



Let the games begin

Gladiators is back and even bigger

By television editor
RICHARD CLUNE

OFTEN referred to as a Greek God on the football field, former AFL star Anthony Koutoufides will take the moniker with him as a Gladiator in the returning Channel 7 series.

The former Carlton captain will be known as Kouta The Greek God, alongside former Olympic pole vaulter Tatiana Grigorieva, dubbed Olympia, in the new series, which starts filming today.

The pair will be joined by 12 other

muscled-up but virtually unknown performers, with equally comical names, including Outlaw, Thunder, Scar, Amazon, Angel and Destiny.

Koutoufides, 34, said he had overlooked the usual ex-footballer path to the commentary box in favour of Gladiators as he remained keen for athletic competition.

"Always being an athlete and a competitor, I've always got the drive in me to compete and still do what I think I'm capable of doing," the 191cm, 99kg beefcake said.

"I think I've still got a bit to offer still in the body and it's just

another challenge for me."

Gladiators, which pits male and female Gladiators against bulky members of the public, was a ratings success for Seven during the 1990s.

Launched in 1995, it ran for three consecutive seasons, with a peak national audience of more than two million people.

The new Gladiators, hosted by Tom Williams and former McLeod's Daughter star Zoe Naylor, is expected to launch in March in a Sunday evening time slot.



Unleashed: The new Gladiators include Tatiana Grigorieva (back, second from left) and Koutoufides (back, third from right)