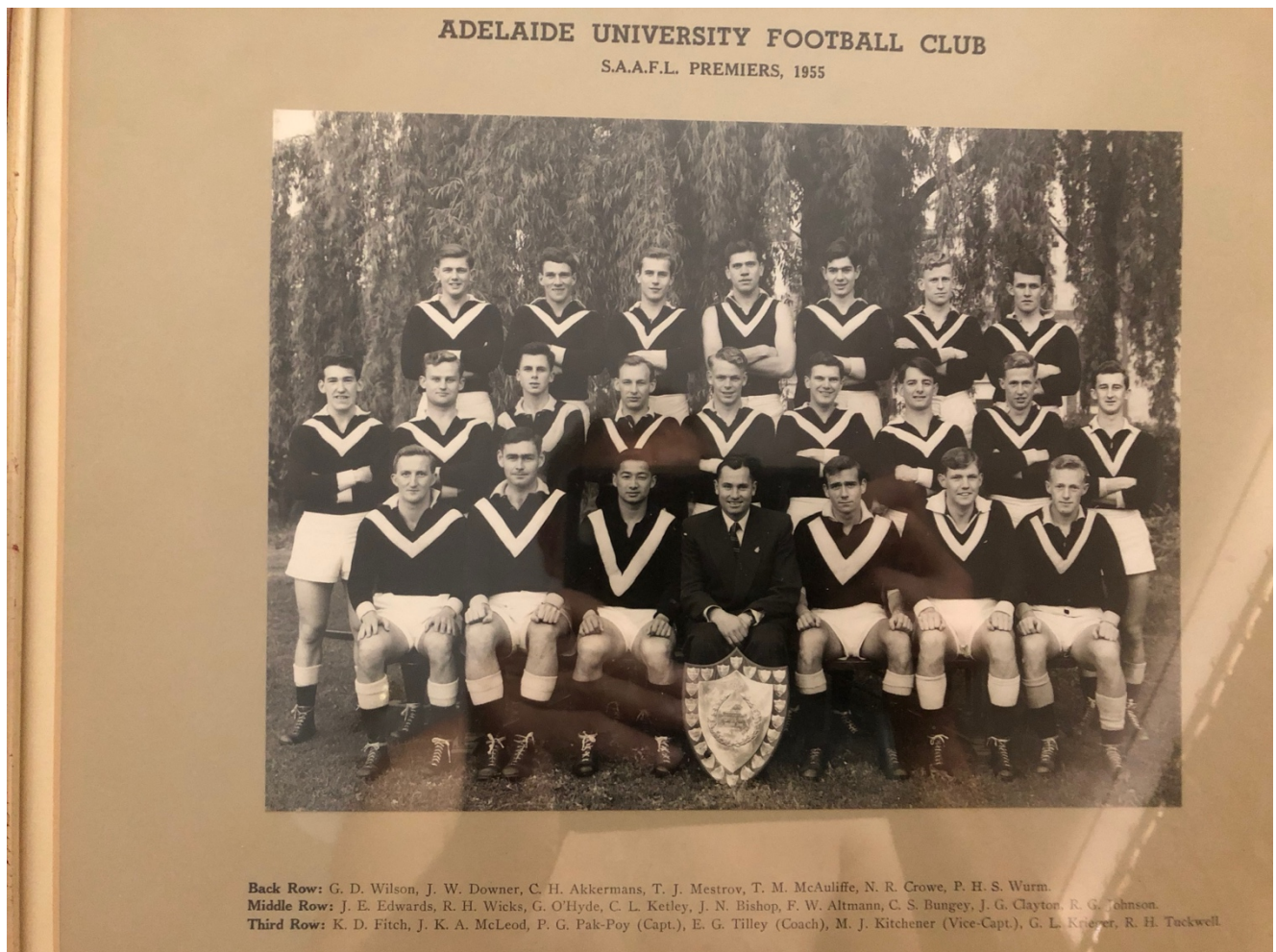
George Tilley was keen to further his impressive coaching record with 'the Blacks', P.G. (Pat) Pak-Poy had been elected Captain of the A1 side and the depth of talent in the Club was good.

The first game confirmed this, when the previous year's runner-up in A1 (Rosewater) were defeated in a tough game. F.W. Altmann starred for 'the Blacks', with C.S. Bungey (four goals) and J.B. Edwards lending solid support.

By mid-season, the A1 side had secured their place at the top of the ladder after convincing wins over Flinders Park by 19 goals (19.21 to 3.4) and Exeter (the second team) by ten goals. Stars in these games were C.H. Akkermans, with nine goals against Flinders Park, R.H. Tuckwell, M.J. Kitchener, J.N. Bishop, G.P. Wilson, J.K.A. McLeod and R.G. Johnson.

By the end of the minor round, the A1s were well placed in the four, on top with only one loss in 18 games. The last three games provided very easy wins against weak opposition for the A1s. However, all other sides (except the A3s) struggled, as they were drastically weakened due to

August vacation. C.H. Akkermans won the minor round goalkicking for the League with 80 goals, while R.H. Johnson, F.W. Altmann, G.P. Wilson, R.H. Tuckwell and C. Ketley had all played well during the season.



1955 UNIVERSITY A1 TEAM - PREMIER

Back Row: G.P. Wilson, J.W. Downer, C.H. Akkermans, T.J. Mestrov, T.M. McAuliffe, N.R. Crowe, P.H.S. Wurm.
Middle Row: J.B. Edwards, R.H. Wicks, G. O'H. Hyde, C.L. Ketley, J.N. Bishop, F.W. Altmann, C.S. Bungey, J.G. Clayton, R.G. Johnson.
Front Row: K.D. Fitch, J.K.A. McLeod, P.G. Pak-Poy (Capt.), E.G. Tilley (Coach), M.J. Kitchener (V-c), G.E. Krieger, R.H. Tuckwell.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below. This was the fifth consecutive season that 'the Blacks' had been the Minor Premier.

A1 Premiership Table 1955

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	18	17	1	34
Semaphore Central	18	14	4	28
Walkerville	18	12	6	24
Exeter	18	11	7	22
Woodville	18	9	9	18
Rosewater	18	8	10	16
St. Peter's O.C.	18	7	11	14
Henley	18	5	13	10
Kenilworth	18	5	13	10
Flinders Park	18	2	16	4

The A1's easily defeated Walkerville by ten goals in the Semi-final (17.14 to 8.9), with P.G. Pak-Poy, T.M. McAuliffe, K.D. Fitch, J.K.A. McLeod and C.S. Bungey playing well. G.E. Krieger kicked four and P.G. Pak-Poy three goals.

However, the easy games in the lead-up to the Finals had an effect in the Final and the team was outplayed by Exeter. J.K.A. McLeod, J.W. Downer and J.B. Edwards, being the best in a side down on form. The Club exercised their right of Challenge as Minor Premiers and played Exeter again on 17 September 1955.

In the Challenge Final the side showed their true colours and kicked well away in the first half in a rugged contest. C.H. Akkermans kicking five goals and was responsible for another three. It was unfortunate that he was forced to leave the ground at half time, not to return. C.L. Ketley was brilliant on his half-back flank, while J.K.A. McLeod, R.H. Tuckwell and F.W. Altmann were the best in a very good team effort.

This game made George Tilley's record a very impressive one - four Premierships in five years, and 'the Blacks' were certainly the undisputed top club in the Amateur League.

The A2s, with R. Green in charge, lost the first game narrowly to Kings' Old Collegians in a game where R.D. Terrell, R. Wicks, Isbell and G. O'H. Hyde all showed good early season form. Around July, the side won four games in five weeks to become a very competitive team in this grade. B.H. Kidd, J. Menadue and J. McKenzie had all been performing well.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1955

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Payneham	18	15	3	30
Riverside	18	15	3	30
Colonel Light Gdns	18	14	4	28
Goodwood	18	12	6	24
Teachers College	18	9	9	18
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	8	10	16
University 'B'	18	6	12	12
Alberton United	18	6	12	12
Kings' O.C.	18	3	15	6
S.A. Railways Institute	18	1	17	2

Unfortunately, with the A3 side struggling to maintain its place in the four, this 'B' grade team was decimated during vacations and when injuries also occurred their task to make the four became impossible.

R.L. (Gus) Elix, a former Club Captain and State Amateur player, was Captain-Coach of the A3's. He led the side to an impressive victory against Commonwealth Bank in the first game. 'The Blacks' won 15.21 to 1.5, with McPhee kicking five goals and Gus Elix playing exceptionally well.

The 'C' grade team continued to play consistent football and a win over Woodville (8.10 to 7.6) on 16 July gave their Finals chances a boost. D. O'Brien, N. Fitch, M. Rice and G. Rogers were all in good form.

This side had the benefit of being fairly settled since changes were made to the A4s and 'E' grade in an effort to keep the A3s in the four. The team was keen enough to be seen practising on Wednesday nights and rewarded the Club with a berth in the Finals. Good players during the year were the Rice brothers, I. George and W. McCoy.

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

A3 Premiership Table 1955

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Semaphore Park	20	17	3	0	34
University 'C'	20	17	3	0	34
Grange	20	16	4	0	32
Commonwealth Bank	20	16	4	0	32
Birkenhead Sports	20	11	9	0	22
Myer	20	11	9	0	22
Exeter 'B'	20	10	10	0	20
Payneham 'B'	20	8	12	0	16
Woodville 'B'	20	6	14	0	12
St. Peter's O.C. 'B'	20	4	16	0	8
Henley 'B'	20	2	17	1	5
Scotch O.C.	20	1	18	1	3

The Blacks' did not progress any further in the quest for a Premiership and hence finished fourth. Commonwealth Bank defeated the A3's 9.9 to 9.15.

The A4s (our D grade),, led by R. (Robin) Haskard, started the season slowly with a two goal loss to Semaphore Central, but improved and enjoyed a winning streak in mid season. This was halted on a mud patch at the Waite Institute when Kenilworth defeated the side. In this game Clothier kicked five goals and B. Collison and D. Bowyer performed well. This team was depleted during the vacations, and with preference given to the A3's to ensure they made the four, their hopes of a Finals berth were quashed.

In A4 the Premiership table at the end of the minor round was as follows.

Pulteney O.S. (36), Semaphore Central 'B' (36), Long Range Weapons (32), Kenilworth 'B' (28), Rosewater B (24), Walkerville 'B' (22), Teachers College 'B' (20), **University 'D' (14)**, Semaphore Park 'B' (10), Goodwood 'B' (8), Colonel Light Gardens 'B' (6) and PAOC 'B' (4).

The 'E' grade or fifth side was playing in the Sturt District Association, but were finding the competition a little keen. The team had difficulty registering their first win; however, there was much jubilation when they broke through to defeat Goodwood-Keswick by three points on 16 July. 'The Blacks' were three goals down at the last change, but stormed home to win. Best players for University were McInerney, J.C. Lill (later to play League football with Norwood) and J.G. Smith. Just to prove this was not a 'fluke' they won the following week against St. Raphaels after being six goals down at half time. Best players on this occasion were R. Griffen, P. Luke, J.C. Lill (six goals) and J.G. Smith.

This was the first time a fifth side had really played regularly throughout the season.

The Club had again experienced a successful season and the growth in the number of players wishing to play for 'the Blacks' was encouraging.

1956 Season

The 1956 season began with an air of excitement about the Club, following two consecutive Premierships and with the Inter-Varsity Carnival to be hosted by Adelaide in the May vacation.

Five sides had again been entered and 70 to 80 players were training under the watchful eyes of George Tilley. The trials had again exposed new talent, which would make the established A1 players work hard for their places.

The A1s started the season with three wins against Exeter, Semaphore Central and Walkerville, although none of the wins were really convincing. J.W. Downer, T.M. McAuliffe in ruck and R.H. Tuckwell at centre halfback, R.S. Greet, F.W. Altmann and J.B. Edwards, were prominent in these wins, and B.H. Kidd and G. O'H. Hyde both made promising A1 debuts.

On 7 July, the A1s lost their second game for the season at the hands of Walkerville. The team was not performing really well at this stage and it was only a brilliant exhibition of wet weather football by F. Hambly that kept them in this game. Walkerville had moved out four points in front of the second team on the Premiership table.

The A1 side lifted its form in the last half of the season and good wins over Payneham (8.12 to 6.10) and Goodwood (17.11 to 2.4) in the last two minor round games saw 'the Blacks' in second place.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1956

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Walkerville	18	14	3	1	29
University	18	14	4	0	28
Semaphore Central	18	12	5	1	25
Payneham	18	12	6	0	24
Woodville	18	11	6	1	23
Rosewater	18	8	9	1	17
Exeter	18	8	10	0	16
St. Peter's O.C.	18	5	13	0	10
Henley	18	2	16	0	4
Goodwood	18	2	16	0	4

This was the first season for the Page Finals system, with the Minor Premier no longer having such an advantage.

In the Second Semi-final the side beat Walkerville 10.12 to 9.9 to move straight into the Final. R.H. Tuckwell, J.B. Edwards, C.P. Wilson, F.S. Hambly, T.M. McAuliffe and F.W. Altmann were the best performers.



The Amateur Footballer, 8 September 1956

The team was outplayed in the Grand Final by Semaphore Central 6.10 to 11.8. Payneham Oval was waterlogged, and the strong wind was not conducive for good football. 'Centrals' kicked four goals against the wind in the third quarter to seal the game. 'The Blacks' were best served by G. O'H. Hyde, J.W. Downer, G.P. Wilson, F.S. Hambly and T.A.S. Hanson in this game. J.B. Edwards kicked two goals.

This was the sixth A1 Grand Final the Club had played in the six years that George Tilley had coached 'the Blacks'. R.H. (Roger) Tuckwell won the Gunning Medal for the Best and Fairest player in the A1s to cap a fine year for him.



The A2s, under R Green, won their first three games - against Henley, Teachers College and Semaphore Park – and were shaping up as a good side. R.W.W. Forgan and R. Both had rucked well in the first game and rovers Treloar, Warne and Webber had made full use of their opportunities. In the Teachers game Webber kicked six goals and D. Muecke was impassable at half back while J.L.C. Wigan and Teubner were in form against Semaphore Park.

As the season wore on, the A2s could not maintain consistent form and lost matches some weeks only to recover and play brilliantly the next. Collapses in the last quarter were becoming a trademark. By the end of the season the side had dropped down the list and did not participate in the Finals.

A2 Premiership Table

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

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Kenilworth	18	13	4	1	27
Flinders Park	18	12	6	0	24
Semaphore Park	18	12	6	0	24
Colonel Light Gdns	18	11	6	1	23
Riverside	18	11	7	0	22
Teachers College	18	9	9	0	18
Grange	18	7	11	0	14
University 'B'	18	6	11	1	13
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	5	12	1	11
Alberton United	18	2	16	0	4

The A3s began in good style with two wins in the first two rounds. Parsons, Kingston, G. Rogers, Owen, A. Ferry, M. Muecke, W. Rogers, R Griffen and Isbell had all played well at stages during the season, but the performances fell away as the year progressed and they finished well down the table.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A3 is shown below.

A3 Premiership Table 1956

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Myer	18	14	4	0	28
Exeter 'B'	18	13	5	0	26
Payneham 'B'	18	13	5	0	26
Kings' O.C.	18	11	7	0	22
Commonwealth Bank	18	10	8	0	20
S.A. Railways Institute	18	8	9	1	17
Long Range Weapons	18	7	10	1	15
Pulteney O.S.	18	5	13	0	10
University 'C'	18	4	14	0	8
Birkenhead Sports	18	4	14	0	8

The A5s (the Club's fifth side) found the going tough, but won one of their first three games after starting with only 15 players. Wigg, F. Smith, Heenan, Blanks, Roberts and J.C. Lill all showed that with a bit more consistency, the side could win far more games. The team had to forfeit games later in the season due to lack of numbers and this left the side well down the table. Jelly, Smythe and Ferry were the best players during the season.

Another new club in Ethelton finished as the Minor Premier in A5 after 15 matches with 26 points.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round was as follows.

Ethelton (26), Teachers 'B' (24), Riverside 'B' (24), Goodwood 'B' (20), Colonel Light Gardens 'B' (10), Grange 'B' (10), **University 'D' (4)** and PAOC 'B' (2).

The 'D' grade team was playing in the Sturt District Association. Although 'the Blacks' started the season poorly much was expected of players like B. Collison, Roach, Burns, Smythe and D. Porter who had shown out in these early games. In the third game 'the Blacks' thrashed St. Raphaels by 14 goals, with J.C. Lill, G. Luke and J.G. Smith starring.

By mid-season this team was the form side of the Club and had not lost a game since the second round. Captain J.C. Smith, together with J.C. Lill, D. Porter, G. Levy, Webber and G. Luke were all playing extremely well, and this side was a favourite for the Premiership.

The team maintained this form for the remainder of the season, losing only four games in the minor round. However, although favourites for the Flag, 'the Blacks' were soundly beaten in the Grand Final, and had to be content with second place.

State cricketer J.C. Lill, who was playing in this team to keep fit for his summer activities, had an exceptional season. He kicked 84 goals from centre half forward to head the goalkicking list and won the Association Medal with 39 votes from 15 games.

During July the Club mourned the loss of one of the great stalwarts of the University Football Club in 'Long'un' Wilson. He had been the Club's Trainer since the late 1920's and had left his mark on generations of University footballers. Life Membership of the Football Club was bestowed upon him in 1953 as recognition of the respect the Club had for him over many years.

Although not winning the A1 Premiership, the Club beat Melbourne University, which was a rare occurrence and source of much celebration.

1957 Season

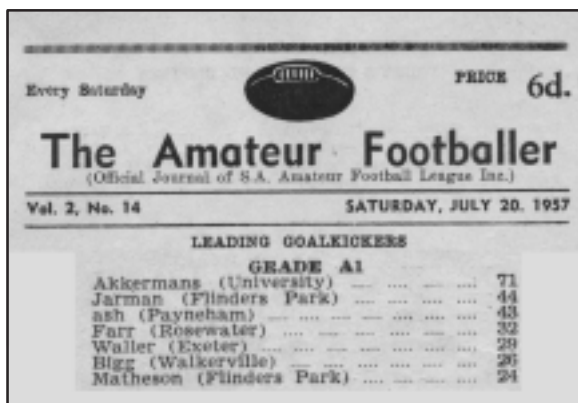
There were many changes at the start of the 1957 season, the most significant being that George Tilley, who had left the Club to coach Sturt, was replaced by another Sturt and State player, L.G. (Jack) Giles. J.K.A. McLeod, another stalwart for many years, had also left the Club, as had the usual number of experienced players. Despite these losses the band of Freshers looked talented, with two, namely M.G. Montgomery and B.M. Seppelt - appearing to be class footballers.

The Club nominated sides in A1, A2, A3 and A5 of Amateur League and most sides started the season in good fashion. This was a decrease of one team in the number of teams fielded in 1956.

The A1 side, with J.W. (Oscar) Downer as Captain, won the first match of the year against the 1956 Premiers, Semaphore Central, by one point. 'The Blacks' won the next three games comfortably before being beaten by Walkerville on 11 May 1956. Most prominent at this stage were J.B. Edwards, J.N. Bishop, G.P. Wilson, C.H. Akkermans (with 28 goals), F.W. Altmann, J.C. Lill and J.L. Wigan.

During the Inter-Varsity Carnival in Sydney the Club performed extremely well. Despite the loss of players, the A1s beat Kenilworth by 85 points and no side had to be forfeited. To achieve this the third side played twice on the one day.

After 13 games, 'the Blacks' had only lost three games and had easily the best percentage. The attack was well led by Charlie Akkermans with 71 goals.



The Amateur Footballer, 20 July 1957

A1 Premiership Table 1957

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
University	18	14	4	28
Semaphore Central	18	12	6	24
Flinders Park	18	12	6	24
Rosewater	18	12	6	24
Payneham	18	11	7	22
Walkerville	18	10	8	20
Exeter	18	8	10	16
Woodville	18	8	10	16
St. Peter's O.C.	18	2	16	4
Kenilworth	18	1	17	2

The A1s continued to win most games, and by August, they were firmly entrenched in top position and had a strong chance for the Premiership. J.B. Edwards, J. Clayton, D.J. Watson, G.E. Krieger, B.M. Seppelt, G.P. Wilson, T.A.S. Hanson, and J.L. Wigan had been in good touch in the middle of the season. One of the wins during this period was a two point victory over Rosewater, one of the better sides in the competition. In this game, G.P. Wilson and T.A.S. Hanson, on the last line of defence, were in excellent form, and J.C. Lill was again the best of the forwards.

Unfortunately, a rash of injuries hit the A1 side, which had been on top of the Premiership table for most of the season, at Finals time. For the Second Semi-final against Semaphore Central there were six key players out (J.W. Downer, T.M. McAuliffe, D.J. Watson, P. Muecke, P.J. Clayton and G.P. Wilson) and this weakened the side considerably. Semaphore Central ran out comfortable winners 10.20 to 9.6, with T.J. Mestrov, J.B. Edwards, M.S Muecke and G. O'H. Hyde playing well.

In the Preliminary Final against Rosewater, the side went down by three goals after staying with the opposition for three quarters. The best players in this game were J.C. Lill (five goals), T.J. Mestrov, G.E. Krieger, T.M. McAuliffe, J.W. Downer and J.B. Edwards.

This was a disappointing end to the season that looked like being another Premiership year for 'the Blacks'. J.C. Lill, promoted from the 'D' grade in 1956, won the Gunning Medal.

M.P. Rice led the A2 side to victory in the first game of the season against Grange and followed up with two more fine wins. R. Griffen, J.Y Hancock, R. Patterson, P. Muecke, the Rice brothers and R. McWilliam had been the architects behind these wins.

The side then lost two games in a row and from then on struggled to win games consistently and although recording some fine wins, were not a threat to make the four. As well as the above named, M.S. Muecke, D. Parson, R.D. Terrell and M.G. Montgomery were prominent during the season.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1957

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Riverside	18	17	1	34
Teachers College	18	14	4	28
Goodwood	18	12	6	24
Henley	18	11	7	22
Semaphore Park	18	9	9	18
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	9	9	18
Colonel Light Gardens	18	9	9	18
University 'B'	18	6	12	12
Grange	18	2	16	4
Myer	18	1	17	2

The A3s were experiencing a bad run and had not won a game up until August, despite the efforts of Captain-Coach C. Ketley. N. Fitch, R. Clayton, Skinner, G. Levy, D. Porter, A. Black, Dean, Jansen and Cameron had played well but the team had not performed as a unit.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round in A3 is shown below.

A3 Premiership Table 1957

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
Alberton United	18	15	3	0	30
Eastwood	18	15	3	0	30
Woodville 'B'	18	14	4	0	28
Payneham 'B'	18	13	5	0	26
S.A. Railways Institute	18	11	7	0	22
Kings' O.C.	18	9	9	0	18
Pulteney O.S.	18	5	12	1	11
Exeter 'B'	18	5	13	0	10
Long Range Weapons	18	1	16	1	3
University 'C'	18	1	17	0	2

M. Smyth led the A5's through a relatively successful first half of the season to be in touch with the four. M. Smyth, Donnellan, J. Stearne, Lugg, Emery, and Kingston had stood out at this stage. The team continued to play good football and by the end of the minor round were well entrenched in the four. Hale, Debelle, Sage and M.F. Quinlan had all enjoyed good seasons.

Semaphore Park 'B' grade led the A5 table after 12 minor round matches with 22 points. The

Premiership table at the end of the minor round was as follows.

Semaphore Park 'B' (22), Flinders Park 'B' (16), Riverside 'B' (14), **University 'D' (14)**, Goodwood 'B' (12), PAOC 'B' (4) and Colonel Light Gardens 'B' (0).

'The Blacks' lost the First Semi-final 7.3 to 7.9, having led for most of the game. Centre-line players Cameron and Johns were best, closely followed by M.F. Quinlan (five goals), J. Stearne and Kavanagh in defence and Kingston in ruck.

It was thus a disappointing end to what had promised to be a successful season. One highlight of the year was the outstanding goalkicking feats of C.H. (Charlie) Akkermans who kicked 107 goals for the season to win the first Charles Irvine Memorial Trophy for the leading goalkicker in A1.

1958 Season

The University Football Club had a familiar look about it in 1958 when the main positions for the season were announced. L.G. (Jack) Giles was coaching the A1 side, J.W. (Oscar) Downer was to skipper the A1s and M.P. (Michael) Rice was again Captain-Coach of the A2s. Dr R.T. Steele was re-elected President for his fifth successive year.

Several key players were leaving the Club (G.P. Wilson, T.M. McAuliffe and J.B. Edwards) and, as is normally the case, opportunities existed for young players to make the A1 side. The Club entered four sides in the Amateur League with teams in A1, A2, A4 and A5.

The Club began the season well in all grades and raised the Management Committee's hopes that this would be the year when four sides were in the Finals.



The Amateur Footballer, 25 April 1959

The A1s were in good form with J.W. Downer, J.C. Lill and new ruckman D.R. Liljegren in fine form early in the season.

The strength of the Club was reflected in the representation in the State Amateur side to play Melbourne - J.C. Lill, G.E. Krieger, G. O'H. Hyde, T.J. Mestrov and J.W. Downer. J.C. Lill continued his fine Club form into the State game and was named best afield. As well as these players in the State team, B.M. (Brian) Seppelt was named in the All-Australian team to play in the Carnival in Melbourne.

By early July, the Club had consolidated on the good early form shown by all four sides and was in striking distance of Finals berths in each grade.

The A1s were firmly entrenched in top position, four points clear of the second side. Fine wins over Exeter (then top), Woodville and Riverside in June had seen 'the Blacks' climb to the top. These were good wins as they took place at Inter-Varsity time when the players' commitments both on and off the field were very heavy. J.W. Downer, F.W. Altmann, J.C. Lill and J.H. Alpers had all been playing well.

The game against Exeter was highlighted by two outstanding goalkicking performances. Charlie Akkermans for 'the Blacks' kicked 11 goals from full forward, while Richie Bray kicked 12 goals from a half forward flank for Exeter.

With good wins over Flinders Park and Walkerville, the A1s were well on top of the Premiership table. In the Walkerville game, R Koehne returned to the A1 side after a considerable absence and kicked five goals in a brilliant display of roving. P. Muecke kicked seven goals from full forward, while M.G. Montgomery, T.J. Mestrov, R.J. Strickland, J.C. Lill and D.R. Liljegren all played very well.

The side faltered a little towards the end of the minor round with losses to Semaphore Central and Riverside, but still finished the season as Minor Premier.

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

A1 Premiership Table 1958

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
University	18	14	4	0	28
Riverside	18	13	4	1	27
Semaphore Central	18	13	5	0	26
Rosewater	18	11	7	0	22
Payneham	18	8	8	2	18
Exeter	18	7	11	0	14
Walkerville	18	7	11	0	14
Woodville	18	6	11	1	13
Teachers College	18	6	12	0	12
Flinders Park	18	3	15	0	6

Close amateur semi-finals

Sunday Mail, 6 September 1958

Much drama was to occur in the Finals round. 'The Blacks' drew the Second Semi-final against Riverside at Kensington Oval 13.7 to 12.13. C.H. Akkermans and J.C. Lill both kicked five goals with G. O'H. Hyde, M.H. Codd, J.C. Lill, T.J. Mestrov, J.W. Downer and C.H. Akkermans all being prominent. The replay was at Alberton Oval, the ground that most Riverside players had trained and played at all season. Despite this disadvantage, the side won 9.12 to 7.11. Best players were J.W. Downer, B.M. Seppelt, J.C. Lill, M.H. Codd and G.E. Krieger.

The Grand Final was again at Alberton Oval against Riverside and this time 'the Blacks' lost 6.13 to 8.11, partly due to bad kicking for goal (1.8 at half time). The 3.13 score line at three quarter time told the story. University was best served by G. O'H. Hyde, J.W. Downer, R.G. Strickland, D.R. Liljegren, M.G. Montgomery and T.J. Mestrov. Allen Greer was in the best for Riverside.

C.H. Akkermans again won the goalkicking for A1 with 58 goals in the minor round and J.C. Lill was fourth with 43 goals.

J.W. (Oscar) Downer won the Gunning Medal as a reward for several seasons as an outstanding player and leader.

At the mid-season mark, the A2's had slipped to sixth following two losses. This was a disappointment considering their early season form. Late in July, the team was lying fourth after several fighting wins and hopes were held out for success in the Finals. The key game against Semaphore Park on 25 August resulted in a close win to 'the Blacks' which lifted the side into the four. M.F. Quinlan, Floreani, D. Parsons, R.G. Pearlman, P. McInerney and J.H. Patterson were all in good form in this game. Unfortunately, a few losses late in the minor round saw the side drop out of the four to finish in sixth spot.

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

A2 Premiership Table 1958

Club	Pl	W	L	D	Pts
St. Peter's O.C.	18	13	5	0	26
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	13	5	0	26
Alberton United	18	11	6	1	23
Semaphore Park	18	11	6	1	23
Kenilworth	18	10	8	0	20
University 'B'	18	9	9	0	18
Eastwood	18	9	9	0	18
Goodwood	18	7	11	0	14
Colonel Light Gdns	18	6	12	0	12
Henley and Grange	18	0	18	0	0

The A4's had started the season relatively quietly, but a fine win in late June saw them rocket from fifth up the table in a closely fought competition. The side was second at this stage and the Club was hopeful that they would earn promotion to A3 in 1959. O. Petrucco, Campbell, G. Byrne and Guerin had all played well enough to suggest that they would play higher in the years to come. Stalwart Geoff Harcourt's name was noted in the best player lists.

A. Ammon kicked 30 goals to finish second in the goalkicking in this grade.

The A4 minor round saw Riverside B's on top with 32 points. The Premiership table at the end of the minor round was as follows.

Riverside 'B' (32), **University 'C' (30)**, Teachers College 'B' (24), Semaphore Central 'B' (24), Wattle Park T.C. (22), Rosewater 'B' (18), Brighton 'B' (16), Birkenhead Sports (10), Semaphore Park 'B' (4) and SPOC 'B' (2).

In the Second Semi-final the A4s played Riverside and won convincingly, 9.12 to 5.10. However, in the return game for the Premiership 'the Blacks' were defeated 2.8 to 5.10 on Kensington Oval.

At mid-season, the A5s were just out of the four on percentage after some solid wins in the previous few rounds. In July they hit top form to record four brilliant wins in a row and were then in second place with a percentage of 72%. One of these wins was against the previously undefeated PAOC 'B' grade. A pleasing aspect of this team's performance was the number of new players who were playing well each week.

Black kicked 30 goals for the season to be high up in the goalkickers for this grade.

The only 'A' grade team in A5, Scotch O.C., finished Minor Premier with 32 points after 18 rounds.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round was as follows.

Scotch O.C. (32), Kilburn 'B' (30), PAOC 'B' (28),
University 'D' (26), Flinders Park 'B' (22), Teachers College 'C' (19), Henley & Grange 'B' (15),
Payneham 'C' (14), Kenilworth 'B' (12), Ethelton 'B' (10), Brighton 'C' (4) and Colonel Light Gardens
'B' (2).

In the First Semi-final on 6 September, 'the Blacks' again beat PAOC B's (11.9 to 10.7). The team repeated the A1s performance in the Preliminary Final by drawing against Kilburn, who had most of the play. This is well shown by the scores, 6.3 to 4.15. The replay was at Goodwood Oval and, in a close game, the side went down 5.9 to 5.12.

This had been an extremely good year for the Club and, although Premierships were not won, all sides enjoyed success.

1959 Season

Although the Club had experienced a successful year in 1958, the A1 side was forced to replace ten regular players for the 1959 season. L.G. Giles was coaching the side for his third season, and G.E. Krieger had been appointed Captain of the A1s. The ruck strength of past seasons (J.W. Downer, T.J. Mestrov and D.R. Liljegren) was missing and key forwards J.C. Lill and F.W. Altmann had also left. This left many opportunities for new players and those who had established themselves in the lower grade sides in 1958.

The trial games showed that the A1s would have a back line second to none in the competition and that A.R. Clarkson would prove a worthy replacement for the departing ruckmen. The A2 side was in the capable hands of R.D. Terrell, Rhodes Scholar for 1959, whilst J. Stearne was Captain-Coach of the A3 side.

After four rounds the Club was particularly well placed in all grades with the A1s and A5s being undefeated.

The A1s opened the season well with fine wins over the previous season's finalists, Riverside and Semaphore Central, and continued to play excellent football. A.R. Clarkson, M.G. Montgomery, A.D. Shepherd, M.H. Codd and R. Cameron were all in fine early season form.

Despite a strong start to the season, 'the Blacks' did not have everything their own way at the half way mark. After winning six consecutive games, the team suffered a massive loss of form to lose the next five games. This placed the A1 side in a three-way battle for third and fourth positions with Walkerville and Exeter.

Fortunately some good wins late in the season saw the side claim fourth position on percentage from Walkerville, with 11 wins from 18 games.

The Premiership table at the end of the minor round is shown below. This was the first time since 1950 that 'the Blacks' had finished below second position.

A1 Premiership Table 1959

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Semaphore Central	18	15	3	30
Riverside	18	13	5	26
Exeter	18	13	5	26
University	18	11	7	22
Walkerville	18	11	7	22
Teachers College	18	9	9	18
Prince Alfred O.C.	18	7	11	14
Payneham	18	7	11	14
Rosewater	18	3	15	6
St. Peter's O.C.	18	1	17	2

In the Finals, the A1 team comfortably defeated Exeter by 40 points in the First Semi-final at Payneham Oval. In this game B.M. Seppelt, J.H. Patterson, P. Cooper, G. O'H. Hyde, M.G. Montgomery, A.R. Clarkson and M.H. Codd (changed from full back to full forward) all played well.

Unfortunately, in the Preliminary Final, the side went down to Semaphore Central by a point. A slow start affected the team's performance, as they were five goals down after only 20 minutes of the first quarter. A fight-back led by the rucks, A.R. Clarkson and R. Cameron, J.C. Ferguson and J.H. Patterson in defence saw the team lift to hit the front in the third quarter, but the effort could not be sustained. A crowd of 3,000 people watched this enthralling contest at Woodville Oval.

The A2s had won two of their first four games and the policy of training together on Thursday nights after the A1 side had been selected seemed to be paying dividends. At this stage A.B. Gray, S. Maidment, Byrne, P. Cooper and P. Rogers had been prominent.

R.D. Terrell was working well with this side and by June the A2s were third and looking like maintaining their position. A strong win over Colonel Light Gardens was one of their best performances. R.E. Sage with eight goals, was best on the ground and G.E. Gibson, R. Floreani and R. Clayton played well.

The team could not maintain this early form and slipped out of Finals contention. Cooper had an outstanding season, polling in five games, with three best afield votes.

A2 Premiership Table 1959

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Brighton	18	13	5	26
Kenilworth	18	12	6	24
Eastwood	18	12	6	24
Alberton United	18	12	6	24
Goodwood	18	11	7	22
Flinders Park	18	9	9	18
Semaphore Park	18	9	9	18
University 'B'	18	7	11	14
Woodville 'B'	18	4	14	8
Colonel Light Gdns	18	1	17	2

The A3s had won only one match in the first four under Captain-Coach J.M. Stearne, but two of the losses were by only one goal or less and so it was felt that a change of fortune was just around the corner. A. Ravesi, R.M. Springgay, T.P. Fowler and G.F. Patterson had all played well. T.P. Fowler kicked nine goals against Railways in the best performance by the side.

The side performed erratically as the season wore on and despite the efforts of J. Stearne, J.A. Alpers, G.J. Haddow, D. Pak-Poy, A. Ravesi and R. Antic, lost all chance of a Finals berth. Tony Ravesi led the polling in the medal with six votes.

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

A3 Premiership Table 1959

Club	Pl	W	L	Pts
Kilburn	18	18	0	36
Riverside 'B'	18	15	3	30
Ethelton	18	13	5	26
Payneham 'B'	18	11	7	22
Henley & Grange	18	11	7	22
Kings O.C.	18	7	11	14
S.A. Railways Inst.	18	6	12	12
University 'C'	18	5	13	10
Walkerville 'B'	18	2	16	4
Exeter 'B'	18	2	16	4

The A5s were carrying all before them and had some very good games - 23 goals against PAOC being a highlight. J. Naffin was in good form in front of goals scoring eight and four in consecutive games, whilst the best players were C.M. James, J. Campbell, A.J. Munyard, R.E. Walker and R. Freeman.

The A5s were the stars of the Club and after six wins in a row in mid-season were confident of a Premiership. A.R. Black (Captain), K.E. Klæbe, T. Pellew, and M. Guerin were all in good form. They finished the minor round in third position with only four losses for the year.

The A5 grade was comprised of 12 teams and the team played 18 rounds. The Premiership table at the end of the minor round was as follows.

Kenilworth 'B' (34), Goodwood 'B' (30), **University 'D' (28)**, Teachers College 'C' (28), SPOC 'B' (24), Payneham 'C' (20), Brighton 'C' (17), Henley & Grange 'B' (14), Flinders Park 'B' (10), Alberton United 'B' (5), Ethelton 'B' (4) and PAOC 'B' (2).

The A5s kept up their record when they were beaten in the Semi-final for the third consecutive year by less than a goal. This game was played during the holidays and several players were unavailable. Poor kicking cost the game as they went down to Teachers

College 6.13 to 8.5. The best players in the final were Klæbe, O'Brien, Crawford, Black and Byrne. A.B. Black captained the side well and enjoyed an outstanding season polling eight votes in the medal, one behind Crawford. It was no fault of his that the Premiership eluded the team.

It is interesting to note the comment in the *Amateur Footballer*, "It is good to see so many of the younger players expressing a desire to stay with the D's for the rest of their University career - it is the ideal team for those who regard their football as a game rather than a business."

A.R. (Tony) Clarkson's performance, winning the Hone Medal in his first season with the Club, was one of the highlights of the year. Tony polled 16 votes to win on a countback from R. Powell from Semaphore Central. He was also fourth on the Amateur League goalkicking list with 40 goals.

The Club again had a reasonably successful year with all sides performing well. The last half of the A2's season was the only dull spot of the year.

Special Players of the Era



R.L. (Gus) Elix

R.L. (Gus) Elix was an outstanding centreman for the Club between 1948 and 1953, playing in Inter-Varsities from 1948 to 1952. He was awarded Club Letters in 1948 and his Blue in 1950.

As a strong left-footed centreman, he played a key role in the Premiership years of 1951 and 1952. He represented the State Amateur side in 1950 and 1952 and was chosen in 1951 but was unable to play.

'Gus' captained the Club in 1953 and won the Gunning Medal in this year and in 1950 - one of only a few players to win multiple medals. He returned to 'the Blacks' in 1955 as Captain-Coach of the A3 side and led the team into the Finals.



D.H. (Doug) Giles

D.H. Giles first played for the Club in 1949. He began in the A2 side and after only one game was

promoted to the A1 team. He was an outstanding ruckman, playing a key role in the Premiership wins of 1951 and 1952. Doug missed most of the 1950 season with a knee injury sustained in a game against Riverside at Riverside, but this did not stop him from playing well in later years. He played for the State Amateur side in 1952 and was also awarded his Blue in this year.

Inter-Varsities hold fond memories for Doug as he won the Best and Fairest Trophy at the Hobart Inter-Varsity (1951) and was runner-up in Melbourne (1950).



J.F. (John) Walsh

J.F. (John) Walsh played for the Club in the late 1940s and early 1950s, attending Inter-Varsity in 1949, 1951, 1952 and 1954. As a ruckman or key forward he played for the State Amateur side in 1950, 1953 and 1954 and gained All-Australian selection in 1954. In that year he led the first ruck and was awarded the trophy as South Australia's best player, having kicked three goals.

John was a member of the very successful teams in this era that won Premierships in 1951, 1952 and 1954. He starred in the 1951 Challenge Final.

John was awarded a Football Blue in 1950.



J.G. (Jerry) Martin

J.G. (Jerry) Martin played as a rover or half forward for the University Football Club from 1951 to 1954, attending Inter-Varsities in these years. This was a very successful era for 'the Blacks' and Jerry played in Premierships in 1951, 1952 and 1954. He was in outstanding form in the 1954 Grand Final, kicking five goals and being named best player.

Jerry was a member of the State Amateur sides in 1953 and 1954. In the 1953 Carnival in Adelaide, Jerry was in fine form being high in the best players against Western Australia and Victoria, kicking three goals in each game.

He also won many awards whilst with University. The C.B. Sangster Medal in 1951 and the J.B. Day Trophy in 1953 were amongst his football trophies.

Jerry was awarded Club Letters in 1952 and his Football Blue in 1953.



P.A. (Peter) Harbison

The Harbison name is a prominent one in the history of the University and the University Football Club. E.J.K. Harbison played around 1920 and more information on his career can be found in an earlier chapter.

His son, P.A. (Peter) Harbison, played football with the Club in the early 1950s and later went on to represent the State Amateur team in 1954 whilst playing for SPOC. Peter also followed in his father's footsteps by captaining the Athletics Club in 1949 and 1950 and won the Athletics Cup in 1952.

Another brother, J.H. Harbison, had also won this Cup in 1946 and 1948.



J.C. (John) Lill

J.C. (John) Lill had one of the most dramatic rises to prominence in the Club that has ever been seen. John was a gifted cricketer who played for South Australia over a long period of time (1955-1966). He played over 60 first-class matches, scoring over 4000 runs, with eight centuries. John played football only as a diversion in the winter months. He had been awarded the Cricket Blue in 1953.

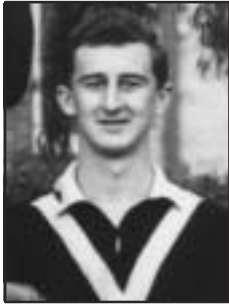
In 1955, John played with 'the Blacks' 'E' grade team in the Sturt District Association and won the Club's and Association Best and Fairest for that grade. The following year he had an outstanding year in the same Association, but on this occasion it was the Club's fourth side. During this season he kicked 84 goals from centre half forward and polled 39 votes from a possible 45 to win the Association Medal. Needless to say he won the Club's award that year.

After deciding to play his football more seriously, John was selected in the A1 side in 1957 and proceeded to win the Gunning Medal that year. The strengths in this game were his high marking and long left-foot kicks. In 1958, he was selected in the All-Australian Universities team, played for the State Amateurs against Victoria (winning the Best Player Trophy) and was awarded his Football Blue. This was a magnificent season by any standards.

After leaving University, John played 78 League games for Norwood, heading their goalkicking list in 1961 and 1962. He was selected in the State team in 1961, but was unable to play.

As recognition of his outstanding sporting achievements he was named South Australia's Sportsman of the Year in 1960, 1961 and 1963.

A truly great allrounder in the history of sport in this State.



R.G. (Ross) Johnson

R.G. (Ross) Johnson was a very fast wingman with excellent disposal who played for the Club between 1952 and 1957. This was a period of outstanding success for 'the Blacks' and he played in three Premiership teams (1952, 1954 and 1955) and two winning Inter-Varsity sides (1952 and 1956).

Ross (or 'Ripper') played for the State Amateurs in 1954 and 1955 and won the C.B. Sangster Medal in 1954 and the coveted Gunning Medal in 1955. He was awarded his Blue for Football in 1954.

Ross's son David played 87 games for 'the Blacks' between 1987 and 1993 as a skilful A1 half back or on-baller. Both David and Ross were selected in All-Australian Inter-Varsity sides (in 1992 and 1956).



J.H. (Jack) Alpers

J.H. (Jack) Alpers first played for the Club in 1954 and remained with 'the Blacks' until 1959. In 1955, he won the Most Consistent Trophy for the A2s. In 1957, he was chosen in the Combined Universities side and played against the New South Wales State team at Trumper Park.

He also repeated this performance in 1958 and was selected as a reserve for the State Amateur side. Jack was awarded his Club Letters for Football this year. He was elected as a third Selector of the 'A' grade team in 1959.



G.E. (Geoff) Krieger

In 1954, G.E. (Geoff) Krieger appeared at University Oval and immediately gained selection in the A1 side. This was an outstanding season for him as he was selected in the State Amateur team, won the Gunning Medal and was awarded a Blue.

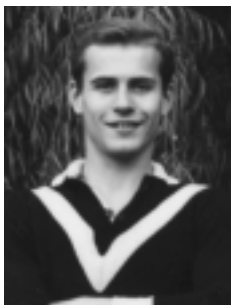
As well as this, Geoff played a dominant role in the ruck in the 1954 Semi-final win which took the team into the Grand Final. He kicked six goals in this game to give 'the Blacks' the Flag. This was a magnificent achievement for the Fresher.

As a strong marking mobile player he was extremely versatile, manning the ruck, centre half-forward or centre half back with ease. He played in the State Amateur team in 1954, 1955 and 1958. He played a brilliant game at centre half forward in South Australia's defeat of Victoria at Alberton Oval in 1955, kicking four goals.

His quality as a sportsman was recognised when he was awarded the War Memorial Medal in both 1954 and 1955 for the best amateur footballer under 21 years of age.

Geoff was a Vice-President of the SAAFL and was Doctor for the State team in the early 1990's.

Geoff is rated by many to be amongst the top echelon of players ever to represent 'the Blacks'.



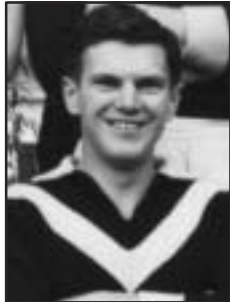
C.H. (Charlie) Akkermans

C.H. (Charlie) Akkermans joined 'the Blacks' in 1954 after playing in the Metropolitan Junior Association in Western Australia. He made an immediate impression on the Amateur League with his ability to kick goals. After beginning the season in the 'C' grade side, he was promoted to the A1s by the third series and kicked bags of six, six, nine, seven and 11 in his first five games. These performances clinched a berth in the State Amateur side to play the Victorians in Melbourne.

He was awarded his Club Letters in 1954 and his Blue in 1955. An outstanding Inter-Varsity Carnival in Adelaide in 1956, which the Club won, saw him gain inclusion in the Combined Universities team.

In 1955, Charlie kicked 80 goals to wing the A1 goalkicking. In 1957, Charlie had a magnificent season, kicking 106 goals for the minor round and winning the first Charles Irvine Memorial Trophy for A1 goalkicking. Again in 1958 he topped the A1 list with 58 goals.

Charlie played in the State Amateur sides in 1954, 1956 and 1957 and was a key player in the Premiership wins of 1954 and 1955.



F.W. (Frank) Altmann

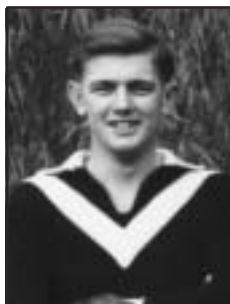
In 1954, F.W. Altmann began his career at 'the Blacks' that was to last until 1958. As a specialist half-forward flanker, he was a member of the 1954 and 1955 Premiership teams and the 1956 Inter-Varsity team that defeated Melbourne University at University Oval. He rates this game as the highlight of his career as he kicked four goals, was high up in the best players, and the thrill of playing in front of 2,000 anti-Victorian fans lifted the side to a comfortable victory.

Frank was selected in the 1956 Combined Universities side after the Carnival in Adelaide.

Frank gained State selection in 1956 and 1957 and was awarded his Football Blue in 1957 after earning Club Letters in 1955. An active Club member, he was Vice-captain of the A1s in 1956 and 1957 and a Selector also in 1958. He wrote articles for the *Amateur Footballer* in 1955 and 1956.

His nickname of 'Spear' stuck with him throughout his football career. Frank earned this name in reference to the manner in which he delivered the ball - low stab kicks.

Frank's son, Martin, played 141 games for 'the Blacks' between 1981 and 1989 as a dedicated lower grade player.



G.P. (Geoff) Wilson

After one game in the A2 side in 1955, G.P. (Geoff) Wilson was promoted to the A1's and remained

there for the next three seasons. He played full back in the Premiership side of 1955 and was best a field in the Inter-Varsity victory over Melbourne University in 1956.

Geoff played Inter-Varsity football from 1955 to 1957, gaining Combined Universities selection after the 1957 Carnival. He also represented the State Amateur team in 1956 and 1957.

He was awarded Club Letters in 1955 and a Blue in 1956.

Geoff was also awarded the War Memorial Medal in 1957.

A.G. (Gerry) Webber

A.G. (Gerry) Webber played for University in late the 1950s and early 1960s, commencing his career in 1956.

Gerry played in the Inter-Varsity in Adelaide in 1956 and Sydney in 1957. In 1956, he kicked eight goals against Tasmania and in 1957, he kicked a further eight against them, being best on ground. He was named Combined Universities team at the conclusion of the Carnival, which played against the NSW State team. Gerry also won the Peter Daly/Queen's Head Hotel trophy for being the best player at this Carnival.

Gerry played 14 League games for West Torrens in the late 1950's, kicking 15 goals.

He returned to 'the Blacks' in 1963 as assistant coach to Allen Greer and coaching the A2 side. In 1965, he played for Henley and Grange in A2 in a most successful season, winning the Chambers Medal and a Premiership.

He later renewed his relationship with Allen Greer as runner at West Torrens.

ANECDOTES FROM THE 1950's

Generosity from the Treasurer

On 8 July 1950, following the resounding defeat of Alberton Church United in the mud at University Oval, the Club Treasurer (Don Brebner) opened up the Club's reserves and provided the entertainment for Mac Cooper's farewell. Mac had been the A1 boundary umpire for three seasons and was leaving Australia to study brewing at Birmingham University. D.M. Brebner (the Club Captain) made a presentation from the players.

Dead-eye Doug!

During the first games of the 1951 season Doug Giles created what must be a dubious record - he hit the post with three consecutive shots for goal. Despite this lapse in his goal- shooting prowess he rucked extremely well during the game.

Something different for the fans

The report of the A1 game against PAOC in June 1952 described as the highlight - a place kick by 'Dixy Lee' McLeod. Unfortunately, he allowed for the wind, which failed to materialise and the kick ended up off-line. Reverent Read, seeing his first Australian Rules game, thought he was at the wrong ground.

These sides too smart for most

P.B. (Peter) Tunbridge, a State Amateur player in 1952 and 1953, responded to calls for information for the 75th Year Book and noted that the 1952 and 1953 sides had a claim that would be hard to beat.

The sides contained three players who went on to become Professors in their chosen fields. These players were the Lawrence brothers, R.J. (John) and J.R. (Jim) and R.C. (Dick) Bennett.

Challenge to advantage

The 1955 season was the year that the right to challenge for the Premiership was last used. The Minor Premier under this system could challenge the winner of the Final if they were not successful. University Football Club, under E.G. (George) Tilley, used this to its full advantage, losing the final to Exeter, but taking out the Challenge replay.

Royalty at the home ground

In March 1955 the Queen visited University Oval as part of her visit to South Australia. To give her Majesty the right impression about the beloved home ground of 'the Blacks', University Oval Road, the lane that leads to the back of the grandstand, was sealed and the area tidied considerably.

Parental support to the fore

It is always good to see parents supporting their children in their sporting endeavours, however 'Blacks' players of the 1950s did not always agree.

Clarrie Christensen was a fine forward for Exeter and Rosewater who represented the State between 1952 and 1957. His mother was a dedicated follower of Amateur League, particularly the Rosewater boys. The all conquering University A1 side was enjoying another good day in 1955 and the umpire had to be blamed. Mrs C., well known for her loud barracking, yelled to the man in white, "*Umpire, why don't you stick the whistle up your arse*".

Still somewhat displeased, she belted 'Wimpy' McLeod on the nose with her umbrella as 'the Blacks' walked off the ground at half time.

Players in the 1970s were also confronted by an umbrella wielding lady of advanced years – perhaps Mrs C.?

Television arrives at University Oval

In the early days of television in this State, the TV stations were on a steep learning curve with the coverage of live sport. University was central to the ABC headquarters and the grandstand and standard of A1 football made coverage of games at University Oval a good proposition.

Therefore the A1 home games quite often enjoyed live coverage of the match, with players and supporters excited by the new technology.

In 1960 the Finals were televised and in following seasons this extended to match of the day, which often involved University.

Players would have comments about their form made at Monday morning lectures from those watching the games.

Could not be me, Ump!

J.B. Edwards was sent off by umpire L.G. ('Congie') McLean against Rosewater, but refused to go. When directed to the sidelines 'Bertie', turned his back on the umpire and pretended not to hear.

The offence was trivial and 'Bertie' considered the penalty unjust. Three quarter time was at hand, and the umpire allowed him to stay on the ground.

The dawning of a great era

The *On Dit* scribe, Paul Stewart, was concerned about the prospects for 1959, with the A1 side *"sadly weakened by the loss of ten regular 'A' grade players. Never before in the history of the Club have the junior players had such an opportunity of making the main team."*

The A1 side had finished second twice and third in the years after the 1955 Premiership.

The attendance at the AGM of 28 was considered poor and *"the old story of a few people doing all the work"*. This trend needed to be reversed if the Club was to enjoy a successful season.

The positive from training was that *"the coach has at his fingertips, an opportunity to build a young and fighting team (not eighteen stars) from the start."*

The scribe continued with, *"The 'A' grade side has many gaps, particularly in front of centre which will have to be filled. An outstanding weakness is the ruck strength, and with none of last year's stars (Downer, Mestrov and Liljegren) available, PAOC star Tony Clarkson will be an asset to the Club."*

What prophetic words, Tony Clarkson won the 1959 and 1960 Hone Medals and his ruck partner in the early 1960's Dudley Hill won the 1962 medal.

This duo was undoubtedly the greatest ruck combination in the history of the Amateur League – what a way to correct the *"outstanding weakness"*.

League Footballers of the late 1950s and 1960s

The successful sides of the late 1950s and 1960s contained many players who progressed to League football once their studies were completed or the time had come to seek the next challenge.

Amongst those players who played with SANFL clubs were:

North Adelaide - D.C. (Dudley) Hill, A.E. (Allan) Byers, M.H. (Michael) Codd, A.J. (Tony) Prior

Sturt - A.R. (Tony) Clarkson, M.E. (Malcolm) Jones, P.G. (Peter) Morton, J.F. (John) Sangster, R.H. (Roger) Tuckwell

West Torrens - J.B ('Bertie') Edwards, A.G. (Gerry) Webber, I.F. (Ian) Edgley, W.R. (Wayne) Jackson, B.R. (Bruce) Simmons

West Adelaide - J.F. (Juan) Hooper, A.J. (Alf) Laslett, J.C. (John) Pfitzner

Norwood - R.S. (Ron) Dickson, R. (Rick) Abbott, K.C. (Kieran) Kelly, J.T. (Jon) Gregerson, W.S. (Bill) Chapman

Port Adelaide – W.R. (Ross) Haslam

Glenelg – J. (John) Woodburn

