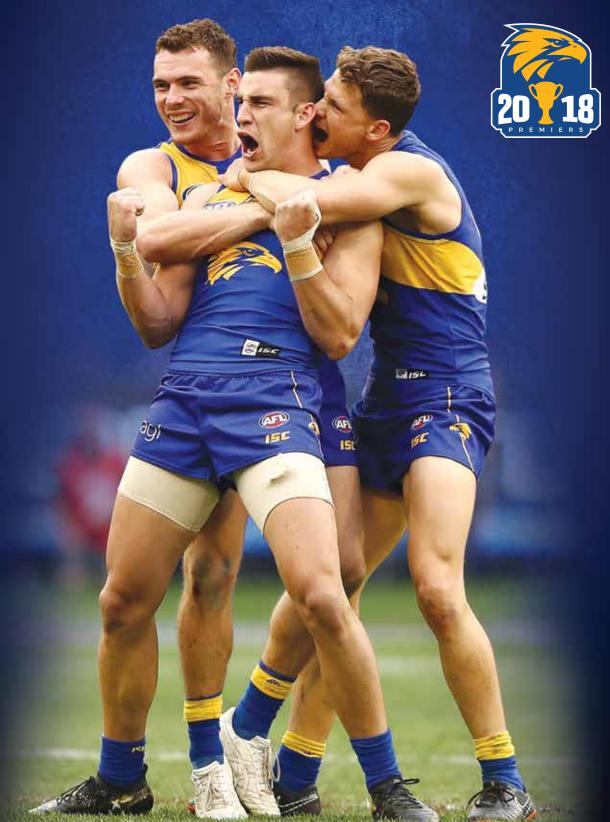
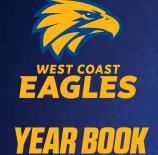
VEST GOAST EAGLES YEAR BOOK 2018





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t was the moment when a genuine West Coast Eagles star was himself star-struck.

Like so many other people in the BelleVue Ballroom of the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Elliot Yeo was in awe of 2006 premiership captain Chris Judd at the Club Champion Awards.

Judd, a 134-game champion of the club before returning to his native city of Melbourne to play with Carlton, was there to collect the highest honour available, life membership of the Eagles.

For Yeo it was an opportunity to meet a childhood idol, to converse with a man who might have been the on-field inspiration upon whom he has moulded his own career.

Judd, well known for his position on AFL players being role models, would be content that a young player mimicked his footy career rather than supposing his off-field values, lifestyle and choices to create his own mental model of the man. The way he played was self-evident, anything more was a guess.

That Yeo should seek out arguably the best player the club has seen in its storied 32-year history would seem appropriate. In terms of his own game the athletic midfielder, at the hub of the club's 2018 premiership, is probably closest to a player in the Judd mould the Eagles have seen.

Judd was unique. He possessed explosive pace, was strong through the hips, had the ability to break tackles and bounce the ball with either hand at top speed. He was the club's first Brownlow