

WESTSIDE Football

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A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION

Tigers high-flier

Claremont wingman Joe Ahmat took the mark of the day against South Fremantle on Sunday and he can thank teammate Ben Allan for giving him a shoulder to lean on. Allan, realising that a teammate was on his shoulders, held his ground long enough for Ahmat to complete the sensational grab.

Picture:
ANNALIESE FRANK



Eagles must go for broke

By
Harvey Deegan



IT'S a brand new Collingwood team coming to Perth this Sunday — and Magpies coach Leigh Matthews says simply: "Eagles beware".

The West Coast Eagles play yet another "elimination final" at Subiaco Oval when they host the team touted as being the most exciting football combination in Australia.

The Eagles need to not only beat Collingwood, but to bury them in the tough turf of Subiaco Oval to avoid any possibility of being evicted from the VFL top five by virtue of bigger and better wins from either Footscray or Essendon.

The Eagles have virtually been involved in an elimination final for the past three weeks and nothing changes this Sunday.

There should be a bumper crowd in attendance, eclipsing the 38,274 who watched the Eagles and Collingwood battle it out on June 1 last year.

NO COMPARISON

That match resulted in a 57-point win to the Eagles, but no comparison can be drawn between Collingwood's 1987 line-up and the team now bidding for its first premiership for 30 years.

"I've been very happy with the way several players who made their debut last year have gone on with the job," said Matthews.

"Also we've been lucky that experienced players like Peter Daicos and Paul Morwood have been fit and in form week after week."

Matthews acknowledges the problems associated with the long trip west, but regards it as just another challenge for his players to meet.

And the fact the game could be played in front of a hostile crowd of around 40,000 is scarcely a worry.

"We love it," said Matthews. "Already this season, we've played in front of 50,000 plus eight or nine times. The players thrive in that atmosphere."

CONDITIONED

Just because Collingwood are certain of playing in the qualifying final in a little over a fortnight doesn't mean they won't be desperate to beat the Eagles.

"Our players are conditioned to compete regardless of the result in the long term," Matthews warned.

The key to an Eagles win is for the reliable defence to restrict the Magpies to a low score.

One player who will need careful watching is mercurial forward Graeme Wright.

The job of minding him could go to young Guy McKenna, who has struck a purple patch and has a score to settle with the Magpies.

McKenna was matched against Wright when the sides met in Melbourne, but the red-haired defender saw little action, being forced from the field with ankle trouble in the first quarter.

"I'm looking forward to playing a full game against Collingwood this time," said McKenna.

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What they said...

"The meeting was long on providing a look at what is wrong with football, but short on providing answers." Geoff Christian, writing in The West Australian, on moves by South Fremantle to oppose the VFL.

"The fact that they made a statement rather than just ignore us is a victory. We must have hit a raw nerve." South Fremantle's Harold Harper on the Fight for Football reaction from the VFL.

"It's an appropriate time for us to start winning in Melbourne." Eagles coach John Todd before the St Kilda clash.

"The old legs get a bit sore with the constant pounding." Veteran field umpire Ron Buckley retiring after 228 league games in 15 years.

"At worst, it will come out as a free end-of-season trip for the players." Joe Sacca, tour underwriter for the Subiaco-Swan Districts trip to Canada.

"I wasn't impressed when this guy lobbied in our rooms and started asking questions about him." East Perth coach Gerard McNeill on North Melbourne moves to sign up Peter Cransberg.

"Jimmy and I have always got on pretty well; he doesn't get angry at being tagged." Eagles star Steve Malaxos after tagging his former Claremont teammate Jim Krakouer out of the game against North Melbourne.

"You don't play pretty football at Moorabbin; it's going to be like rugby; you just play a knock-on-at-all-costs style." Eagles skipper Ross Glendinning on the St Kilda clash.

"It's better to be in front than behind in a close finish." Eagles coach John Todd after their nine-point win over St Kilda.

"I was frustrated, but only hit Bain with my arm in an effort to rough him up." East Fremantle's David Bushell, suspended for three weeks for striking East Perth's David Bain.

"Is Moorabbin classified as being in Melbourne? Good, then the monkey is finally off our backs." Eagles coach John Todd after winning their first game in Melbourne this season.

"We see our match as the bigger drawcard." Claremont's Allan Moore asking the WAFL to make their clash with South Fremantle the late game on Sunday's double-header.

"The Eagles have met all their obligations." Hawthorn chief John Lauritz confirming that the Eagles had made all payments due in the Gary Buckenara-Paul Harding legal wrangles — estimated at \$250,000.

WAFL must act to stop player drain

THE WAFL must bring in a player retention fund to help stop the drain of players out of this State.

A government-supported scheme works in Adelaide and one like it could work in Perth.

And the West Coast Eagles should do the right thing by WA football and scrap all plans to have a reserves team in the VFL next year.

While the long-term plan might be to compete on an equal basis with other VFL clubs with a reserves side, the Eagles should shelve their plans to allow the WAFL to re-establish its player strength following the pounding it has taken in two seasons since the inception of the Eagles.

UNNECESSARY

A reserves team in the VFL is unnecessary, anyway, if the VFL is dinkum about its long-term intention of establishing a truly national competition.

A national competition would be run along the lines of grid-iron in the United States, where the major leagues are fully professional and without lower grades.

The feeder leagues into the professional NFL are run on a semi-professional and then amateur basis.

The WAFL can survive only on a semi-professional status with all young players aspiring to win the draft invitation to join the senior league.

In the interim, the WAFL must get full support from the Eagles and the WA Government.

The Government must act quickly to relax its gaming laws and allow poker machines into the clubs so that members can have more than just football as the attraction.

It is ludicrous that citizens can gamble to their heart's content at the Casino while sporting clubs are not offered the same money-earning opportunities.

FUNDS

Gambling and Government-backed lotteries will provide much-needed funds for the ailing clubs to keep footballers in their home State.

The retention scheme is a must.

In South Australia government funds are fed into the 10 SANFL clubs and two selected players are offered special contracts to keep them firmly entrenched in Adelaide.

THE BUZZ

By football's Mr Flamboyant
PETER BOSUSTOW



The same set-up is required in Perth.

Once the 19 players that the 14 VFL clubs can attract under the draft regulations have left their WA clubs, the remainder must be offered something to prevent a further drain to the wealthy Adelaide clubs and through retirement.

It is widely rumoured in football circles that a host of experienced players are contemplating retirement at the end of the 1988 season.

NEW TEAMS

A flood of players to Adelaide and the loss of senior footballers on top of the VFL drain would be disastrous for the WAFL.

To replenish the expected drain of players and stimulate flagging interest in the competition, the most positive

move the WAFL could make would be to introduce two new teams.

The WAFL Board of Commissioners will this month announce its findings on a restructuring of the game in this State. This will probably rank as the most important document in the history of WA football.

Powerful Sunday Football League club Wanneroo, who will win the 1988 premiership on the bit, should be included and to "take football to the people," a team from Bunbury should also be added.

Wanneroo has the potential to become an extremely powerful League club with the current population explosion in the northern suburbs, and Bunbury is the next biggest growth area in the State.

FOOTY PUNCHLINES

Some sidelights from the Eagles victory over St Kilda

LOYAL SUPPORTERS

THE major sponsorship of football in WA by the SGIO has seen a total involvement in the activities of the Eagles. An SGIO director accompanies the team on each trip and generally a company guest or another executive join the touring party. One of the regular travellers is managing director Keith Venning, a former WAFL boundary umpire. His guest for the St Kilda victory was Ian Tassell, an account executive with Marketforce, who handle a lot of the Eagles and SGIO advertising business.

ODD PASSENGER

THERE have been quite a few "outsiders" travel to Victoria for Eagles battles — but none stranger than the passenger on last weekend's trip. A beautiful Golden Retriever named Tilley was taken across by Eagles Skipper Ross Glendinning to be given to John Annear's in-laws in Melbourne. A reluctant Glendinning was giving his pet a "clearance" across the border after experiencing a few problems looking after the frisky young fellow — especially when it came to keeping his garden intact!

DOUBLE SUCCESS

NEWLY-appointed Eagles runner Brian Douge has an unblemished record. He's only been the message man for their last two games — and the side has won both times. Douge, a former Hawthorn player and one-time Subiaco coach, is a fitness fanatic who also possesses outstanding credentials in coach-player relationships. His influence on the players during a game is very impressive.

BIG START

THE first half of football from Eagles ruckman Laurie Keene will rank as one of the best individual efforts of the season. The big fellow was up against tough and experienced campaigner Warren (Wow) Jones, but absolutely dominated in the first two quarters. He had 13 kicks and 11 marks to the half-way stage — apart from his many effective hit-outs. Keene copped an early whack in the mouth, but it only made him the more determined. His long torpedo punts into the forward line proved to be a match-winning tactic. Keene looked like a real battle-weary warrior with his knee bandage, a thigh protector and a bloodied and swollen lip.

SORE POINT

THERE'S a Melbourne newspaper critic named John Rice, who covered the St Kilda-Eagles game at Moorabbin last Saturday — and wasn't too complimentary about the visiting winners. His match summary was quite sarcastic, suggesting that the Eagles shouldn't get too carried away with the win. And he felt that the Eagles were a bit over-sensitive when he fired in a question about Alex Ishchenko's future. But then you realise that he is the father of young Saints player Dean Rice and you understand why he was a bit sour ...



St Kilda full-forward Tony Lockett hobbles out to his team-mates at three-quarter time.



LES'S LYRICS

Former Claremont and State player LES MUMME has a different look at football.

Wow's no big hit!

Many great players are tough
In their approach to the game.
They'll give a good hip and
shoulder

And take it just the same.

Football is a hard game
And physical clashes are fine.
But the players that are respected
Put their own body on the line.

Hunter, Miles and Dipper
Are as tough as anyone
But a cowardly hit from behind
Just simply wouldn't be done.

But a St. Kilda player on Saturday
Hit a man upon his knees.
It makes you wonder his mentality
And what his future sees.

So come on big WOW Jones
Show a bit of class.

But what can we expect —
From someone who tattoos his
arse.

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IN THE EAGLES' NEST

Cable sets the mood on a tense trip

BARRY Cable, football legend, MBE, has always had something of a reputation for possessing a "motor mouth", to put it nicely.

At one stage the young Cabes got the nickname Cassius from the Victorian media with his constant pronouncements about football and the many aspects of the game that involved his total attention.

Right back in his early football days when Simpson and Sandover Medals and premierships went hand in hand, Cable talked his way non-stop through his football matches.

Nothing's changed in 20 years for the blond bombshell — and don't let anyone tell you that he doesn't know how to tie up the telephone!

A Saturday afternoon in the West Coast Eagles dug-out at muddy Moorabbin Oval confirms that Cable still has as many words to match his football thoughts as anyone in the business.

But it wasn't all his fault; the telephone linking Cabes with coach John Todd up in the stand didn't get hung up — it was an open line, with Cabes re-

by
ALAN EAST

laying messages to runner Brian Douge.

Thirty hours in the Eagles camp last weekend, for their successful invasion of St Kilda territory, revealed many insights to a team that is fighting for survival in the 1988 finals battle.

From coach Todd and chief executive Bill Kerr down to the trainers and water boys, there's no shortage of tension as the expected tough battle with bottom-side St Kilda closed in.

YOU must have plenty of patience to be a competitive member of the touring Eagles party.

The trip lasts 30 hours, but almost half of that time is taken up with just sitting around — either on bus trips (two hours), planes (7½ hours), waiting around between appointments (three hours) or just filling in the odd half-hour.

It's a nerve-wracking time for some players; the tension mounts as the minutes drag by. The only time of the day when the minutes fly by seem to be late in each quarter — especially heading for time-on.

THE role of Douge is so important. He's not only Todd's messenger, but he's the Eagles on-field coach.

A rough tally of Douge's afternoon activities show that he made about 45 excursions into battle — with slightly more than half of them as a result of his own initiatives. He doesn't need Todd to tell him when a player had made a mistake that requires a little word of reprimand, plus a word of encouragement.

It was a fairly low-key Todd on Sa-

turday. No high-powered stuff, just a simple football gospel for a side that had most of the western half of the nation praying for their success.

PRE-MATCH:

"Run straight at the ball, everyone must be switched on to help each other out; talk and think about the next guy; take the pressure off ourselves."

AT QUARTER TIME:

"Work harder; switch the play more; they can't keep with us if we switch the play around. Let's work in threes."

AT HALF TIME:

"We can't let them get back in the game; you've worked hard for this situation. We're trying to do everything from the back; get in front. The umpires aren't against us; it's us; we're playing from behind too much; getting into their backs."

AT THREE-QUARTER TIME:

"More commitment needed; there's no feeling here; this is important; keep your eye on the footy, don't let it out of our sights; don't let this slip. There's too much at stake."

AFTER THE GAME:

"That was an appropriate time to win in Melbourne. We eased up a little at the end; sides who push up all the time can kick goals late in the game and you shouldn't have let them back in. Percentage is important and you gave some away. But you can be proud of yourselves; it was a tough win. Just to win in Melbourne is a big step forward."

• You can't call umpires cheats, because that's casting aspersions on their characters. But some of their decisions were terribly biased towards the home-town team — and the free-kick tally of 46-30 showed how hard-done by the visitors were.

• And the sharp right upper-cut delivered by St Kilda's Warren Jones to the jaw of David O'Connell well out of sight of the field umpires, but was noted by the emergency umpire. This happened long before the well-publicised clash that saw O'Connell carted off on a stretcher. And no report eventuated.

Case of no show without punch

IT'S a worrying area when there is talk of laying late charges for on-field incidents. One doesn't know whether it will open up a Pandora's Box.

If you punched someone senseless in the street you would be charged through the courts.

If you punch someone senseless in front of 15,000 spectators and another 200,000 television viewers you're not subjected to the normal laws protecting the public.

Or is it our strange sense of keeping football problems in-house.

We sure are a confused lot in the sporting world. If your son was the victim of a cowardly act, would you lay a civil charge?

How low can Wow go

WARREN Jones didn't win any points for courage when he punched David O'Connell senseless.

O'Connell was in the execution position on hands and knees with his head bent over the ball.

Jones punched him from the side while O'Connell wasn't looking.

That doesn't take courage and one wonders what goes through the mind of a person who punches another who's not ready for it and unable to protect himself.

Is he getting beaten so badly that he reacts in this way, or does he think he is being tough?

When he's completed the act does he feel proud of himself or does he have a rush of guilt and a feeling of shame?

I'm sure that the football world felt shame.

This sort of thing doesn't do the promotion of the game any good.

What will the VFL do? Jones has only two games of his VFL career left.

Will they procrastinate for two weeks and then suspend him for six weeks next year, making it a meaningless penalty?

Peter Daicos was fined \$2000 for swearing at an umpire two weeks ago. In 1987 Rhys-Jones was fined \$5000 for a minor striking incident at the WACA against the Eagles.

One would think that \$5000 would be a minimum fine for the Jones-O'Connell incident.

Or perhaps the police who laid charges against Leigh Matthews a couple of years ago will take action, though they may have been among the few football supporters in Australia who didn't see the incident.

ALEXANDER'S ANGLE

with Ron Alexander



WAFL must be jinxed

The WAFL has been terribly unlucky during the past month.

Three weeks ago there was a tremendous round of fixtures with East Fremantle playing Subiaco at League headquarters for second spot, and Perth and South Fremantle playing at Fremantle for fourth spot.

The four games could have been expected to attract a total of 20,000 spectators.

What happened? We had our wettest July day for years.

Last weekend we had Claremont versus South and all the other games had great interest.

Heavy rain in the morning again kept the crowd total down to around 11,000.

One of the advantages of the local competition is that not everyone barracks for the same team.

During the week there is plenty of opportunity to get your bets on and have some healthy debate, plus plenty of healthy debate with the opposition on the day of the game.

Can Hawks keep it up

HAS Hawthorn's run come to an end? It seems a pretty strange question.

Hawthorn have been playing well since they met the Eagles at Subiaco in the first round.

They have been pretty much injury-free since then.

Peter Curran, one of their most reliable finals players, injured a knee last Saturday and will not play again this season.

Often a team seems unbeatable for a period but they are rarely able to maintain this form much past 13 or 14 weeks.

Admittedly, when you have as many genuine class players as Hawthorn it's a little easier.

Don't be surprised to see the odd surprise for Hawthorn over the next six weeks or so!



Barry Cable ... still loves to chat.



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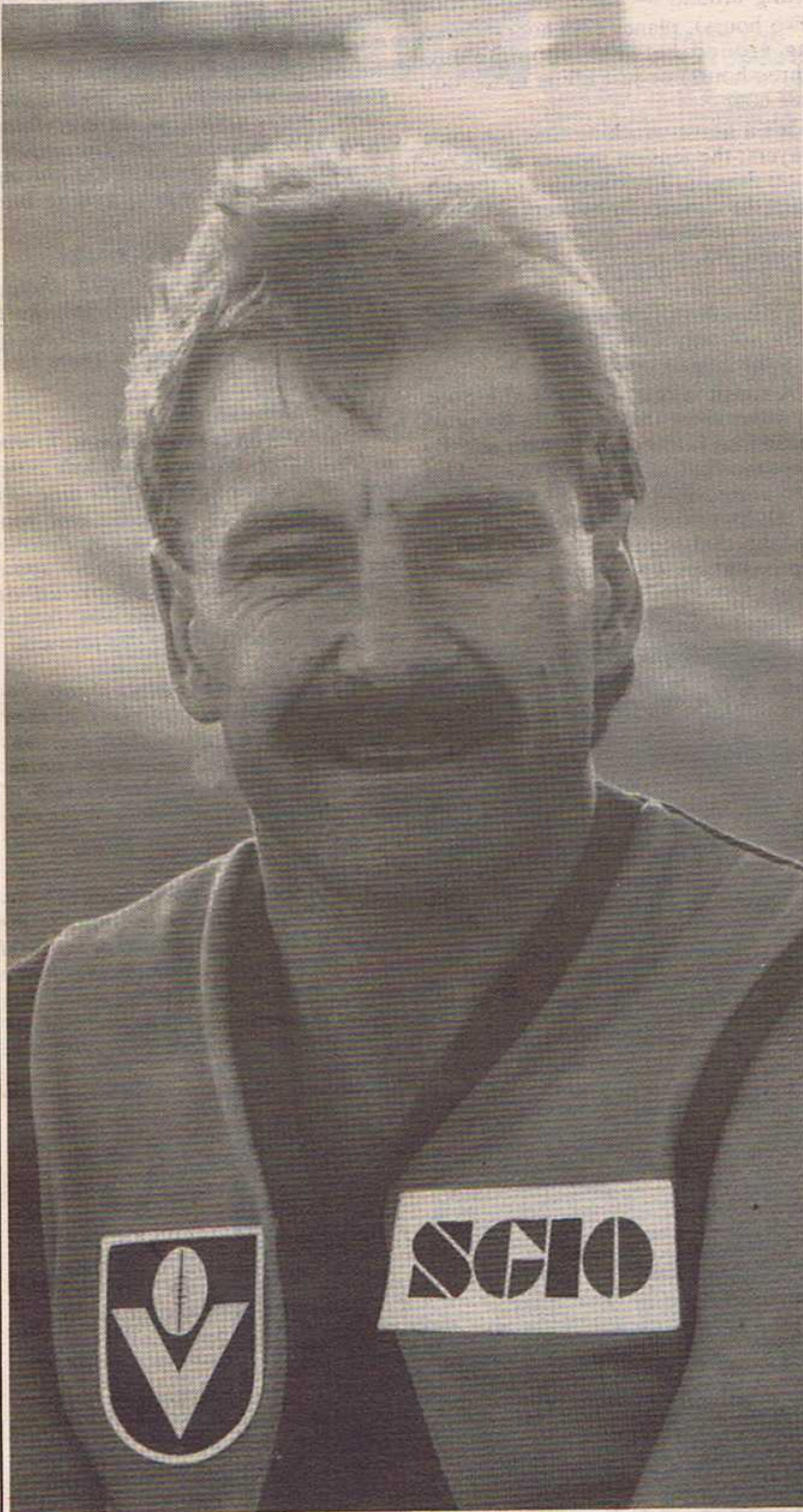
The first 10 entries drawn shall be grand prize winners and no correspondence shall be entered into. Prizes are non-transferable and non-refundable for cash. Prizes include twin airfare, accommodation and transfers but exclude all meals and personal expenses. Only official entry forms will be accepted. One entry per policy holder. Winners must be able to sign 11 Perth News Sport Thursday Sept 22 and return it 21:00pm Sunday Sept 25. SGIO and its staff and Commission employees and their families are not eligible.



SCIO PLAYER PROFILES



DEAN TURNER



DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 6/10/59 Bunbury
HEIGHT: 181cm **WEIGHT:** 78kg
GUERNSEY NUMBER: 10
RECRUITED FROM: Fitzroy/East Perth/Capel
NICKNAME: Dick
FIRST SENIOR GAME: WAFL 1978 East Perth, VFL 1984 Fitzroy
GAMES PLAYED: 31 Eagles, 54 Fitzroy, 113 East Perth
FAVOURITE POSITION: Wing
MARITAL STATUS: Married to Karen
BROTHERS/SISTERS: Two brothers
OCCUPATION: Accounting Executive
SCHOOL/S ATTENDED: Newton Moore Senior High School, Bunbury
CAR: Holden Commodore S/Wagon
FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES: Golf, fishing
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak and roasts
FAVOURITE DRINK: Beer and water
FAVOURITE SPORT (apart from football): Golf

FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP: John Cougar Mellencamp
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY SPOT: Gold Coast
FAVOURITE NIGHT SPOT AND/OR RESTAURANT: Loose Box
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Wide World Of Sports
FAVOURITE MOVIE: The Man From Snowy River
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: David Parkin, Robert Walls
MOST ADMIRED SPORTSMEN: Greg Norman
MATCH DAY ROUTINE: It varies as much as possible
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing the preliminary final with Fitzroy
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning 1st semi-final & elimination final in 1986 with Fitzroy
FAVOURITE GROUND: VFL Park
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Be part of grand final side with the Eagles

Michael Broadbridge



Full Name: Michael Broadbridge.
Nickname: Broady. *Why?* From my surname.
Date of Birth: June 15, 1968. **Place of Birth:** Perth.
Height: 186cm (6ft 1½in). **Weight:** 82kg (12st 13lb).
Age Started Playing: 9.
Junior Club: Karoonda (East Fremantle juniors).
Marital Status: Single.
Girlfriend's Name: Nicci.
Residence: Booragoon.
Occupation: Student.
Place of Work: University of WA.
Other Sporting Interests: Cricket, golf and tennis.
Favourite Position: Ruck-rover. **First Position:** Centre-half-forward.
League Debut: 1987. **Versus:** East Perth.

FAVOURITES:

Actor: Chevy Chase. **Drink:** Orange Juice.
TV Show: The Cosby Show. **Food:** Mum's cooking.
Music: Talking Heads and Crowded House.
Holiday Resort: Pattaya (Thailand).
Ground: East Fremantle Oval.
Your Car: Ford Escort. **Favourite Car:** Porsche.
Career Highlights: Winning Teal Cup side in 1985, State Schoolboys in 1982 and League debut.
Worst Moment in Football: Losing the 1987 reserves grand final.
Hard Things in Football: Sunday morning training and pre-season training.
Football Idols: Malcolm Blight and Russell Ebert.
Toughest Opponent: Stephen Michael. **Most Respected Opponent:** All respected.
Most Respected Umpire: Trevor Garrett.
Most Memorable Game: The Teal Cup final against Victoria in 1985.
Football Ambitions: To play VFL football.
What do you like about Football: Friendship and Saturday nights.
How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: I think about what the coach wants me to do and who I'm playing on.
Who Influenced Your Career: My father and Graham Melrose.
Guernsey Number: 44. **Any Reason:** No.
Superstitions: None.
Worst Injury: Broken wrist (at present).
Luckiest Break: Making my League debut.



Eagles No. 1 supporter

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50 GAMES

Dean Wilson (South Fremantle) 49*
Kevan Sparks (Subiaco) 47
Stephen Mount (Perth) 47

*Denotes games played with all clubs
as follows: Dean Wilson 25 South
Fremantle, 24 Subiaco.

100 GAMES

Shane Cocker (Subiaco) 97*
Mark Zanotti (Subiaco) 97*

*Denotes games played with all clubs
as follows: Shane Cocker 43 Subiaco, 54
East Perth; Mark Zanotti 36 Eagles, 61
Subiaco.

150 GAMES

John Annear (Eagles) 147*
Mick Rea (Perth) 147*

*Denotes games played with all clubs
as follows: John Annear 39 Eagles, 65
Richmond, 43 Collingwood; Mick Rea
121 Perth, 22 West Perth, 4 Melbourne.

200 GAMES

Dean Turner (Eagles) 198*

*Denotes games played with all clubs
as follows: Dean Turner 31 Eagles, 54
Fitzroy, 113 East Perth.

250 GAMES

Neil Taylor (Subiaco) 242



300 GAMES

Robert Wiley (Perth) 291*

*Denotes games played with other
clubs as follows: Robert Wiley 178 Perth,
95 Richmond, 18 Eagles.

Special note: Games tallies refer to
the player's current club unless
indicated by an asterisk*

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CANADIAN CAPERS

WITHOUT trying to steal Gary Carvolth's rumours speculation, here's a tip for the future. Swan Districts will not go ahead with their proposed trip to Canada! The Swans hierarchy are under pressure from a group of loyal supporters to can the trip in view of their precarious financial position. Even though the promoters have guaranteed a "no-risk" situation, there are still some grave doubts about the financial implications of the trip. The risk is not quite the same for Subiaco, who were planning an end-of-season trip to San Francisco anyway.

HOLIDAY BONUS

TALKING about dinner auctions, St Kilda president and former champion player Travis Payze will look forward to his club's dinner auction next year — particularly if he is on holiday. The smooth-talking Payze was overseas sunning himself in Acapulco when this year's dinner auction was held — and he picked up a major \$5000 prize to help his holiday expenses.

TALENT SCOUTS

THE invasion of talent scouts from Victoria has really been stepped up in recent weeks, with the 1989 VFL draft now a fact of life. Flying to Perth last Saturday night on the same Australian Airlines flight as the victorious West Coast Eagles were three of the nation's most astute talent scouts. Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy and his club's talent-spotter Noel Judkins were seated in economy — just next to the Eagles — while the recruiting master of them all, North Melbourne's Ron Joseph, was up in first class.

CLEVER SHEEDY

STILL with Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy, there's no doubting that he's a clever chap! Always friendly and happy to talk footy with anyone, Sheedy took advantage of being seated right next to the Eagles contingent and he "milked" many a player for some subtle tips on possible recruits in the WAFL clubs. His co-recruiter, Noel Judkins, took up position at the rear of the plane to catch many of the Eagles en route to the loo — or to talk to the long-legged Laurie Keene and David O'Connell, who were positioned in the more roomy last row of seats.

FRIENDLY RIVALS

THE "marriage" of Perth and East Perth at the WACA Ground has many strange arrangements. Take the unusual situation of members seating in the new southern stand. Last Sunday saw the two clubs clash at the WACA for the first time — with the East Perth members seated at the eastern end and the Perth members at the western end. Fair enough — except that the Perth players and officials were using the eastern race and the Royals camp were coming out of the western race. This conflict of rival supporters being seated near players and officials from the opposite camp is not necessary. We might all be good sports most of the time, but it could create a possible volatile situation that doesn't seem necessary. It would only require switching the members seating areas around.

MARLOWS
AUTO PARTS & ACCESSORIES

THE HOOD

WA's most feared
football critic



South Fremantle defender Ned Fimmano found himself surrounded by arms and legs against Claremont on Sunday. He looks like he's trying a bit of tunnel ball in his search for the leather.

WRONG TIP

POPULAR Channel Seven football commentator and one-time West Australian Drew Morphett didn't win too many friends among the Eagles camp last week. As the team travelled to Moorabbin by bus, Morphett's preview of the weekend's games came over the PA system. His selection of St Kilda to beat the Eagles wasn't all that well-received ... but the Eagles had the last laugh.

GOOD SUPPORTERS

WE often fire barbed arrows at Victorian clubs for the way they treat us here in the West — but some of them have a positive side to their outlook. The Eagles recently held their inaugural dinner auction in Melbourne, attracting around 200 supporters. The successful night, held at the Southern Cross, pleased Victorian manager Ross Nicholas — especially when Melbourne and North Melbourne both filled a table at the fund-raising night.

MEDIA PUZZLE

THE West Coast Eagles touring party to St Kilda last weekend were puzzled by the absence of a regular traveller — Greg Denham, the football writer for our morning newspaper *The West Australian*. Apparently, the newspaper's hierarchy decided not to worry about covering what was really a most significant match. With a final five berth at stake and the Eagles under pressure to win in Melbourne, particularly on muddy Moorabbin, it appealed as a crucial match. It's a strange decision when you recall that earlier in the season The West would send Denham to the East Coast three or four days in advance of the Eagles to collect extra stories about their VFL campaign.

RADIO RUNABOUT

FOOTY fans must be puzzled with the radio coverage this season. The allocation of broadcast games at the double-headers saw another classic bungle last week. All three stations (6WF, 6NR and 6PR) did the early game (South Fremantle v Claremont) and then NR went to the WACA for the East Perth-Perth game, as they did on the previous double-header. But this time PR, who had stayed at the double-header with WF the last time, also split — but they went to the WACA as well! That left the East Fremantle-Swan Districts game without a broadcast on a day that all four matches could easily have been covered for all the fans at home. Next year you can bet that football officialdom will be a lot stronger in their pre-season radio rights discussions.

BOOTS PROBLEM

ONE of the unpublished problems associated with Eagles players returning to their WAFL clubs involves football boots. With the Eagles being sponsored by Puma, which requires the players to wear Puma gear in all shapes and forms, they run into trouble when they return to their WAFL club, most of whom have boots sponsorship agreements with rival firm Adidas. In some cases, the WAFL clubs face penalties of up to \$2000 for breaching the agreement — and Swan Districts, particularly, have run into a bit of bother this year.

PLAYERS PAY

WHILE talking about the proposed Swan Districts trip to Canada, there's a story doing the rounds that the players have been asked to toss their trip funds savings into the venture. It's a bit hard to reconcile the statements that it won't cost Swans anything — except, maybe, the players own money!



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Richard Lynch (South Fremantle) 28 on 21st
Peter Quill (East Fremantle) 19 on 23rd
Scott Edwards (Claremont) 20 on 23rd
Brad Edwards (Perth) 20 on 23rd
Craig Turley (West Perth) 23 on 24th
Warren Nicholas (Perth) 21 on 25th
Murray Wrensted (Eagles) 24 on 26th

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BENNETT'S BURST

By **ROBERT BENNETT**
of The Sunday Times



Eagles respond to "new" Todd

IT looks as though there will be a few people eating their words over the appointment of John Todd as coach of the Eagles by the end of the season.

If the Eagles stay true to form, they should beat Collingwood in Perth on Sunday and go to the wire for a place in the VFL finals.

Though the fight for fifth (and possibly fourth) spot is cut-throat, the Eagles could drop the last game against Footscray and still make the finals.

The Sydney Swans are not certainties to roll North Melbourne at the MCG on Friday night.

What is important for the Eagles, is that they win and win well against Collingwood on Sunday.

The one thing that has been evident in the Eagles play this season is that they have set up teams for the kill, but have not been able to slaughter them and boost their percentage.

CUSHION

That happened again against St Kilda. If they have gone on with the job when they established a 39-point lead, then it could have provided them with a cushion should events go their way and they still drop the last game against Footscray.

Still, if they are to make any sort of impression in the finals, they really need to win both games and assure themselves of their own destiny this season.

But back to Todd. It may only be co-incidence, but it is interesting to note that the Eagles have re-emerged as a force since he has taken a much lower profile and not be so critical of players.

Those who have had to deal with Todd on the domestic scene are surprised at the way he has kept his cool in dealings with the media since being appointed coach of the Eagles.

He has taken a vitriolic swipe at some, but not in the pressure-cooker atmosphere after a game.

Maybe he's learnt something this season.

PRODUCTIVE

Whatever the case, if the Eagles can get past Collingwood on Sunday — and it's a game that should attract a bumper crowd given fine conditions — the Eagles can consider they have had a productive season despite their poor record in Melbourne.

To go into the last game of the season in what will virtually be another elimination final in Melbourne, will give the Eagles the kind of experience they need if they are to succeed.

A couple of weeks ago I suggested that Laurie Keene should be used in the forward line.

On Saturday he put in probably his best game for the Eagles in the ruck. But I still hold to my earlier comments, particularly if Phil Scott is available and there is a change of heart in respect of Alex Ishchenko.

IMPORTANT

But while Keene put in an outstanding performance against St Kilda, the important player for the Eagles, to my mind, is Wally Matera.

He is a true rover and what a difference he makes to the side when he is on his game.

Matera tends to muck up things more often than he should, but he gets to the ball a lot and gives the Eagles that zip around the packs that only a good rover can supply.

In fact, if the Eagles are to overcome Footscray at the Western Oval (assuming they win this Sunday) then his performance could have a very big bearing on the outcome, against a side well-endowed with little men.



Eagles forward Don Holmes — about to tackle St Kilda's Ken Sheldon — will be looking for a bag of goals against Collingwood on Sunday.

Keene will have a big job again

RANGY ruckman Laurie Keene, the solo star of the West Coast Eagles victory over St Kilda at Moorabbin last week, must again take centre stage at Subiaco Oval this Sunday if the Eagles are to stay in the race for fifth spot.

Keene's quest to remain at the top of the charts will come under threat from Collingwood ruckman-cum-rock star James Manson.

Manson, nick-named Charlie by his mates, is one of the brightest young hopes in football and after dark he dishes out a beat which gets the feet stamping in Melbourne's night spots.

It was Manson who did most to destroy the rhythm of the Eagles when they clashed in Melbourne earlier this year, winning his battle with Alex Ishchenko despite receiving an early injury.

POP BAND

Manson's band includes former Collingwood and Melbourne player Glenn McLean and Harold Reidel. The band was formed at Victoria Park when Manson and McLean were jogging a few laps one night.

Manson, despite an awkward kicking style, has the capacity to get the Magpies rolling. He is strong in the air and has the ability to bring his smaller teammates into the action.

Keene, who was in exceptional form last week in conditions which most people would have said did not suit him, should appreciate a return to the ground he knows so well.



by

GARY STOCKS
of The West Australian

With Phil Scott on the injured list and Ishchenko still banished to East Perth, the ruck responsibilities will again rest solely with Keene.

The Eagles have given themselves some chance of competing in the final round and if they beat Collingwood on Sunday, they will be just one game away from realising the dream.

They complete their campaign against Footscray at the Western Oval and that could well be the first elimination final with the winner earning fifth place on the table.

Footscray were superb in dumping Melbourne last Saturday and with Simon Beasley in form — he kicked nine goals — the Bulldogs are a serious threat.

Unless the Eagles beat the Woodmen on Sunday, that match at the Western Oval becomes insignificant.

It would be an amazing set of circumstances for the Eagles to slip into the five after a mid-season slump which threatened to tear the heart out of the side.

The Eagles will look to Ross Gleninning to return to goal-kicking form and there is no reason why he shouldn't. He loves playing at Subiaco Oval and there isn't a full-back in the land capable of stopping him here.

As well Steve Malaxos, John Annear, Guy McKenna and Don Holmes, who added sparkle to the Eagles half-forward line, must continue in their impressive touch.

One of the most pleasing aspects of last week's game was the performance of whizz kid Chris Lewis. His four goals indicate that after a season hampered by frustrating injuries, he is on the way back.

TALENT

Collingwood are not short on talent — as their second position on the ladder would indicate — and there are a few players in their side familiar with the vast expanses of Subiaco Oval.

Former East Perth stars Craig Starcevich and Michael Christian have made a habit of playing well against the Eagles and the talented key position players again represent danger.

As well, captain Tony Shaw, Gavin Crossisca, Darren Millane, Matthew Ryan and powerful full-forward Brian Taylor are players capable of swinging the match in the Magpies favour.

The Eagles will be hoping that Andrew Lockyer has recovered from the injury which has side-lined him for the last two weeks because he looms as the likely opponent for Taylor.

They have the same physical attributes and that would prove an enthralling battle.

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SCIO WAFL preview

Emu Export present ... WESTSIDE'S EXPERT SELECTIONS

Demons look for help

THE Perth camp will have a lot on their mind at Bassendean Oval this Saturday — apart from beating Swan Districts.

The Demons will be keeping a close eye on the scoreboard as they hope for an East Fremantle loss — and failing that, a big South Fremantle defeat.

But quality league sides cannot afford to rely on other teams and Demons coach Rob Wiley will be looking for a much more concerted effort this week.

The encouraging signs from last week's dramatic win over East Perth was the return to form of midfielder Joe Santostefano. He mobilised the side and if Brett Yorgey can also turn in a top game, Perth's midfield looks better.

Swans don't have a lot to play for — except that a loss could see them slip to the bottom of the table.

Tally does not include Eagles games

	Tally	S. Frem. v Subiaco	W. Perth v E. Perth	S. Dist. v Perth	Clare. v E. Frem.	Eagles v Colling.
RON ALEXANDER	50	South Fremantle	West Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
ROBERT BENNETT	59	South Fremantle	West Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
PETER BOSUSTOW	50	South Fremantle	West Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
DENNIS COMETTI	52	South Fremantle	West Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
DAVE CLEMENT	52	South Fremantle	East Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
HARVEY DEEGAN	54	South Fremantle	East Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
GRANT DORRINGTON	55	Subiaco	East Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
ALAN EAST	48	South Fremantle	East Perth	Swan Districts	Claremont	Eagles
BILL MATHER-BROWN	54	Subiaco	West Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
IAN MILLER	50	South Fremantle	West Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
GARY STOCKS	52	South Fremantle	East Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles
MOST FAVOURED	56	South Fremantle	West Perth	Perth	Claremont	Eagles

how about you?

BULLDOGS THREAT TO SUBIACO

SOUTH Fremantle will be striving for a big win in their top-four clash against Subiaco at Fremantle Oval on Saturday.

The Bulldogs look safe in the four, but it is possible for them to miss a finals berth if their percentage is drastically lowered.

Both teams are on a high after excellent performances in past weeks. South Fremantle have won their last seven encounters, while Subiaco have won their last six.

In fact, neither side has lost a game since playing each other in the last game of the second round, when the Bulldogs were convincing 26-point winners.

Subiaco, who have cemented second position, will be seeking revenge and their display will be a good yard-stick for their finals aspirations.

This could well be a preview of the

Finals race goes to the wire

preliminary final if Claremont dominate, as they have done for most of the year.

The ruck duel between Subiaco's Shane Cocker and Bulldog Craig Edwards will be a highlight. In the centre, Brad McDougall will be battling for supremacy against Scott Watters and both players are in superb touch.

Subiaco will be looking for good performances from Mick Lee, Greg Carpenter and Brian Taylor after playing well last week against West Perth.

South will need Graham Kickett, Ned Fimmano, John Ditchburn and the Collard brothers to continue firing.

Royals have a challenge

EAST Perth will be out to save face and avoid the wooden spoon when they clash with West Perth at Leederville Oval.

After last Saturday's five-point loss to Perth, eventuating from a straight kick after the siren, the Royals will be striving to answer critics who believe they cannot put in a four-quarter game.

West Perth have had a dismal run to the finals, after good form early in the season. However, players of the calibre of Peter Menaglio, Craig Turley and Neil Jackson will see them take the game right up to East Perth.

The Royals will be looking to David Bain, Gavin Hawkins and Lucio Baroni to fire if they are to lift themselves from bottom position.

927 **ENR**

Teac Footballer-of-the-Year

VOTING has now gone into camera for the 1988 award and this is how the line-up looked as at two games ago:

15: David Bain (East Perth),
11: Mark Watson (Perth), George Christie (East Fremantle),
10: Ray Sterrett (East Fremantle), Ben Allan (Claremont), Shane Cocker (Subiaco), Peter Sumich (South Fremantle),
9: David Bushell (East Fremantle), Mal Bennett (East Perth), Peter Menaglio (West Perth).

THIS WEEK'S BROADCAST GAMES

WAFL — Saturday, from 2pm
Swan Districts v Perth
VFL — Sunday, from noon
Eagles v Collingwood

TOTAL FOOTBALL

Sharks will find it tough

EAST Fremantle have their backs against the wall this week — and there's nothing more dangerous than an angry Shark.

The prospect of beating Claremont — at Claremont Oval — is a daunting one, but a lot could depend on the attitude of the Tigers as they fine-tune themselves for the second semi.

The Sharks had a good blend of service from old and new last week, with Shane Ellis again dominating in defence while rookie Peter Quill continues to excel in midfield.

Claremont's top players are gradually getting back into gear and it was interesting to see veterans Noel Morton and Peter Thorne play decisive roles.

It will be a ferocious Shark attack on the talented Tigers — but East Fremantle's team-work, in the end, could let them down.

WAFL Finals Series

Subiaco Oval on August 27, September 3, 10 & 18

SERIES TICKETS GO ON SALE FROM 10AM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10.

Series Tickets	Adults	Concessions	Child U/15	Child U/6
2 Tier Stand Middle & Lower	\$50.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00
3 Tier Stand	Top	\$33.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
	Middle & Lower	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$25.00
2 Tier Stand Ground 1B - 1L	\$45.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
3 Tier Stand Ground 1M - 1R	\$33.00	\$22.00	\$20.00	\$10.00

1ST, 2ND & PRELIMINARY FINALS * (Prices shown per day)
On sale from August 20

2 Tier Stand Middle & Lower	\$12.50	\$8.50	\$7.50	\$5.50
3 Tier Stand	Top	\$8.50	\$5.50	\$4.50
	Middle & Lower	\$11.00	\$7.50	\$6.50
2 Tier Stand	Ground 1B - 1E	\$11.00	\$7.50	\$6.50
	Ground 1F - 1L	\$9.50	\$6.50	\$5.50
3 Tier Stand Ground 1M - 1R	\$8.50	\$5.50	\$4.50	\$2.50
General Admission	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$1.50	Free

GRAND FINAL
On sale from August 20

2 Tier Stand Middle & Lower	\$20.00	\$13.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
3 Tier Stand	Top	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$6.00
	Middle & Lower	\$18.00	\$11.00	\$10.00
2 Tier Stand	Ground 1B - 1E	\$18.00	\$11.00	\$10.00
	Ground 1F - 1L	\$16.00	\$9.00	\$8.00
3 Tier Stand Ground 1M - 1R	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$4.00
General Admission	\$8.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	Free

Tickets are available from:

- Perth Concert Hall
- His Majesty's Theatre
- Octagon Theatre (UWA)
- Bunbury, One Stop Shop

Credit card bookings can be made by phoning 325 3399

NB: Above tickets do not include booking fee for tickets pre-sold. Availability of concession rates for the unemployed is restricted to tickets sold on match days only and require usual Department of Social Security validation. Secondary School students are required to produce signed declaration from their school. Club members and Superpass Holders are entitled to \$1.00 discount per ticket per day sold on a daily basis. There is also Ground admission pre-sales available as individual tickets.

1988 FORM GUIDE

(Figures in brackets are winning (W) or losing (L) margins.)

- EAST PERTH** L(10) L(29) L(16) L(20) L(44) W(37) L(13) L(36) L(41) W(9) L(8) L(66) L(19) L(1) L(45) W(28) L(70) W(18) L(5).
- S. FREM.** W(10) L(30) L(13) L(57) W(73) L(26) L(92) W(37) W(39) W(22) L(9) L(51) L(67) W(26) W(1) W(41) W(19) W(85) W(28) W(7).
- E. FREM.** W(19) W(10) W(13) L(49) W(20) W(43) L(18) W(42) W(22) L(22) W(32) W(11) W(66) L(27) W(42) L(33) L(16) L(85) L(18) W(36).
- PERTH** L(19) W(8) W(53) W(57) L(43) W(44) W(101) L(37) L(33) W(21) L(32) W(8) W(11) W(24) L(42) L(61) L(19) W(42) L(27) W(5).
- W. PERTH** W(84) L(10) L(53) W(30) L(73) L(45) L(37) L(67) L(22) L(21) W(38) W(41) W(67) W(19) L(64) W(39) W(19) L(42) L(28) L(81).
- SWAN DIST.** L(84) W(30) L(109) W(16) L(38) L(43) L(101) W(13) L(39) L(47) L(38) L(11) draw L(24) W(64) L(41) L(28) L(11) L(71) L(36).
- CLAREMONT** W(67) L(8) W(79) L(30) W(38) W(26) W(18) W(67) W(33) W(41) W(30) W(51) draw W(27) L(12) W(61) L(19) W(70) W(71) L(7).
- SUBIACO** L(67) W(29) W(109) W(49) W(43) W(45) W(92) L(42) W(36) W(47) L(30) L(41) L(11) L(26) W(2) W(45) W(16) W(11) W(27) W(81).

WHEN THEY LAST CLASHED

- SATURDAY JULY 2
- At Fremantle Oval — South Fremantle 21.10 b Subiaco 17.8 — Margin: 26 points.
- At Subiaco Oval — Claremont 17.19 b East Fremantle 14.10 — Margin: 27 points.
- At Perth Oval — West Perth 18.12 b East Perth 15.11 — Margin: 19 points.
- At Bassendean Oval — Perth 18.15 b Swan Districts 13.21 — Margin: 24 points.

GARY'S GOSSIP



with GARY CARVOLTH
of 6PR Sport'n-Talk

Crowds up in SANFL

THE South Australian National Football league competition must be alive and well.

A record 38,000 fans packed into Adelaide's Football Park last Sunday for a memorable double-header.

This boosted total attendances by more than 22,000 compared with the corresponding stage of last season.

In fact 55,000 attended footy in South Australia over the weekend.

IN TIGERLAND

CAMERON Schwab, son of Allan Schwab, has been appointed general manager of Richmond.

Cameron is only 22 years of age and has spent the past three years as recruitment officer of the Melbourne Football Club.

The Tiger influence must be strong because Cameron's dad was also a former chief executive of Richmond.

NEW CONTRACT

TALKING about Melbourne ... Alan Johnson's contract with the Demons runs out at the end of this season.

My spies tell me that the club wants to sign him for a further three years.

It looks as though "Johnno" will see out his playing days in Victoria.

BOMBER RAID

WHAT was Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy doing in Perth this week?

He flew in with the Eagles on Saturday night and was at Subiaco Oval on Sunday — and not just to watch Subiaco full-forward Todd Breman in action.

He had a lot more talking to do during the week. My informants tell me that you can forget Breman.

The players that Sheedy had high on his shopping list were names like Sumich, Bayliss, Pyke and Allan.

BEER MONEY

RUMOURS are rife throughout the corporate sector that two of Australia's major brewers will limit their sponsorship involvement with the VFL.

The rumours seem to have originated at a sporting seminar held in Melbourne last week.

It is said that both Swan Brewing and Foster's are seriously considering maintaining their present financial involvement but not increasing it as they have done in the past.

Instead, the two breweries are said to be looking for an alternative sport with international marketing prospects. Australian soccer looks to be the most practical alternative.

MAGPIE SHOW

COLLINGWOOD'S champagne breakfast and panel show will be conducted at Perth's Hyatt Regency this Sunday morning from 8 am.

There will be several fundraising functions during the morning such as raffles and Dutch auctions, including the disposal of 100 bottles of The Magpies old tawny port.

This marketing ace was the brainchild of Angoves Wines State manager Doug Riky and yours truly.

The labels have also been signed by Collingwood coach 'Lethal' Leigh Mathews.

Tickets for Sunday morning can be ordered by phoning 447 8355.

FEELERS OUT

WE ALL know that Subiaco coach Haydn Bunton has knocked back an attractive offer from West Torrens to coach them next season and beyond. However, you read it here first.

West Torrens' next target is acting Hawthorn coach Alan Joyce.

JUST SNOOPING

And finally, why were Peter Knights and John Northey snooping around Adelaide's Football Park on Sunday?



WAFL still has plenty to offer

FOR the past two seasons, the WA public has been led to believe that the standard of local football has been on a steady decline.

The formation of the West Coast Eagles last season and the exodus of many other WA stars to alternative VFL clubs would encourage that feeling.

Unfortunately, many of the people who have had their bit to say about the local competition, haven't been to see a WAFL match in that time.

And that's the biggest problem facing the WAFL.

The fact is that the initial downturn in standard has now been detoured to the right track and the football seen in the last month has been outstanding — to the stage where we have an absorbing final round of fixtures.

It is now a matter of convincing those knockers that the actual product of the WAFL is worth going to see.

PURSE STRINGS

Sure, many of the clubs are stretching their financial purse strings to breaking point. But the football is still worth watching.

You can go to see any game of football and enjoy it. Whether it be an individual performance, a couple of freak goals or some good, honest tough football, there is always something worth watching.

The final seven rounds did more than just entertain the usual level. South Fremantle's rattling run home, Subiaco's improved form and the topsy-turvy performances of Perth and East Fremantle added other essential ingredients.

A couple of times during the series, I went to watch WAFL games on a Saturday and then headed to Subiaco Oval for an Eagles match on the Sunday — and the local football was of a better quality.

Take the game between Perth and South Fremantle at Fremantle Oval a month ago. Despite constant rain and heavy conditions, the standard of football was a credit to the players of both sides.

Then a fortnight ago there was the contest between Subiaco and Perth at the WACA Ground. That was much more interesting than the Eagles clash with North Melbourne the next day.

Let's get back to the problem at hand.

People who have not been to local football in the last 18 months are convinced that it is on the skids.

By word of mouth, they are also casting a slur on the WAFL and convincing others that it's not worth having a look at.

The only way to prove that the WAFL competition is alive and well is to lure back the fans.

TAKING STOCK

by GARY STOCKS
of The West Australian



Sheffield Shield cricket took the initiative last year by holding "dollar days" on a Sunday and the public responded by turning out in their droves.

The WAFL should take the same steps next season.

Make the opening round a \$2 fee, the fans will see first-hand that the standard has not slipped as dramatically as they have been led to believe and it would be an ideal opportunity to rekindle club loyalties.

It might cost the WAFL a few bucks on that day, but I'm sure they would recoup the deficit during the season.



South Fremantle's Mark Bayliss ... one of the stars worth going to see.

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- Admission to Melbourne Entertainment Centre for after game function (drinks and eats available for purchase)

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Magro's footy wheel does a full circle

DORRO'S DIARY

By GRANT DORRINGTON
Football Development Trust co-ordinator



'How the wheel turns' is a statement all football coaches learn to understand very quickly. They are faced with examples every week.

Bulldogs coach Stan Magro is one person who has felt the highs and lows of the game.

After winning the Kresta Cup pre-season prizemoney with a team that looked pretty complete, the Bulldogs plummeted into footballs wilderness with a disastrous first half of the season. Their form was nothing short of terrible.

I can remember talking to Stan in the middle of this 'low' and he admitted not being able to sleep at night thinking about his teams shocking form.

To such committed men like Magro, who don't know how to not give their best, team failure can be very painful.

HIGHS

Magro and his supportive wife Anna no doubt felt footballs highs and lows during his playing career; but this is their first experience as coach.

When a team is down, the coach gets the blame. Media critics, harsh supporters and outsiders suggest that 'he lacks communication, is too hard, too soft, selects the wrong players' and so forth.

All coaches are totally committed to their team and are cut to the bone when the side fails. They feel every loss and so do their families.

Wives and children of coaches 'walk the plank' during the football season. They have someone they love being criticised regularly in public; in many cases by people who would not have the ability or courage to take on the title of football coach.



South Fremantle coach Stan Magro (left) ... passes on his football knowledge to Graham Kickett.

Coaching is a marvellous challenge, but requires a tremendous commitment from men who are prepared to put their reputations on the chopping block each week.

Magro is a man of great personal character who will never quit; so it

doesn't surprise me to see his team playing up to premiership-quality level.

Given that the Bulldogs make the finals, the Magro competitive spirit will take the Bulldogs very close to the premiership. In fact, whoever beats them will be 1988 champions.

Selling the game ... Cable style

WEST Coast Eagles assistant coach Barry Cable is one of those incredible people who sell the game of Australian football wherever he goes.

On a recent trip to the Pilbara, Cables was my footballing companion as we toured some rugged mining areas — and he was in his glory.

Cables had finished playing before the boys at the different clinics were even born. This can usually make the modern day youth unaware of how good a player of a bygone era may have been.

Not so in Cables case.

Many of the young people up North have heard of his legendary ability and were extremely keen to listen to his advice.

Cables personality with both juniors and adults at football coaching clinics has to be seen to be believed.

Always smiling and keen to talk to everyone, Cables has a unique ability to 'win friends and influence people'.

No matter where he is, Cables will speak to everyone. He makes other people feel important and has a genuine caring attitude to their welfare.

TIRELESSLY

Wherever Cable travels in our State, his commitment to work tirelessly, spend time talking to people and his happy approach to life leaves a permanent impression.

His continual promotion of Australian football is magnificent.

Not only does he present an excellent image for the Eagles, but he also promotes the WAFL competition.

Champions such as Cable must continually be presented to the community as he epitomises what football can do for anyone if they have the self-discipline, dedication and commitment to pursue their goals in life.

Young people are keen to actually see aspects of football's history; not only hear and read about it. With this in mind Cables is going to have a small portable case made to carry the achievements football can offer for individual excellence.

A display case containing the Sandover, Simpson and Tassie Medals won by the incredible Cable would certainly be a historical item worth seeing.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS ...

ONE of the columnists in this newspaper writes under the heading of "The Hood" and is reputed to be a fearless critic.

Though I'm pretty new to this writing caper and I'm probably unethical for taking a colleague to task, he obviously has plenty to learn about the pressures coaches face.

Old Easts coach Graham Melrose, who I have a lot of time for, came under the wrathful pen of The Hood for refusing to be interviewed at particular times.

Melly is hard to corner when the blue and whites have been beaten and the "fearless critic" finds this unacceptable.

The Hood pointed out that in the land of the almighty VFL, coaches are ready to be interviewed at anytime, win or lose.

WARNING

But I would suggest that most of those great PR men have adequate warning as to when the microphone is going to be thrust under their nose. I'd bet a million roubles that it isn't immediately after losing an important game in a cliff-hanger finish.

A few other coaches over here have shown displeasure with the unthinking media at times.

Remember Mal Brown throwing a microphone in a bin at Lathlain Park not so long ago? And I was with John Todd one afternoon when he told the press that he wasn't in a mood to entertain them.

Melrose is still classed as a rookie coach who, in the space of two seasons, has experienced some highs, but has also found some goals moving away from him at unstoppable speed.

For most of the 88 season, Old Easts have seemed capable of taking the fight up to premiership favourites, Claremont.

FROM WHERE I SIT

Wheelchair sports critic
BILL MATHER-BROWN



There's a time and place for them!

So its not difficult to understand the despondency of any coach, let alone Melly, when things turn sour on him and his team experiences a strong of losses.

The harder a coach tries, the more painful those defeats can be and the last thing he needs at siren time is to be hit with an interruption that takes his mind off the game.

Melrose isn't crying; he philosophically commented: "It's hard on the officials and the players when a team falls away as we have done, but that is football."

"We have had a bad run of injuries and a number of players who were keeping pressure on our league side will not play again this year."

Melly is not anti-press. In his mind it is just a matter of being given a fair go.

"Im not hard to get along with and I co-operate with people as much as possible," he says.

"But people should try to understand my position at a given time; the same as they expect me to understand theirs."

Old Easts have their backs to the wall and the whole club knows it. The pressure is right on and everyone is looking to the coach to solve the problems.

If The Hood thinks that coaches should be available any time, then maybe he should list his telephone number in his column so that the public (and maybe a coach or two) can ring any time they feel like it.

INTERVIEW

One point that the issue does raise is the question of an after-match interview room where coaches, players and officials make themselves available to meet the press.

Melrose is gearing up for a fight for his fooball life and he could certainly be a little short with the media — and a few other people for that matter — in coming days.

I don't know how he'll handle things, but I'd probably do a Mal Brown, only going a bit further — tying the microphone cord neatly around the neck of any mug who asks a superfluous question at the wrong time.

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Derek Chadwick ... the top Royal.

Medal specialists at East Perth

EAST Perth have produced a remarkable record of Sandover Medal winners — especially at a time when least expected.

In recent years the Royals have struggled in the bottom half of the table — with their only premiership being the 1978 success — but the club has produced Medal winners in six of the last 14 years.

Starting in the mid-1970s, Alan Quartermaine sprang a surprise by taking out the State's most prestigious award and he was followed the next year with a plucky young Peter Spencer being named the 1976 winner.

With the introduction of the Channel Seven sponsorship in 1978, Phil Kelly

dominated by winning the Medal in two consecutive years and then John Ironmonger caused another upset, topping the 1983 poll.

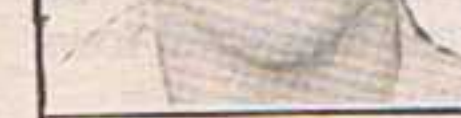
The Royals weren't finished then as it was Peter Spencer's second turn in 1984 in that remarkable three-way tie.

East Perth success stories in the 67-year-old award go right back to its inception with Digger Thomas being the third name on the honour board, winning in 1923, followed by George Owens two years later.

Billy Thomas won in 1929 and then there was a long break before the Graham Farmer era. Big Polly won in 1956 and again in 1960, with his team-mate

KNOW YOUR CLUB

By REECE HOGAN



Ted Kilmurray chipping in to take the 1958 award.

Farmer was runner-up three times — the first in 1955 behind John Todd, again in 1957 to rival ruckman Jack Clarke and finally in 1969, after his return to WA to coach West Perth.

The other name on the Sandover Medal honour board is one of WA's most famous footballers — Malcolm Brown in 1969.

200 GAME PLAYERS

269 games

Derek Chadwick, wingman 1952-1972 ... A perfectionist with a very high level of skill. A physically strong and aggressive player with a fiercely competitive attitude. Also a talented cricketer.

257 games

Ted Kilmurray, ruck-rover 1953-1965 ... Remembered for his famous "flick" pass that was later abolished, he perfected the art of marking the ball out in front of the body, making it difficult to spoil. Also remembered for kicking the winning goal the day the new grandstand was officially opened at Perth Oval in the club's jubilee year, 1956.

234 games

Jackie Guhl, wingman/rover 1925-1935 ... Part of East Perth's prosperous years in the 1920s. Was a small, but gutsy left-footer with an excellent stab pass and a magnificent winner of the ball.

222 games

Brad Smith, ruckman 1966-1978 ... A strong ruckman with a big mark. Very powerful and robust, providing ascendancy in attack and a stalwart in defence.

217 games

Val Sparrow, centreman 1914-1933 ... A tough and rugged player with fine skills. Was very accurate around goals and played in five premiership teams during the 20s. Also a good team-man with a life membership.

215 games

Steve Curtis, back pocket 1973-1982 ... A very dashing and rugged player. Possessed excellent disposal and had good skills. Played in the 1978 premiership team before moving to Adelaide.

213 games

Laurie Kennedy, ruckman 1956-1967 ... Current president at East Perth. Very agile for a big man with a good leap. Had fine skills and is now giving something back to the game.

211 games

Dobbie Graham, defender 1959-1971 ... Impeccable disposer of the ball. Very close-checking defender and also a fearless team man.

207 games

Richie Thomas, half back 1935-1948 ... Recently passed away. Regarded as a real goer, playing his opponent very closely. Physically strong, he was the son of Billy Thomas, who won the Sandover Medal in 1929.

206 games

Herb Screaigh, rover 1932-1946 ... A tough and hard country player who possessed finesse as a rover. Had a remarkable turn of pace and was a pleasure to watch.

204 games

Brian Ryan, ruckman 1929-1946 ... A tall and elegant ruckman. Possessed a good left foot kick and was also an excellent palmer of the ball.

204 games

Hans Versteegen, rover 1967-1977 ... A very under-rated player. Was a hard runner with good disposal and an excellent mark.

200 games

John Hayes, utility, 1969-1982 ... A versatile player, had a good mark and kick with an all-round high skill level. Also regarded as a good team man.

Farmer changed the game

WEST Australia has produced some great footballers over the last 100 years, but none better than the legendary Graham "Polly" Farmer.

In his 18-year career, Farmer single-handedly revolutionised the game.

He was a fine knock ruckman with an exceptional leap, but it was his handball that destroyed many opposition sides and was regarded as a weapon in itself.

Farmer made his debut for East Perth in 1953. Three seasons later he had established a remarkable reputation, winning two fairest and best awards and beating some of the game's best big men, including Jack Clarke and Merv McIntosh.

In 1956 Farmer won the first two Sandover Medals and collected a Simpson Medal for his display against South Australia. He also played in the East Perth premiership side.

Together with Barry Cable, he holds the record for the most Simpson Medals won — a total of four.

In 1962, Farmer went to Geelong and enhanced his reputation, even further dominating the ruck duels, with Victorian fans nicknaming him the "Big Cat".

On his return home, Farmer was enticed to West Perth, where he took on the captain-coach role in 1968.

He took them to premiership wins in 1969 and 1971, ironically defeating his old side, East Perth in both grand finals.

Farmer returned to East Perth in 1976 when he took over as senior coach. Unfortunately, Farmer was not as successful with the Royals even though he took them into a grand final in 1976, losing to Perth.

Frank Sparrow's favourite ...

FORMER champion player and coach Frank Sparrow, now a commentator with radio 6PR, recalls a favourite player from EAST PERTH.



Ruck legend Graham Farmer leaps high in this marking contest with another champion in Jack Clarke.

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No stand-out for this year's medal

LAST year the Sandover Medal was dominated by the mercurial, but ineligible, Derek Kickett with Perth's Mark Watson finishing up a worthy winner.

I don't see anyone dominating this year's count.

The 1988 winner is difficult to select as it really has been a season of two halves.

Players who performed well in the first half of the year fell away a little in the latter half and those who started slowly finishing strongly.

I believe the spread of votes will be enormous and anyone who picks five or six top votes will be the winner.

My top five contenders are Craig Edwards (South Fremantle), David Bain (East Perth), Joe Santostefano (Perth), Peter Menaglio (West Perth) and Ben Allan (Claremont), with Scott Watters (South Fremantle) the best outsider.

I see these players as the main vote-getters from each club:

CLAREMONT — Ben Allan, Don Pyke, Grant Povey, Peter Thorne.

EAST PERTH — David Bain, Mal Bennett, Gavin Hawkins.

EAST FREMANTLE — John O'Sullivan, George Christie, Mick Broadbridge.

PERTH — Joe Santostefano, Stephen Mount, Mark Watson.

SUBIACO — Brad McDougall, Mick Lee, John Georgiades.

SWAN DISTRICTS — Steve Bazzo, Mick Grasso.

SOUTH FREMANTLE — Craig Edwards, Peter Sumich, Scott Watters.

WEST PERTH — Peter Menaglio, Paul Mifka, Craig Turley, Neil Jackson.

South chase 11 straight

BACK in 1978 East Perth had to win their last seven qualifying games to make fourth spot and 10 to win the flag.

As fate would have it they forced their way into second spot and the second semi-final, winning nine games out of 10 to take the premiership.

South Fremantle have been, and still are, in a similar position to that of the Royals 10 years ago, having won their last seven.

They will have to make it 11 straight to win the '88 flag.

While that sounds a tough contract, South were impressive winners over Claremont last Sunday.

The odds may be against the young Bulldogs going all the way but strange things have happened before and they'll happen again.

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Peter Melesso ... a dangerous forward when in form.

Melesso a key Tiger

CLAREMONT'S Peter Melesso would have deservedly incurred the wrath of coach Gerard Neesham after his inept display of goal-kicking last week.

His 2.6 effort proved pretty costly to the Tigers at siren time.

Melesso was certainly off target last week and there are times when he frustrates his coach through a drop in concentration that sees him drift out of a game for long periods.

That aside, Melesso's strength, aggression and marking presence at either full-forward or centre-half-forward means he will be a key player for the Tigers in the finals.

When Melesso is in form, so are Claremont. Some of his smaller teammates pick up many a loose ball from a Melesso tackle or hip and shoulder to the opposition.

A load off their minds

EVERYONE knows what it means to have a mental breakdown.

The West Coast Eagles had a 'mental breakdown' last Saturday when they finished on top of St Kilda.

They broke a psychological barrier to take four premiership points for the first time this year in Melbourne.

Though the Eagles had it over St Kilda for sheer talent, Moorabbin Oval is a great leveller, though it looked in pretty good condition and it was a perfect day for football.

I believe the Eagles can build on last week's victory to take the points at home against second-placed Collingwood.

They are beginning once more to believe in their own ability and last week's win will be a big confidence booster.

What's more they have key players who have been out of form or injured regaining touch — men such as Malaxos, Keene, Lewis and Matera plus David O'Connell at centre-half-forward, who are prime movers in the team.

When O'Connell left the field — from a 'Wow Jones pow' — the forward line didn't function as smoothly. In the last quarter especially, the number of options up forward other than Glendinning were minimal.



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IAN MILLER

Former Sandover Medallist and now Radio 6NR commentator



MARKING POWER

SOME critics have suggested that South Fremantle are vulnerable in defence.

That wasn't the case against Claremont when they were most workmanlike.

But the best means of defence is attack and in that area South are definitely not vulnerable. They are really potent.

Big key forwards Peter Sumich, Mark Bayliss, Stevan Jackson and Mark Sambrailo (off the bench) were most impressive against Claremont.

They form one of the strongest overhead marking combinations in the league.

The strength of Bayliss and Jackson complement the magical skills of Sumich.

AGILE

All of them are surprisingly agile at ground level and have the capacity to do all the ruck work forward of the centre, allowing big Craig Edwards to keep the pressure on midfield.

South's forwards will hold the key to the finals and pose a few headaches for the opposition.

But a word of warning — all of them still have a tendency to drop out of the game quickly through lack of concentration, which could be very costly in September.

FOOTBALL FACTS

By top WA football historian DAVE CLEMENT



You can't go past 'Gero'

FOUR weeks ago Geelong rookie Shane Hamilton set plenty of hearts fluttering with a seven-goal performance in his fourth League game, just three weeks short of his 18th birthday.

His effort was likened to that of Essendon's Tim Watson, who, also as a 17-year-old, kicked seven goals.

Neither of these performances rivals the one by Collingwood's great Dick Lee, who kicked seven goals in his seventh game at the age of 15 years and nine months back in 1906.

So who did we find in the WAFL to compare with the three Victorians? It has to be John Gerovich, who played with South Fremantle.

In 1955, in his seventh League game, 'Gero' booted 7.3 against Swans, three weeks before his 17th birthday. Two days later he kicked 8.4 against East Perth.

Two months later Gerovich booted 7.3 against Perth and then finished the qualifying round with an amazing 11.12 effort against Swan Districts State full-back Tim Barker in his 18th League game.

HUNDRED UP

THOUGH the game at Leederville this week is the only one with no bearing on the four, it's a milestone game in that it marks the 100th meeting of East Perth and West Perth at Leederville Oval.

Home club West Perth hold a slight lead 52 to 46 (one draw) over the Royals. It's interesting to note that in the last 22 games between them the score is 11-all.

NINE AND OUT

CLAREMONT'S best winning sequence over South Fremantle has ended. The Tigers won nine straight from 1985. Their previous best run over the Bulldogs was only four.

Matera boys are a good value pair

IT WAS a big weekend for the Matera brothers last weekend — Wally with the Eagles and Peter with South.

Both were top performers with their respective teams.

Wally picked up 31 possessions at Moorabbin and Peter was very constructive across the South half-forward line, kicking two great goals.

While Wally gets most of the kudos with the Eagles, Peter has impressed me in the games in which I've seen him this year.

He has good skills and pace and is not afraid to have a go.

Wally, of course, is available to play for South in the finals after his Eagles commitments, which will be a real bonus for South.

This leaves the possibility that he will play in both the VFL and WAFL finals this year.

If South are to play a big part in this year's finals, both Wally and Peter will have significant roles.

CRUNCH GAME

PERTH travel to Bassendean this week for the 77th time in 53 years for the most important game there they've ever played there.

Though the Demons have won 47 times, their record in recent years is not impressive, having won only seven of the last 20 games at that ground.

Flashback to the fifties

I CAME across these items in some 30-year-old programs:

- Keith Slater will not play today — he's best man at a wedding. (I wonder what Bill Walker or Ed Blackaby would say if someone pulled that one today).

- Cyril Collard (Subiaco) gave a tenacious display of roving. He was in everything. (I guess that's where those three Bulldogs get it from).

- Ted Worsfold (East Perth) played another promising game in defence. (Eagle son John has played plenty, too).

- Young Johnny Watts played well on Tyson.

- Graham Farmer turned auctioneer at the social. He auctioned a duck and the best he could get for it was two shillings (20 cents).

- The game commenced at 2.46pm and finished at 5.30pm. The last quarter ran 35 minutes. (Any wonder they switched to a 2.20 pm start!)

- Billy Roe, who came to Perth from Darwin for a holiday, will play his first game today with East Perth.



Collingwood start to show finals jitters

THE premiership-hungry Collingwood camp have closed ranks in their bid to survive this year's tension-packed battle for finals success.

The Pies have gagged all but three of their top stars from speaking to the media 'in case the players say something they may regret.'

Collingwood are determined not to let the notorious Colliewobbles affect them as they strive for their first flag since 1958. But there are signs of nerves cracking already.

The player-gag is a start and Collingwood coach Leigh Matthews also showed his concern over the reporting of key centre-half-back Michael Christian.

SECURED

The Pies have secured the double chance and will stay in either second or third spot after their strong win over Essendon on Saturday.

Collingwood showed that they could survive under pressure as they came from behind to beat the Bombers by just one point. The Pies had trailed at every change, but hit the front with about 10 minutes remaining.

That pressure-packed finish came after a similar resurgence to beat titleholders Carlton from behind to prove that they can fight a game right out to the wire.

"We haven't quite reached our peak yet," said Matthews after the match.

"I knew we would finish on strongly; we just didn't get off with quite the zip we would like.

"The margin might have been tight, but we didn't steal it; we were 13-points up with five minutes to go."



From leading football journalist and 6NR commentator **KEN PIESSE** in Melbourne.

Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy felt that several poor umpiring decisions contributed to their defeat.

The loss all but ended Essendon's finals hopes and they now have to rely on other teams losing.

"They (Collingwood) got a couple of

goals at pretty crucial times after some doubtful decisions," said Sheedy.

"But we had enough chances to win. We missed goals from 30 metres out; we should have nailed them and been five goals up, but we let them back into the game."

INTERSTATE UPDATE

by **RICHARD CAMM**
Eastern States statistician
for the West Coast Eagles



Keene sets new mark

RUCKMAN Laurie Keene's 15 marks against St Kilda on Saturday was a record for the West Coast Eagles. The previous best was 14 by Andrew Macnish against the Brisbane Bears at Carrara in Round 20 last year.

Keene took 11 marks in the first half on Saturday and finished the game with 21 kicks and seven handpasses.

DOUBLE EFFORT

THE Brisbane Bears and Footscray recorded their first wins at the Melbourne Cricket Ground this season in last weekend's round of fixtures.

The West Coast Eagles have played four games at the MCG in 1988, losing all four, by an average of six goals.

Two other clubs are yet to win at the MCG this year — Carlton and St Kilda.

GROUND BOGY

CARLTON have lost twice at the MCG this season — to Richmond in round 12, and Collingwood in round 14.

Carlton also have a poor record at VFL Park this year; winning only one of the five games they have played there.

Carlton's only victory at VFL Park was over North Melbourne in round 8. They have lost to Collingwood, Geelong, Melbourne and Sydney.

EAGLES RECORD

LAST weekend's "Football Record" featured an article on players who have played every VFL game this year.

Only two West Coast Eagles players — Dwayne Lamb and Geoff Miles — have played every game this season.

Lamb has now played 41 games for the Eagles — more than any other player.

Miles has appeared in 40 games for the Eagles and has played the past 38 games, giving him the record for the most consecutive games for the Eagles.

CLOSE GAMES

LAST weekend's VFL round of fixtures was only the second this season with an average margin of below four goals.

The closest round so far this year is round 6, when the seven games were decided by a total of 23 goals.

Ten games this season have been decided by a goal or less — including two last weekend, and three in round 6.

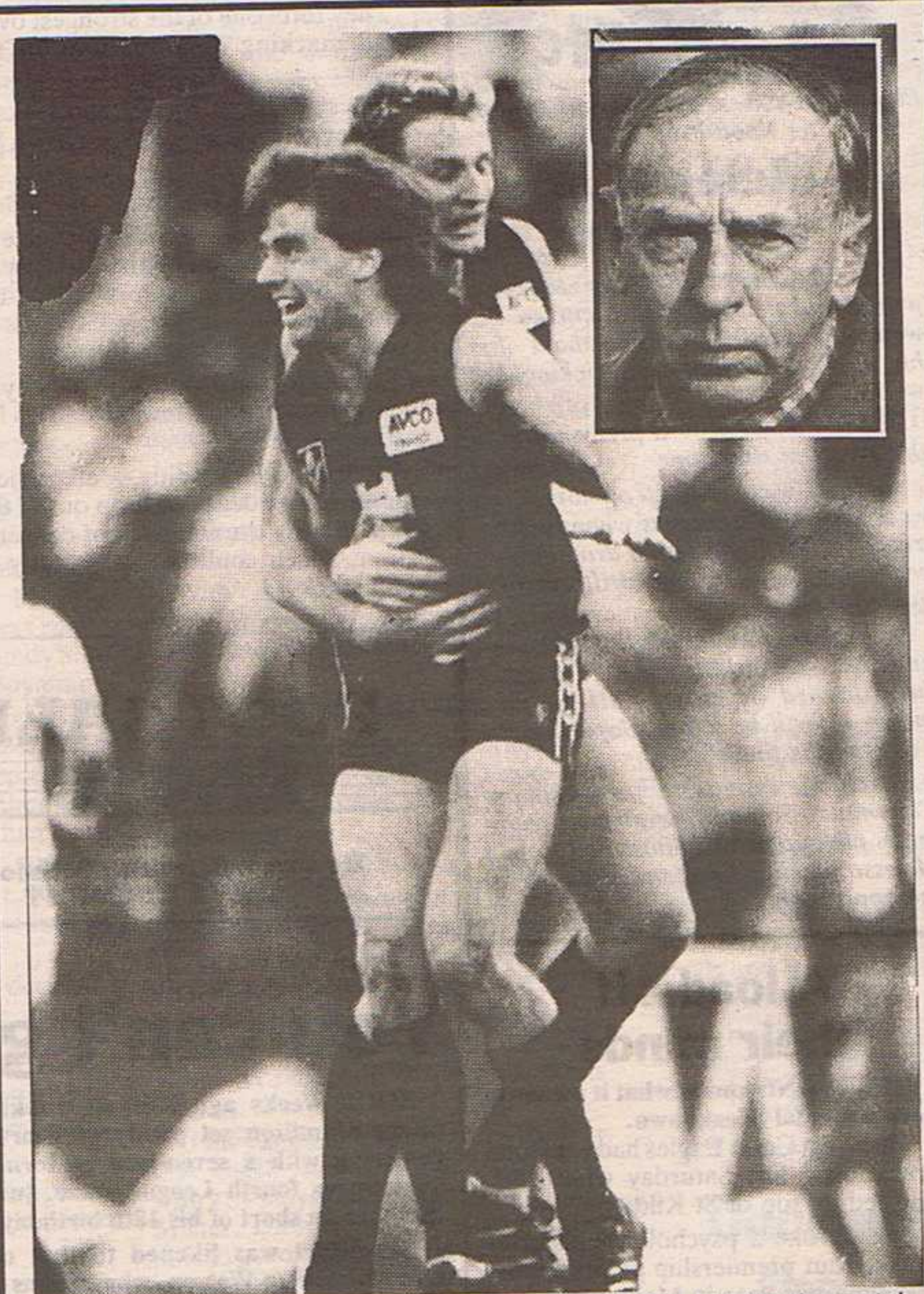
WINNING RUN

THE West Coast Eagles have now won five of their last six matches, equalling their best performance over a six-week period.

Five sides — the Eagles, Hawthorn, Carlton, Footscray and Sydney — have won five of their past six matches.

The Eagles won five of the six matches played in rounds 5 to 10 last year. In that time they beat Hawthorn, North Melbourne, the Brisbane Bears, Melbourne and Collingwood — and lost to St Kilda at Moorabbin.

Saturday's win over St Kilda completed the Eagles' second sequence of three consecutive wins this season.



Carlton rover Adrian Gleeson shows his delight after kicking the match-winning goal against North Melbourne last week ... but North coach John Kennedy (inset) doesn't share the joy.

Footscray are the favourites

THE cut-throat battle for the remaining two vacant positions in the VFL final five has five candidates — with opinions divided about who can survive.

Geelong dropped out on Sunday by losing to Hawthorn, leaving Melbourne, Footscray, Essendon, Sydney Swans and the West Coast Eagles in the race.

A survey of critics in Melbourne's Sunday Observer newspaper had Footscray a unanimous choice to take one of the spots in view of their fairly easy run home, playing Fitzroy and the Eagles.

Essendon, who play Melbourne (at home) and St Kilda, are tipped to take the other spot.

Melbourne, who sat on top of the ladder at one stage earlier this season, have slumped to lose their last four

games and are in danger of slipping out of the finals.

If coach John Northey felt that not only had the wheels fallen off, but the axle had broken after their loss to the Eagles, then the engine has certainly now stalled.

The Swans boosted their hopes when they picked up some handy percentage at the expense of Fitzroy and they present a major threat, playing low-order teams North Melbourne and the Brisbane Bears.

Victorian critics are virtually writing the West Coast Eagles off, mainly because of their final clash with Footscray at the Western Oval, which they see as a stumbling block.

How WA players performed in VFL

	Kicks	Marks	Hball	Score
HAWTHORN				
Gary Buckenara	24	6	6	3.2
MELBOURNE				
Warren Dean	7	2	2	0.1
Alan Johnson	16	3	5	3.1
NORTH MELBOURNE				
Jim Krakouer	17	2	8	2.2
Phil Krakouer	6	1	8	2.0
RICHMOND				
Michael Mitchell	7	3	8	2.2
ST KILDA				
Nicky Winmar	10	5	4	3.3
SYDNEY SWANS				
Craig Holden	4	1	4	1.0
BRISBANE BEARS				
Brad Hardie	12	5	1	1.4
Mike Richardson	16	8	9	1.1
Rod Lester-Smith	13	10	5	1.1
CARLTON				
Wayne Blackwell	14	2	9	—
John Dorotich	10	10	5	4.6
Peter Sartori	10	8	3	1.4
Steve Da Rui	7	2	—	—
COLLINGWOOD				
Michael Christian	7	4	3	—
Craig Starcevic	13	8	4	0.3
Brian Taylor	5	4	1	3.1
ESSENDON				
Leon Baker	16	8	5	—
Darren Bewick	4	—	1	0.1
FITZROY				
Brett Stephens	12	3	5	—
John Ironmonger	7	6	11	1.0
FOOTSCRAY				
Simon Beasley	11	9	—	9.1
GEE LONG				
Mark Bairstow	18	7	10	1.0

HIT-OUTS: Michael Christian 1, Craig Starcevic 1, Jon Dorotich 2, Craig Holden 1, Mark Bairstow 1, John Ironmonger 15.

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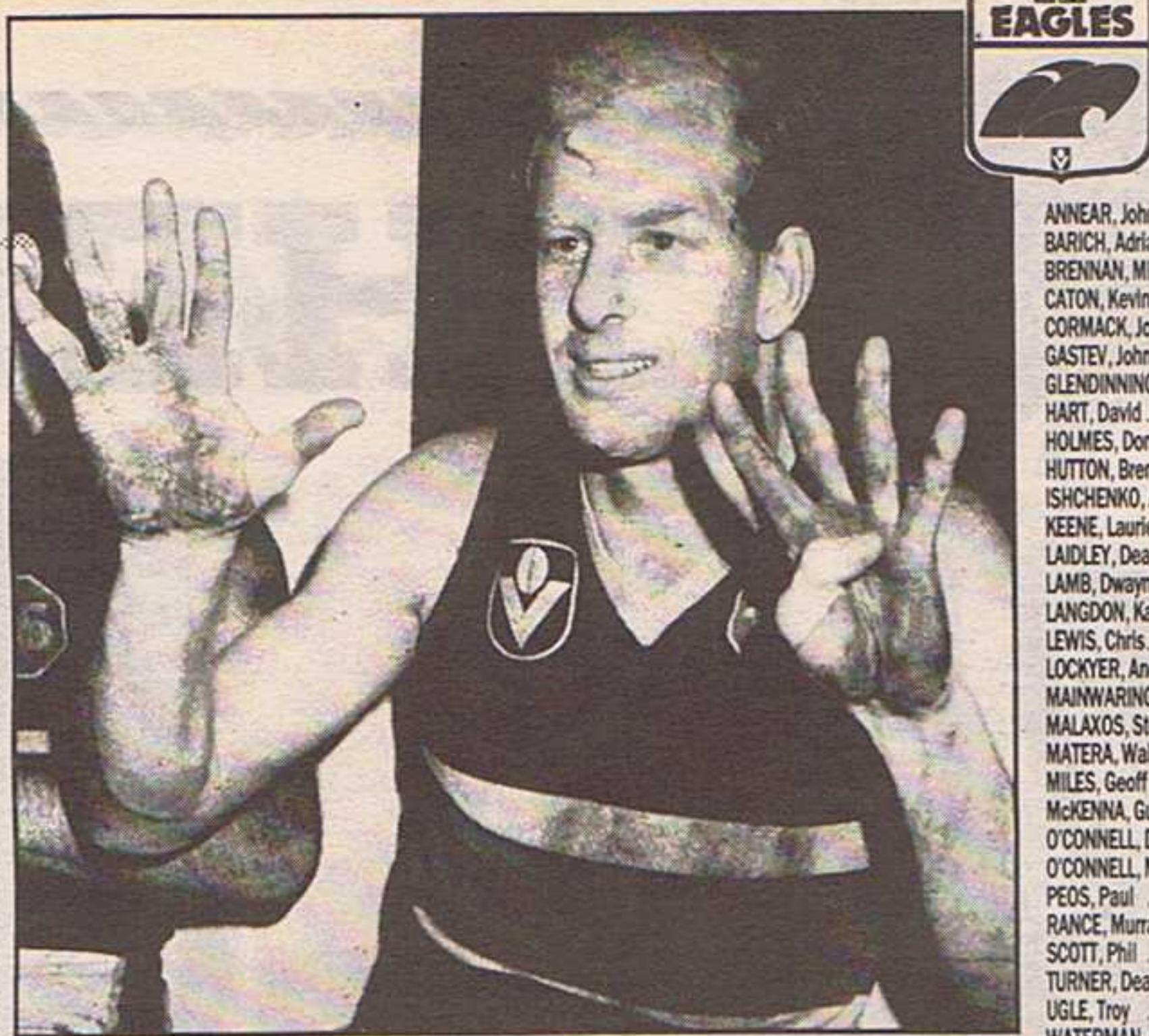
NORTH Melbourne have picked up an exciting youngster from under the noses of the Sydney Swans, according to Melbourne's Sunday Observer columnist, Ray Jordon.

Wayne Carey was a star for the Victorian Teal Cup team at the recent carnival in Canberra — and is tied to the Roos after being sold by the Swans for \$15,000.

Jordon, coach of Victoria's victorious Teal Cup side, said that the 16-year-old Carey looked as good as Fitzroy's Gary Pert did when he played Teal Cup at the same age.

"And we all know what a champion he is," says Jordon.

Carey made the All-Australian Teal Cup side and was voted Victoria's best player for the carnival.



Simon Beasley ... happy with his nine-goal haul.

How the Eagles rate

	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	TOT	
	Ge	Es	BB	Col	Fl	NM	SK	H	C	R	M	SS	Fit	Es	G	BB	F	M	NM	SK	
ANNEAR, John	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	101
BARICH, Adrian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63
BRENNAN, Michael	6	6	7	6	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
CATON, Kevin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
CORMACK, Joe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
GASTEV, John	3	8	6	4	5	5	5	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
GLENDINNING, Ross	6	6	7	5	9	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87
HART, David	5	7	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
HOLMES, Don	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
HUTTON, Brent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
ISHCHENKO, Alex	8	7	6	6	5	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
KEENE, Laurie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52
LAIDLEY, Dean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
LAMB, Dwayne	8	6	5	7	6	6	7	4	7	6	5	6	4	6	4	7	4	6	6	6	115
LANGDON, Karl	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
LEWIS, Chris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
LOCKYER, Andrew	4	5	5	5	6	6	5	6	4	7	7	7	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	86
MAINWARING, Chris	6	6	8	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106
MALAXOS, Steve	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
MATERA, Wally	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
MILES, Geoff	7	6	5	6	4	7	4	5	4	6	4	6	5	5	4	4	6	5	6	6	105
MCKENNA, Guy	7	6	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93
O'CONNELL, David	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
O'CONNELL, Michael	7	4	5	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
PEOS, Paul	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
RANCE, Murray	6	6	4	5	6	4	6	4	7	4	7	6	4	5	5	7	-	-	-	-	103
SCOTT, Phil	7	7	6	4	6	4	6	7	5	4	6	4	7	6	7	5	-	-	-	-	98
TURNER, Dean	6	7	6	6	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77
UGLE, Troy	5	5	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
WATERMAN, Chris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
WORSFOLD, John	6	6	6	5	7	6	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110
WRENSTED, Murray	5	6	7	6	4	7	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69
ZANOTTI, Mark	7	5	7	6	5	3	6	4	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73

GREENE IN ELITE COMPANY

HAWTHORN veteran Russell Greene earned the accolades of the football world with his 300th VFL game last Sunday.

Greene, now 31, is living proof that persistence, dedication and attitude can reap huge rewards in today's highly professional world of football.

Sacked after 120 senior games at St Kilda, where he was regarded as something of a "wild, young man", Greene has become the genuine team man at Hawthorn, filling a variety of roles and virtually doing whatever the coach beckons.

He has now achieved most of his ear-



ly football ambitions — forging a credible reputation, earning VFL life membership by playing 300 senior games; tasting premierships success (with Hawthorn in 1983 and 1986) and being generally recognised as a footballer worth remembering.

TRIBUTES

There were two special tributes to mark his milestone that indicate what other players and rival clubs think of him.

St Kilda president Travis Payze paid a glowing tribute to Greene (who wasn't present, naturally) at the President's lunch before the Eagles clash. Even though Greene had left the club in strained circumstances, Payze said that he was still regarded as an esteemed Saints footballer.

Greene opened his big game on the interchange bench and it was a magnificent gesture to see Geelong's two interchange players jog over to shake his hand before the first bounce.

Greene started his VFL career in 1974 and, ironically, his coach was Allan Jeans, the man who revived his

career at Hawthorn when his football life seemed shattered after the 1980 departure.

He holds Jeans in the highest regard, praising the man as a "living legend".

Even though Greene has had a couple of lengthy stints in the reserves in the last two seasons, he's far from finished as a league player.

He believes that he can play for another two seasons and is one of those players who actually enjoys his spells in the reserves. He says playing with the young kids gives him a "real buzz".

Greene becomes the 21st VFL player to reach the 300-game milestone. After starting as a 17-year-old, he has averaged 20 senior games a year.

... and Madden joins the club as well

THE VFL 300-game club welcomes another member this week with big Essendon ruckman Simon Madden reaching the triple-century.

The Bombers giant has outlasted many younger, smaller and fitter rivals over the years and his 300-game achievement must rank as one of football's greatest.

Madden, now 30, started his senior career with Essendon back in 1974 and has averaged 20 senior games a year — an incredible feat for a big man.

Barker to hang up his boots

ST KILDA veteran Trevor Barker will retire at the end of this season after 219 games in 14 years.

The former Saints skipper and one of the club's favourite sons has been plagued with leg injuries in recent seasons.

The 31-year-old Barker believes that the club's future will depend on youth and he's prepared to step aside and allow younger players a chance.

"I want to go out as a league player," said Barker.

"I've only played three reserves games in my career and even though coming off the interchange bench suited me, I've found it difficult with my fitness."

KNIGHTS' FUTURE?

THE future of Brisbane Bears coach Peter Knights is cause for speculation.

Knights is believed to want to return to South Australia to live for family reasons. He had a prominent position with sporting goods firm Puma in Adelaide before taking on the Brisbane job.

Rumours mounted in Melbourne at the weekend that current Fitzroy coach David Parkin would be a candidate for the Bears' role.

Parkins name has also been linked with St Kilda, but both the Saints and their coach, Darrel Baldock, have denied that he will be leaving the club.

SAINTS BASE

THE Western Saints have come into existence. A group of WA people with an interest in St Kilda have formed a WA supporters base to help boost the VFL side on future Perth visits. The club has Toyota man Lew Mutch (also a Claremont fan) as president, with former St Kilda and Subiaco player George Young as vice-president.

LONG SEQUENCE

ST KILDA's loss to the Eagles on Saturday, their seventh on end, gives them the longest losing sequence of the 1988 season.

Hawthorn's eight consecutive wins in the middle of the season is the longest winning sequence so far this year.

Saints set to stay at home

ST KILDA, despite sitting on the bottom of the VFL premiership table, are determined to stay at their much-criticised Moorabbin Ground.

The local council has pledged nearly \$200,000 to improve drainage at the ground and club president Travis Payze says that there is no possible chance of the club moving elsewhere.

"We are now the only Melbourne-based club still to retain their own training and playing ground as sole tenants," he says.

"We own everything here and St Kilda is proud of the facilities."

THE big champagne breakfast come 6PR panel show to be conducted on behalf of the Collingwood football club is going to be a real winner if the bookings are any indication. Incidentally the WA chapter of the Woodsmen supporters club will also be officially launched at the function on Sunday morning August 21 from 8am at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. I can promise you a morning of surprises — controversy — entertainment and lots of fun with footy personalities like Leigh Matthews, Wayne Richardson, Mal Brown, Percy Johnson and J. K. Watts. The all up price of the breakfast and panel show is only \$25 per head and you can telephone 447 8355 to secure your seat.

WANTED Football memorabilia

DO you have any old football magazines, club annual reports, year books or suchlike?

What about club medallions, football badges, posters or cards of players, etc? If so, we would like to add them to our collection of Australian football souvenirs.

Please write to Thomas Mahony, 111 Hedderwick Street, Essendon 3040, Victoria.

LEADING VFL GOALKICKERS

Jason Dunstall (Hawthorn)	110.57
Simon Beasley (Footscray)	79.27
Gary Ablett (Geelong)	75.57
Brian Taylor (Collingwood)	62.32
Ross Glendinning (Eagles)	60.42
Richard Osborne (Fitzroy)	49.33
Jeff Hogg (Richmond)	48.34
Warwick Capper (Brisbane Bears)	45.26
Nicky Winmar (St Kilda)	39.37
Graeme Wright (Collingwood)	36.21
Tony Lockett (St Kilda)	35.19
Dermott Brereton (Hawthorn)	34.16
Stephen Kernahan (Carlton)	34.24
Michael Turner (Geelong)	33.19
Adrian Gleeson (Carlton)	33.20
Barry Mitchell (Sydney Swans)	32.32
Dale Weightman (Richmond)	31.20
Jim Krakouer (North Melbourne)	31.13
Allister Clarkson (North Melbourne)	31.22
Paul Salmon (Essendon)	31.21

Hardy's Wines

TOP PERFORMER



Laurie Keene

Hardy Collection



perfect for your palate

HARDY'S Wines and Westside Football join together for a new award... the Eagles Top Performer.

Each week the best performer in the Eagles team will receive a gift pack from Hardy's Wines — and this week's winner is:

Laurie Keene 21 kicks, 15 marks, 7 handballs

	1988	1988	1988
	Kicks	Marks	H/Balls
John Annear	242	61	151
Adrian Barich	111	31	52
Michael Brennan	125	44	51
Kevin Caton	10	5	2
Joe Cormack	55	14	24
John Gastev	188	62	80
Ross Glendinning	146	99	51
David Hart	207	40	59
Don Holmes	38	16	29
Brett Hutton	46	29	16
Alex Ishchenko	66	53	62
Laurie Keene	88	46	32
Dean Laidley	102	30	21
Dwayne Lamb	264	54	118
Karl Langdon	95	29	35
Chris Lewis	83	21	24
Andrew Lockyer	105	49	32
Chris Mainwaring	275	85	110
Stephen Malaxos	89	20	70
Wally Matera	144	37	74
Guy McKenna	136	58	129
Geoff Miles	163	65	63
David O'Connell	30	19	12
Michael O'Connell	71	34	22
Paul Peos	128	49	37
Murray Rance	206	82	95
Phil Scot	119	60	42
Dean Turner	162	45	88
Troy Ugle	71	22	43
Chris Waterman	89	27	18
John Worsfold	288	98	117
Murray Wrensted	139	35	75
Mark Zanotti	143	41	59

THE MESSA



Peter Latham, the new runner for Swan Districts, also helps with physical fitness work and here he gives Mick Grasso some pre-match preparation.



The role of the league team runner is vitally important in today's fast-running football. And some pretty experienced players handle the messages for today's coaches. This week we look at the men who spend almost as much time on the ground as the players.

George Young, an outstanding forward for Subiaco and St Kilda, has been a long-serving Lions runner and has words of encouragement for ruckman Shane Cocker.



Claremont's Peter Jamieson, a former Tigers and East Perth player, has some words of wisdom for Noel Morton.

Ross Sweetman, a hard-working former South Fremantle player, is an important cog in the Bulldogs on-field method.

Peter Thomas served his football and here

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AGE MEN ...

he league is vitally important to today's football. Pretty experienced players handle the day-to-day work for today's week we have men who are as much grounders as players.



Former top Perth ruckman Wim Rosbender (left) confides with league team manager Mike Redenbach and youngster John Clarkson.



East Perth's Kevin Bryant, a key player in the Royals 1978 premiership, took on the runners job after injury forced his retirement.



David Rankin, who learned his football apprenticeship with the Lions, but moved to East Fremantle and here he assists David Rankin from the field.



Brian Perrin, a noted hard-runner in his playing days at West Perth, is still running for the Falcons.

DREAMS

NAL RESORTS & CASINOS

Great Eastern Highway,
Victoria Park, Perth,
Western Australia.
(09) 362 7777.

MEDAL MANIA

Plenty of candidates but no real favourite

WHO will win this year's Sandover Medal?

That is the burning question football followers will debate in the coming weeks with the qualifying games about to finish.

This year's contest is very open, with no particular players standing out as popular favourites.

East Perth's David Bain has emerged as one highly-fancied choice. The dynamic wingman is an eye-catching player with his pace and courage bound to earn votes from the umpires.

The only other Royals players who could take votes off Bain are George Giannakis and Gavin Hawkins, but they have had consistent rather than vote-catching seasons.

From Swan Districts, the "Bunbury buddies" Steve Bazzo and Mick Grasso appear the likely candidates.

Bazzo, in his first year at Swans and Grasso (his second) travel up each week from Bunbury together to fulfill their ambitions of playing league football with Swans.



Subiaco ruckman Shane Cocker ... runner-up in the Sandover Medal last year and a favourite in 1988.

Bazzo, in particular, has been a shining light at Swans this year.

Craig Turley is West Perth's strongest contender for this year's Medal, with Peter Menaglio and Neil Jackson also sharing successful seasons.

Jackson, just 22 years of age and in his first season of league football after leaving Collie, has won a lot of respect as a tight defender who reads the play well.

SURPRISE

The Falcons also have Malcolm Williams, another first year player who may not win the Sandover, but could surprise with a handsome tally of votes.

He is similar to Bain in both stature and style of play.

In the Demons camp, Joe Santostefano shapes as being their most likely candidate.

The 24-year-old ruck-rover led many media awards for most of the season, but is sure to be up there with the early leaders.

The claims of last year's winner Mark Watson cannot be ignored either. His form has been patchy, but he has played enough good games for Perth to be a threat and has proven vote-catching ability.

Dempsey Narkle and Willie Dick will earn votes, however Narkle's inconsistency and Dick's position deep in defence will work against them.

East Fremantle's recent form loss seems to have affected most of their senior players...and their chances.

Ray Sterrett, George Christie and Lance Durack all shared an outstanding first half, but have struggled of late, with injuries costing them dearly.

SHARKS

Shane Ellis, Mike Broadbridge and for a "roughie" Peter Quill look like being the best from a Sharks point of view.

Scott Watters has been in brilliant form for much of the season for South Fremantle and with ruckman Craig Edwards, leads the Bulldogs claims.

Edwards has found the touch that eluded him in the earlier rounds and may make a late charge for the medal.

Two of the most feared forwards in the competition are Mark Bayliss and Peter Sumich, who can turn a game around in minutes, but are flashy players who tend to drift in and out of the play.

'Mr Magic' himself, Maurice Rioli, has been hampered by injury problems, but you cannot leave him out, despite missing seven of the first 20 fixtures.

ON THE BALL

By MIKE KNUCKEY



A host of Subiaco players are in the Sandover hunt.

Shane Cocker was just one vote away from winning the Medal last year and is shaping up to go one better. He is high on the list of most media awards and has not missed any games.

Ian Dargie, Mick Lee and Brian Taylor all deserve credit for consistent, hard-working seasons and should be rewarded at the vote count.

Subiaco's most outstanding player in the last series of fixtures has been Brad McDougall, who could pick up as many as five best-on-ground performances in the last six weeks, which would put him in contention.

McDougall's dominance coincides with a change in position from the forward line to the centre, where he has appreciated the freedom of the open spaces.

POSSESSIONS

Claremont youngsters Ben Allan and Don Pyke pick up numerous possessions every week in only their second season of league football and should poll extremely well.

Captain Tony Beers, Mark Hann and Grant Povey are strong possibilities, while Peter Thorne will poll well in the games he has played.

He is an exciting player, particularly around the goals, but has played in only 12 games due to injuries.

It's difficult to pick an outright favourite and even this week's final voting cards could hold the key to the 1988 Sandover Medal.

My tip — David Bain!

Subiaco bonanza

THE Subiaco Football club received a handy \$70,000 bonus after last week's successful banquet auction.

More than 200 people attended the evening to bid for a large range of products donated by the local business community.

The club may use some of the money on a pre-season players trip if their proposed sponsored trip to Canada falls through.

Negotiations are still in progress concerning the visit to the North American continent.

Broadbridge out for '88

GIFTED East Fremantle youngster Michael Broadbridge has played his last game of football for the 1988 season.

The 20-year-old University student damaged his hand against East Perth a fortnight ago, but trained with the injury last week, hoping to be selected against Swan Districts.

It was not until after he failed the fitness test on Friday night that he had an x-ray which revealed a broken bone in his right wrist.

Broadbridge is now sporting a plaster cast on his lower arm which will be in place for the next five weeks.

The injury comes as a double blow for the talented sportsman as it severely interrupts his pre-season preparation for cricket — his other sporting love.

Broadbridge is a member of the WAIS colts cricket squad and plays first grade for Melville.



East Perth midfielder David Bain ... a Sandover Medal prospect this season.

Hutch pair back in action

THE "Hutch" boys were back in action again for Subiaco last Sunday.

Brett Hutchinson and Glen Hutcheson, who have been missing for several weeks due to work commitments and injury problems respectively, were in Lions colours against West Perth.

After moving to Sydney with his employment, Hutchinson has been enticed back to Perth for weekends to bolster Subiaco's premiership hopes.

He showed no apparent lack of match fitness last week, though he hasn't played any football since he left Perth. He has maintained fitness by running with a Sydney Rugby league club.

Hutcheson's return (albeit in the reserves) came as a surprise considering his season had previously been written off due to a fractured jaw five weeks ago.

Hutcheson sat on the bench and took no part in the game as his jaw is not yet fully mended. It was part of a Subiaco plan to qualify him for the reserves finals should his jaw heal sufficiently in the next month.

Rioli has faith in the WAFL

SOUTH Fremantle skipper Maurice Rioli, a veteran of both WAFL and VFL ranks, is optimistic about the future of the game in WA.

The dashing Mr Magic told Ian Miller on radio 6NR last Sunday that he still saw a bright future for players in the WAFL clubs.

"We should eventually get back to where our standard once was," says Rioli, who is currently sidelined as his team storms towards a finals appearance.

"We are still developing plenty of talented young players and the good players will always want to go to Victoria anyway."

Rioli, who said that he had no regrets about playing in the VFL or even returning to the WAFL, said you couldn't blame VFL clubs for looking West for young players.

"We have plenty of talented young players well worth watching," says Rioli. "But we must expect them to want to play at the highest level at some stage."



East Perth happenings

EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY:

Eagles training.

THURSDAYS:

Club Night Members Bar.

7pm — Members Jackpot Draw.

7.30pm — Announcement of League Side.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
West Perth v East Perth,
Leederville Oval

9.30am Under 19's

11.40am Reserves

2.20pm League

Presentation of trophies
6.15pm Sunday, August 14
Members Bar — Perth Oval
Key Rings/Badges — \$5 each from club office.
Royal Bush Hats — \$39 each from club office.



Juggling the teams for the finals

ON THE BALL

By MIKE KNUCKEY



LAST Sunday's results were just the shot-in-the-arm that the WAFL needed to finish the qualifying rounds on a good note.

There are plenty of "ifs" and "buts" looming in the finals battle.

But the crux of the matter is that each of this Saturday's last four fixtures have a bearing on the final placings of the eight league teams.

The only game that will not influence the final four is between West Perth and East Perth — but the Royals will be trying desperately to get off the bottom of the table and hand the wooden spoon to Swan Districts — again.

At the other end of the ladder, the minor premiers spot is still undecided, but could be wrapped up by Claremont with a victory over East Fremantle.

Should Claremont lose to the troubled Sharks, then Subiaco could wrest that coveted title with a win over South Fremantle.

Much has been said of the Bulldogs rags to riches story in recent weeks and many critics see them as a threat for this year's flag.

But they are still not guaranteed a place in the final four ... that's how tight things are.

Here's how it stands:

Should Perth win and both East Fremantle and South Fremantle lose, then all three teams will be on equal points and percentages will determine the two teams to play in the first semi-final.

For South Fremantle to go out, two things have to happen. Firstly, they would have to lose by roughly seven goals more than East Fremantle to be displaced by them.

Secondly, Perth would have to win by at least six goals and Souths lose by the same margin to forfeit their spot to the Demons.



Royals utility player Lance Kelly ... reached his 100-game milestone last week.

Royals were out-foxed!

ASTUTE observers at the WACA Ground last Sunday felt that East Perth were robbed a little when they lost to Perth after the siren.

They noticed that Wayne Ryder quickly lined up to take the vital shot at goal after East Perth's Gavin Hawkins was slung off his kick, which went out of bounds on the full.

A very alert Perth runner in Wim Rosbender pushed Ryder towards the ball to take the resultant free kick.

There were two other Perth players significantly closer to where the ball passed over the boundary line — Shane Cable should rightfully have taken the kick and Tony Papotto was next in line. But neither are noted for their long and accurate kicking at goal under pressure.

Rosbender certainly knew what he was doing when he coaxed Ryder into taking the kick.

The sharp shooter was right on target with a magnificent drop punt that sealed East Perth's fate and kept alive Perth's premiership dream.

The "boot was on the other foot" would be an appropriate comment in the Prime reserves fixture earlier in the afternoon.

East Perth's Stephen Wasley kicked a goal after the siren to snatch a thrilling three-point win and keep their finals aspirations alive.

That loss cost Perth the chance to take top spot as Claremont were unexpectedly beaten by South Fremantle — another upset in the reserves competition.

Setting the standard for nailbiters at the WACA on Sunday was the earlier colts fixture which saw East Perth fall over the line by only five points.

For East Fremantle to be replaced by Perth in the top four, there would have to be approximately a five-goal turnaround.

To give a clearer picture, let's draw some imaginary results for this week.

Claremont (104 pts) beat East Fremantle (96 pts) by 8 points.

Subiaco (131 pts) beat South Fremantle (80 pts) by 51 points.

Perth (122 pts) beat Swan Districts (100 pts) by 22 points.

This would leave the percentages as follows:

East Fremantle 103.77; South Fremantle 103.70; Perth 103.66.

There will be plenty of pressure on the forwards when kicking at goal this week with percentages so tight. It could become so close that a third decimal point may be needed to separate them.

Falcons and Swans are packing up

ALL footballers in the West Perth and Swan Districts camps will be packing their boots into mothballs after this Saturday.

They are the only two clubs who definitely won't be fielding a team for the finals in any of the three senior grades.

Claremont players from all three teams will be putting their boots away also — but only for a week.

The Tigers league, reserves and colts sides will all be back for second semi-final appearances — provided the colts can beat fifth-placed East Fremantle.

This speaks volumes for the depth at Claremont and is a tribute to the coaching expertise of Gerard Neesham.

It would be a rare feat and a great distinction should Claremont manage three premierships in the same season.

They had the chance last year, of course, but missed the treble when the colts lost the grand final.

LATE DEBUT FOR TIGER

CLAREMONT'S Paul Burton may have the distinction of being the last player to make his debut in the 1988 season.

Gerard Neesham is keen to get his team settled and in rhythm before the finals, but an ankle injury to Tony Begovich gave Burton a taste of league football.

Burton is a promising 19-year-old ruck-rover from the Southern Districts league in Albany.

A clerk with the National Bank, Burton performed only moderately under intense pressure from a determined South Fremantle line up.

Burton's sniff of league football may be a brief one as Begovich, a key player in Claremont's make up, is due back this week.

South Fremantle



MEMBERS & GUESTS

Friday night is

JACKPOT NIGHT

Members must be on premises to claim

JACKPOT

Movie Night Eddie Murphy's New Movie

COMING TO AMERICA

MONDAY, AUGUST 29
MOVIE STARTS AT 8.45

Come along and have a drink with your favourite player. Hot Roast Beef Rolls and Hot Dogs available.

Don't delay as last movie night sold out very quickly.

BINGO THURSDAY EVENINGS
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TIGERS
What's Happening at Claremont

Saturday, August 20 at Claremont Oval
Under 19's 9.30am
Reserves 11.40am
League 2.20pm

Members and supporters are urged to support all sides in their bid to win a premiership in each grade.

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"Support those who support us"

Top organiser - on and off the field

IT seems as though Bruce Arlow has been having a say on how to run football clubs and football associations for half a lifetime.

Arlow is one of those rare breeds around sporting clubs — he is a "doer" and not a "gunna" as many people often are.

His interest in administration was kindled in 1966 after transferring from West Perth to Osborne Park, then playing in the WA Football Association.

He was seconded on to the Osborne Park committee and became one of their two delegates to the WFA Council, retiring as Osborne Park's vice president 18 years later.

In 1969 he was promoted to the executive of the WFA and took an active role in the innovative changes in the 1970's.

To list a few:-

- The first metropolitan association outside of the WANFL to broadcast matches (through 6IX in 1971).

- Introduced kicking out of bounds on the full a year before the WAFL.

- Introduced interchange players a year before the WAFL.

- Disaffiliated from the WAFL to save clubs transfer fees for players not required by their respective league clubs. The South Suburban Murray Football League followed by the WFA some years later.

- Played interstate matches against the SA Football Association in 1980 and 1982; the first WA association to do so without WAFL financial assistance.

- Introduced the first large-scale fair-est and best count open to club members and the general public. This was a visual presentation at the Pagoda Ballroom.

Arlow became association president in 1983 and a major task was to achieve a successful amalgamation with the South Suburban Football League and inject renewed interest into Sunday Football.

SUPERULES

The second chapter of his administrative career began in 1982 with the inaugural game of veteran's football for players over 35 years of age.

The veteran's competition had two teams — Northern Districts and Victoria Park — and a rescue meeting was held in the Palace Hotel to revive the concept.

Those present included Norm Knell, Joe Lawson, Laurie Watson and John O'Neil, together with publican Peter Northwood, who prevailed on Bruce to take on the task of reviving the fledgling association.

The association has grown to a formalised competition of eight clubs in the metropolitan zone (including Mandurah and Bunbury) and 21 teams in the country, ranging from Carnarvon to Esperance.

Superules WA has been the trendsetter in the national association and from the inaugural carnival in Melbourne, where WA was represented by 24 players and were runners-up to Tasmania, to where WA are the national champions travelling to Adelaide in October to defend the title.

PRESIDENT

After the successful national carnival in Perth in 1986 and WA's championship success in Brisbane in 1987, Bruce was elected national president of Superules for season 1988.

Bruce is a life member of the Osborne Park FC, the WA Football Association (now Sunday Football League) and this year was made the inaugural life member of Superules WA.

In his spare time, Bruce is on the Minister for Sport's Standing Committee for Veterans Sport and is the foundation president of the WA Veterans and Masters Sports Association.



The Minister for Sport, Graham Edwards, handballs the footy to Bruce Arlow.

Some of the highlights of nearly a quarter of a century of sporting administration include:

- Being asked by the WAFL to organise the exhibition match to celebrate the Centenary of WA Football in 1985.

- The match was the re-creation of the first game played between Victorians and Rovers in 1885 and was played at Subiaco before the WA/SA fixture.

- Being part of the first WA team to defeat a Victorian side in Melbourne at the 1983 Superules carnival.

- Being the architect of the amalgamation of the two major Sunday bodies into the Sunday Football League for season 1984.

- Winning a Superules national championship after being runners-up three times out of the four carnivals.

"But not the least enjoyable aspect of my whole time in sport is the friendships and good times enjoyed over the years with the majority of people you meet," he adds.

A new series ...

The Kresta 'Blinder'

Sponsored by Kresta Blinds

Westside Football writer REECE HOGAN highlights an outstanding performance in WAFL club football last week.

Lee roams the Lions forward zone



SUBIACO'S Mick Lee has been in fine form this season and his performance last Saturday against West Perth at Subiaco Oval was of excellent quality.

Lee's explosive pace and excellent skills served Subiaco well in their attacking zone, kicking four vital goals.

In gusty conditions, Lee handled the ball with authority and his kicking was a treat. All of his goals were kicked over considerable distances.

Lee had a bundle of possessions and he was the Lions mainstay in attack, roaming the forward line — helped by some loose checking from the West Perth defence.

The 26-year-old investment consultant has played 101 games for the Lions after making his debut in 1980. His 1988 season must rate as his best with consistent form in all his matches.

Lee hails from Kalgoorlie and will be striving hard to help the Lions take off the premiership after missing the 1986 victory through indifferent form. Since then, Lee has been a top performer for the Lions and provided injury does not restrict him, he will be a vital link in the Subiaco line-up come finals time.

Fortescue Medal up for grabs

THE Fortescue National Football Leagues 1988 Bielski Medal count will be held on Friday, August 26 in the Ashburton Hall, Paraburdoo, starting at 7pm.

Selecting the winner is difficult, but Craig Rakich (Towns) must be considered a worthy favourite for the prestigious award.

Rakich has had a consistent year, polling best-player votes in virtually every game and a win would be a fitting reward for his efforts.

Three times runner-up and last seasons Fortescue Footballer-of-the-Year, Dave Maher (Tigers) is strongly fancied and has also been among his teams best players consistently.

Mark Phillips (Demons) should poll well in a team where few players would rob him of votes.

Saints should provide quite a few players to poll votes and the main recipients should be Lee Hutton, Gavin Wright, Mark McDonald and Warren Hoare.

Centrals players Brand, Jensen, Tattersall, Humble, McKeown, Stobaus and Giddons should poll well and from Towns, Della Santina, Crotty and 1982 winner Ric Hansen can feature prominently.

Tigers players Dion Poole, Mark Cunningham, Paul Blakers, Phil Maher and Leigh McKenzie should get votes with Davies, Daves, Oakford, Burrows, Morphet the best for Hill.

Football clubs can advertise their 1988 coaching positions in Westside Football at \$35 for a single column 5cm deep space. Telephone (09) 275 8202 or write PO Box 442, Morley 6062.

Huge win doesn't help

JERRAMUNGUP boosted their percentage by an astounding 23 per cent after their huge victory over Pingrup in last Sunday's final round of home and away fixtures in the Ongerup Football Association.

Pingrup were thrashed 42.31 (283) to 4.1 (25), but despite Jerramungup's increased percentage, they were not able to pass Newdegate and stayed in third position.

Newdegate also had a massive win over Kent, 37.23 (245) to 13.13 (91).

Both Newdegate and Jerramungup have played superbly leading to the finals and must be threats to the highly-fancied Ongerup line-up.

Ongerup cemented their place in top position after a convincing win over Gnowangerup 18.7 (115) to 9.13 (67).

It was a big game for Ongerup because a loss would have relegated them to third spot on percentage and thus miss out on the double chance.

In the other clash, Borden had their second win for the season after a close game with Boxwood Hill, 10.13 (73) to 8.18 (66). Despite the win, Borden remain on the bottom of the premiership table.

This Sunday the first semi final at Gnowangerup sees Gnowangerup play Jerramungup in the reserves at 11.15am and in the league game, Jerramungup play Kent at 2.15.

Williams stay on top

WILLIAMS (16.15) retained their position at the top of the ladder in the Upper Great Southern League by defeating Boddington 16.15 to 9.8 last week.

Brothers Michael and David Kain (four goals) were best for the victors, with Craig Sherry scoring five of Boddington's nine goals.

In a low-scoring encounter West Arthur (7.14) were too strong for Railways (4.8) with Brad Barton turning in a match-winning performance for West Arthur.

The upset of the round was caused by the young Lake Grace combination (11.6), who outplayed a more experienced Wickiepin (7.4) to gain a meritorious victory.

Captain-coach Noel Bairstow and Dean Carruthers led the way for Lake Grace, while Ken Mutter was best for Wickiepin.

Towns (8.14) hung on to beat Pingelly (5.15) who spoilt any chance they had of victory by kicking six points straight in a torrid final term.

MIXED BAG

YOUNG North Albany colts player Warren Marshall had a goal orgy when his side dished out a 32.21 to 1.2 thrashing to North Mt Barker.

Marshall kicked himself from fourth place to top spot on the goalkicking ladder with an incredible 17-goal haul.

However, it could have been even bigger as he posted 10 points. His goal haul came mainly in the last half when he bagged five and six goals in each quarter.

A roundup of news from the West Australian Amateur Football League

North Beach destroy Nollamara's finals hopes

NOLLAMARA'S last chance of playing in this year's finals was destroyed by a stronger North Beach combination when they won their A-grade clash by 23 points.

The Tigers had a more positive approach than in the past few weeks and were mentally tougher in the crucial times.

A new player recruited by North is 18-year-old Alex Yarran, a rover who wove his special brand of magic on the game.

Yarran received a lot of his possessions from ruckman Mark Kylie, who dominated, along with Phil Carey, Glen Ring and Clive Mitchell.

Trinity-Aquinas secured top spot with their 15-point victory over Old Wesley in a hard-fought and thrilling finish.

Trinity-Aquinas were four goals in front at half-time, mainly due to the constructive handball of Les Fong, who finished with 20 handpasses.

Old Wesley came back in the second half and looked capable of winning, but Trinity's defensive unit stood firm in the crisis.

The best for Trinity-Aquinas were Dan Mulligan, Phil Green, Mark Johnson, Shaun Brown and Terry Pental, while for Old Wesley, Scott Spalding, Odea and Bryan Chute were best.

Wembley had to pull out all stops in the second half to eventually run over West Coast by 46 points.

West Coast were competitive in the first half, but could not withstand the might of the Magpies, whose teamwork was close to perfection in the second half.

Wembley were well served by Dean Stichlings, with four goals from a wing, Wayne Dawson, Dobbie Callaghan, Greg Metcalf and Todd Haley.

West Coast captain-coach Bernie Dunn was his side's best, with Clay Allen, followed closely by Rundle and Greaves.

Mt Lawley had a comfortable 79-point win over Scarborough.

The Hawks were experimenting with players moving from one end of the ground to the other.

Rover Neil Carroll was creative, winning possessions at will and received good back-up from Ross Bell, Leigh Sprlyan and Wayne Hardman.

Scarborough tried hard, but lacked

by **TREVOR SCHORER**



depth in playing strength compared to their opponents and will have to recruit strongly to be a force next year.

University cemented their finals spot with an unglamorous win over North Fremantle by 46 points.

Uni are sure to meet Old Wesley in the elimination final and are proving that they will be capable finalists.

This week Mt Lawley should beat North Fremantle; Trinity-Aquinas will easily defeat Scarborough; Old Wesley have to work hard to win over North Beach; Wembley will be too strong for Nollamara and West Coast will struggle against university.

DETAILS:
North Beach 10.18 d Nollamara 8.7
Trinity-Aquinas 12.12 d Old Wesley 10.9
Mt Lawley 17.17 d Scarborough 5.10
University 17.16 d North Fremantle 11.12
Wembley 17.12 d West Coast 10.8

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES:
Mt Lawley v North Fremantle at Inglewood Oval
Trinity-Aquinas v Scarborough at Ernest Johnson Oval
North Beach v Old Wesley at Perth Oval
Wembley v Nollamara at Lathlain Park
University v West Coast at McGillivray Oval

FIXTURES

QUALIFYING FINALS

C GRADE: Lynwood vs Morley, East Fremantle Oval
D GRADE: WACAE vs Wembley, Millington Reserve
E GRADE: R&I vs Bullcreek, Higgins Park
F GRADE: West Coast vs John XXIII, McGillivray Oval No. 2
G GRADE: Collegians-O.S. vs Wanneroo, Charles Riley Res
H GRADE: Wembley vs West Coast, Des Pemman Res No. 1
I GRADE: University vs Lynwood Ferndale, Karoonda Park
J GRADE: Trinity Aquinas vs MHWP, Yalumba Park
K GRADE: Cockburn Lakes vs Bayswater, College Pk Upper
L GRADE: Bullcreek vs Coolbellup, Melville Reserve
A COLTS: Nth Beach vs Mt Lawley, Perth Oval
B COLTS: Innaloo vs Maylands, Lathlain Park
C COLTS: Lynwood Ferndale vs Wemb., East Fremantle Oval
D COLTS - 1st SEMI: Rockingham vs Trinity Aquinas, Beasley Res

ELIMINATION FINALS

C GRADE: University vs Nollamara, City Beach Oval
D GRADE: Mundaring vs Brentwood, Peet Park
E GRADE: Trinity Aquinas vs St Norberts, Robinson Reserve
F GRADE: Old Wesley vs Innaloo, Allen Park
G GRADE: Girrawheen vs Redcliffe, Henderson Park
H GRADE: Bassendean vs Maylands, Hillcrest Res
I GRADE: Swan Athletic vs Mirrabooka, Coolbina Oval
J GRADE: Morley vs Innaloo, Light St Reserve No. 1
K GRADE: Rockingham vs Collegians O.S., Beasley Res
L GRADE: Wanneroo vs Ocean Ridge, Carine Reserve
A COLTS: University vs Wembley, Inglewood Oval
B COLTS: Bayswater vs Curtin, McGillivray Oval No. 1
C COLTS: Bassendean vs Coolbina Yokine, Hillcrest Res

HIGHLIGHTS

C-GRADE:

Lynwood Ferndale's consistency should show through when they play Morley this week in the qualifying final.

Morley had a convincing win over seventh-placed Bassendean last week.

However, Lynwood's overall height and strength should prove too much for the Morley side.

The elimination final is a do-or-die effort for both University and Nollamara. While Uni won against Whitfords last Saturday and could feel confident about finishing the Roo's season, it will not be that easy. Nollamara, still undermanned, gave Lynwood Ferndale a run for their money last week and should have a few experienced players back this week to hold the edge over the old scholars.

D-GRADE:

Brentwood sustained a demoralising loss to Wembley last weekend and now have to face up to Mundaring, who come off a strong win over Forrestfield in the elimination final.

While there is not much between either side, Mundaring should continue their finals run. The qualifying final is a different story, with both Wembley and WACAE looking forward to another crack at Rockingham in the first semi-final.

This is the Magpies No. 2 side and providing they don't lose players to the A-Grade, they should make it difficult for WACAE.

On the other hand, WACAE are a powerful senior side and will probably run out winners in what will prove to be a close finals game.

E-GRADE:

R&I Bank, looking towards their first finals appearance in three years, should prove to be too strong for Bullcreek in their qualifying final.

The backline strength of Bullcreek has been a highlight this season, however R&I have many fast leading forwards who can kick accurately.

Trinity Aquinas meet St Norberts in the elimination final and Trinity should win this one without too much trouble.

F-GRADE:

Old Wesley thrashed Dianella when they met last week and issued a strong warning to Innaloo for their elimination final clash.

Old Wesley have gained a lot of strength this year, which will be proved when they finish the Bulldogs run. The game between West Coast and John XXIII in the qualifying final also looks to be one-sided with West Coast providing the goods over the season and should prove too strong for their opponents.

A COLTS:

The match of the day will be played in the qualifying final in this grade when Mt Lawley take on North Beach.

Both sides have many strong, hard-running players who, if given any latitude, can tear their opposition to shreds.

It is hard to pick the outcome of this match with North Beach having a slight edge.

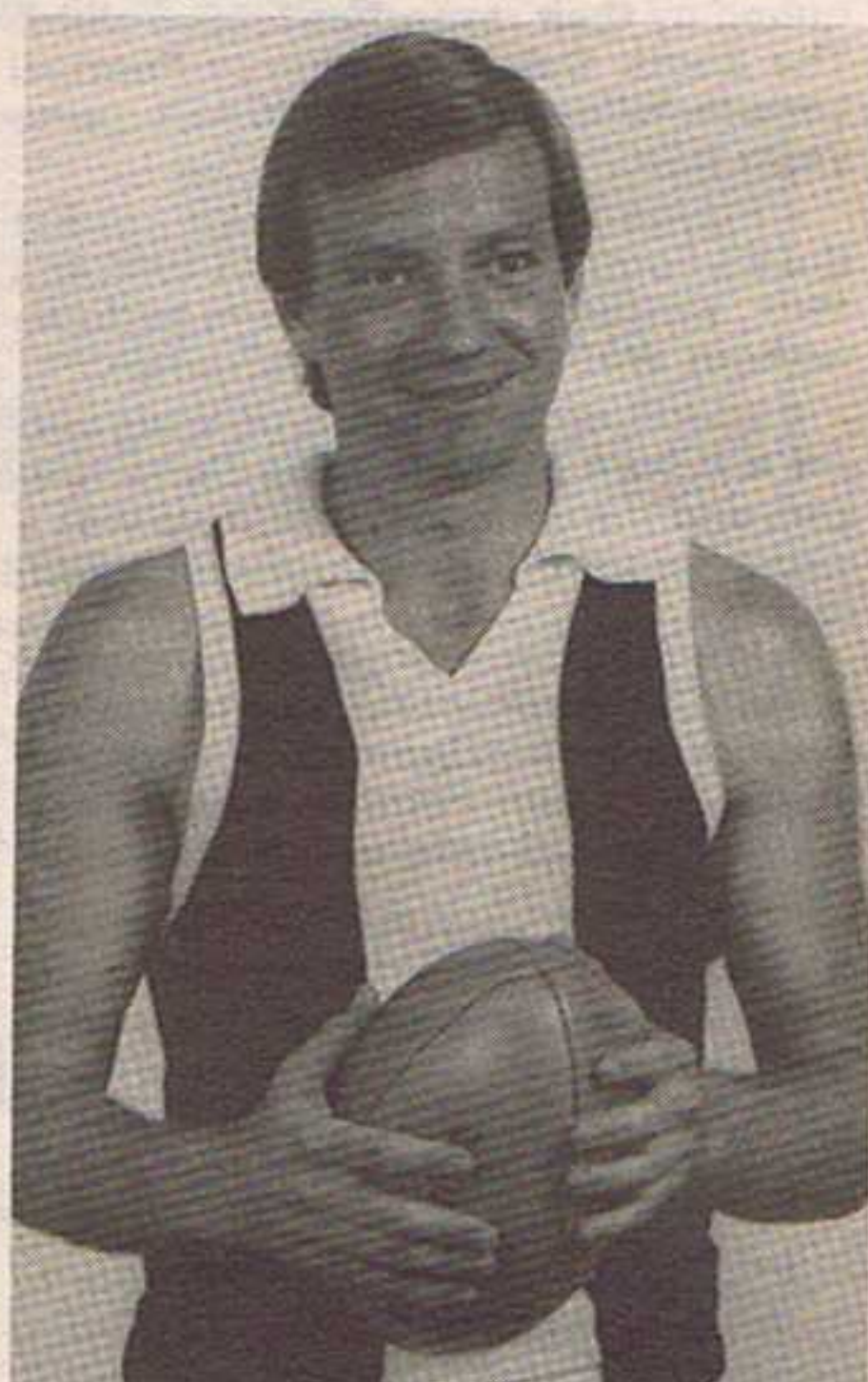
However, the Hawks have proved on many occasions that they are not a side to be taken lightly and will fight the game out to the finish.

University play Wembley in the elimination final and Uni's height and strength in the ruck and key positions will trouble the Magpies.

B COLTS:

The qualifying final between Innaloo and Maylands should also be a closely-fought affair. The young players from both sides have the skills required to win this match and it will come down to their mental attitude.

On this year's track record, Innaloo have a slight edge over Maylands. Bayswater versus Curtin in the elimination final should see the experience of Bayswater be the telling factor. Curtin have made a strong run home in the last of the qualifying rounds. However, they will not have the strength to overcome their opponents.



Ross Smith ... 250 games for Coolbellup.

MILESTONES

ROSS SMITH 250 games

A respected and stalwart Coolbellup club member who is a tough and uncompromising defender.

Currently vice-president of the club, he was a foundation member in 1975 and served many years on the committee, particularly as Secretary and Treasurer.

Won the club's fairest and best in 1979; runner-up fairest and best in 1980/81 and was club captain in 1977/80.

In 1983, Ross became the first Life Member of Coolbellup.

Wembley have a top season

THE Wembley Amateur Football Club have had their best season for many years with all five sides playing in the finals — four of them in the top three.

Their No. 2 side in D-Grade have not been lower than third position throughout the season.

Last week's win against Brentwood maintained that position and was a highlight of their preparation this year.

Consistency is the name of the game and with players such as Shane Tunstead, Peter Hoare, Mick O'Reagan and captain Craig Austin all in top form, they are going to be hard to beat.

The Magpies No. 3 side in H-Grade has only lost three games all season and have produced the best result ever for Wembley in this grade.

There should be a lot of celebrating at Henderson Park after the grand final, as they look capable of winning more than one flag this year.



Trinity Aquinas coach Les Fong urges his players on at three-quarter time.

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KEEP IN TOUCH...

JUNIOR football clubs and councils can provide news items for this page by telephoning IAN CLARK on 294 3860 (after hours)

Aussie Footy boosts the FDT program

THE emergence of the Football Development Trust has been a highlight of the 1988 season — and their main objective is simply to make football enjoyable for everyone.

One way they are reaching this goal is through Aussie Footy.

The FDT believes that the future of football relies heavily on our younger generation and the Aussie Footy programme is a way of nurturing young players through the rigours of competition while enjoying the game at the same time.

One of the FDT's first objectives was to have Aussie Footy conducted in all WA primary schools and junior councils by 1990.

Wayne Loxley is the co-ordinator of junior sport at the Trust and his experience in coaching and primary school teaching blend together perfectly in promoting Aussie Footy.

Loxley, in conjunction with the eight League development officers, holds Aussie Footy clinics at primary schools and junior clubs all over the State.

By the end of the 1988 season, they will have conducted over 500 clinics.

As well as making football enjoyable, Aussie Footy was set up to provide all primary school children with the opportunity to play football in a situation designed to maximise the acquisition and development of the basic skills of the game.

By

REECE HOGAN

Other qualities Aussie Footy is trying to develop are the ideal sportsmanship and self-discipline; winning the game is of minor importance; there is a minimal risk of injury and all players are actively involved.

Aussie Footy is played under three different age groups 7 to 8s, 9 to 10s and 11 to 12s.

FORMAT

The 7 and 8 age group uses half the standard senior-size ground and the ball is also considerably smaller. There are only 15 players on the ground and interchange players play at least half the match, which consists of four 10-minute quarters.

Players are not allowed to hold an opponent with their hands, knock the ball out of an opponent's hands or push the player in the side.

There are no premiership points or final series played. However, special carnival days may be held at times during the season.

The Year 9 and 10 age group is much the same as its predecessor, however

there are a number of alterations in the tackling department and the ball is slightly larger. Unlike the younger age group, clinics are not held before a game.

The 11 and 12 age group has quite a few changes to the rules. Both the ground and ball are bigger with the game consisting of four 15 minute quarters.

Tackling is allowed, however, finals series and premiership points are not included.

Clinics are very popular ways to promote Aussie Footy, especially when the development managers take along prominent League players. Their added experience and skill are a great thrill for the juniors.

CLINICS

When at primary schools, the clinics are taught to the teachers and students. The teachers continue the exercises and drills for two months.

The clinic then returns to the school where they play an actual game.

Aussie Footy is also illustrated in the Town and Country Little League series.

The whole concept of Aussie Footy has been greatly supported with little resistance from the game's long-serving stalwarts.

There is no doubt that Aussie Footy is good for the game, especially in the long term when the youngsters will develop more superior skills, higher sense of sportsmanship and most of all enjoy the game as we know it.

East Vic Park scoop awards

THE Perth Junior Council recently held their annual trophy night with East Victoria Park dominating the awards.

East Vic Park took off the Champion Club award and won the Perpetual Trophy. The champion club is decided by a points system; the higher a team finishes on the ladder, the more points they receive.

Both the 14s and the 16s received minor premiership awards for finishing on top of the ladder.

In the 16s, Peter Valentini took off the association's fairest and best award and his East Vic Park team-mate, Mathew Worth was runner-up.

In the 14s, Robbie Valentino was the association runner-up in the fairest to add to East Vic Park's good season.

Town and Country Little League

LAST Saturday's winners in the Town and Country Little League fixtures were East Perth, Claremont, Swan Districts and West Perth.

East Perth were represented by Bayswater/Morley and they took the points against Perth (Centrals).

Glen Britten, Justin Lee and Brett Murphy were the Royals best three, while Russell Walton, Sheldon Cook and Peter Sanders caught the eye for Perth.

Claremont, with Swanbourne as their junior club, took the game from South Fremantle (Kwinana No. 3) at Subiaco Oval.

Troy Morrison, Jamie Lynch and Thomas Cameron were the Tigers best three and Ross Jalbarich, Shane Humfrey and Ryan Wilson played well for the Bulldogs.

Swan Districts were represented by Metropolitan Combined and they took the points against East Fremantle (Rossmoyne).

Troy Gibson, Bradley Buckley and Aaron Worth stood out for Swans, while Brett Clarke, Grant Wright and Phillip Horner played well for the Sharks.

The other game in the double-header at Subiaco Oval saw West Perth (Osborne Park) beat Subiaco (Moor). For West Perth Julian Cyitan, Adam Tasseft and Graham Prott caught the eye.

John Symmons, Brandon Branch and Garry Patterson were Subiaco's best three.

The junior clubs to represent their League teams this week are East Fremantle (Willetton), West Perth (Mirrabooka), Swan Districts (Metropolitan Combined), Claremont (Karrinyup), Subiaco (Ocean Ridge), East Perth (Maylands), South Fremantle (Cockburn No. 3) and Perth (Kelmescott).

Royals at school clinics

EAST Perth have been kept busy over the last week promoting football through Development Manager Andrew Komp and a number of experienced League players.

Last Wednesday Komp went to the Mt Lawley Primary School with George Giannakis and Rod Lewis, where they conducted a super clinic.

Over 50 students took part in the clinic that involved a number of drills and practice exercises all intent on improving skill and fitness.

This Friday Komp will travel to the Coolbinia Primary School with David Bain and Lewis for an Aussie footy sports day.



Not only did Tuart Hill schoolgirl Fiona Zilembo mix with the West Coast Eagles last weekend ... but she met a couple of her favourite off-field characters as well. Our picture shows Fiona with the Eagles mascot, Ruckle, and Fat Cat.

NEW RECRUIT

NINE-year-old Tuart Hill girl Fiona Zilembo is suddenly a fanatical West Coast Eagles fan. The little lass was the Hungry Jack's Eagle-for-a-Day last weekend — and shyly admitted that she hadn't seen the Eagles play before. Her trip to Melbourne with mother Lorraine was a real experience, particularly with the Eagles tasting success over St Kilda. Fiona was treated like one of the team by the players, who dubbed her their lucky little mascot after the win.

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with **JOHN WARREN**
National Director of Coaching

Talent spotting can be tough

AN interesting situation has developed regarding talent identification in Australian Football.

It is "interesting" simply because of the large numbers of "failed" players who transfer (or are transferred) from one club to another — and then "come good".

Obviously, there are many reasons why a player can perform well under one coach and within a certain game style and not in others.

Whatever these reasons are, the fact remains that the machinations involved, including vast transfer and in some cases, legal fees, cost our game dearly.

PERSONALITY

The Australian Football fraternity is studded with stories of how individual good players — and in some instances star players — were unable to perform under coaches who utilised a style totally alien to the personality and temperament of some of his charges.

Other players find it difficult to gain regular selection because the game style is unsuited to theirs.

The Geelong forward line is a good example of a team overburdened with players of a particular type. There is no way under a modern football game style, that the first-grade talents of Gary Ablett, Bruce Lindner, Bill Brownless, Barry Stoneham, Dwayne Russell and Gavin Exell can all be integrated into a balanced team.

Yet all of these players are specialist forwards who would be welcomed by clubs lacking even one established goalkicker — such as the Sydney Swans.

Recruiting staff need to closely research the needs of a club over a projected period. Obviously there are intangibles caused by injuries and some clubs take out "insurance" by retaining players in an understudy role.

It is unrealistic to expect the situation to change to any degree because of the differing expectations inherent in clubs. However, we can do considerably better than in the past.

To concede that players like Greg Williams (who has arguably the best reflexes and hand disposal ever), Graham Teasdale, Justin Madden, Russell Greene, Ricky Jackson and Brett Lovett were rejects from their original clubs, is surely an indictment of people's judgement.

An off-shoot of such observations is the amount of time it takes some clubs to commit to a player — even a player possessing an impeccable reputation.

Selection panels need to make judgements about just how soon even a player of obvious talent should be "blooded" in first grade.

Talent identification is one of the most vital subjects relevant to Australian Football.

MINOR GRADES

Injured Lion back in action

SUBIACO defender Bill Monaghan made a return to competitive football in the reserves on Saturday.

The talented youngster has been out of action for eight weeks with a knee injury.

He showed patches of good form in his comeback game but, more importantly, got through the match without any problems.

Monaghan will play in the reserves again this week, but could well come under consideration for a league berth in the finals.

Demon dasher eyes seniors

PERTH reserves half-back Russell Buck is making a late charge for a league berth.

The gutsy half-back has been in outstanding form in recent weeks and despite his inexperience, must be on the verge of league selection.

Buck began the season in the under-19s but was promoted to the reserves after a series of top performances.

Falcons find prospects for future

WEST Perth under-19 side has had a rather disappointing second half to the season after their brilliant early form.

At one stage the Falcons were placed in the four and looked certain to play off in the 1988 finals.

However, injuries, promotions and lack of form thwarted any hopes of a finals appearance and the Falcons now sit in sixth position on the table.

Despite their loss in form, several youngsters have shown they have the ability to play league football.

Centreman David Elliot and back-pocket player Adrian Worrell are two players rated highly by West Perth officials.

Elliot, a brother-in-law of Dean Laidley, has impressed with his tough, hard working midfield play and Worrell, who is also a rugged sort, has established himself as a player of quality in his first season at the club.

Royals rookies set the pattern

EAST Perth may not be experiencing too many wins at league level, but they can take plenty of pride in the performances of their under-19 and reserves sides.

Both teams are currently in third spot on their respective tables and the under-19 side could still snatch second place from Claremont if they win this week.

Under-19 youngster Gary French is one of the players who has given the Royals a lift this season.

French was an outstanding player for the victorious West Australian State schoolboys side last season and is reputed to have received offers from some VFL clubs after that carnival.

The athletic French can hold down virtually any position and is also known for his long, driving kicks.

Bulldog makes right change

GOOD defenders are often former forwards who have been converted by a wise coach.

South Fremantle reserves defender Paul Morgan is the latest player who has been converted from a goalkicker into a backman.

Morgan established himself as an outstanding goalsneak in the Southern Districts country zone and played his early football at South Fremantle in the forward line.

This season Morgan has found his best form in defence and is an outside chance for league selection during the finals.

Tigers at the top again

CLAREMONT have their under-19 and reserves sides in the finals once again this season.

Unlike East Perth, the Tigers reserves side has had a second-semi final berth sown up for five weeks.

To prevent complacency, coach John Dimmer has worked his players harder than usual in recent weeks.

As expected, some players are feeling a little leg weary, but Dimmer believes that his young charges will benefit from this in the long run.

Double effort by Royals ruckman

YOUNG East Perth reserves player Stephen Wasley seems to thrive in thrilling finishes.

For the second time in three weeks, Wasley has kicked the Royals reserves to victory with a sensational goal.

Three weeks ago he snapped truly out of a goalsquare pack to put victory beyond doubt against competition leaders Claremont, giving the Royals an 11-point win in a game that looked likely to slip from their grasp.

Last Sunday, again at the WACA, he snatched victory after the siren against second side Perth.

The Royals had come from a long way behind in the second half, but couldn't find the vital goal they needed to hit the front.

Wasley took a big mark in a pack right on the siren and the lanky 195cm ruckman kicked truly from about 35 metres out to give East Perth victory.

The 19-year-old bank officer is the first player from Noranda Junior Football Club to graduate to East Perth's league list. Noranda, formed 10 years ago, has developed into the Royals biggest club in their metropolitan zone and Wasley could be the first of a number of players from the area to reach senior ranks.

Ross Davis (right) has made an outstanding start to his coaching career this season. Davis has guided the East Perth reserves side into the finals after taking over from Peter Ivanoff, who left the club at the end of the 1987 season. Davis is a former coaching coordinator with the WAFL and has also had plenty of junior coaching experience.



BEN STINGA
reviews the Prime reserves and the Under-19s colts competition

Tigers rookie earns chance

FORMER Teal Cup representative Steve Southern looks to have won his battle to cement a regular place in the Claremont reserves side.

Southern had to bide his time in the under-19s for the first half of the season before he was given a chance to play in the reserves on a more regular basis.

Even then his place in the side was not certain — depending on senior players coming back from injuries.

Fortunately for Southern, the injury problems at Claremont continued and he was able to hold his place in the team.

Southern has developed into a reliable half-back in recent weeks and deserves the chance to play in the reserves finals.

Mt Lawley in convincing win

MT Lawley continue to dominate the women's football league after another convincing win over Melville in wet and windy conditions, 5.12 (42) to 3.7 (25).

Karen Mathews, Fiona Raven and Sharon Reid put in top performances for Mt Lawley, while Larrissa Yukich, Lisa Williamson and Lyn Kay played well for Melville.

Carlisle, after their 10-point loss to Melville the week before, were on the rebound and took the points against Innaloo, 18.16 (124) to 2.3 (15).

Mary White, Karen Cooper, Aileen Pickett and Erin Stone showed good form for Carlisle. For Innaloo, Joanne O'Donnell and Chris Artemis performed well.

In this Sunday's round of fixtures, Melville play Innaloo and Mt Lawley clash with Carlisle in what promises to be an excellent game.



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MEET THE 7 TEAM

SOME critics claim they detect a hint of animosity and even bad feeling between the commentators during telecasts of VFL matches.

The truth is that we get on very well. In fact this season on the 7 network has been more a question of renewing old working relationships.

When I first went to the ABC in 1973 it was a three-man department — George Grljusich, Drew Morphett and me.

Drew and I shared an office for almost two years.

After he moved to Melbourne, Drew and I toured together with the ABC's cricket coverage.

NEWSREADER

It's always very comfortable to broadcast alongside Drew, who just might be a closet West Coast Eagles supporter but, in all honesty, I couldn't tell you which team, if any, he has a leaning to.

People in Perth probably know less about Sandy Roberts than they do about Drew, but Sandy used to be a radio newsreader on 6PM in the late sixties.

Guess whose shift he read the news on? I was a disc jockey (oh dear) for about 12 months with 6PM.

In those days the station was situated down on the Terrace and Sandy and I, together with the evening journalist, a chubby chap by the name of Brian Burke, spent many late afternoon hours happily putting the world in shape from a little Italian restaurant near the Palace Hotel.

Sandy's story has something in common with that of Drew's. In fact, two things.

... and we really are a friendly bunch

He might be an Eagles supporter, too, and, like at the ABC, the third member of our trio who took a shot at politics.

KICK TOGETHER

Bernie Quinlan and I first met at Foostcray in 1970. Quite often we used to have a kick together before training at the Western Oval.

Me, because I started work at 7 pm and him, because he wanted to be a champion.

I would have got to know Bernie even better, except he kept playing in the seniors.

Another champion full-forward, Peter McKenna, and I first got together last year broadcasting VFL matches for Broadcom. Though Pete is deeply rooted to Collingwood, I've always found him one of the fairest broadcasters I've sat alongside.

Peter Landy, Ian Robertson and Malcolm Blight are fast become good friends, though I haven't managed yet to cover a game with Robbo (their leanings are to Hawthorn, Carlton and Woodville respectively).

Have I forgotten anyone? Oh yes, Scottie. All I know is he doesn't barack for South Adelaide.

Actually I'm sure I knew Don in an earlier life, only then his name was Eric Sarich!

COMETTI

By Channel 7 commentator DENNIS COMETTI



Wally Matera ... back in form and favour with the Eagles.

The long and the short of the Eagles



AND LASTLY

with ALAN EAST

FOOTBALL is a funny game — you can just never tell what's going to happen next.

Take the West Coast Eagles, for example.

It was certainly a relief to beat St Kilda and win in Melbourne for the first time this season; especially on such a mud heap as Moorabbin.

Admittedly, the ground wasn't in such bad condition after all, despite reports of flooding, poor drainage and erratic sprinklers coming on. In fact, Saints president Travis Payze said that they had done "almost too good a job of preparing it".

But look at the players who helped achieve the victory.

Two in particular — Laurie Keene and Wally Matera.

CRITICS

The big and the little of the Eagles camp have been under plenty of criticism this year, both inside the camp and from critics and spectators alike.

Keene, we all said, was too big and slow to handle the super-fast pace of VFL football. He wasn't physically strong enough to mix it with tough guys like the Madden brothers and he dropped out of the action too quickly when the going got tough.

Matera, we all said, was too small and could be brushed aside too easily. He couldn't handle slippery conditions; needed big wide open spaces and firm grounds to operate on — and he just didn't do enough around the goals, like true rovers should.

It was a pleasant task for this critic to revise all previous opinions after seeing the team's tallest and smallest players set the example to put St Kilda out of the ball-game at Moorabbin last week.

Travelling on the bus to Moorabbin with the Eagles, Matera was my seat companion and there was no doubt in his mind that he would put a few critics down last Saturday afternoon.

He had no qualms about playing in muddy, slippery conditions, if that was the way the ground was going to be. After all, a couple of weeks previously he had steered South Fremantle to victory over Perth in the wettest condi-

tions we've experienced since the grand final deluge of 1978.

A couple of the St Kilda "heavies" tried to bury Matera in the long, overgrown grass of Moorabbin — but they had trouble catching him!

He ducked, nipped and weaved around the tiny ground, picking up 20 kicks and 11 handpasses, plus posting a couple of great goals on a day when scoring was tough.

"It was okay out there," was his after-match understatement coming through via a cheesy grin.

"It was a bit slippery, but I just thought about getting my hands on the footy and going flat out."

Keene, the gentle giant who has come in from the wilderness after being out of favour mid-season, showed that nothing puts him off his game if his mind is set.

BACKHANDER

He knew that 34-year-old tough guy Warren (Wow) Jones had been brought back into the side to rough him up. And when he copped a lip-curling backhander early in the first quarter, from another big guy in Stewart Loewe, he knew it was no picnic day in the bush.

But Keene was having a ball, with his ruck rivals in the Eagles camp off the scene — Phil Scott out injured and Alex Ishchenko back with the Royals.

He might have finished with only 15 hit-outs to Jones' 18 — but it was his around-the-ground work that won it for the Eagles; especially in the first half when his match statistics of 13 kicks, 11 marks and six handballs would have pleased many a ball-hungry rover.

"I got a lot of easy kicks," was his after-match understatement coming through a swollen fat lip.

"But I was pleased to get on to a few of my torpedoes."

So, as the jubilant Eagles returned home with a smile on their faces for the first time in over a year, the giant and the midget felt happy that they had socked it to quite a few critics.



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