

## Bombs Away in '95

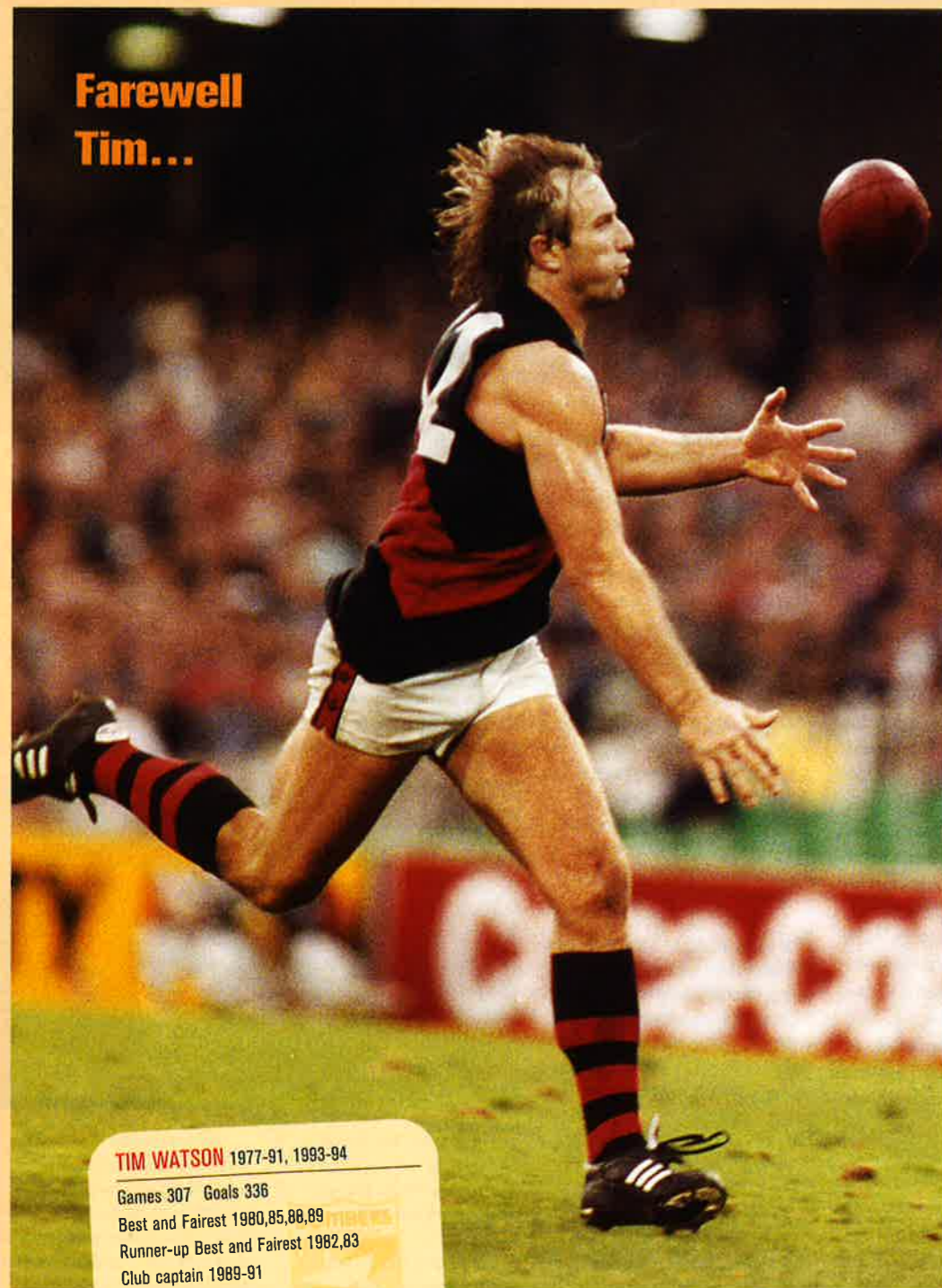
including Long and Wanganeen, are recovering well, many from post-season operations. David Calthorpe, for example, had operations on his knee and groin as well as a shoulder reconstruction, while Mark Thompson had a plate inserted in his arm. Club doctor Bruce Reid says almost all the walking wounded of '94 should be at the starting gate for the opening game of '95 – and that's a great relief to all involved.

But while skipper Thompson acknowledges the long list of injuries as a factor in Essendon's slide down the ladder, he said the players' attitude was just as damaging.

"We were down, disappointed (at the season's end)," Thompson said. "Like every other team that wins the premiership, you think it's going to flow on but nothing flows on like that. Everything you achieve, it comes from hard work and we obviously didn't do the hard work last year.

"I think that's actually spurred us on this year. It sort of comes down to personal pride now."

Sheedy agreed. "Our desire is definitely there, we're moving along well in that area. It's good to see the players back and moving in a direction where the 22 games after the '93 Grand Final are over and we're into the next ballpark. I think that's pretty handy for us." **B**



### Farewell Tim...

**TIM WATSON** 1977-91, 1993-94  
 Games 307 Goals 336  
 Best and Fairest 1980,85,88,89  
 Runner-up Best and Fairest 1982,83  
 Club captain 1989-91  
 Vice captain 1982-88  
 Interstate rep 1980,83,84,85,88,89,90,91

**P**ick a memory. The kid with the country haircut playing his first game at 15, perhaps. The emerging star leaping over a pack of players to goal in the 1981 night Grand Final. Maybe the barrel-chested champion punching the air after "dobbing" one in the last quarter of the 1984 Grand Final. Or, finally, the hard-working veteran making the supreme second effort to kick the sealer against Adelaide in the 1993 preliminary final.

We all have our own favorite memories of Tim Watson, the colossus who spanned the 15 or so years between two teams given the title of "Baby Bombers". He was captain, club champion and perennial favorite son. He grew up with the Bombers and came of age with the team in the mid-1980s.

Tim's first retirement, at the end of 1991, came as no great surprise. He was tired, physically drained by injuries and a long, hard career. We were a little shocked when he was drafted by West Coast – just seeing his name at the tail of their list all 1992 was hard to cop – but we knew he wouldn't go west.

What we didn't know is that he would come back to Windy Hill. His comeback was thrilling. Sure, the Watson of 1993 was a little slower and had less stamina, but he did all the hard things, and his tackling and shepherding were exemplary. The '93 flag was a fitting reward.

Undoubtedly, 1994 was a disappointment, but it did give Tim the chance to play his 300th game, and us the chance to give him the farewell he deserved.

Now Tim Watson has retired again – this time for good. We can only say "thanks", and be grateful for having seen him play. It may be a long time before we see his like again.

# Comings and Goings

Players come and players go – it's the same story every year at every club. So here's a complete run-down on this year's Essendon recruits, and an update on those who have left Windy Hill.



## Who's New at Windy Hill in '95



**Scott Lucas** The second-youngest player in last October's national draft. Only 17, Lucas plays as a full forward or centre half forward. He is an excellent mark and a long left-foot kick for goal.

**Tim Darcy** The former Geelong defender-turned-forward was one of the surprise picks in the February draft. A solid performer who can play at either end of the field.



**Gary Moorcroft** Another who has looked good in the pre-season. Moorcroft is a dynamic on-baller who won the Morrish Medal in 1994 for best player in the under-18 competition, while playing with the Northern Knights.



**Shaun Lewfatt** An exciting prospect from the Western Jets, who originally came from the Northern Territory. Played in the last two Commonwealth Bank Cups, winning all-Australian selection. Fast and highly-skilled.

**Blake Caracella** A defender/wingman, and one of the best-credentialed prospects to come out of last year's draft. Won the Alan Schwab Medal for his best-on-ground performance with the Northern Knights in the Commonwealth Bank Cup grand final.

**Mark Fraser** The son of our former captain, Ken Fraser, and one of the fastest players in the AFL. Fraser is a wingman who loves the open spaces and drifting down to kick a goal. Not a physically strong player but still records a surprisingly high number of tackles per game. Picked up in the February draft after 45 games in three seasons at Collingwood. Should do well.



**Matthew Lloyd** A priority selection in the February draft, obtained via a deal with Fremantle. Soon to turn 17, Lloyd spent last season with the Western Jets in the under-18 competition, playing mainly at centre half forward and full forward. A lovely left foot kick and a strong mark, Lloyd has a big future.

**Matthew Banks** Essendon's third pick in the February draft, from Ringwood in the EDFL.



**Justin Blumfield** A 17-year old from Tuggeranong in the ACT, Blumfield has played senior football in Canberra, mainly on the wing or at half back.

## ...And Who's Gone



**Anthony Daniher** And then there was one. Yes, Chris is now the last member of the Daniher clan still playing at Essendon. Anthony retired from League football at the end of last season, after an Essendon career of 118 games and 18 goals. We wish him well in retirement.

**Tony Delaney** The promising youngster has joined Fremantle as part of the deal which brought Matthew Lloyd to Windy Hill. Played 15 games and kicked nine goals in his two seasons at Essendon.

**Dale Kickett** Has returned to WA, to the Fremantle Dockers, after managing just eight games and seven goals in his only year at Essendon.

**Glenn Kilpatrick** De-listed after 26 games and 4 goals in three seasons.

**Glenn Manton** De-listed after 21 games and 4 goals in three seasons. Picked up by Carlton in the February draft.

**Scott Mollard** De-listed. Did not play a senior game.

**Todd Ridley** Returned to Fremantle, in his home state of WA, as part of the Matthew Lloyd deal. Played 25 games and kicked 21 goals in his four seasons with the Bombers.

**Lachlan Ross** After two games and one goal in his only season at Essendon, Lachlan has returned to Adelaide.

**Tim Watson** Time catches up with all of us, even legends like Timmy. But you can still see him most nights, with Jennifer Keyte on Channel 7 news.