

Wade Stone has played his 400th game for Flagstaff Hill.

Picture: NOELLE BOBRIGE

## **Flaggies** favourite **hits 400**

## 'I'M JUST A ONE-CLUB PERSON'

Kym Morgan

WHEN Wade Stone and his family moved to Adelaide's southern suburbs from country WA in 1988 his family's choice of junior football club really came down to guernsey colours.

"Dad was a Norwood supporter and Flagstaff Hill had just changed colours to red and blue, so he was pretty keen for me to head there," Stone recalls.

"I actually wanted to go to Happy Valley because they wore black and gold, which were Western Australia's state colours."

Dad won the argument and Stone, then 17, began playing for the Falcons.

More than 26 years later he remains a Falcon and has become one of the SFL's great club men.

The father-of-three ran on to the ground for his 400th senior match last Saturday in Flaggies B-grade, and, as always, was a solid contributor, kicking a goal in a healthy win against Hackham.

Stone has played 159 A-grade games, and over 100 in the B and C grades.

Along the way he has been made a life member of both the Falcons and the SFL.

He also served time on the Falcons committee, captained both their A-grade and Bgrade and currently coaches son Riley in the under-10s.

"I guess I'm just a oneclub person.

"I've got to know the people and made a lot of friends, and I love the place."

A testament to Stone's lovalty is the fact he has played in a largely unsuccessful era at Flaggies.

Finals were often rare and his sole premiership was won in the C grade in 2007, a memory he treasures.

At the tender age of 43, another premiership may be on the horizon for Stone. Flaggies sit second on the B grade and top of the C grade.

They are also fourth in the A grade and junior numbers are swelling.

"I've never seen the club so healthy."