

yin&
yang

Ashton Turner & Cameron Bancroft

Big Bash League stars and housemates Ashton (left) and Cameron, both 24, are cricket's odd couple.

Ashton

I grew up in Bicton and went to school at Christchurch. Under 10s was my first year of club cricket. Growing up I was good but I wasn't *really* good. A lot of the guys on our team at the moment would have stood out a lot more than I did. When I'm not playing for WA or the Scorchers, I play for Fremantle.

Mum's a radiographer, Dad's an engineer. He's retired now. Neither of them had any idea about cricket or footy. I would've been turned off if I had pushy parents at home.

The first time I got picked for representative honours was the WA Under 15s side. Up until then you just played for fun and you didn't really think anything of it. Then you get picked in that side and you think: "Hang on, I'm actually OK at this."

This is my fifth year in the WACA squad. I love life as a professional athlete. We're so privileged to be able to do what we do.

We've been playing club footy and cricket against each other since we were in Under 13s. The WA Under 15s trip to Maroochydore was the first time we played together. Cameron was a bit of a weird nerdy kid. It probably took a few years of playing a lot of cricket and doing a lot of training together to really become mates.

We couldn't be more different. Cameron does everything by the book. Every minute of his day is structured. He loves writing notes. He loves yoga and meditation. I don't have much structure in my life; when I feel like doing things I'll do them. Cameron will turn up at a game three hours before. I'd turn up five minutes before if I could.

I think we get on so well because we're polar opposites but we're like-minded in that we both love playing cricket, we both love playing golf; we're both really competitive.

Every morning when I get up to make my coffee, the plug is out of the wall and the power's turned off. He's very stingy on the air conditioning use, too. If I had it my way, I'd have the air conditioner on 24/7. If he had his way he'd probably never turn it on.

If he gets out when he's batting, he goes nuts. Some of us still need to bat so we're trying to have our minds focused on the job

and this clown's carrying on throwing stuff and swearing. I'd love to have a camera set up in the change room and just film over a whole year all the blow-ups he has.

We're lucky because we're both in the side more or less and so our schedules are very similar — identical, really. Winter's a bit different, Cameron's going to England and I'm staying in Perth so we'll write postcards to each other (laughs).

We're both striving to be international cricketers so if that happens for one of us then our schedules will change dramatically. There will be different challenges but we'll still be mates. As much as we sledge each other, we wish the best for each other.

Cameron

I went to primary school in Leeming and then to Aquinas College. I play club cricket for Willetton. I started playing cricket very young, backyard kind of stuff.

I remember playing against Ash a lot. He is a bit quieter than I am. But playing sport against him was always very competitive. He's obviously a bit bigger than me so in footy he had a bit of height over me. But it still didn't stop me from getting 40 touches a game (laughs). There's always been a good rivalry there.

I always wanted to play professional cricket. Once I started to get picked in squads and going to camps when I was 16, 17 ... going up to Brisbane and the National Cricket Centre just confirmed that for me.

I loved the discipline and I liked listening to all the coaches. It's probably a bit of my downfall as well that I just absorb things too much. I'm very good at over-thinking.

I've never seen Ash vacuum the house. I wouldn't say I'm clean but I'm quite tidy. I pull all the plugs (laughs). My grandad is a tighta... and my parents say I've got the same traits. I might just spend some money that afternoon just to prove them wrong. When I'm away on trips if I'm staying in a hotel, I will probably leave the air con on 24/7 — but I'm not paying the bill.

The last few years Cricket Australia has really pushed mindfulness and it's something



PICTURE DANELLA BEVIS

Photo available at
westpix.com.au



that I got into. When I left school I started an exercise physiology degree but the longer it's gone on, the more I've realised it's not something I want to learn about. A course popped up in meditation and holistic counselling and I did that. So in the last 6-12 months it's been something I've really wanted to learn about more because it encourages me to be how I'm actually not perceived at all.

How Ash describes me is completely accurate. Being able to tailor that with a more relaxed approach is something that I need to do to be better. I set myself a goal at the start of the season to not blow up, then lost half my match fee because I blew up too loud at the SCG (laughs).

I bought this house just over a year ago. I thought it would be good fun just to have someone else living here. And it is good fun. We play golf and go to training together. We save fuel because we go in one car. I'm a genuine tighta... aren't I? **WW**

Amanda Keenan

bigbash.com.au

*I've
never
seen Ash
vacuum.'*

take
FIVE



with
comedian
Sami Shah

I love ... carbonara. Perfect carbonara, made at 1am after a five-hour writing binge, when your brain is vibrating with exhaustion and your stomach is making whale songs. Guanciale, spaghetti, pecorino Romano, coated in egg and drizzled with pepper. I've written entire books fuelled only on late-night carbonara.

Sami Shah will perform a script he sees for the first time when he walks on stage in BLANK, tonight at Studio Underground, State Theatre Centre, see fringeworld.com.au.

I loathe ... making the bed. Why do we have to? It's just going to get messy again in a few hours. No one is going to see it (other than the people who use it regularly). And if someone is seeing it for the first time, and they tap out of the night's proceedings because the blanket isn't laid out edge to bloody edge, you're better off without them. I will ... lose that shelf of back fat I've

been carrying around for the last few years.

I won't ... actually lose that shelf of back fat at all. Realistically, this is the year it grows wide enough that I can start hanging ornaments off it and using it to display small decorative items like family portraits.

I wish ... I wasn't eating carbonara in bed so much.