

CHOPPA CHAT

Edition 12 – 2017

The 12th edition of *Choppa Chat* is a unique one as it's the first time I've interviewed two people at the same time. Last Thursday night before selection I sat down with Cal and Bryce Rutherford, better known as Wolf and Pup. We discussed brotherhood, premierships, confidence, tough love and sister in laws. Here's our chat;

TA: Welcome boys. This is a unique Choppa Chat as it is the first time I've interviewed 2 people at the same time. I thought I would start with you guys describing each other's personalities?

BR: Cal is extremely modest. He constantly challenges himself and he is one of the best blokes I know. If I could be like anyone, it would be Cal.

CR: Bryce is very outgoing, has a great personality. He knows how to gee people up and help them to get the best out of themselves. Even though he is my younger brother I definitely look up to him a lot.

TA: Very good answers boys. What is the age difference?

CR: It's just two years. I'm older, turning 25 this year.

BR: Yeah and I'm 22 at the moment.

TA: Were you close growing up?

CR: Yeah we have always been close. We probably got closer during High School. We stopped fighting then.

BR: Yeah I stopped being a pest.

TA: Do you have a standout childhood memory together?

BR: It's not necessarily a childhood memory but my favourite memory is when we both won the flag in 2012.

TA: That was Wolf playing in the reserves and you Pup in the 18s?

BR: Yeah that's right.

CR: I think that was probably the first time we really drank together and had a big night together. I didn't really start drinking till after I was 18 so we hadn't really have been in that environment together.

TA: When did you start drinking Pup?

BR: Actually I was the same. I didn't start until after I was 18 as well.

TA: Was that because of Cal's influence?

BR: Yeah and I took my football very seriously, and I wanted to get as far as I could with it. Also it wasn't like Cal was coming home pissed all the time, so I guess I wasn't exposed to it.

CR: Probably would have been a bit more fun if I did though haha.

TA: Ok that's interesting. You both don't mind a bit of drink these days, do you have a drink of choice?

BR: Cruisers! (nodding his head proudly)

CR: Probably some type of cider.

TA: Haha! Let's move on. Around the club you're known as Wolf and Pup. Fairly obvious where the Pup nickname came from but how did Wolfy come about?

CR: I remember coming down to my first training session at Berwick, I was only a young fella and I had the ball and Bando (Bryce Anderson) was just screaming at me "WOLFY, WOLFY". I later found out it was because my hair looked like the lead singer from Wolfmother. It stuck pretty quickly.

TA: As all good nicknames do.

TA: Where did you guys play your junior footy?

BR: I played at Fountain Gate until under 15's and then played at Narre North Foxes.

CR: I was Fountain Gate the whole time.

TA: How did you end up at Berwick?

CR: Well after juniors I played a year at Rowville under Rob Johns. He left and I played another year at Rowville. Then Johnsy went to Berwick as coach of the u18's so I followed him to Berwick because he was a really good coach.

BR: I just followed on.

TA: You mention Rob Johns, I have a good story involving you Bryce.

BR: Yeah I think I know where you are going with this.

TA: You and another player turned up late to a game, so he dropped you to the colts(u18s reserves) the following week. The other player walked, you copped your whack, played colts, then played 1s a couple of weeks later. Says a lot about your character. How did you feel about the consequence at the time?

BR: Well that was just his coaching style. I fully expected it was coming. I rocked up late, did the wrong thing, so I had to cop it. Was obviously challenging to work my way from the colts to the seniors but that was his coaching style and I accepted it.

CR: I think you did it all in a row. Colts to 18's to seniors in 3 weeks. Pretty good progression.

TA: Great progression. Obviously a tough coaching style but I like it a lot and you were obviously took it in the right way and responded in the best way possible. I know Johnsy was very proud, having spoken to him about it.

BR: I think you either loved him or you hated him. But I liked him but most importantly respected him.

TA: You've played a couple of games together in the seniors recently. How enjoyable was that?

BR: Yeah it was the first time in about 4 years. That was the main reason I came back to Berwick, I wanted to play with Cal.

CR: It was great to be back playing together.

TA: Well I hope you get to do it again soon. The dream obviously a premiership together?

BR & CR: That would be insane.

TA: Wolf you have played many years at Berwick, whereas Pup you had an extended stint in the VFL at Casey. What is VFL footy like?

BR: It's a lot more serious. The training, coaching etc. The mateship is definitely there but it's not like a local club. A lot of guys are playing to better themselves and that shies away from team footy. So it's been great to come back to Berwick and just play team footy.

TA: Any AFL interest?

BR: Yeah after my second year, I had a really good year, won a couple of things (most courageous, best up and coming player) and got invited to do a preseason with Melbourne. I was hoping to get picked up in the rookie draft but it didn't happen. I played another 2 years at Casey and by then I was ready to come back and play at Berwick.

CR: You stole Nathan Jones's boots didn't you?

BR: Yeah I rocked up to first training session at Melbourne and normally early in the preseason you just wear runners because the grounds so hard but their ground was in pristine condition. I was slipping all over the place in my runners and the coaches were cracking it. So I said I'd go and get my boots from my bag. I didn't have any so I went to Nathan Jones's locker and pinched a pair of his boots.

TA: Did he notice?

BR: Nah he had plenty of pairs in there.

TA: Did you keep them?

BR: Yeah they are mine now. I think Graham is wearing them haha.

TA: Haha very good. Onto you Wolf. You have been a star reserves player for most of your career, making occasional senior appearances. What has held you back?

CR: I think it's a confidence issue. I'm definitely a confidence player. When I make mistakes I get really down on myself. If I could get that out of my game, get my confidence up and go for the ball more instead of sitting back, I know I could improve and play regularly.

TA: For sure, when you play 2s footy that goes out the window and you look full of confidence.

CR: Yeah the pressure isn't there. I feel I can make a few mistakes and I won't sit on the bench for the rest of the game.

TA: It's great to hear you say that because so many people can relate to that feeling, particularly fringe players.

CR: Well I know its all mindset but it's hard to ignore the thoughts of "oh shit! I made a mistake, I'm going back to the 2s next week". I think I have the skills to play I just need to put it together.

TA: Definitely, well said mate. Very honest.

TA: Let's talk about your dad. He watches all your games and is a regular at training. He generally keeps to himself can you give us a bit of an insight into Gary?

BR: He's extremely laid back. Loves his footy. In the 15 years that I've been playing footy I don't think he has ever missed a game. Regardless of where I've been playing, he's driven me everywhere and he loves it. Even a heart attack hasn't stopped him.

CR: Yeah he just loves it.

TA: Wow! Trainings too?

CR: Yeah well he likes doing his own training. Jogs a few laps.

TA: Is that for a particular reason? Fun runs?

BR: Nah, nah he just does it for his own general fitness.

TA: He's a good man

BR: A legend.

TA: You also have a sister. Partner of Ryan Schoenmakers from the hawks. Do you ever watch him play and think you should be out there as well?

BR: Haha on a couple of occasions, Chop.

TA: Just slot in on a flank next to him?

CR: I think you would fit in very well.

TA: What do you both do for work?

BR: I'm a shop fitter and I work at go-cart track on the weekends. But I don't enjoy what I do. I've recently applied for the Police Force. I was unsuccessful with my first application but I can reapply in December and that's what I plan to do.

CR: I'm a mechanical engineer and I'm actually starting a new job in September.

TA: Now Wolf there are not too many intellects at this club. Can you explain your job in a bit more detail?

CR: So with my new job it's a bit difficult to say. But as a mechanical engineer you spend a lot of time doing computer simulation and calculations on forces being applied to certain things. So for example I could do table design, you know mass produce tables right through to designing aeroplanes. So it's very broad and hard to explain exactly what I do.

BR: My bro is a genius

TA: We can definitely say that. Smartest man at the club that's for sure.

TA: Alright Wolf you and Renee have been together for a while. How did you meet and what does the future hold?

CR: We went to school together and were best mates from about year 8. Then we sort of discovered that we had been friend zoning each other for years. We both liked each other but didn't realise. Then we finally got together in year 12. Boyfriend and Girlfriend since then and we were also sports captains at St. Francis College together as well. We moved out together a few years ago and are currently looking to buy a house together after we have saved up a bit more for a deposit.

BR: I remember Renee coming up to me when I was in year 7, Cal and Renee had just started dating, as in had been together one day, and she came up to me and said "I'll be your sister in law one day". After one day of being together in year 9.

CR: Haha yeah so we broke up, but got back together in year 12.

TA: Haha well it has all worked out. How about you Pup any girls on the go?

BR: Yeah I've been seeing a girl for a few months now. She is currently in Europe so I'll be going over to see her at the end of the footy season. I leave October 1st, travel all around Europe and have no return date at this stage.

TA: So what are we talking a few months?

BR: Yeah I think so, I'll back for early preseason.

TA: That's what I think everyone wanted to hear. You scared me for a bit when you said no return date.

BR: All good I'll be back.

TA: To finish I would like you to state the one trait that your brother has that you wish you had?

CR: Well I definitely know mine. It would be Bryce's ability to let go, enjoy the moment and not stress so much. I would love to be able to do that.

BR: Well Cal has so many but I guess the main one would be just how determined Cal is to go out and get what he wants, he works really hard. I really admire that.

TA: Awesome thanks boys. I really enjoyed our chat. Good luck for the rest of the season and I hope you get to play together again soon.

BR & CR: Cheers Chop.