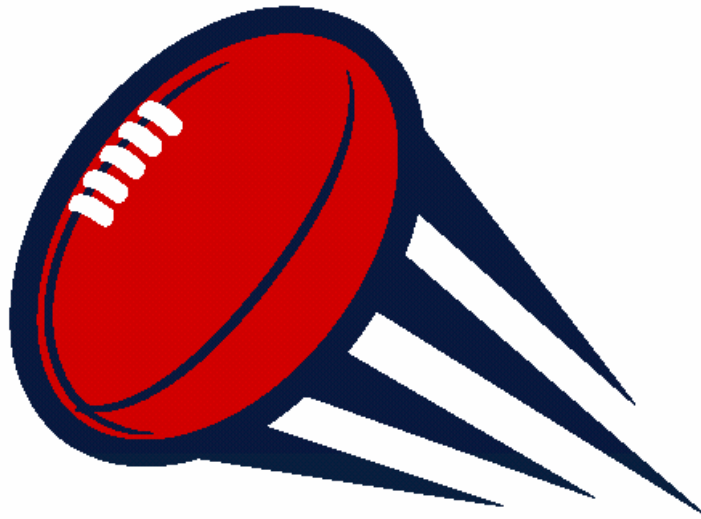


**UNITED STATES AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
2007**



USFOOTY

United States Australian Football League
United States Australian Football League

2007 National Championships Results

Division I

Denver	3 3 21
San Diego	2 3 15

Division II

Minnesota	3 5 23
Seattle	2 2 14

Division III

St. Louis	4 7 31
Las Vegas/New York	2 4 16

Reserves

Denver (in pool play – no finals played in the Reserves Division)
Minnesota

Women

Atlanta	7 7 49
Arizona/Denver	0 0 0



**UNITED STATES AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
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UNITED STATES AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Executive Summary –

At their Board Retreat in February of 2007 the Executive Board of the United States Australian Football League made a commitment to marking the 10th Anniversary of the League with some lofty goals:

- That the USAFL will be recognized as the best run amateur Australian Football league in the world, including Australia.
- To have 10,000 US participants in 10 years.
- To work towards having 1% of the population knowing what Aussie Rules is about.
- That the game remains community based.

These aspirations will present exciting challenges for the League. We believe that with the dedication, skills and enthusiasm of the Executive and Portfolio Board and with the assistance of our US Advisory Committee and the Australian Advisory Board that we will be able to meet these objectives.

President's Address –

As incoming President, I want to welcome everyone to our second decade. It's been an amazing decade of growth and development. From a series of e-mails between John Harrell of Louisville and Geoff Cann of Cincinnati to organize the very first game of footy in the USA in September 1996 to this year's Nationals, our growth and promotion of what I think is the greatest game on earth has been truly exciting. It is a personal honor to have been involved with the League from those early days.

We now average over 300 games played a year (52 at Nationals alone), with 2,000 registered players, over 40 men's teams and 6 women's teams and an expansive juniors program, which reflects the tireless and professional work everyone involved with USFooty has done throughout our first decade, on a voluntary basis and always on top of usual hectic lives. With the launching of several co-ed leagues, college programs and our fast growing metro leagues, the sky truly is the limit and our aim of 10,000 players in the next 10 years seems very realistic.

The development of our USA and Australian Advisory councils, player exchange and development programs through Tony Fairhead and Notre Dame is building us a strong and stable base from which to launch our development and progression towards our aim of being the best run amateur Australian Football League in the world. Our thanks must also go to the ongoing support from David

Matthews, Andrew Demetriou and everyone at the AFL. The USA National men's team, the Revolution, and our National Women's Team, the Freedom, are both eagerly anticipating their trips to Melbourne for international competition as the AFL celebrates its 150th anniversary.

The next decade holds limitless possibilities and I am proud to be serving my second period as President. I want to officially thank everyone for their tireless and often thankless work both on and off the field. We have a unique landscape in the USA for the development of footy and all involved continue to do amazing work and our unity continues to be respected across all international leagues and with the AFL.

For the good of the game

Richard Mann
President

Organization –

The United States Australian Football League Executive Board consists of seven elected positions with one year terms; President, Secretary, Treasurer, Eastern Region Vice President, Central Region Vice President, Western Region Vice President and Member-at-Large. These positions are elected by the USAFL affiliate clubs at the Annual General Meeting of the affiliate clubs during the USAFL National Championship Tournament. The incumbents are responsible for the administration of the league and the development of strategic policies and programs. Additionally, there are numerous appointed portfolio positions reporting to the Executive Board. These positions include International Liaison, Webmaster, USFootyKids National Coordinator, Women's Portfolio, Sponsorship Director, Media Relations, Coaching Director and Armed Services Portfolio. These portfolio positions are responsible for the implementation of those policies and programs as directed by the Executive Board. The membership of the United States Australian Football League is currently comprised of over 40 affiliate clubs in either active or inactive/transitional status. The member clubs operate in relative autonomy with regard to the day-to-day club business. The USAFL has one paid employee who works in an Office Manager capacity.

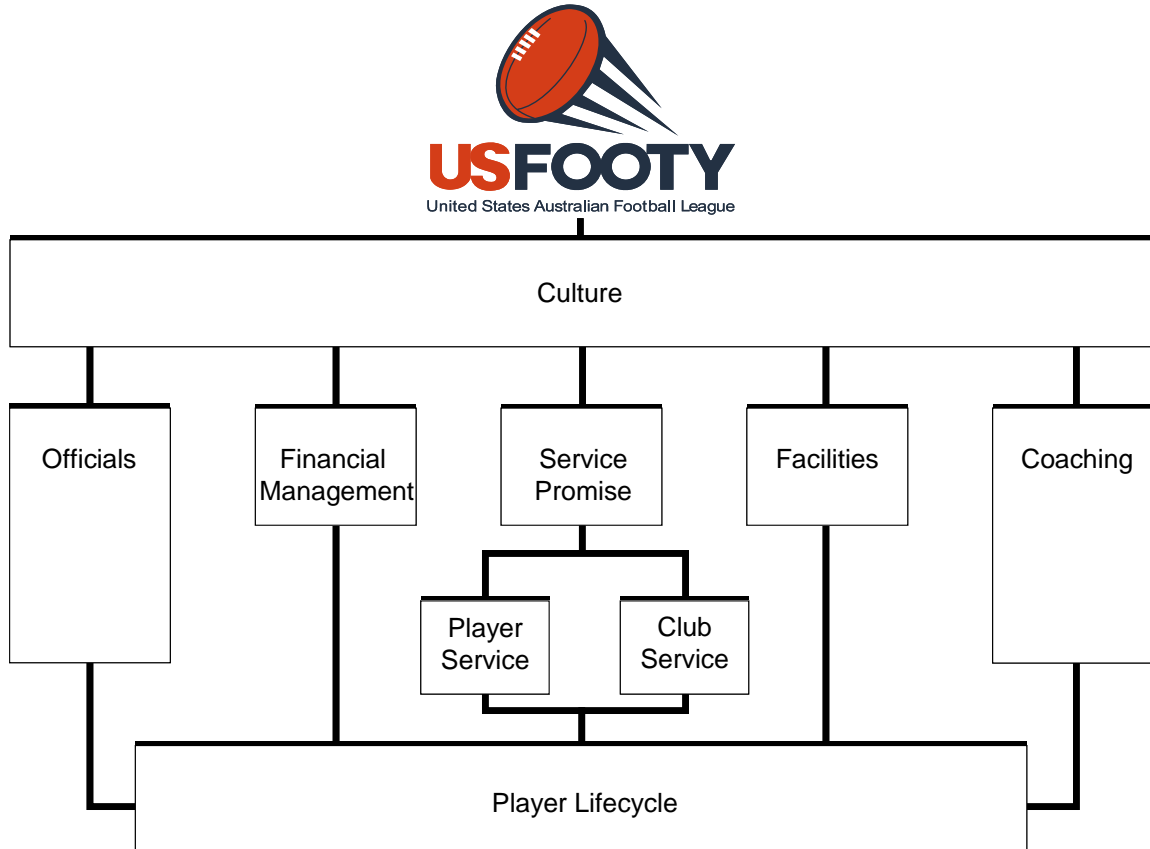
Clubs are classified as level A, B, C or Developmental based upon organizational and participatory criteria as defined by the Executive Board with level A being the highest category from an organizational and participatory perspective. The USAFL provides club support in the form of administrative policy application, new club start-up assistance, financial guidance, coaching and umpire training, youth programs, a web-based password protected administration console and a defined objective for the development of Australian Football in the United States. The USAFL is also responsible for the organization and operation of the National Championships held each October.

The affiliate clubs are separated by geographic regions for USAFL administrative purposes. There are no restrictions imposed upon the clubs by the USAFL in terms of cross-regional competition. Some affiliate clubs have subsequently organized regional leagues and competitions apart from the overall organization of the USAFL. These leagues and competitive endeavors are self-governing, typically only involving the assistance of the USAFL for tournament support, umpiring and coaching training resources and tribunal dispute resolution. The results of these regional and cross-regional competitions are utilized for the seeding of clubs at the annual USAFL National Championship tournament.

Many clubs have developed alternative styles of competition. Local Metro League competitions (9 a-side) have arisen to accommodate the increasing number of players who enjoy participation in the sport on a recreational basis. This metro league concept allows players to enjoy the sport without the rigors and financial burden of regional travel of senior club competitions. These metro leagues typically consist of several teams of 10-15 players each competing at a recreational to highly skilled level. The standard laws of football are observed, though minor modification of the rules may be implemented in order to accommodate the desired style and skill level of play. Women's clubs have also become an increasing presence in the United States with 4 women's teams participating at the 2007 USAFL National Championship tournament. An exciting new development has been that of 'Aus Ball', a co-ed, modified game which was adopted by several teams in 2007. The response to Aus Ball has been terrific, with players enthusiastic about continuing to participate in that league and move on to playing regular Australian Football games.

State of the League

USAFL Capability Model



Service Promise –

Regional Development – East –

The Eastern Region consists of 7 clubs, 5 well established clubs playing home/away matches in the EAFL, and two fast-developing clubs in Florida. At least four of the established clubs have successful Metro-Footy leagues. The EAFL has been established for four years and again placed three teams in Division 1 at Nationals in 2007. All seven of the established teams sent strong squads to Nationals.

The Eastern Region has excellent leadership established and a large number of players, helped a great deal by the Metro footy. Many innovative concepts are being tried, such as the strong college program that exists and creative sponsorship approaches. Coed has been established in Baltimore and has proved to be highly successful. This program is spreading and will continue to help grow our sport. The growth of the sport in Florida has been great with clubs

in Ft. Lauderdale and Tampa area well established. The construction of a world-class cricket ground in Ft. Lauderdale was a clear highlight of the year. We'll have many important matches played on this ground over the next few years!

A full schedule of matches is already established for the 2008 season. The two Florida clubs are hosting a preseason tournament in late April at the new Broward County ground in Ft. Lauderdale. Teams from across the USA are attending. It is an exciting start to another great year. The EAFL season kicks-off in May with friendlies and league play. All teams are looking to increase the number of games in '08 so we are looking forward to a lot of footy!

Regional Development – Central –

The Central Region consists of 11 full-fledged clubs (with established game schedules and seasons), and several developing clubs. For the past several years, the strongest clubs have committed to the MAAFL, a regional league with a regular schedule and championship ladder, which determines an automatic qualifier for the first division at the National Tournament. In 2006, the MAAFL unveiled a new concept. Now, all of the Central Region teams are members of the MAAFL, with a unified website that posts all schedules and scores. The MAAFL also has a championship ladder division, which consists of the teams who play a regular schedule against one another. The championship ladder consisted of five teams, and in 2007 there will be 6 teams, divided into a north and south division, with a goal of ultimately reducing travel while adding more teams. The ladder teams are also encouraged to play other MAAFL teams, and other teams throughout the country.

On the field, the MAAFL saw great success this year, with the overwhelming majority of players being American. The MAAFL champion, Chicago, played well against excellent competition in Division I. The Minnesota Freeze, benefiting from the exchange program between St. John's University in Minnesota and the Notre Dame campus in Fremantle, won the Division II title. Finally, the St. Louis Blues won the Division III championship.

Regional Development – West –

The Western Region consists of 8 well established clubs. All clubs play different types of seasons due to location. All 8 clubs currently have Metro Football league of some type. The Western Region continues to lead the way with numbers of players and with winning traditions on and off the field.

2007 saw 4 Western Regional Teams send teams that qualified for Div I at Nationals this past year in Louisville. Denver and San Diego again met in the Grand Final for the 2nd time in a row. Denver won their 6th title as a club. Denver and San Diego have now met 4 times in the Grand Final. OC and GG both had wins in Div I with GG bringing a Reserves team to Nationals. In Div 2 Seattle went to the Grand Final and looks to be gaining players with a good Metro program. Denver sent a Reserve's Squad to Louisville and won that Division.

Golden Gate leads the Nation in Players for the Golden Gate AFL Metro Comp. They have 4 teams playing an 8 game schedule playing full matches. They have set the bar for everyone on a local level.

Arizona sent a Div III Men's team to Louisville along with strong women's team. Arizona continues to develop a well run Metro League. The Arizona Lady Hawks team played very well and ended up runners up to Atlanta. Arizona took 3 Players from Denver to round out their squad. In 08 they look to have Denver and Atlanta out for a tournament.

Denver started a coed non-contact version of the game called AussieBall. This was very successful and other clubs in the Western Region look to use this program in 08 to increase numbers of players and fans.

This coming year looks to be a big year for the West when the National Tournament will return to the Western Region when it's held in Colorado Springs in October 2008.

Armed Forces Development –

This past year has been busy; working on developing senior teams at four different Army installations and working on getting USFootyKids adopted by THE Child and Youth Services Sports Division (CYS).

The USFootyKids program was initially started as a collaborative effort between the Aus Defence Forces and CPT David Payne, USAFL Armed Forces Liaison. However, after nearly a year of trying to come to an agreement, time ran out in getting this agreement accomplished and work began with CYS on establishing a youth league (ages 4-7) at Ft. Lee, Virginia. This league will commence play in March and carry through till April 2008. It will be composed of 4 teams and play with the USFootyKids rules. It will be the test program that may be adopted by the entire CYS division for implementation throughout all 37 Army Posts throughout the world.

On the senior level the USAFL has secured commitments from Soldiers at Ft. Bragg, NC, Ft. Gordon GA, Ft. Lewis, WA, and Ft. Lee VA to establish clubs. At Ft. Bragg, Specialist Chase Johnson is leading the effort to bring footy to the home of the Airborne. He is currently playing matches in Iraq with his company near Balad, Iraq. At Ft. Lewis first sergeant Tony Pasqualichio is starting a club while deployed near Baghdad with his company and he is also playing matches against some Aussies stationed near by. At Ft. Gordon Sergeant Tim Wells is also playing football while deployed with his troops. They encountered some luck as they are also stationed near a large contingent of Aussies. CPT Payne has been working with a few Soldiers and civilians here Ft. Lee. As is the case in most start-up clubs, encouraging the new participants to step up and assume leadership roles has been difficult. Most don't have the time to work out game

schedules and logistical issues, but they are excited and want to compete against their fellow Soldiers at Fts Bragg and Gordon.

CPT Payne has been offered the opportunity to travel down to Melbourne and observe practices and games with the North Melbourne staff. The dates for this deployment are May-July.

Australian Advisory Board –

The United States Australian Football League (USAFL) is pleased to announce the creation of the Australian Advisory Board. The Board's mission is "to promote the interests of the USAFL in Australia". During its formative years the USAFL was able to grow through organic growth from the recruitment of American players. As the game's growth has stabilized, the next wave of growth will come through creative and meaningful relationships with Australian individuals and businesses that have a tie to both the sport and America.

The vision of the Advisory Board is:

Friends of the USAFL, in Australia, who have a stature in both business and football, who are willing to advise the USAFL on business in Australia, the inner workings of the game in Australia and their general understanding of everything football.

The Australian Advisory Board has an Australian wide membership of seven individuals who advise the USAFL on how to become a better partner of the AFL, access broader support of the USAFL in Australia, and publicize the existence of the USAFL to people moving to the USA. Terry O'Connor is the inaugural Chairman and Tony Fairhead the Director of the Advisory Board.

American Advisory Committee –

As part of the USAFL's growth process, the League has reached out to seek business and community experts in the USA who have an understanding of the issues facing the game locally, and can contribute background support to the USAFL Executive Board. Our Advisory Committee members who work as part of a team, in assisting and guiding projects and supporting major strategic issues on an as-needed basis as requested by the USAFL Executive Board. The intention of the Committee is to grow to a minimum number of eight specialists – all of whom can make a professional contribution. The initial membership was set up late in 2006, with two founding members – Adam Coleman and Rob Parry and has grown to its current membership of six professionals who cover a wide range of professional knowledge including finance, contracts, business, sponsorship in the non-profit world.

USfooty Ambassador Program –

The USAFL Ambassador Program was launched in 2007 as part of the Tenth Anniversary celebrations of the league.

The Mission of the USAFL Ambassador program is to promote the interests of the USAFL and the growth of Australian Football in the US. The USFooty Ambassador program is comprised of individuals who have a high profile who will help promote the USAFL in Australia and America and have the capacity to assist the USAFL board in a number of different arenas.

Our inaugural Ambassadors included Robert DiPierdomenico (aka 'Dipper'), Colin Carter, Ian Dicker, Michael Voss and Rodney 'Grilla' Grljusich (the voice of the USfooty). Joining them in the second half of 2007 were Leigh Matthews, Cricketer Wayne Clark and Hayden Kennedy. After visiting the 2007 Nationals Kevin Sheedy and Stephen Silvagni also agreed to join the ranks.

The USAFL is excited to have such a distinguished group of football individuals as the first crop of Ambassadors. The mixture of players, administrators and media expertise will greatly enhance the future of footy in the USA.

Club Service –

Game Development –

At the end of 2007 the USAFL boasts fully 28 affiliate clubs actively participating in the United States. Additionally, the majority of clubs also run a Metro Footy competition to augment their senior club endeavors. There are also five clubs with a women's team actively training and participating in organized matches both on a local and national scale. Several clubs have begun to stage co-ed competitions in conjunction with their Metro competitions in order to further create participation opportunities.

The USAFL currently has 1,243 officially registered players as at the end of 2007. This corresponds to an increase in individual participation in Australian Football from 1,048 registered players in 2006. These players, clubs and leagues participated in 335 sanctioned USAFL matches over the course of the past year. USAFL affiliates have played more than 2,250 matches since the league began in 1997.

Player Service

USFooty.com –

The official web site for the USAFL is one of the most active and interactive Australian Football web site outside of Australia. Well over 1 million page views were received in 2007 alone. The unique format of the USFooty.com appeals to the whole spectrum of Australian Football supporters. From die-hard fans to footy neophytes, USFooty.com has numerous and varied areas of interest. The site is uniquely designed to provide information, results, training, products and news on all aspects of Australian Football in the US and abroad. The Club Web feature is

a valuable resource for affiliate clubs to announce events, post results, share valuable game and club developmental information.

USFooty.com Statistics for 2007

- 1,030,205 Page Views (down 11.8% on 2006)
- 82,889 Unique Visitors (up 15.7% on 2006)
- 188,286 Visits (2.27 Visits/Visitor - up 7.46% on 2006)
- 332 Results entered into the system (341 in 2006)
- 11 Monthly Newsletters sent (9 sent in 2006)
- 1,747 Newsletter subscribers (up 28.4% on 2006)
- 1,283 player registrations (up 22.4% on 2006)

Country Lists – Top 5

While the majority of page view originate from the United States, USFooty.com has clearly established an extensive worldwide audience based upon the information below.

- United States – 850,903 Page Views (82.5% of total)
- Australia – 121,197 Page Views (11.7% of total)
- Canada – 15,598 Page Views (1.5% of total)
- Great Britain – 8,205 Page Views (0.7% of total)
- China – 4,385 Page Views (0.4% of total)

Goals for 2008

- Implementation of Individual Player Registration Fees and ability for clubs to pay player registration fees
- Increase amount of site advertising to generate more website revenue
- Complete site redesign with social networking, more professional and updated layout and a cleaner look
- Add more admin features to make Office Manager's job more efficient

USFootyStore –

The USFootyStore is an important component of the offices of the USAFL with around 200 on-line sales in 2007. Our best sellers continue to be Burley footballs – club, premier, women's, attack and kid footballs. Tiffany Hubbard took charge of ordering and selling merchandise at Nationals this year, and the products were a great success, with the Nationals T-Shirts selling out by Sunday morning. The Nationals merchandise also featured a number of items for women and these also proved to be big sellers. Merchandise was commissioned to celebrate the League's 10th Anniversary and that also proved to be very popular. A USFooty Ten Year Commemorative Book was compiled by Tom Ellis and that is now available on the USFooty Store.

Player Lifecycle

USFootyKids –

As USFootyKids National Coordinator, Denis Ryan attended the National American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) conference in Baltimore.

Production of the instructional DVD Has been completed. The DVD was launched at the AAHPERD conference and then given away online, which proved very popular, consequently, the initial consignment of DVDs ran out very quickly. It did not result in immediate sales, which is reflective of the industry.

The DVD has since been divided into sections and uploaded to YouTube.com.

3,295 kids and 225 teachers went through USFootyKids clinics this year. At least 21 schools added USFooty to their curriculums for a total of 146 (this number is approximate as some school districts have purchased equipment that they rotate through their schools)

In 2008 Denis Ryan will be attending the AAHPERD National conference in Fort Worth Texas in April. Ryan will also be using the DVD to direct market to PE Coordinators around the country. Plans are underway to make the DVD available in national Physical Education supply catalogues.

American Revolution –

The American Revolution have continued their March toward the 2008 International Cup in Melbourne. The Revo's started off the year in rainy Houston, Texas with a pair of matches vs. Team Canada. The Revo's were 2-0 against the Northwind on the weekend. Next up was the East v. West weekend in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The Revolution hopefuls suited up for their respective side of the country and did battle. The west proved superior in a fine day of footy in the Florida sun.

August 2007, Vancouver, B.C. - The revolution would make the long trek to beautiful Vancouver. It was a weekend of firsts, the first international match for many of the players; the first match on international soil for those same players, and the Revo's first ever defeat to the Canada Northwind spanning back to the late 1990's. The Northwind capitalized on poor use of the footy in the forward line, and took home the victory on Saturday. While the Revoultion did get some revenge on Sunday with a hard fought victory, the streak was over. No doubt the Revo's will carry that with them as some extra motivation come August of 2008. The Revo's finished off the year at the National tournament in Louisville, Kentucky. After all of the players had each played all weekend, the boys showed some real stamina to put in one more match against the Australian Convicts travelling squad. Fresh legs and superior skills led the Convicts to run out easy

winners, but some new Revo's made a strong impression on head coach Robert Oliver.

At the time of this report the Revo's were about to begin their spring training camps in LA and Atlanta, and will play together again in Ft. Lauderdale in late April as they make their push toward 2008.

Nationals –

The 2007 USAFL National Championship Tournament was held in Louisville, Kentucky to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United States Australian Football League Tournament. What better site than the city in which the first organized Australian Football match was played back in September of 1996? That game saw the Louisville Cats (now Kings) take on the Cincinnati Dockers at Cherokee Park in Louisville. Incidentally, since that day, the Kings(Cats) and Dockers have met on the field 23 other times and combined sides for three other matches in a Chicago tournament in 2000. It's fair to say these two clubs know one another quite well.

From those humble beginnings of Australian Football in the USA, the national competition has now grown to a 32 team, multi-divisional tournament in 2007. Far from merely a tournament, the weekend is an event unlike any other in the world. The 2007 edition of the USAFL National Championship Tournament was rich in the tradition and culture surrounding this great sport. Teams from the US and Canada squared off in five separate divisions for the first time. The USAFL added a fourth this year to better facilitate the inclusion of reserve sides and "all-comers". This to ensure all that attended had an opportunity for a run in this historic event. Also in attendance and competing were four women's teams representing 6 cities in the US and Canada.

The 2007 edition had a very familiar feel yet was a decidedly unique experience due to a number of reasons. Familiar in that annual the gathering of footy faithful gives everyone a chance to catch up with one another. As has become customary, the face and heart of USFootyKids Denis Ryan, arrived in the host city a week ahead of the tournament to introduce Louisville school-age kids, their parents and teachers to the sport and culture of Australian Football. New this year was Chris Adams, member of the Baltimore/Washington club and former USAFL Executive Board member, to assist Ryan as a USFootyKids representative. Adams ran a robustly attended USFootyKids clinic during the tournament. Also on hand once again was Rodney 'Grilla' Grljusich who, after five consecutive events, has become a fixture in the announcing booth and is, by all respects, the voice of the USAFL. Grilla's play-by-play and running commentary with a mix of footy players, coaches and officials continue to give the tournament spectators and players a valuable and entertaining perspective on the day's action. For the eighth straight year the tournament was sponsored by Cooper's Brewery as they have since the Los Angeles tournament in 2000.

New to the annual event was an exhibition match played between the select USAFL national team, the Revolution, and the Australian Convicts Football Club. The Convicts are a club comprised of select Australian amateur players and

officials touring the US, Canada and South Africa to promote Australian Football. The match was a fantastic contest between the talented Aussies who grew up playing the game and the select American side that have embraced the sport as though it has been played since childhood. Yet another first for the annual tournament was a netball exhibition match. Not many in attendance of the match had ever seen the sport and were impressed with the skills required to play the game.

Notable dignitaries in attendance this year was legendary former Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy and AFL fullback of the century, Carlton's Stephen Silvagni. Sheeds joined Grilla in the announcer's booth for a time and Silvagni spent most of his time taking the opportunity to meet and greet the throngs of passionate footy players and fans at the event. Silvagni spoke to several clubs before matches including the Arizona Lady Hawks just prior to their Grand Final match against the Atlanta club. Silvagni was clearly impressed with the passion of the ladies' standard of play, noting that "they go in for the footy just as hard as the men". Sheedy and Silvagni were both on hand to award the Best and Fairest, Most Consistent and Championship medals at the end of the two day tournament.

At the Saturday evening affair, Kevin Sheedy and Stephen Silvagni were called upon to share some thoughts and observations on the standard and growth of Australian Football in the US. The high standard of play was complemented upon by both men, with Sheedy remarking he had noticed a distinct improvement overall since his last visit in 2005 at Atlanta.

City dignitaries from Louisville were also on hand to commemorate the historic weekend and to pay homage to those who began this long journey. Also in attendance was John Harrell's wife, Laura as sadly, Louisville Cats founder John Harrell, had passed away in 2003. Mrs. Harrell's moving words recalled those early days of footy in the US and the communal excitement of the 2007 tournament for Harrell family, the Louisville Kings Football Club and the entire community of Louisville. The newly unveiled perpetual trophy, donated by Tom Potter of the USAFL's Australian Advisory Council, will from now on be known as the John Harrell Perpetual Trophy and will be awarded to the Division One National Champions.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening were the unveiling of the USAFL Team of the Decade (comprised of Aussies and Americans), The USAFL Revolution Team of the Decade (comprised only of Americans), the USAFL Umpires of the Decade, the inaugural USAFL Hall of Fame induction and the announcement of the initial USAFL Life Memberships.

In all, fifty-two matches were played over the two-day affair with one-thousand players, umpires, club and league officials in attendance. By all accounts the 10th Anniversary USAFL National Tournament lived up to the hype and was a huge success in every aspect of the event. The event did just what it should, it brought the footy faithful together, crowned several champions, showcased this great sport and got everyone excited about the prospects of 2008 in Colorado Springs.

Women's Footy and the Freedom –

2007 saw many firsts for women's footy:

A Women's Footy Board was established to oversee the development of women's footy in the USA. The board is comprised of Kathryn Hogg, Wayne Kraska (US Women's National Team Coach), Denielle David (Milwaukee), Karla Mascarenas-Pack (Arizona), Pernille Christensen (Atlanta) and Amy Mason (Legal).

The USAFL Women's National Team, The USA Freedom, was established. The Freedom traveled to Vancouver, Canada in August 2006 to play two matches against the newly established Canadian Eagles team.

We held our 3rd annual Women's championships at the USAFL National Championships. Atlanta continued their streak of 3 consecutive championships by defeating Arizona in the final. New teams from Baltimore-Washington and Calgary combined at nationals and the newly formed Denver Lady Bulldogs had 3 players on the Arizona roster at nationals.

Arizona had the first women's metro league since the old CAFL folded in 2004 taking the California women's league with it.

Milwaukee and Atlanta played a home and away series

Tony Fairhead's Yankeroos program for US exchange students in Western Australia has seen phenomenal growth. In September, they entered and won a tournament against 2 Western Australian country teams.

Looking towards 2008 and beyond:

- Arizona will have another Women's Metro league competition.
- Arizona will be hosting a Women's Footy tournament in May.
- Milwaukee and Atlanta will continue their home and away series.
- Schedule a return match for the Freedom against Canada.
- Potentially have 6 teams compete at Nationals with Calgary and Baltimore-Washington fielding full squads along with Denver.
- Build on the success of Tony Fairhead's Yankeroos programs and get the women to continue playing upon their return to the US.

Officials

Umpiring –

Well it's done and dusted. Another season gone.

A quiet year in many ways in the umpiring fronts, with all of the men and ladies in orange getting the job done, with the minimum of fuss.

The ranks didn't swell much this year, with even smaller numbers in some areas, but all commitments were filled with many umpires taking on extra assignments and traveling long distances.

As usual the jewel in our crown was the Nationals, and as usual the Nationals proved to be a long, hard haul. The hot weather, new faces, dusty grounds, late nights, early mornings, smelly second day clothes and the endless games of football. I am amazed every year when I consider what the team pulls off together.

There are countless sleepless nights, wondering, thinking, hoping and praying that we will have enough umpires, that they will be all willing to work hard, that they will pull together as a team, that we can make this thing happen....then suddenly it's 5 o'clock on Sunday...and everyone is gone....and they did it. Again...they did it.

There is no doubt that our umpires will never receive the accolades that they deserve.

There is no doubt that there are hundreds of footballers out there who went to Louisville- just expecting to be umpired.

There is no doubt that they played their three games for the weekend, with no understanding that some of you did six, in one day!

There is no doubt that they don't know about the discussions, planning and coaching that you all gave each other.

And there just isn't any doubt that we only got it done because we worked together as a team for the entire weekend, putting your hands up when we were tired, teaching others when they saw misunderstandings and working beyond our limits and expectations.

Congratulations and thank you to the following umpires.

Steve Arnott, Bob Bitmead, Brian Dunkin, Rod Marr, Graham Danne, Peter Champion, Alex Benjamin, Toby Persson, Craig Warner, David Heward, Chris Ballman, Greg Everett, Jeff Persson, Scott Strenski, Seth McElvaney, Murray Barnes, Richard Goodstein, Duncan Smith, Josh Goodstein, and Lisa Albergo. A job well done.

At the end of this year the USAFL Umpires and the CAFL Umpires announced a landmark decision. 2008 will see the formation of the North American Australian Football Umpire's Association NAAFUA, which will officially create an umbrella for all Australian Rules Umpiring Development across the continent.

The inaugural President of the NAAFUA is Steven Arnott. A Life Member of the USAFL and a stalwart of umpiring in the USA for many years. North American Vice President is Seth McElvaney, with Brian Duncan elected Canadian Vice President. Richard Goodstein is Treasurer, Lisa Albergo is Secretary and Greg Everett is webmaster. Brian Green will be NAAFUA Coach. This organization will ensure the future development and survival of the band of merry whistlers for many years to come.

This year, the tenth celebration of the US Footy, also saw the naming of the Umpire's Team of the Decade. Congratulations to all of these umpires and finally congratulations to every umpire in the USA. Without their dedication to our great game...well, there wouldn't be one.

Administration Excellence Awards –

Congratulations to Rob Brunton, Baltimore Washington Eagles and Dale “Diesel” Williams, Minnesota Freeze, who were awarded the Paul “Plugger” O’Keeffe Administrator’s Excellence Award at the 2007 Nationals. Both are Presidents of their respective clubs. Baltimore-Washington are consistently one of our best administrative clubs thanks to Rob’s efforts. They are always the first to respond to League requests. Minnesota has rapidly risen over the last few years from a new club to a Division II title. The growth of a club is always tied back to leadership and Diesel has lead the Freeze with energy and passion.

Coaching

In early 2007 USFooty made the decision to create a Coaching Portfolio in an effort to develop coaches from within the USFooty family. Just as we have determined the necessity for homegrown umpires in order to assist in the growth of the game, more coaches too, will add to the ability to grow teams across the nation. After recognizing the need for the portfolio the first step was to find a volunteer to fill the role. Matt Dainauski, a founding member of the Denver Bulldogs and also a member of the US Revolution for 7 years agreed to take on the role. His role is to run the program with a focus on logistics and to find a volunteer to actually deliver the training and accreditation.

One of the first steps Matt took was to send out letters to every member club introducing himself and asking for their input on what it will take to develop a successful coaching program. Throughout 2007, one of the main points of discussion was in developing an accreditation program for USFooty. Should USFooty use the AFL coaching program or develop a proprietary version that matches the training and level of effort needed for the AFL’s but with a focus on USFooty. It was decided that it should be a combination. USFooty will aspire to create an accreditation program that matches that of the AFL but to develop it over time. In the mean time, a program should be built to reflect USFooty’s values and with realistic limitations based on resources.

At the 2007 USFooty Administrators conference held in Louisville, KY, Matt Dainauski made a presentation on what will be necessary to move forward with the coaching program. It detailed the issues USFooty has with varying skill levels and fitness levels of its players, the varying competition levels and the commitment necessary to be a coach in this league.

Key 2007 Accomplishments

- USFooty Coaching Page developed
<http://www.usfooty.com/usfooty/content.aspx?section=coaching>
- USFooty Coaching Links posted
- USFooty Coaching Forum created

- Compiled USFooty Coaching feedback
- Presentation made at Administrators Conference

2008 Goals

- Find a volunteer certified to deliver coaching training
- 1st Coaching Certification held
- 1st USFooty Level 1 Accreditation granted
- Create a group of Senior USFooty coaches committed to further coaching development
- Post training videos online

Financial Management

The USAFL is a not-for-profit organization that maintains its books on a cash basis. The League has various costs of operation which are funded primarily by a grant from the AFL and, in addition, by dues from member clubs. The organization is also the financial record keeper of all of the events associated with the League including such events as the National Championships, LA Week, East v. West Game etc. Consequently, all revenues and expenses of these events are run through the books of the League. The philosophy of the League is that these events are to be self-funding.

In 2007, the League continued to operate at a fairly subsistence level with virtually all revenues used to fund operations. The modest surplus recorded for 2007 will be used to begin to payoff the liabilities that existed as of 12/31/07. As with the prior year, at the end of 2007, we are confident that the numbers, as presented, reflect that the League is in modest, but solid, financial shape, subject to the continuation of funding by the AFL.

Statements are attached that show the Balance Sheet as of 12/31/07, and the Revenues and Expenses of 2007 that were run through the League's books.

USAFL Balance Sheet –

US Australian Football League	
Balance Sheet	
As of December 31, 2007	
	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BofA, Missouri	\$ 29,998
Total Bank Accounts	29,998
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	2,644
Total Accounts Receivable	2,644
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	273
Total Other Current Assets	273
Total Current Assets	32,914
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 32,914
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	\$ 24,912
Total Accounts Payable	24,912
Total Current Liabilities	24,912
Total Liabilities	24,912
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	(545)
Net Income	8,547
Total Equity	8,002
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 32,914

USAFL Profit and Loss Statement –

US Australian Football League	
Profit & Loss	
2007	
	USAFL
	Actual
Income	
1050 Capital Donations	\$ 64,142
1155 Coaches' Course	-
1160 Player Registration	30,610
1200 Concessions	10,096
1360 Game Tickets	-
1160 Player Registration	1,575
1200 Concessions	170
1250 Donations	483
1375 Membership Dues	17,700
1400 Merchandise	15,551
1450 Player Income	-
1600 Sales of Merchandise	-
1480 Royalties & Commissions	1,511
1550 Sales of Equipment	1,288
1650 Sales of Merchandise - Clothing	1,249
1700 Sales of Merchandise - Footballs	7,383
1750 Sales of Merchandise - Guernseys, Shorts, Socks	1,925
1790 SMS Programme	120
1800 Sponsorships	26,550
Total Income	\$ 180,352
Cost of Goods Sold	
3600 Costs of Equipment	8,908
3750 Costs of Merchandise - Clothing	2,341
3800 Costs of Merchandise - Footballs	5,940
3850 Costs of merchandise - Guernseys, Shorts, Socks	1,255
4850 Shipping, Packaging & Handling	320
Total Cost of Goods Sold	18,764
Gross Profit	161,589

Expenses	
3050 Airfare	5,696
3100 Bad Debt	567
3150 Bank Charges	403
3200 Banquet - Food	1,337
3250 Board Retreat/Meetings/Nationals' Exploratory Trips	3,272
3450 Computer Services	568
3500 Concession Costs	425
3950 Dues & Subscriptions	155
4000 E-Commerce (USFooty.com)	1,637
4050 E-Commerce (USFootyStore.com)	120
4100 Entertainment of VIP's	613
4150 Equipment Purchase & Rental	20,850
4250 Field Rental & Maintenance	5,764
4350 Hotel / Meals	2,125
4400 Insurance	7,701
4450 Legal & Professional Fees	1,510
4550 Merchandise Costs	11,689
4550 Merchandise Costs	700
4650 Office Supplies	1,235
4700 Postage	1,501
4750 Promotion & Advertising	19,536
4790 Non-Wage Commissions	979
4875 Rent or Lease	3,080
4895 SMS Programme Commission	90
4900 Sponsorship Development Costs	987
4950 Stationery & Printing	710
4951 Printing	-
4952 Member Cards	2,857
5050 Telephone / Fax	1,863
5100 Trophies	2,926
5200 Umpires & Officials	6,419
5250 Visa Transaction Costs	2,152
5300 Wages & Commissions	43,045
Total Expenses	\$ 152,508
Net Operating Income	9,080
Other Income	
5500 Interest Earned	15
5600 Prior Year Income	-
5650 Transaction Gains & Losses	-
Total Other Income	15
Other Expenses	
4600 Miscellaneous	548
6000 Prior Year Expenses	-
Total Other Expenses	548
Net Other Income	(533)
Net Income	\$ 8,547

The Future

Strategic Goals –

The USAFL Executive Board has committed to the following goals for next ten years:

- To ensure that the USAFL is recognized as the best run amateur Australian football league in the world, including Australia
- To work towards having 10,000 US participants in 10 years
- To see that 1% of the population knows what the game is about
- Ensure that the game remains community based

USAFL National Championship Tournament 10th Anniversary

“ If you dream it, you can do it.” Walt Disney

Over 10 years ago a group of 10 Australians and Americans met in a barn in Indiana, over a beer or two and dreamed about starting an Australian Rules Football League in the USA.

From this gathering and the hard work of many, the USAFL celebrates its 10th Year of operation. A dream became a reality and a game born in Australia is quickly establishing itself as a strong minor sport in the land of professional sport.

Our 10th Anniversary National Championships is being played in the city where the first game was played, Louisville Kentucky. Our championships have grown over the years from a small gathering of clubs to a significant number that produces economic benefits to the host club and city, but more importantly the gathering of teams is a chance to celebrate football and the league on an annual basis. If you haven't been to the USAFL Championships you are missing a great celebration of grass roots sport.

At these Championships we will celebrate those players, coaches, umpires and officials who have been integral to the success of the USAFL. We will remember past matches and past Championships. The stories will be told of those fantastic road trips and the characters that make being part of a football team one of the great experiences of life.

Thank you to Rich Mann for his tireless work in the organization of these Championships. Our thanks to Will Sandman and the Louisville Kings for their enthusiasm and hard work on the ground in Louisville. Our special thanks to Julie

Upton, our diligent and industrious Office Manager, who always works above and beyond the hours she is paid for. Finally, we would like to express our grateful appreciation to Tom Ellis for the magnificent Ten Year Commemorative Book that he has created.

The USAFL would certainly not have grown as strong without the support of the AFL. They have assisted the league financially, which has allowed the league to take up the challenges of running a National Sporting Organization in the USA. The AFL's enthusiasm, encouragement and willingness to discuss ideas has always been welcomed. Their support of our Championships and coaching development of players and umpires has been of extreme importance to the promotion and progress of our game. To David Matthews, AFL's General Manager-Game Development, and his team we offer our thanks and appreciation for your support at all levels and the efforts you put in developing our great game.

The USAFL have been fortunate to have the support of some outstanding people in the world of football and business. They form part of our Australian Advisory Board, our US Advisory Board and our Ambassador program. Their input and valuable advice have assisted the league in many ways and we thank them for giving us their time and effort so enthusiastically.

Our league has had great sponsorship over the years from many sponsors as have our clubs and we thank them all. One company has been involved with the League since the 1999 Championships- Coopers Beer. "Real Aussie Football, Real Aussie Beer". Seeing the potential, they came on board and have become great partners and have backed the league with substantial sponsorship for nearly 10 years. To Glen Cooper and Terry Miniken our gratitude for your strong and unyielding encouragement and assistance over these first 10 years. We look forward to a continuing and successful partnership in the future.

We all look forward to the Nationals in Louisville and renewing old acquaintances on and off the field. With special guests Stephen Silvagni and Kevin Sheedy, two of the most decorated men in the game, I am sure it will be a sensational weekend of football.

I have been lucky enough to be involved with the USAFL for 5 years as a coach and a member of the Board. It is clear to me that at board and club level we have a magnificent group of volunteers who are behind the growth and development of the game. Tireless people who do what it takes to get their teams on the field week after week. Impressive people who give up their time for the love of the game. Leaders whose actions say "It can be done!". To them we say thank you for your vision, persistence and hard work and for making this 10th Anniversary possible.

So thank you Rich Mann, Geoff Cann, Gary Flesher, Mike Powers, Peter Beare, Gino (from Indianapolis), Jason Eustice, Jim Cooper, James Campbell, Paul

O’Keeffe, Sam Ingram and John Harrell for taking the time and having the vision and leadership to get us started that night in Indiana. I hope you can look with justifiable pride on how far we have come.

Good luck to all sides now and in the future.

Robert Oliver
USAFL President
2006 - 2007

The League celebrated its 10th Anniversary this year in a number of ways. Kevin Brown of Freight Train Creative designed an impressive logo which was used throughout the year.



Tom Ellis worked hard to create a USFooty Ten Year Commemorative Book, which gives a great history of our first decade.

All American Team of the Decade

- Full Forward – Donnie Lucero, Orange County
- Forward Pocket – Jeff Purcell, Arizona/OC/Seattle
- Forward Pocket – Deron Lien, Inland Empire
- Center-Half Forward – James Brunmeier, Milwaukee
- Half Forward Flank – Brad Pope, Arizona
- Half Forward Flank – Josh Loring, Lehigh Valley/Philadelphia
- Wing – Jay Hunter, Baltimore-Washington/Philadelphia
- Wing – Jarrod Brunmeier, Milwaukee
- Center – Chad Martin, San Diego/Arizona
- Ruckman – George Lakomy, Boston
- Ruck Rover – Charley Ellis, Denver
- Rover – Dustin Jones, Lehigh Valley/Florida
- Center-Half Back – Marty Curry, Orange County/Las Vegas
- Half Back Flank – Dave Thurmond, Orange County

- Half Back Flank – Tom Ellis, Denver
- Full Back Pocket – Rob Beyersdorf, North Carolina
- Full Back Pocket – Ron Miller, Cincinnati/Chicago
- Fullback – Brad Rinklin, Arizona/Boston
- Interchange – Kyle Strenski, Cincinnati; Matt Dianauski, Denver; Brandon Blankenship, Dallas/San Diego; Chris Carroll, St. Louis/Baltimore-Washington; Matt Jagger, St. Louis
- Emergency – BJ Gambaro, Atlanta; Jon Loring, Lehigh Valley/Philadelphia
- Head Coach – Alan Nugent, Boston
- Assistant Coach – Denis Ryan, Baltimore-Washington
- Manager – Paul O’Keeffe, Milwaukee
- Trainer – Steve Budrick, Boston
- Runner – Rich Mann, Cincinnati/Denver

USAFL Team of the Decade

- Full Forward – Warick Burgman, Golden Gate/Chicago
- Forward Pocket – John Ironmonger, Golden Gate
- Forward Pocket – Charley Ellis, Denver
- Center-Half Forward – Mark Secull, Orange County
- Half Forward Flank – Mark Scott, Kansas City
- Half Forward Flank – James Brunmeier, Milwaukee
- Wing – Alan Nugent, Boston
- Wing – Jarrod Brunmeier, Milwaukee
- Center – James Patterson, New York
- Ruckman – Andrew Bridges, New York
- Ruck Rover – Donnie Lucero, Orange County
- Rover – Dustin Jones, Lehigh Valley/Florida
- Center-Half Back – Cameron O’Brien, San Diego
- Half Back Flank – Rich Mann, Cincinnati/Denver
- Half Back Flank – Tom Ellis, Denver
- Full Back Pocket – Marty Curry, Orange County/Las Vegas
- Full Back Pocket – Ron Miller, Cincinnati/Chicago
- Fullback – Brad Rinklin, Arizona/Boston
- Interchange – Jeff Purcell, Arizona/OC/Seattle; Jay Hunter, Baltimore-Washington/Philadelphia; Dave Thurmond, Orange County; Deron Lien, Inland Empire; Benny Harling, Denver; Brendan McDonald, San Diego; Cameron Ashe, Baltimore-Washington; Stu Rackman, Dallas
- Head Coach – Denis Ryan, Baltimore-Washington
- Assistant Coach West – Scott Nicholas, Boston/San Diego
- Assistant Coach Central – Colin Langley, Milwaukee
- Assistant Coach West – Robert Oliver, New York

Umpires of the Decade

- Center – Steve Hasker, Stephen Arnott, Max Wittman
- Boundary – Jeff Persson, Craig Warner, Doug Algate, Seth McElvaney
- Goals – Jen Algate, Bruce Pizaro
- Guest AFL Umpire – Hayden Kennedy
- Visiting Australian Umpire – Jeff Pedretti
- Umpire Coach – Brian Green

Life Members and Hall of Fame

Life Membership –

Life Membership of the USAFL is a recognition of an individuals excellent service to football in the USA. It is given for a combination of service beyond normal expectations, tenure and specific skills that has a National component. This is not intended to replace club based Life Membership Awards.

Life Membership is an Australian traditional of recognition, generally at a club level.

The USAFL has defined a number of categories for Life Membership:

- Umpires
- Players
- Clubs
- Administrators
- Coaches
- Juniors
- Supporters

To celebrate our 10th Anniversary the Executive Board felt that this was the appropriate time to launch the program and to recognize a number of individuals who have been critical to the league making its 10th year.

Steve Arnott, Minneapolis: Umpires

Steve has been one of the premier umpires in the league despite coming from Sydney. Steve started umpiring in 1999. In those early days his city, St Paul, Minnesota, did not have a team so he traveled extensively to umpire. He served as the first Umpires Coordinator and then as the Umpires Coach for 5 years. He has been critical in building the fraternity of umpires – as he is often quoted the “esprit de corps” of umpires.

Denis Ryan, Baltimore-Washington: Juniors

Denis has been around since the early days of USFooty. He has played multiple roles, including the American Revolution coach during the 2002 International Cup. He is a founding member, player and coach of the Baltimore Washington

Eagles Club, who for the first time won the Eastern Australian Football League Championship in 2007. But Denis is best known and being recognized tonight for his contribution to Juniors. Denis started the USFootyKids program in the USA and has worked tirelessly in pushing footy into the school systems throughout the country. He has conducted countless clinics for both student and teachers alike, Denis is one of the most passionate people involved with footy anywhere in the world.

Mike Powers, Nashville and Atlanta: Clubs

Mike has the distinguished honor of starting two clubs in the USA. He started Nashville prior to the forming of the USAFL and then when moving to Atlanta in the late 90's took it upon himself to kick-start the Atlanta Club. Mike is the current coach of the Atlanta Kookaburra Club. Mike was one of the people involved in the famous meeting behind "the barn" that started the USAFL. He is also one of only two people (the other being Plugger!) to play in every National Championships. Mike represents everything that is right about a club based organization.

Jim Baldwin, Denver: Players

Jim Baldwin starting playing footy for Denver when the club was first formed. He has since played every game with the club, now numbering over 150. Jim is a six time premiership player. Jim was a member of the American Revolution in 2000 and 2001, He made the trip to London as part of the team that competed in the Atlantic Alliance Cup. Jim is a testament of the passion that Americans feel for game.

Alan Nugent, Boston: Coaching

Alan has been one of the premier coaches within the USAFL through its first ten years. He coached and played with Boston for many years, before his work moved him to Houston. Alan was also the American Revolution coach for the 2005 International Cup. Alan was a galvanizing force for the Revolution and brought the players together to create a great Revo team. He took the team to third at that Cup. Alan has also been recognized as the Revolution Coach of the Decade. Alan is an exceptional player and also made the starting 18 of the USAFL All-Star team of the Decade.

Paul Whiting, Boston: Administration

Paul was the first Secretary of the USAFL and is an unsung hero of the early years. Without Paul's effort the League would not have been able to grow during those first few crucial years. During the first full AGM on the burgeoning League, in 1998, Paul was the first to step forward to help. Paul's sporting background was surfing and he had been involved with the administration of many surf clubs

in Australia. He knew what it took to make a volunteer organization work. He translated his administration skills perfectly to footy. Paul represents all the people that were involved with the league in the very early years; the people that helped get footy established and did it without any fanfare.

Rich Mann, Cincinnati/Denver: Administration

Rich Mann has served the League in many forms throughout our first Decade. Rich was the first Vice President of the USAFL and then became the second President. He was instrumental in running the 1997 through 2001 Nationals, and has been the driving force behind this years Nationals. When Rich returned home in 2001 the league took a huge hit, but Rich continued to work tirelessly for the League. He was the Australian Liaison for the USAFL while he was in Australia. We were excited to have him back in 2006 and look forward to his second round as President which started right after these Nationals were concluded. In addition, Rich has been the runner for the Revolution throughout its entire history. As a player he has won many awards, including a number of MVP's at Nationals. He is also being recognized as a player on the USAFL All-Star team of the Decade.

John Harrell, Louisville: Administration

John is one of the Founding Fathers of footy in America, another member of the barn boys. He was involved in launching the Louisville club back in 1996 and was instrumental in organizing and playing in the first game between Louisville and Cincinnati. John had a vision for footy in America that we are living today. Part of that vision has been fulfilled with the Nationals coming back to Louisville, celebrating a decade of Australian Rules Football in the USA. John has the distinction of being the person that was directly responsible for getting Plugger involved with footy in the USA. Unfortunately, John can not be with us tonight as he passed away in 2003. His wife, Laura, is present tonight accept this award on John's behalf. In addition, the USAFL Division 1 Cup has been named the John Harrell Cup in John's honor. A fanatical Geelong supporter he would have been rapt with the way his team won the flag this year.

Hall Of Fame

We are proud to the launch the USAFL's Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame represents the ultimate recognition of an individuals commitment to the game of Australian Football and the USAFL. The Hall of Fame recognizes an overall contribution to the sport, as opposed to one specific aspect. Length of Service is also an important aspect of induction into the Hall of Fame. While we are still a young organization it is important for us to create the Hall of Fame and to recognize individuals who have worked tirelessly and have gone above and beyond expectations to ensure the league exist today. Our growth as an infant organization has been tremendous and we need a mechanism to recognize those few individuals that have made the league what it is today.

Given that, we are proud to launch the Hall of Fame on our 10th Anniversary and to induct one individual who without his unbelievable dedication and commitment to the USAFL, we would not be where it is today:

Paul "Plugger" O'Keeffe, Milwaukee

Paul "Plugger" O'Keeffe recognized over ten years ago there was an opportunity and need to begin something great here in the US. An opportunity to introduce Americans to the national game of Australia and a need to give his fellow expatriates the chance to play that game as it was back home in Australia. There are those that may have characterized Paul O'Keeffe as a modern day "visionary". While it is true O'Keeffe had a vision in the early days of the USAFL of what the league could potentially become, his most significant contribution was to allow Australian Football to evolve in the US on it's own terms. Though the USAFL was Paul's vision, the success of the league was more due to his unmatched talent for organization, unyielding determination and unquestionable love of the sport.

There were only a handful of clubs in 1997, the year of the first National Championship tournament was staged in Cincinnati. In all, only fifteen matches were played, including that first National Tournament. However, by year's end in 1998, nearly 25 clubs were actively participating in organized competition. The following year, the number of games played went to 118 and more teams added to the league. Paul O'Keeffe held the reins of the league as USAFL President for the first two years of existence struggling mightily with a small cadre of ardent colleagues striving to keep up with the exponential growth of Australian Football in the US. Though elected to serve a second term as USAFL President at the 1998 AGM it is ironic O'Keeffe was unable to even raise his hand to as it was in a sling having been broken in a match earlier in the day.

At the 1999 AGM, Paul stepped down as President, turning to his talents for organization as a background contributor for the continued growth and success of the USAFL. O'Keeffe knew that the continued healthy growth and development of Australian Football in the US would only take place with the direct involvement of new people, ideas and passion. A largely overlooked but crowning achievement for O'Keeffe and the USAFL was the ratification of the USAFL Constitution at the 2001 Administrator's Conference hosted by the Cincinnati Dockers. With the implementation of this document, the League had attained the legitimacy of organization wherein the development of Australian Football in the US would be recognized at the international level.

Without question, the state of Australian Football in the US would not be where it is today without the tireless efforts, personal contributions and sacrifice of Paul "Plugger" O'Keeffe. It is only fitting that Paul be the inaugural inductee to the United States Australian Football League Hall of Fame.

CONTACT DETAILS –

Executive Board

Richard Mann – President president@usfooty.com
Andrew Bednall – Treasurer treasurer@usfooty.com
Matt Jagger – Secretary secretary@usfooty.com
Rob Beyersdorf – Vice President – East vpeast@usfooty.com
Jim Martin – Vice President – Central vpcentral@usfooty.com
Leigh Barnes – Vice President – West vpwest@usfooty.com
James Waddell – Member at Large memberatlarge@usfooty.com

Portfolio Members

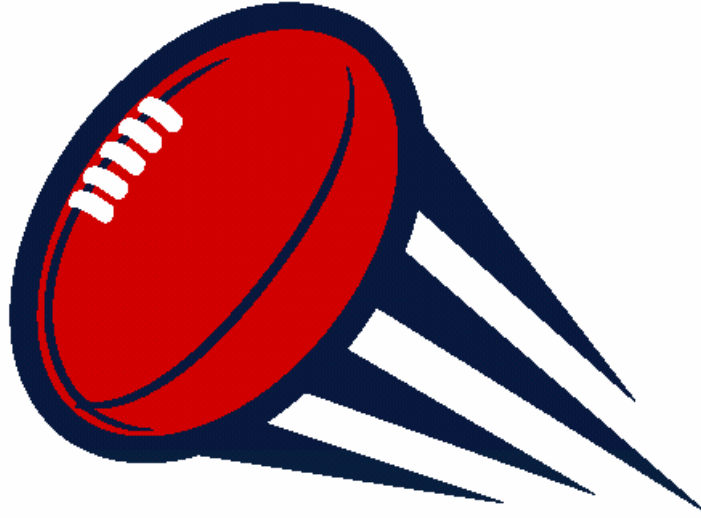
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Paul O’Keeffe – International Liaison paul@usfooty.com
Shane Frearson – Sponsorship Director sponsorshipdirector@usfooty.com
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Kevin Smith – Media Relations mediarelations@usfooty.com
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National Coaches/Staff

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BJ Gambaro – Revolution Manager RevoManager@usfooty.com
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Advisory Boards

Tony Fairhead – Australian Advisory Board AustralianAdvisory@usfooty.com
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