

CHOPPA CHAT

Edition 5 – 2017

For the fifth edition of “Choppa Chat” I caught up with Berwick favourite Jake Jamieson. We had a couple beers at my place on Tuesday night after training to discuss mateship, going off the rails and Jay-Z. Here’s our chat;

TA: I've been looking forward to this one jam

JJ: Well me too, last recorded interview I did, all I responded with was “no comment”.

TA: Haha! Well I hope you will open up a bit more during this interview. Can you start with how you got to the senior club?

JJ: Well I guess I’ve always just been around.

TA: Yeah it does feel like you have been around forever.

JJ: Yeah well I lived around the corner so I was coming down to watch my brother and that. I first started playing under 18’s in 2005 when I was still u16s. I joined halfway through the year and played colts when I was 15. And I’ve been around ever since.

TA: How many years of u18’s did you play?

JJ: It was four I think, I would have played close to 50 games.

TA: Touched on this incident with Mozza, relating to the Ronnie burns blow up after the Beaconsfield loss. But he actually had a little incident with you pregame. Can you elaborate?

JJ: Yeah well before the game I’m putting on my socks and Ronnie starts his pregame address with “Hey Jammo do you think you should be here”. My response was along the lines of yeah I think so, I’ve put in the work. He fired back with “well I don’t think you should be. I don’t think you’re ready, you’re only here because Charlesy picked you when I wasn’t there on Thursday night”. I didn’t really know what to say to that.

TA: Very harsh, did his words motivate you, or were you more deflated?

JJ: Well I think it motivated me. Especially when all the boys got around me straight after it.

TA: Anybody in particular that got around you?

JJ: Well Charlesy was first and Pauly Van Schilt and Barnesy basically just said “Fuck him” and “get on with it”.

TA: Did you ever play another senior game?

JJ: Yeah I played the next week against Hampton Park. I went a bit better that week, possibly because Ronnie got the sack or quit, during that week. So the pregame was a bit more enjoyable.

TA: How does the title of club larrikin sit with you?

JJ: I dunno, I didn’t know that was what people called me.

TA: Well what I mean by that is people look to you to lighten the mood, give some comic relief, and basically make people have a good time.

JJ: Yeah well I guess I’m a pretty funny bloke. And somebody has to do it. I mean so many of the people around the club are actually pretty boring. There are a few people that think they’re funny like that Homer bloke. But he is not funny he’s told the same 3 jokes for the last 10 years, so I guess I have to step up. And if someone worthy comes along that’s funnier than me I’ll happily hand over the torch.

TA: Do you have anyone in mind?

JJ: Little Matt McLardy is a pretty funny bloke. Easily the best McLardy. We’ve had a few quiet chats and he makes me laugh. I mean when he was reading out the sides last year I thought he was the special brother. I thought if Slappa and Tracey hit one of their kids it must have been him. But I think he’s alright.

TA: Ok we’ve had a few laughs but I’m going to get a bit serious here. You went off the rails for a period of time. If you feel comfortable can you explain what your issues were?

JJ: Well I guess around the 2013-14 period I had a fair bit of stupidity in my life, a lot of partying, heavy substance abuse. I drifted off from everything that made me, me. I was hanging around the wrong crowd and definitely not one of the proudest moments of my life. But it happened didn't it.

TA: How long were you in a bad way for?

JJ: Well it's hard to say because I guess when I realised that I had a problem, that was a lot later than when most people thought I had a problem. And that was probably later than when everything was actually a problem. If that makes sense

TA: Ok fair answer. What got you back on track?

JJ: Definitely my family. They were great at pointing things out to me. There was a few illnesses in the family and I looked around and thought "fuck" I haven't seen these people in a few years. I was missing out on seeing young members of my family growing up.

TA: Was Toby Mclean one of those?

JJ: Yes and no. I always stayed relatively close with him and his brother and sister but not as close I should have been.

TA: Alright what about the footy clubs role in getting you back on track?

JJ: Yeah well I actually messaged Mitch Talbett on facebook and me, him and Gunny went down to the pub had a few beers and a big day on the punt and I realised that these guys don't actually care what I've done in the past they just want to see me be me again. And then I started getting into my wakeboarding with Brett Robbo, Barnesy, Goose, Peppy, Seal, Boner, all the old boys I played with in u18s and they really brought me back into the group. Another massive one was Roo.

TA: What did Roo do for you?

JJ: He was just always there for me, he kept me in line. Because there was a time there where I didn't even feel like I was a person that deserved to be around anyone, because I'd fucked up so much but Roo was always just real with me and got me out of the shit basically.

TA: You returned to footy in 2015 and ended up playing in a premierships but you weren't a certainty to play, can you describe the 2015 finals series.

JJ: Well I didn't play in the first final against Narre. Steve Sigetti ended up getting injured in that game and would miss the following week. I'd played the whole season as a backman but I got brought in for the semi-final against Cranbourne as a forward.

TA: And you basically played yourself into a Grand Final

JJ: Yeah well I just told myself every ball that is in the air you are gonna hit it as hard as you can. That's what I did and I guess Homer liked that.

TA: What did playing in the 2015 reserves premierships mean to you?

JJ: It was unbelievable. I have never been that happy in my life, well not that I can remember. Just seeing all my mates so happy was the best. I have an uncle who played in seven Grand Finals and lost them all so it was a great feeling.

TA: I bet your family were proud of you?

JJ: They were rapt. My sister brings it up all the time. My whole family came up to the club as well to celebrate which was pretty special.

TA: 12 months later you are sitting on the sidelines as we went down in a pretty poor grand final performance. How did that feel?

JJ: Well no coincidence really is it haha.

TA: Thought you might say that.

JJ: Well.... Yeah but in all seriousness it was pretty tough. I mean I was really trying that year and I had few niggles but I just couldn't break into the side. I felt I deserved a spot but yeah that's the way it goes.

TA: Skill and finesse are probably not words you're often associated with but what attributes do you bring to the team?

JJ: Yeah that's fair, I think I'm a pretty good leader. I mean I do a few silly things like skill errors and punching people but I'm big on one percenters and revving up the boys.

TA: What do you expect from someone who pulls on the Berwick footy club jumper on a Saturday?

JJ: Never take a step back. The worst thing you can do in my eyes is shirk an issue or give up. You just can't do that. There is 21 other blokes you're letting down and everyone on the sideline that would love that spot.

TA: Who is the best player you've seen play for Berwick and why?

JJ: Well that is a tough question. Probably not the best player but my favourite player is Mozza. He smashes packs, lips off and I love calling out to him from the sidelines "Mozzzzzzaaaaa you big rad Russian!!!!!"

TA: What were you like at school?

JJ: Well I was a bit of an arsehole to the teachers. Not a lot of work got done but I had a lot of fun.

TA: I'm not surprised by that answer but you're actually more intelligent than people give you credit for.

JJ: Well thanks mate.

TA: What I'm getting at is you have a broad general knowledge. Where does that come from?

JJ: Listening. I'm not the best reader so I have to listen. I watch a lot of documentaries.

TA: Anything you would recommend?

JJ: It's not necessarily a doco but Band of Brothers is awesome and anything music. Without music I don't think earth would spin. If something isn't your genre you should watch a doco about it and find out what it is. Like if you don't like hip hop, watch some Jay-Z. Its good stuff, you got to expand yourself.

TA: What attracts you to martial arts and Jiu Jitsu?

JJ: Well I've always liked boxing but a few years ago I started training kick boxing because it was easier to find places to train. Then you got me into Jiu Jitsu a bit over 6 months ago. When I first started training at Evolve I was doing the kick boxing classes but the coach (Jeremy Ta'kody) told me try Jiu Jitsu. I got hooked and now I only train Jiu Jitsu.

TA: You definitely are hooked.

JJ: Yeah I keep getting in trouble at work because I'm always on YouTube looking up new moves. I'm always trying to beat up my brother.

TA: Speaking of your brother it appears you two have swapped bodies. What's going on there?

JJ: Well someone has to eat and someone has to miss out. But yeah he won't give up his secret. Luke Jammo loses 30kg and no one knows how. Might be the Spanish tomatoes.

TA: Yeah I guess we'll have to do some more investigating.

TA: What does a night out look like for Jammo these days?

JJ: Well if go back to last weekend I had a 100th birthday on the Saturday and 1st on the Sunday.

TA: And how was that?

JJ: Yeah good picked up at the 100th haha. But yeah I love going to the footy and having a few beers. I love a Sunday at your place watching the UFC. Bit different to the past. My weekends have gone from 5 days to 2.

TA: You're 27 years old now, any chance you will move out of your parents' house?

JJ: Not a fucking hope in hell. I've looked up a couple of dodgy nursing homes to ship the olds off into. But I think dad has too much wit about him.

TA: Doggies or Saints.

JJ: Footscray! Because Beveridge dropped Toby.

TA: I know you love your cousin if the Saints and Dogs played off in this year's grand final what would you want to happen.

JJ: Toby to kick 6 but the saints to win by 10.

TA: Finally how far out were you when you kicked that goal a few weeks ago against Hampton Park?

JJ: Well when I was lining the goals some bloke said "mate what are you doing you're in the backline, you can't kick it from there". He looked pretty silly when it sailed through post high and almost ended up in Hallam.

TA: Can you give us the meterage?

JJ: It was definitely big, bout 63m I reckon or maybe just over 50m haha.

TA: Love your work Jam thanks for having a chat.

JJ: No worries thanks for having me.