

Sunshine, Rainbows, Lollipops

Contributed by Roger

One week out from season 08 and I'm glad to see The Brow has managed to whip footy into top shape, just in the nick of time. Except for Caaarlton. Bastards. They have to go and spoil things.

But there's still a week left, plenty of time to sort out the latest, biggest possible besmirchment on the ability of the AwFL to rule this comp with an iron fist and a monobrow, smooth any image issues, and make things lickety spit. The way the Brow's been thumping through these things lately, he could even get a Royal Commision up and finished before next weekend.

Take Paul Roos. There's a bloke that needed a coal hauling. Fancy getting all sarcastic at a FF who was costing you the game. Things could have been taken the wrong way. Allegations could have been made...oh, sorry yeah. They were. Now, Andy is a pro. He doesn't let personal agendas get in the way of stamping out cheats. The fact that he hates Roos' guts for winning one flag, and nearly another, with the sort of footy Andy doesn't like, and that Roos won't change, never entered into it.

But whatever their differences, Andy and Paul sorted it out. See, Paul couldn't work out why he was being investigated for possibly breaching gambling regulations when the nab cup isn't linked to an AFL book. But then Andy explained to him it was all about clauses. Anyway it all worked out well in the end. Only took a week from woe to go. Paul and Andy all said nice corporate things after the event, but I like to imagine they were a bit clearer about where they stood when they discussed it in private.

"What's your problem round boy?"

"Don't come that with me Roos, Your little shut-down game on that postage stamp gives me the shits, get your blokes to run and mark a frickin ball, that's what us Victorians do."

"Leo Barry, Lord Lunchalot."

"Jagged that one out his arse. I'm watching you Roos, another bad move and I'll take you down... I'll take you down to Chinatown."

"Up your arse, Greek boy, I've only got five words for you, 'biggest market in the country.' "

"ooh, I hate it when you do that."

Then Gillard's report on the Eagles came out. This one was a breeze because no one's going to see the report, So Andy can just glance through and make sure all is tickety boo.

But cynicism is so negative, we're living in a very modern world these days. I fail to see why 6 years of festering competitiveness and duplicity can't sorted out in a couple of months. Get a retired judge looking for some funds to buy a weekend getaway, some management consultants, a PR dept with a pulse, and these things can be done. They just look hard, and besides, everyone knows Andy was on a schedule. Ben's rehab proved that you can do these things. Except of course when he fell off the wagon. Look, when you're pulling a big project together, there's bound to be some slippage. Caaarlton is a bigger challenge. But they've already been used as a punching bag a couple of years ago, so they're nicely softened up. Juddy's a problem though. Nice bloke, good image...leading Caaarlton out the wilderness, that sort of thing. It's a narrative with a lot of AFL marketing potential. If they can get past how they got him.

Look, as we've seen, a deep and serious investigation that no one ever gets to see the report on could sort this quick smart as well. I'd want to see a lot of chest beating, hand wringing, and references to the integrity of the blokes running the bloos this year, of course. Lots of Brett Ratten looking serious. And lots of Juddy. Here in the West that went down a treat. And Juddy's good. He does non plussed deflection of hard questions with the best of them, dishes off journo's inevitable sychophancy as easy as a quick handball. He's the Beckham of Australian footy - without the money, girly voice or the looks to appeal to a wide range of sexual preferences.

Then the AFL only need to discredit Libba; make him out to be the Mike Tyson of footy...only less likeable. Take any grab from a Bullies game with Libba - any game, any week. You won't even need to get the editing room on it, just pick a grab with Libba in it. It's not that hard. Adrian's work experience photocopy boy could pull that together. Done. Dusted. Move on.

Let the games begin.