

GUS GARNSWORTHY – CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN DEFENDER

Gregor "Gus" Garnsworthy came from a lacrosse family where his father played for Williamstown prior to WW2 in the Captain Fearon era, his older brother Murray also played, and like many young boys in the late 50's/early 60's they were drawn into the local competition at Williamstown by Mal Taylor.

Gus started playing circa 1960 in the local competition, played Under 14 from 1962-64, and Under 16 from 1964-1966.

He started his senior career with the Fearons as a 16 year old in 1967 and remained in that team (Excluding 1968) until he retired in 1984, 18 years in total. During that time the Williamstown Fearons only lost the A grade grand final on 4 occasions.

In terms of state team representation Gus played in the Under 16 team in 1964 and 1966 and was captain of the Victorian Colts team in 1969.

Gus was a member of the senior state team 1971-73, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1983, captaining the team from 1979 to 1983.

He was selected in the Australian Championship All Star team in 1972, 1979, and 1981 where he was named captain of the All-star team.

Gus was selected in the Australian senior team for the world championships in 1974, 78 and 82 and toured with the Australian team in 1976.

COACHING

Following a very successful playing career Gus coached the Williamstown Fearons in 1985 and 1986, was the assistant coach for the Victorian senior team 1986-87, and assistant coach for the Australian Under 19 team in 1988.

BEST PLAYERS YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH OR SEEN?

Doug Fox – very calm and a great stopper

Phil Pearson – tough, would fight hard, good stick skills and good one on one

Robert O'Keefe – calm, patient, good stick checker

Alan Bower – fast, could take an opponent out of the game

John Butkiewicz – best face off of all time, great on ground balls

Rod Cordell – could run all day, great presence in all positions, consistent shooter

Roger Attenborough – very similar to Rod in all aspects of the game, excellent feed

Brian Griffin – Great presence around goals, read the game well

Alan Rolley – Excellent feed and reader of the game, consistent and reliable shooter

TOUGHEST OPPONENTS

Michael "Rags" Raggatt – physical strength, acceleration, uncanny shot, could receive the ball under pressure, working under pressure

Bill Stahmer – tough, unforgiving, change of pace and direction when dodging, ground balls

TESTIMONIALS

ALEC INGLIS (Former Williamstown and Australian coach)

Gregor was a great leader and captained Williamstown, Victoria and Australia. He was always calm and composed in difficult situations, providing guidance and leadership to the team. Gregor was a great defender - tight, aggressive but never overplaying his hand, and surprisingly for a defender he could throw goals - a champion lacrosse player.

MICHAEL RAGGATT (Former Australian attack player)

I met Gus when billeted with him & his Family at Pascoe St., Williamstown, in 1964, during an end of season trip, Brighton vs Williamstown. Back then he had hair, all bushy & red...but no beard! Already at age 14 he was outstanding in his age group...a miniature version of the solid, close checking Defender he became. His skills developed & followed him throughout his lacrosse career, making him one of the games toughest defenders I faced. All attackers win some & lose some, but with Gus, while I always backed myself for a win, I respected him so highly that I often doubted the outcome. That often cost me the ball. When I thought "I've got you", "you're gone!" it often wasn't the way & I wasn't surprised when he stripped me of the ball. His ability to maintain his balance, turn around, recover & with great footwork, engage a brutal stick check was uncanny & it became a real asset to his game. I for one never knew my luck! When successfully penetrating his "brick-wall" body, if the stick wasn't tight, he got me!

He was clever; he read the play quickly & summed up the situation accurately. With his grit, toughness, excellent stick handling & checking skills, he was an immense asset to a powerful era in Williamstown, Victorian & Australian Lacrosse competition. A great champion of our game and an inspiring leader.

PETER CANN (Former Australian attack player)

Over some 16 years I played against and with Gus in state and Australian teams respectively. Gus played a pivotal role in defence, often leading the defence, his input into organising strategy and teamwork was of the highest standard. A rugged and tenacious player, heavy use of the body was a hall mark. As a captain of Australian teams he set and led by example, and set a high standard of leadership and encouragement to his players. He was consistent and tough in the packs, I think he intimidated a few in the USA and Canadian teams.