

Tales knocks up his ton this week to join the select group of Quickie et Al. He came to us from the Devonport Magpies in 2008 where there is some conjecture as to whether he played 115, 116 or 132 senior games. Given he made his senior debut at 15yo let's go with a legendary 132. Whatever, a Big Footy thread from March 23, 2008 suggests the potential demise of Devonport was in part due to "...no Taylor Haley." (Rumour has it that Tales left because PM John Howard was #1 ticket holder in 2007 and he'd had enough, Taylor that is.)

Born during finals time 1984, at Devonport Maternity hospital, Tales has been playing footy on a weekend since he was 5yo. Prior to that he spent most of his early years being dragged in his pusher to all his brothers' football games and surf club training and carnivals. His first games of football were with the Mini Saints Junior Football Club Under 7's.

He played in three winning grand finals: U/10's and U/12's with the Mini Saints and one year at St Brendan Shaw College. (That treble was later to be balanced by 3 losing grand finals in 2004 -'06 while at Devonport.) While with the Mini Saints he joined the likes of Matt Richardson and Brady Rawlings as a B&F winner.

When not playing football he was an active surf lifesaver. The Tassie Antarctic waters may account for the odd brain freeze we have observed.

Tales was a prodigious junior talent. He captained Tasmania U/16s and was awarded a Tasmanian Institute of Sport scholarship 2001 - '02 which, inter alia, landed him at Footscray for a week. Playing in the middle or across the forward line he went on to vice captain Tassie's U/18s and captain the NTFU U/19s, and in 2003 "...the exciting youngster was put on standby for the Tassie Devils." (The Examiner). In 2004 he had a big year winning the club B&F and was Runner-up for the NTFU's Darrel Baldock Medal. He was appointed joint vice captain of Devonport in 2006 during which season he kicked two bags of 10+ goals (11 against East Devonport - in his 100th game - and 12 against Wynyard). He never drank during the season - his brothers told him he must've been adopted.

Always studious, Tales gained good results at school and went on to do a teaching degree majoring in Middle School and History. A trend setter in pedagogical circles - and nominated for Queensland teacher of the year 2011 - he is currently on staff at a National Pilot School, where at 31 he was appointed Acting Principal. Like last week's centurion he is very well grounded and a pleasure to engage in conversation outside of football and we can personally attest to his off-field support when it is needed.

Tales' first season at Broady under Shaun Hart was non eventful but he did attract votes in both seniors and resses. Under Smithy in 2009 he became a regular in the Ones, and further, picked up the Coaches Award. In 2010 he was appropriately appointed to the leadership group, a status he still enjoys.

In 2011 when we entered the NEAFL, he responded very positively to coach

Matt Angus and after a season interrupted with minor injuries was awarded 'Most Professional'.

He racked up a full 18 games in 2012 and played his 50th against the NT in May of that year. Earlier in Round 2 he was reported for striking against the Zorkos, found guilty but no suspension given his zero penalty points to that stage. (Has lost only one career game to suspension - while in Tassie). He played up the ground but enjoyed his best return of 14 goals and polled 54 votes to finish equal 5th (with Ezra Poyas) behind Ryan Pantic's 79, and was awarded Best Team Player. Matt remarks:

"Taylor is easily the most dedicated and driven player I have coached - He should be celebrating playing life membership if not for the 38 different injuries he has encountered. ... 2012 was easily his best year - top five fairest and best ... but also easily our best leader on field. Would have grave reservations for the club if he was not there in both 2011 for the NEAFL upgrade and again in 2014 for the QAFL restructure. Good man and great Dad. ..."

Tales was appointed co-captain in 2013 but unfortunately a right foot stress fracture limited his appearances. After a recuperative trip to Europe, in his return game, he ruptured a PCL and totaled only 5 games for the season.

Broady committed to the QAFL in 2014 and Tales was invited to Southport to continue at NEAFL level. His club loyalty was tested given his friendship with Matt Angus, but his Board membership, and as with Quickie, his core values, resulted in his re-signing with Broady. He was appointed as an assistant playing coach to Pedro Petterd. Married life was clearly agreeable and after a season as a lead-up forward in all games plus a final, Tales enjoyed spectacular success. He was nominated for the Syd Guilford Medal in Round 6 (against Sandgate when he kicked 6 in a BOG performance); won selection in the QAFL Team of the Year; won the Ray Hughson Medal for leading goal kicker with 67; and finished second with 90 votes behind Searly (92) for the club B&F.

This year, playing a fatherhood role in support of the glamorous Sarah, (*although we were always hoping Tales would meet and marry American singer/actress Haley Taylor*), Tales has had his second best Broady return thus far with 33 goals. While we have no goal stats for 2008, it's reasonable to assume say 3, which gives him a Broadbeach career tally of 150 up to and including game 99. However, his very best goal kicked to this point is definitely Knox Theodore Haley. His best own-goal was tweeting "Thank God for seats in women's clothes shops"

Tale's early games showcased some smart performances as an on-baller and across the half forward line. He showed on field leadership at stoppages and was a major urger in sheds at break times. He continued playing creative roles usually up forward, with the occasional General's role across the half back line, until 2013 when he established himself as a competition best lead-up forward. He gets off the mark and leads to likely spaces. He is extraordinarily fast with his hands, and what's more is keen to enter the fray

and use his quick mind and hands to strategic benefit. It is appropriate that Tales plays for the Cats as he has a feline-like skill in the air, to position his body to great advantage, against opposition and gravity alike. Seriously good at the caper, he had a ripping season in '14 taking mark after mark and putting his right boot to good use. (Normally we sit calmly and confidently if he has the ball in hand with a set shot or has won the ball to kick at goal, but his Percy Jones effort against Surfers a couple of rounds back nearly had BA suffering apoplexy).

In addition to a 100 game player, Hales has served the club as an official, having assumed membership of the Board in 2013 and assistant coach since 2014. Always ready to help out he has a dab Picasso stroke with a paint brush in hand; not bad at manual labour; legibly records the weekly results in the Dane Zorko Cat Claw race; is known to promote functions and the players' trip fund; and has single handed increased club supporter strength with the addition of Sarah, Knox Teddy, John and Carol, plus the odd brother nephew/niece.

Tales will probably call it a day at season's end so get down to the Cattery to thank him for his service to the club. The next opportunity will likely be when he decides to take on Knox and his brothers in a fathers v sons game at Broady juniors.