

MICHAEL WARNER AND MARK ROBINSON REVEAL HOW A FOOTBALL LEGEND SEXUALLY MOLESTED YOUNG GIRLS WHILE HE WAS NORTH MELBOURNE COACH

THE MONSTER THAT IS BARRY CABLE

WARNING: THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE CONTAINS DISTRESSING CONTENT AND TALKS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT.

Barry Cable's brazen sexual molestation of young girls knew no bounds.

One Sunday morning in the early 1980s, while driving to the Channel 7 studios to appear on the iconic World Of Sport footy show as North Melbourne's senior coach, Cable reached across the passenger seat of his car and placed his hand "on the upper thigh" of his neighbour's 11-year-old daughter.

It was one of three occasions Cable had offered to take the girl into the city to watch the program live.

Known only as "VV" in a Perth civil trial that last week found the Australian Football Hall of Fame Legend guilty of repeatedly sexually abusing minors, the girl – now 53 – recalled her fear of being left alone with the Kangaroos coach who had moved in next door in Avondale Heights during the summer of 1981.

On one occasion, according to testimony in District Court Judge Mark Herron's shocking judgment, VV was in Cable's spa with her younger sister and another friend when he "put her in a lock with his arms around her waist so that

she could not break free" and "bounced her up and down ... on top of his erect penis".

VV's sister, "WW", also recalled how Cable "put her in a lock and then squeezed her breasts" and "pulled her bathers to one side and inserted the tip of his erect penis into her backside".

"Although the defendant was wearing bathers, he pulled them to one side to expose his erect penis," the court was told.

"The insertion of the tip of the defendant's penis in her backside was extremely painful.

"She tried to get away from him and eventually he let her go. She said the incident happened quickly, but it happened often ..."

WW's friend "UU", who lived nearby, was also sexually abused by Cable in his spa.

UU recalled how Cable "had a big scar on his thigh which looked like a shark bite" and described how the North Melbourne coach "pulled his bathers to one side, exposing his penis, and got her to sit on his knee".

"She felt his erection on her backside," the court was told.

"The defendant held on to her breasts outside her bathers while he held her on his knee.

"He then pulled her bathers to the side and tried to put his penis in her anus causing her to get off his lap because it was 'really uncomfortable'.

"UU remembered being scared and embarrassed, and probably shocked."

One of the sisters said she saw Cable naked five or six times when she was at his house.

On another occasion, Cable called VV's home, asking her to bring a cassette tape next door that she had recorded for him.

"When she rang his doorbell, he answered the door naked," the court was told.

"She said, 'Oh my god, Barry' and threw the tape at him and ran back to her home."

The three young girls, now adults, came forward in February this year after a



Perth woman launched a civil damages action against Cable, alleging he had molested her repeatedly as a child.

Their testimony helped sink the football great, who is expected to be stripped of his Hall of Fame Legend status next week.

PERTH INCIDENTS

But Cable was a monster long before he coached North Melbourne.

The main focus of the trial was on a Perth-based woman who claimed Cable had persistently sexually abused her from the age of 12 and into her adulthood while he was a star player in the WAFL.

Cable's attacks on "ZYY" occurred in his car, at his home, at bush locations where he used to drive, at the swimming pool in (Perth suburb) Thornlie where he used to work and even at the Perth Football Club where he played.

The court heard that Cable

regularly took the girl with him "when he bought fish and chips in Kalamunda (an eastern suburb of Perth) for dinner".

"On the drive back the defendant normally stopped at the top of Girrawheen Drive, took his pants down and forced the plaintiff to masturbate his penis, often until he ejaculated," the judgment said.

"He described his penis as his 'totem pole'. He complemented the plaintiff on how she masturbated him and showed her what to do. When she resisted doing what the defendant directed her to do, he told her that no one knew, that it was not hurting anybody, and that it was 'our secret'.

"I also find (said Judge Herron) that on occasions, besides forcing the plaintiff to masturbate him, the defendant also forced her to perform oral sex on him when he would tell her to put her 'luba' lips around his penis and

push her into his groin."

The judge also accepted the woman's evidence that Cable had threatened to sexually abuse her younger sister if she was not compliant with his sexual demands or instructions.

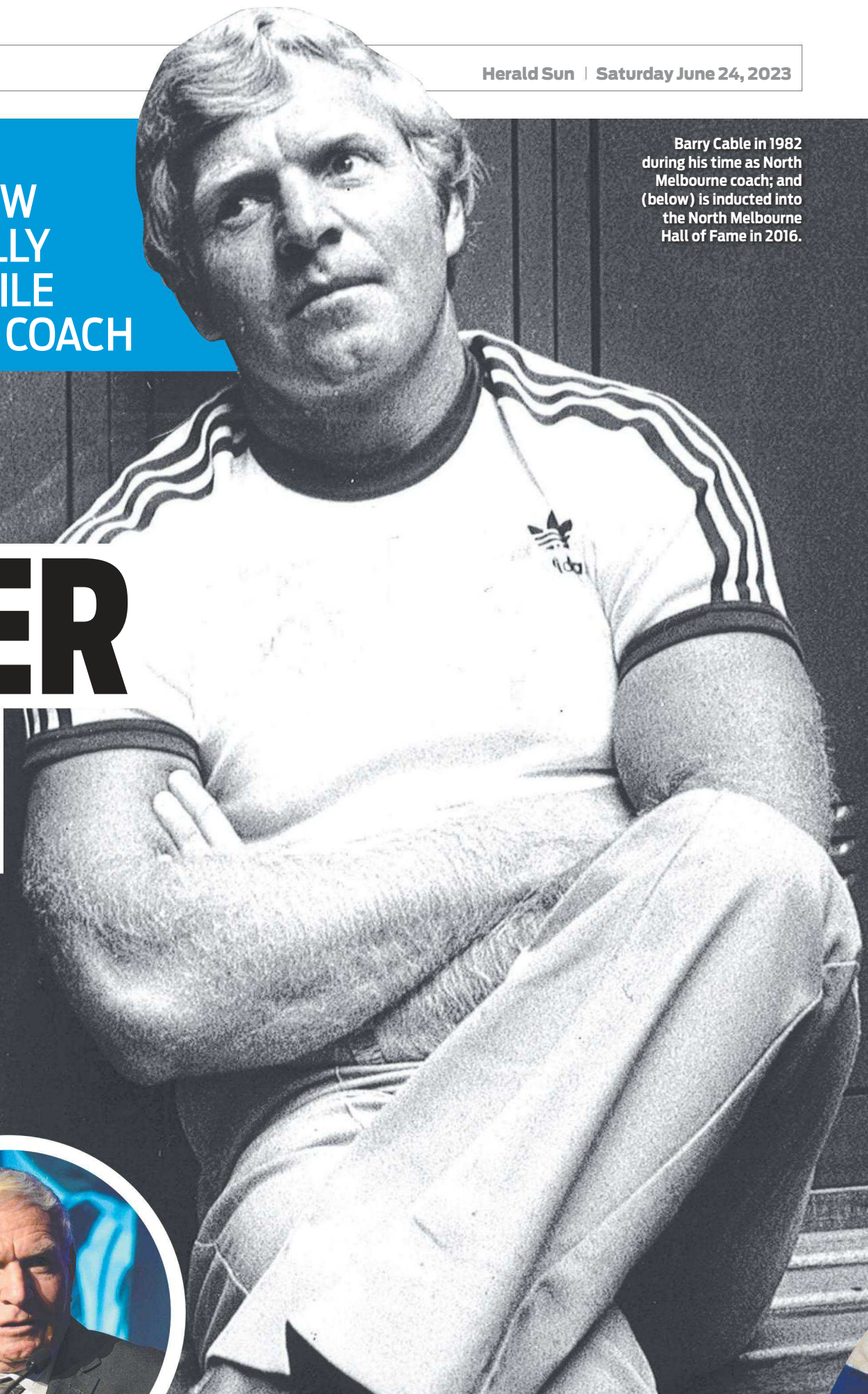
A fifth victim was described as having a "family relationship" with the football legend.

Known only as "TT", the woman, now 43, lives in Tennessee in the US.

She said Cable was "sexually inappropriate" with her on three separate occasions – the first time in 1988 when she was eight and he asked her to shower with him. Cable was naked and "asked if she wanted to touch his penis".

In 1994, when aged 14, Cable massaged TT's neck, shoulders and breasts, and "towards her pubic area". She was naked when her grandmother appeared at the doorway to the room and Cable stopped.

Barry Cable in 1982 during his time as North Melbourne coach; and (below) is inducted into the North Melbourne Hall of Fame in 2016.



Top: North Melbourne star Cable in 1977. Inset: Roos recruit Cable gives the victory sign after being passed fit to play in round 1, 1970, against St Kilda. Bottom: Cable after being elevated to Legend status in the Australian Football Hall Of Fame.

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circumstances in which she said they occurred. I am satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the defendant on three separate occasions acted sexually inappropriately towards TT when she was a child.

"I am also satisfied that it was not uncommon for him to walk around his house naked in the presence of TT when she was a young child."

Judge Herron said Cable's conduct with TT matched his behaviour with ZYX.

"In each case the defendant exposed his genitals to a young girl at his house and was naked in the house in the presence of a young girl," he said.

"In each case, he exposed his penis and asked the girls to touch it. The defendant's conduct was brazen, occurring even when his wife was present elsewhere in the house. On occasions he arranged to be alone with the plaintiff and TT when they were girls, including being with them away from his home."

ZYZ first reported Cable to police in 1998 but charges were never laid.

Claims of interference by detectives were later probed at a royal commission into police corruption but justice continued to elude the footy great until the lifting of a suppression order on Cable's name last year broke the case wide open.

It prompted the Avondale Heights trio to come forward and tell their own stories to Judge Herron.

Devastatingly, the girls who lived next door to Cable during his days as North Melbourne's senior coach confessed that they feared their parents would not have believed them if they'd spoken at the time. The families were extremely close, gathering on weekends, especially on Sunday nights, for dinners and movie nights.

"She (UU) did not report the incident to anyone and only spoke to her friend, WW, about what had happened," Judge Herron said.

"She did not tell her parents because the defendant was so famous. Her dad had stars in his eyes when she spoke about the defendant. Her father told her that all of Australia loved him. He was also such good

friends with her friend's parents, and she felt scared and intimidated."

But Judge Herron believed them all. Their evidence established a pattern of sexually inappropriate behaviour towards young girls, whom Cable befriended through his friendships with their parents.

"Through that friendship and because of his respected public stature those responsible for the care of the children trusted the defendant when their children were in his company or care. The defendant abused that trust," Judge Herron said of the Avondale Heights girls that helped bring down a football legend.

THE VICTIMS

The five women who gave evidence in a Perth court over sexual assaults by Cable:

Witness ZYX, assaulted hundreds of times, raped in the changerooms at the Perth Football Club in August 1971.

Witness UU, a Melbourne woman, aged 51, said Cable tried to put his penis in her anus in a spa when she was aged 10-12 in the early 1980s while he was coaching North Melbourne.

Witness WW, 51, a Melbourne woman, aged 9-11, Cable repeatedly anally raped her when she was in a spa also in the early 1980s.

Witness VV, 53, a Melbourne woman, Cable bounced her up and down on his erect penis in a spa in the early '80s. VV was aged 11-12.

Witness TT, 43, a Perth woman, Cable "acted sexually inappropriately towards" three times in the late 1980s-90s when she was aged 8, 14 and 15.

NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE?

» 1800RESPECT national helpline: 1800 737 732

» Sexual Assault Crisis Line (VIC): 1800 806 292

<https://www.sacl.com.au/>

» Lifeline (24-hour crisis line): 131 114

» Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 or beyondblue.org.au

» Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au

» Headspace: 1800 650 890 or headspace.org.au

AFL acts on injury listings

Jon Ralph

The AFL will next year mandate club injury lists must include specific return dates for sidelined stars to give fans greater clarity on their team.

Geelong has this year put out a series of official injury lists which are vague, with players either out for the short, medium or long term.

While the Cats are adamant their club injury updates and comments from coach Chris Scott provide great transparency, their fan base has been less welcoming.

The Cats' injury list this week contains eight players but not a single timeline attached to a player's likely return.

Scott is famous for late team changes in big games, which are all legal under the rules.

The Herald Sun can reveal the AFL will introduce a concrete set of guidelines which ensure clubs provide updated weekly return dates for players.

The league is aware at times those guesstimates can blow out as players suffer setbacks.

But it wants greater transparency for its fans, many of whom compete in fantasy competitions including the Herald Sun's SuperCoach. In the NFL, clubs face significant financial penalties for not listing injured players under the league's personnel (injury) report policy.

Cat's fine for hurt Dee push

Jon Ralph

Geelong's All-Australian defender Tom Stewart has been handed a rare fine for contact with an injured player after pushing over Melbourne's Jack Viney while he was in obvious pain.

Cats star Stewart was at his impassable best in Geelong's rousing victory over Melbourne as the Cats climbed back into the premiership race at GMHBA Stadium.

But Stewart was on Friday night handed a \$1500 misconduct charge for unnecessary and unreasonable contact with an injured player after his push on Viney.

Viney grabbed at his right AC joint and was in clear pain after he attempted to tackle Stewart during the first half.

Stewart looked at Viney and assessed his condition and clearly pushed him to ground as he grabbed at his shoulder.

There is no provision to suspend a player for that act so Stewart will be able to accept a \$1000 fine with a guilty plea.

Melbourne's Bailey Fritsch was penalised for a dumping tackle on Geelong's Jake Kolodjashnij but he was not suspended or even fined by the match review panel as there did not seem to be excessive force.

A year later, Cable propositioned TT by telling her that she would not have to pay the money back he had loaned so she could purchase a dress if she let him finish what he had started 12 months earlier.

Several years later, as a young adult, she spoke to a police officer at the Child Abuse Unit. She decided against taking action because of the family connection.

She then confronted Cable

after arranging to meet him at a cafe and told him she was concerned for his granddaughter, who was nearing the same age when he first acted sexually inappropriately towards her in the shower.

TT's family was reluctant to pursue Cable "because it was a topic that no one in the family wanted to talk about".

Judge Herron said he "found TT's evidence particularly compelling".

"She spoke in a careful and considered way, talking about matters which were clearly emotional and difficult for her, about matters which occurred when she was a girl and young woman which have clearly caused tension within the wider family and in her relationship with her parents," he said.

"I readily accept her evidence that the matters about which she gave evidence occurred in the