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NEWS.

Special Feature



NEW FACES

Focus on players new to the WAFL

Special 4 page feature on
the new faces in WA
football this season.

WESTSIDE

Every Thursday

60c

FOOTBALL

VOL. 6 No. 1 MARCH 29, 1984

WA's ONLY FOOTBALL NEWSPAPER



SPENCER

WE'RE BACK

We are back for 1984 — and what a great season it promises to be. The Westside Football recruiting team has been busy over summer and they have secured the services of former West Perth toughman John Duckworth. Backing up our heavyweight recruit will be regular team members Gary Stocks, Grant Dorrington, Ian Miller, Allan Stiles, Dave Clement, Robert Bennett, Kim Hagdorn, Eileen (Mother) Brown and the irrepressible "HOOD".

... milestone is a reward for courage

By GARY STOCKS

Champion East Perth centreman Peter Spencer — on the verge of a major milestone this weekend — has vivid memories of his last game in the VFL.

It was with the North Melbourne reserves and it is a game that Spencer would rather forget.

Spencer had been told a day earlier that his future with the Kangaroos was not bright.

Coach Barry Cable felt that a lack of pace ruled Spencer out of the side when North played at the MCG or VFL Park.

"That meant I wouldn't play in the finals," Spencer recalls.

When East Perth approached Spencer to come back home the offer was too good to refuse.

He will put those bitter memories behind him this Sunday as he lines up for his 150th game for East Perth when the Royals clash with Swan Districts at Bunbury's Hands Oval.

It is fitting that Spencer should reach the milestone in such an historic match for the WAFL. It will be the first time a league fixture has been played outside the metropolitan area.

Playing 150 games has always been an ambition of the dedicated Spencer.

Life membership

His father, Jim earned life membership of the club after playing 185 senior games and on Sunday the pair will notch an impressive record.

But for Spencer junior, it has been far from easy.

His crippling injuries would have put a lesser man out of the game.

But he is now aiming at breaking the club record, which Derek Chadwick holds with 269 matches.

That means Spencer will have to play at least six more full seasons.

"The total of games played is very important to me," Spencer says. "No-one can ever take them away."

"I aim to play league football for another seven years."

Spencer's career began in 1974 when he joined the Royals as a schoolboy and it wasn't long before the first of a series of injuries took their toll.

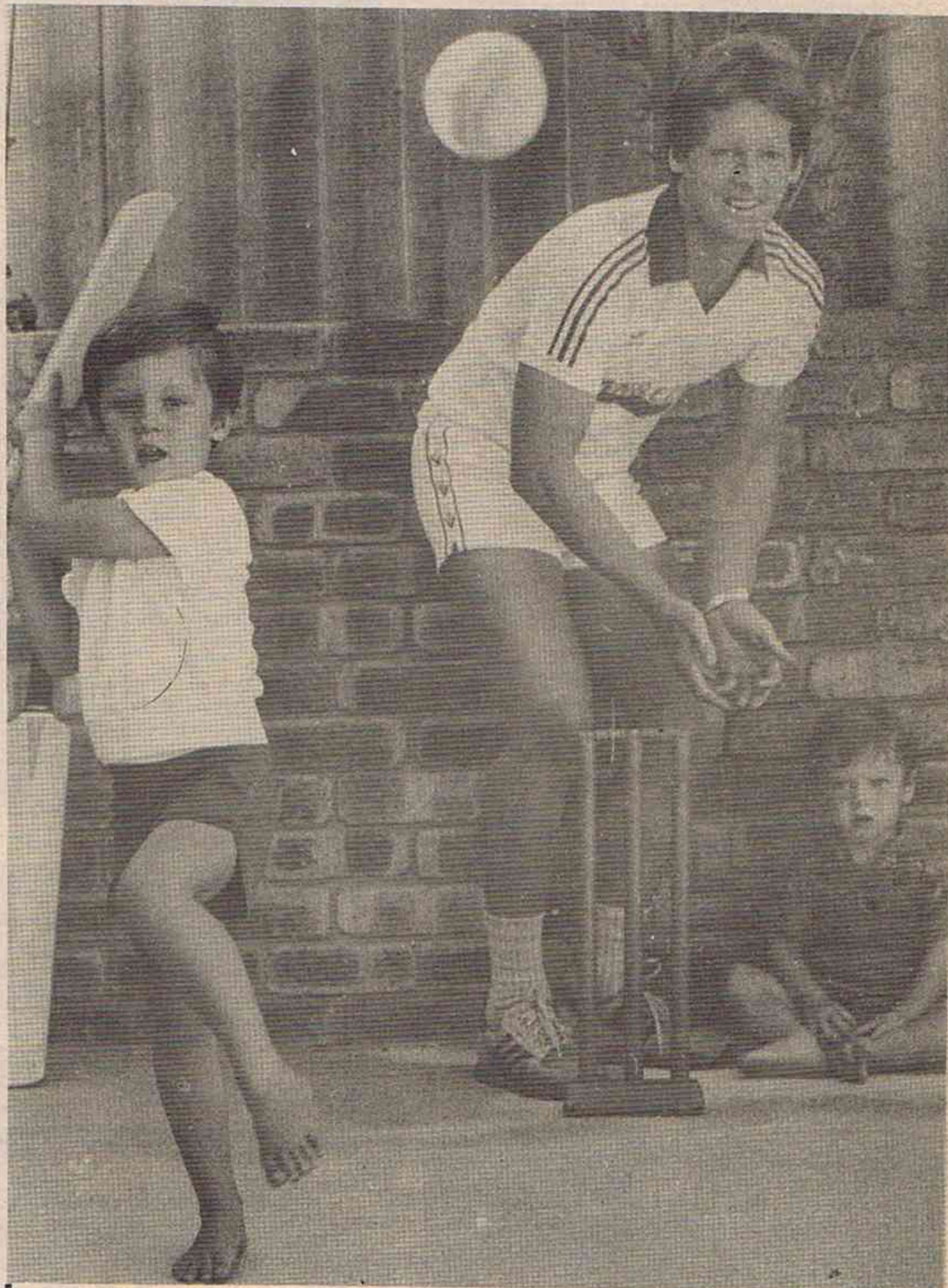
DETERMINED

He treated every practice match like a grand final because he was determined not to fail.

But vivid in his memory is the seven minute mark of the second quarter in his fifth game. Alan Quartermaine had kicked the ball to Spencer, but it went over his head.

He was oblivious to the two Swan Districts defenders charging out from goal — he woke up in the changerooms with a broken jaw.

• More page 12



150 Up and going strong

Star East Perth centreman Peter Spencer will play his 150th game for the Royals this Sunday... but he still has time to get in some cricket practice at home with his young children Stephen (batting) and Ben, sitting behind the stumps.



THE BIG VOICE IN FOOTBALL



With Kim Hagdorn

Stand up and fight

IT'S about time the VFL was put in its place. FOR too long now they have dictated to the so-called minor leagues.

We should remind them that we are the Australian football champions, bolstering player-grabbing, money-hungry VFL clubs.

Their moves this month show scant regard for football throughout the nation. To have even considered granting Phil Narkle and Phil Cronan registration to play in the VFL without clearances epitomises their arrogance and self centredness.

And then for St Kilda to recruit players without wanting to pay the required transfer fee is just as ridiculous. To offer just \$65,000 each for Narkle and Cronan is an insult, not just to the WAFL clubs concerned, but to the players themselves.

PITTANCE

Imagine Swan Districts or West Perth offering such a pittance for Trevor Barker and Jeff Sarau — they would be laughed out of town.

Narkle and Cronan are in that same class of player.

The champion Swan Districts wingman won the 1982 Sandover Medal and Barker has not even gone close to the equivalent in Melbourne.

And Cronan has been a regular member of WA teams for the past three years.

What about the under-handed way St Kilda stole Narkle a second time?

VIABLE

Swans brought him back to Perth when the Saints showed little interest in reaching a viable agreement. That was just a fortnight ago and it was a ploy to make the VFL club contact Swans if they were serious about Narkle lining up for them in 1984.

Up until this point Swans and West Perth had bent over backwards to help their players reach a life-long ambition to play in what is the pinnacle of Australian footballing standards.

It's a pity those same high standards do not apply off the arena.



Phil Narkle

Narkle was rushed back to Melbourne last Friday and was a surprise starter in St Kilda's final pre-season workout at the MCG on Saturday. Swans didn't even know the Saints had flown the dynamic wingman back to Melbourne.

This shoddy treatment of WA players and clubs has reached boiling point and must be put to an end.

PUSHED

WA's new board of directors proved they will not be pushed around when VFL general manager Jack Hamilton suggested that he would allow Narkle and Cronan to take the field without WAFL approval.

They did it to two South Australian clubs, but our board was not about to see a repeat in the West.

The WAFL and SANFL must join forces to combat the almighty Victorians, otherwise the game as we know it today will be destroyed.

MILLER MILESTONE

Channel 7 critic Bob Miller will celebrate his 20th year with the media when he lines up in front of the cameras for the World of Sport programme on Sunday. Miller, the father of Perth coach Ian Miller, was himself a top player and coach for the Demons and since retiring has worked on football in a variety of roles. Apart from working with Seven, he was also a commentator for Radio 6IX for about four years.

BROADWAY STARS?

The East Perth players review was a big hit last Sunday and there were some outstanding performances given by some of the club's stars. Peter Spencer was sensational as Sid Vicious, Wayne Otway made a fearsome looking punk and young David Morgan was lucky to escape the clutches of the male members of the audience after his skit as Olivia Newton-John. The turn up was a little disappointing, but organiser Greg Walsh should be congratulated on his directing. Rumour has it that the players intend to stage another review later in the year.

CARVING A PLACE

Two years ago when young East Perth wingman Greg Carpenter was named the WA Football Media Guild's player of the future, big things were expected. But last season Carpenter struggled for league matches. He suffered from the well-known second year blues and spent more time in the reserves than he did in the senior side. Now he is carving out a place again in the Royals league team — this time as a specialist back-pocket player. He has been one of his club's most consistent performers in pre-season matches and he seems to be enjoying his football back there.

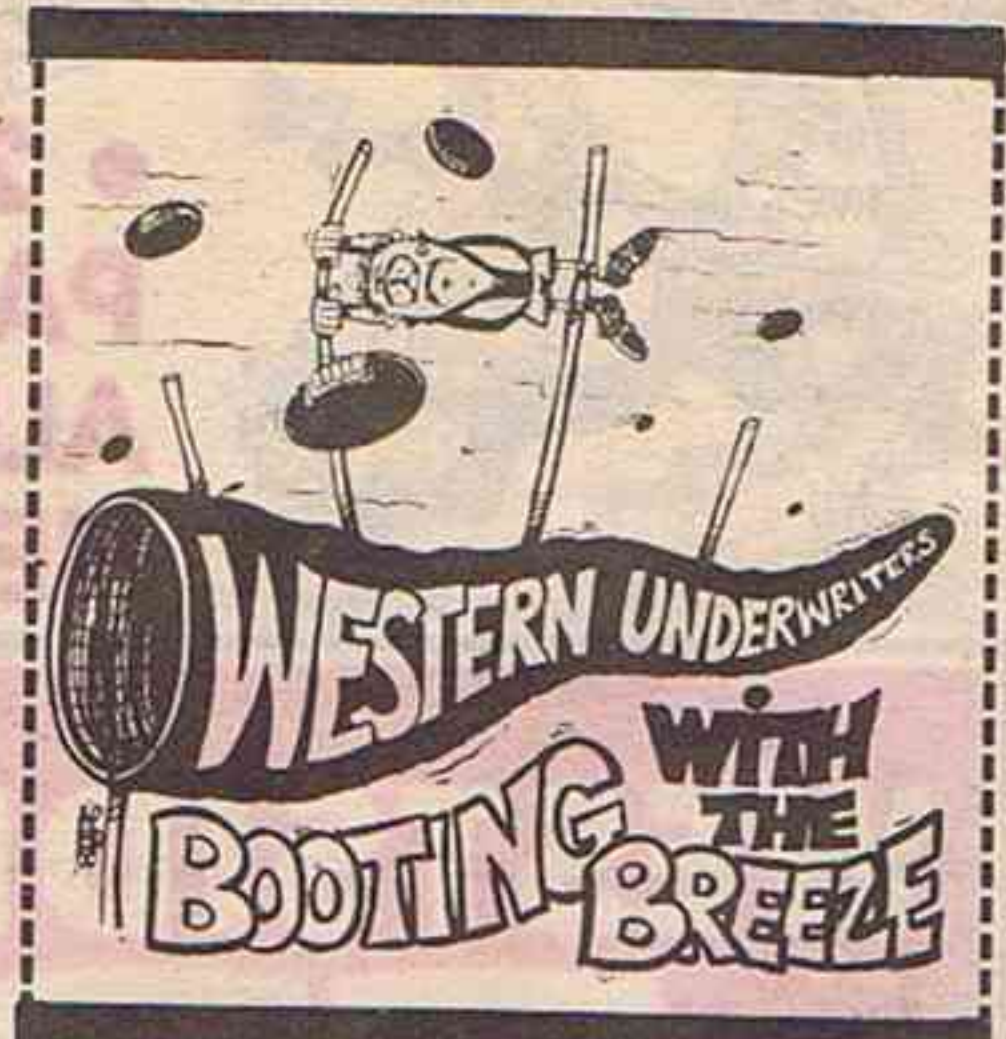
BULLDOG BOARD

Two new directors have been appointed to South Fremantle's board of directors. David Millar will be the chairman of the marketing committee while Peter Kelly will also be involved in marketing and promotion at the club.



Big Jump

FOOTBALL is not the only sporting interest of the people at Western Underwriters, sponsors of this column and also the windsocks at our WAFL grounds. Australian high jumping champion Christine Stanton, a silver medallist at the Brisbane Commonwealth Games and a contender for the Los Angeles Olympics, has joined the firm's public relations section. She is pictured with WU's State manager, Peter Banks.



SPARKS WILL FLY

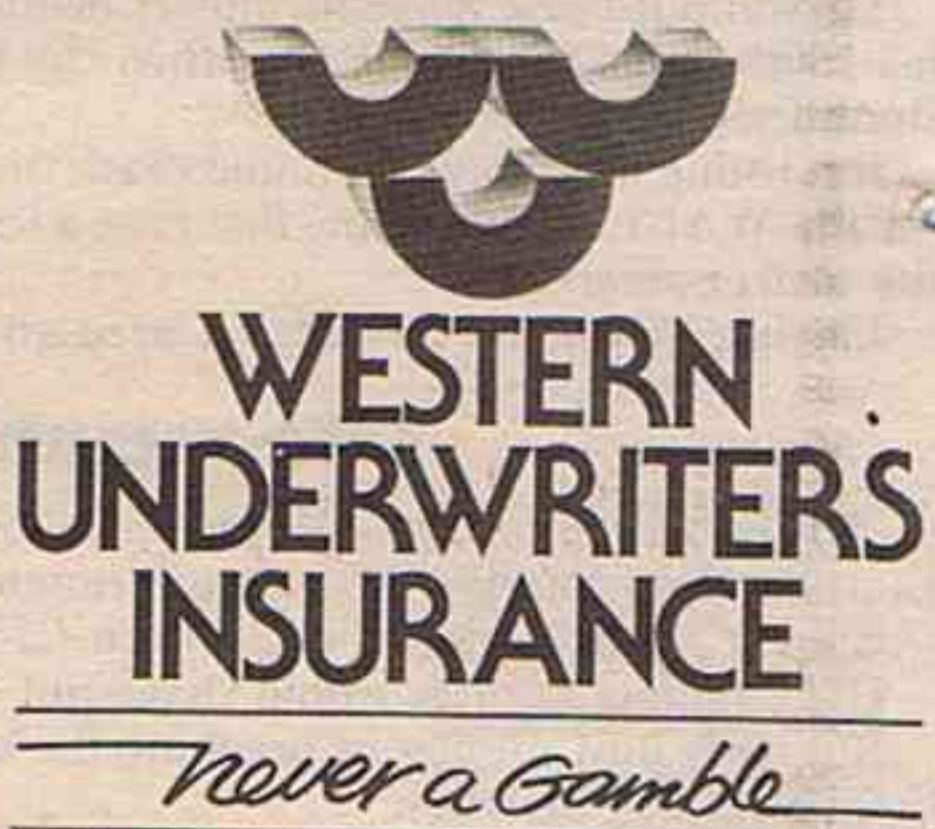
The Sparks family was well represented in the final practice match of the season between East Perth and Claremont. Ciaran Sparks, the youngest of three brothers at the club, lined up as a ruck rover in the colts. Then, when the siren sounded to end that contest, oldest brother Kevan made his entry with East Perth's reserves on a half-back flank. At the end of the reserves the two brothers then sat back and watched middle brother, Russell, in action in the league contest. Kevan also played league football with the Royals in 1982 before going to Queensland last season. Who knows, maybe one day all three will be in action in the same game.

AMPOL AWARDS

Ampol will again be heavily involved in WAFL promotions this season. The company will sponsor the Miss Football Quest as well as the league umpires. The best umpire for each of the three series will receive \$500 while the runner-up will get \$250. The best umpire over the entire season will win a trip for two to London and the runner-up will collect \$750. The most improved field umpire will receive \$500. The three leading boundary umpires will pick up a total of \$1500 — the breakdown being \$800, \$500 and \$200. Similar amounts will be awarded to the top three goal umpires. The winner of the Miss Football Quest will win a trip for two to South-East Asia, flying Cathay Pacific.

MEGASTAR MICK

Mick Malone, who was one of the leading cricket commentators in WA last summer, will continue behind the microphone during the football season as an around-the-groundsman for the ABC. Malone, a former Test cricketer and league footballer with Subiaco, coached the Lions reserves side last year.



FORM GUIDE and THIS WEEK'S GAMES

WORLD OF



9am SUNDAYS

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

CLAREMONT (1983 Runners-up)	v South Fremantle at Fremantle
SOUTH FREMANTLE (Third in 1983)	v Claremont at Fremantle
WEST PERTH (Sixth in 1983)	v Perth at Leederville
EAST FREMANTLE (Fourth in 1983)	v Subiaco at Subiaco
SUBIACO (Seventh in 1983)	v East Fremantle at Subiaco
PERTH (Eighth in 1983)	v West Perth at Leederville

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

SWAN DISTRICTS (Premiers in 1983)	v East Perth in Bunbury
EAST PERTH (Fifth in 1983)	v Swans in Bunbury

7
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 Second Prize:
 \$1,000

7
Goalkicker of the Year
 1984 Winner:
 \$2,000

7
Ian Diffen MARK-OF-THE-DAY
 Weekly Winner:
 \$100
MARK-OF-THE-YEAR
 Player \$1,000
 Viewer \$500

7
Town & Country WA GOAL-OF-THE-DAY
 Weekly Winner:
 \$100
GOAL-OF-THE-YEAR
 Player \$1,000
 Viewer \$500

7
SANDOVER MEDAL
 Winner \$20,000
 Runner-up \$3,000
 Third Place \$2,000

The Chairman's thoughts on 1984

BY WAFL CHAIRMAN VINCENT YOVICH

IT would be an under-statement to say that a lot has happened in football since the close of the 1983 season. The whole structure of football administration in this State has been over-hauled and the WAFL is now run by an independent and devoted group of men, from all walks of life and various professions. Last year the WAFL became the champion football State with memorable victories over South Australia and Victoria and those same high priorities will be maintained. Already in practice matches we have seen some of the lower clubs from 1983 showing improvement and that augers well for a more even competition this season. There has not been a great exodus of our top players to the VFL this year and with players like Gary Malarkey, Peter Featherby,

Wayne Otway, Peter Bosustow and Roberty Wiley returning, I believe our competition will continue to flourish. I am excited about the 1984 season and I am looking forward to helping to keep West Australian football at the top. This Saturday the season will kick off with three home and away fixtures in Perth and on Sunday comes the historic clash at Bunbury between East Perth and Swan Districts. Indications are that the Bunbury fixture will be a tremendous success. In the last two seasons nearby Collie has held practice matches involving Swan Districts and VFL clubs North Melbourne and Footscray and they have been extremely well supported. I take this opportunity to wish all club administrators, coaches, players and supporters a most enjoyable year.



Tasks for new force

FOOTBALL'S Task Force has given some very clear mandates as to where its obligations lie — and given that everything they have planned comes to fruition, the game in this State will undoubtedly move in the right direction.

Many people have thrown ideas around and the Task Force has picked up some excellent suggestions.

Nothing can operate successfully without capital.

The new Board of Directors is not different and they should be given access to the purse strings to control the incidental, but back-breaking burdens of such things as ground rentals and the like.

In themselves, these costs are prohibitive and they are only one item. All up, the eight league clubs need something in excess of \$800,000 annually and ground rentals are only one item in a long list.

Most of our clubs stayed in business last year through the trade in players to Victorian clubs. Things have altered and the cash flow has dropped to a trickle and the belts will be very tight indeed this year.

The Board, to move and act freely and independently of the eight clubs it serves, should have a bank of its own. It's time, I think, to work on some kind of subsidy from Instant Lotto, the TAB, or better still, Aussie Pools.

I know that the VFL have had some form of betting in operation and the word is that the public reaction wasn't all that fantastic.

SURVEY

I am sure that if a public survey was held over here, then a scheme could be arrived at where the man in the street would come up with a format attractive to himself.

The State Government recently legislated to install a vehicle for soccer pools to operate in WA.

If they can do it for an imported game, then surely they can also do it for the game which was born and bred in this country and which, for that matter, is supported by a greater following than any other sport.

The fact that Aussie Rules is not international is only proffered as an argument by "knockers" or those envious of the support the "home product" gets.

Grid iron is peculiar to the Americans and yet they take great pride in the game and it is supported to a point where a player recently was involved in a deal worth more than \$40 million.

YANKS

The yanks are intent on catering to their own people; they do not believe that because their own game is not international, it is any the less spectacular or enthralling to the thousands that support it.

In this our people could well take heed

FOOTBALL'S NEW FORCE



Football's new Board of Directors — REAR (from left) Richard Colless, Bill Mitchell, Tom Stannage, Peter Fogarty. FRONT (from left) Dwane Buckland, Vincent Yovich (chairman), Roy Annear.

and be prepared to be counted when our game is being sold short.

Given that pools return hefty rewards on which the public dollar can be manipulated by the Board, then think on this idea.

Local clubs should be banned from importing talent across State lines. This would then force them to work harder in the ranks of country zones and among juniors.

Such a proposition is always being kicked around in one conversation or another and it would be a way of pushing the development scene.

HANDICAPPER

Clubs would then start to tilt toward one end of the see-saw or the other and when that occurs the Board can come into the field as handicapper.

The alone, with considerable money behind them, could import top players and feed them into bottom sides in an endeavour to balance out the competition.

For example last year's top four sides — Swans, Claremont, South Fremantle and East Fremantle — should hold their player positions.

The other four sides, whose playing strength was down, could apply to the Task Force for players needed to fill the positions considered to be weak.

The public would then have eight sides in the running and that is far more preferable

than the situation where the strong eat the weak year after year.

Having a cheque book on tap that might lure some of the top names in Melbourne to WA would also have a lot of impact on the VFL. It just might create a situation where the Vics come to terms with the realisation that other States play the game also.



Wheelchair sportsman extraordinaire

Bill Mather-Brown is this week's

Guest Columnist

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Give Mr Yovich and his men the funds and the mandate to go ahead and balance up our competition along the lines suggested and I think we would be going places.

I realise that we have many people here whose club interests preclude them from seeing the over-all benefit of what I'm saying.

But none of us are that blind that we cannot see the benefit of what the Task Force report and its subsequent new Board has to offer.

Let's give them a go.

THE WACA OR NOT

I DON'T like the idea of football joining forces with cricket to develop the WACA ground for mutual benefit.

In the long term the cricket fans will get a great venue and football will be the poor relation who comes calling during winter.

Besides, if the surface isn't doctored properly, it is no more than a swimming pool during the wet days as many people can recall.

It was explained to me that the big advantage to the proposition was that a subsidy can be gained from the Federal Government for the development of an international sporting arena.

The same money is not available to Aussie Rules administration because the grounds are not used by teams from overseas.

The fact that Aussie Rules, as I've said, draws more support within this country than any other game seems to be ignored by the people in Canberra.

It is time we petitioned those gentlemen with thousands of signatures. They might then realise that, as Australians, they are our democratically elected government and are expected to recognise the Australian game and its followers.

To this point you could almost bet odds on that every Aussie Rules competition would unite for the common cause. It would not be before time.



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IAN MILLER

The VFL system

Perth would love to have Peter Bosustow in their line-up for the first game — but that cannot be. He was suspended in Victoria last year and the NFL and VFL have ruled that he must serve the balance of his term, two Carlton games. Because he was cleared back to the WAFL and is now a Perth player, I believe the case should have been heard by the WAFL tribunal and that practice matches should have made up the balance of his suspension. The VFL would not agree, but I wonder how Carlton and the VFL would react if the boot was on the other foot.

FITZY SETBACK

After years of combining cricket and football commitments, Ross Fitzgerald decided to set himself a solid programme in preparation for the 1984 season. He worked hard from October, giving up cricket since February. However, after just one practice game he found he had a stress fracture of the shin. He will resume in two weeks time after a six week lay-off and is looking for a successful season.

CRICKET PROSPECT

Promising young cricketer Darrin Ramshaw has decided to play football this season and had his first run with the Perth colts last weekend. Darrin came to Perth under the father/son rule (Graham played 176 games for the Demons) and he is a skilful young player. His football fitness is below par at present (he should have been doing more work at cricket training) but I am sure he will be an asset to the Perth Football Club.

ALEXANDER THE LAST

After speaking with East Fremantle captain coach Ron Alexander during a recent practice game, it seems as though his playing future is uncertain. Recurring hamstring injuries have restricted his preparation, although he did play one quarter last weekend against South Fremantle. Ron is the last of the playing coaches in the WAFL and if he retires 1984 could see eight non-playing coaches. However, I'm sure Ron and East Fremantle will be trying to avoid such a situation.

COLTS PROPOSAL

A recent recommendation by colts coaches to have the number of interchange players increased from two to four should be passed. Not only does it give the team greater flexibility, but it gives more players an opportunity. Most clubs are in the same predicament, with large training lists, and this move gives coaches the opportunity to keep more players at a club.

DEMON BONANZA

Last Friday night at Gloucester Park in an inviation relay sprint (4x200 metres) the Perth players showed complete confidence in their team. They couldn't reject the offer of one bookmaker who was quoting 6-1 and when they finished the race well in front they picked up the \$500 prizemoney — plus a bit on the side.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

I was impressed with Steve Richardson's performance last week for Swan Districts on a wing. He is a twin brother of Mike Richardson and he worked hard, used the ball well and was very aggressive. I just hope he continues to use his aggression in the correct manner. While on Swans, I believe Craig Hoyer will cause a few headaches this year for opposition back-pocket players and kick his fair share of goals.

Medibank Private

PREVIEW

A look at Saturday's WAFL league fixtures

OUR EXPERTS SELECT:

	S. Frem v Clare	Subiaco v E. Frem	W. Perth v Perth	Swans v E. Perth
GARY STOCKS	Claremont	East Fremantle	Perth	Swans
ALAN EAST	South Fremantle	Subiaco	West Perth	Swans
PETER POAT	Claremont	Subiaco	Perth	Swans
DAVE CLEMENT	Claremont	Subiaco	Perth	Swans
GRANT DORRINGTON	Claremont	East Fremantle	Perth	Swans
KIM HAGDORN	South Fremantle	Subiaco	Perth	Swans
JOHN DUCKWORTH	Claremont	East Fremantle	West Perth	Swans
IAN MILLER	South Fremantle	East Fremantle	Perth	Swans
ROBERT BENNETT	Claremont	East Fremantle	West Perth	Swans
GARY CARVOLTH	South Fremantle	Subiaco	Perth	Swans
MOTHER BROWN	South Fremantle	Subiaco	Perth	Swans
MOST FAVOURED	Claremont	Subiaco	Perth	Swans

SHARKS UNDER PRESSURE

East Fremantle go into their opening round match against Subiaco under a great degree of pressure.

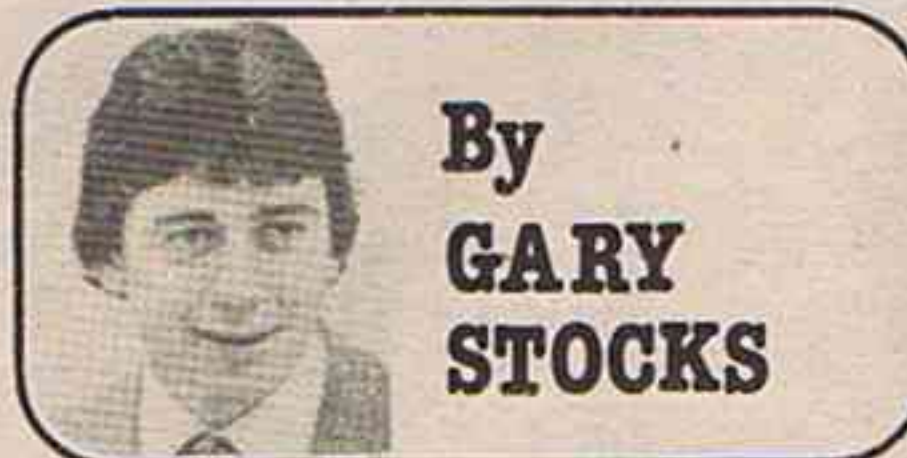
After being the big improvers last season they cannot afford to drop their opening game of the season to a side which should not finish in the four.

Coach Ron Alexander and his new assistant Murray Ward will be anxious to get early wins on the board so that the same situation that developed last year, when they had to win the last game of the season to get into the finals, will not be repeated.

Obviously the Sharks will be looking to star centreman Murray Wrensted, in just his second season of league football, to provide the midfield drive. He will need support from players like Bill Jones, Jeff Cassidy and Roger Kerr.

If Wrensted plays in the centre against veteran Peter Featherby it could provide the most interesting duel of the day.

It will be a case of the young rookie



By GARY STOCKS

taking on one of the best linkmen in the game.

The ruck tussles should also prove an enthralling side-light. Paul Harding, the most improved big man in WA football last season, will take on Laurie Keene, Phil Scott and Paul Ross.

Subiaco will need captain Neil Taylor, ruck-rover Phil Lamb and half-back Dwayne Lamb in top form if they are to beat the Sharks.

Smile of the Tiger

Bruce Monteath had a magnificent goal kicking record against the Tigers, but this time the tables will be turned as he lines up for Claremont against his old club.

Monteath showed in a practice match against South that he is keen to do extra well against them and he will be even more determined on Saturday.

Together with young full-forward Alan Rowe he could give Claremont the goal kicking power they need to take the four points.

The Bulldogs are an unknown quantity at the moment, but they are sure to be in the top half of the premiership table at the end of the qualifying games.

Claremont, too will be near the top of the ladder.

David O'Connell has been the most impressive of the Claremont ruckman in pre-season work and it will be interesting to see how he handles the experience and strength of Craig Edwards.

Claremont's running players could again be the key.

Allen Daniels, Darrell Panizza, Michael Mitchell and newly appointed skipper Noel Morton, who will also find himself in a new position of wingman, should provide that "run".

Brad Hardie and Noel Carter will have to work hard to curb the effect of their opponents and it is a tough task.

Claremont should win the replay of last year's second semi final.

Royals in for torrid time

The game in Bunbury on Sunday sees a historical confrontation between East Perth and Swan Districts, but the Royals might be best served forgetting it.

The actual match will go down in the history books and while East Perth feel proud to be a part of it now they will want to dis-associate themselves with once the Swan Districts machine destroys them.

Apart from Greg Walsh, Peter Spencer and Wayne Otway the Royals lack senior players. They lost far too many experienced competitors over the

payments dispute and there is no substitute for that.

STRENGTH

Swans will have too much strength through players like Murray Rance, Brad Shine, Tony Solin, Don Holmes and Peter Ware.

East Perth do not have the players capable of stopping the flow on football of their opponents.

Never-the-less it is a tremendous concept to promote football in the country areas and no doubt the people of Bunbury will turn up in their droves to see the contest.

How good are Perth?

Perth have been freely tipped to be the big improvers this year and the first gauge as to how much they have lifted their rating will be seen when they play West Perth at Leederville Oval.

All the talk at Lathlain Park pre-season concentrated on the return of Robert Wiley and Peter Bosustow, but apart from this obviously talented pair several young players are ready to emerge.

Undoubtedly the presence of Wiley and Bosustow will help those players to mature.

Wiley had a tremendous time in the VFL with Richmond and he became one of the most devastating rover/ruck-rover types in Melbourne.

SENSATION

Bosustow was a sensation with Carlton, but he might struggle initially on his return to his home State. He has not been able to do much over pre-season and is carrying weight so he could take time to adjust to playing in front of small crowds once again.

West Perth will have to rely on Les Fong once again. He has carried them for the last three or four seasons and sooner or later the weight will become too great.

Funny how things change, isn't it? This

time last year West Perth looked the goods and Perth were certain to be among the also-rans.

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BENNETT'S BURST

By respected veteran football writer ROBERT BENNETT



Another flag for Swans

Who said lightning doesn't strike twice in the same spot?

It's going to zap Subiaco Oval in September for the third successive year — another Swan Districts-Claremont grand final.

I doubt if there is a side in the competition capable of keeping pace with the two teams who have monopolised grand final berths over the past four years.

Claremont will be lining up for their fourth successive grand final, while Swans, in chasing a hat-trick of premierships, should power into their fourth in five years.

That's the bad news for supporters of other clubs.

The good news is that you can virtually raffle the other two spots in the final four.

South will be hard to push out of the

four, mainly because they are so difficult to beat at home. But they will come right back to the field without Stephen Michael and Bruce Monteath.

Practice match form is notoriously bad as a guide for a team's prospects once the business part of the season opens.

However, it is hard to ignore Perth's impressive pre-season form and Subiaco have also shown they can be big improvers this season.

Both those sides will have more sting on the ball this season.

In Robert Wiley and Bryan Cousins, the Demons have the best roving duo in the league. If Gary Malarkey plays, Perth will have someone to prop up their defence and help put the ball in Peter Bosustow's direction.

Presence

Peter (Mr "keep-it-on-a-string") Featherby will also make his presence felt in the Subiaco camp.

I think Perth could be the big improvers this season, but despite the magic of Haydn Bunton I believe Subiaco will not be a finals contender.

That leaves three other sides.

West Perth appear as though they could be the duffers of the 1984 season. But I wouldn't wipe them off.

While I can't see them making the four, I don't think they will be as easy to beat as their pre-season form suggests.

Big things will be expected from East Fremantle this year.

They had a real patchy season last year. At one stage they looked the best team in the competition yet only just managed to fall into the four.

They will be better for that finals appearance and I think they will finish in the four.

Enigma

East Perth are the enigma of the competition. In past seasons you could chalk a place in the four for them. They have lost a lot of talent in the past two years, but will still come up with a competitive team.

Which brings me back to Swans and Claremont.

Swans will certainly feel the loss of Leon Baker and Phil Narkle, however there is such an abundance of talent at the club that they should be able to adequately cover for them.

Like Swans, the Tigers have a reservoir of talent. Monteath will help offset the loss of Warren Ralph, but Graham Moss will leave a big hole, mainly because of his on-field leadership. And Wayne Blackwell will be hard to replace.

Swans certainly have the incentive to make it three in a row, but I think Claremont may finally even the score this season.

Chasing them home, not necessarily in this order, will be the two Fremantle sides and then possibly Perth.

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FOOTBALL WORLD

Tomorrow at
Dianella Hotel
Next week:
Charles Hotel

Marlow's

present...

THE HOOD

WA's most feared
footy columnist.



Gibber' moves on

The nomadic travels of Gary Gibellini seem set to continue. At Perth Oval last Saturday he was in the coach's box with Greg Brehaut and there is a strong rumour that he will become the club's next chairman of selectors. Gibellini has had mixed success as a coach since his playing days, firstly at Subiaco Oval and then at East Fremantle, both for just one-year stints with the reserves. Rumour has it that Gibellini, the former East Fremantle and Perth ruck rover, is about to take over from Laurie Kennedy. Apparently Kennedy's administrative role at the club is taking too much time and he can no longer concentrate on player performances.

MORE ON MALARKEY

Much has been written about the Gary Malarkey on-again-off-again relationship with East Perth. Take it from me the reason he is not playing for the Royals this season is that he exchanged words in private conversation with a leading Royal official. Although he wanted to finish his career with the Royals initially, it was a personality clash which led him to Perth.

NARKLE'S SPARKLE

My spies in Melbourne have come up with a concrete reason for Phil Narkle's unexpected return to St Kilda. Apparently the Saints gave him \$25,000 to sign on the dotted line, a further \$35,000 in his bank account for the coming season, a car and a house. No wonder he doesn't want to stay in WA. Who would with a sparkling contract like that on the line.

HANDY BONUS

SUBIACO have really set the pace with novel sponsorship ideas this season. Their \$100,000 lure offered by Western Underwriters and Channel 9 to make the final four is a huge incentive. The two companies will also help Subiaco break new ground by being the first club to have logos on the shorts of the players. However, WU and Channel 9 have everything going their way in this promotion. Subiaco will get nothing, not even a fee for the shorts endorsement, if they don't make the top four.

SECRET SOCIETY

THERE are still people in football club circles who believe in secrets. Even in today's sophisticated world of eavesdropping — everyone knows about telephone bugging, even politicians — it is impossible to keep something to yourself. So it was no wonder that Sunday Times football writer Ray Wilson broke the story last weekend about the charge laid against Footscray captain Jim Edmond in that Collie fiasco involving Swan Districts and their 19-men. The officials obviously tried to keep the incident quiet, withdrawing charges and so forth and taking a 'closed shop' attitude to the whole thing. But somehow, somewhere it slipped out, even if it was a couple of weeks late. Sooner or later football officials are going to learn that it's better to be honest about everything.

BATTLING BOARD

IT'S encouraging to see our new independent Board of Directors making threats to stand up to the power-hungry VFL directors, the men who are supposed to lead the way when it comes to football development, but instead only lead the way in football harvesting. We have often seen our club presidents make threats to the Big Vee in the past, only to back down when club loyalty came into it. Now, this independents can go ahead and take strong action — but will it get them anywhere? One wonders just what we, as a 'minor' State, can do about the Vics, if anything.



RETIRED

Despite constant reports that South Fremantle defender Tony Kelly has retired, I can assure Bulldog fans that he will be playing this season. The rugged backman has been plagued by injury in the last three seasons, and while he has a slight ankle problem at the moment, he will play league football this year. He has no intention of giving football away — especially just seven games short of his century — and he will play an important role in a key defensive position this year.

VFL INFLUENCE

A LOCAL coach of junior football decided to show his youngsters some instructional video tapes. He checked around the league clubs and found that they had nothing available on VHS — which is what most junior football clubs use — and was sent towards the WAFL office. He borrowed a few that had some impressive sounding names and duly showed them to his attentive youngsters. They were received fairly well — except that it was virtually all Victorian football. As one innocent youngster said after one of the NFL productions — "They play footy in front of TV cameras everywhere in Australia, even Darwin, but not in Perth, eh?" Maybe it's about time we started producing video tapes featuring players that our juniors can identify with every Saturday.

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MIDLAND: Cnr Lloyd & Gt Eastern Hwy 274 6422
VIC PARK: 839 Albany Highway 361 8422



Swan Districts rover-half forward Don Holmes is equally at home in the pool as a swimming instructor, as he is on the lush turf of league football's big grounds.

Head injuries were a problem last year for Swan Districts half-forward Don Holmes.

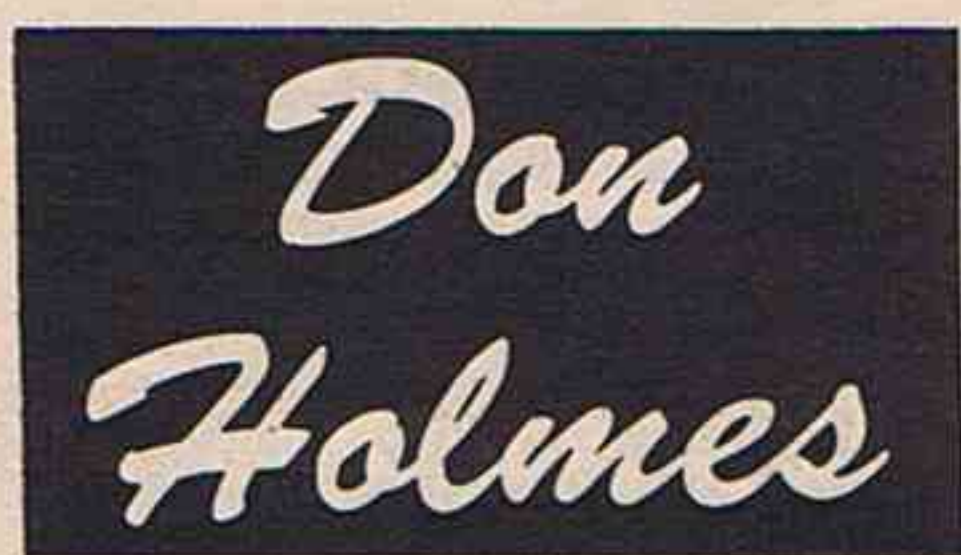
A severe knock in the Emu Export Carnival ruined what was going to be his biggest season in league football.

He was being groomed to play a similar role to that taken on by Mike Richardson in 1982 and he looked like becoming a player of similar magnitude.

In pre-season matches he kicked two bags of 10 goals from the half-forward flank and in the game leading up to that fateful carnival he kicked six goals.

But in the final of the carnival against East Fremantle he was knocked unconscious, received a depressed fracture of the cheek and had his nose flattened.

That was the start of 10 weeks of sheer hell as he had the annoying and frustrating



time of sitting on the bench and watching his team mates in action.

Even then his problems were only just beginning.

Holmes was advised to wear a helmet as protection. He found the full helmet, like Phil Narkle's, too bulky and approached

the WAFL's panel of doctors to pass a bicycle-style head guard.

Permission was refused. In the end he played without a helmet and took the risk of copping a serious injury.

However, this year he will wear a helmet designed specifically for football by Fitzroy champion Garry Wilson.

Holmes has had a similar build-up in his pre-season work this year to that of 1983 and all going well he should be a key player once more for Swans.

Last year he overcame adversity to be a driving force in their premiership success and he is keen to again be in a winning grand final team on that one day in September.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Don Holmes
 Date of Birth: 5/1/59
 Place of Birth: Bridgetown
 Height: 5.10½ (179cm) Weight: 12.2 (77kg)
 Previous club: Mt Helena
 Occupation: Teacher
 Major awards: Numerous fairest and best awards in juniors
 Marital status: Single
 Wife/girlfriend's name: Sarina
 Other sporting interests: Swimming, Tennis, Squash, Golf
 Favourite actor: Ellie McPherson (The TAB girl)
 Favourite movie: Flying High
 Favourite food: Chinese and Italian
 Favourite drink: Ouzo
 Nickname: Horse
 Why?: I think it's because I run fast — but I'm not sure

Favourite Book: Eagle in the Sky by Wilbur Smith
 Car: Hi-Ace Van
 Career Highlight: Playing in the 1982 and 1983 premiership sides at Swans
 Worst moment in football: Losing the 1980 grand final and the injury problems I had last year
 Hard things in football: Training on cold winter nights
 How do you mentally prepare for a game: I just watch television in the morning and try to relax as much as possible
 Football idols: Alex Jesaulenko, Phil Narkle
 Ambitions: To play in another premiership side this year
 Advice to youngsters: I would just suggest to them that they listen to every word their coach says
 Current position: Rover/half-forward
 Favourite position: Half-forward
 Biggest influence on your career: John Todd
 League debut: 1979
 Guernsey number: 33

MILESTONE MEN

100 GAMES

- Doug Simms (WP) 99 *
- Jeff Cassidy (EF) 99 *
- Leigh Brenton (SD) 99 *
- Peter Murnane (WP) 98 *
- Brad Hardie (SF) 97
- Grant Campbell (EP) 96
- Ross Fitzgerald (SD) 96 *

* Denotes that tally includes other club games as follows: Doug Simms 94 Perth; Jeff Cassidy 50 Geelong; Leigh Brenton 85 Fremantle; Peter Murnane 80 Hawthorn; Ross Fitzgerald 77 Swan Districts.

250 GAMES

- Bruce Monteath (C) 245 *
- Gary Malarkey (P) 244 *

* Denotes that tally includes games with two or more clubs as follows: Bruce Monteath 128 Richmond, 117 South Fremantle; Gary Malarkey 143 Geelong, 101 East Perth.

200 GAMES

- Ross Prunster (P) 192 *
- Ron Boucher (SD) 190

* Denotes that tally includes games with two or more clubs as follows: Ross Prunster 159 West Perth, 33 Perth.

150 GAMES

- Peter Spencer (EF) 149
- Wayne Otway (EP) 146 *
- Brian Adamson (WP) 146 *

* Denotes that tally includes games with two or more clubs as follows: Wayne Otway 110 East Perth, 36 Essendon; Brian Adamson 124 West Perth, 22 Norwood.

50 GAMES

- Jeff Cassidy (EF) 49
- Lindsay Carter (P) 48
- Mark Washfold (P) 48

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Birthday greetings



KANTHER BRADMORE

- Mark Edgely (C) 20 on March 29th
- Peter Thomas (S) 24 on 31st
- Colin Wilkins (P) 23 on April 1st
- Phil Bradmore (WP) 25 on 2nd
- Lindsay Kanther (C) 24 on 2nd
- Mitch Fussell (S) 24 on 3rd
- Rod Grljusich (SF) 20 on 3rd
- Jeff Stone (C) 22 on 4th
- Mark Watson (C) 24 on 4th
- Chris Foulkes (C) 22 on 6th



FUSSELL WATSON





WELL, AT LEAST THEY'LL HAVE SOMEONE BESIDES US AND THE KIDS TO YELL AT FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS!

GARY'S GOSSIP

By 6PR Radio personality
GARY CARVOLTH

You haven't seen anything yet

WELL, here we go with what promises to be one of the most controversial seasons ever. Already there has been heaps of pre-season publicity about interstate clearances, player contracts, club finances! Believe me, you haven't heard anything yet and I am just the boy to keep you informed.

ANOTHER BUDGIE

Tony Buhagiar is cock-a-hoop at the moment because his wife Michelle presented the courageous little rover with a beautiful baby daughter recently. Talking of the "Budgie" all my mates in Melbourne are predicting a big season for the former Sharks star.

WHERE IS HE?

What ever happened to big John Rose, the former Swan Districts ruckman, whose career was cut short by illness? He was prominent with Swan Districts and Subiaco in administrative roles, but is now manager of Swann Insurance, who are former major sponsors of Swans.

Another well known football identity, Peter Brophy, of Swans and Falcons fame, is doing well in the hotel industry. He is managing the Crestwood Perth Inntown Hotel and I believe it's a great spot.

HUMOUR

I am so pleased to hear that John K. Watts will be added to the Channel 7 Sunday Football Show this year. This otherwise slick and informative show needed a bit of humour and JKW will certainly provide that!

EARLY PREDICTION

One of my early predictions is the eventual clash of the media giants — Channel 7 and Channel 9 — regarding telecast rights for our league games. Seven has the situation well in hand at present with at least another year of their contract to run. However the Bond Corporation, which controls Channel 9 and the Swan Brewery, will be making strong overtures to the WAFL in the future.



The R & I Bank present . . .

FOOTBALL FACTS

With DAVE CLEMENT
WA's top football
historian.

An ironical twist — 100 years on

While next year, 1985, marks the centenary of football in this State, Saturday will see the start of our 100th season.

Times have changed since 1885, but some aspects of football have not. The original teams had their Tigers (yellow and black), the Rovers, red and blue, Victorians and even umpires.

Right from the outset the umpires received a fair degree of criticism. The first goal scored prompted one journalist to write: "The first of the goals should have been disallowed, but the umpire, unfortunately, didn't sufficiently understand the game."

Three hundred spectators were reportedly at the first official WAFL fixture when Rovers, with one goal, beat Victorians. The Victorians are believed to have become Metropolitan in 1889, who in turn became West Perth in 1891. The Rovers club disbanded mid-way through 1899 and their place was taken by Perth, who enlisted all the Rovers players. Ironically Perth and West Perth play each other in the first game of our 100th season.

TODD'S PLOY

Swans coach John Todd didn't get many marks for originality for his ploy in sending 19 men onto the ground in the pre-season game against Footscray at Collie.

There are many recorded instances of this happening and probably the majority were genuine mistakes.

Todd got a rap on the knuckles from his club, but remember what happened to Mal Brown in 1976 when he was coach of Claremont. He sent an injured player, John Colreavy, back onto the field after he had been replaced (the interchange rule had not been in operation then) and his team was deemed to have 19 men on the ground. Claremont's total score of 13.18 was annulled and Brown was banned from holding an official position for one year.

In the 1890s one captain complained that his opponents had too many players on the ground. A count revealed they were two over the allowed number of 20. Then a counter-claim by his opponent showed that his side had 21 on the ground.

In 1917 East Fremantle lost their first quarter score when a count of heads revealed 19 men in a game against Midland Junction.

I recall an aboriginal team from Kellerberrin playing Meckering in about 1946 when a count revealed 23 players. Even this could not help the Meckering team.

SUBI SPOIL IT

WA league football clubs again went close to creating another first. Had Subiaco kept their coach of last year instead of appointing Haydn Bunton, then it would have been the first time in post-war history that the same coaches had lined up two years in a row. Six times there has been only one change from a year to the next.

TOP SPOT

It is quite obvious that every coach would like to finish on top of the premiership table at the end of the qualifying games, but look what happened last year.

For the first time in history, in every grade of the WAFL (league, reserves and colts) and in the league competition of the VFL, the team that finished on top didn't play in the grand final.

MY PREDICTIONS

My 1984 predictions: Swans for premiers and West Perth for the wooden spoon.

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THE BANK THAT LIVES HERE



With 6KY commentator and former WAFL, VFL and SANFL star
JOHN DUCKWORTH

Do something about this!

I've been looking forward to joining the media — now I can have a go at people without getting reported!

In my first column I would like to have a go at the WAFL Board of Directors. It is time they reviewed the ducking the head rule. My good mates, the umpires, have a hard enough time as it is without a tiggly-touch-wood rule like this. So why not make it easier for them so that they can penalise a player who ducks into a tackle. Three times last Saturday in the practice match between West Perth and Subiaco, players deliberately ducked into tackles to get a free kick. They put themselves in the dangerous situation and someone is going to get seriously hurt before too long. Also, I wonder what is going to happen when someone gets reported for a head-high tackle. Perhaps this will have to happen before the rule is changed. The Victorians introduced the rule last year and it was a tremendous success.

MR COURAGEOUS

My old club has been criticised in many circles for their recruiting and selling of players in recent years and now I am going to jump on the bandwagon. How could they let a player of David Hart's ability slip through their fingers and join South Fremantle. He played the first seven games with West Perth last season before going back to the bush. I couldn't understand that, particularly when West Perth were desperate to find a roving partner for Mr Courageous. Les Fong. They tried all sorts of players last year without success and now Hart looks like having a top season with the Bulldogs. Fong can only do so much and his much maligned back will be even worse if he has to carry the burden again this year. West Perth must be trying to work the little fellow into an early grave.

NO PROMOTION

I was always taught that winning a berth in the league squad and being presented with your jumper in front of the members was one of the great moments for a player. Therefore, I was extremely disappointed when West Perth presented their league squad with their jumpers recently. The only people at the function apart from the players were their relatives. There was no promotion about the event and it must have been disappointing for those players who made the league list for the first time. With Bernice Atlee resigning late last year the Falcons have not had a marketing and promotions person in their ranks and general manager Graeme Pleydell is expected to do it all on his own. It's just not good enough.

EXPERT

I always said that once my playing days were over I would like to get involved in the media and I am looking forward to producing this regular column for Westside Football. In addition to that I am working as an around-the-groundsman with 6KY on match days and that is a different experience. Now I can walk up to a press box at a ground, step inside and become an immediate expert. It's a great feeling!



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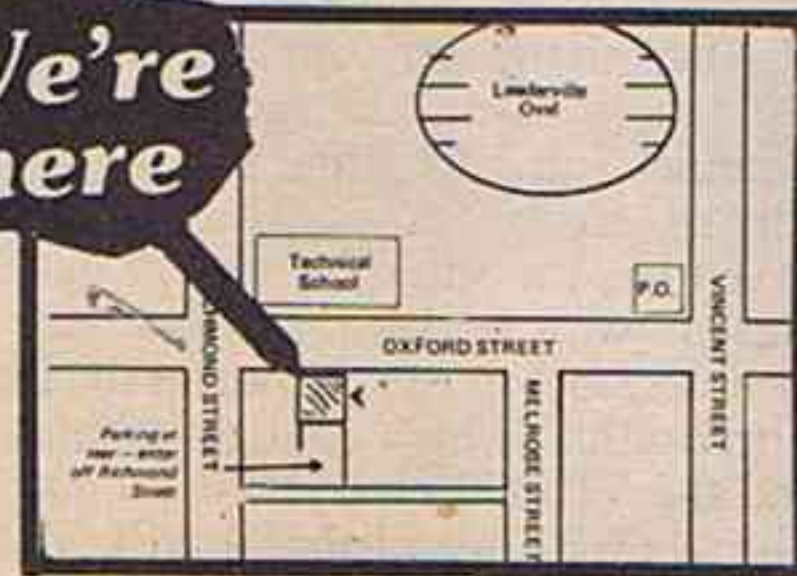
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Peter Jackson Superboot

Chance for forwards to cash in

ALL WAFL forwards must have breathed a sigh of relief when Claremont ace Warren Ralph decided to head to the VFL this season.

At last they get the opportunity to share in the Westside Football — Peter Jackson Superboot award.

Ralph won the award in the previous four seasons and in doing so raked in more than \$8000 worth of cash and prizes.

The Peter Jackson company will continue on from where Marlboro left off and again \$1000 will be awarded to the leading goalkicker after the first three series.

In addition, Westside Football will again give the winner a Golden Boot charm.

With Ralph out of the running for the prizes, several young players should come under strong contention.



Clint Brown

If Subiaco full-forward Clinton Brown can continue his form of last year — and the Lions improve their rating — then he could be hard to topple.

In a side that did not deliver the ball well into attack, he still managed to kick 59 goals last season and will be expected to maintain that high rating.

East Perth's John Scott finished second behind Ralph on the goalkicking table last season with 67 goals and he, too, must be in with a chance.

Volatile South Fremantle forward Chris Stasinowsky must also be in the running.

He also kicked 59 goals in 1983, missing games through injury and suspension. Stasa's up-and-down form is his biggest problem and if he can become more consistent, then the Bulldogs could provide the winner.

But South have not pinned their hopes on just one player.

Strong marking full-forward Paul Arnold kicked 50 goals last season despite being out of action for several matches.

CHALLENGER

At the start of 1983 it appeared as though Ralph had a strong challenger for his title in Swan Districts recruit Ken Marshall.

The former Subiaco star kicked 17 goals in the first three games, before losing form, dropping out of favour with the selectors and eventually undergoing an operation on his leg.

Obviously Claremont will be hoping new full-forward Alan Rowe can follow in Ralph's footsteps and take out the goalkicking award in his first season of senior football.

However, it is going to be hard for the young forward who kicked over 100 goals in reserves last year to repeat the effort in senior competition.

In addition to the end of season award, Peter Jackson will give a bonus of \$100 to any player kicking a double figure tally in a club game.

DEEGAN TO HOST NEW TV SHOW

On Saturday night Radio 6IX personality Harvey Deegan will make a return to television.

Deegan, who has concentrated on radio newsreading in the past couple of years, was previously a regular member of the Channel 7 news team.

Now he is set to host a new football programme which is to be launched by 7. The Big League will include brief highlights of VFL fixtures in addition to the action from the WAFL's round of matches each week.

The show will run for an hour every Saturday from 6.30 to 7.30pm.

COVERAGE

It is another bid by the station to lift their football ratings for the 1984 season.

Affiliate radio station 6IX will start at noon this year when a VFL game is broadcast uninterrupted via Melbourne station 3AW.

With top callers Harry Beitzel and Bill Jacobs in control of the microphone WA fans will have the opportunity of listening first hand to the events in Victoria and follow the fortunes of former WA players.

The coverage will continue until 2pm local time when the station turns to concentrate on the activities of WA football.

However, listeners will be informed of the progress of the VFL match with score updates at regular intervals.

The 6IX panel this year has added former umpire David Rowe and former Swan Districts champion Stan Nowotny. They will work closely with Phil Mulcahy and Chris Mitsopolous as match analysts.



Harvey Deegan

Tim Flynn

The electronic media is gearing up for a big season and radio stations 6PR and 6KY will have panel shows operating from metropolitan hotels every Friday.

The 6PR show has been tremendous in recent seasons and it sure to again be a hit with personalities like John K. Watts, Mal Brown, John Todd, Gary Carvolth, Bob Cribb and Alan Stiles putting their points of view across.

PANEL

This season 6KY will launch a similar show which will be chaired by long-time radio critic Tim Flynn. Panel members will include John Hayes, John Duckworth, Hadyn Bunton and Les Mummie.

The 6PR show this Friday will be at the Dianella Hotel and will be broadcast on Saturday between 8am and 9am. The 6KY panel can be seen at the Booragoon Hotel and their Saturday replay can be heard from 7.30am to 8.30am.



Tony Rapson (Ampol) is pictured with Kerry James (left) last year's Ampol Miss Football and Faye Kooperman, from Cathay Pacific Airlines, who co-sponsor the award with Ampol.

Grant Dorrington's look at '84

● from Page 28

SOUTH FREMANTLE: This season Bulldog fans will not see their side finish on top after the home and away games. Season 1984 will be a big character test for the Bulldogs. They have the best player in WA through Stephen Michael and with the introduction of some new young faces to the team coach Mal Brown will be demanding a much more disciplined and dedicated approach so that the memories of a dismal finals performance last year can be forgotten. They should finish third.

CLAREMONT: The Tigers have the playing strength to be among the leading teams in the WAFL. The club has a sound administration that has recruited selectively with Bruce Monteath their biggest prize.

Graham Moss faces a big challenge this year, being his first as a non-playing coach. The role of the non-playing leader is extremely different to that of a playing capacity and after a period of adjustment his new role will be influential in the Tigers' form. Perhaps the biggest question mark over his new position will be from the players' point of view.

They have always had Moss on the field, leading by example and he was always there in a crisis to show the way. Now they

will have to adapt to that responsibility. How long this takes might determine where they finish. Contrary to most people I do not believe they will miss ace goalsneak Warren Ralph. They have a team that has an abundance of goal power and those players up forward will kick enough goals to ensure the Tigers are near the top.

SWAN DISTRICTS: The very professional Swans side will make history by becoming one of the few teams to win three premierships in a row. Although they have lost some talented ball carriers, coach John Todd has built a club with outstanding depth and young players will cover the losses.

In addition their recruits Brett Farmer, Kim Hetherington and Chris Allen will all add mobility to their line-up, with Allen becoming a key player. Todd has developed a uniformed group with the key ingredients being team work. Swans function on and off the field as one and have great pride in remaining at the top.

Peter Sartori, Ron Boucher, Craig Hoyer and Mick Johns give them a big man battery that will ensure the ball goes their way, and with many outstanding youngsters waiting for an opportunity, 1984 will continue to see Swans dominate.



EILEEN BROWN, mother of football's Mr Controversy, Malcolm Brown, is Australia's first female football columnist.

MOTHER BROWN

Women play their part

It was pleasing to see three clubs recognise the efforts of some of the women who work hard behind the scenes by accepting their nominations for life membership at last year's annual general meetings. Gwenda Carless, has worked tirelessly over many years at East Perth and it was fitting that she became a life member of the club. At South Fremantle Sheila Greer has played a similar role and she was also rewarded for her efforts. East Fremantle had two female nominations this year and both were accepted. Elsie Baird and Elsie Park have been staunch supporters for a long time and were thrilled with the life membership. Most clubs have women life members, but it was particularly pleasing to see four in one year.

ON THE MOVE

Every year some league players call it a day and head to the country or minor competitions and this season is no exception. Former Claremont and East Perth utility player Clayton Lewis is having his second stint at country football, this time with South Bunbury. Wayne Delmenico struggled through injury problems at South Fremantle last year and he is now captain-coach of Canning. Of course, former West Perth champion Alan Watling has gone to Albany to coach Railways and I wish him every success. Young Swan Districts wingman Jeff Davidson has given the club away and he could line-up in the Avon Football Association or in the South West.



Alan Watling

P.J. PROMO

With football sponsorship, and in particular cigarette advertising, again coming in for criticism, I must say I cannot understand the feelings of those people who believe the cigarette companies are not entitled to support sport. I congratulate the Peter Jackson Company on taking over from Marlboro as the WAFL's major sponsor and I am sure they will take over from where Marlboro left off. Already their promotions have been outstanding and they are doing much to support football in this State.

GOOD LUCK

Finally I would like to wish the new board every success as they tackle football's toughest job. I believe they have selected the representatives extremely well and with Vincent Yovich at the helm, they could not have found a better chairman. The board will obviously have a big influence on football in this State and I am sure they will act in the best interests of the game at all times.

1080
6ix present

INTERSTATE UPDATE

From our Eastern States correspondents

WA influence strong in Victoria

VFL television playbacks will again hold plenty of interest for West Australian viewers this season as the ever-growing band of expatriate WA footballers continue to make their mark on the Victorian scene.

Despite a heavy toll of pre-season injuries, 26 former WA players lined-up in practice matches in Melbourne last Saturday.

At CARLTON Ken Hunter and Warren Ralph missed last Saturday's practice match against Hawthorn due to injury and during the match were joined by Peter Kenny.

However, on the brighter side, Wayne Blackwell found good touch, picking up 16 kicks and seven handpasses for the match. Alan Montgomery was also in good form and was among the Blues' best players. Mike Smith struggled in the match, managing only eight touches.

Ken Judge was in good form for HAWTHORN, picking up two goals in his side's 31-point win over the Blues.

Gary Shaw gave an impressive performance for COLLINGWOOD and appears to have overcome the injury which dogged him during last season. After a slow start in the Magpies' one point victory over Fitzroy, Mike Richardson settled down into a handy player in the second half.

REGULAR PLACE

Dean Turner impressed FITZROY officials with his performance and showed enough to suggest that he will earn a regular place in the side. Garry Sidebottom is currently sidelined with injury, while Kevin Taylor awaits a clearance from East Fremantle.

Bill Duckworth, after the disappointment of missing last year's grand final side, has started 1984 on a big note and was one of ESSENDON's best players in their drawn match with Footscray.

Tony Buhagiar also showed that he is in for another great season with the Dons.

Jim Sewell, Simon Beasley and Ian Williams all indicated that they would again form a vital part of the FOOTSCRAY side. They will be joined by Andrew Purser when he recovers from a bout of influenza.

Brian Peake, still having clearance problems with East Fremantle, was one of GEELONG'S best players in their six point win over the SYDNEY SWANS. Craig Holden was quickly settled into the harbour city side and looks certain to win a regular place in the side after a troubled career with North Melbourne.

SOUND START

Alan Johnson was one of the stars of MELBOURNE'S 38 point win over North Melbourne. Ray Holden also made a sound start.

The Krakouer brothers were the only two WA representatives in the NORTH MELBOURNE side... a team which has boasted a host of former WA players in recent seasons. The Aboriginal brothers are shaping up for another good season. Injury kept Ross Glendenning and Stephen McCann sidelined for the final practice game.

Phil Narkle was at his sparkling best for ST KILDA only a day after arriving back in Melbourne from Perth and finished the day with 21 kicks, two handballs and three marks. Phil Cronan was also named as one of the Saints' best players, while



Alan Sidebottom dominated the ruck. The Saints went down to RICHMOND by 72 points, with David Palm, Tim Gepp, Maurice Rioli and new recruit (from Collingwood) John Annear all playing a part in the Tigers' win.



BUCKENARA ON THE MEND

Former Subiaco star, Gary Buckenara has resumed training with Hawthorn after surgery during the summer months to repair his broken left kneecap.

Buckenara broke down in the opening minutes of play in last year's VFL grand final and has undergone two operations to repair the damage. After spending several weeks in Perth during the summer months, he returned to Melbourne two months ago for the second operation on his right knee. He had repairs to tendons and the removal of some bone fragments.

Buckenara is hoping to be fit to resume his league career in May and in the meantime is undergoing daily physiotherapy treatment.

CASH OFFER

Carlton have offered their players a special cash incentive to beat Essendon this season. The offer was made in a bid to break a hoodoo which has dogged the Blues in recent years. The Bombers have defeated Carlton in their last seven day fixtures, a practice match and a night game.

Video scheme

VFL fans will be able to watch their favourite teams in action on video tape this season.

For a total season cost of \$280, subscribers will receive a two-hour tape each Monday (delivered to their home by courier) of their nominated match the previous Saturday.

The tape must be returned the following week for re-recording. At the end of the season each subscriber will receive a copy of the final and grand final which remain their property.

Sutton moves again



After doing the rounds with mainland league clubs, Darryl Sutton has returned to his native Tasmania.

Recruited from the apple isle in 1973 by North Melbourne, Sutton was later the centre of an expensive transfer deal to Swan Districts.

After one season in the West he went back to Victoria where he joined Richmond and last season was cleared to the Sydney Swans. He played a total of 111 VFL games.

After leaving North Melbourne in 1980 his football fortunes have fluctuated, playing little more than 30 games in three years.

He returned to Tasmania to coach North Hobart and at the moment is locked in a clearance dispute with his old TNFL club, Glenorchy.

ROOS MOVE

The VFL has approved an application by North Melbourne to transfer four of the home matches (originally set down for Arden Street) to the MCG.



SA NEWS

A spectacular fish eye photograph of Football Park showing the lighting towers in position.

LIGHTS GO UP

THE long awaited lights at Adelaide's Football Park were finally installed during the off-season, ending years of controversy surrounding their erection.

Two Royal Commissions, Government inquiries and numerous other hurdles delayed the lighting project for years.

Opposition to their installation came from nearby residents in the plush West Lakes area who feared a spillage of light and associated noise from night functions.

Football has finally won through and 15 night matches have been scheduled for this season among a programme of 51 games at Football Park.

There will be 36 premierships matches (some on Friday evenings), two interstate matches, 11 Escort Cup games and two Sterling Cup matches.

Hicks' new job

Former Central District coach Daryl Hicks became the first league coach to take charge of a South Australian Teal Cup side when he was appointed recently.

Hicks has great credentials for the job. He was a former South Australian and Sturt star before his six year coaching stint with Central.

Training programme

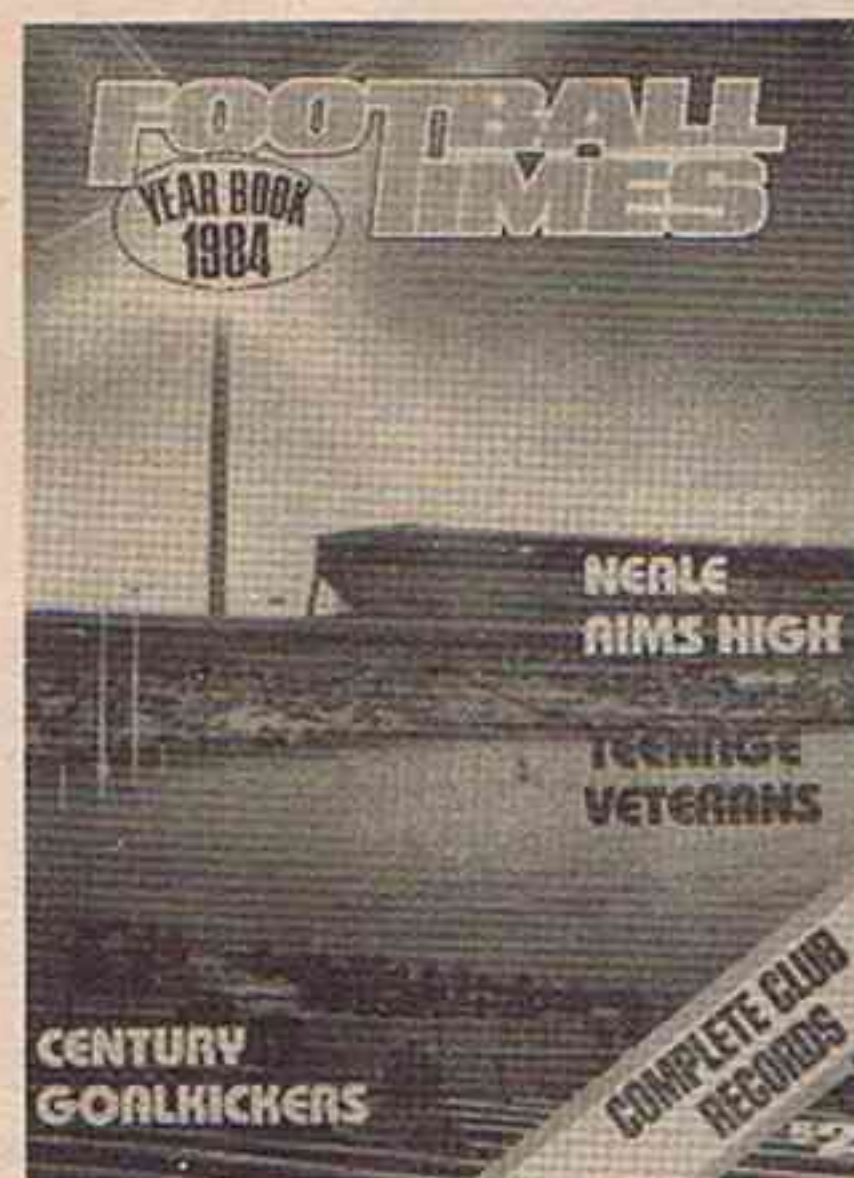
The SANFL will spend \$269,000 on an ambitious technical and development programme this season.

Ten major projects of the scheme include: trainers' courses, sports medicine seminars, coaches/trainers refresher seminars, umpires, coaches and supervision meetings and cadet umpires courses.

There will be under 15, 17 and 18 knockout cups, a secondary school carnival, junior and senior country championships.

More than half the money will come from sponsorship and government grants.

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OUR RATINGS AWARD

The best form guide in football



LANGSFORD

Consistency is the key to good football . . . and the best guide to a players' form can be found in Westside Football.

Each week every player who represents a club in senior football is judged on his performances and given a mark out of 10.

The player who has polled the most points at the end of the season is undoubtedly the most consistent performer in league football for the year.

In 1983 it was Don Langsford and he received a trip for two to Darwin and accommodation at the magnificent Phoenix Hotel, plus a hire car and a night out at the Darwin Casino.

He won the award courtesy of the Crestwood Inntown Perth Hotel — one of Westside Football's newest supporters.

This year the \$1000 Crestwood Inntown award will comprise of cash and a trophy for our footballer of the year and a fabulous luxury weekend for two at the Crestwood.

OTHER PRIZES

In addition, the leading points scorers at the other seven clubs will receive a delightful dinner for two at the Crestwood Inntown.

There is no doubt that the ratings are the best guage to player performances in WA and evidence of this is that all the players turn to see how they rated each week.

Previous winners have been Claremont's Allen Daniels (1982), South Fremantle champion Stephen Michael (1981), South Fremantle centreman Noel Carter (1980) and Claremont captain coach Graham Moss (1979) .

Just by looking at the standard of play to have won the award is justification that the Westside Football player ratings are the best guide in town.

Westside Football will continue with their extensive statistical information from next week and again the player who earns most points, for picking up the highest tally of possessions, will win a magnificent dinner for two at Isabella's Restaurant.

The top 20 players who earn the most kicks, marks, handballs, hitouts and overall disposals weekly will be published in the comprehensive statistical section.

Isabella's is one of Perth's finest restaurants and there was keen competition for the award throughout last season.

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Whistle Stop



TEMPORARY HOME FOR THE UMPs

THE demolition works at the WACA Ground have created some problems for the WAFL's umpires. Though they do not do their pre-season at WA's cricket headquarters, the umpires do move onto the WACA during March, where they have their own rooms. However, with the upgrading of the facilities at the cricket ground, the umpires' room has been pulled down and now they are preparing for the season at Langley Park. They expect to head back to the WACA early into the season.



Ampol will inject \$6,500 in prize money, plus a trip for two to London for the WAFL's umpires this year. The money is split between field, boundary and goal umpires, while the field umpire of the year wins the trip. Pictured at the announcement of the awards are top WAFL umpires John Morris (left) and Mike Ball (right) with Ampol's State Manager Tony Rapson.

YOUNG HOPES

THIS year a number of younger umpires should receive their opportunity in league ranks. With senior men Darryle Gillies, David Rowe and Trevor Starceвич all retiring, some vacancies exist. Gillies, the top umpire in 1982 and Rowe, who was in last year's grand final, in particular will be missed. Starceвич made his entry into league football last year. Younger members of the panel such as Fred Devine, Brian Appleby, Richard Austin and Paul Mannix, who all made their debuts last year, will be looking to consolidate their position. In addition, there are several other young umpires looking for a big season. One is David Johnson, who, after a promising start in 1982, failed to reproduce the form last year. He made his interstate debut in the Sterling Cup match between Claremont and Collingwood this year.

NEW BLOOD

THE Umpires Appointment Board needs to find some promising umpires to fill the vacancies this year and within the next few years as well. Ron Buckey, Bob Phillips and John Morris are in the veteran class now and top umpires will be needed to replace this trio. They have all been moving well and confidently in pre-season work and should again be the backbone of the panel, along with Mike Ball, last year's top umpire.

CHANGE-OVER

One of the top boundary umpires from last season, Damian Green, has moved up to field umpiring. He has controlled games in the Claremont Junior Council and it will be interesting to see how he adjusts to senior competition. It was good to see a surplus of boundary umpires at pre-season training this year.

NEWCOMERS

FOUR goal umpires from the South Suburban have joined the WAFL panel this year. They are Terry Tomlinson, Des Morgan, Jay Christensen and James Bonzas.

SPENCER SET FOR 150th

• From page 1 He missed the next eight games before playing in the colts against Claremont in the centre and the next week he took up the same position in the senior side. In 1975 he managed a complete season and was able to finish second to team mate Quartermaine in the Sandover Medal.

Spencer's other love

By Kim Hagdorn

TEN years ago Peter Spencer was pondering his sporting future.

The 17-year-old Aquinian was deciding between Perth — where his Manning friends were playing — or East Perth — where his father played.

At the same time he had to decide what to do about his other love in life, cricket.

As a schoolboy, Spencer showed remarkable promise at cricket and like most aspiring sportsman with varied talents, dreamed of the prospect of representing the State at two sports.

It was as an opening batsman that Spencer earned the right to play for WA at Junior level when named in an under 19 side.

The elegant stroke-maker travelled to Melbourne in such illustrious company as Graeme Wood, Greg Shipperd and Terry Alderman to compete in the national championships.

Spencer performed with distinction during the series with many pundits claiming he narrowly missed All-Australian selection.

The determination Spencer has displayed throughout his league career also earmarked his opening role and from the age of 17 he played regular first grade cricket for South Perth.

After experiencing the rigours of year-round sporting commitment, Spencer found the involvement too much to do justice to both cricket and football.

At the age of 20 he gave top-line cricket away and that decision paid the fullest dividend just 12 months later when he won the Sandover Medal.

He has never lost his fanatical lust for the summer sport, so much so that he has every intention of returning to competitive cricket when his football days are over.

He and sons Stephen (4) and Ben (22 months) have already set their sights on plenty of practice opportunities.

Spencer's new home at Leeming, just south of Perth, has a full length, full-netted cricket pitch, where he plans to get in plenty of batting practice.

The following year he again played a full season, but this time went a step further to collect WA football's most prestigious individual honour.

In the last practice match of 1977 he broke down with a groin injury — and injury that proved the most damaging of them all.

He still played 16 games, but the injections required for him to see out a game took their toll and he could muster just four matches the following season.

REGULAR

In 1979 and 1980 Spencer returned to league football on a more regular basis before heading to VFL football in 1981.

He lasted just over a season in the big league before being told that his services were no longer required at North Melbourne.

Like the true champion he is, Spencer has managed to play under difficulty and one of his most memorable performances came in the 1976 second semi final.

East Perth had lost three players through injury and just after half time Spencer made it four when he limped down to the forward-pocket. Normally he would have left the ground, but it was a question of keeping players on the ground.

He had kicked two goals at the time, but finished with six — kicking four when on one leg and helping the Royals to a memorable win.

He has been a tremendous player for the Royals and no-one has deserved the 150 game milestone more than him.

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BIG LEAGUE



LES'S LYRICS

6KY commentator and former Claremont and State champion LES MUMME has a different look at football.

SCREAM FOR YOUR TEAM!

The earth has been shaken by the pounding of feet — muscles and tendons are torn.

Footy has drawn them back to the pack and the season of eighty four is born.

With Bosustow and Wiley to boost them on will Perth 'Serg' forth to win?

Can they meet the Glory of Swans, now that Narkle, Baker and Smith aren't in?

Courage has returned to Subi, in the form of Bunton the Brave. And like his dad, his fame has spread — but can the Lions be saved?

Freo will fight for the Bulldogs and Sharks, King Fong and his Falcons aspire to fly high.

Brehaut is determined the Royals will win — and they all will reach for the sky.

Of course, you know — it's plain to see — none of them stand a chance.

The Tigers will pounce and spring to the top — without a second glance.

The football facts at your fingertips

IT'S the bible of every serious West Australian football fan — Who's Who in WA football.

Everything you want to know about every player who is likely to play league football this season is listed in detail.

Who's Who in WA Football was produced for the first time last year and now Volume 2 has been released and will be on sale in newsagents from Friday.

Once again the magazine gives a detailed statistical run-down on all the senior-list players at each club.

In addition, there is a look at WAFL history, where the clubs have finished over the years, winning grand final teams and medal winners for the three major football playing States.

Plenty of stars left at home

Forget about all the players who have headed East over summer. . . WA still has an abundance of stars in our home State.

For starters, the first four place-getters in last year's Channel 7 Sandover Medal have all decided to stay in the West.

Big East Perth ruckman John Ironmonger, the winner of WA's most prestigious individual award last season, has been plagued by leg problems during pre-season and did not appear in practice matches. But he has shown improvement and is not far away from returning to the league football scene.

Perth skipper Bryan Cousins, an unlucky runner-up (on a countback) must be excited about 1984.

He has shouldered most of the responsibility at Lathlain Park in the last three seasons, but with senior players Peter Bosustow and Robert Wiley returning, there is more experience in the Demons camp.

Young East Fremantle centreman Murray Wrensted was a star in his first year of senior competition and obviously he is going to be an even better player this year.

To finish third in a Channel 7 Sandover Medal in his debut season was a tremendous performance and he will be looking to further develop in 1984.

SENSATIONAL

Newly appointed South Fremantle skipper Brad Hardie is a sensational player and with the responsibility of leading his club he could become even more damaging.

In addition players like Claremont's Stephen Malaxos, Allen Daniels, Bruce Monteath, Michael Mitchell and Darrell Panizza should ensure big crowds at their games.

Swans still have Murray Rance, Brad Shine, Ron Boucher and Peter Sartori and these four players will ensure that Swans continue to have a big following.

In addition to Hardie, the Bulldogs will rely on Willie Roe, Wally Matera, Craig Edwards and young Nicky Winmar to provide the impetus to drag the crowds through the Fremantle Oval gates and to keep them near the top.



Murray Wrensted

Perth are hoping for big things this season and apart from Cousins, Bosustow and Wiley, young players like Lindsay Carter and Earl Spalding and big ruckman Wayne Simms will aim to help their club emerge from the doldrums.

East Fremantle unearthed some exciting young prospects when they worked their way into the finals last year and key men this year will be Wrensted, Shane Ellis, Clinton Browning, Glen Hout and Mario Turco.

East Perth will need experienced players like Peter Spencer, Stan Magro and Greg Walsh to help out the younger players to ensure they don't slip too far down the ladder.

Les Fong has carried West Perth's burdens on his shoulders for several seasons and now he will need players like Geoff Hendriks, Brian Adamson and Dean Falconer to ease the load.

The return of Peter Featherby will be a big boost for Subiaco and together with Neil Taylor, Rod Brown and Clint Brown will try to improve the Lions' rating.



By Allan (Chubby) Stiles 6PR panelist and Perth reserves coach.

Chubby's Chatter

UMPS HAVE TO RE-BUILD

IN the last two seasons, the WAFL umpires panel has lost some top men and it will be a trying period for them this year. With Ross Capes and Ron Powell retiring after the 1982 season and Darryle Gillies, David Rowe and Trevor Starcevic giving it away this year, several young umpires will come to the fore. Umpiring is like playing, there is no substitute for experience and they will only improve by notching up games. Coaches will need to be more tolerant of the men in white this year.

ROYAL LOSSES

WITH East Perth losing so many senior players this year, I feel for my old team-mate Greg Brehaut. I can understand his position — after all, I have been in a similar situation with Perth for the last few years. Hopefully, that will change. But Greg could be in for a torrid time, particularly as East Perth fans do not take kindly to finishing out of the four. The Royals need to be patient as the club goes through its regeneration period. While losing top players is extremely disappointing it has been my experience that if they don't want to play at a club they are better off going. I applaud East Perth for letting Craig Edwards and Chris Allen move football homes — it must have been a difficult decision. However, if their heart is not in what they are doing, it can rub off on the other players.



Cam Shepherd

BAD LUCK

WHAT a shame Cam Shepherd broke down with a severe ankle injury just before the start of the season. He went down badly on the ankle, dislocating it and doing some real damage to the ligaments. Cam was often criticised in the press last year for not using his kicks to full toll and it was pleasing to see him kick the ball over 60 metres regularly in practice matches. Last year's fairest and best winner at Perth was looking forward to a big season before tragedy struck and I hope he is not out of action for too long. During his career he has seen players like Mitch Fussell, Wayne Simms, Tom Mullooly and Ed Blackaby fight back from injury and I hope he follows their example.

GOOD LUCK

PS: Tim Flynn and his panel will find out on Friday how the audience reacted to me when I first joined the 6PR panel. In all sincerity, I wish you luck.



DAILY NEWS PERTH FURNITURE FAIR '84

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FOOTBALL'S SU

Government steps

AS the 1983 season was drawing to a close the State Government answered an SOS from the WAFL for assistance.

The Government appointed a special three-man Task Force to look into the affairs of football in this State after a request for financial assistance — and its findings dominated the news all summer.

The game's plight in WA had become a matter of great concern, particularly the big losses being incurred by the eight league clubs.

It was the Task Force's job to come up with alternatives and to anticipate the future of the WAFL.

One of its initial findings was that the whole structure of the WAFL's Board of Directors needed to change. Football had operated under the system of one representative from each club making up the Board.

Now the Task Force decided an independent board should be responsible for pointing the game in the right direction.

It was considered that under the old system the men representing a club put their own interests before those of football in general.

The Task Force also suggested that there needed to be some drastic ground rationalisation undertaken.

While these suggestions were being put forward the economic situation of two clubs came to the fore.

Both East Perth and West Perth announced that they did not have the funds available to meet their player payments for 1983.

Royals president Mal Atwell also announced to his players that they needed to take a 25 percent pay cut in 1984.

East Perth were about \$120,000 short of the amount required to meet their player commitments for the season and Mr Atwell also told them that they would not receive any payment until the new season was under way.

The announcement caused major problems within the ranks of the players and at one stage several key men at Perth Oval looked likely to shift football homes.

West Perth asked their players to take a 30 percent pay reduction.

The new WAFL board became effective earlier this month.

Originally it was intended to be a five-man panel, but the figure later rose to seven and WAFL president Vincent Yovich was made chairman.

Bill Mitchell, the chairman of the Task Force, was placed on the panel as the government's representative.

Apart from the Task Force work there were many other exciting developments over the summer months and here is a run down on the events that made the news.

SEPTEMBER

• WA football savoured one of its proudest moments when former East Perth champion Ross Glendinning became the



ROSS GLENDINNING

second Sandgroper to win Victorian football's most prestigious individual honour, the Brownlow Medal. Glendinning, now a star with North Melbourne, capped off a magnificent season for WA as he had been in the victorious WA carnival side.

And to add just a touch more pride for WA football fans, former South Fremantle centreman, Maurice Rioli, now playing with Richmond, was the runner-up, just one vote behind Glendinning.

• South Fremantle were a relieved club when coach Mal Brown and All-Australian captain Stephen Michael announced their decision to stay with the Bulldogs in 1984. Brown's name was strongly linked with the coaching position at Richmond which became vacant when Francis Bourke relinquished the job — and Michael was also being sought by the VFL Tigers.

• Rumours were flowing thick and fast about possible player movements for 1984. Several VFL clubs were interested in signing talented young Swan Districts ruckman Peter Sartori, who was the star of the WAFL final round. He was taken to the VFL grand final as a guest of Carlton, but Swans were angry because the Blues had not sought their permission. And East Fremantle rover Kevin Taylor's name was being linked with Fitzroy.



KEVIN TAYLOR

OCTOBER

• The curtain came down on one of the game's most distinguished players when Claremont captain coach Graham Moss announced his retirement. He said he wanted to concentrate on his coaching in 1984 because he felt he was now better value to his club in this capacity.

Moss, the 1976 Brownlow Medallist, played 342 senior games in two States, 89 with Essendon and 253 with Claremont to be the Tigers' second longest serving player. Only Ken Caporn tallied more games for the club.

• Champion South Fremantle ruckman Stephen Michael gave Bulldog supporters a scare when he was involved in a shooting accident near his home town of Kojonup. Michael has always been a keen hunter and he was accidentally shot by a cousin while

THE TASK FORCE



BILL MITCHELL



PETER COLLINS

chasing kangaroos. However, the wound was not a serious as first thought and doctors said that he should be ready for pre-season training.

• The announcement of Graham Moss' retirement as a player had a side effect — his former off-field advisor Murrery Ward was no longer required. The pair had formed a successful team for three years, playing off in three grand finals and winning the 1981 premiership. Shortly after the Moss decision, Ward joined Ron Alexander at East Fremantle and obviously the Sharks were hoping some of his success could extend to the port club.

• In an historical move East Perth and Swan Districts announced their intention to play a league match at Bunbury this year, probably the first game of the season. The suggestion was approved in principle by the WAFL and it was seen as a bold move which would do much to benefit the game in country areas.

• Joondalup was named as the site for the new home of the Subiaco Football Club. A stadium with a capacity of 60,000 would be built and agreement on the project was reached between Subiaco, the Wanneroo Shire Council and the Joondalup Development Corporation.



GRAHAM MOSS

• East Perth president Mal Atwell announced a \$20 levy on all members to help pay the players for 1983 — but they



MAL ATWELL

would have to wait until April to get their money. The Royals WAFL Players' Association representative, Greg Walsh, said the players would stick by the club despite the difficulties. Shortly afterwards captain John Dimmer announced his retirement, but said his decision was not because of the money situation.

NOVEMBER

• East Perth president Mal Atwell launched a Save East Perth Fund calling for support in a massive club sponsorship campaign. He said the funds raised would go towards alleviating the club's financial plight and would not become club funds.

Fairest and best winner Peter Spencer was annoyed about the reduction in pay for the 1984 season and several clubs were chasing his services. Good news for the Royals came after Yakka pulled out as the club's major sponsor and the role was immediately taken over by Centre Ford.

• In other sponsorship developments, Swan Districts lost their major sponsors, Bell Freightlines, after the two parties disagreed on the company's two-year

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SUMMER DIARY

As in to help footy



JOHN HORGAN

option. Bell Freightlines poured \$25,000 into the club in 1983.

- Claremont and State half-back Michael Aitken was involved in a surfing accident and fractured a vertebrae in his neck. The accident was more serious than at first thought and he would not be fit for the start of the 1984 season.

- Australian Rules Football would be taken to Ireland next year with an NFL team to take part in matches there. It follows games in WA where Australian Rules players have played Gaelic Football against the Irish.

- The Perth Football Club took legal action against VFL giants Carlton after the Blues refused Peter Bosustow's second application for a clearance back to his old club.

- Subiaco appointed former East Perth player and general manager Trevor Nisbett as their new football manager. They also enticed former colts coach and league ruckman Eddie Pitter to Subiaco Oval to coach the club's youngsters and Wayne Loxley, the man who looked after East Perth's physical fitness last year, was made reserves coach and physical fitness advisor. In addition, former East Perth league coach Grant Dorrington was helping out with the development of junior players in Subiaco's zone.



MIKE AITKEN

DECEMBER

Fresh developments on the player payments scandal emerged — this time the heat was off East Perth and on their close neighbours West Perth.

The Falcons wanted their players to take a massive 30 percent cut because of the financial difficulties, brought to the fore at their annual general meeting. They wanted player payments brought into line with gate receipts.

- The Perth Football Club was embarrassed after their annual general meeting when Bryan Cousins was overlooked for life membership. Cousins, runner-up in this year's Sandover Medal, became eligible for the honour when he played his 150th game for the club last year. Officials offered no excuse for the blunder, except to say they simply forgot.

- The WAFL decided to abolish the countback system for the Sandover Medal. In future, when two players tie for the award at the end of the voting, two medals will be awarded. However, this offered little compensation for Perth skipper



BRYAN COUSINS

Bryan Cousins, who lost the 1983 Sandover Medal on a countback to East Perth ruckman John Ironmonger.

- Pre-season football training came under the microscope when Subiaco captain Neil Taylor collapsed on a run in extreme heat. The Lions were on a trek around the Narrows Bridge at 5.15pm in 35.5 degree heat when the hard working wingman fell to the ground. He was rushed to hospital and later said that he could not remember the final stages of the run.

- Swan Districts' back-to-back premiership coach John Todd was again appointed to the helm of the State side. Todd took WA to Australian champions in 1983 and he was given the chance to defend that crown. His president, Bill Walkr was made chairman of selectors while Bob Manning, Don Haddow, Graham Moss and Ron Alexander were appointed selectors. In addition, Grand Dorrington was made coach of the Town and Country WA Teal Cup side and his selectors were Chris Mitsopoulos, Stan Nowotny and Eddie Pitter.

JANUARY

- The Perth Football Club accepted the proposal by the Task Force that there was a desperate need for ground rationalisation in WA and that the Demons should return to the WACA ground.

Perth had played all their home games on the WACA before moving out to Lathlain Park in 1959. It was felt that the club had turned a complete circle since that move.

- Player movements came to the fore with Claremont half-forward Brett

Farmer, East Perth ruck-rover Chris Allen and East Fremantle utility player Kim Hetherington all joining Swan Districts. Bruce Monteath was cleared to Claremont from South Fremantle; Kevin Taylor was still in Melbourne hoping East Fremantle would allow him to play with Fitzroy in 1984; Warren Ralph, the ace Claremont full-forward, was cleared to Carlton for a reported \$200,000 and he joined team-mate Wayne Blackwell and Swans centreman Mike Smith with the Blues; Phil Narkle (Swans) and Phil Cronan (West Perth) were training with St Kilda; Perth pair Robert Wiley and Peter Bosustow had their first training run since returning from Richmond and Carlton respectively; and East Perth ruckman Craig Edwards was training with South Fremantle.



WARREN RALPH

- The development of Subiaco Oval as a sports park was high on the list of priorities of the soon-to-be-appointed independent board of directors, according to WAFL president Mr Vincent Yovich. The idea was to make greater use of the facilities at League headquarters so that more funds could be generated through WA's premier football venue. The Task Force found that full use was not being made of the excellent facilities at Subiaco.

FEBRUARY

- Brilliant young Swan Districts ruckman Peter Sartori was again struck down by glandular fever. It was the second time in as many seasons that Sartori had been troubled by the illness and before that he received a serious back injury in a practice match at Esperance. Sartori lost a lot of weight because of the illness, but Swans were hopeful he would be fit for the start of the new season.

- Champion defender Gary Malarkey's football future was in doubt. Malarkey and East Perth were at loggerheads over his contract after he had returned from Geelong, the club he joined from the Royals in 1976. Several times he returned to East Perth and all seemed well.

- On February 29, 1984, 99 years of football control came to an end when the eight man board of directors stepped down to make way for the new independent

board. For almost 100 years the control of WA football had been in the hands of a representative from each of the clubs.



PETER SARTORI

MARCH

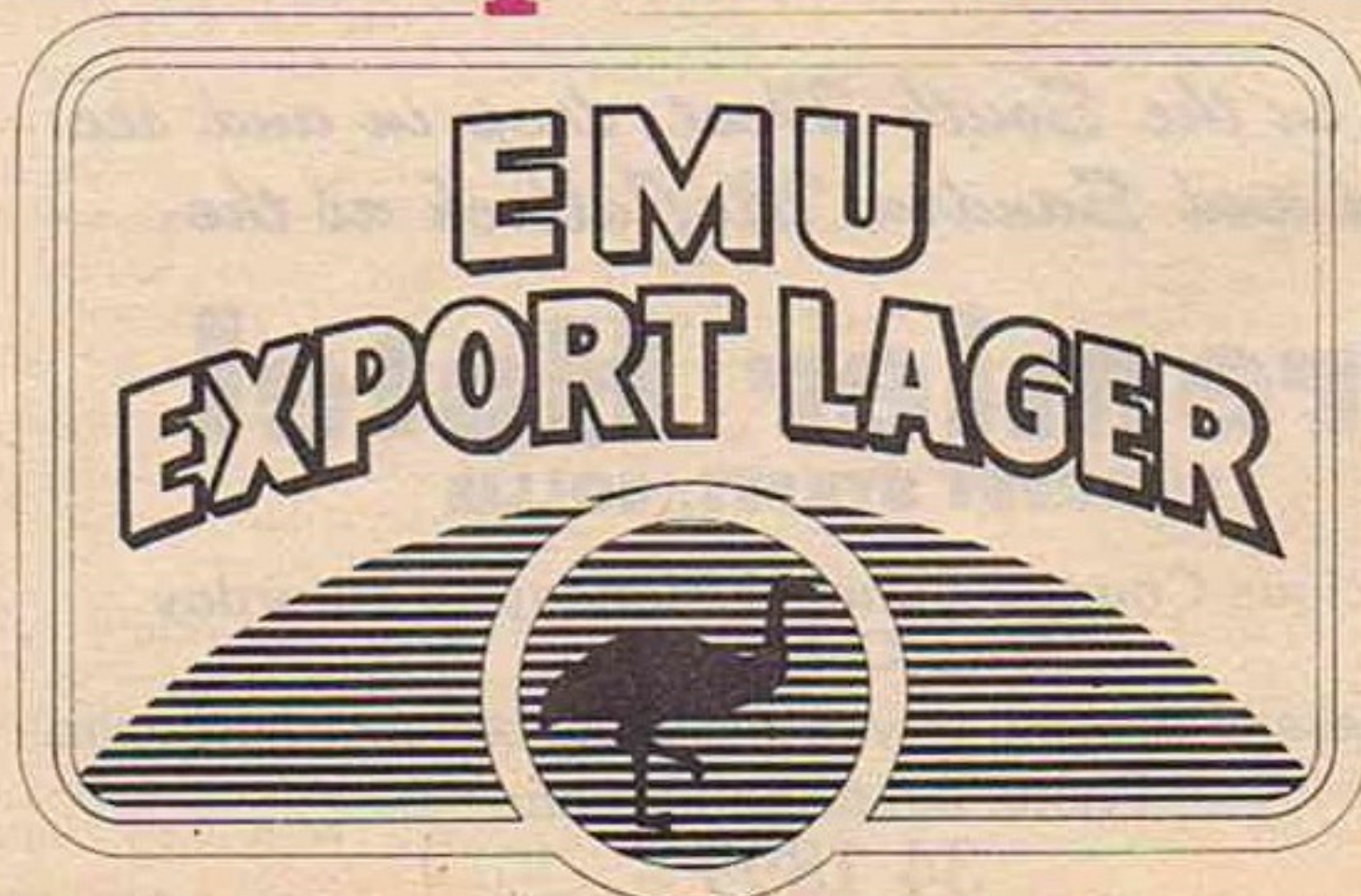
- After the new independent board's first meeting it was announced that former WAFL president Vincent Yovich would be the first chairman. He was elected by the other members for a three-year term.

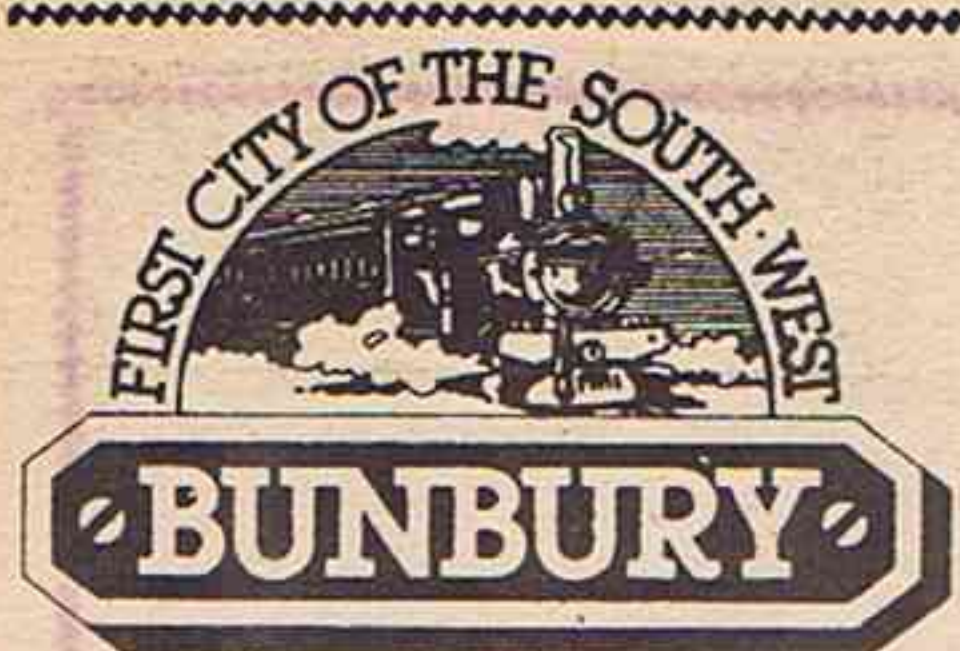
- Swan Districts coach John Todd was in the hot seat following a practice match in Collie against Footscray. When a head count was taken in the early stages of the second quarter it was discovered that the WA club had too many players on the ground. Earlier in the game Footscray requested a count of players, but it was found by the umpires that Swans had the correct number of players on the arena. Another request by Footscray late in that term was rejected by the umpires, but they agreed once again in the second quarter. The South West National Football league called on the WAFL to take action against Todd because they considered he had made a mockery of the match.

At one stage the argument between the two camps over the incident became extremely heated and it took several Footscray players to hold back big ruckman Andrew Purser who seemed intent on having it out with Todd.

- Swan Districts took on VFL club St Kilda when the Saints failed to meet requests by the WA club to reach agreement over the clearance of champion wingman Phil Narkle. Swans flew Narkle back to Perth so that if St Kilda wanted him in their camp this season they would have to make a move quickly. Swans took similar action last year when they brought ruckman Alan Sidebottom back to Perth when St Kilda were slow in paying the required transfer fee.

"Would you go an Export mate?"





THE BIG MATCH

Training together

Sunday's match is sure to produce some fire-works, but East Perth and Swan Districts have worked harmoniously in organising the historical event.

The two clubs have joined forces to organise a train to take 1,000 people down to Bunbury to watch the first WAFL fixture to be held outside the metropolitan area.

Tickets, which cost \$18 for adults and \$12 for children and pensioners, can be bought from either of the clubs.

The price includes admission to Hands Oval and bus transfer to and from the Bunbury Railway Station.

The train leaves Perth at 9am and arrives at its destination at noon and then departs from Bunbury at 6pm, arriving back in the city at 9.30 pm.

Country games could be regular events

IF Sunday's Bunbury experiment is a success, the WAFL can expect a flurry of applications from other country centres to stage league matches next year.

Already three towns — Albany, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie — have expressed interest in holding league matches.

The Geraldton based Great Northern League were upset when Bunbury was granted this Sunday's experimental fixture.

GNNFL secretary, Allan Browne, believes that his league did all the ground work for a country fixture allocation when officials were in Perth for last year's Wesfarmers country carnival.

"We were a bit disappointed at not getting a match", said Mr Browne. "But we hope the Bunbury game is a success so that we may get the opportunity next year."

The GNNFL staged last Sunday's derby between South Fremantle and East Fremantle in Geraldton, partly to demonstrate that they had the ability and facilities to stage a league fixture.

The Southern Districts Football League has already applied to the WAFL for a game in Albany in 1985.

SDFL secretary Eleanor Hockey said

the WAFL had replied saying that the request was being considered. The latest request follows one made several years ago which was rejected by the WAFL.

The Goldfields National Football League is currently undertaking a feasibility study in conjunction with the Subiaco Football Club into the possibility of staging a match in Kalgoorlie in 1985.

GNFL president Doug Krepp has no fears about the towns ability to stage such a fixture.

"We have first class facilities and can guarantee a good crowd."

Other country centres including Northam and Manjimup have also expressed an interest in hosting a league match.

If the Bunbury match is a success there is no doubt the WAFL will have created itself a new dilemma as country towns clamour to host league fixtures.

Possibly the fairest solution would be for each WAFL club to play one game in their country zone every second year. This would put four games in the country each season and require each team to play one match outside the metro area every year.

VFL clubs are required to make similar 'sacrifices' in the interest of promoting football in Sydney, so it would not be unreasonable to expect WAFL clubs to agree to a plan such as this to help promote football in our country areas.

The host league

Formed in 1953, the host league for Sunday's big clash, the South West National Football League, are the undisputed champions of country football in W.A.

Originally known as the Bunbury-Collie Association with clubs made up mainly from those two centres, it wasn't long before the association grew to include teams from the Donnybrook, Busselton and Harvey-Brunswick areas. Then came a change of name to its present title during the late 50's.

The strength of the SWNFL is typified by their dominance of the annual Wesfarmers Country Carnival. They have won ten of the last 14 titles . . . the last six consecutively.

Sides from the Augusta-Margaret River and Boyanup-Capel districts later joined the league and it now boasts a ten team competition.

At a time when the WAFL is investigating ground rationalisation it is interesting to note that the SWNFL conducts their fixtures at 11 different grounds.

As well as Hands Oval, the venue for Sunday's big match, there are two other grounds in Bunbury, and one in Collie, Capel, Boyanup, Donnybrook, Brunswick, Harvey, Margaret River and Busselton.

TV COVER

Football fans who cannot make the trip to Bunbury for the big match will be able to watch it live on television.

Immediately after Sunday's edition of World of Sport, Channel 7 will cross live to Hands Oval, in Bunbury, for a direct telecast.

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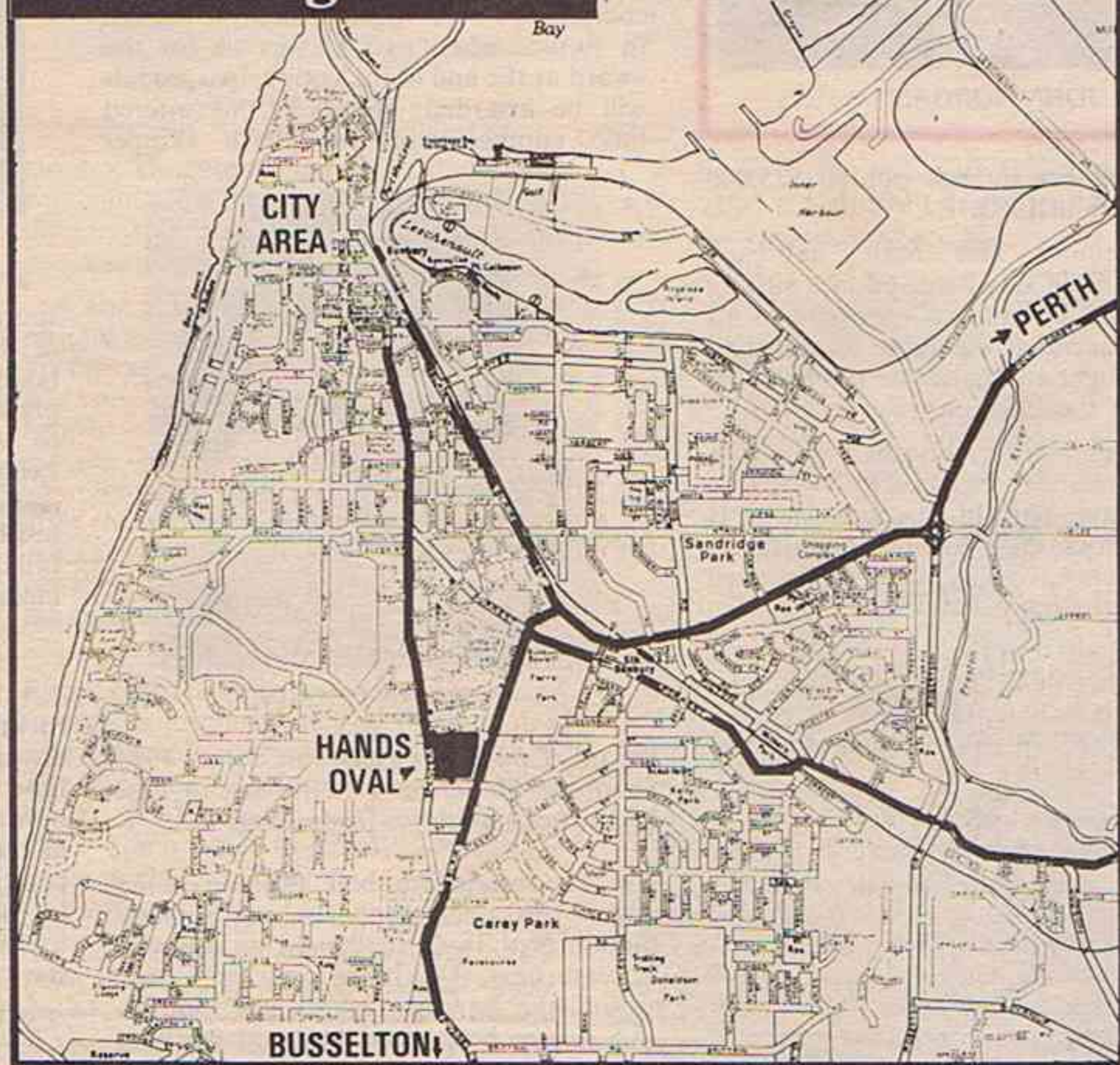
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How to get there



Motorists using the Old Coast Road should approach the city (following signs) on the main entry road and turn left near Alco. Those using the South West Highway can approach from the same direction by following the "City Centre" signs or alternatively deviate down Forrest Avenue and turn left at the first set of traffic lights (near the bowling club).

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Government support

The move by the WAFL to stage a league fixture outside the metropolitan area was welcomed by the State Government and they have strongly supported the venture.

Since Brian Burke and the Labor Party came to power just over 12 months ago, they have been strong advocates of decentralisation and this fixture is just another way the people of the South West will benefit.

Mr Burke was extremely pleased when the idea was first suggested and the State Government injected \$10,000 towards the costs.

Staging a game like the one in Bunbury this Sunday is a costly exercise and in order for it to go ahead the Government gave it every support.

Mr Burke will be flown down for the historic event — it is the first WAFL match ever to be played outside Perth — and he will toss the coin to start the game.



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LEAGUE CHIEFS SUPPORT THEIR COUNTRY CLUBS

Swan Districts president Bill Walker and his East Perth counterpart Mal Atwell see Sunday's game at Bunbury as an important step in promoting football in one of the most productive zones in the State.

Many of today's stars originate from country leagues and the South West National Football League has provided some of the WAFL's biggest drawcards.

Swan Districts have benefitted with players of the calibre of the Narkle brothers, Phil (the 1982 Sandover Medallist) and Keith, Leon Baker, Jon Fogarty, Bill Skwirowski and Brad Shine playing leading parts in the club's rise to power in the last three seasons.

In addition, several young South West players will be trying to make their mark in Perth this year. Of these Shane Renfree and Gavin McGuire are names that should appear in the league list this year.

East Perth is another club which has done well from the strong Bunbury-based league.

MEDALLISTS

In recent times two of East Perth's Sandover Medallists hailed from the SWNFL. Phil Kelly, the 1978 and 1979 winner, came from Busselton while last year's winner John Ironmonger originally played with Augusta-Margaret River.

In addition to that duo the Royals have bolstered their playing strengths by recruiting players like Michael Christian, Craig Earnshaw, Lance Kelly (Phil's younger brother), Dean Turner and Greg Walsh.

Mr Walker said that the move to play a qualifying round league match in the country was another of the many fine moves the WAFL has made in the last few years.

"It is another first for Swan Districts and it is a bold move by the WAFL to promote the game in areas that are vital to football in WA," Mr Walker says.

"It will be a good test for both teams, because they are playing at a neutral ground, it will be a dinkum fixture and



Mal Atwell

Bill Walker

there will be four points up for grabs."

A big crowd is expected at Sunday's match and justification for that came when Swans played Footscray in a practice match at Collie earlier this month and about 6,000 people turned out.

SELLOUT

With the game being played at the bigger centre, Bunbury, and with more city football fans expected the match has all the credentials to be a sell-out.

Mr Atwell also sees the match as being tremendous promotional value for football fans in the country.

"I was always in favour of the match and I think we will pack Hands Oval," Mr Atwell says. "Football is strong in country areas and we must do all we can to promote it in those regions."

"I believe this move must be followed up by other league clubs and more games should be played outside the metropolitan area."

"The government should also be congratulated for supporting Sunday's game by making funds available through the Youth, Sport and Recreation Department."



Russell Ellen

Ross Tyson

Both camps keen for curtain-raiser

The curtain-raiser to Sunday's big match will see a combined South West team play the State amateur side.

Although both camps have had little preparation for the contest because their seasons have not yet started, it promises to be a tremendous match.

The last time the two teams met was in 1980 and the amateurs won by two goals.

However, the strong South West combination is hoping to turn the tables this time around.

Centreman Ross Tyson, ruckman Ray Davies and former amateur player David aunt will lead the South West assault.

MATCH WINNER

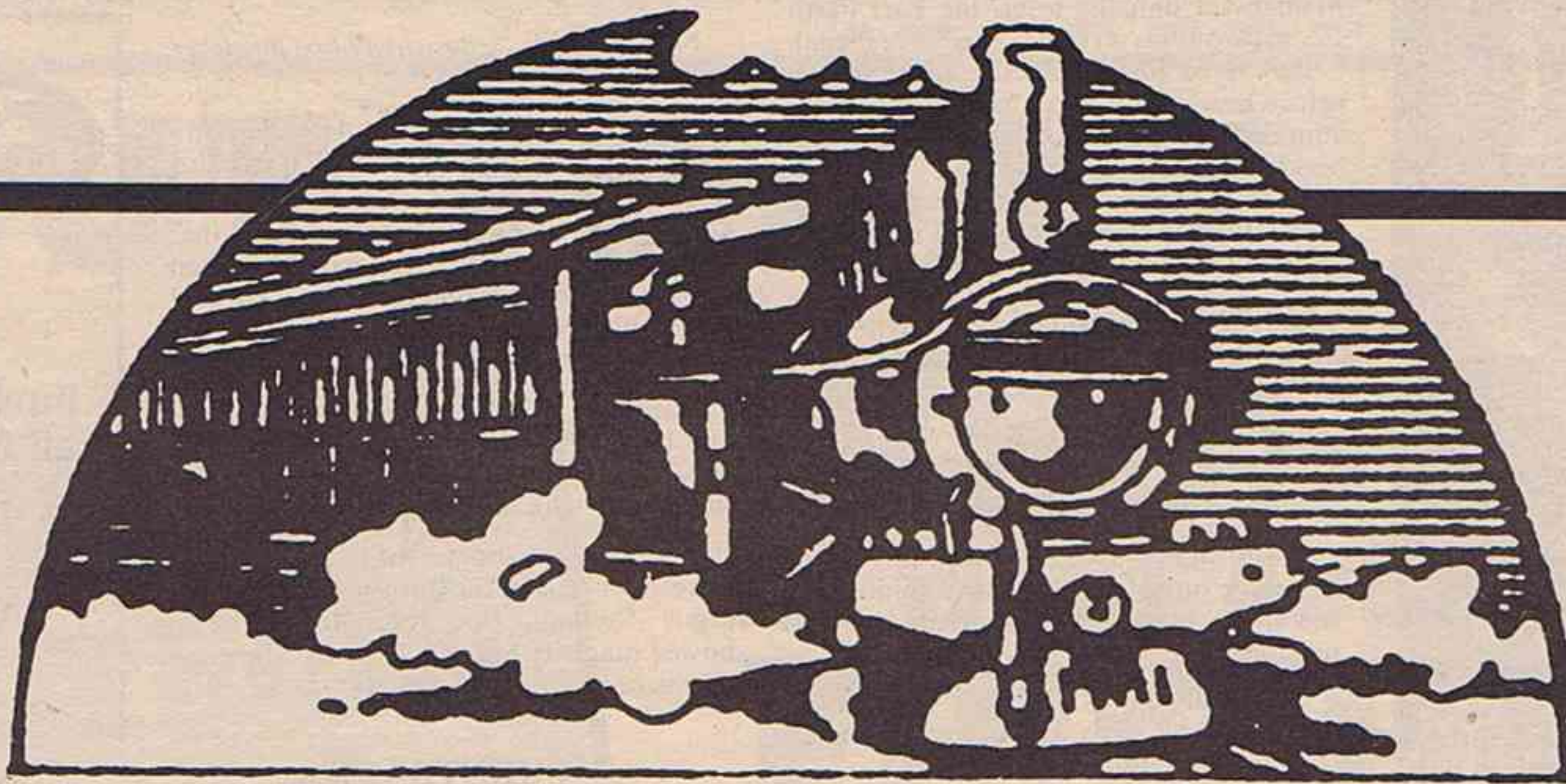
Gaunt played a match-winning role the last time the teams met. He came onto the ground just after half time for the amateurs and kicked six goals.

Former East Fremantle wingman John Sims, Hayward Medal runner-up Alf Shiosaki, half-forward Peter Slater and back-pocket specialist Kim Buswell, who has won the South West's award at the last two Wesfarmers Country Football Championships, will also need to be in top form if the home team is to win.

The WAAFL selectors have chosen a side with an even blend of youth and experience and are looking forward to the clash confidently.

New captain John Price, vice-captain Neale Fong and former West Perth ruckman Russell Ellen loom as the dangermen as far as the South West are concerned.

They will use the match as an opportunity to try several rookies, so they can have a look at them in action before the forthcoming amateur interstate clash against South Australia.



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SOUTH WEST'S STAR PARADE



Phil Narkle (above) and John Ironmonger (below) are two Sandover Medallists from the South-West.



When the Channel 7-Sandover Medal count comes around every year football fans throughout the South West sit down in front of their television sets in anticipation.

And why shouldn't they?

Of the last six Sandover Medals, four have gone to players who began their football in the SWNFL.

In 1978 and 1979 it was former Busselton and East Perth star Phil Kelly, in 1982 it was former Bunbury and Swan Districts champion Phil Narkle and last year East Perth giant John Ironmonger, a former Augusta-Margaret River player, was successful in WA football's most prestigious individual award.

And in the years between, the South West's success continued when another country player, Stephen Michael, from Kojonup, took out the award.

PROMISE

Kelly showed promise as a youngster with Busselton before joining the Royals and playing his first league game in 1975.

From the outset of his league career it was obvious East Perth had stumbled across a player of rare talent.

In his early matches the slightly built country recruit impressed from the wing where his awkward looking, but deadly accurate left-footers, often set up attacking moves for his side.

As he gained in experience, the polish began to shine in his game and although he was a surprise winner of the medal in 1978 there was no doubt that he was in the class of player worthy of the accolade.

It was a timely win for Kelly because it was the first time the award had been sponsored by Channel 7 and he also received a cheque for \$20,000 from TVW Enterprises.

The following year Kelly again showed his class and while most pundits considered Michael an unlucky loser, the East Perth star took out his second consecutive medal.

He stayed in WA for one more season before heading to North Melbourne where injuries have prevented him from showing his class.

Just the same he has now played 52 games for the Kangaroos and is looking forward to an injury-free run in 1984.

In 1981 Narkle had to be content with being runner-up when Michael polled a record 37 votes in the medal.

But the following year he went a step further and took out the coveted award.

"MR MAGIC"

His blistering speed and uncanny ability to weave out of trouble make him one of the finest players WA football has ever produced.

Like Kelly it was obvious from an early age that he was a player with an outstanding future.

Swan Districts realised that potential when he was just 13. At that stage the country zoning system was set to be introduced and to prevent losing his



PHIL KELLY... Busselton's first Sandover Medallist.

services Swans brought him to Perth to play in a colts match. He then became bound to them.

It proved to be a fine decision and that forethought paid off handsomely when Narkle made his league debut in 1978 and joined his brother, Keith as one of the key players in the Swan Districts side.

Narkle is a player of exceptional skill and he will be missed by his WA club this season as he takes up the challenge of succeeding with St Kilda in the VFL.

It takes a lot longer for a big man to make his mark in the cut-throat world of league football, but John Ironmonger showed maturity beyond his years when he was successful last season.

COUNTBACK

The giant East Perth ruckman was a surprise winner when he narrowly nudged out Perth skipper Bryan Cousins (on a countback) out of the winners circle.

However, it was a season of mixed form for most players and the umpires saw Ironmonger as the most consistent performer over the early qualifying games.

He is an exceptional palmer of the ball and his marking around the ground has improved dramatically. We are yet to see the best of the talented 23-year-old and hopefully he can continue to resist the strong offers of Richmond to play in the VFL.

The performances of these three players in the last six years proves, if any proof is needed, that the SWNFL is the best breeding ground for league players in WA.

And no doubt the football public down there will support Sunday's historic fixture between arch rivals East Perth and Swan Districts.

• Keith Hough, who joined Claremont in the early 1930s from Bunbury became the first South West player to win the Sandover Medal when he took out the award in 1932. Another four decades passed before former South Bunbury player David Hollins repeated the feat in 1971 playing for East Fremantle.

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Compiled by
GARY BARTHOLOMEUSZ
Juniors notes should be posted to Gary at 22 Caladenia Way, Koongamia 6056 or phoned through on 294 1405.

Concern over inter-districts

MOST of the discussion at the WAFL Junior Council Board meetings during the football off-season has revolved around the format of the inter-districts junior carnivals — and as yet nothing is certain on the 17s and under grade.

The 12s, 14s and 16s will continue as usual that is, knockout games over the Foundation Day long weekend in June with the grand finals being programmed later in the season between the two division winners.

The 17s however has run into problems. It was decided that because most WAFL clubs have skill squads catering for players between 15 and 17, an extended competition would be formed to give these skill squads more games, rather than just weekly training.

COMMITMENT

The majority of clubs agreed with a new concept and plans were made for at least a seven game competition which was to run over most of the WAFL season.

Some clubs, mainly East Fremantle and Swan Districts who have shown most interest in the concept, were even prepared to roganise extra games.

The Junior Council Board delegates left the last meeting thinking positive about the updated competition, but it is obvious that some clubs have had second thoughts.

Only Swans have confirmed their commitment to the competition, which presently leaves all the talk and planning by the Junior Council Board in limbo.

Schoolboys

East Perth has also 'come to the party' with this year's State schoolboys. Former player and last season's league captain John Dimmer has been appointed coach of the 15s and under side. His manager is former South Fremantle veteran Gary Scott.

This year's 53rd championships is also to be held in Sydney, during the August school holidays.

CIG Shield

The Commonwealth Industrial Gases (CIG) Shield enters its second season in 1984 and this year introduces country school teams.

So far nominations have been received from the Eastern Goldfields, Beverley, Pinjarra, Kambalda, Collie, Southern Cross, Northam, Cunderdin, Bruce Rock, John Wilcox (Geraldton) High Schools and the Bunbury Catholic College for the lower high school grades competition.

Included to the list is many metropolitan high school teams. The competition starts near the ned of the first term.

Last year's inaugural CIG Shield winner was Belmont High School.

Pilbarra

The second Pilbarra junior championships will again be held in Karratha — on the Foundation Day long weekend in June.

Teams from Karratha, Port Hedland, Tom Price, Parraburdoo, Newman and Geraldton will compete for 13s, 15s and 17s grade premierships.

The championships need a sponsor, if you can help contact the WAFL Administrator of Football Development Ross Davis on 381 5599.

Proposed Policy

Junior coaches who have not received their preliminary coaching certificates by 1986 will not be able to coach any team in finals, according to a proposal by the WAFL policy.

WAFL Administrator of Football Development Ross Davis told WESTSIDE FOOTBALL last week that compulsory accreditation for all junior coaches was the aim.

"It is only a proposal at this stage," said Mr Davis. "Obviously the WAFL must play its part by running more courses for junior coaches."

Talent Gathering

A live-in development programme for talented junior sports people will be held at the Penrhos College, Como during May.

The six-day course will cater for winter team sports organisations and admittance will be through invitation by the relevant State sporting bodies.

The Department of Sport, Youth and Recreation will conduct the course which involves intensive coaching, performance analysis, insight into the administration and functioning of sport and interaction with other talented sports people.

The WAFL will be nominating some budding junior footballers.

Uniformity

The eight WAFL Junior Council clubs have agreed on uniform umpiring fees for the forthcoming season.

The fees are 9s (\$13) 10s and 11s (\$14), 12s (\$15), 13s and 14s (\$16), 15s (\$20) and 16s and 17s (\$22 for one umpire or \$18 for the two-umpire system).

A three-day live-in seminar for umpire advisors was held recently at the Noalimba Reception Centre in Bateman and proved an outstanding success for the 20 advisors who attended.

This was the first of a planned annual event which next year will include umpires as well.



The committee of the Midland Junior Football Club is an all-female affair. They are: Standing (left to right): Glenys Nairn, Sandra Turick and Laurel Skelly. Sitting: Phyl Livingstone, Judy Benaim and Mary Andrijich. — PHOTO: The Hills Gazette

MUMS TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE

Has the recent change in the sex-discrimination act gone to the heads of the Midland Junior Football Club committee?

Not really, the six female committee members are there because it seems that no male is interested in helping keep the club alive.

Midland JFC is one of the oldest clubs in the Swan Districts Junior Council. It has a very successful past but an uncertain future. The club remains active due to only one team. The 17s and under, which has yet to get a coach.

It is kept alive by amalgamating with the neighbouring Midvale Junior Football Club.

The ladies now in control at the Midland JFC are happy doing their part, but believe the assistance of at least one male is essential.

"Where have all the fathers gone who used to follow their son's progress", said Mrs Judy Benaim, who is club president, registrar and delegate.

Other committee members are vice presidents Mrs Mary Andrijich and Glenys Nairn, secretary Mrs Sandra Turick, treasurer Mrs Laurel Skully and Mrs Phyl Livingstone.

Radio supporters

The Junior Supporters Club, seen on television a couple of years ago, is back, but this time on radio.

Radio 6PR will run a weekly segment and John K. Watts will also be anchorman for a junior football segment each seek on the World of Football television show on Channel Seven.

Keep your ears pricked, more information will be given later in WESTSIDE FOOTBALL.

Royal Selections

Another former East Perth footballer has been made coach of the Town and Country State 17s (Teal Cup) side. He is former league coach Grant Dorrington.

Grant takes over from fellow Royal player Eddie Pitter, who remains with the team as a selector. He is supported by chairman of selectors Stan Nowotny and co-selector Chris Mitsopoulos.

This year's carnival will be played in Sydney from June 6 to June 12. WA has contested the championships since 1978, but has never won the Teal Cup — the prize for the carnival winners.

It is notable, however, that 65 players who have represented the State in the championships, including 16 players from the 1981 State 17s team, have continued on to play league football.

COACHES — A DYING BREED

Only four applications from interested coaches were received for five planned coaching courses by the WAFL in conjunction with the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation.

Because of the lack of support the classes have been changed. They were to have run at the Balcatta, Belmont, Rockingham, Greenwood and Kelmscott High Schools, but will now be conducted at the latter two venues.

The Greenwood High School course will be held on April 3, 10 and 17 and April 5, 12 and 19 is the dates set for the Kelmscott High School course.

Classes are for two hours per week. The course cost is \$10 and nominations are being taken by the WAFL.

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HOST OF NEW TALENT AT SOUTH



PETER DENNETT... an agile big man.



DAVID HART... back in the city

CHANGE OF HART

South Fremantle pulled off one of the recruiting coups of the season when they enticed former West Perth rover DAVID HART back to the city for pre-season work.

The talented youngster from Bruce Rock played in the first seven games for West Perth last season before returning to the country.

South Fremantle scooped the pool when Hart came to the city to give league football another chance. Now the Bulldogs will have one of the best roving combinations in the WAFL.

Hart, together with Wally Matera, Noel Carter and Willie Roe, makes up a small man brigade equal to any club in the State.

LAST year South Fremantle coach Mal Brown said that the Bulldogs had come to the end of an era.

Therefore it is not surprising to see a talented array of young players on the verge of league selection at the port club this year.

Heading the list of likely newcomers to the league side is young half-forward, BRETT LITTLE who has spent the last two seasons in the reserves and colts. And he is still only 17.

Little represented WA in the Teal Cup competition last year and showed good form in the early practice matches.

He is a pacy half-forward flanker, with excellent ball skills and a temperament to match. In fact he looks like a young Basil Campbell.

He has that air of magic in his play which became so familiar in Campbell's make-up and he should be able to hold down a regular league berth.

When South Fremantle recruited Northern Tasmanian Football League fairest and best winner RICHARD LYNCH last year they would have expected him to play senior football almost immediately.

However, despite showing good form in the reserves for most of the season, Lynch had to be content with playing in that competition for all of 1983.

OPPORTUNITY

But his form in pre-season matches this summer indicated that he would receive his opportunity.

Lynch starred from the back-pocket or half-back flank in those games and his efforts in those unfamiliar positions suggest success should come his way.

South Fremantle's colts team has been in the last two grand finals and one of the stars of the 1983 side was BRAD COLLARD.

And he now looks ready to make his league debut.

He too, was an impressive player in pre-season matches and is a fine mover.

He seems to have boundless energy and could slot into a ruck roving role.

Another of the stars of last season's colts team was JOHN McDONALD, one of the most impressive players at the port club during pre-season.

McDonald, 19, played most of his football on a wing in the colts side and could force his way into the senior team in that position.

He has good skills, is keen to succeed and with a couple of vacancies at the club should receive his chance.

Those who saw the performances of young ruckman PETER DENNETT in the Emu Export Carnival in 1983 would have been surprised that he did not make his league debut shortly afterwards.

The 20-year-old mechanic impressed in the ruck during the carnival and it appeared only a matter of time before he worked his way into the senior side.

The country area has served South Fremantle well in recent seasons and 1984 should be no exception.

Two of their recruits, BRETT DUFFIELD (West Arthur) and ROY MORGAN (Cranbrook) look set to make their mark in league football.

Morgan has played colts and reserves with the club for the last two years and looked capable of breaking into league football before a fractured collarbone mid-season ended any aspirations he might have had.

However, with a little luck and an injury-free run he could become a top player for the Bulldogs. He works hard and has the ability to play in defence or attack.

Duffield was troubled by injury and missed a lot of pre-season work, but he is a classy wingman who should become a fine player.

Losing that preparation before the start of the season will do his chances little good and the Bulldogs will watch his efforts in the reserves closely.

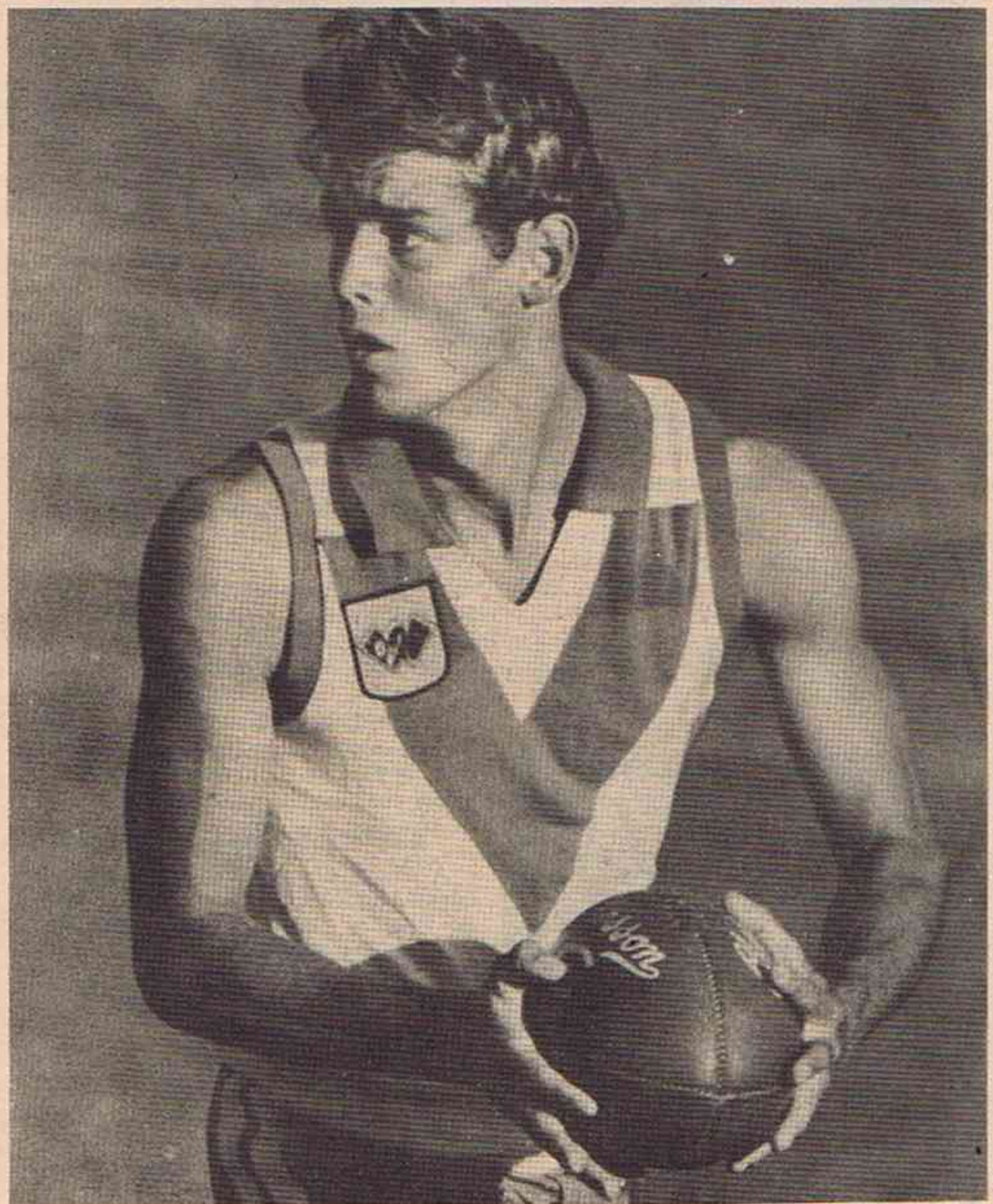


BRAD COLLARD... ready for league ranks.



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NEW FACES

Focus on players new to the WAFL



Perrin looks good

Former Footscray ruck-rover **BRIAN PERRIN** should prove good value for West Perth this season.

The strongly built Perrin impressed in his pre-season work and his strength should be a handy acquisition for the Falcons.

The 26-year-old catering manager played 33 games with the VFL Bulldogs after making his debut in 1980 and came to Perth in an effort to become a regular league player.

He should certainly achieve that goal. He has good skills on both sides of his body, takes a good mark and will help to off-set the loss Ross Gibbs to South Australian club, Glenelg.

Falcons pin hopes on youth

AFTER a disappointing season in 1983 West Perth have turned their attention to youth in an effort to re-emerge as a force.

In addition, they have gone to the country and to Darwin to bolster their playing strengths.

The prize recruit for the Falcons is former Tammin half-forward **DEREK KICKETT**, who has arrived in the city after several attempts by the club to lure him to Leederville Oval.

The half-forward line has been a problem for West Perth and Kickett should give them some valuable bite, particularly if his pre-season form can be used as a gauge.

He is extremely fast, takes a strong mark and showed a willingness to throw himself into the fray and get the ball out into the open.

The Falcons have had too many receivers in their forward line in the past and Kickett's presence will help to balance the situation.

REFLEXES

The thin right footer has amazing reflexes, recovers well and had little trouble in slotting immediately into the senior side.

West Perth fans will no doubt remember the feats of **DON BONSON**, who played three games with the club in 1981.

However, he returned to Darwin for the 1982 summer season and did not come back to Perth.

He impressed in his handful of games for the Falcons as a wingman. He was quick, skilful and persistent and he has lost none of those qualities.

But the Falcons appear likely to use his talents on the half-back line this time. In a practice match against Claremont he was outstanding in that position.

He proved he could play the negating role to good effect; he is strongly built, spoils well and his pace puts pressure on opposition forwards.

Bonson has been one of the stars of the strong Darwin competition in recent seasons and with that added experience behind him he could be a vital player for West Perth.

Three years ago the Falcons appeared to have unearthed a ruckman of immense potential. In his initial games with the colts **STUART CROLE** was most impressive, but he then disappeared off the scene.

He began studies at WAIT and decided

to play his football with the campus side in amateurs.

Nothing had been heard of the promising young ruckman until coach Dennis Cometti contacted him late last year and asked him if he would like to return.

Although Crole has a bit of work to do on his skills, he has the basic talent required to make league level. It is a giant jump from playing with WAIT to making a successful career in the WAFL and the big ruckman knows that.

ROVER

Another major problem for West Perth in recent times has been finding a roving partner for dynamic captain Les Fong.

One of the youngsters who must come under consideration for this berth is **CHRIS DAVIES**.

He played reserves last season with success and looks to have a bright future. He has good skills on both sides of his body, but might need to work on his pace.

He finished third in West Perth's reserves fairest and best award last year, behind Wayne Dayman, Ross Munns and Alan Watling, so he could be ready for league football.

Obviously he is going to take some time to settle into the temp of senior football, but West Perth must look to the future and give Davies every opportunity.

Everyone is predicting a difficult time for the Falcons in 1984 and it will be up to these young and imported players to help put the Falcons on the road to recovery.

Together with senior players like Les Fong, Geoff Hendriks, Brian Adamson, George Michalczyk, Peter Menaglio and Rod Alderton they must combine to lift West Perth up the ladder.

Obviously the presence of the established players at Leederville Oval will help the recruits and youngsters to settle down and Dennis Cometti will be counting on them.

The club has often been criticised in recent times for their recruiting methods, but this time they look to have done the job well.



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SOUTH WEST AREA A BONUS FOR SWANS

THE South West of WA is one of the richest farming areas in the State — but Swan Districts continue to reap the rewards of other primary products from the district.

The football competition in that region is regarded as the best outside the metropolitan area and the reigning premiers are confident that two of their country recruits will fulfill high expectations.

For several seasons now young Bunbury wingman **SHANE RENFREE** has been one of the stars of the SWNFL and he looks ready to slot into senior football in the city.

The talented 20-year-old played in Bunbury's premiership side in 1982 when they broke a long drought. But last season, when the club repeated the performance, Renfree was an onlooker.

INJURIES

He was sidelined for the majority of 1983 with chronic hamstring problems and missed out on being a part of back-to-back premierships with the Tigers.

Renfree was late coming to Perth for pre-season and started slowly because of his leg problems. He wasn't prepared to take any gambles before the start of the real action, but should be a valuable player for Swans.

If talent runs in the family then Swans are on a real winner with **GAVIN MCGUIRE**, another recruit from the Bunbury club.

With the same breeding in racing circles he would fetch a record price at a yearling sale. McGuire is a cousin of Keith and Phil Narkle and John and Oral McGuire.

Like Renfree, he has played no small part in his country club's rise to power and he will be hoping to continue that success in the city.

McGuire has the ability to play as a ruck-rover, wingman or half-forward and despite the fact that he was late getting to the city for pre-season training, he could break into league ranks.

His arrival was delayed when he stayed in Bunbury while he finished his plumbing apprenticeship.

Breaking into league football is never easy, but at 28 it takes on an even bigger challenge.

However, Swan Districts recruit **BILL MCBRIDE** will be striving to achieve that goal this season.

McBride a tough half-back from Sydney, has represented his State on several occasions and looks capable of holding down a league position with his WA club.

He only knows one way to play the game — he attacks the ball at all cost and clears with precise foot passing.

After holding out at West Perth for a clearance for most of pre-season big ruckman **SHANE BOGUNOVICH** was eventually persuaded that he should go to Swans.

His brother, Ramsay, was in a similar position last year, but was cleared. However, Swans were not prepared to let another young big man by-pass Bassendean Oval.

Shane played a season with Geelong's colts and reserves last year without ever going to Swans

The naval recruiting officer arrived in WA virtually unheralded, but quickly began to win admirers during pre-season.

He knows it will not be an easy task, but he has the dedication and desire to succeed which should see him become a valuable player.

At the other end of the age scale Swans have a talented young rover from Darwin who will also be keen to break into senior football.

KEVIN CATON, an extremely fast and skilful player, was sought by several WAFL clubs, but little has been seen of him in the practice matches.

Obviously he is a player of the future and Swan Districts fans will relish his football this season.

His arrival in Perth was also delayed because he was involved in finals during Darwin's summer season.

Swan Districts won the race for his signature and are confident he will almost immediately settle into the senior side.



SHANE RENFREE... pulling his boots on for Swans.



NEW FACES

Focus on players new to the WAFL

Stream of talent flows in from other clubs

Swan Districts coach John Todd has the happy knack of recruiting a player from another club and turning him into a star in his machine-like side.

This year he is pinning his hopes on three proven performers — **CHRIS ALLEN** (East Perth), **BRETT FARMER** (Claremont) and **KIM HETHERINGTON** (East Fremantle).

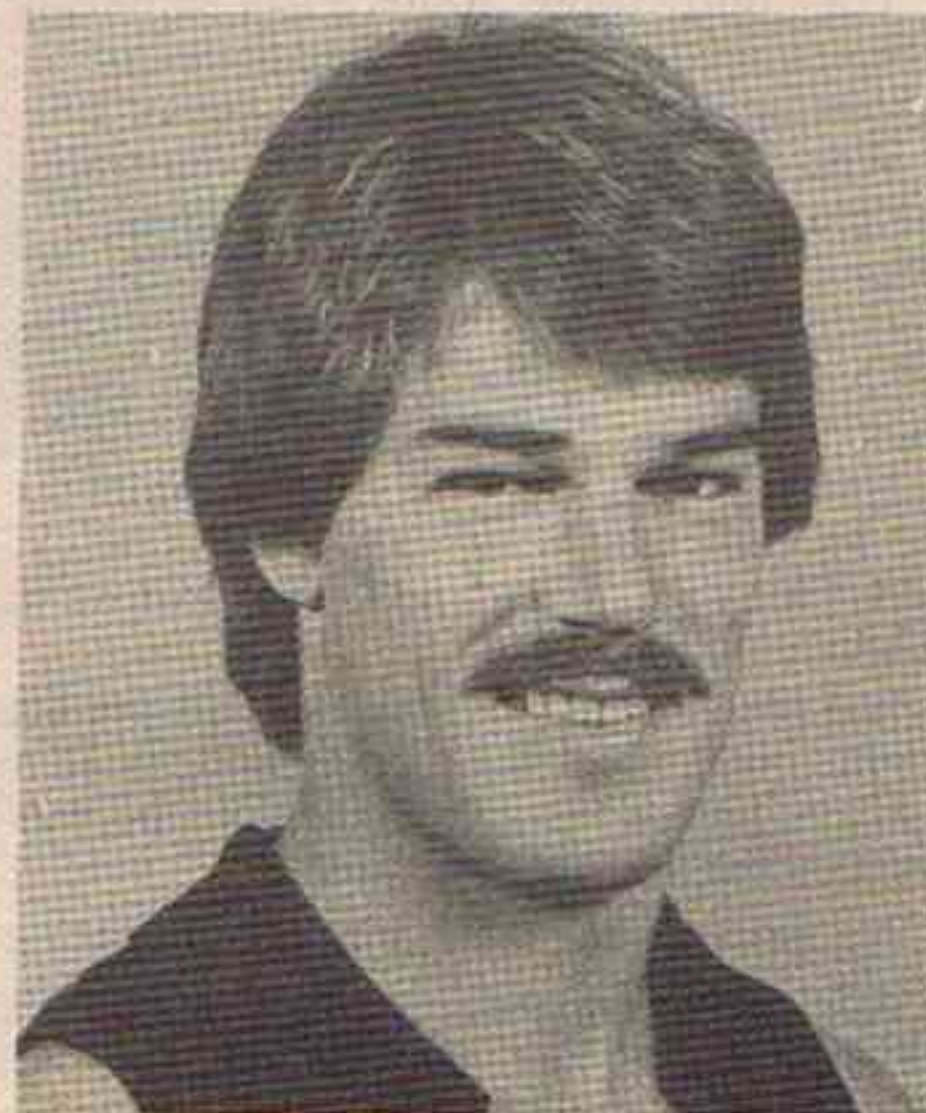
Allen was a top ruck rover cum centreman with the Royals, but as soon as he showed signs of wanting to leave, Todd seized the initiative and coaxed him down to the Bassendean-based Swans.

Todd is always looking at covering for the loss of senior players and with Leon Baker, Phil Narkle, Peter Kenny and Stan Nowotny among the debits this season, he was quick to look for alternatives.

Allen will be used in a similar role to that which he took on at East Perth and he should have little problem adjusting to Swans brand of football.

Perhaps the only deficiency in Swans make up in recent seasons has been the lack of a goalkicking forward. Farmer should solve that problem.

He teamed with Warren Ralph and Stephen Malaxos to form Claremont's potent goalkicking power when they won the 1981 grand final so he knows what is required.



Allen

In addition he is versatile. He can be used as a ruck rover where his destructive handball can be used to good effect. Farmer is a magnificent kick, takes a good mark and has plenty to offer Swans.

Since taking over at the helm of Swan Districts, Todd has concentrated on building a flexible unit — and that is where Hetherington comes in.

He began his career with East Fremantle as a wingman, but in his rare games in the last two years, has had success at half back and half forward.



Hetherington

The only reason he was not a regular player at East Fremantle was that he was plagued by injury. He is obviously hoping those problems don't follow him across to Bassendean.

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High standard is kept up by Tigers

CLAREMONT have concentrated their recruiting in recent seasons to their junior council and country zone — a move that has kept them near the top of the WAFL premiership table.

And judging by the standard of player they have enticed from these areas again this season, the practice will continue.

One of the most impressive of the young players in the build-up matches was former Newman College star **ANTHONY BEGOVICH**.

The strongly built utility player has joined Claremont with an outstanding under-age record.

In 1982 he was the fairest and best in the 15s division of the Subiaco Junior Council. The following year he won the same award in the 16s section of the West Perth Junior Council and he represented his college from 1981-83.

ATHLETIC

He has played most of his football as a centreman or ruck-rover and that is not surprising when his athletic prowess is taken into consideration.

He was Newman College champion athlete in his last three years at school.

Begovich is still only 17 and he does not appear to be far away from his league debut.

Another outstanding young prospect in his first year out of school is half-forward **STEPHEN COOK**.

He notched up similar success to Begovich while attending Hale School.

Cook was in his school's 1st XVIII from 1981 to 1983 and that is a fine performance considering the pride taken in Hale School's sporting achievements.

The 17-year-old has played most of his football at centre-half-forward and he is particularly strong in the air.

He was his side's fairest and best player last year and that speaks volumes for his ability — winning that honour while playing in a key attacking position.

Young rover **DEAN WINNING** showed last year in the colts and reserves that he wasn't too far away from being ready for league football.

And then he played almost every senior practice match and was most impressive.

He will take time to adjust to the tempo of top level football, but there is little doubt that he will become a top player for the Tigers.

Winning has all the attributes to be a success; he is fast; has good skills and is intelligent. On top of that he reads the play well.

INTERSTATE

Claremont have also proven to be good judges in regard to their interstate recruits lately and they again appear to be on target with their selective approach.

DAVID MARTIN is a 21-year-old former Victorian Teal Cup vice-captain and North Melbourne under-19 captain.

Those awards are not bestowed upon players without ability and he has come to the west to prove that he can make the grade in top level football.

He can play at full-forward, centre-half-forward and even centre-half-back and he kicked over 70 goals with the North Melbourne reserves last year.

Martin is originally from Tasmania and his sporting interests have not been limited to football. He played State under-16s for Tasmania.

One of the most difficult tasks at Claremont this year will be replacing the ball-getting ability of hard working ruck-rover Wayne Blackwell.

However, the Tigers could look confidently to VFA recruit **BRENDON KAVANAGH** to cover the loss.

Kavanagh played four seasons with Port Melbourne and in 1983, when used as a ruck-rover, had more possessions than any other player in the competition.

He played in three grand finals with Port Melbourne and in 1982 was judged the fairest and best player in the finals.

The 24-year-old sports recreation officer might not have the same polish as Blackwell, but he will help to close the gaping hole left when the former Claremont vice captain headed for Carlton.

Young rover **DARREN KLEMM** showed in pre-season matches that he could be a top player for Claremont this season.

The nuggetty little man, who played solidly in the reserves throughout last season, deserves a chance and could help to inject more desperation in the club's play — something that has been lacking in the last two grand finals.



New Tigers stars Anthony Begovich (left) and Dean Winning.



NEW FACES

Focus on players new to the WAFL



Bruce Monteath

Jeff Stone

David Court

Claremont pulled off one of the recruiting coups of the season when they enticed former South Fremantle centre half forward **BRUCE MONTEATH** to Tigerland this season.

The strong marking former Richmond captain had an impressive record against the Tigers before switching this year and there must be a few relieved Claremont defenders around the club.

In practice matches Monteath was always looking to get the ball onto a team mate and he is going to cause many headaches for opposition teams this year.

Claremont have also recruited well in the big man department, getting **DAVID COURT** from Subiaco and **JEFF STONE** from Swan Districts.

Both are young players with promising careers ahead of them and with local products Dean Farmer and David O'Connell give the Tigers a powerful ruck.

Court has been plagued by injuries in the last couple of seasons, but he looks ready to produce his best football, while Stone was nursed along slowly at Bassendean and he is keen to show his best form in senior competition.



DARREN KLEMM... a likely prospect.

All the best to Claremont for 1984...

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COLTS CORNER

Plenty of experience at the Port

THERE is no shortage of football knowledge among the colts coaches at the two Fremantle clubs this year.

Three-hundred-game veteran Graham Melrose is in charge of the young players at East Fremantle, while former South Fremantle captain Brian Ciccotosto is looking after the Bulldog colts.

Melrose built a fine reputation as a player with three clubs in two States.

He began his career as an 18-year-old with East Fremantle in 1967 and survived 16 full seasons of league football before a crippling knee injury robbed him of the joy of playing in his third WAFL premiership side last year.

The brilliant rover will be remembered as one of the last players in WA to use the drop kick and he used it with devastating effect.

He led East Fremantle to the 1974 premiership and capped of a magnificent season when he was crowned Sandover Medalist.



MELROSE

VFL LURE

Melrose played 140 games with East Fremantle before the lure of the bright lights in the VFL became too much to turn down and he joined North Melbourne in 1975.

After 111 games with the Kangaroos, he returned to his home State in 1980 and was re-united with his East Fremantle coach John Todd, who was coaching Swan Districts.

In his second season at Bassendean he was appointed captain and led the club to its first premiership since 1963. He was a solid as a rock in the grand final, in his new found home in the back pocket and was rewarded with the Simpson Medal.

Ciccotosto was a brilliant rover, although he never once won his club's fairest and best award.

He was the back-bone of the Bulldogs side in the late 1960s and 1970s and was a key player in the club's premiership in 1970 when he kicked four goals and picked up the Simpson Medal.

The diminutive rover was also a regular member of State teams when at his peak.

He played 211 games for the Bulldogs in a long and distinguished career, during which time he set the example for skill and courage.

As players both Ciccotosto and Melrose had few peers and they should prove excellent coaches for the colts players at their respective clubs.

Certainly they should have no trouble gaining the respect of their charges.



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Wesfarmers COUNTRY ROUNDUP

Country football clubs, associations and leagues are invited to submit news items and photographs for inclusion on this page.

Contributions should be posted to WESTSIDE FOOTBALL, 215 Oxford Street, Leederville or phoned through on 443 2262.



Federals, Cunderdin set to fire

Federals and Cunderdin could provide some surprises in the Avon Football Association this year.

The competition has been dominated in recent times by York, Railways, Brookton and Tammin and while those sides again appear strong, Federals and Cunderdin loom as the teams most likely to upset the composition of the four.

Federals, under the guile of former Swan Districts, South Fremantle and Woodville utility player Brian Close, began to improve late last season and they will be looking to continue their march towards their first ever premiership.

Close has worked hard over the summer on an extensive recruiting campaign and it could net him former league players Simon Outhwaite and Jeff Davidson.

Outhwaite is uncertain about his future because of an ankle injury while Davidson, a member of Swan Districts 1982 premiership side, has decided to retire from top level football.

Other players who have been recruited include youngsters Craig Curtis, Neil Harvey, Brad Sinclair and Terry Norrish. Another man high on Close's recruiting priorities is Geoff Simms, a member of South Fremantle's squad in last year's Emu Export Carnival.

BROTHERS

Cunderdin came home with a flourish towards the end of last season and they will be looking to brothers Terry and Kim Coleman to get them into the four.

Both played senior football with Perth before farming commitments forced their early retirement.

York won their first premiership in the AVFA last year and will again be a force to be reckoned with. Their major recruit is former West Perth half-forward Steve McEvoy.

Railways, under the leadership of former Perth player Mick Morris, must also rate highly. Their prize recruit is big ruckman Brian Doy.

Although Tammin have lost star forward Derek Kickett to West Perth they should be able to off-set his loss with several outstanding young players.

Brilliant Brookton centremen Kim Fancote has gone to Perth, but former Demon and Kelmscott player Mark Triplett should help to cover the loss.

HAWKS RE-UNION

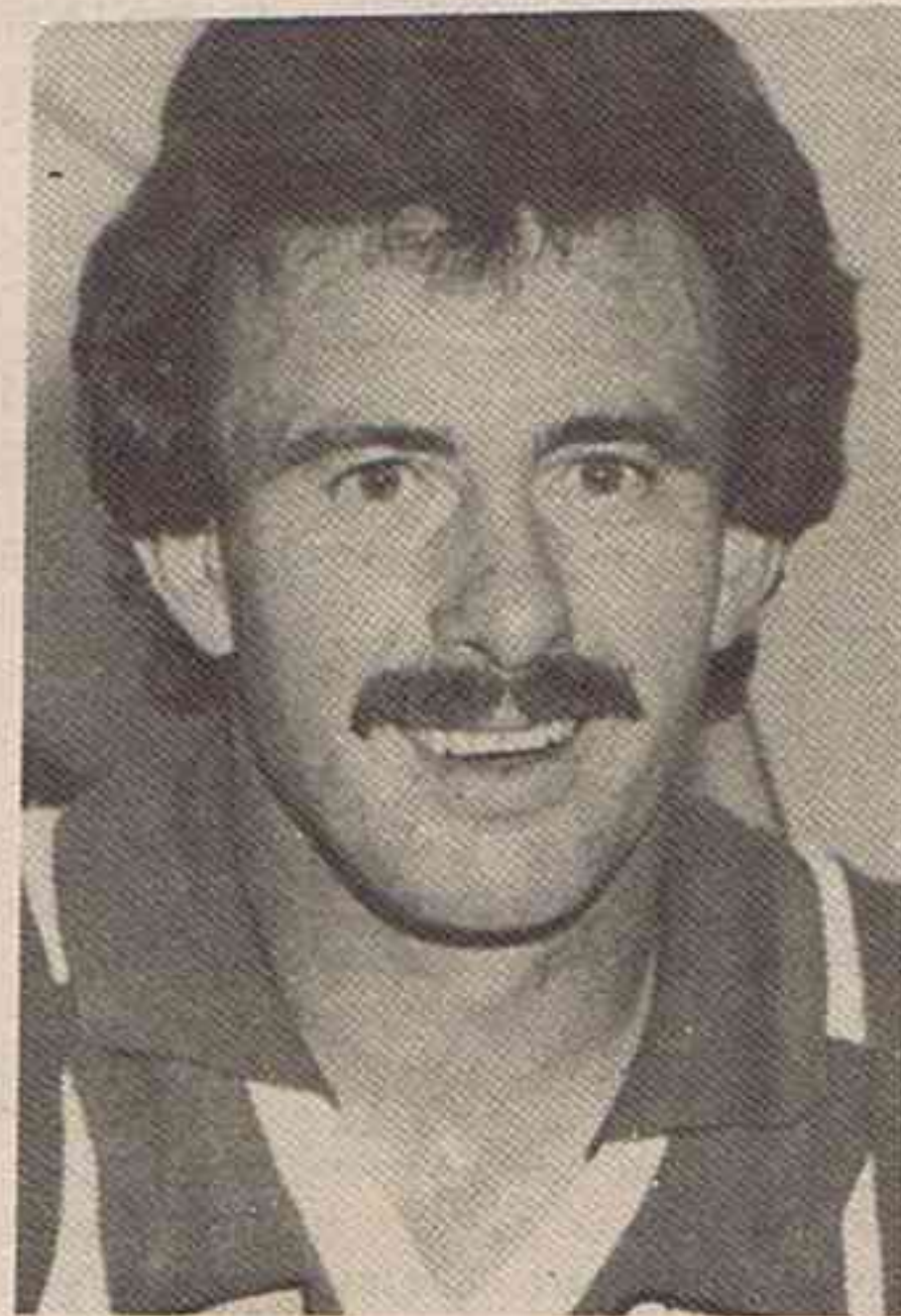
The South Mt Barker Football Club is holding a re-union of former players, members and officials on April 29.

The Hawks were founded in 1921 and they are one of the most historic clubs in the Southern Districts National Football League.

To help the success of the event the SDNFL has brought forward a derby fixture and to kick off the day South and North Mt Barker will do battle.

The two clubs are arch rivals and they have had some outstanding contests in the past, so a big crowd is expected.

Football followers interested in returning to the Hawks for the reunion should contact club stalwart Bert Henderson on (098) 56 1033.



BRIAN CLOSE... in charge of Federals.

He won his South Suburban club's fairest and best award last season and will take with him a former team mate, Paul Harris.

Those six sides should all be in the running for a place in the four while Beverley, Kellerberrin and Quairading could find games hard to win.

UMPIRES NEEDED

The Upper Great Southern National Football League is in desperate need of umpires for their local panel.

They need at least 10 umpires and with the season only two weeks away they have just six in training. Anyone wishing to take on the task should contact John Pillage Narrogin on 81 1460.

In other news in the Upper Great Southern, Wickpin have appointed former Subiaco and South Fremantle star Ron Bayens as playing-coach for the coming season.

All clubs have appointed the men who will lead their senior teams.

They are: Greg Cavanagh (Williams), Tony Connelly (Cuballing), Gerald McGuire (Pingelly), Mark Gordon (Boddington), Ron Dewson (Lake Grace), Michael Davies (West Arthur), Tony Doney (Wagin), Kevin Robartson (Towns) and Kevin Timms (Railways).

GREAT DAY AT GERALDTON

THE success of the East Fremantle-South Fremantle practice match in Geraldton last Saturday is further proof that these games could become regular events on the country football calendar.

The Great Northern National Football League was over-whelmed by the response of the Geraldton public and they are sure to push for a similar fixture next year.

Many of East Fremantle's league players, including sensational young centremen Murray Wrensted, half back Glen Hoult, rover Mark Valli, defender Clinton Browning and wingman John Bellotti have been provided by the Geraldton-based league.

Tough times for Mines

Mines Rovers, the runners-up to Bunbury in the South West National Football League last year, could be in for a long, hard season.

The Miners, who were the most impressive side in qualifying games in 1983, were out-classed in the grand final and have now lost several key players.

Ray Smith and Peter Rowe have headed for the city to play for Claremont and East Perth respectively while former Claremont and East Perth ruckman Des Hindson has also moved on.

Smith was a member of Claremont's 1981 premiership side and he has decided to give league football another chance this season. He was one of the stars of last year's final round.

Bunbury, who have won the last two premierships, appear again to be the team to beat despite the retirement of captain Ron Tresize and the loss of Shane Renfree, Gavin McGuire and Jim Durnan.

Renfree and McGuire, two outstanding young players, have moved to Swan Districts this season.

Coach Peter Betti has them playing a strong brand of football and his influence should see the Tigers remain a force in the competition.

Arch rivals South Bunbury have recruited former Claremont and East Perth utility player Clayton Lewis and under new coach Gerard McNeill should also be in the firing line.

Collie, who returned as a power last season have lost talented wingman Brett Duffield (South Fremantle) while former Perth and East Perth rover John Doyle has not trained with the Saints in pre-season.

Their new coach is Trevor Stewart who was at the helm of Mines Rovers in 1979.

A bonus for the Saints is that champion Bill Hayward, who retired last season after a serious leg injury, is making a comeback.

Peter Walsh, a brother of East Perth captain Greg Walsh, will again coach Augusta-Margaret River.

Former Bunbury champion John Rogers, who played in the club's 1970 premiership side, will coach Harvey Brunswick this season.

Donnybrook will be coached by former Harvey-Brunswick player Mike Le Roy, who spent last season in charge of Waroona in the Murray Districts Football League.

Kim Allsop has the daunting task of lifting the rating of Boyanup-Capel-Dardenup.

In charge of Carey Park is Ray Browning, while Ross Manning is again going to lead Busselton.



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AMATEUR NEWS



BACK AGAIN

The West Australian Amateur Football League joins Westside Football for the sixth season in their big weekly coverage.

Through this column we hope the football public gain greater understanding and appreciation of the biggest single football body in WA.

This season growth continues with the admission of three new clubs Mirrabooka, Redcliffe and Riverton, taking the total to 155 teams from 55 clubs, competing in 12 senior

grades and 4 colts (under 20) grades.

The Sunday division has been dissolved and all those clubs, with the exception of Fire Brigade, being graded into the Saturday competition.

Throughout the year the aim is to report as widely as possible on all aspects of amateur football, now in its 56th year of competition.

OUR LEAGUE

All enquiries and comments regarding joining or contacting any of the clubs in the Western Australian

Amateur Football League can be made to league headquarters on 382 1293 Monday to Friday 10am till 4pm.

WE'RE NOW 62

Amateur football in WA began in 1922 when it was known as the Mercantile Association.

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FIELD UMPIRES

The Amateur League require 80 field umpires for the coming season commencing 14 April.

Training has commenced Tuesday evenings 5.00pm.

All interested persons should apply in writing stating previous experience, age, address and telephone numbers. Enquiries can be made to:

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A round-up from the West Australian Amateur Football League.

3,100 competing every Saturday. For the first time since 1973 there will be no Sunday division, due to the stronger teams transferring to the more evenly balanced Saturday gradings.

APRIL 14 START

The WAAFL season commences on Saturday April 14 with a bye over the Easter weekend, resuming again on April 28. Home and away games conclude on August 18.

Once again the final five system will be used and all grand finals will be held on 15th September.

PROMOTIONS AND RELEGATIONS

CBC returns to A-grade after an absence of three years and Scarborough, one of amateurs most consistent finals performers in recent years, have also made the major grade.

Maylands struggled last season and will no doubt regroup in 'B'.

A-grade and A-colts teams are CBS; Collegians/Old Scotch; Mt Lawley; Nollamara; North Beach; Old Wesley; Scarborough; Trinity-Aquinas; University; Wembley.

B-grade and B-colts teams are Bayswater; Carlisle; Maylands; MHWP; North Fremantle; University No. 2; Wembley No. 2; Whitfords; WAIT; West Coast.

Carlisle were easily the best side in C-grade last year and their premierships earned them promotion. Whitfords and WAIT have also moved a step up the grades.

Morley have been relegated to C-grade after a disappointing year last season.

Innaloo; Dianella; Osborne Park; Mt Lawley No. 2; Collegians/Old Scotch No. 2.

Northbridge-AICA have been slotted into this grade after competing in the Sunday division in 1983. Dianella contued their rapid progression through the ranks, skipping D-grade, while Collegians-Old Scotch have risen from D-grade. Wembley No. 3 have been dropped by one grade.

D-grade teams are North Beach No. 2; Bassendean; National Bank; Old Wesley No. 2; Brentwood; Wembley No. 3; Swan Athletic; Nollamara No. 2; Lynwood-Ferndale; University No. 2.

Swan Athletic played in the Sunday division last year while University No. 3 and Lynwood-Ferndale move up from E-grade.

Carlisle No. 2 have been demoted to E-grade along with Commonwealth Bank and Swanbourne-Nedlands.

E-grade: Bayswater No. 2; Carlisle No. 2; Commonwealth Bank; Koondoola; R & I Bank; St Norberts; Swanbourne-Nedlands; WACAE; Maylands No. 2; Applecross.

F-grade: Muresk; Bullcreek; CBC No. 2; Coolbellup; Graylands; Scarborough No. 2;

Coolbinia-Yokine; Trinity-Aquinas No. 2; West Coast No. 2; North Fremantle No. 2.

G-grade: Dianella No. 2; John 23rd; North Beach-No. 3; Cockburn Lakes; University No. 4; Whitford No. 2; Edgewater; Mt Lawley No. 3; Collegians-Old Scotch No. 2; WAIT No. 2.

H-grade: Northbridge-AICA No. 2; City of Perth; Nollamara No. 3; Innaloo No. 2; Scarborough No. 3; WACAE No. 2; Wembley No. 4; ANZ Bank; Forrestfield No. 2; MHWP No. 2.

I-grade: Collegians-Old Scotch No. 4; Murdoch; Bassendean No. 2; Girrawheen; Lynwood-Ferndale No. 2; Dianella No. 3; RAAF; Old Wesley No. 3; West Coast No. 3; Mt Lawley No. 4.

J-grade: Bayswater No. 3; Bullcreek No. 2; Carlisle No. 3; Coolbinia-Yokine No. 2; Hellenic No. 2; Brentwood; Morley No. 2; East Fremantle; Applecross No. 2; North Beach No. 4; Whitford No. 3.

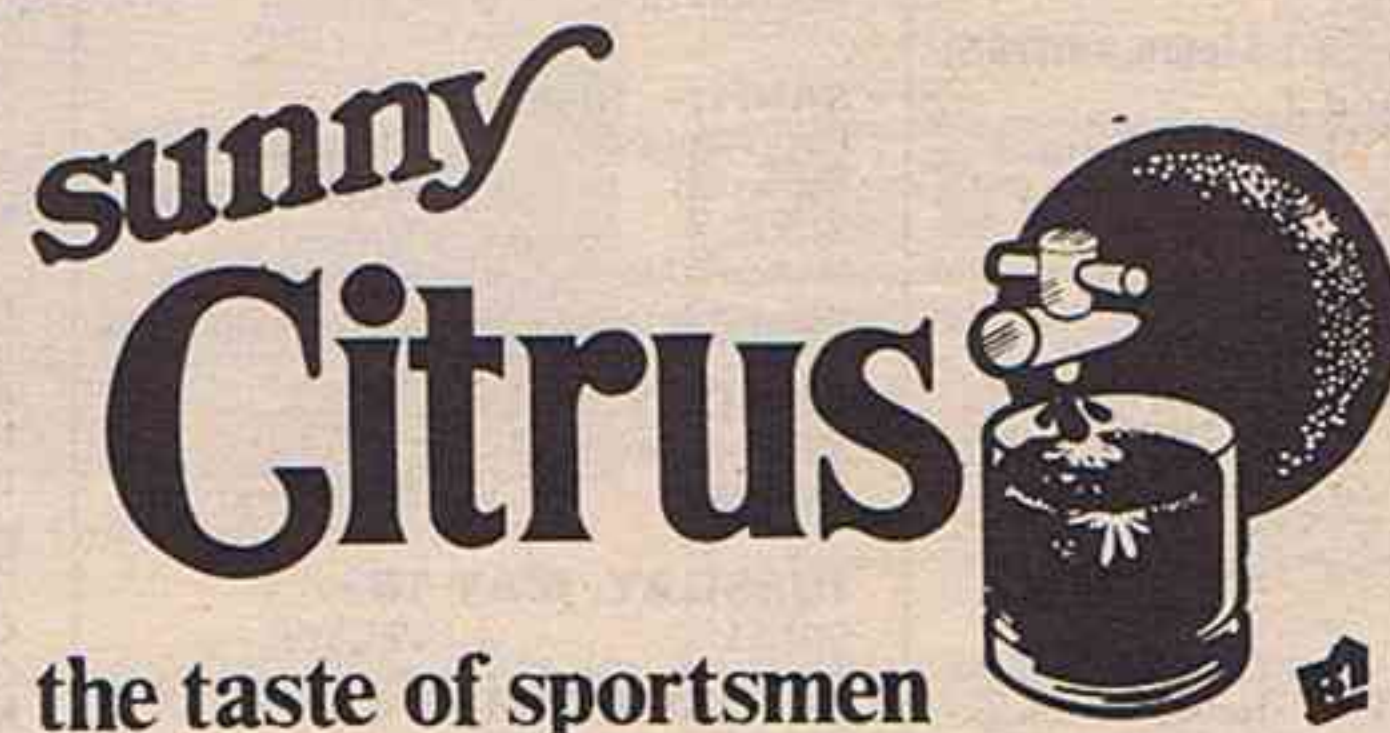
K-grade: Edgewater No. 2; Whitford No. 4; Coolbellup No. 2; Girrawheen No. 2; Hamersley No. 2; MHWP No. 3; Stirling Districts; WAIT No. 3; Trinity-Aquinas No. 3; Swanbourne-Nedlands No. 2.

L-grade: Bassendean No. 3; Dianella No. 4; Innaloo No. 3; Mirrabooka; Morley No. 2; North Fremantle No. 3; Swan Athletic; WACAE No. 3.

D-colts: Bullcreek; Bassendean; Coolbinia-Yokine; Lynwood-Ferndale; Old Wesley No. 2; Redcliffe; Riverton; West Coast.

FULL COVER

The full page Westside Football amateur news round-up will start in earnest from the April 11 issue.



PHONE 344 3811

SANDOVER MEDAL GUIDE



FOLLOW THE EXPERTS

EVERY player who pulls on a football guernsey dreams that one day he will win the Sandover Medal for the game's fairest and best player.

Apart from Channel 7's \$20,000 cheque which goes to the winner, the prestige of joining an elite band of stars gives the man judged as the best player in WA football the proudest moment of his life.

Last year East Perth giant John Ironmonger was successful on a countback from Perth skipper Bryan Cousins, with South Fremantle pair Brad Hardie and Stephen Michael only one vote behind.

To many fans, Ironmonger's success was a surprise, but had they followed Westside Football's unique Sandover Medal guide it would not have been a shock.

Every week we survey the opinions of Perth's leading media men and publish their best three players in each game.

From the Sunday Times, The West Australian, The Weekend News and The Sunday Independent in the print media to Channel 7, 6PR, 6KY, Channel 2, 6IX and 6WF in the electronic media, we publish all their votes.

Watch for it every week and see who the experts find are the best players afield.

SANDOVER METALS

10 Glassford Road, Kewdale W.A. Tel 451 1177

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Budget National Fixtures and Results

All home teams mentioned first.
KEY - (S) = Subiaco, (P) = VFL Park,
(SS) = Sydney Cricket Ground,
(W) = Football Park, Westlakes, Adelaide.

THIS WEEKEND'S NATIONAL FIXTURES

SATURDAY MARCH 31

W.A.F.L. - Round 1
S. Fremantle v Claremont
West Perth v Perth
Subiaco v East Fremantle

VFL - Round 1
North Melb. v Carlton (P)
Footscray v Richmond
Geelong v Fitzroy
Collingwood v Melbourne
Hawthorn v Swans
St. Kilda v Essendon

SANFL - Round 1
Sturt v Norwood (W)
Port Adelaide v South Adelaide
West Torrens v Woodville
Glenelg v Central Districts

SUNDAY APRIL 1
W.A.F.L. - Round 1
Swans v E. Perth (Bun.)

SANFL - Round 1
West Adelaide v North Adelaide

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

W.A.F.L. - Round 2
Claremont v Swan Districts
East Perth v West Perth
Perth v Subiaco
E. Fremantle v S. Fremantle

VFL - Round 2
Geelong v Footscray (P)
Essendon v Hawthorn
Fitzroy v Carlton
Collingwood v St. Kilda
Richmond v Nth. Melbourne

SANFL - Round 2
Port Adelaide v W. Adelaide (W)
Central Dist. v Norwood
Glenelg v Sturt
Woodville v South Adelaide

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

VFL - Round 2
Swans v Melbourne (SS)

SANFL - Round 2
Nth. Adelaide v West Torrens

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

W.A.F.L. - Round 3
West Perth v Subiaco
Claremont v East Fremantle
S. Fremantle v S. Districts (S)
Perth v East Perth

VFL - Round 3
Fitzroy v Richmond (P)
Carlton v Geelong
Essendon v Collingwood
Melbourne v Hawthorn
N. Melbourne v Footscray
St. Kilda v Swans

SANFL - Round 3
Glenelg v S. Adelaide (W)
Central Dist. v West Torrens
Norwood v West Adelaide
Nth. Adelaide v Sturt

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

SANFL - Round 3
Port Adelaide v Woodville

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

W.A.F.L. - Round 4
E. Fremantle v West Perth
Subiaco v Claremont

VFL - Round 4
Melbourne v Essendon (P)
Collingwood v Swans
Richmond v Carlton

SANFL - Round 4
Norwood v N. Adelaide (W)
Sturt v Port
West Torrens v Glenelg
W. Adelaide v Sth. Adelaide
Woodville v Central Districts

MONDAY, APRIL 23

W.A.F.L. - Round 4
East Perth v Sth. Fremantle
Swan Districts v Perth

VFL - Round 4
Fitzroy v Footscray
Hawthorn v St. Kilda
Geelong v Nth. Melbourne

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

VFL - Round 5
Carlton v Collingwood (P)
Richmond v Essendon

SANFL - Round 5
W. Adelaide v Sturt (W)
Sth. Adelaide v Norwood

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

W.A.F.L. - Round 5
S. Fremantle v Perth
S. Districts v East Fremantle
West Perth v Claremont
Subiaco v East Perth

VFL - Round 5
Footscray v Hawthorn
N. Melbourne v Melbourne
St. Kilda v Geelong

SANFL - Round 5
Glenelg v Woodville (W)
Port Adelaide v West Torrens
Nth. Adelaide v Central Districts

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

VFL - Round 5
Swans v Fitzroy (SS)

FRIDAY, MAY 4 (NIGHT)

SANFL - Round 6
Port Adelaide v Norwood (W)

SATURDAY, MAY 5

W.A.F.L. - Round 6
West Perth v Sth. Fremantle
Subiaco v Swan Districts
Claremont v East Perth
E. Fremantle v Perth

VFL - Round 6
Hawthorn v Richmond (P)
Carlton v St. Kilda
Collingwood v Nth. Melbourne
Fitzroy v Essendon
Footscray v Swans
Melbourne v Geelong

SANFL - Round 6

W. Torrens v Sturt (W)
Central Dist. v Sth. Adelaide
Glenelg v West Adelaide
N. Adelaide v Woodville

SATURDAY, MAY 12

W.A.F.L. - Round 7
S. Fremantle v Subiaco
S. Districts v West Perth
Perth v Claremont
East Perth v E. Fremantle (S)

VFL - Round 7
N. Melbourne v St. Kilda (P)
Essendon v Footscray
Geelong v Collingwood
Hawthorn v Fitzroy
Melbourne v Carlton

SANFL - Round 7

Port Adelaide v Glenelg (W)
Norwood v West Torrens
Sturt v Woodville
N. Adelaide v Sth. Adelaide
West Adelaide v Central Districts

SUNDAY, MAY 13

VFL - Round 7
Swans v Richmond (SS)

TUESDAY, MAY 15

SANFL - Round 7
VFL (W)

SATURDAY, MAY 19

W.A.F.L. - Round 8
Claremont v Sth. Fremantle
East Perth v Swan Districts
Perth v West Perth (S)
E. Fremantle v Subiaco

VFL - Round 8
Essendon v Geelong (P)
Carlton v Hawthorn
Fitzroy v Melbourne
N. Melbourne v Swans
Richmond v Collingwood
St. Kilda v Footscray

SANFL - Round 8

N. Adelaide v Glenelg (W)
Sturt v Sth. Adelaide
Woodville v Norwood

MONDAY, MAY 21

SANFL - Round 8
West Adelaide v W. Torrens (W)
Port Adelaide v Central Districts

SATURDAY, MAY 26

W.A.F.L. - Round 9
Swan Districts v Sth. Fremantle
Subiaco v West Perth
E. Fremantle v Claremont
East Perth v Perth

VFL - Round 9
Footscray v Melbourne (P)
Collingwood v Fitzroy
Essendon v Carlton
Hawthorn v Nth. Melbourne
Richmond v St. Kilda

SANFL - Round 9

Central Dist. v Sturt (W)
Glenelg v Norwood
Port Adelaide v Nth. Adelaide
W. Adelaide v Woodville

SUNDAY, MAY 27

VFL - Round 9
Swans v Geelong (SS)

SANFL - Round 9
W. Torrens v Sth. Adelaide

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

W.A.F.L. - Round 10
S. Districts v Claremont
Subiaco v Perth

VFL - Round 10
St. Kilda v Fitzroy (P)
Footscray v Collingwood
Geelong v Hawthorn
Melbourne v Richmond
N. Melbourne v Essendon

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

VFL - Round 10
Swans v Carlton (SS)

SANFL - Round 10

W. Adelaide v N. Adelaide (W)
Central Dist. v Glenelg
Norwood v Sturt
W. Torrens v Woodville

MONDAY, JUNE 4

W.A.F.L. - Round 10
West Perth v East Perth
S. Fremantle v East Fremantle

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

W.A.F.L. - Round 10
(No local W.A.F.L. and SANFL fixtures.)
Essendon v Swans
Richmond v Geelong
St. Kilda v Melbourne

MONDAY, JUNE 11

VFL - Round 11
Collingwood v Hawthorn (P)
Carlton v Footscray
Fitzroy v Nth. Melbourne

SANFL - Round 11

Sturt v N. Adelaide (W)
S. Adelaide v Glenelg
W. Torrens v Central Districts
W. Adelaide v Norwood
Woodville v Port Adelaide

FRIDAY, JUNE 15 (NIGHT)

SANFL - Round 12
S. Adelaide v W. Adelaide (W)

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

W.A.F.L. - Round 11
Perth v Swan Districts
Claremont v Subiaco
S. Fremantle v East Perth
West Perth v E. Fremantle (S)

VFL - Round 12

Carlton v Fitzroy (P)
Footscray v Geelong
Hawthorn v Essendon
Melbourne v Swans
N. Melbourne v Richmond
St. Kilda v Collingwood

SANFL - Round 12

Sturt v P. Adelaide (W)
Central Dist. v Woodville
Glenelg v West Torrens
N. Adelaide v Norwood

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

W.A.F.L. - Round 12
Perth v Sth. Fremantle
E. Fremantle v Swan Districts
West Perth v Claremont (S)
East Perth v Subiaco

VFL - Round 13

Footscray v Nth. Melb. (P)
Collingwood v Essendon
Geelong v Carlton
Hawthorn v Melbourne
Richmond v Fitzroy

SANFL - Round 13

P. Adelaide v W. Torrens (W)
Glenelg v Woodville
Norwood v Sth. Adelaide
N. Adelaide v Central Districts

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

VFL - Round 13
Swans v St. Kilda (SS)

SANFL - Round 13

Sturt v West Adelaide

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

W.A.F.L. - Round 13
S. Fremantle v West Perth (S)
Swan Districts v Subiaco
East Perth v Claremont
Perth v East Fremantle

VFL - Round 14

Essendon v Melbourne (P)
Carlton v Richmond
Footscray v Fitzroy
N. Melbourne v Geelong
St. Kilda v Hawthorn

SANFL - Round 14

S. Adelaide v Woodville (W)
P. Adelaide v West Adelaide
Sturt v Glenelg
W. Torrens v Nth. Adelaide

SUNDAY, JULY 1

VFL - Round 14
Swans v C'wood (SS)

SANFL - Round 14

Central Dist. v Norwood

FRIDAY, JULY 6 (NIGHT)

SANFL - Round 15
N. Adelaide v Woodville (W)

SATURDAY, JULY 7

W.A.F.L. - Round 14
Subiaco v Sth. Fremantle
West Perth v Swan Districts
Claremont v Perth
E. Fremantle v East Perth

VFL - Round 15

Collingwood v Carlton (P)
Essendon v Richmond
Fitzroy v Swans
Geelong v St. Kilda
Hawthorn v Footscray
Melbourne v Nth. Melbourne

SANFL - Round 15

Norwood v Pt. Adelaide (W)
S. Adelaide v Central Districts
Sturt v West Torrens
W. Adelaide v Glenelg

SATURDAY, JULY 14

W.A.F.L. - Round 15
S. Fremantle v Claremont
Swan Districts v East Perth
West Perth v Perth
Subiaco v East Fremantle

VFL - Round 16

Richmond v Hawthorn (P)
Essendon v Fitzroy
Central Dist. v W. Adelaide (W)
S. Adelaide v Nth. Adelaide
P. Adelaide v Glenelg
W. Torrens v Norwood

SANFL - Round 16

Sturt v West Torrens
W. Adelaide v Glenelg

SUNDAY, JULY 15

VFL - Round 16
Swans v Footscray (SS)

SANFL - Round 16

Woodville v Sturt

FRIDAY, JULY 20 (NIGHT)

Sturt v Cent. Dist. (W)

SATURDAY, JULY 21

W.A.F.L. - Round 16
Claremont v S. Districts (S)
East Perth v West Perth
Perth v Subiaco
E. Fremantle v Sth. Fremantle

VFL - Round 16

Geelong v Melbourne
N. Melbourne v Collingwood
St. Kilda v Carlton

SANFL - Round 17

P. Adelaide v N. Adelaide (W)
S. Adelaide v West Torrens
Norwood v Glenelg
W. Adelaide v Woodville

TUESDAY, JULY 17

W.A.F.L. - Round 16
VFL (S)

SATURDAY, JULY 28

W.A.F.L. - Round 17
S. Fremantle v Swan Districts
West Perth v Subiaco
Claremont v E. Fremantle (S)
Perth v East Perth

VFL - Round 17

St. Kilda v N. Melb. (P)
Carlton v Melbourne
Collingwood v Geelong
Fitzroy v Hawthorn
Footscray v Essendon
Richmond v Swans

SANFL - Round 18

W. Adelaide v W. Torrens (W)
S. Adelaide v Sturt
Central Dist. v Port Adelaide
Norwood v Woodville

SUNDAY, JULY 29

SANFL - Round 18
Glenelg v Nth. Adelaide

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

W.A.F.L. - Round 18
Swan Districts v Perth (S)
Claremont v Subiaco
East Perth v Sth. Fremantle
E. Fremantle v West Perth

VFL - Round 18

Geelong v Essendon (P)
Collingwood v Richmond
Footscray v St. Kilda
Hawthorn v Carlton
Melbourne v Fitzroy

SANFL - Round 19

S. Adelaide v Pt. Adel. (W)
N. Adelaide v West Adelaide

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

VFL - Round 18
Swans v Nth. Melb. (SS)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

W.A.F.L. - Round 19
S. Fremantle v Perth

Swan Districts v E. Fremantle
Claremont v West Perth
Subiaco v East Perth

VFL - Round 19

Fitzroy v Collingwood (P)
Carlton v Essendon
Geelong v Swans
Melbourne v Footscray
N. Melbourne v Hawthorn
St. Kilda v Richmond

SANFL - Round 19

Central Dist. v Glenelg (W)
Sturt v Norwood
Woodville v W. Torrens

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

W.A.F.L. - Round 20
West Perth v Sth. Fremantle
Subiaco v Swan Districts
Claremont v East Perth
E. Fremantle v Perth

VFL - Round 20

Hawthorn v Geelong (P)
Carlton v Swans
Collingwood v Footscray
Essendon v Nth. Melbourne
Fitzroy v St. Kilda
Richmond v Melbourne

SANFL - Round 20

W. Torrens v Cent. Dist. (W)
Glenelg v Sth. Adelaide
Sturt v Nth. Adelaide
Woodville v Port Adelaide

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

SANFL - Round 20
Norwood v West Adelaide

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24 (NIGHT)

SANFL - Round 21
Glenelg v W. Torrens (W)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

W.A.F.L. - Round 21
S. Fremantle v Subiaco
Swan Districts v West Perth
Perth v Claremont
East Perth v E. Fremantle

VFL - Round 21

Melbourne v St. Kilda (P)
Footscray v Carlton
Geelong v Richmond
Hawthorn v Collingwood
N. Melbourne v Fitzroy

SANFL - Round 21

Central Dist. v Woodville (W)
S. Adelaide v West Adelaide
Norwood v Nth. Adelaide
P. Adelaide v Sturt

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

VFL - Round 21
Swans v Essendon (SS)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

W.A.F.L. - 1st Semi Final

VFL - Round 22
Richmond v Footscray (P)
Carlton v Nth. Melbourne
Essendon v St. Kilda
Fitzroy v Geelong
Melbourne v Collingwood

SANFL - Round 22

S. Adelaide v Norwood (W)
Central Dist. v Nth. Adelaide
W. Torrens v Port Adelaide
W. Adelaide v Sturt
Woodville v Glenelg

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

SANFL - Round 22
Swans v Hawthorn (SS)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

W.A.F.L. - 2nd Semi Final

VFL - Finals
Qualifying Final
2nd team v Third team
Elimination Final
4th Team v 5th Team

SANFL - Elimination Final

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

SANFL - Qualifying Final

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

W.A.F.L. - Preliminary Final

VFL - Finals
First Semi Final
Second Semi Final

SANFL - First Semi Final

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

SANFL - Second Semi Final

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

W.A.F.L. - Grand Final
VFL - Preliminary Final

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

SANFL - Preliminary Final

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

VFL - Grand Final

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

SANFL - Grand Final

Budget
rent a car

322 1100

33 Milligan Street, Perth

Perth Airport	277 9277
Fremantle	335 8722
Jandakot Airport	417 9180
Kewdale	451 7455
Osborne Park	

1983

**GRAND FINAL
DETAILS**

**GRAND FINAL
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 1983**

SWAN DISTRICTS	3.3	9.6	13.12	15.14	104
CLAREMONT	1.5	5.7	9.8	12.11	83

SCORERS: SWAN DISTRICTS: Sartori 3.3; Baker 2.3; Shine, Holmes 2.0; P. Narkle 1.2; Cransberg, Nowotny 1.1; Langsford, Skwirowski, Smith 1.0; K. Narkle, Kimberley 0.1; forced 0.1. CLAREMONT: Ralph 3.2; Blackwell, B. Farmer 1.2; Mitchell, Daniels, Watson 1.1; Kickett, Barns, Malaxos, Pearce 1.0; Panizza 0.1; forced 0.1.

BEST: SWAN DISTRICTS: Sartori, Shine, Skwirowski, Rance, Fogarty, Langsford. CLAREMONT: Moss, M. Watson, L. Kickett, Aitken, Reynolds, O'Connell.

UMPIRES: M. Ball, D. Rowe. Swan Districts won toss and kicked to northern end. Free-kicks: SWAN DISTRICTS: 13, 4, 7, 4-28; out-of-bounds 6; 15m 1. CLAREMONT: 12, 6, 4, 10-32; out-of-bounds 5; 15m 4. Played at Subiaco Oval, attendance 47,760.

SIMPSON MEDALLIST: BRAD SHINE.

RIGHT: The glory of a premiership. . . Swan Districts president Bill Walker and skipper Keith Narkle.



The Simpson Medal winning style of Brad Shine in action against Claremont's Larry Kickett.



MATCH STATISTICS

SWAN DISTRICTS	Marks	Kicks	H/balls	CLAREMONT	Marks	Kicks	H/balls
Bill Skwirowski	4	12	5	Tom Pearce	1	4	3
Mike Smith	2	13	2	Warren Ralph	9	12	1
Tony Solin	1	7	4	Brad Reynolds	2	12	2
Peter Ware	2	9	3	Mark Watson	3	9	9
Leon Baker	6	11	1	Mike Aitken	3	11	4
Ron Boucher	-	1	-	Colin Barns	1	2	-
Leigh Brenton	2	9	5	Barry Beecroft	1	7	-
Alan Cransberg	4	3	1	Wayne Blackwell	4	12	10
Jon Fogarty	11	23	3	Allen Daniels	3	12	-
Don Holmes	5	14	1	Brett Farmer	1	6	2
Peter Kenny	5	11	-	Steven Goulding	3	14	3
Barry Kimberley	4	10	3	Baden Harper	2	1	1
Don Langsford	4	17	7	Lindsay Kanther	1	7	6
Keith Narkle	3	15	3	Larry Kickett	4	12	4
Phil Narkle	3	17	5	Steve Malaxos	2	16	10
Gerard Neesham	2	9	7	Michael Mitchell	3	13	2
Stan Nowotny	4	6	4	Noel Morton	4	11	5
Murray Rance	6	14	5	Graham Moss	5	8	7
Peter Sartori	7	9	6	Michael O'Connell	2	9	5
Brad Shine	6	14	9	Darrell Panizza	1	15	6
TOTAL	81	223	75	TOTAL	55	193	80

HOW THEY LINED UP

SWAN DISTRICTS: Backs: Skwirowski, Solin, Ware, Half-backs: Langsford, Rance, Brenton. Centres: K. Narkle, Smith, P. Narkle. Half-forwards: Neesham, Kenny, Holmes. Forwards: Kimberley, Baker, Boucher. Ruck: Sartori, Fogarty, Shine. Interchange: Cransberg, Nowotny.

CLAREMONT: Backs: Beecroft, O'Connell, Kanther. Half-backs: Reynolds, Aitken, Morton. Centres: Kickett, Blackwell, Panizza. Half-forwards: Malaxos, Moss, B. Farmer. Forwards: Mitchell, Ralph, Watson. Ruck: Harper, Goulding, Daniels. Interchange: Barns, Pearce.

RESERVES GRAND FINAL

EAST PERTH	3.3	11.8	13.15	18.16	124
SWAN DISTRICTS	4.6	5.6	5.11	5.17	37

SCORERS: EAST PERTH: Bartlett 6.3; Coutts 5.4; Sparks 4.1; Da-Rui, Smith, Cocker 1.0; Morgan 0.3; Malcolm 0.2; Papotto, Wilson 0.1; 1 point forced. SWAN DISTRICTS: Floyd 2.0; Burgess 1.0; Werner 0.3; Nuich 0.2; Miden, Hutton, Platts, Allen, Amonini 0.1; 3 points forced.

BEST: EAST PERTH: Sparks, Bartlett, Da-Rui, Berry, Cocker, Papotto. SWAN DISTRICTS: Mountford, Yukich, Scheer.

COLTS GRAND FINAL

SOUTH FREMANTLE	5.3	6.3	11.5	14.6	90
CLAREMONT	1.1	5.5	6.9	7.10	52

SCORERS: SOUTH FREMANTLE: Brown 4; Adkins 3; Dellar 2; Little, B. Collard, D. Collard, Sims, Maskos 1. CLAREMONT: Cox 3; Irvin 2; Johnson, Elson 1.

BEST: SOUTH FREMANTLE: Maskos, McDonald, Adkins. CLAREMONT: Johnson, Williamson, Ellis.

VFL

HAWTHORN	5.6	12.10	16.18	20.20	140
ESSENDON	3.0	4.1	4.3	8.9	57

SCORERS: HAWTHORN: Matthews 6, Byrne 3, Judge 2, Loveridge 2, Greene 2, O'Halloran, Wallace, Tuck, Knights, Kennedy. ESSENDON: Daniher 2, Wood, Klink, Coppling, Madden, Walsh, Ezard.

BEST: HAWTHORN: Robertson, Kennedy, Matthews, Eade, Greene, O'Halloran, Tuck, Wallace, Paton. ESSENDON: Daniher, Foulds, Neagle, Bradbury, Weston. Umpires: N. Nash and K. Smith. Attendance 110,332 at the MCG.

SANFL

WEST ADELAIDE	2.4	12.7	15.10	21.16	142
STUART	3.4	7.7	12.13	16.12	108

SCORERS: WEST ADELAIDE: Lindner 5.2, Luders 4.2, Grosser, Morris 3.3, Meuret 3.2, Conlen, Borchard 1.1, Smith 1.0, Fielke 0.1, rushed 0.1. STURT: Graham 5.1, Motley 4.4, Davies, Whittlesea 2.0, Derrington, Howard, Hollis 1.1, Brown, Zubrinich 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST: WEST ADELAIDE: Borchard, Morris, Meuret, Grosser, Bennett, Kantilafas, McKinnon, Burgess, P. Winter. STURT: Howard, Kenrich, Paynter, Motley, Fry, Graham, Zubrinich. Umpires: L. Argent, R. Kinnear. Attendance 47,129 at Westlakes.

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THE EDWARDS TRANSFER

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DISGRACE



CRAIG EDWARDS

To allow a 22-year-old player who is 15st 7lb (98kg) and 6ft 4in (193cm) to leave a club where he was born and bred is a football disgrace.

During the summer East Perth ruckman/forward Craig Edwards moved to South Fremantle after a disagreement with the Royals hierarchy over match payments.

Edwards is potentially one of the best, most skilful big men in the game today. In fact, having coached him, I would say without hesitation that he is the best big man in the Royals camp — that's saying something considering last year's Sandover Medallist John Ironmonger is a Royal.

BALL SKILLS

Like all players Edwards still has a lot to learn, but for sheer ball skills, he has few peers.

Royals supporters must be scratching their heads when they see players of Edwards' age wanting to leave the club which prides itself on producing outstanding juniors. The fans have been told that the player wanted more money and that club policy is to tighten policies.

In Edwards case, when you consider that

he hasn't been paid for the 1983 season, has played State football and has never sought lucrative contracts that other, less skilled players have, he could be justified in his request for higher payments.

Edwards case than has been made public. I am sure it would make an interesting story if Edwards told of the reasons behind his decision to leave.

East Perth's loss will be South Fremantle's gain.

HOME-BRED

When football clubs allow young "home-bred" players to leave, not only does that club lose a good player, but more importantly that inner feeling of club loyalty and commitment is lost.

Dorror's Diary

By Grant Dorror

TRIBUTE TO A TRAINER

Several weeks ago the head trainer of the State Teal Cup team passed away suddenly.

George Earnshaw was a life member of Claremont and had spent many years working for his first love — Australian Rules.

George, like many other dedicated men, devoted his life to football and although not in the front line of football media attention, was greatly respected by all who knew him.

I had only known George for a few months, but as the Teal Cup coach he greatly impressed me and he will be sadly missed.



1984

THE LEVELLER

THE 1984 football season promises to be one of the most even competitions for many seasons.

An eight team competition is a must for attendances to increase and more importantly to allow Australian football to continue its dominance as the most popular sport in WA.

While I believe Swan Districts and Claremont, the trend-setters, both on and off the field in the last five years, will be strong, the gap will be narrowed.

Each summer football fans throughout the State discuss at great length the prospects of all teams... well here's my predictions for 1984.

SUBIACO: They will be a much more disciplined and competitive team than last season. The club is led by a young and enthusiastic president, who has the potential to be one of the best leaders at a club in the WAFL. The Lions have put their recruiting efforts into attracting the right men to build their team. Haydn Bunton, Wayne Loxley, Trevor Nisbett and Eddie Pitter all have great character, honesty and knowledge to start Subiaco on the road to recovery.

Unfortunately they will finish in eighth position, but supporters will see a light at the end of the tunnel.

EAST PERTH: The Royals are in for a hectic year. While excuses will be made about the loss of senior players the problem has deeper roots. Team commitment, that deep mental feeling that exits between men is developed within a team by a feeling of genuine concern and respect from all areas within a club. This respect is set by the club administrators.

When players are not paid for the previous season and newly recruited players receive financial assistance, a sense of distrust and being let down develops and that will put the Royals in seventh place. That has not happened since 1964 when they were last.

WEST PERTH: Like the Royals, West Perth have been hit by severe financial troubles and on top of that a large group of players have retired.

The performances of many of their players last season was lack-lustre to say the least. Many players continued to give little, yet maintained their position in the league side. I am sure Dennis Cometti learnt a lot during 1983 and already has shown that he is toughening up through a more physically demanding summer programme. The Falcons will still cause concern to other teams, but won't have that deep feeling evident in the 1982 season. They will finish sixth.

PERTH: They must show something this year. They have a shocking record in the last two seasons and their supporters have been told their players are learning. With the introduction of Robert Wiley and Peter Bosustow, Perth have gained goal power — a facet of their game that they lack in many close matches.

Coach Ian Miller has to ensure that these outstanding recruits don't get too much media exposure, affecting the team morale which is essential for their resurgence to fifth position. Good teams must have individuals totally committed to the cause.

EAST FREMANTLE: The Sharks finished off the 1983 season as the young boom side. They have some of the most talented young players in the WAFL and should have learned a great deal from their first semi final experience last season.

The club has added Murray Ward and Graham Melrose to their coaching staff and both men have records of being strict disciplinarians, something the young Sharks require, before they can be truly labelled premiership contenders. East Fremantle will finish fourth.

• More page 9.

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