



Sporting Life

By Geoff McClure
May 27, 2004



Jason Akermanis dancing with newlywed Andrine Terry at a Perth restaurant.
Picture: *Supplied*

Here comes the . . . Aker!

Brisbane may not have won its match against Fremantle in Perth last weekend but off the field it was a big winner. And we refer in particular to that man Jason Akermanis. You see, at a wedding reception held at a Perth restaurant for newlyweds Simon and Andrine Terry, one of the guests, barrister Craig Coulson, popped outside for a cigarette and while out there bumped into and got chatting to a few of the Lions players including "Aker" and coach Leigh Matthews. He returned to the party to tell his friends about this but when they didn't believe a word of it he disappeared again and this time walked back in with his arm around the Brownlow medallist. To thunderous applause, Akermanis then posed for numerous photos, all the while listening patiently to all kinds of chatter, mostly suggestions on how he could improve his game. It was at this point the new Mrs Andrine Terry declared: "Well, if you're going to crash my wedding, the least you can do is dance with me." Which is precisely what he did - and the "blushing" (and very proud) bride now has this wedding album picture to prove it!

'Hamming' it up in style

We have come across some fanatical sports fans in our time but none more so than this bloke. Australian soccer nut David Lewis, who was so disappointed to learn that this weekend's big English match involving his beloved West Ham was not being telecast anywhere in Australia that he has bought the broadcast rights to it. And, thanks to him, it will now be shown live in pubs and clubs across the country, including Melbourne, on Saturday night. Sydney-based Lewis, who calls himself "an entrepreneurial businessman", has been a Hammers fan all his life and considered flying to England for the crunch game against Crystal Palace (to decide which of the division one teams is elevated to the Premier League next season) but, when he discovered he had no guarantee of getting a ticket, he set about doing the next best thing. And while he won't reveal how much he paid for the rights, he's resigned to the venture costing him heaps, despite anticipating that between 2000 and 4000 Aussie soccer fans (at \$25 entrance fee) will take up his offer. "I understand that this probably confirms my lunacy as a mad Hammers fan but it simply had to be done," Lewis said yesterday. The match can be seen in Melbourne at the Celtic Club, Queen Street.

Farewell, King

Wayne Carey and the MCG. He has graced its hallowed turf 128 times in his stellar career (for twice as many wins as there have been losses) and it's been such a fabulous double act it will be a sad day when it's all over. Well, prepare yourself for exactly that when Adelaide takes on Hawthorn at the famous venue on Saturday. With Carey having indicated this will almost certainly be his farewell year, Saturday's round 10 game is also the Crows' final home-and-away MCG appearance and, given that they're unlikely to feature in September action, their last 2004 match there in any form. So how should we remember the King and the 'G'?



Serena Williams and this two-piece pink outfit, complete with diamond navel stud.
Picture: Getty Images

For his three grand final appearances for the Kangaroos in which he won two premierships medals?

For kicking seven goals or more 10 times (of 13 times at all venues), including his career-best 11.2 against Melbourne in round 17, 1996?

Or perhaps for his 10.5 in a losing side against Essendon in the same round one year later?

Indeed, in a career that so far has stretched to 269 games (244 with the Kangaroos and 25 with the Crows) he has booted 720 goals, more than half of which - 376 to be precise - have been scored at the 'G, at an average of a tad under three a game.

One way that his fans would prefer he not be remembered of course (but we will always get a laugh out of it anyway) was for the inflatable Carey doll that collapsed across the MCG as part of the 1996 grand final pre-match entertainment.

Serena in the pink for Paris

Tennis stars always try to play at their best in grand slam events but for Serena Williams at the French Open there's a double requirement - as she proved this week, she likes to look her best too. "I always try to raise the bar on my outfits, especially here because you're in Paris," said the fashion-conscious superstar after unveiling this two-piece pink outfit, complete with diamond navel stud, that was so garish it sent Roland Garros spectators scrambling for their shades. "It's just a one-of-a-kind city and you need to have one-of-a-kind outfits. It's really nice. I've really been influenced by the Parisians and the way they dress." Williams won, by the way, downing Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-2. Not that anyone noticed.

Oh, that Hayes!

Oh, and we discovered more about that "Hayes character" who we pointed out yesterday had stopped what would otherwise have been a clean sweep of Winton best players for Amateur side St Bedes Mentone last weekend. He's Andrew Hayes - yep, cousin of St Kilda captain Lenny Hayes.

Who said that?

"What do I get? A medal? I'm not interested."

- ARNAUD CLEMENT after learning that his 6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 3-6, 16-14 French Open loss to Fabrice Santoro in six hours 33 minutes was the longest singles match in modern tennis history.

gmcclore@theage.com.au

More news

- [Drugs guru helped sprinter: report](#)
- [Olympic title defence unlikely](#)
- [In pursuit of a new world mark](#)

[Home](#) > [Sport](#) > Article

Copyright © 2004. The Age Company Ltd.