

"I should've known what was going on. I should've done more and I'm very disappointed that I didn't."

Essendon coach JAMES HIRD after accepting his 12-month suspension.



NUMBERS UP

10 years since the passing of motorcycle racer Barry Sheene. The Briton, who died from cancer, won the 500cc world title in 1976 and 1977 and will be remembered during



a parade of his old race bikes at the Northamptonshire Silverstone circuit ahead of the British MotoGP on Sunday.

100 games as senior coach under Mark Harvey's belt courtesy of three unexpected games leading the Brisbane Lions. Will the former Fremantle coach add to his tally at Essendon next year?

1974 Adelaide's Football Park, aka AAMI Stadium, opened to the public after a bitter split between football and cricket authorities. South Australia's very own version of Arctic Park hosted its last game on Saturday, with matches moving to the \$530 million revamped Adelaide Oval in 2014.

112 The winning total score for Hawthorn, St Kilda and Geelong, the first three victors of round 23.

WHAT THEY SHOULD DO ...

... is toss the coin only in the first Test of a series and alternate choice of batting or "inserting" thereafter. Thus reducing the element of luck involved in Test cricket. I can't see a downside.

EDDIE WILGAR Yarraville

Email your contribution to: sundaysport@theage.com.au or twitter: @sundayagesport



SEPARATED AT BIRTH



Reader Paul Moir reckons Bomber Michael Hurley and Australian batsman Shane Watson have had similar years - injured and unsuccessful.

and forgiveness



Robert Walls and Kevin Sheedy in their playing days.

flavour to the Australian camp. Rebecca was brought into the women's eight and women's pair this week to cover for Tess Gerrard, who was ill, while Olympic medallist, and occasional *Sunday Age* columnist Kim won her semi-final in the single sculls and will go into Sunday's final as favourite. It was a successful day on the water for Australia on Saturday with The Lightweight Men's Eight of Jack Price, Tim McDonnell, Tim Widdicombe, Ali Foot, Blair Tunevitsch, Darryn Purcell, Nick Silcox, Simon Nola and cox Tim Webster winning a silver medal and the Women's Four of Hannah Vermeersch, Alexandra Hagan, Charlotte Sutherland and Lucy Stephan claiming bronze.



Greek defectors

And while the rowing women were flying the flag in Korea, out Hawthorn way the Hawthorn Spartans have shown how soccer skills can be successfully adapted to Australian rules. Half of the Spartans used to make up a soccer team, the Booroondara Eagles, but three years ago they decided to swap codes. It worked for them. To grow from the dozen needed for soccer to two dozen needed for AFL, the predominantly third-generation Greek-Australians used their network to recruit and even picked up Greek-based sponsors, *Neos Kosmos* newspaper and Delphi Bank. In their first year, the Spartans made the grand final of the VAFA's Club XVIII and last weekend went one better when they won their first premiership. And they only needed 22 blokes, not 300.

well done." One can only wonder if the aggrieved Bombers faithful will also be as magnanimous to Andrew Demetriou given the soothing balm of time and perspective?

Red and black rowers

There was one good news story for the Bombers faithful this week, with Kim Crow and Rebecca Daniher, daughters of former players, enjoying their success at the World Rowing Championships in Chungju, Korea. Kim, the daughter of Max, and Rebecca, the daughter of Neale, do not race in the same discipline, but without doubt brought a red-and-black

was prepared to be a bit different," Walls wrote of Sheedy. "He had vision. He was prepared to travel and take the game to all parts of Australia and the world. He encouraged the boys. He could be aggressive, but kind and compassionate. I loves the game. I'm glad he was a fledgling club. I respect his dedication, over a very long time, to the game. If our paths cross on the field, I'd shake his hand and say

SEPTEMBER MASTERPIECES POSTER SERIES... with JIM PAVLIDIS

Spring is in the air, which means it's once again time for Melbourne's finest footy artist Jim Pavlidis to dust off the paint box and produce a new set of September Masterpieces. And what do you know Tigers fans, finally your on-field artistry is on display in September for all to see. Jim's poster of Jack Riewoldt is a true collectors' item and if you reckon it's too good for scrubby old newsprint you can even download it yourself at home via theage.com.au. Having completed two full seasons of his series 'It's been a big week in art' Pavlidis had cause this week to ponder his handiwork: "Footy's illusory ability to convince us that the narrative within a particular game is unique and somehow different from the several thousand previous games we've watched gets me every week," he says "This week I will again be excited about the finals possibilities in the knowledge that in a fortnight I will be wondering why on earth I ever considered the possibility of Carlton or Port Adelaide winning the flag." **SPORT 12**

chance to win a signed print on fine art paper. For your chance to take it home just send us your own masterpiece - a drawing or painting - of a player in action. It may all be over in the blink of an eye, but as any fan of the yellow and black is all part of the fun. Winners will be announced in next week's Pssst column. Email us at sundaysport@theage.com.au