

Men's 2016 Player of the Year - Shane Knight



The 2016 Battlewin Sports Premier League Player of the Year Award was won by Shane Knight playing for Avoca F.C. Shane, who is now 39 years of age first started his football career with the Gosford City F.C. U.5 team where he played until he was selected for the Central Coast Representative Under 11 team. His Central Coast Rep. career continued up to and including the First-Grade team which he first played for at the age of 17.

In 1999 at the age of 21 Shane joined Macarthur Rams F.C. in Campbelltown. Shane only played one season for Macarthur before returning to play for two seasons with the Central Coast Reps.

At the age of 24 Shane moved to Bonnyrigg White Eagles in Sydney, where he played some of his best football, for three seasons, before once again being asked to play for the Central Coast Reps. in 2005.

In 2006 Shane was signed by Lake Macquarie City F.C. to play in the Northern NSW State League. After what proved to be a disappointing year for him in 2005, Shane enjoyed three happy and successful seasons with the "Roosters".

In 2009 he transferred across town to Edgeworth Eagles F.C. before retiring at the end of the 2010 season. However, his retirement was short lived and in 2012 Edgeworth Eagles persuaded Shane to come out of retirement to play for them again, but, he hung up his boots "for good" at the end of that season!!

In 2014, some of Shane's mates who were playing for Avoca F.C. in the Battlewin Sports First Division convinced Shane to pull on his boots once again. Shane, who now lived in Avoca and was loving life with his wife and two children, and enjoying his second sport of Surfing, agreed, thinking it would only be a short-term commitment. Little did he realise then that three years later he would still be with the club!

Avoca F.C. gained promotion that year to the Battlewin Sports Premier League, and Shane was offered the job of Player/Coach for the 2015 season. 2017, is his third season in that position, a challenge he is relishing. These days Shane plays Centre Back, a position he chooses to play because that is where he can serve the team best, as opposed to the attacking mid-field position he prefers, and which he played for most of his career.

When asked what was the highlight of the 2016 season, he replied, "finishing seventh and keeping the team in the Premier League".

Shane is a High School Physical Education teacher at a Central Coast school and one of his greatest joys is playing for Avoca F.C. against past students, and enjoying a chat with them at the end of the game.

He also enjoys meeting up with many of his former Central Coast Rep team mates who are now coaching at local clubs.

This writer has known Shane Knight from his playing days at Central Coast Reps. where he was a stand-out player, and it's wonderful to know that he is still contributing to Central Coast local football.

Interview by Mike Cronshaw May 2017