Bombers legend Reynolds the Blue that got away

ESSENDON champion Dick Reynolds was almost a Carlton player, having trained with the Blues twice, according to a biography on the triple Brownlow Medallist. Reynolds was chaired off the ground in a swapped Carlton jumper after the 1949 Grand Final, but he might have worn it for real had it not been for a snub he received from some of the Blues.

The long-time Carlton supporter trained two nights at Princes Park in 1932, but felt out of place because no one spoke to him. “I was a mere baby amongst them. Nobody wanted to help me or do anything for me, so I never went back,” he would recall.

“No one spoke to me, no one said anything, and I went away. I was deeply down in the dumps.” Reynolds went on to win three Brownlows (1934, ‘37 and ’38) in his 320 VFL games in a career that made him an AFL Legend.

The book details Reynolds’ early years as a ruck rover, his commitment to the Essendon community, and the controversy surrounding his sacking as coach.

King Richard, the Story of Dick Reynolds — a four-year project for author Dan Eddy — will be launched at the Dick Reynolds Club on August 21 at the Savoy Ballroom and the following night at the Korumburra Middle Hotel in Korumburra.