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THE LION TAMERS

THOSE terrific Tigers lived up to the powerful reputation they built this season by crushing Subiaco in the WAFL grand final at League headquarters on Saturday.

Claremont won by 71 points and virtually had the match wrapped up at half-time.

Captain-coach Gerard Neesham (right) has been the key to Claremont's success in 1987 ... which started back in April when they won the \$100,000 Kresta Cup pre-season series.

He moulded a powerhouse combination of youth and experience and they have a very real chance of successfully defending their premiership in 1988.

Simpson Medal winner Peter Thorne (below) has been another of the Tigers stars this year. He's pictured getting a champagne shower from defender Cameron Lewis.



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Tigers had a year of success

IT WAS the Year of the Tiger in 1987 — regardless of what the Chinese calendar might say.

That fact became plainly obvious as Claremont clinched the premiership last Saturday, with a resounding 71-point win over defending champions Subiaco at League headquarters.

In retrospect, it seems as though rookie Claremont coach Gerard Neesham had things under control all year.

The season of success started on April 8 when Claremont beat Perth at the WACA Ground to win the \$100,000 Kresta Blinds Cup pre-season competition.

Neesham's Tigers were undefeated in that competition and their sole loss for the year came just two days later when a slightly jaded side succumbed to a fast-running West Perth on the same ground.

Their only other blemish in 1987 came on May 30, when a point kicked after the siren enabled Claremont to snatch a draw against Subiaco.

The Tigers have survived 21 games without defeat and won their last 14 matches — setting their sights on the club's best winning sequence of 16 games, set in 1981/82.

Claremont's success extended to more than their league side.

Their under-19s and reserves teams reached grand finals, with the reserves staging a great second-half comeback against East Fremantle to win the premiership.

The Prime Reserves Medal winner for the grand final was Claremont's Joe Ahmat and league player, Peter Owens, was the 1987 Prendergast fairest and best player for the reserves competition.

Though the Tigers lost the under-19s grand final to East Fremantle, they did have the Medallist Medal winner in

their ranks. Rover Nicky Yarran won the Medal with a record-breaking 64 votes.

They also had the under-19s leading goalkicker in Ryan Dhue, who posted 53 majors for the year.

And Claremont almost made it a hat-trick of Medals.

League star Derek Kickett received 46 Sandover Medal votes during the year, enough to win the award. But he was ineligible due to a suspension on striking and abusive language charges.

Claremont still had a Sandover Medal connection — Perth rover Mark Watson, who finished next on 30 votes, is a former Tiger.

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Grand final fever

BIG COMEBACK

FOOTBALL spectators leaving League headquarters last Saturday were marvelling at the brilliance of the Claremont team. The Tigers swept their Subiaco opponents to one side and by half-time never looked like losing the grand final. But what about Claremont's reserves? They were equally devastating. The Tigers were trailing East Fremantle by 44 points at half-time, but rallied to win by a comfortable 26 points. This was largely due to Prime Reserves Medal winner, Joe Ahmat, who was switched to the centre. Together with forwards John Hutton and Peter James, they blitzed the Sharks.

SUCCESSIVE FLAGS

CLAREMONT trio Ben Allan, Brian Sutherland and Don Pyke won their second successive premierships last Saturday. The three talented rookies were all members of Claremont's under-19 premiershipteam of 1986.

EXPERIENCE COUNTS

THERE is certainly an interesting comparison to be drawn out of Saturday's grand final. Both clubs fielded teams with an average age of 23.4 years. But it was Subiaco who had an edge in games played. The Lions had a total of 1644 games between them (82.2 games per player), while the Tigers totalled 1389 games — 69.45 games per player.

GOING STRONG

IT was interesting to hear veteran Subiaco centreman Peter Featherby announce that he will continue playing next season. He has been a solid performer for the Lions since returning from Geelong Amateurs mid-season and looks capable of playing good football for at least another year, even though he will turn 36 in December.

BONUS GOAL

PETER Thorne picked up a real bonus in the third quarter in last Saturday's grand final. He scooped up the ball on the run and charged into the goalsquare for a supposedly easy goal. However, his kick missed by nearly a metre and, in disgust, Thorne smacked his fist into his opposite hand. He turned around to look for his opponent before the kick-out and it was then that team-mate Stephen Goulding informed him that a goal had been signalled. Much to Thorne's surprise, the goal umpire was waving his flags and the goal was officially counted.

GOOD JUDGES

SECURITY must be tight at the WAFL these days. Either that or they are very good judges of football! For example, did you notice that the premiershiptrophy the Claremont players were parading around the ground so proudly already had the name "Claremont" on it? Perhaps the WAFL had two flags on stand-by, one for Claremont and another for Subiaco. If so, where is the Subiaco flag? Surely a WAFL pennant with the words "Subiaco premiers 87" would make a great collector's item.



The banner says it all for Claremont.



This Subiaco cheer-squad member had her hair dyed in the Lions maroon and gold colours and dressed her "ALF" doll in a Subiaco outfit.



Claremont defender Peter Owens gets a congratulatory kiss from girlfriend Karen Hopkis.



This Subiaco supporter looks upset as the Lions appear likely to get another thrashing at the hands of Claremont.



Two of Claremont's less publicised players, Mark Hann (left) and David O'Connell with the premiershiptrophy.



The Claremont Tiger does a lap of honour during the pre-match cavalcade ... and the Subiaco Lion joins the parade.

Neesham proves his potential

MANY critics — not to mention a few Claremont people — felt that the combination of Gerard Neesham, the somewhat rough-and-tough Fremantle lad and the rather sophisticated Claremont Football Club wouldn't mix well in 1987.

Neesham, the astute on-field footballer, had decided the time was ripe to add coaching to his career and he had the choice of four clubs — sufficient confirmation that he had the potential to succeed.

That he took the Tigers role was a sign of his own desire to challenge probably the hardest job of them all — a club where it didn't look as though he quite fitted in, what with a lawyer for president and a host of other professional and other upper-class folks chipping in big dollars.

But it was the players that Neesham was interested in and they responded superbly.

He moulded a mixture of raw, but exciting teenage potential with older and almost forgotten experienced men and, in between, slotted a group of "triers" who had been around for so long they weren't even attracting the attention of player-hungry rival clubs.

Neesham proved the perfect leader.

A close study of his actions on the field in the closing minutes of the grand final victory showed just how dedicated he is to organising things. At a time when the game was well and truly over, Neesham could have been forgiven for watching the time clock and observing the action from a pocket or somewhere afar.

But no, he was right in the thick of things, continually directing his players where to go and what to do and never letting their mind stray from the job.

When the siren finally went to end Subiaco's agony, the Little General allowed himself one brief smile and a



Gerard Neesham ... Still in charge of the Tigers, even in the dug-out.

quick clench of the fist to say "it's over".

There were not histrionics; no rushing around to cuddle and kiss.

He slowly moved towards his jubilant players who, belatedly, it seemed embraced their leader and only then, almost a good minute after the siren, did Neesham let the control slip and he too lavished the glory.

But only briefly.

As is his outstanding sporting nature, he quickly broke away from his players to go and congratulate his conquered rivals; Subiaco skipper Neil Taylor first off.

Neesham's potential as a coach has long been recognised and now it's quickly been fulfilled.

Time will show that he is destined to be a great coach.

— ALAN EAST



Subiaco coach Haydn Bunton ... Frustrated last week but nevertheless a job well done in 1987.

Bunton showed superb loyalty

SUBIACO coach Haydn Bunton was a most disappointed man after the Lions 71-point grand final loss to Claremont at League headquarters last Saturday.

After all, no-one likes to be a losing coach — particularly in a grand final.

But on the face of it, Bunton should be pleased with season 1987 — a year in which he devoted himself to the Lions cause.

Subiaco started the year missing 10 members of their 1986 premiership-winning team and the critics were writing them off; especially when they won just three of their first seven matches.

But Bunton, who turned down the offer to coach WA, was rebuilding and they began to look premiership contenders with a whirlwind performance in the second series of home-and-away fixtures, during which they won the Peter Jackson Superscore.

By this time the Lions were roaring and they had snuck into the top four. With two fixtures remaining, they were securing their berth in the second semi-final, ahead of East Fremantle and Swan Districts.

This, in itself, was a remarkable achievement for a man who had seemingly achieved all in 1986.

Bunton had realised a long-held dream to coach a premiership-winning Subiaco side. He did this in his third year at the helm of the Lions and with the exodus of stars to the VFL, no-one would have called him a "quitter" had he moved on.

But he didn't and after last Saturday's painful loss, the Little Master announced that he would be doing yet another term as coach.

"We were pleased to get into the grand final," Bunton said.

"And we hope to be back again next year." That will be four years in a row.

Bunton said that this year he looked at the under-19s as being the club's breeding ground for future stars.

And in Damien Read they may have realised one. Read made his league debut in the grand final and though overawed by the occasion, he will get more chances under Bunton next year. — GEORGE TEMPLE

JONES BACK IN SUBI COLOURS

SATURDAY'S grand final loss to Claremont was obviously disappointing for the 20 players who represented Subiaco — but even more so for those team members who were not part of the 1986 premiership side.

Ruckman Graham Jones was playing with the Sydney Swans last year and was one of the Subiaco players desperate to experience a Lions premiership this season.

While he did not play as well as he wanted to last Saturday, his overall contribution to the Lions has been a valuable one.

Though this was his first season of league football in West Australia, his association with the Lions goes back to his junior days, when he represented Wembley Downs (part of the Subiaco Junior Council up until 1984) as an eight-year-old.

His father had been transferred to Perth in his employment and the Sydney-born Jones decided that he would take up Australian Rules football in preference to rugby, a sport he was naturally familiar with after being brought up in New South Wales.

When he was 12, he moved back to Sydney with his family and once again turned his attention to rugby until he was 18.

It was then that he joined the Western Suburbs Club in the Sydney Football League competition.

Nevertheless, he continued to play rugby on a Saturday and with Aussie Rules played on a Sunday, he stayed involved in both sports into his early twenties.

Last season Jones made his league debut for the Sydney Swans against St Kilda and that game will always remain one of the high points of his career.

His first season for Subiaco has brought plenty of rewards — 20 league games, a grand final appearance in front of more than 32,000 people and several good performances that should ensure the is given more opportunities in 1988.

— BEN STINGA



Subiaco's Graham Jones ... Shattered after his first WAFL grand final.



Claremont rover Don Pyke ... All smiles in the Claremont rooms.

PYKE'S RAPID RISE

THE 1987 season will be one that Claremont rover Don Pyke will long remember — not just for being part of a premiership side in his first year of league football, but also for the way he established himself as a likely West Coast Eagles player in 1988.

At the start of the season, Pyke was playing under-19 football for the Tigers and a league grand final appearance must have seemed a long way off for him at that stage.

However, his form was too good to be ignored in the under-19s and after three games, he was promoted to the reserves.

Two matches later he was in the league side against East Perth and even in his first game of senior football, he showed maturity beyond his years.

Though he battled through inconsistent patches at various stages, he persevered and in the latter part of the season, really struck top form.

One of his notable achievements was to poll umpires fairest and best votes in all three grades this season.

In the Medallist Medal he polled 10 votes, in the Prendergast Medal he received six votes and the Sandover Medal he polled 12 votes, giving him a total of 28.

Don's father, Dr Frank Pyke, a former Perth champion was at the game; as was his brother Jamie, who is a successful footballer with Norwood in South Australia.

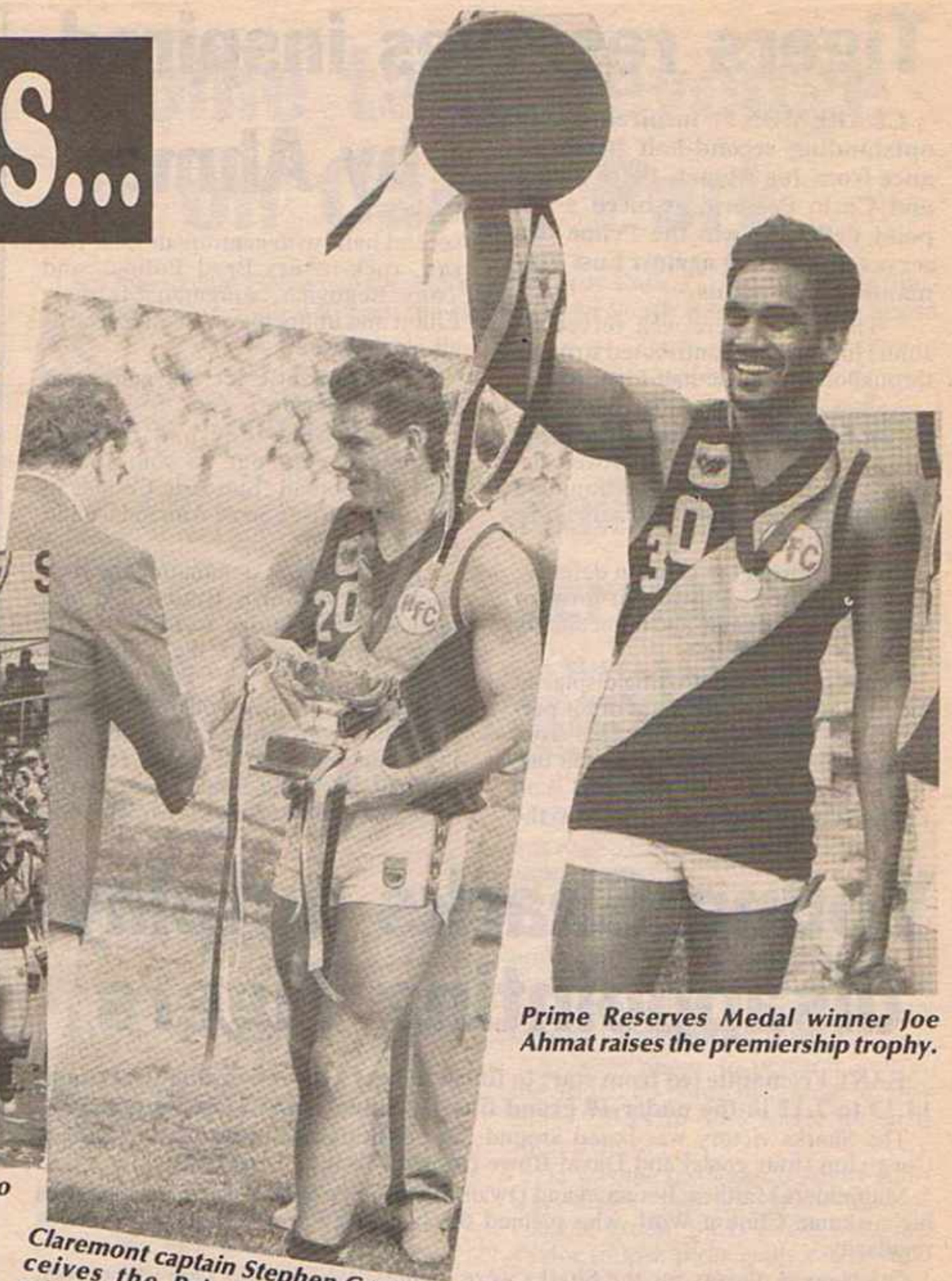
It was obvious in the rooms after the game that Frank was very proud of his young son and it must have been pleasing to see him do so well last Saturday.

A DAY FOR WINNERS...

WEST Australian hailed the new champions of football last Saturday as Claremont won the league and reserves premierships. It has been a brilliant year for the Tigers, and they received their just reward.



Claremont reserves do their lap of honour carrying the flag that they fought so hard to win.



Claremont captain Stephen Cook receives the Prime Reserves premiership trophy from Brian Hedley, of Prime Computers.

Prime Reserves Medal winner Joe Ahmat raises the premiership trophy.

...AND LOSERS

For the losers on Saturday, it was heartache and disappointment.



LEFT: Lions captain Brian Taylor shows his anguish as the final siren sounds.

RIGHT: Half-forward Mick Lee, injured and shattered, has his own thoughts.

BELOW: Todd Breman, Shane Cocker, Greg Wilkinson and Damien Read look dejected as they reflect on their performance.



Tigers reserves inspired

CLAREMONT, inspired by an outstanding second-half performance from Joe Ahmat, Peter James and Carlo Passera, reduced a 43-point deficit to win the Prime Reserves grand final against East Fremantle by 28 points.

The Tigers were well served by John Hutton, who contributed strongly throughout at centre-half-forward.

Ahmat was shifted onto the ball in the second half, after starting the game on a half-forward flank, but proved disappointing. However, he bounced back in the second half with some brilliant football.

Passera started the game in defence, but was shifted onto a half-forward flank later in the game and immediately made his presence felt.

James gave an electrifying display in the forward line, a highlight of his performance being a 50-metre goal from deep on the boundary line in the last quarter.

The Tigers midfield lifted in the

by Ahmat

second half, with centreman Len Yarran, ruck-rovers Brad Pollock and Tony Begovich, wingman Matthew Elliott and utility player Scott Edwards all playing well.

East Fremantle let the game slip from their grasp.

At half-time they had the flag seemingly won, due to some hard-working football from Eric Cooper in the centre, rover Scott Annandale and Robert Weber.

Guy Baxter was dominating the ruck duels and forwards Brad Read and Michael Broadbridge were both proving troublesome for the Claremont defence.

However, an eight-goal third quarter from the Tigers proved to be the turning point and despite some resilient football from the Sharks late in the game, Claremont ran out easy winners.

Young Sharks outplay disappointing Tigers

EAST Fremantle led from start to finish to beat a disappointing Claremont 14.13 to 7.12 in the under-19 grand final at Subiaco Oval last Saturday.

The Sharks victory was based around the performances of forwards Matthew Congleton (four goals) and David Rowe (three goals in the last quarter).

Midfielders Matthew Bateman and Dwain Regan were handy contributors, as was big ruckman Clinton Wolf, who palmed the ball to his rovers with monotonous regularity.

Other good players for the Sharks were young Teal Cup star Craig MacLean, utility player Peter Quill and half-forward Harry Thorn.

Claremont's final-round performances were out of character for a side that lost just one game in the qualifying rounds.

Nevertheless, Nathan McIntosh at centre-half-back, defender Jamie Murdoch and half-forward Dale Kickett (a nephew of coach Larry Kickett) played exceptional games for the Tigers.

East Fremantle coach Kerry Coates was pleased with the work of defenders Paul Hansen, Ian Hill and Paul Richter.

Back-up ruckman Sean Jones continued his good form and was also effective in attack and Andrew Foley chipped in when he was most needed.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT TRUST

NEWS BULLETIN

THE FUTURE OF FOOTBALL IN WEST AUSTRALIA

THE Australian Football Coaches Association, in conjunction with the Football Development Trust, will conduct a seminar on the future of football from October 30 to November 1.

Seventy specially-selected people from throughout the football fraternity will take part in a two-day live-in conference at the Ern Halliday Camp in Sorrento.

There will be 15 prominent presenters from throughout Australia who will stimulate discussion on all aspects of senior and junior football in WA.

At the end of the conference, it is hoped that these people will provide direction for the future of Australian Rules in Western Australia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT BRIAN DOUGE

A CAREER IN FOOTBALL

ONE thousand talented young players will attend a gala football night at the Mt Claremont Superdrome on Wednesday, October 21.

The evening will provide an insight into the professional path for footballers in WA and will involve video presentations of the structure of football in the State.

There will be skills displays by freeballers, State schoolboys, Teal Cup players, Eagles stars and senior League players.

This is a new initiative of the Football Development Trust to ensure that talented footballers are given the opportunity to effectively plan their future development as a sports person, as well as an individual.

The program compliments that already rigorous talent identification schemes offered by the eight WAFL clubs.

For further information contact Grant Dorrington or Wayne Loxley.

ISSUED BY BRIAN COOK, GENERAL MANAGER, FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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The year of the Eagle

IT was always going to be a tough year; right from those two days back in September and October last year when the West Coast Eagles were narrowly voted into existence.

Those who felt it was going to be the year of milk and honey, a gravy train with plenty of gold waiting at the end of the rainbow were deluding themselves as much as those objectors who felt that WA didn't need VFL football.

The first test came on August 22 when the WAFL Board of Commissioners and the eight clubs voted 12-2 to apply to join an expanded VFL competition — at an initial buying-in price of a cool \$4 million.

The second big day was October 1 when the VFL, by a bare two-thirds majority, voted to accept the WA team — and our \$4 million.

From then on the WA football world was split — did you take up the high-flying banner of the Eagles, or did you stick with the low-level of your old faithful club?

Those questions were generally answered in two forms — a dramatic 50 per cent drop in WAFL attendances and exciting, grand final-type crowds at the best Eagles matches.

Top-level football came West, both live and via the box, for most of the season; thrilling one, two, three and four-point wins (and losses) gave the crowds a taste of State-of-Origin football, but on a more regular basis and with a variety of different coloured guernseys featuring in the action.

That there were many mistakes made in the Year of the Eagle was to be expected. Right from the start, the sponsorship dollar was quickly diverted to the Eagles and away from the clubs and other football people such as the media; radio in particular suffering.

Many lessons learnt in season '87

by Alan East

Marrying the two competitions together was going to be tougher than a mixed-race wedding in South Africa; no matter which side you were on, you had a complaint about the in-laws — or the outlaws, as some of the more hardened traditionalists described the new breed of football people who were cashing in on this hyped-up razzamat-azz football.

Fixturing was a major problem — administrators (and spectators) couldn't decide whether to tackle the VFL games head-on; go hand-in-hand with them or to avoid them. They tried everything, and, in the end, it all came back to basics with Saturday is Football being the old slogan revived. The lessons learnt in fixturing, plus a more lenient attitude from the VFL for next year's program, will be well heeded come 1988.

PROBLEM

One major problem that upset football's apperception was the use of the WACA Ground; it was supposed to be a God-send for football but, in the final outcome, cost the WAFL dearly in terms of revenue. The public (and the weather) didn't agree with night games under lights and the huge 30,000-plus crowds that flocked to Subiaco Oval to see the big VFL guns in action against the Eagles indicated that all the major games should have been there; not half.

The Eagles missed the VFL finals, in the end. But that was to be expected in a year where the lack of a permanent and recognisable home base; the difficulties of travelling; the problems associated with one-eyed crowds at one-eyed grounds and the sheer "newness" of it all made it difficult for the Eagles to keep up with the VFL heavyweights.

To their credit, they did it for most of the year and, in fact, rose as high as equal third at one stage. They beat grand finalists Hawthorn twice (their only win in Melbourne was against the reigning premiers) but they lost too many games to bottom sides; tough Melbourne-hardened sides that thrive in Victorian conditions.

The Eagles learned by their many mistakes.

COACHING

Coach Ron Alexander, back in the VFL arena that he dominated as a ruckman a few years earlier, found that coaching — the political side, especially — was much harder than on the local scene and there were many bleak moments.

But the lessons have been well accepted and it will be a much harder, wiser and more determined Eagles side next year.

Much was made of the 35-man squad the Eagles were limited to; but that wasn't the VFL's fault; we simply picked players who, in the end, weren't up to the tougher VFL scene week in, week out. The Eagles also plucked a couple of injury-prone players who disappeared from the scene too early.

Better selection of players will give the Eagles a more sophisticated team and it won't be up to hardy skipper Ross Glendinning to plug the gaps and other super-humans like Steve Malaxos, John Annear, Alex Ishchenko, Dwayne Lamb, Robert Wiley, Michael Brennan and Chris Mainwaring to continually lend solid support.

atmosphere and bringing the patrons closer to the action is the answer.

Too many of the WAFL games ended in too big a margin; clubs need an incentive to fight the game out till the final bell and maybe a change in the premiership points scoring system, with Peter Jackson Superscore-type incentives for each quarter being considered.

WAFL officials and their supporters must accept the fact that their 102-year-old competition is now second-level football in the West; a foundation stone and breeding ground for the Eagles, who must be given every support to fly high across the nation in coming seasons.

But that second-level doesn't mean officials should accept second-best when it comes to promoting their wares and much more is now available in different doses.

The public stayed away from the WAFL games for two reasons — the cost of seeing the action in two arenas and the difference in standards.

A lowering in prices, or a combined Eagles-WAFL admission pass, can help renew the loyalty of those club traditionalists and, at least, make the acceptance of the Eagles situation a little easier to swallow.

The 32,430 people who saw the grand final — the lowest crowd since the 1953 South Fremantle-West Perth game — confirmed that the big games can still draw the spectators.

But what a fizog!

COMPETITIVE

Football teams in the WAFL must become more competitive and the public demands higher levels of intense competition.

Finances will be an important part of football next year.

The Eagles need a big budget to operate and that's obviously where the sponsor dollar will be headed; which means that the clubs face a tough time surviving. Tighter budgeting and a more realistic attitude to player and coach fees are vital.

The sponsor support for WAFL clubs was encouraging this year; but revenue from the League will obviously be down next season and that is an area where commonsense will have to prevail to avoid our clubs slipping back into the red.

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League confident on the future



THE WA Football League is cautiously optimistic about season 1988.

After a year of change and trauma, the WAFL's chief executive Peter Cummiskey believes that the worst is behind football.

"The most difficult part is over," says Cummiskey.

"It was always going to be a difficult year in view of the degree of change football was facing.

"But in the end we believe that there has been a strong finish and good reason to start off confidently next year."

Mr Cummiskey sees five major points to be kept in mind during their summer planning:

- Fixtures
- Television
- Finance
- Crowds
- Prices
- "Next year should be a season of fine tuning," he says. "We have learned many things from this year and 1988 should enable us to heed those messages and consolidate."

"Then we would see the 1989 year as one of major change if it is needed."

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By respected veteran football writer ROBERT BENNETT



These Tigers are top class

WHAT value a WAFL flag?

For those who saw WA football attendances wilt in the shadow of the West Coast Eagles, a WA premiership is probably now not seen as a full dollar.

But in terms of talent and achievement, little can be taken away from Claremont's grand final win last Saturday.

While there was a big player loss to the VFL, through the Eagles and other clubs, there is no escaping the fact that WA football has been affected by the shadow cast on the local competition, through the exodus of talented and experienced players.

This year's Claremont side would have stitched up last year's team quite decisively.

In fact, the Tigers were probably equal in ability to Subiaco's premiership team last year.

TALENT

I bet the Eagles would like to have been in the situation last season of selecting the talent that has emerged this year in the WAFL.

As someone who grew up in Tiger country and played colts with them, I can remember the bad old days; the days when they battled to win matches. One season they managed to win only one game.

So you learnt to savour the wins. Premierships were just a pipe dream.

But there were the occasional miracles. Like the time the Monts gave East Fremantle a hiding in 1957, the year Old Easts, as they were then known, won the flag.

And East Freo were to be on the receiving end again when the Tigers pinched the premiership in 1984.

Claremont seemed to be at the start of a new era when they won the 1981 premiership, but the Krakouer brothers put the spanner in the works when they decided to join North Melbourne.



Gerard Neesham ... deserves all the credit.

As was the case in the early 80s, the Tigers reaped the benefit on Saturday of having outstanding colts teams over a number of years.

The danger is that, like then, Claremont may again be gutted of talent.

But for those Claremont fans who can remember the hard times and how the Tigers have had a pretty dismal finals record, the taste of last Saturday's win will be savoured for some time.

And credit for that must go to Gerard Neesham.

He has shown over a long football career that he is an astute player. He took that savvy to the Tigers.

The team he presented at the start of this season bore no resemblance to the one that caved in towards the end last year.

Then they couldn't win a game after looking a big chance for the finals.

This year they couldn't lose.

Some will say that Claremont's performance doesn't rate with East Fremantle's when they went through the season undefeated in 1946.

Time will be the best judge of that. It has a tendency to dim the memory on the ordinary and accentuate the extraordinary.

And, indeed, it was an extraordinary season for the Monts this season.

Divisions would create interest

THE support for the West Coast Eagles from the West Australian public endorses the decision to join expanded VFL series — but has the WAFL sold themselves short?

By creating the Eagles as an elite team, they have downgraded our eight senior WA clubs to no more than "feeder" status — so it's no wonder that there was a genuine lack of interest in our local competition.

What was overlooked with the advent of the Eagles was the disastrous impact their involvement would have on the relationship between the eight league clubs and their supporters.

The numbers were expected to drop off considerably, but not to the extent that they did.

The public are a pretty fickle lot. But then, they are entitled to spend their money where they are going to get the best value.

WAFL TEAMS

What must happen now is to stay in the expanded competition and, at the same time, create renewed interest in the eight WAFL teams.

One way to do this is to introduce the "division" system.

The idea has been flatly rejected in certain football quarters, but those opponents haven't come up with an attractive alternative, so the following propositions deserve some consideration.

It is well and truly time that teams from outside the WAFL were given the opportunity to replace any of the accepted eight clubs who are not performing at a competitive level.

South Fremantle, for example, won only three times in 21 starts and should now be open to a challenge from, say the premiers of the Sunday League.

The premiers of one group should not automatically replace the bottom team of the group above them; they should play off in a challenge match.

If they are successful, then they enter the league at a competitive level. If they fail, then obviously they are not up to the standard and don't deserve to be included.

Current talk is that the WAFL could introduce new teams from the South West or Avon Valley, for example. But there is nothing to be gained by bringing them in and letting them build up to a required standard.

TOP SCENE

They should have to make their presence felt before they get the chance to be part of the top scene.

For something like this to happen the Sunday League and the WAFL would have to do a lot of negotiating. But it would enhance the standing of the Sunday competition because teams would be trying to get themselves into a position to challenge a WAFL side.

A challenging side should come into the B-division Sunday League; graduate into A-division and then, ultimately, play themselves into a position to challenge the team sitting on the bottom rung of the WAFL ladder.

The winner of the WAFL premier-



Wheelchair sports critic BILL MATHER-BROWN

FROM WHERE I SIT

ship should then have the right to challenge for a place in the national (VFL) competition.

The WAFL own the licence for a WA team to compete in the VFL and at present it is leased to Indian Pacific Ltd, who own the Eagles.

If the WAFL had been able to find the money, they should have negotiated with the Victorians for the right to nominate our WA premiers of this year after.

To make the premiers more competitive, they could take one player from each of the clubs below them.

Having said this and knowing that the Eagles are in the VFL, the Division idea can still work if the Sunday league premiers are offered a chance to challenge the bottom WAFL team and the premiers pull on the Eagles for their VFL berth.

If Victoria objected to this, then the simple solution is a transfer of jumpers. Whoever wins the premiership becomes the Eagles and they pick the eyes out of the old Eagles squad to supplement their playing strength.

Or they could pick seven footballers from below them on the WAFL table and feed the present Eagles back into the ranks of our eight League clubs.

That gives any team or district in the whole of WA, with the right financial support, the chance to work their way into the national spotlight.

Instead of creating new teams, the leagues throughout Australia should get behind their local premiers to be their representatives in the "big league".

Just imagine if Claremont, the '87 premiers with 22 wins and only one loss for the year, were boosted by the inclusion of seven footballers from each of the other WAFL clubs.

They would be more than competitive in a national league.

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Claremont and the Eagles dominate 1987



IAN MILLER

looks at the season of change

THE West Australian football year of 1987 was dominated by two shades of blue and gold — Claremont as the champions of the WAFL and the West Coast Eagles as our new team in the VFL.

The season saw the birth of the Eagles and the transitional period which followed proved hard to accept for many supporters.

When the Eagles beat Richmond back in March, the WA public had their first live taste of VFL football in the West. They liked it and they supported it all year...despite the weather at times.

Considering the cost of entry (\$4 million) and the stiff cards dealt by the VFL, the Eagles finished up even on their win-loss chart; a satisfactory first-up result when you consider the player talent available within the group of 35.

Only seven players had the benefit of previous VFL experience and quite a few of the newcomers failed to come to terms with VFL football.

The Eagles enjoyed some great highs and also some costly lows, both on and off-field. They struggled to consistently meet the necessary pressures, mentally and physically, of football VFL style.

But there were many positive points — not the least being the establishment of the Football Development Trust.

With annual finance of around \$350,000 coming from the Eagles coffers, the FDT will play a major role in the development of the game.

DOMINATED

On the local scene, Claremont dominated the football in all three grades and also in the fairest and best voting for the three major medals.

While the Sandover Medal loss through suspension will be remembered as Derek Kickett's personal tragedy, they added the Simpson Medal in the grand final.

It was a fantastic season under the guidance of first-year coach Gerard Neesham, who joined Claremont when they were ripe for pickings, with ample player talent, plenty of youth and selective recruits. He put his mark and style on both the players and the game.

There is no prize for second, but Haydn Bunton did a great job with Subiaco to get them into the Lions third successive grand final — an impressive feat in the 1980s when you consider how low the club plummeted in the 1970s.

With the players he had at his disposal, Bunton worked a football miracle.

MIXED RESULTS

For the other six clubs, the rewards of season '87 were mixed.

East Fremantle disappointed at the finish and first-year coach Graham Melrose will have to look closely at some of his so-called experienced players. On paper, the Sharks had the best team of all, but finished third.

John Todd did exceptionally well with Swan Districts after collecting the wooden spoon a season earlier. There was much unveiling of new talent and Todd once again confirmed his ability as a coach.

Reserves produce plenty of talent

THE most noticeable feature of the 1987 Prime reserves competition was the youthfulness of all eight teams, particularly Claremont, who relied most exclusively on young players for success.

So it was appropriate that Claremont who look to be on the verge of an exciting new era, should win this year's reserves premiership in a season of change.

The Tigers had very few experienced footballers in their side — so much so that coach John Dimmer almost made a comeback midway through the season when his side lost players through injury.

However, his playing services were not required and it was left to a youthful, but talented group of footballers, who should give the club great service for many years to come.

Damon Buckley, Brian Beresford, Scott Edwards, Rob Fitzgerald, Peter James, Carlo Passera, Len Yarran, Matthew Elliott and Phil Gilbert all have the ability to play league football.

Had it not been for the strength of the senior side, they could all have found themselves in a similar position to first-year stars, Don Pyke, Brian Sutherland and Ben Allan.

Claremont finished the qualifying rounds with 15 wins, one draw and five losses — one win less than their grand final rivals, East Fremantle.

The Sharks finished on top of the premiership table and they also have several players who could develop into regular league players in 1988.

Heading the list is Geraldton product Eric Cooper. The promising centreman excelled in his finals games — two reserves and one league — and he looks certain to play more league football next season.

Scott Annandale, Michael Broadbridge, Brad Read, Danny Kuzmich, Bevan Gray, Michael Little, Gavin Miller, Colin Lamb and Wayne Nannup also look certain to establish themselves in league ranks.

East Perth did surprisingly well to reach their preliminary final under playing coach Peter Ivanoff.

They ended the season with 14 wins, one draw and six losses which put them in third spot.

They were well-served by youngsters Dean Bertram, Michael Chalmers, Rod Lewis, Justin Cook, Shane Evans, Mark Cartier, Michael Kemp, Eddie Cubillo, plus experienced men like Wayne Duke and Ivanoff, who resigned at the end of the season.

GOAL-SCORER

Swan Districts finished fourth with 12 wins and eight losses. In big Mark Quinlivan, they had the competition's leading goal-scorer with 57. He was well supported by goalkicking half-forward Fintan Maguire, who kicked 36 goals.

Rover Brett Glass and defender Peter Amonini finished runners-up in the Prendergast Medal award with 24 votes each.

The much-travelled Paddy Papalia also did well, receiving 21 votes.

Perth, under Noel Carter, performed steadily all season, particularly their more experienced players such as Mark Hibbins, Jack Lucas and Rod Grljusich, when he returned from Cen-

tral District in South Australia later in the season.

Youngsters John Clarkson, Shane Stiles, Toby Jackson, Merv Kelly, Brad Fox, Andrew Young, Grant Hatch and Troy Ramshaw also showed good form.

The most notable achievement came from utility player Tony Tomizzi, who won the club fairest and best award after switching from Claremont early in the season.

The Demons finished with a 10-win/11-loss record.

Subiaco concentrated on developing their juniors after the first series of fixtures, when experienced reserves players Roger Steinepries, Clint Roberts, Ian Rakich, Mark Valli and Wayne Dawson either retired or moved elsewhere.

Dawson is expected to return to the club in 1988.

Subiaco's eight-win/13-loss record will not unduly upset coach Wayne Loxley, who measures success on the number of young players developed rather than wins.

South Fremantle, badly depleted with injuries, used more than 70 players this season and that may explain their six-win/15-loss record.

Coach Kevin Worthington was never able to settle the side down, but nevertheless he enjoyed his first-up year and looks certain to continue next season.

West Perth struggled for form and could only manage two wins for the season under coach Lloyd Christopher.

Young players such as Malcolm Williams, Paul Sanzone, Mark McAlister and Michael Logue should be persevered with in the future.

BEN STINGA
reviews the
Prime Reserves
season

EXPERIMENTS

The WAFL's experiments in trying to find the right mix with VFL games proved costly early in the season, until they got back to Saturday football.

The two State games were a great disappointment.

Against South Australia, WA were pathetic and the Victorians had our measure all day in the State-of-Origin battle.

Subiaco's Todd Breman kicked 100 goals to maintain the excellent record of full-forwards in recent years and Mark Watson was a worthy winner of the Sandover Medal, showing superb sportsmanship qualities in a year where controversy tainted the game's most prestigious honour.

The Kickett incident and subsequent report was a black mark for the season and the tribunal activities that cost Claremont's Steve Goulding and Swan Districts Kim Hetherington penalties was also unnecessary.

The WAFL tribunal system must be overhauled to provide consistent penalties. There has been too much flamboyance at the tribunal table and maybe it's time for set penalties.

Just under 100 players were given the opportunity to play their first game of league football and that can't be all bad.

THE FUTURE

So what about 1988?

The WAFL can certainly regain some of its lost ground, but our officials must look closely at ground rationalisation; public facilities and, above all, be able to present a competitive game each week.

The operations of the Football Development Trust will give the sport a great boost at the grass roots, in the schools.

The Eagles will continue to be a force, though Year 2 will be tough and recruiting will have a big bearing on next year.

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From our Eastern States correspondents



Melbourne want Flower to continue

MELBOURNE officials will be speaking to their captain Robbie Flower in the next few weeks in an effort to change his mind about retirement.

The 1987 Melbourne season was built around the slogan "Give Robbie Flower one last chance to play in the finals".

Last Saturday's after-the-siren loss is a cruel way to end the career of a man who has served his club for 15 years, despite lucrative offers to join far more successful teams.

Officials say that there is no doubt the 32-year-old Flower is good enough to keep playing.

"But we will have to wait a couple of weeks," they said.

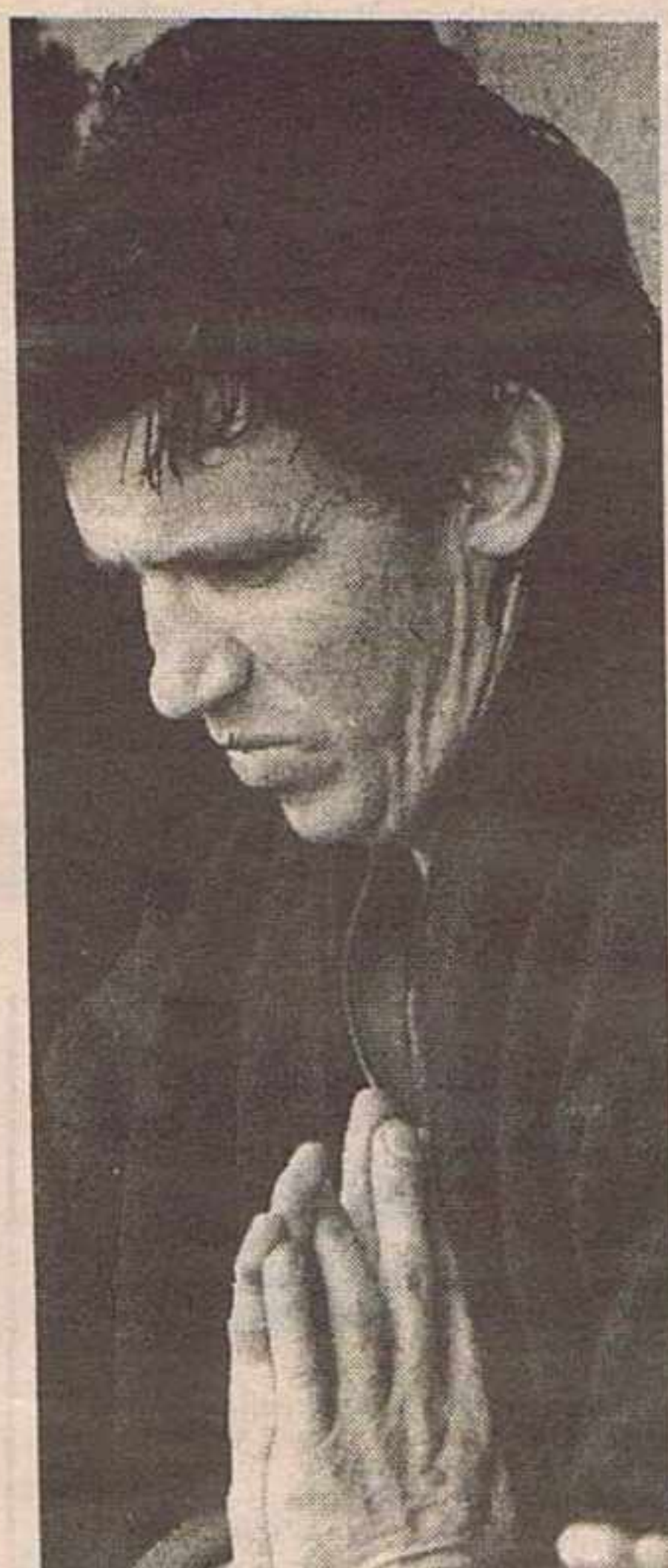
Flower was one of the many Melbourne players who struggled to hold back the tears of disappointment.

He signed autographs, tried to smile for photographs but when it came to talking to the media, the man whose ashen face said it all, asked them to wait until Sunday.

But in a touch of cruel irony, Flower would probably have not been fit to play in this Saturday's grand final had Hawthorn's Gary Buckenara missed that final goal.

In a collision with Hawthorn big-man Robert DiPierdomenico, Flower damaged his frail shoulder at the joint with the collarbone and despite his plucky effort to stay on the ground, he was forced to leave midway through the second quarter.

When things looked like turning Hawthorn's way in the last quarter, Flower made a courageous comeback — only to see the team beaten with the final kick.



Robbie Flower ... Praying for a Demon win.

SCALPERS BEWARE

TICKET scalpers will be wary about selling tickets for this Saturday's grand final clash between Hawthorn and Carlton at the MCG. Last Saturday, the scalpers had their fingers badly burnt as they were forced to gradually reduce their asking price from \$50 to \$3 a seat. The VFL complicated things by having more than 700 tickets available for public selling before the game.

Bucky's boot does the damage

THE man Hawthorn went to the courts to keep, the brilliant Gary Buckenara, was a lonely footballer at VFL Park last Saturday as he lined up for the final kick of the game against Melbourne.

The grand final hopes of both sides depended entirely on his right boot. If he missed, Melbourne were through to their first grand final since 1964. If he was on target, it would be the Hawks fifth successive appearance in the big one.

As he stood there trying to concentrate above the din of 71,000 screaming supporters, the only words of assistance came from a nearby team-mate.

"For God's sake, Bucky score the goal," Ray Jencke said.

As he moved in to take his 50-metre kick, Buckenara had the pressure eased considerably when he was awarded a 15-metre penalty as Melbourne's Irish recruit Jim Stynes made the unforgivable mistake of running across the mark.

Buckenara recalls: "I was going back with my head down trying to figure out how I was going to kick a goal from the 50-metre line.

"When I looked up, I got the surprise of my life.

"Very few players get the chance to kick the goal that puts their team into the grand final and I'm pleased it happened to me.

"I got on with it quickly. The shot I had before had drifted away slightly to hit the post.

"I decided to allow for a fraction or two and fortunately it sailed through."

The skilled former Subiaco star was immediately mobbed by his team-mates as the Melbourne players stood around stunned.

Buckenara said that he felt sorry for Melbourne.

"They had the game won all day," he said.

"They must have been bitterly disappointed to lose like that."

Northey has no time for sympathy

SHATTERED Melbourne coach John Northey says that Melbourne's season amounted to nothing after their tragic last-kick loss to defending premiers Hawthorn in the preliminary final at VFL Park last Saturday.

Northey said: "It is no good going through the year and saying that the Melbourne Football Club got off the bottom.

"That's rubbish.

"We let everyone down."

It seemed as though the wonders Northey had worked in getting his Melbourne team into the finals meant nothing to him.

"It is the biggest disappointment of my life," he said.

"It was the chance of a lifetime.

"Who knows if we will ever get another opportunity like that in our lifetime.

Northey said that he would never be able to put this match out of his mind.

"We lost it with silly mistakes," he said.

"Melbourne should never have been in the situation to lose the game with the final kick.



"And it was undisciplined play that allowed Gary Buckenara to get within scoring distance to kick the winning goal.

"He would have struggled to kick that goal from 50 metres."

The incident was a personal tragedy for the infringing player, utility Jim Stynes, who ran across the mark.

Melbourne had flown Stynes' parents out from Ireland to watch the game in recognition of the fine contribution he has made for the Demons this season.

CASH'S ROLE

WIMBLEDON champion Pat Cash will achieve a life-long ambition when he steps onto the MCG for this Saturday's grand final. The Hawthorn supporter will toss the coin before the start of the play to begin hostilities between his club and favourites Carlton.



John Northey ... shattered.

How WA players performed

	KICKS	MARKS	H/BALLS	SCORE
MELBOURNE				
Warren Dean	13	2	1	1
Earl Spalding	7	3	7	—
HAWTHORN				
Gary Buckenara	18	4	3	5 2



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VFL GRAND FINAL

Home-grown Hawks tackle the Blues

HAWTHORN, a team that boasts many home-grown players will meet the "imported" Carlton combination to decide the premiers for 1987 in this Saturday's VFL grand final at the MCG.

Carlton have contested every finals series since they last won back-to-back premierships in 1981 and '82 and have spent heavily on South Australian and West Australian players in an attempt to 'buy' the flag.

Big-money recruits such as Richard Dennis, Jon Dorotich, Ken Hunter, Peter Sartori (WA), Stephen Kernahan, Mark Naley and Craig Bradley (SA) have been regular stars for the Blues.



David Rhys-Jones recruited by Carlton from Sydney.

by
George Temple

Add former Sydney Swans pair Bernie Evans and David Rhys-Jones and you have nine imported players likely to fill key spots in the Carlton 20 on Saturday.

Tassie Medal winner Naley was best-on-ground in Carlton's 15-point win over Hawthorn in the second semi-final a fortnight ago. He gathered 28 possessions to totally outplay 1987 Brownlow Medallist and fellow South Australian John Platten.

Naley orchestrated the Blues second-half revival as they clawed their way back from a 33-point deficit in the second half.

Captain Kernahan, Dorotich, Sartori and ruckman Justin Madden (an Essendon recruit) are the Blues mobile big man division.

With the exception of Sartori, they have been in excellent form this season. Kernahan has been dominant at centre-half-forward, which was reflected in his 14 votes in last Monday's Brownlow Medal count.

Kernahan and Sartori are both mobile, high-fliers and are likely to have the brilliant Hunter and Dennis alongside them — and they are also good high marks.

Dorotich will play at centre-half-back and this tussle with tough-man Dermott Brereton should be a feature of the game.

Brereton was one of the Hawks most dynamic players during the home-and-away fixtures and his skills and rugged approach could help fire the Hawks.

Brownlow Medallists Platten and Robert DiPierdomenico will be a handful for the Blues and both will make serious inroads into the Carlton defence.

One of Hawthorn's few out-of-town recruits is West Australian Gary Buckenara — the man who ended Melbourne's dream run with a goal after the siren in the preliminary final at VFL Park last Saturday.

Since being given the chance to play in the centre a few weeks ago, Buckenara has been more devastating than ever and is sure to be a match for Hawthorn's Craig Bradley.

Jarman's Magarey Medal



Andrew Jarman ... Medal winner.

SANFL umpires stuck with recent history in selecting North Adelaide's Andrew Jarman as the 1987 Magarey Medallist.

Like the Medal's past five winners — Greg Anderson, Grantley Fielke, John Platten, Tony Antrobus and Tony McGuinness — Jarman is a quick player who likes to run a lot with the ball.

But, as was the case in West Australia a week earlier, the winner of the league's fairest and most brilliant player award polled the second highest number of votes.

Norwood's Garry McIntosh finished two votes ahead of Jarman on 25, but was ineligible after being found guilty of an offence earlier in the year.

Jarman beat fellow North Adelaide player and favourite, Darel Hart and West Adelaide's Tony Burgess, who each polled 21 votes.

The Rooster's centreman also won *The Football Times* Player-of-the-Year award.



Two Hawthorn stars, Paul Abbott (left) and Russell Morris, will be key players against Carlton in Saturday's VFL grand final.

THE BROWNLOW BOY

ST Kilda full-forward Tony Lockett beat the odds and created history to share football's most prestigious award, the Brownlow Medal, with Hawthorn rover John Platten.

The vote-givers — the VFL umpires — had made Lockett the most heavily penalised footballer of the season.

Despite booting 117 goals, the kid they call "Pluggie" was awarded only 11 free kicks for the year.

Incredibly, he had a mammoth 65 paid against him, which is hardly the criteria for the competition's best and fairest player.

Lockett and Platten both polled 20 votes to win from Carlton's Paul Meldrum and Footscray rover Brian Royal on 15 votes.

Last Saturday, "Pluggie" was also presented with the John Coleman Medal as the VFL's leading goalkicker.

After Monday's count he said: "I can't believe it. It is a dream come true. I don't know what to say."

"When I came down from Ballarat, I just hoped I would be a success at St Kilda."

"To win this award, the feeling is practically impossible to explain."

Platten, who had a far better free-

kick ratio than his counterpart (58 for, 47 against), said he was thrilled to win, or at least share, the Brownlow Medal.

When he went to Melbourne to play for Hawthorn, he never had thoughts about winning the Brownlow.

"There was not too much betting on me early on and then when it started I was stunned," Platten said.

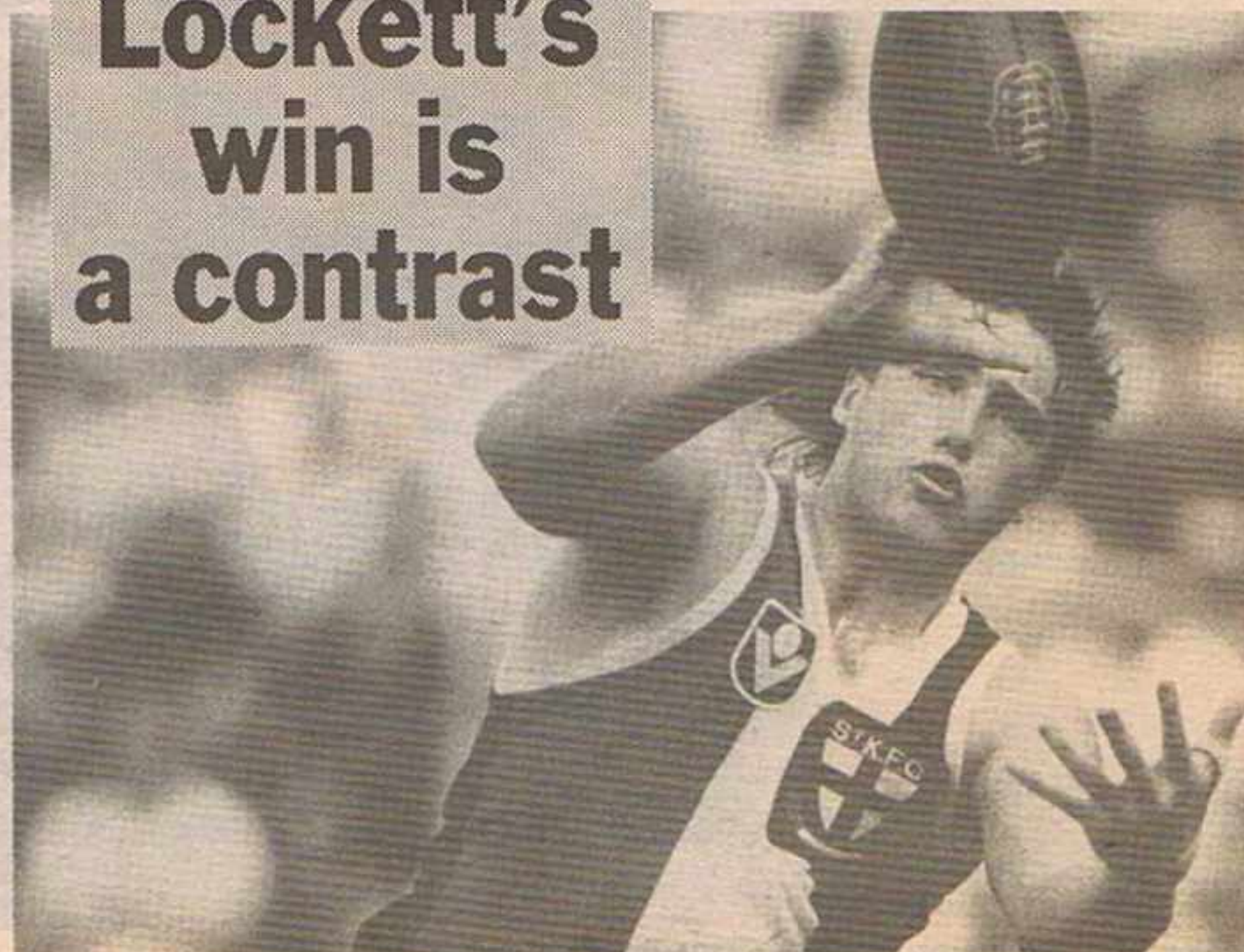
For Platten, it was his second major football medal in four years. The long-haired rover won South Australia's fairest and best award, the Magarey Medal, in 1984.

West Coast Eagles captain and 1983 Brownlow Medallist, Ross Glendinning was the best of the West Australians with 11 votes.

The other WA vote-getters were John Annear 7; Murray Wrensted 6, Chris Mainwaring, Dwayne Lamb 5; Laurie Keene 4.

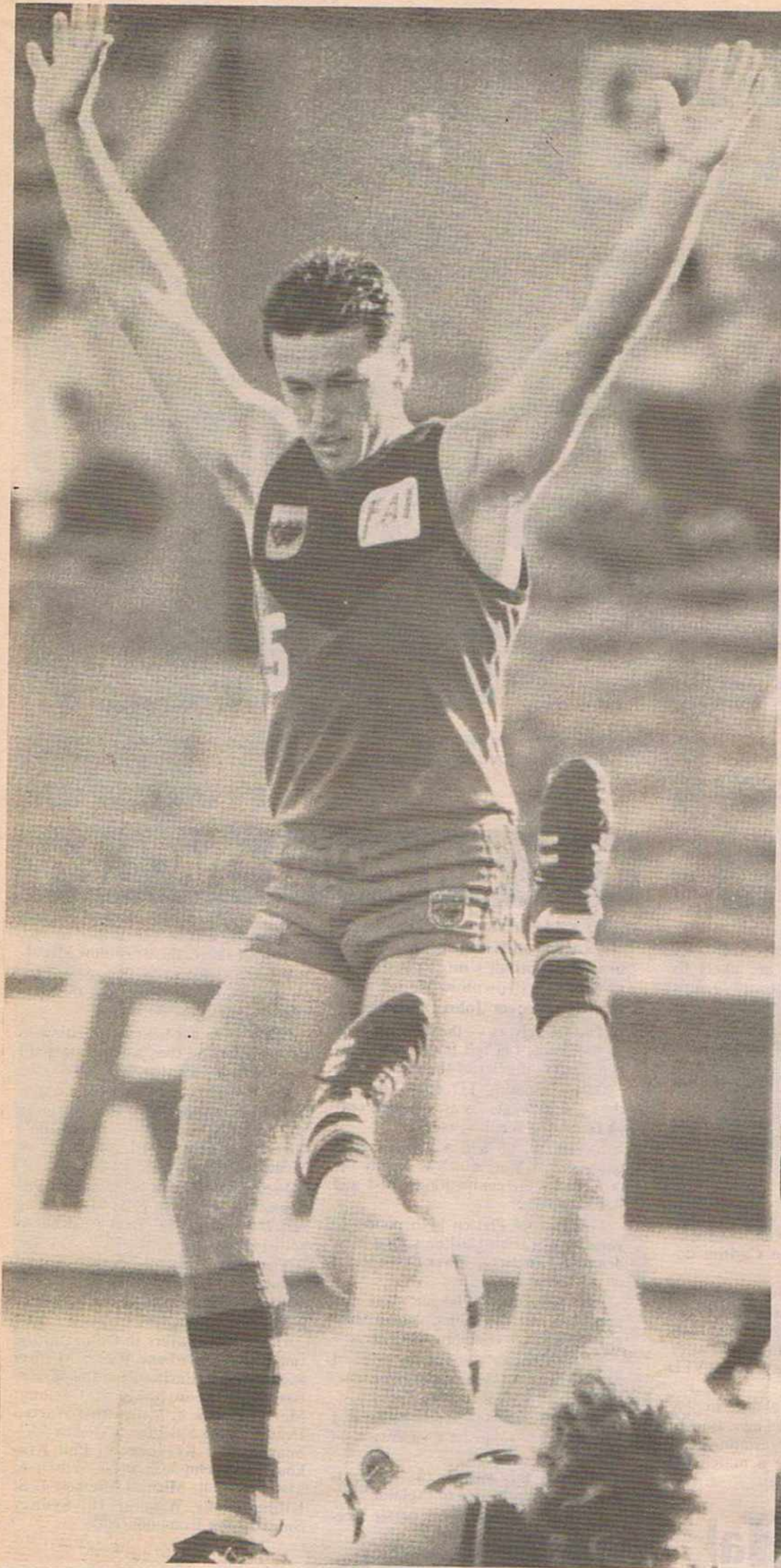
Other WA players to feature in the count were: Brisbane Bears: Michael Richardson 5. Carlton: Jon Dorotich 8. Essendon: Leon Baker 7. Geelong: Mark Bairstow 8. Melbourne: Warren Dean 7; Earl Spalding 5. North Melbourne: Jim Krakouer 9; Phil Krakouer 6. Richmond: Peter Wilson 6; Maurice Rioli, Michael Mitchell 4. St Kilda: Nicky Winmar 10. Sydney Swans: John Ironmonger 6.

Lockett's win is a contrast



Sitting down on the job

Football is a high-pressure game and you can't afford to waste time sitting down on the job. But a few well-known players were caught doing just that this season. LEFT: Subiaco captain Neil Taylor kicks his heels up, while East Perth's Peter Wright is already in position to get on with the game. BELOW: Subiaco's Phil Lamb tries a new style of ball handling as East Perth's Glyn Williams looks on.



THOSE WINNING SMILES

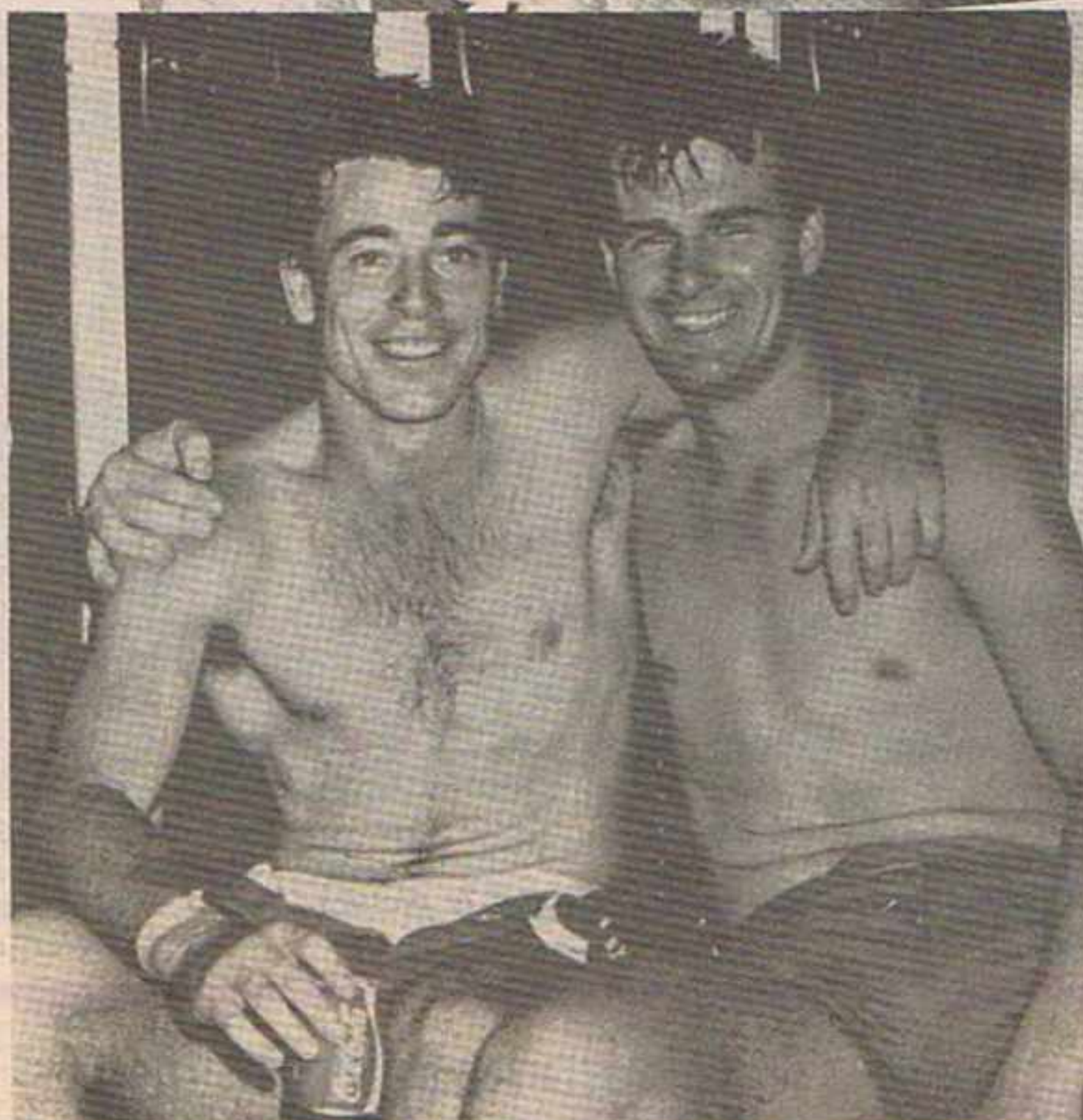
There was a new team on the block in 1987 and the West Coast Eagles showed their jubilation after beating reigning premiers Hawthorn — (left to right) John Gastev, Don Holmes, Mark Zanotti, John Worsfold (rear), Andrew MacNish (centre) Dwayne Lamb (front), David Hart (front) and Chris Lewis.



Joyous revelry at Perth Oval when East Perth won their first match this season. Peter Wright, Shane Dirou and Mark Shaw had cause to enjoy the club song.



Subiaco forward Michael Mort played only a handful of league games in an erratic season. But he was obviously happy with this game.



West Coast Eagles and South Fremantle star David Hart (left) and Bulldogs forward Brad McDougall were pleased about South Fremantle's third win for 1987.

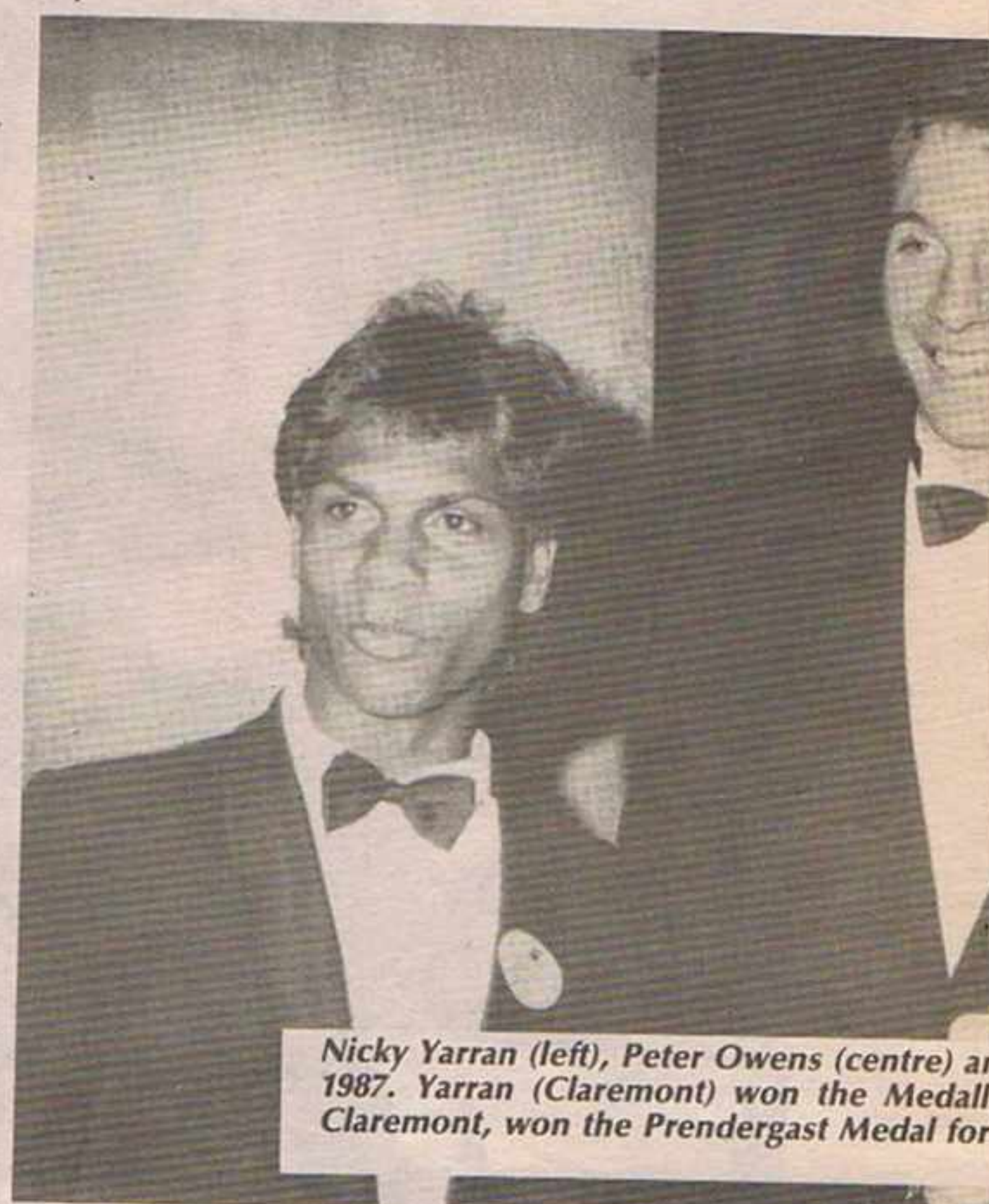


Claremont's Cameron Lewis, Mark Hann and Joe Ahmat after the Tigers resounding 70-point second semi-final win over Subiaco.

THEY V WINNE



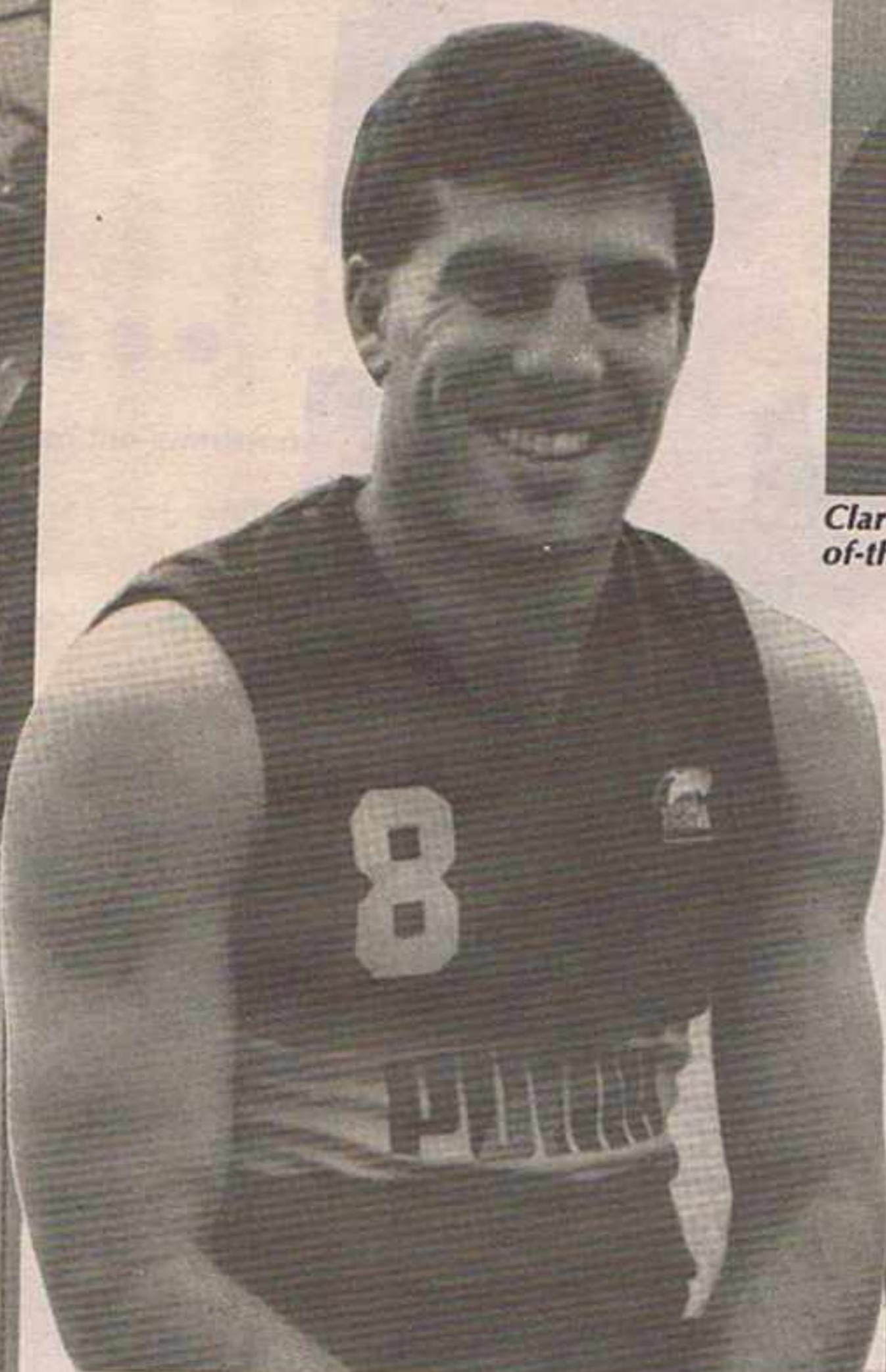
Brian Peake (left) won football's biggest prize, The West Australian Newspaper's Footballer-of-the-Year, winning a trophy and \$10,000 cash. Subiaco's Todd Breman (right) won a \$1500 bottle of Seppelts Para Port as the WAFL's leading goalkicker. He kicked 101 goals in the home-and-away fixtures.



Nicky Yarran (left), Peter Owens (centre) and [unclear] (right) won awards in 1987. Yarran (Claremont) won the Medall [unclear] Claremont, won the Prendergast Medal for [unclear]



Eagles skipper Ross Glendinning with the Eagles-of-the-Year award from the Football Media Guild.



Eagles star Steve Malaxos scooped the cash awards by taking out the Burswood Resort-Australian Airlines \$10,000 from The West Australian and the \$5000 Daily News Farmer Medal Adidas award.

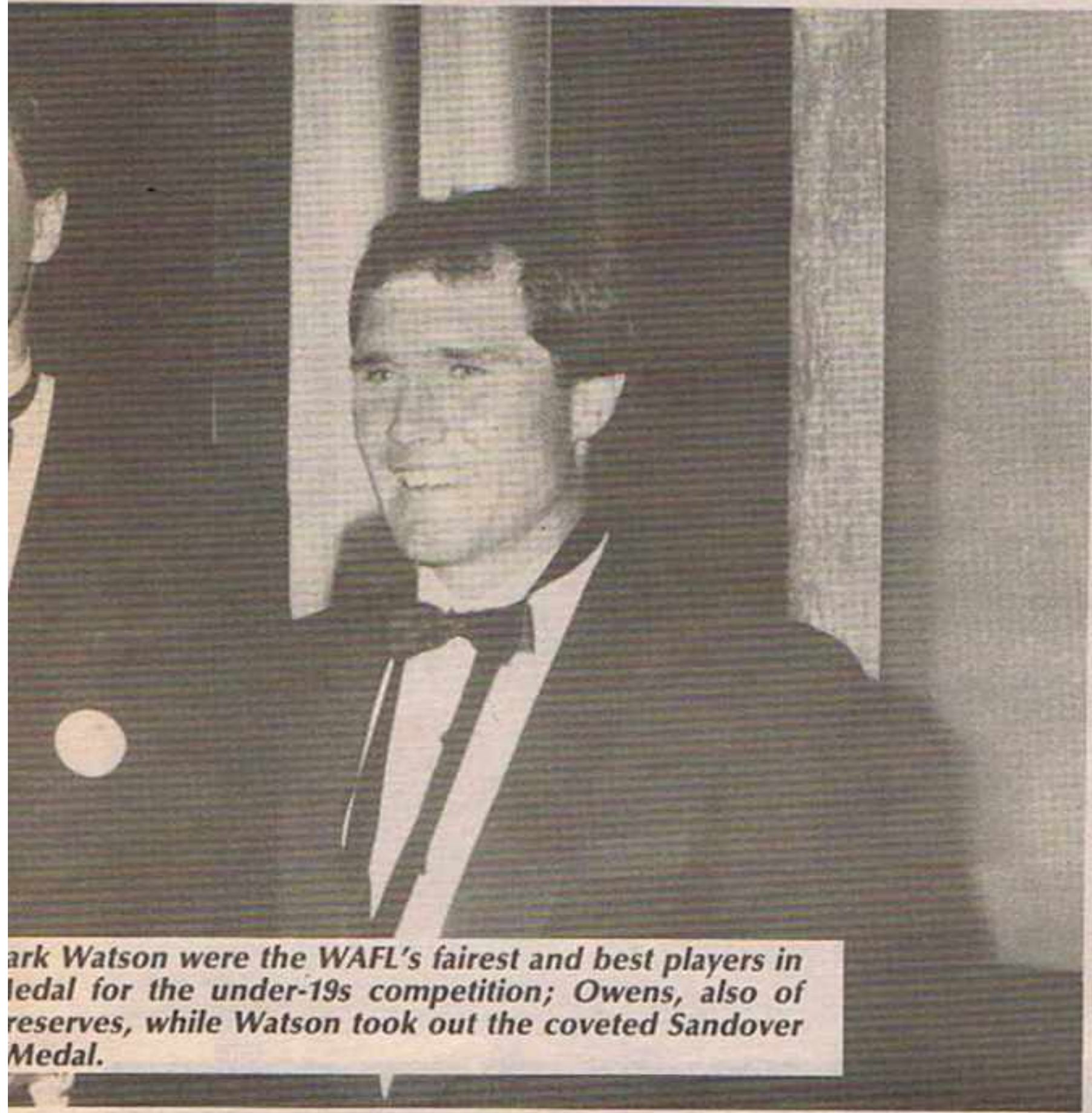


Claremont rookie Ben Allan receives the WA Footballer-of-the-Future award from Bob Cronin, manager.



Perth's Mark Watson — the 1987 Sandover Medal winner — and is pictured with Grant Symonds of the [unclear] Erhard Hotter, of the Shera [unclear]

WERE THE RS IN '87



Mark Watson were the WAFL's fairest and best players in 1987. He won the Medal for the under-19s competition; Owens, also of reserves, while Watson took out the coveted Sandover Medal.



Ampol's Miss Football 1987 Leanne Burton (18), a student of Carine pictured with Ampol's State manager David Ash.



Media Guild's Footballer-of-the-Year award recipient Dennis Myler.



The Wesfarmers country football champions title in 1987 went to the Great Northern League. Pictured are the jubilant players with Wesfarmers marketing manager Colin Delmenico and Great Northern Football League president Dennis Pearce.



Bill Ross — also won the Malaysian Airways Footballer-of-the-Year award from MAS State Manager Bill Ross.



Trinity College captain Damon Charushenko accepts the CIG Shield from CIG State manager Dennis Myler. Trinity beat Hamilton High School in the grand final of the secondary schools series.



East Fremantle star Brian Peake accepts his prize as the Sunday Times Malaysian Airways Footballer-of-the-Year from MAS State Manager Bill Ross. Peake won a trip for two to Penang.

HOME OF THE EAGLES

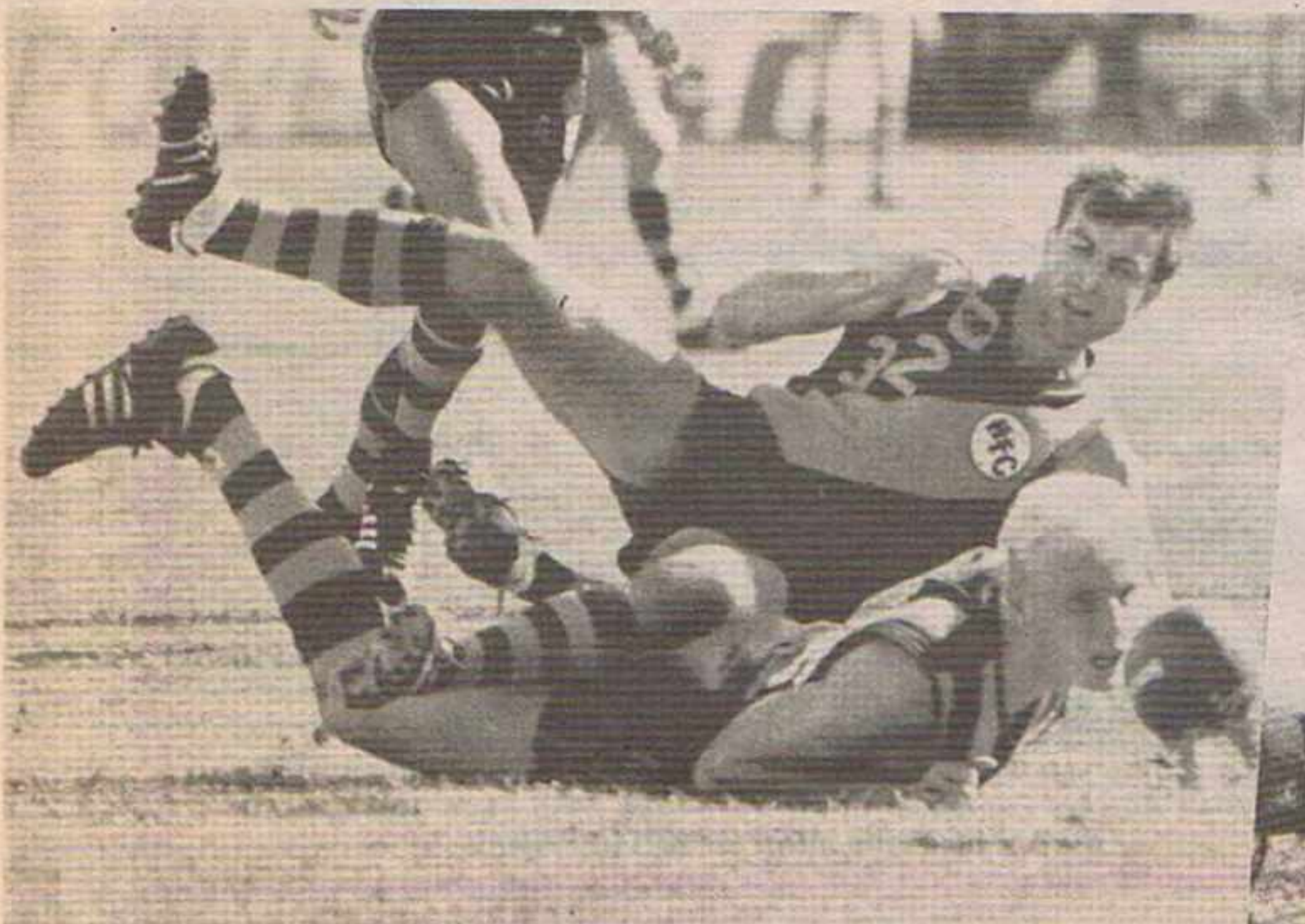


DOWN TO EARTH...

TOP: Ouch! West Perth skipper Peter Menaglio gets his nose to the grindstone.

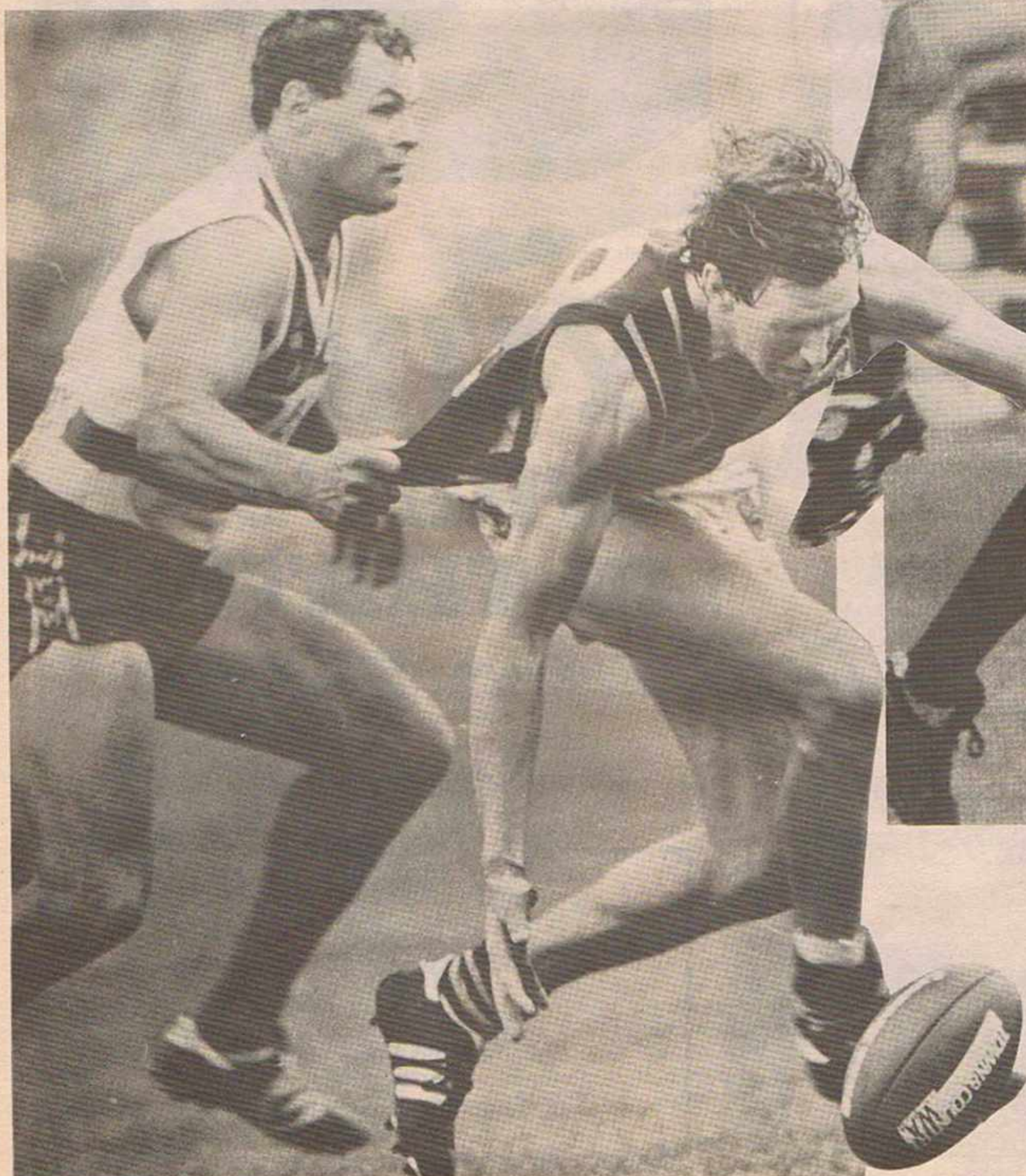
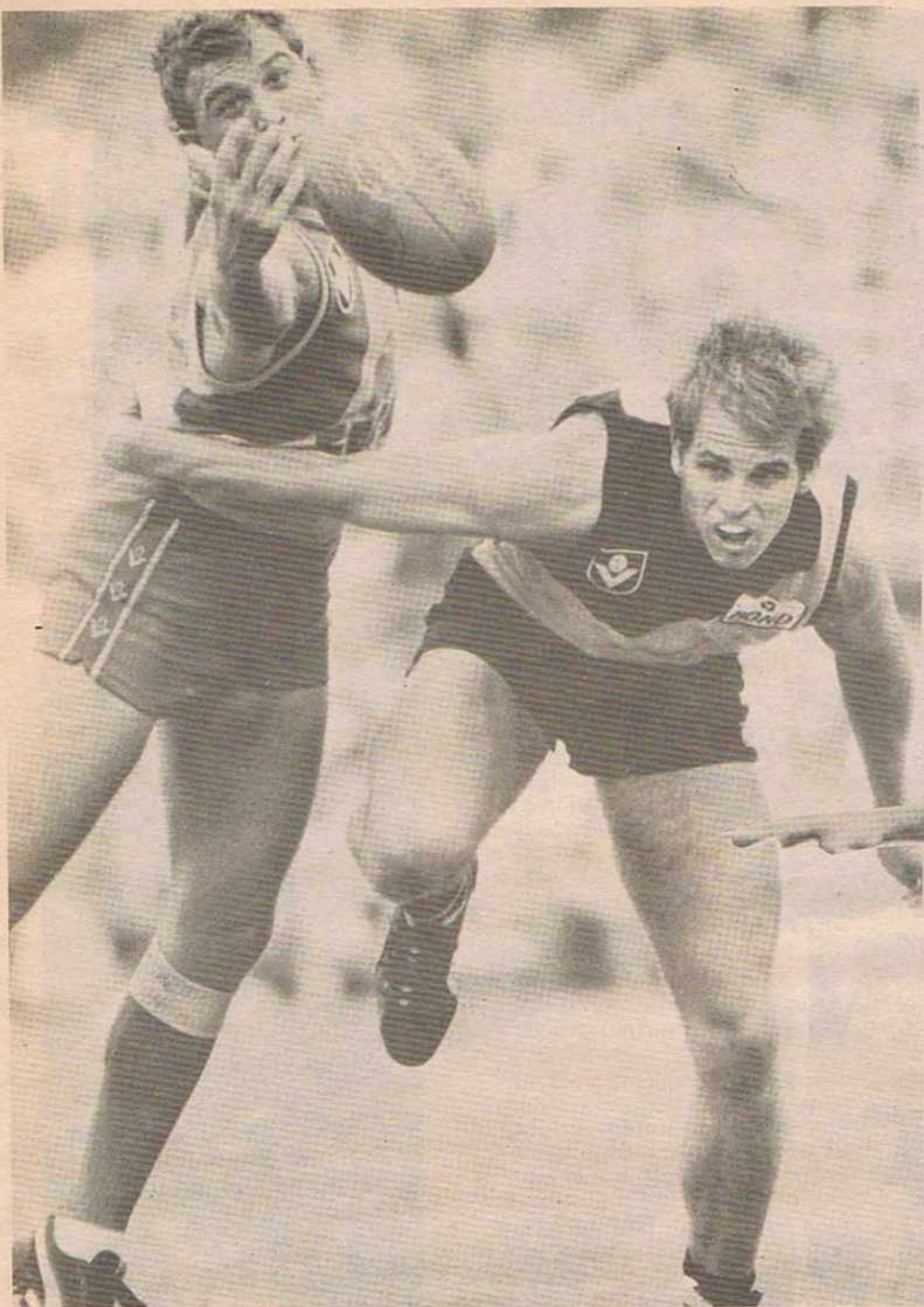
RIGHT: West Perth forward Paddy Madaffari supports himself with one arm, while East Perth's Mal Bennett takes hold of his right leg.

BELOW: Subiaco's Karl Langdon "spits" the football out as Claremont's Mark Hann lands on his back.



SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR...

West Coast Eagle Paul Peos can't quite manage a fingertip grasp as Richmond's Peter Czerkaski holds him back with a strong arm.



ABOVE: A desperate Andrew MacNish can only watch as the football remains out of his reach as he is held back by a Brisbane Bears opponent.

Strong Subiaco defender Greg Wilkinson is almost within reach of the ball as experienced East Fremantle campaigner Brian Peake tugs at his jumper.



YUK! WHAT'S IN THAT?

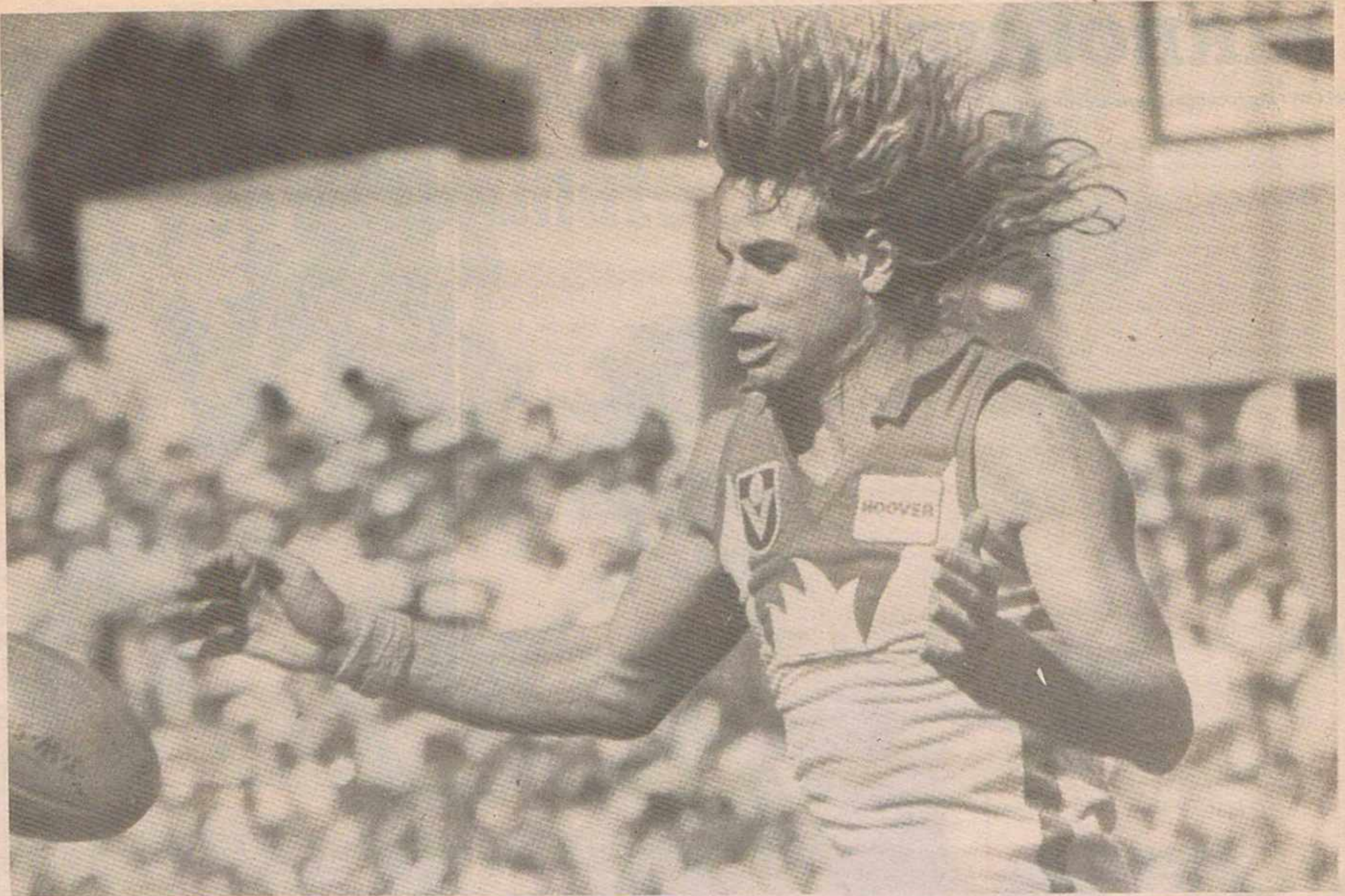
Perth's Kim Fancote (left) and the Eagles' Chris Lewis (above) must have wished they had never sampled whatever was in those drink bottles.



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Two of the real personalities in football during the 1987 season. ABOVE: Sydney's Warwick Capper. BELOW: Bulldog Mark Jackson.

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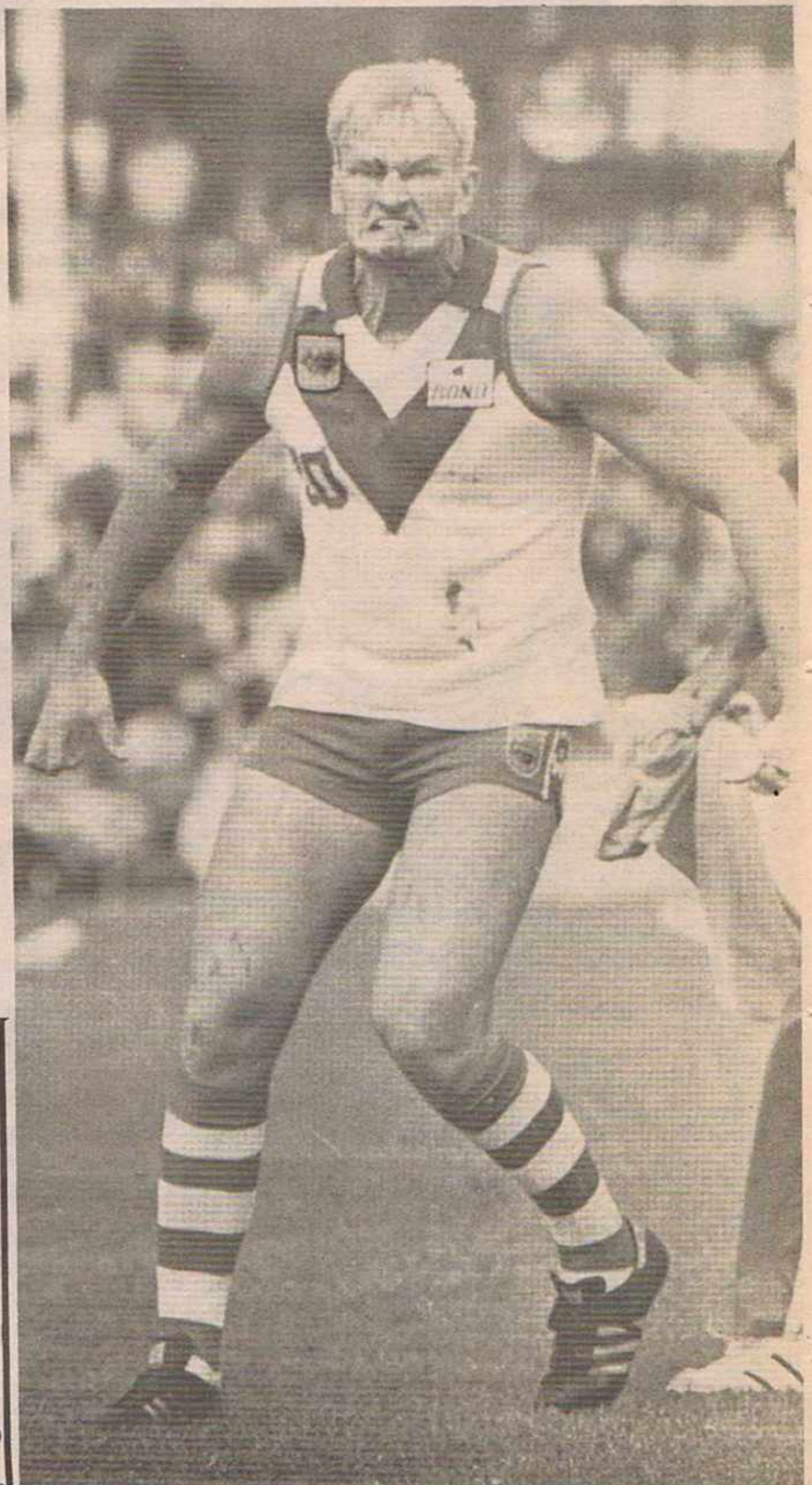


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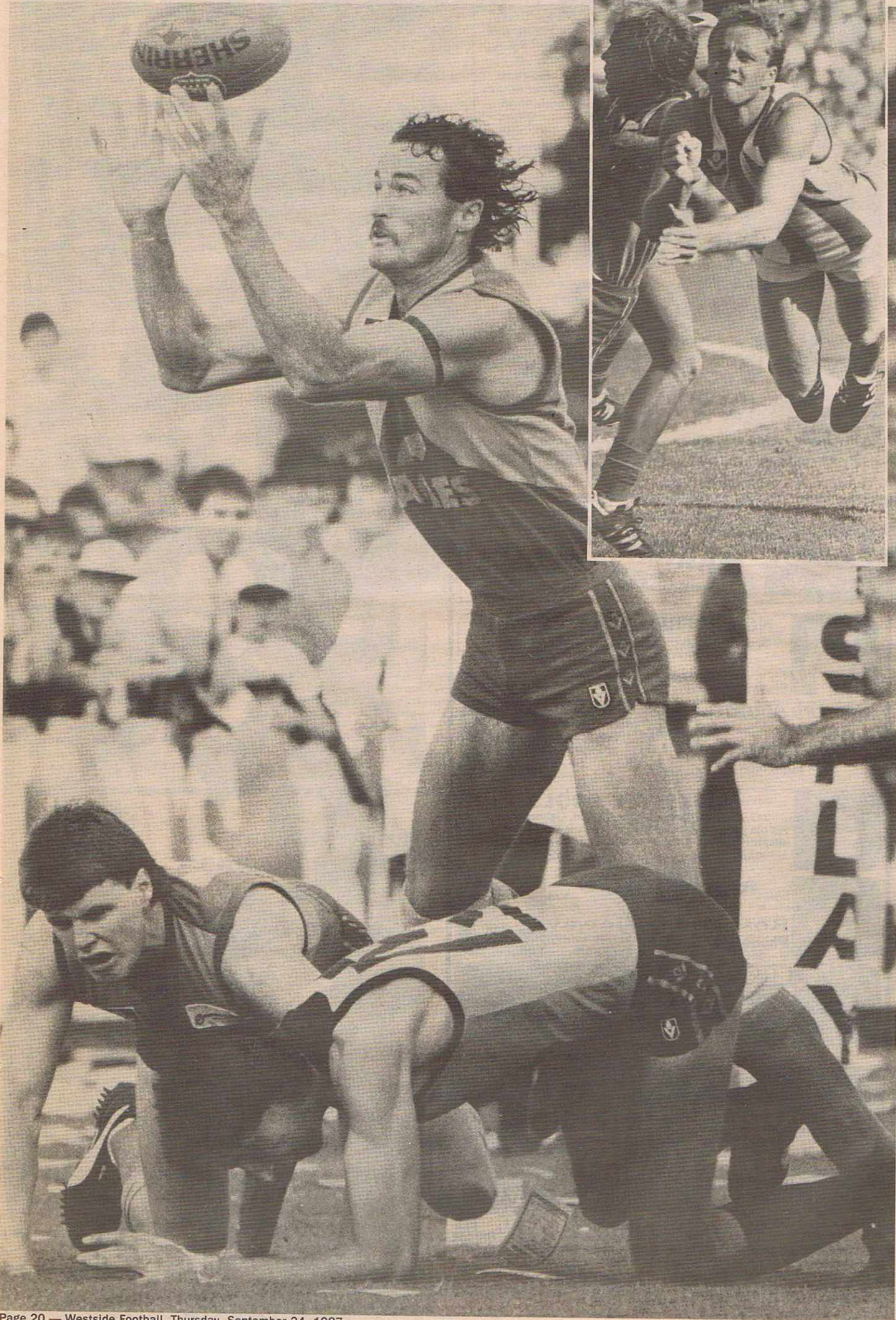
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RIGHT: North Melbourne's Darren Steele fires out a handpass in spectacular fashion.

BELOW: Big ruckman Laurie Keene skittles the pack (Michael Brennan and Bears Neil Hein) to take this mark for the Eagles at Carrara Oval.



THE FACES OF FOOTBALL



LEFT: East Fremantle defender Bryce Forman looks a real 19th Century "dasher" with his goaty (beard) handlebar moustache and broad grin.



ABOVE: Mr Reliable of the West Coast Eagles defence, Dwayne Lamb, can smile despite having had six stitches inserted in a cut above his left eye.



RIGHT: East Perth defender Gary Bock gives a right-Royal salute after the team's first victory for 1987.



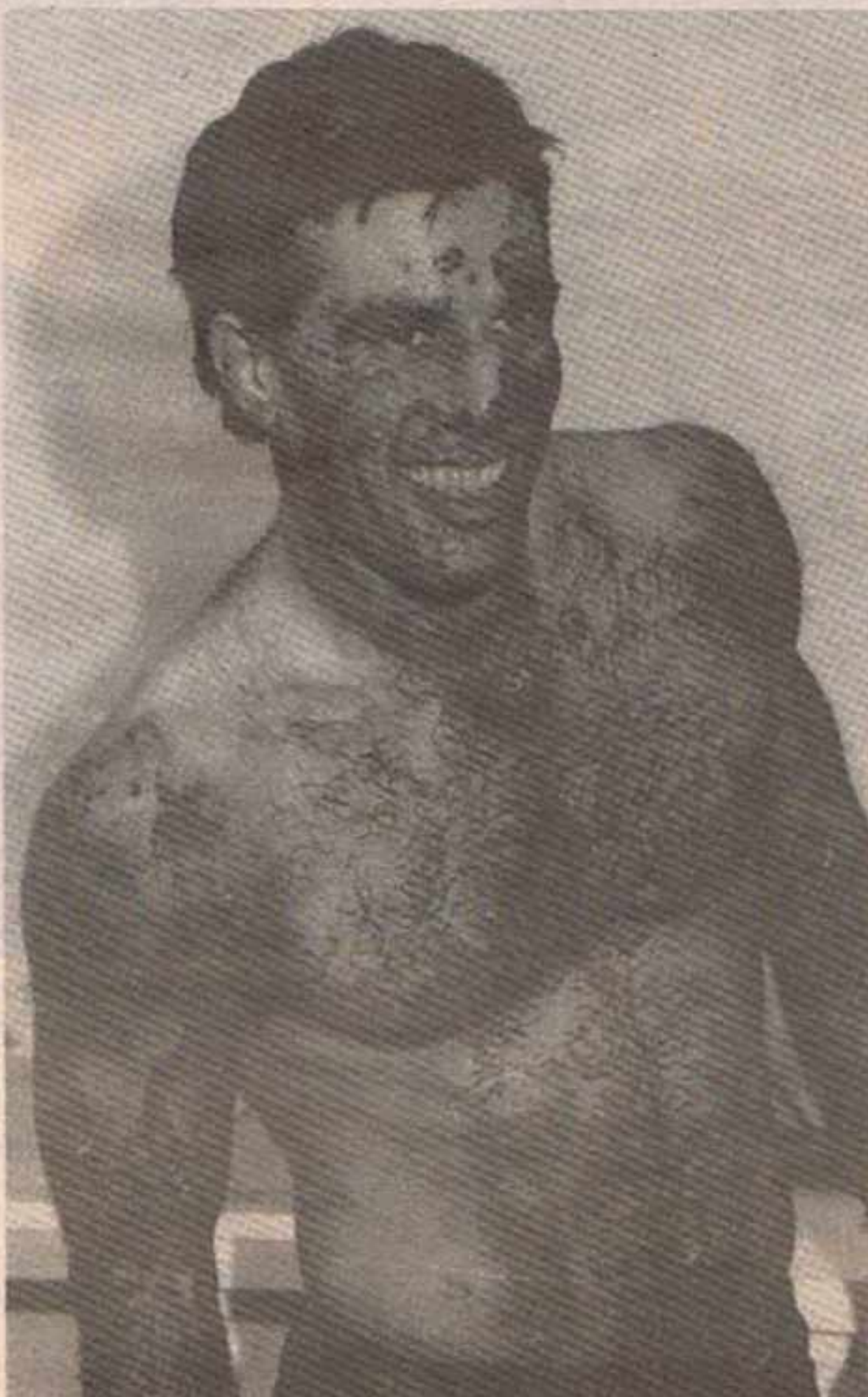
LEFT: The versatile and dynamic Chris Lewis made a big impact on the VFL scene this season with the West Coast Eagles.



RIGHT: Perth's Bryan Cousins is all smiles after playing his 300th game of senior football.



BELOW: Rookie Swan Districts defender Mick Grasso after Swans first semi-final loss to East Fremantle.



BELOW: Who, me! Eagle Mark Zanotti in the changerooms after an Eagles match.

LEFT: Multi-award winning West Coast Eagles star Steve Malaxos after a game in the mud at the WACA Ground.

A few quiet words ...

Whispered coach-player conversations are often deep and meaningful as the coach passes on his years of experience to help his team members. But such situations can often lend themselves to humorous interpretations.



East Fremantle coach Graham Melrose to his captain Brian Peake: "Sorry mate, but I'm going to back Mark Watson for the Sandover Medal."

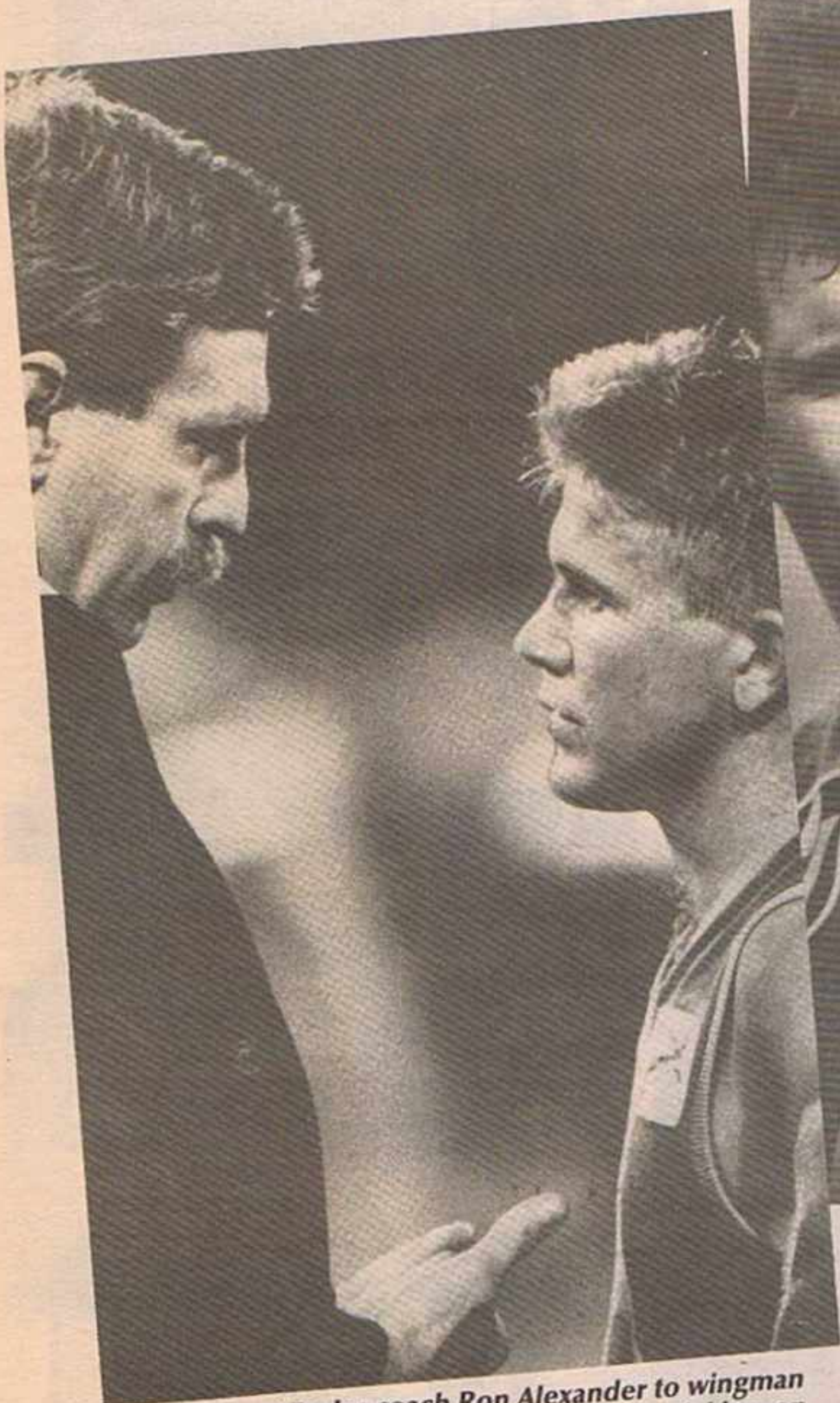
RIGHT: Subiaco coach Haydn Bunton to captain Neil Taylor: "Is it worth backing ourselves for the grand final?"



BELOW: South Fremantle coach Stan Magro to defender Dean Wilson: "Well, you should have turned left instead of right."



... in the Eagles ears



West Coast Eagles coach Ron Alexander to wingman Chris Mainwaring: "Who do you keep picking on Dipper like that?"



Andrew Lockyer to coach Ron Alexander: "What do you mean, I should try my luck at the Burswood Casino?"



Phil Narkle to coach Ron Alexander: "Do you think it would help if we turned the lights down a little bit?"

Towns make it to grand final

MINOR premiers Towns earned the right to meet Williams in this week's Upper Great Southern grand final when they comfortably accounted for Pingelly 15.12 to 11.8.

The victory was achieved despite the absence of captain-coach, John Maguire, who was suspended for the rest of the season in dramatic circumstances during the week.

McGuire, who had been reported after an incident in the second semi-final, was found guilty by the tribunal and suspended for one playing date.

However, the tribunal subsequently requested that the case be re-opened and at a second hearing, increased the penalty to two weeks, effectively finishing the season for McGuire.

The decision has caused a furore and Towns are doing everything in their power to have their captain-coach available for the grand final.

After establishing a handy early break, Towns led by three goals at half-time and were able to increase their lead in the second half.

Pingelly were hindered by a lot of indirect play and their lack of experience told as Towns gained control of the game.

Ruck-rover Kim Drage was best for the victors. Brothers Keith and Darren Ballard also performed strongly, as did veteran John Hayden, who was making a return to the side after a lengthy absence. Leading full-forward Les Reynolds contributed six majors.

For Pingelly, key forwards David Hornsby (three goals) and Brett Blechynden (four goals) played well, while Kerin Ugle tried hard all day to keep his side within striking distance.

The grand final this week between Williams and Towns is expected to be a tough, fiery affair.

In the thirds competition West Arthur (11.12) earned the right to meet Towns in the grand final when they defeated Wagin (7.3).

Towns Reserves side ensured that the club will be represented in all three grades on grand final day when they beat Wickpin 11.9 to 8.9.

Their opponents will be Lake Grace, which is the first appearance by a Lake Grace side in a grand final since they entered the league.

KUNUNURRA TAKE FLAG

LAST game players Graham Pearce, Steve Rose and Paul Smoker provided the incentive for Kununurra to beat Five Rivers 13.7 to 6.11 in the East Kimberley Football Association Grand Final.

The match was played at a fierce pace despite the hot conditions and it was only in the last 15 minutes of the last quarter that Kununurra were able to break away.

Strong contributors for Kununurra were Steve Ludwig, Doug Winton, Joe Ross and Gary Woolridge, who was also awarded the fairest and best trophy by umpires Ron Buckey and Steve Goddan.

Mosman keep their title

REIGNING premiers Mosman Park retained their WAFA title the hard way when they beat the unlucky Belmont 15.10 to 13.13 last Sunday.

They had to come from the first semi-final and survive a drawn grand final before winning the flag.

Playing in their fourth successive grand final, Mosman started quickly and opened up a handy three-goal advantage which they held throughout the game.

Belmont, who had built themselves up for last week's drawn game, did not appear to have the same enthusiasm for the replay.

They managed to get within one goal early in the last quarter, but were unable to sustain their fight back.

Ruck-rover David Holmes picked up numerous kicks and was best for Mosman Park, while John Litterick proving a reliable defender, while key-forward Neville Barker contributed three good goals. The experienced Barry Haydinger chipped in with four goals at vital stages.

For Belmont, Dean Hayden dominated the ruck duels with Danny Carroll at half-back and full-forward John Hansen playing strongly. Andrew Walker, with four goals, was the best of the Belmont forwards.

Superules title to WA

WEST Australia have won the Ansett National Superules Carnival in Brisbane with some outstanding performances.

WA players Bruce Tschirpig, Alan Hearne, Tig Burgeson, Wayne Smythe and Peter Silverwood were named in the All-Australian team after the championship.

The carnival is for players 35 years and over and more than 250 players took part.

The teams competing were New South Wales, South Australia, ACT, West Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria Metropolitan, Victoria Country and the Presidents XVIII.

The results were as follows:

WEST AUST.	2.1	3.5	4.6	7.10	52
VIC. COUNTRY	1.0	3.1	4.3	5.5	35
GOALS WA:	Tschirpig 2,	Morgan 2,	Smythe,	Burgeson,	Ogg 1.
BEST WA:	Minson,	Tschirpig,	Burgeson,	Smythe,	Tyson.
WEST AUST.	2.6	5.10	9.14	11.17	83
TASMANIA	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.2	8
GOALS WA:	White 3,	Beaton 3,	Burgeson 2,	Harris 2,	Hearne 1.
BEST WA:	Hearne,	Burgeson,	Smythe,	Lepidy,	Ogg.
WEST AUST.	2.2	2.3	6.6	10.7	67
VIC. METRO	1.0	1.2	2.2	3.6	18
GOALS WA:	Tschirpig 2,	Catalano 2,	Silverwood 2,	Burgeson,	Davenport,
BEST WA:	Barrows,	Ogg 1.	BEST WA:	Burgeson,	Tyson,
	Tschirpig,	Cockram.			

Collie take revenge on Carey Park

AN inaccurate Collie convincingly beat Carey Park 17.23 to 13.10 in Sunday's preliminary final to earn the right to meet South Bunbury in the grand final.

Collie led all day, but inaccurate shooting for goal in the first half enabled Carey Park to stay within striking distance. However, they were not good enough to overcome the determined Collie combination.

Collie forward Jeff Davidson, young brother of Eagles wingman Peter Davidson, was a constant danger in attack and finished with six goals.

Others to play well for the victors were centre-liners Greg O'Brien and Peter Slater, who threw off the shackles applied by his tagger after a quiet first quarter.

Defenders David Hollins and Gerard Graham held up many Carey Park attacks, while ruck-rover Brendan Retzlaff was useful around the ground.

For Carey Park, half-forward Steve Bazzo was a strong contributor, along with Glen Coyle and ruck-rover Murray Collard.

Bazzo, the best player on the ground, is tipped to be heading to Perth next season to join former Carey Park players at Swan Districts.

Carey Park were also without the services of full-forward Kernut Thorne and versatile Andrew DeCampo, who were sidelined with suspensions.

Thorne had been the key to the Panthers attack, scoring more than 100 goals this season.

This week's grand final promises to be an exciting tussle between the young and inexperienced South Bunbury side and Collie, who will be making their third successive grand final appearance.

Collie's preliminary final victory over Carey Park was atonement for last year's record thrashing in the grand final and the young Saints will be out to erase that painful game from their memory.

But minor premiers South Bunbury will be no easy obstacle.

Tigers captain-coach Peter Hodyl was runner-up in this year's Hayward Medal count and with his young ruckman Rod Steele dominating in the hit-outs, South Bunbury can hold control in the centre.

Forwards Danny Platts and Ian Bennell have also been in fine form this season, as has veteran back-pocket player Peter Upson, who will play his 199th game for the Tigers in the grand final.

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Moore leads Railways into grand final

A SUPERB performance by Railways centre-half-back John Moore swept the Blues into the 1987 Great Northern Football League grand final last Sunday.

Moore was solid under pressure and was responsible for stopping many Brigades attacks.

His performance won him the GNFL President's Medal as best-afield in the preliminary final and he will be a key to Railways chances when they meet the talented Mullewa at the Recreation Oval in Geraldton this Sunday.

Another player to perform well in the Blues 66-point thrashing of Brigades, 20.14 to 10.8 was centreman John Belotti.

He was the instigator of many Railways attacks and helped the likes of Garry O'Brien, Barry Evans and Fred Taylor to kick three goals each, while Greg O'Malley, Brett Marsden and Kirk Ullrick scored two.

For the Hawks, who had many players sidelined with the flu, none played better than ruckman Craig Patterson, with 26 tap-outs.

Brigades goalkickers were Paul Cocking (three) and Tony Taylor (two).

Railways ruckman Lindsay Greatorex will have his hands full again on Sunday when he tangles with J.J. Clune Medallist Revis Ryder, from Mullewa.

Railways will need to watch Mullewa's Comeagain brothers, Charlie and Mervan, who are hard-running players.

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Membership at Swans high

SWAN Districts boasted the highest membership of any WAFL club in season '87 and they certainly have not been forgotten just because the playing season is over.

Between now and Christmas, Swans have six functions, plus their annual general meeting.

General manager Brian Close says that the Swans members have a real sense of belonging to the Bassendean-based club.

"A regular group come in during the week and there are always raffles and club talk for them to get involved with," Mr Close said.

The first Swan Districts function is on September 30 — SWAMS fashion parade, in the club rooms starting at 10am.

Those to follow are the Swansmen's Club auction at the Langley Plaza Hotel on October 10, the SDFC Golf Club Cabaret in the club rooms on October 16 and the Swan Medal count in the club rooms on October 17.

In addition, there are two race days — Toodyay on September 30 and Bunbury on November 18.

The Swans annual general meeting is on December 10 in the club rooms.

Club activities are a high priority at Swans.

"Next year we hope to increase our membership still further by maintaining our present numbers and attracting former members back," said Mr Close.

"This, of course, will be enhanced by continued success on the field.

"We are confident that coach John Todd will remain with us for at least the duration of his contract, which still has two years to run and we have a talented band of players.

Close said that Swans have had a very successful season financially.

"With the continued support of the Swan Brewery and National Panasonic, we would like to think Swans are one of the better-placed clubs in Perth."



John Todd

Royals meet to plan their future



Gerard McNeil

EAST Perth will hold a meeting of members on September 30 to discuss the proposed move of the Royals from Perth Oval to the WACA Ground.

General manager Alex Wilson says that the information evening will be held in the function hall at Perth Oval.

"No decision will be made, but we would like to know the opinion of members after they have been given the relevant information," Mr Wilson said.

The move, if given the green light, would see East Perth and Perth sharing the home of cricket.

Financially, the move could represent a huge cost-saving for East Perth. But that is only one of the considerations that needs to be closely examined.

But on the field, East Perth are hoping for a more successful season in 1988.

Coach Gerard McNeil will serve the second year of his three-year contract and the Royals should build on their 1987 foundation.

East Perth won four matches this season with a number of players, particularly ruckman Mal Bennett, showing immense development.

With a team nucleus of Chris Allen, Grant Campbell, David Bain and George Giannakis, they have a firm base.

Add to this youngsters like Mark Cartier, Peter Cransberg, Rod Lewis, Keith Wynne, Rick Chapman and Shane Stempel and the Royals have a great deal of potential to work with.

However, the position of reserves coach has been vacated by Peter Ivanoff, who has moved to Darwin with work commitments.

"We hope to retain the services of our sponsors, Centre Ford, FAI Insurance and Carlton United Breweries," says Mr Wilson.

"Sponsors are very important to football and we would like to think we have something to offer them."

New era for the Demons

THE year of 1987 certainly saw a new era in the West Australian football — and 1988 will usher in an equally important era for the Perth Football Club.

The Demons plan to consolidate their move back to the WACA Ground, done with a certain amount of difficulty this year, and 1988 should see the club well established at the home of cricket — and their original home base.

The appointment of one of Perth's all-time greats in Robert Wiley as a playing coach turns the clock back to the Barry Cable coaching era and it is fitting that Wiley is the man to lead the side, having developed initially under Cable.

Perth disappointed on the playing field in 1987, but there were many good reasons for their problems, ranging from injuries to instability with their home ground.

Coach Mal Brown uncovered some promising young talent in players like John Clarkson, Shane Cable, Troy Davis, Grant Hatch, Clint Hunter, Toby Jackson and Kim Yukich and they should all go on with their careers in 1988.

The season's highlight was producing the Sandover Medallist in Mark Watson, a hard-working servant who has developed into the game's most consistent player since switching from Claremont in 1985.

Off the field, Perth have made tremendous improvement in their financial situation, turning around a ugly deficit to be virtually debt-free going into next year.

That has been a pleasing aspect for the club — and also the sponsors, who have seen their money used wisely in a period of constraint by the Demons.

"Our sponsors have been loyal to us at a time when things were a little difficult," says general manager Mick Moylan.

"But in the end I think they got a good deal with our move to the WACA and we're confident that we can build on our sponsorship next year."



Rob Wiley

Falcons set to start 1988 planning



Bruce Monteath

THE West Perth hierarchy will meet in the next few weeks to begin preparations for 1988.

The Falcons have already appointed rookie coach Bruce Monteath for another season and club president Brian Atkinson believes that this is a major step towards a successful season.

Mr Atkinson says that the next step is to review West Perth's playing strength.

"We would like to recruit a couple of 70 or 80-game players because we are light with experience," Mr Atkinson said.

"There was a lot of talk this season that West Perth had ample experienced players, but that wasn't strictly true.

"Our backline often consisted of rookie players like Paul Hasler, Brad Gwilliam, Peter Cutler, Tim Adam and Matt Bushe-Jones.

"Before this year, these players probably had less than 20 league games between them.

"Bruce worked with those and other players and has developed them very well.

"With the likelihood of Dan Foley, Kim Rogers, Shane Bogunovich and Dean Warwick all being available in 1988, things are looking good.

"Together with the improvement of Craig Nelson, that will give us tremendous depth in our big-man division," he said.

Off the field, West Perth had strong support from their sponsors and are confident that their membership will start the climb upwards again next year.

"Our sponsors have included Mountway City Hyundai, whose principal is Brian Hesse, a member of the club for more than 20 years, Carlton and United Breweries, Big Rock Toyota, Liquid Air and Dyson Wools, to name a few," says Mr Atkinson.

"They, along with the club members, will be invited to West Perth's Christmas Party on December 18.

Swan Districts
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
 SWAMS Fashion Parade, 10am — \$3 per head
 Members' Day — Toodyay Races — \$12 per head
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
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 SDFC Club Rooms — 7.30pm-10pm. All players in attendance.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
 Members' Day — Bunbury Races — \$15 per head
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
 SDFC Annual General Meeting
 For further details contact the office on 279 1432.

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PERTH FOOTBALL CLUB (INC.)
Notice to Members and Guests

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 14th December, 1987 at 8pm.
 Election of Directors (3 required). Nominations close on Friday 13th November, 1987 at 5pm.
 Forms obtainable at club office.

"MEMBERS SUNDOWNER"
 Friday 23rd October, 1987 5-7pm.
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Kailis Bros.	Joondanna Catering

West Perth Football Club (Inc.)

Optimism at South Fremantle

SOUTH Fremantle supporters can look forward to a far more enjoyable season in 1988.

The club has the opportunity to develop the potential that they showed in the first three matches of this year.

South Fremantle began the 1987 season with three successive wins but failed to register any more premiership points as a succession of crippling injuries (27 in all) robbed coach Stan Magro of his playing staff.

South Fremantle managing-director Harold Harper says that the injuries were partly responsible for the Bulldogs collecting the wooden spoon.

"Those young players will be back next season and we intend recruiting two or three experienced campaigners to bolster the ranks," Harper said.

"Though the injuries depleted our player-reserve this season, there could be a silver lining to the situation.

"In bleeding so many young players, we found that some have the capacity to be good league players. With that early experience, they will develop much faster.

"We are confident that Souths have the right coach in Stan Magro and that he can develop the potential we have into a hard-tackling and fiercely competitive team — much in the mould of himself.

"Stan is a man who never quits and he learnt a lot from his experiences this year," he said.

Souths have a major membership recruiting plan in the pipeline in a bid to increase the supporter base in the port club.

"In a year of change we weren't too disappointed with the number of members, but we intend to build on that base," says Mr Harper.

"We appreciate those who stuck by us in a year of disappointing results.

"The same goes for our sponsors. They've been great.

"Companies like Bond Corporation, Backshall Ford, Fremantle Credit Union and Traveland have all weighed in with good support."



Stan Magro

Tigers face a bright future



Gerard Neesham

CLAREMONT are on the verge of an exciting new era.

The Tigers, under highly-respected league coach Gerard Neesham, have a group of talented footballers who should serve the club with distinction for many years.

Saturday's grand final win was just the beginning in what many people believe could be the most successful period in the club's history.

In Don Pyke, Brian Sutherland and Ben Allan, Claremont have three of the most promising footballers in the WAFL.

Other young players who should receive more opportunities in league ranks include Julian Urquhart, Peter James, Len Yarran, Carlo Passera and Stephen Cook.

In the reserves and under-19s they have a host of players to play league football in coming years — and heading the list is Medallists Medal winner Nicky Yarran.

Add Damon Buckley, Steve Southern, Ryan Dhue, Scott Robins, Rob Malone, Matthew Elliott and Alex Yarran and you have a nucleus of players capable of keeping Claremont winners well into the 1990's.

Back-up coaches John Dimmer (reserves) and Larry Kickett (under-19s) should be congratulated for getting their sides into the grand finals.

The reserves played superbly to win the premiership against East Fremantle, but the under-19s were unable to make it a Claremont trifecta.

Claremont players Derek Kickett (league), Peter Owens (reserves) and Nicky Yarran (under-19s) polled the most votes in the three WAFL competitions. However, Kickett was ineligible to win the Sandover Medal due to suspension.

Peter Thorne won the Simpson Medal for being the best player in the grand final, the club was awarded the Rodriguez Shield for the champion club over all three grades and they opened the season with victory in the \$100,000 Kresta Cup competition.

Sharks out to rectify '87 failings

EAST Fremantle fell one game short of their target of reaching the 1987 grand final — and the summer months will be spent planning on how to rectify that situation.

Under first-year coach Graham Melrose, the Sharks ran hot and cold during the season, with a brilliant start, fading out to a disappointing finish.

The fact that East Fremantle sides finished in the top three in all grades — taking the under-19s premiership and being runners-up in the reserves — gives the club confidence for their development next year.

The club is enthusiastic about their junior development programs.

Selected junior squads such as the metropolitan and Geraldton Shark Packs provide the basis for future East Fremantle league sides and the effects of this are already being felt.

Young players such as Sean Jones, Dwain Regan, Matthew Congleton, Peter Quill, Ian Hill, Clinton Wolf, Matthew Bateman, Matthew Brennan, Brad Read, Michael Broadbridge, Michael Little and Stephen Edgar should all make substantial contributions in league ranks next season.

Senior players will have the benefit of a specialised running coach next season and wheelchair basketball against various disabled groups is in the pipeline.

Several country players are being earmarked for East Fremantle and this will be confirmed after the Great Northern League grand final next weekend.

Discussions are under way with former East Fremantle players now in the VFL and encouraging progress has been made in this area.

The Lynn Medal for the club's fairest and best player will be counted on Sunday, October 11 and though the football action is over, the summer months signify a proliferation of activities.



Graham Melrose

Subiaco in a strong position



Haydn Bunton

SUBIACO have built their success around a solid membership base and well-devised and intelligent planning, on and off the field.

The coaching staff, led by Haydn Bunton and back up by reserves coach Wayne Loxley and under-19 coach Eddie Pitter, has laid a solid foundation for future success.

In Trevor Nisbett, they have one of the best administrators in West Australia.

It is his job to recognise and develop junior talent and to co-ordinate the Lions Pride squad for talented 15-year-olds.

These players filter into the club's under-19 and reserves teams and hopefully reach league ranks.

Five players from this year's squad were selected in the State schoolboys side, with Craig Hunter earning All-Australian representation.

Subiaco's members, sponsors and supporters can rest assured that the club will remain strong in future years as the up-and-coming group of young players should all blossom into league footballers.

Players like Damien Read, Paul Cox, Brett Heady, Stephen Rosich, Gavin Keyser, Richard Caldwell, John Cooper and Ross McQueen all have the ability to play senior football.

Subiaco's renewed financial and on-field success revolves around some basic philosophies:

- Maintaining stability in administration.
- Retaining their football personnel.
- An emphasis on developing young players.
- Outstanding support from members and sponsors.

The club would like to thank all sponsors, in particular their major sponsor Western Underwriters, for their tremendous support in 1987.

Subiaco are in a financially strong situation, having now played in three successive grand finals.

SOUTH FREMANTLE FOOTBALL CLUB



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Thorne responds to barbs about future

THE challenge of working harder was the primary reason that led to a remarkable year for experienced Claremont rover Peter Thorne.

by **Ben Stinga**

Many critics had written Thorne off at the end of last season, though he had never contemplated retirement.

Those rumblings were all that he needed to spur him on to greater heights this year — and to a premiership, plus the Simpson Medal.

Of course, the "little general" in Gerard Neesham also had a hand in Thorne's re-emergence.

Thorne speaks highly of Neesham the coach and regards him as the key behind Claremont's success this year — not just because of his on-field presence, but also for his positive, level-headed approach off the field.

"Gerard is a tremendous communicator," says Thorne.

"In fact, the first thing he said when he arrived at the club was that nobody was assured of a league game, including himself. That set the scene early; everyone knew that he would expect total commitment.

"It was around then that Gerard had a talk to me and suggested that a roving role may be available for me — if I was prepared to work hard.

"At first I wasn't sure whether I was suited to play as a rover.

ENJOYED

"I thought I may have been used in another capacity, but Gerard chose to deploy me as a rover and I've enjoyed the challenge.

"I was confident I had the ability to do well and it was just a matter of staying fit and hopefully with that would come consistency."

Thorne, originally from Melbourne, first played league football in West Australia for East Perth in 1982-83. He played 34 games for the Royals and earned State selection against South Australia.

In 1984, he moved back to Victoria where he added another 13 games to the 13 he had played with Melbourne between 1978 and 1981.

In 1986, he returned to WA mainly because his WA-born girlfriend was eager to rejoin her family and friends in Perth.

It was Claremont who made the most impressive offer to Thorne and though he was disappointing last year, he has more than made up for that in 1987 and is one of the favourites for the club's fairest and best award.

The Simpson Medal is one of football's most important individual awards and while Thorne may have played better games, he agrees that he has never played a more important game.

"Steve Malaxos spoke to me after the

game and suggested that he was envious of me," said Thorne.

"I couldn't understand why; after all, he has won a Sandover Medal, played in All Australian sides, a premiership team and is now a successful member of the West Coast Eagles.

"But the point he made was that he would dearly love to win a Simpson Medal, playing in a winning grand final side.

"It was certainly a great feeling to win the Medal."

In the light of his success, Thorne was still gracious enough to praise Subiaco, who he believes were worthy grand final opponents.

"Full credit must go to Subiaco," Thorne said.

"I'm sure they were terribly disappointed, but I can assure you that they never threw the towel in.

"They opened up the game fully charged and I think it was our pressure rather than their inability to pressure us that won us the game."

Thorne sees himself playing again next year — despite injuries taking their toll on his legs.

"I feel I've got a couple of years left in me," he says.



It's a jubilant Peter Thorne despite the champagne bath from Tigers team-mate Cameron Lewis.

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Claremont ruck-rover Peter Thorne has won the \$1000 Buccaneer of the Year award with 1196 points for his 314 kicks, 138 marks and 234 handballs.

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GRAND FINALS LEAGUE

CLAREMONT 3.5 11.8 16.3 20.20 140
 SUBIACO 2.2 4.3 6.8 10.9 69
 GOALS: CLAREMONT: Ralph 4, Thorne 4, Kickett 3, Sutherland 3, O'Connell 2, Goulding 2, Pyke 1, Melesso 1. SUBIACO: Breman 5, Dargie 2, Hutchinson 1, Georgiades 1, Featherby 1.
 BEST: CLAREMONT: Thorne, Pyke, Beers, Klemm, Sutherland, Ralph. SUBIACO: N. Taylor, Hutchinson, B. Taylor, Breman, Wilkinson, Willet.
 Played at Subiaco Oval. Umpires Grant Vernon, Phil O'Reilly. Subiaco won the toss and kicked to the eastern end. Attendance: 32,340.

RESERVES

CLAREMONT 1.1 4.3 12.8 19.10 124
 EAST FREMANTLE 5.7 10.11 12.12 14.14 98
 GOALS: CLAREMONT: James, Ahmat 5, Hutton 3, Court, Passera 2, Cook, Elliot 1. EAST FREMANTLE: Read 4, Moir 3, Baxter 2, Edgar, Gray, Brenton, Sims, Hewitt 1.
 BEST: CLAREMONT: Hutton, James, Ahmat, Passera, Pollock, Gilbert. EAST FREMANTLE: Cooper, Gray, Annandale, Weber, Read, Baxter.
 Umpires: Ken O'Driscoll, David Johnson.

UNDER-19s

EAST FREMANTLE 2.4 6.9 10.11 14.13 97
 CLAREMONT 1.5 3.7 4.8 7.12 54
 GOALS: EAST FREMANTLE: Congelton 4, Rowe 3, Bateman 2, Taylor 1, Regan 1, Maclean 1, Thorne 1, Foley 1. CLAREMONT: Burton 2, Yarran 1, Jones 1, Purnell 1, Kickett 1, Dunkeld 1.
 BEST: EAST FREMANTLE: MacLean, Wolf, Quill. CLAREMONT: McIntosh, Murdoch, D. Kickett.
 Umpires: Glen Lee, Len Cooper.

HOW THEY LINED UP

CLAREMONT

Backs: Cameron Lewis, John Scott, Peter Owens.
 Half-backs: Grant Povey, Tony Beers, Guy McKenna.
 Centres: Mark Hann, Ben Allan, Darren Klemm.
 Half-forwards: Cam Shepherd, Peter Melesso, Derek Kickett.
 Full-forwards: David O'Connell, Warren Ralph, Don Pyke.
 Ruck: Peter Higgins, Gerard Neesham, Peter Thorne.
 Interchange: Brian Sutherland, Stephen Goulding.

SUBIACO

Backs: Rod Willet, Clinton Brown, Brian Taylor.
 Half-backs: Kevan Sparks, Greg Wilkinson, Andrew Brice.
 Centres: Greg Carpenter, Neil Taylor, Ian Dargie.
 Half-forwards: John Georgiades, Karl Langdon, Bret Hutchinson.
 Full-forwards: Damien Read, Todd Breman, Michael Mort.
 Rucks: Shane Cocker, Peter Featherby, Glen O'Loughlin.
 Interchange: Graham Jones, Mick Lee.

HOW THEY PERFORMED

SUBIACO

	KICKS				TOTAL	M	H/B	HO	FREES		GLS	BHS
	1	2	3	4					FOR	AG		
Shane COCKER	1	1	2	-	3	2	4	14	2	1	-	1
Neil TAYLOR	6	6	4	11	27	10	3	-	2	1	-	1
Clint BROWN	-	3	3	8	14	3	4	-	1	-	-	-
Brian TAYLOR	7	5	4	8	24	1	5	-	1	-	-	-
MICK LEE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greg CARPENTER	3	2	3	7	15	5	6	-	1	1	-	-
Glenn O'LOUGHLIN	3	2	6	3	14	4	11	-	2	-	-	1
Michael MORT	1	1	4	3	9	6	3	-	-	1	-	2
Peter FEATHERBY	3	4	-	1	8	2	4	-	1	-	-	1
John GEORGIADES	3	2	-	-	5	4	11	-	-	-	-	1
Todd BREMAN	1	1	3	3	10	5	1	-	1	2	5	3
Karl LANGDON	3	1	-	-	4	4	4	-	1	4	-	-
Rod WILLET	2	2	-	-	4	1	4	1	1	-	-	-
Greg WILKINSON	1	3	2	3	9	4	7	-	2	2	-	-
Ian DARGIE	4	1	3	4	12	6	3	-	2	-	-	2
Bret HUTCHINSON	3	1	5	3	12	5	6	-	2	-	-	1
Kevan SPARKS	1	1	-	-	2	-	3	-	1	1	-	-
Damien READ	2	1	2	2	7	-	2	-	2	1	-	-
Graham JONES	-	1	2	2	5	5	6	11	-	1	-	-
Andrew BRICE	1	1	4	4	10	4	4	-	-	1	-	-
TOTAL FORCED	46	39	47	62	194	71	91	26	22	16	10	9

CLAREMONT

	KICKS				TOTAL	M	H/B	HO	FREES		GLS	BHS
	1	2	3	4					FOR	AG		
Peter THORNE	4	8	3	3	18	7	12	-	2	1	4	-
Cam SHEPHERD	2	4	5	5	16	5	7	-	1	-	-	-
Guy MCKENNA	-	1	1	4	6	5	7	-	-	1	-	-
Gerard NEESHAM	5	3	-	4	12	3	8	-	3	1	-	-
Derek KICKETT	6	2	2	3	13	6	6	-	1	3	3	3
Tony BEERS	6	3	3	-	12	5	14	-	1	1	-	-
Grant POVEY	3	2	2	4	11	3	12	-	1	-	-	-
Peter MELESSO	-	2	-	2	4	2	1	3	-	3	1	-
Warren RALPH	5	3	1	3	12	9	3	1	-	-	4	5
Darren KLEMM	1	5	4	3	13	5	11	-	1	3	-	-
Steven GOULDING	2	4	3	2	11	3	7	-	-	1	2	1
Peter HIGGINS	-	2	3	3	8	3	5	18	1	2	-	1
John SCOTT	3	2	1	-	6	3	3	-	2	1	-	-
David O'CONNELL	3	2	1	2	8	5	4	22	1	1	2	1
Brian SUTHERLAND	-	4	3	1	8	7	3	-	1	-	3	1
Mark HANN	2	1	3	2	8	3	10	-	-	1	-	-
Ben ALLAN	6	4	6	4	20	6	3	-	1	2	-	2
Cameron LEWIS	2	1	3	1	7	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
Peter OWENS	2	-	3	-	5	3	12	-	-	1	-	-
Don PYKE	1	5	7	3	16	4	5	-	-	-	1	2
TOTAL FORCED	53	58	54	49	214	90	143	44	16	22	20	20

HOW THEY RATED

SUBIACO

	TOT	GAMES	AVER	2ND	PRELIM	GRAND
	PLAYED			SEMI	FINAL	FINAL
BREMAN, Todd	121	21	5.7	4	4	6
BRICE, Andrew	10	2	5	-	5	6
BROWN, Clint	115	20	5.7	5	6	5
BROWN, Mark	5	1	5	-	-	-
CARPENTER, Greg	117	20	5.8	6	8	4
COCKER, Shane	127	20	6.3	7	6	5
DARGIE, Ian	99	17	5.8	5	6	6
FEATHERBY, Peter	74	11	6.7	5	7	5
FULLGRABE, Tony	8	2	4	-	-	-
GEORGIADES, John	87	16	5.4	4	5	4
GOLDING, Wayne	15	4	4	-	-	-
HOOPER, Stephen	5	1	5	-	-	-
HUTCHINSON, Brett	101	19	5.3	4	6	6
JONES, Graham	82	18	4.5	-	6	4
KEENE, Laurie	5	1	5	-	-	-
LAMB, Phil	122	20	6.1	4	-	-
LANGDON, Karl	155	20	5.7	4	5	4
LEE, Mick	113	18	6.2	4	4	1
MACHIN, Andrew	56	9	6.2	-	-	-
MONAGHAN, Bill	27	7	3.8	4	-	-
MORT, Michael	21	6	3.5	7	6	4
MUNDY, Darren	5	6	3.5	-	-	-
O'LOUGHLIN, Glenn	89	14	6.3	6	6	6
PIGGOTT, Darren	13	3	4.3	-	-	-
RATTRAY, Alex	106	19	5.5	5	4	-
READ, Damien	-	-	-	-	-	3
ROBERTS, Clint	20	6	3.3	-	-	-
SCOTT, Phil	36	6	6	-	-	-
SLOAN, Bernard	5	1	5	-	-	-
SPARKS, Kevan	75	14	6.3	5	6	3
STEINPRIES, Roger	10	3	3.3	-	-	-
SULLIVAN, John	48	10	4.8	-	-	-
TAYLOR, Brian	138	21	6.5	5	7	6
TAYLOR, Neil	119	19	6.2	5	8	7
VALLI, Mark	19	4	4.7	-	-	-
WARNER, Bevan	10	2	5	-	-	-
WESTERN, John	10	2	5	-	-	-
WILKINSON, Greg	126	21	6	5	5	6
WILLET, Rod	101	19	5.3	5	6	6
ZANOTTI, Mark	6	1	6	-	-	-



Claremont's Ben Allan flies into action.

CLAREMONT

	TOT	GAMES	AVER	2ND	GRAND
	PLAYED			SEMI	FINAL
AHMAT, Joe	101	17	5.9	4	-
ALLAN, Ben	92	15	6.1	4	6
BEERS, Tony	128	21	6.1	6	7
BEGOVICH, Tony	20	4	5.0	-	-
BERESFORD, Brian	4	1	4.0	-	-
BRAYSHAW, Mark	36	8	4.5	4	-
COOK, Stephen	13	4	3.2	-	-
COURT, David	64	13	4.9	-	-
DANIELS, Allan	17	3	5.6	-	-
GOULDING, Steven	121	19	6.3	-	5
HANN, Mark	64	11	5.8	5	5
HIGGINS, Peter	74	14	5.2	6	5
HUTCHINSON, John	10	2	5	-	-
HUTTON, John	19	4	4.7	-	-
JAMES, Peter	35	7	5	-	-
KLEMM, Darren	64	11	5.8	7	7
KICKETT, Derek	117	18	6.5	6	6
LEWIS, Cameron	123	21	5.8	7	6
MELESSO, Peter	126	20	6.3	6	6
MILES, Geoff	80	15	5.3	-	5
MORTON, Noel	11	2	5.5	-	-
MUMME, Brad	91	15	6	-	-
NEESHAM, Gerard	56	10	5.6	7	6
O'CONNELL, David	48	10	4.8	5	5
OWENS, Peter	40	8	5	4	5
PASSERA, Carlo	5	1	5	-	-
POVEY, Grant	62	11	5.6	5	6
PYKE, Don	59	10	5.9	6	8
RALPH, Warren	109	20	5.4	8	6
SCOTT, John	117	21	5.5	7	6
SHEPHERD, Cam	119	21	5.6	6	6
SUTHERLAND, Brian	86	15	5.7	5	7
THOMPSON, Mal	35	8	4.3	-	-
THORNE, Peter	136	21	6.4	5	8
URQUHART, Julian	70	12	5.8	-	-
YARRAN, Len	4	1	4	-	-

VFL— PRELIMINARY FINAL

HAWTHORN 1.3 3.6 7.8 11.14 80
 MELBOURNE 2.3 6.10 10.12 10.18 78
 GOALS: HAWTHORN: Buckenara 5, Jencke, Kennedy, Morris, Curran, Brereton, Pritchard 1. MELBOURNE: Jackson 3, Wilson 2, Grinter 2, Viney, Dean, Stynes 1.
 BEST: HAWTHORN: Buckenara, Schwab, Russo, Langford, Tuck, Curran. MELBOURNE: Jackson, Dean, Lovett, Stretch, Hughes, Stynes.
 Played at VFL Park. Umpires: Ian Robinson, David Howlett. Attendance 71,298.

VFL RESERVES

CARLTON 6.3 7.5 12.8 13.11 89
 FOOTSCRAY 1.1 3.4 5.8 7.12 54
 GOALS: CARLTON: Poursanidis 5, Hanna 2, Herman 2, Malerzsk 2, Harmes 1, Williams 1. FOOTSCRAY: Rugolo 3, Patterson 2, S. Atkins 1, Lesiputty.
 BEST: CARLTON: Edwards, Shine, Hanna, Buckley, Herman, Brown. FOOTSCRAY: Hogg, Howlett, Cullians, Groenewegen, Fitzpatrick, S. Atkins.
 Umpires: Gary Forster, Glen McKeeman.

VFL UNDER-19s

RICHMOND 6.2 13.7 15.7 18.8 116
 ESSENDON 2.1 3.2 8.5 11.5 71
 GOALS: RICHMOND: Goosey 7, Hamilton 4, Gibbons 3, Clark 1, Ryan 1, Ingram 1. ESSENDON: Filandia 3, Stubbs 2, Reynolds 2, Tranter 1, Rocci 1, Medew 1, Bibby 1.
 BEST: RICHMOND: McLeod, Lambert, Morrish, Hamilton, Elliott, Gibbons. ESSENDON: Pannell, Tranter, Bourke, Reynolds, Webster, Rocci.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA — FIRST SEMI-FINAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

GLENELG 1.2 5.7 9.7 12.9 81
 PORTADELAIDE 2.8 5.13 8.17 10.19 79
 GOALS: GLENELG: Hall 3, Woodlands 3, Marshall 2, Seebohm 2, Carey 1, Stringer 1. PORTADELAIDE: Boriase 3, Ginever 2, Smith 2, Tylor 1, Abernethy 1, Flacchi 1.
 BEST: GLENELG: Hall, Marshall, Stringer, Woodlands, Kernahan. PORTADELAIDE: Ginever, Abernethy, Boriase, Leslie, Curtis.
 Played at Football Park. Attendance: 30,194.

SECOND SEMI-FINAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

NORTH ADELAIDE 6.5 8.5 9.6 11.7 73
 NORWOOD 1.2 5.3 5.4 8.5 53
 GOALS: NORTH ADELAIDE: D. Jarman 4, Roberts 4, Sims 2, Redden 1. NORWOOD: Ducker 4, Hall 1, Tanner 1, Payne 1, Aish 1.
 BEST: NORTH ADELAIDE: Sims, Hart, Klomp, D. Jarman, Roberts, Parson. NORWOOD: Aish, M. Ross, Payne, Ducker, Warhurst.
 Played at Football Park. Attendance: 20,926.

VFA — GRAND FINAL

WAVERLEY 2.0 7.4 9.7 14.14 98
 PRAHRAN 7.5 8.6 15.8 18.9 117

NEW SOUTH WALES

GRAND FINALS
 FIRST GRADE

SYDNEY UNI 10.2 12.2 20.9 25.9 159
 BANKSTOWN 2.4 7.11 8.12 13.19 97
 GOALS: SYDNEY UNI: Driscoll 5, Hirst 3, Brydon 3, Bradley 3, Foster 2, Davis 2, White 2, Barber 2, Carter 2, Baker 1. BANKSTOWN: not available.
 BEST: SYDNEY UNI: White, Driscoll, Barber, Hirst. BANKSTOWN SPORTS: Brown, Jones, Kochell, Pate.

RESERVE GRADE

BANKSTOWN 2.6 4.8 8.14 9.14 68
 SYDNEY UNI 2.4 6.7 6.7 8.12 60
 GOALS: BANKSTOWN: J. Henderson 3, P. Dedes 1, R. Evans 1, D. Johnson 1, A. Ryan 1, B. Ritchie 1, K. Westwood 1. SYDNEY UNI: R. Williams 3, A. MacFarlane 2, C. O'Brien 2, M. Campbell 1.
 BEST: BANKSTOWN: A. Podbury, B. Ritchie, N. Thacker, P. Dedes. SYDNEY UNI: A. MacFarlane, M. Keane, S. Hart, A. McDougal.

UNDER-20s

BANKSTOWN 6.5 8.6 11.13 11.15 81
 MANLY 0.0 3.2 3.4 4.6 30
 GOALS: BANKSTOWN: G. Haggitt 3, R. France 2, B. Ristevski 2, A. Lowther, G. Lucas, A. Papadopoulos, M. Penny 1. MANLY: D. Thomas 2, A. Koch 1, A. Manners 1.
 BEST: BANKSTOWN: K. Lowther, A. Ryadovoch, G. Lucas, R. France. MANLY: A. Koch, S. Whelan, C. Mutimer, S. Snell.



The sensational Derek Kickett attempts a diving mark in the grand final. He grounded this one, but he took six marks for the match.

WINNERS... ALL THE WAY



ABOVE: Grant Povey auto-graphs the Football Budget for an admiring Tigers supporter.



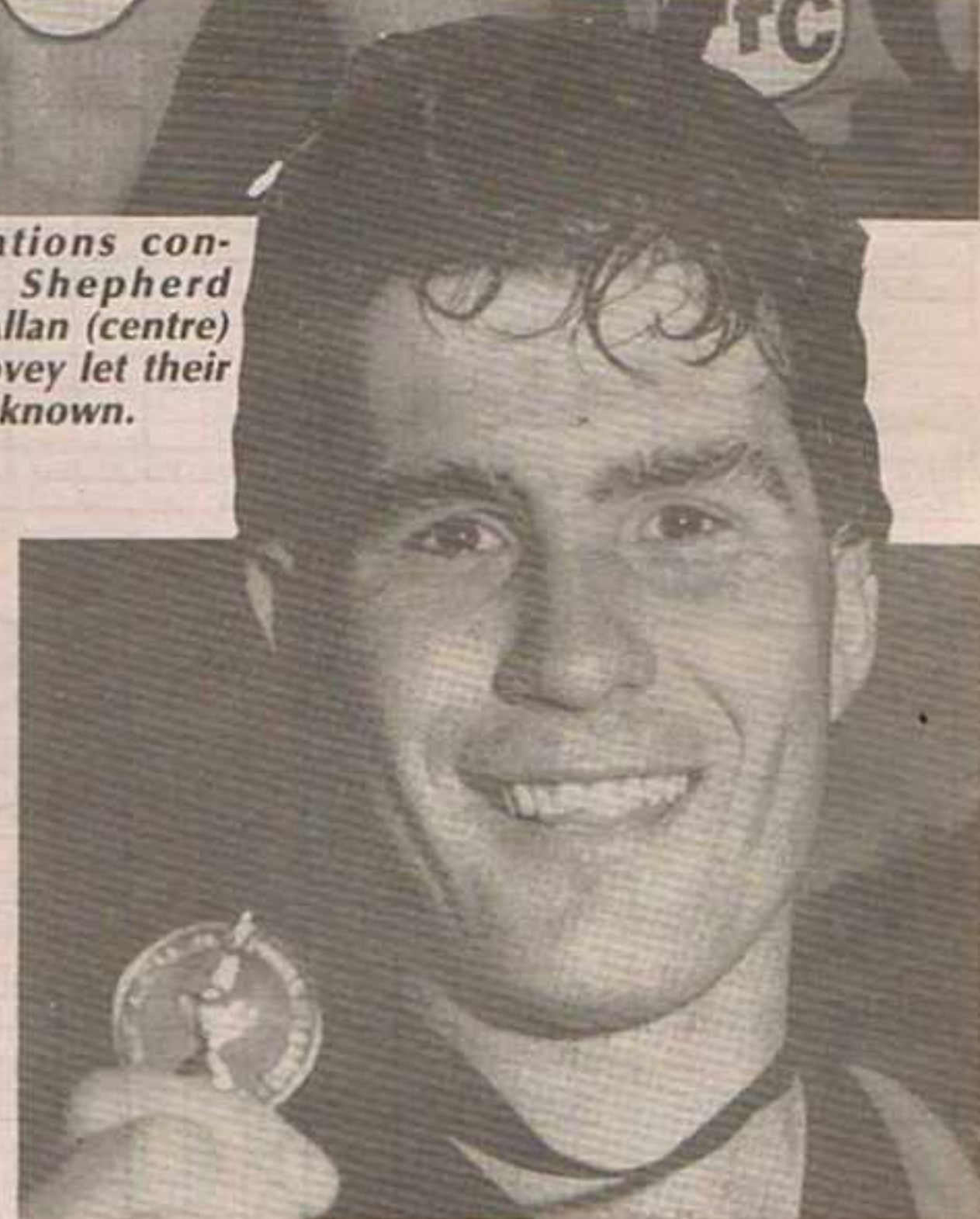
The celebrations continue. Cam Shepherd (right), Ben Allan (centre) and Grant Povey let their feelings known.



Eighteen-year-old Guy McKenna raises the prized premiership trophy.



Defender John Scott is jubilant after the Tigers convincing win.



Claremont vice captain Stephen Goulding shows his premiership medallion. For Goulding, it was almost a case of what nearly wasn't to be. The ruck-rover had a four match suspension reduced by one game which enabled him to play in the grand final.



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