

WESTSIDE
Football

\$1



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A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION

THE BEGINNING...



FOOTBALL had two contrasting moments for West Australians last weekend — on the East Coast and the West Coast.

For Claremont stars Peter Melesso and Peter Higgins (right) it was all jubilation as they kicked themselves into their second consecutive grand final.

They did so in mean fashion, destroying Subiaco with a record-breaking 11-goal first term in the second semi-final at Subiaco Oval.

But for the West Coast Eagles (below) they kicked themselves out of the VFL finals with a nerve-wracking, but heroic effort against Melbourne at VFL Park.

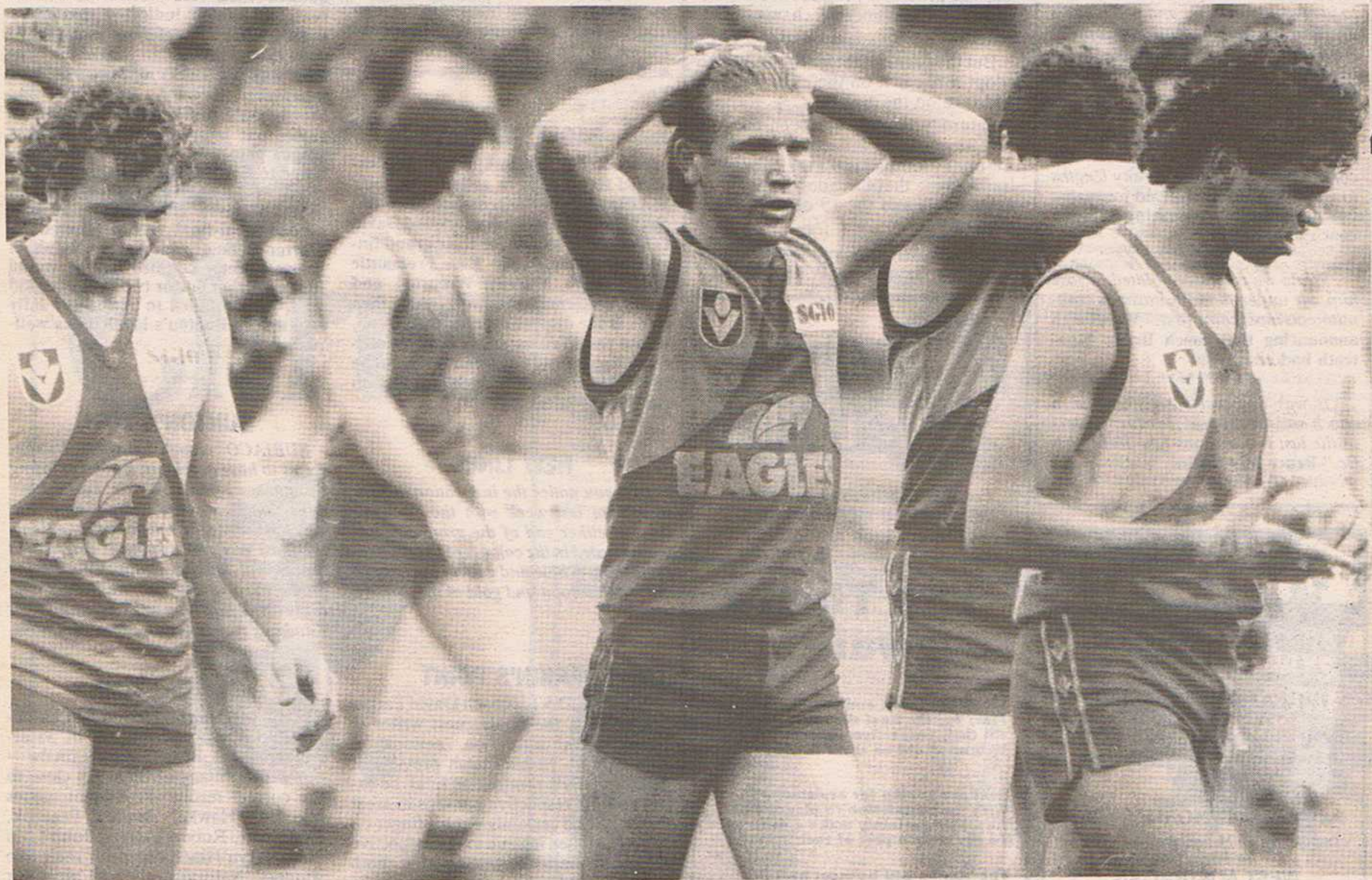
The camera captured the shattered feelings of (from left) dejected Eagles Murray Wrensted, Chris Mainwaring and Chris Lewis.

But they will all live to fight another day...

This week's football focus turns to two arenas once again — Saturday's preliminary final between East Fremantle and Subiaco and then Monday night's Sandover Medal count at the Burswood Resort.



AND THE END!



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What they said...

"If the Magpies can get 18 people who are inspired, they can pull off the impossible dream." Australia II skipper John Bertrand.

"Yes, I think the players have crossed the road. I'm very proud of them." Eagles coach John Todd after the elimination final.

"It doesn't matter whether you're the umpire, the boss or the coach of a football club... you're in charge and that's all there is to it." Eagles assistant coach Graham Farmer dispelling rumours of friction between him and coach John Todd.

"It's fantastic; but spare a thought for John Annear, he's played 149 VFL games and has still to play in a finals game." Eagles star David O'Connell.

"The Eagles are the biggest thing that has happened to football. It's great for the game and there is room for both levels of football in WA." Eagles assistant coach and legend Barry Cable.

"It was one of those days when a score like that comes up in the first quarter and it's pretty hard to catch up." Subiaco coach Haydn Bunton.

"Some of our young players are not yet ready for VFL football and we will make a concerted effort to encourage them to have one more season with us." South Fremantle's managing director, Harold Harper, on official Eagles approaches to Bulldogs trio Mark Bayliss, Peter Sumich and Scott Watters.

"The way we have played since he joined us we hope to have him for the next 10 years." Eagles skipper Ross Glendinning on the influence of new team runner Brian Douge.

"I'm not sure whether I really want to play at all next year and will make a decision after talking with the people in Adelaide." West Perth skipper Peter Menaglio on two South Australian offers.

"Todd is not the sort of person to call a spade a shovel; he is fiercely competitive and will go to any lengths to win." Melbourne Herald journalist Michael Lovett assessing Eagles coach John Todd.

"While we are disappointed to lose him, we understand his business commitments must come first." West Perth announcing that coach Bruce Monteath had resigned.

"It was immensely satisfying as a coach and the support from the players in the last two seasons has been terrific." Bruce Monteath.

WESTSIDE Football

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League was in a no-win corner

THE West Australian Football League has made its final mistake for 1988!

The much-maligned chief executive Peter Cummiskey and his Board of Commissioners stuck by their guns and played the second semi-final last Sunday, which was a resounding flop.

Just 11,000 fans went to league headquarters on Sunday in what must be the lowest WAFL finals crowd on record.

There was a healthy 3000 at the Sunday Football League preliminary final between Maddington and Thornlie, so the occasion of Father's Day can't be used as an excuse for the poor attendance at the WAFL final.

PRIORITY

But Cummiskey was in a situation he could not win and, manfully, he copped the criticism.

The Eagles, in their first VFL finals appearance, had to be given priority and the WA football public deserved the option to watch it live on television.

Now just two weeks short of the announcement of the Review of Structure, Cummiskey is shaping for another buffeting from the press and public.

Cumiskey is likely to announce moves for the future, including West Perth to relocate in Wanneroo; East Perth to move to the extreme south-east of the metropolitan area and, if the board's gaze into the future is wise, the WAFL chief will announce the retention of the reserves competition.

But the failure of WAFL matches on Sunday in 1988, must convince the league chief that Saturday football is part of the future survival of the game.

EXCEPTION

The Eagles' elimination final appearance was an exception and part of the learning process in progress as the State adapts to the numerous changes associated with the expansion of the VFL.

But the time is right for the WAFL to adopt a "wear it on the chin" attitude and take on the VFL.

Saturday football has been the rule for 102 years and will remain that way.

Sunday football is for the metropolitan League that has adopted that tag as its name and the 19 or so country leagues.

Leave it that way and adopt a firm policy that Saturday is WAFL football



LES'S LYRICS

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

The Tigers await...

When the Lions and the Sharks meet for the final time this year All their respective supporters Will no doubt be there to cheer

Subi are hoping for assistance With the permission to play Keene He would certainly make a difference To the mobile part of their team

The Sharks will be most happy To welcome Wrensted back He'll be an asset to their side Courage and fortitude he does not lack

The club's respective coaches Leave nothing to be desired With their players well prepared And the enthusiasm will be fired

While in the Claremont camp The Tigers wait to pounce Their only quandary is Which team they are going to trounce.

THE BUZZ

By football's Mr Flamboyant
PETER BOSUSTOW



Watch out for Santostefano

THE 1988 Sandover Medal will be counted at the Burswood Convention Centre next Monday and should be one of the closest contests for some years.

Plenty has been said of David Bain and Craig Edwards' chances, but keep your eyes on the progress of Perth's Joe Santostefano.

After a big start to the year, the Demons follower lost some of his zip late in the season, due to a handful of injury problems.

But a number of Santostefano's early games should attract the maximum five votes from the umpires and he will certainly be among the leaders throughout the count.

Other leading contenders for the 65th counting of the prestigious medal,

will include Claremont pair Ben Allan and Don Pyke; Subiaco's Brian Taylor and Shane Cocker (both proven vote catchers); East Fremantle's Shane Ellis; South Fremantle's Scott Watters; Santostefano's Perth teammate Willie Dick; West Perth's Craig Turley and first-year country recruit Neil Jackson and Swan Districts' Bunbury-based mid-fielder Steve Bazzo.

Ellis will be the biggest improver on last year's form.

The experienced Sharks full-back failed to poll a vote in last year's count and was bitterly disappointed on the night after an indifferent year.

This year's count, to be televised for the first time on Channel 2 and compered by popular ABC commentator Trevor Jenkins, should see Ellis resume a more rightful spot among the leaders.



NEESHAM'S TIPS

CLAREMONT captain-coach Gerard Neesham seems pretty certain to return to competitive action in this year's grand final. His seven-week suspension is now completed and he's entitled to lead his team onto the ground in their next outing — the grand final battle. With a spate of injuries affecting the Tigers last Sunday, Neesham's prospects of naming himself in the line-up has obviously improved. "I suppose I'm as good a chance as anybody," he said after Sunday's big win.

EAGLE RECRUITS

FOUR key Eagles players are expected to be back in action with their WAFL clubs in the remaining two finals. Claremont will have forward David O'Connell available for their grand final appearance, while East Fremantle should have Murray Wrensted and Chris Waterman this week. And then there is the dispute over Laurie Keene, whose yes/no ruling upset Subiaco officials. But the big ruckman is sure to be in the Lions line-up, which balances up the Sharks talent input.

NEW LINES

DID you notice the innovation at Subiaco Oval last week with the 50-metre lines at either end of the ground? They were painted in the colours of the competing teams — blue and gold at the eastern end and maroon and gold at the western end.

PARKIN'S POINT

RETIRED VFL coach David Parkin has become the finals guest writer in Melbourne's afternoon newspaper, The Herald. In his match preview of last Saturday's elimination final, he examined the respective line-ups in great depth — and certainly put his finger on the pulse when it came to the respective forward lines. Suggesting that both teams lacked inspiration in attack, he pinpointed Ross Glendinning and Garry Lyon as the respective key men. Of course, Glendinning proved to be the man who kicked the Eagles back into the game with the team's seventh, eighth and ninth goals — three of the most inspirational majors you could ever wish to see — and then Lyon kicked his one and only major to win the game just 40 seconds from the final siren.

LOYAL COACH

CRITICS and Subiaco fans alike were puzzled as to why Lions coach Haydn Bunton left rookie Bill Monaghan opposed to Tigers goalkicking star Peter Melesso. With nine goals to half-time, Melesso had set up the Tigers victory — but Bunton persisted with Monaghan at full-back. When quizzed after the match as to his reasons, Bunton indicated that there wasn't a lot his defender could have done to stop Melesso in view of the brilliant way the Tigers delivered the ball into the forward line. It was Monaghan's first game back after 10 games out injured and with only 23 league games to his credit, the challenge to tighten up on an in-form forward would obviously do him good. With Melesso chasing the 10-goal second semi-final record (shared by Darren Bennett and Warren Ralph) it seemed pretty certain that he would notch another one or two in the second half. But he failed to add to the tally and maybe Bunton's loyalty was well-placed.

BUNTON'S VOW

SUBIACO coach Haydn Bunton seems to have developed a habit of losing second semi-finals — his Lions have done that four years straight now. But they have made the last three grand finals the hard way and Bunton is determined that it will happen again. "We let the public down today and we'll do something about that next week," he said after Sunday's second semi loss to Claremont.

TIPPING TIME

THE Melbourne Herald had an impressive line-up of tipsters in Saturday's preview of last week's finals — but not too many of them got close to the correct results. Prominent names like Bob Hawke, Andrew Peacock, Don Scott, Robert Flower, John Cain and Derryn Hinch opted for their two winners. Naturally, they all went for Melbourne (which was why it would have been nice for the Eagles to get over the line) but only Scott and Flower, plus the Herald's No. 1 football writer, Geoff Poulter, tipped Carlton. Flower actually leads the Herald's tipsters with 104 winners, two ahead of Mary Delahunty, with John Cain third on 101. Scott managed to join Hawke and Peacock on 97 with his weekend's tipping.

THE FUTURE OF FOOTBALL!

BELIEVE it not, but there are still some people who are a little concerned with the direction football is taking in this State.

Sure, the West Coast Eagles are here to stay and rightly so. They have captured the imagination of thousands of football fans in West Australia.

Only the highly parochial could deny that they have given WA football a huge boost.

But what about the WAFL, the competition that has served the WA community for about 100 years

One could be excused for thinking that there are some administrators who are going out of their way to kill the game for the sake of progress.

And now, just when the WAFL needs stability, more changes are being proposed for the 1989 season.

BORING

Cries of scrap the reserves, expand the competition, relocate teams and rationalise grounds are becoming boring — furthermore, many of the proposals are short-sighted and totally unnecessary.

For instance, what benefits will the WAFL gain by accepting Wanneroo and Bunbury into the competition as some people have suggested they should.

Blues are in the mood again

ALEXANDER'S ANGLE



with Ron Alexander

CARLTON played poorly for the last six or seven weeks of the VFL qualifying rounds, scraping home against mediocre opposition in several games and then going down to Melbourne.

It was hardly the form to run into a final series when chasing back-to-back premierships.

But in their first final, when it mattered, all those players who hadn't been contributing much suddenly found form.

It is more likely that they had trouble getting excited about home and away games after the euphoria of winning the 1987 premiership.

Now that the big games are on, players like Johnston, Madden, Bradley and Co. are giving their game more thought and when they get on to the ground they become far more interested in performing to their potential.

Attitude is a large part of an athlete's performance and if Carlton play to their potential they will give Hawthorn a real workout.

STRUCTURE

When you have a goal-to-goal line comprising Silvagni, Rhys-Jones, Bradley, Kernahan and Sartori, you have an excellent structure on which to build a direct game.

Tall players down the centre of the ground allow this.

Add the first ruck of Madden, Johnson and Naley together with support players like Blackwell, Murphy, Glascott and Aitken and you have a side that is going to give a good account of itself.

There is some doubt about Rhys-Jones' attitude to holding down the centre-half-back position and it will be interesting to see if coach Robert Walls persists with him in that role.

Rhys-Jones is a big-game player and this was emphasised by his Norm Smith Medal success in the 1987 grand final.

Madden the springboard

THE dominance of Justin Madden at centre bounces and other ruck situations gives Carlton a great opportunity to move the ball quickly into attack.

Wayne Johnston feeds off Madden more than any other player and they have a good repertoire of options from the centre bounce.

Winning the ball from the centre is crucial and Carlton will win more than they lose in the remainder of 1988.

by **BEN STINGA**

It's a well-known fact that the standard of the SANFL competition dropped noticeably when they expanded from eight teams to ten during the mid-sixties.

This will also happen in WA if ten teams are drawing from the population instead of eight.

The chances of a side like Wanneroo being successful in the short term are slim when you consider that many of their players are WAFL rejects — players that tried out at a WAFL club but failed for one reason or another.

It has taken Central District and Woodville more than 20 years for them to become moderately successful in the SANFL.

It has also been suggested that some of the established WAFL club should be relocated in to the outer suburbs of the metropolitan area in a bid to bring football to the people.

Gosnells has been hinted as a home base for Perth, Wanneroo for West Perth and Bibra Lake for South Fremantle.

Now for the fine-tuning

THE West Coast Eagles will be a power side in the near future.

After the 1987 season they recruited nine new quality players and added more firepower to the side than any other VFL club.

In 1989 they will fine-tune this squad again.

They will get the pick of the best in the West and it is likely that they will trade some of their players in the draft.

It has been hinted that Ishchenko, Zanotti and perhaps Murray Wrensted and others will be traded in a complicated deal for other clubs' draft places.

The only clubs likely to be able to compete with the Eagles on a long-term basis are Carlton, Hawthorn, Collingwood, Essendon and perhaps Melbourne and Geelong.

The rest simply won't have the finance or access to players.

LION DOGS!

FOOTSCRAY are in financial strife and Fitzroy have stabilised their position over the last year but still aren't on exactly the same level as their landlords Carlton.

Which brings one to speculate about a possible merger.

Fitzcray or Footsroy?

Lions need more height

SUBIACO have been criticised for continually going sideways when moving into attack and there is no doubt that they look for the short option too often.

But with their lack of tall forwards they sometimes appear to lack the confidence to kick long.

Todd Breman is barely 6ft tall and John Georgiades is more of the half-forward flanker mould.

They could certainly do with more height. Then again if they play on the move the ball more quickly into their forward line (and just a little more directly) then Breman and Georgiades have the ability to do a lot of damage.

Yes, we do still need the WAFL!

However, can you imagine the problems that regular footy goers would face travelling to the games each weekend?

South Fremantle supporters, many of whom live in Hamilton Hill, Spearwood and Rockingham, would have to travel up to 40 kilometres to watch their side play at Joondalup.

Similarly, Subiaco supporters based in Warwick, Whitfords or Ocean Reef, would be in for a 30 kilometre plus trip to Gosnells or Bibra Lake.

Would you be prepared to travel that far to watch your side play?

PRESERVED

As for the reserves competition. Well there are obvious reasons why it should be preserved next season.

Contrary to the beliefs of two WAFL clubs, the reserves competition is functioning nicely in tandem with the under-19s.

It would be ridiculous to forsake one of the most important football breeding grounds in this State in a bid to cut costs.

No amount of money can replace a quality football environment such as the reserves, particularly as most WAFL clubs already have to find room for more than 100 juniors every season.

Subsequently, several young players are axed from clubs before they get a chance to play a representative match.

There are sensible solutions to all three of the proposals mentioned in this story.

1. Instead of hastily accepting new teams into the competition, why not give Wanneroo a trial in the pre-season matches. That would give those for and against the chance to see just how competitive the Roos would be in the WAFL. It would also give a guide to how many genuine fans Wanneroo have.

2. Bring football out to the suburbs but only on a temporary basis. Allow one game per club to be played on a ground of their choice within their metropolitan zone. The facilities are quite adequate at Gosnells, Maddington, Osborne Park, Willeton and Wanneroo.

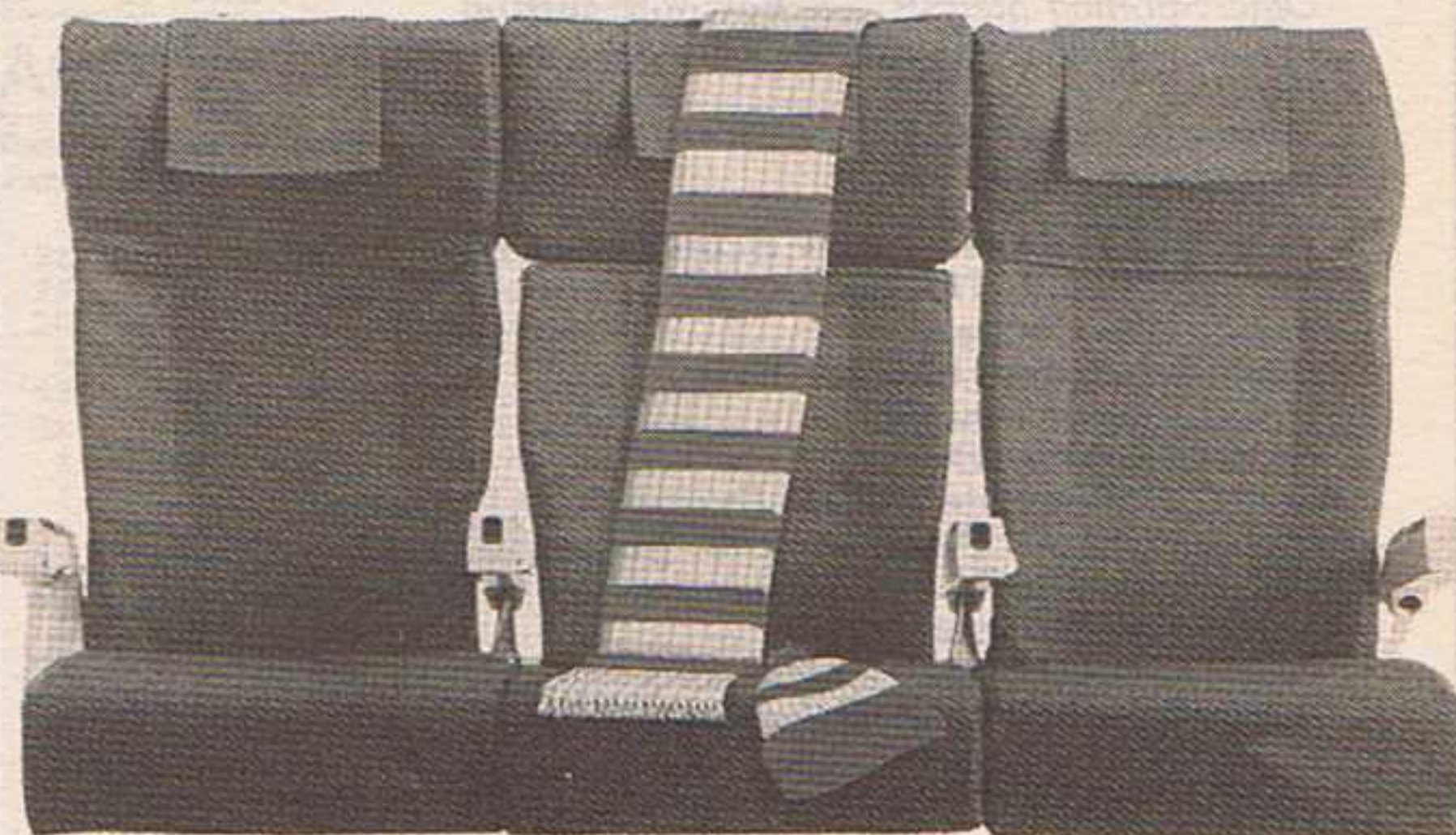
3. Keep the reserves competition as it is now. Give the clubs a fair say if any changes are sought. Most importantly, do not deny youngsters the chance of playing football at a league club. League football is the first aim of every junior footballer, not Sunday league or amateurs.

CHANGE

As John Howard might say — it's not change that is the worry — but more so the pace of change.

Let's keep changes to a minimum. Give the public a say in how they want football run and lastly allow the WAFL time to stabilize — just as it has done to a certain extent this season.

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SCIO PLAYER PROFILES

WAFL



John Georgiades

LIONS



George Christie

SHARKS



WAFL



**Finals
Fever**



Full Name: John Georgiades.
Nickname: George. *Why?* From my surname.
Date of Birth: January 3, 1966. **Place of Birth:** Subiaco.
Height: 186cm (6ft 2in). **Weight:** 86kg (13st 8lb).
Age Started Playing: 7.
Junior Club: Warwick.
Marital Status: Single.
Residence: Wembley.
Occupation: Police Officer.
Place of Work: City Station.
Other Sporting Interests: Cricket, golf, surfing.
Favourite Position: Centre-half-forward. **First Position:** Half-back-flank.
League Debut: 1986. **Versus:** Swan Districts.

FAVOURITES:

Actor: Burt Reynolds. **Drink:** Scotch and Coke.
TV Show: Family Ties and Growing Pains. **Food:** Italian.
Music: John Cougar.
Book: Any Sydney Sheldon book.
Holiday Resort: Hawaii.
Ground: Subiaco Oval.
Your Car: 1984 Pajero 4WD. **Favourite Car:** Porsche.
Career Highlights: Playing in 1987 grand final.
Worst Moment in Football: Missing out on 1986 grand final and losing the 1987 grand final.
Hard Things in Football: Maintaining consistency and being mentally switched on all the time.
Football Idols: Michael Tuck.
Toughest Opponent: All tough. **Most Respected Opponent:** All respected.
Most Respected Umpire: All respected.
Most Memorable Game: My debut against Swan Districts.
Football Ambitions: To play in and win 1988 grand final.
What do you like about Football: Comradship and the social aspect.
How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: Be by myself.
Who Influenced Your Career: Father, Eddie Pitter and Wayne Loxley.
Guernsey Number: 9. **Any Reason:** My dad used to wear it.
Superstitions: I always put my left boot on first.
Worst Injury: Groin.
Luckiest Break: Making my debut.

Full Name: George Christie.
Date of Birth: December 11, 1961. **Place of Birth:** Perth.
Height: 174cm (5ft 8½in). **Weight:** 74kg (11st 7lb).
Age Started Playing: 8.
Junior Club: Mt Pleasant.
Marital Status: Single. **Girlfriend's Name:** Kellianne.
Residence: Willetton.
Occupation: Physical education teacher.
Place of Work: Applecross SHS.
Other Sporting Interests: Golf and tennis.
Favourite Position: Back pocket. **First Position:** Back pocket.
League Debut: 1981. **Versus:** East Perth.

FAVOURITES:

Actor: Chevy Chase. **Drink:** Beer.
TV Show: Tour Of Duty. **Food:** Chicken curry.
Movie: The Blues Brothers.
Music: Divinyls
Book: Touch Of The Devil.
Holiday Resort: Bali.
Ground: Subiaco Oval.
Your Car: Nissan Pintara. **Favourite Car:** Mercedes Benz.
Career Highlights: The 1985 premiership win over Subiaco and the 1986 State side victory against South Australia.
Worst Moment in Football: Losing the 1984 and 1986 grand finals.
Hard Things in Football: Pre-season training.
Football Idols: Ted Whitten and Mel Whinnen.
Toughest Opponent: All tough. **Most Respected Opponent:** All respected.
Most Respected Umpire: I respect all of them.
Most Memorable Game: The 1985 grand final.
Football Ambitions: To win the 1988 premiership.
What do you like about Football: Comradship and winning.
How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: I do a mental rehearsal of what I have to do.
Who Influenced Your Career: My brother Norm and coaches at League level.
Guernsey Number: 40. **Any Reason:** No.
Superstitions: None.
Worst Injury: Broken leg and dislocated shoulder.
Luckiest Break: First league game.



Eagles No. 1 supporter

Doig shows his courage again

GEORGE Doig was always a courageous footballer in his distinguished career with East Fremantle — and remains so today in his retirement.

Doig was inducted into the West Australian Hall of Champions last Friday night — just hours after being discharged from hospital following heart surgery.

The champion goalkicker reigned supreme at East Fremantle between 1933 and 1945, kicking a career-tally of 1111 goals in his 202 matches.

Standing only 175cm tall (5ft 9in), Doig was small by today's full-forward standards. But he compensated with brilliant leading, strong marking and accurate kicking — as those goalsneaks of that era did.

Looking immaculate in a dinner suit and speaking strongly and with conviction, he told a packed ballroom at the Hyatt Hotel on Friday night that there was no way he would have missed the ceremony.

"I told my doctor that I'd have the operation, but I'd have to be out in time for tonight," he said, to a genuine round of applause.

CHAMPION

Doig topped the WA goalkicking table six times in an era of champion goalkickers. He posted three-figure tallies in nine successive seasons — starting with the game's first century tally of 102 in the qualifying rounds of 1933 — plus four more in the finals. The following figures then read 152, 113, 108, 144, 100, 106, 108 and 146.

"It was made easy by some of the players we had in those East Fremantle teams," he recalled. "With players upfield delivering the ball like Clarrie Reynolds and Skeeter McGlynn.

"And Bob Daniels was one of the best shepherders the game's ever seen and that helped bring the ball in well."

Doig recalled one of his more outstanding individual efforts — but one that doesn't feature in the record books.

ENTIRE

Playing with the East Fremantle under-age team in 1931, the 18-year-old kicked the entire score of 26.20.

"At half-time we realised that I'd kicked all of the score and we were winning easily," he said.

"So the team decided to make sure that continued and they looked for me everywhere."

Doig became the 10th footballer to be admitted to WA's Hall of Champions — joining other legends Barry Cable, Graham Farmer, Bill Walker, Merv McIntosh, John Leonard, Jerry Dolan, Phil Matson, George Moloney and Nipper Truscott.

The Hall of Champions will be located above WA's new sports Museum, which will soon be opened at the Mt Claremont Superdrome and will be sponsored by the Town and Country Building Society.



Hungry Sharks are set to feed on Lions



SCIO WAFL preview

by REECE HOGAN

HISTORY repeats itself in West Australian football when Subiaco and East Fremantle clash in Saturday's preliminary final at Subiaco Oval.

Both sides met in the final last year when Subiaco won by 38 points.

However, East Fremantle will not be dwelling on the past when they run out on the ground shortly before 2.20pm.

Subiaco were convincingly beaten in last Sunday's second semi-final against Claremont and have had only six days to prepare for the clash.

This is a big disadvantage for the Lions going into what is likely to be a hard, tough encounter.

SORENESS

Most of the players will have just recovered from the soreness that goes hand in hand with finals football and will have to endure another bruising clash.

Coach Haydn Bunton is not worried about this and is confident of beating the Sharks on Subiaco's home ground.

It seems likely that West Coast Eagles big man Laurie Keene will be in the Subiaco line-up and this will be a great boost for the Lions as he has been in superb form in recent weeks.

East Fremantle's performance against South Fremantle in the first semi-final was nothing short of brilliant and they are now reaching their peak for the business end of the season.

The tipsters have leaned towards East Fremantle for this very reason and it is hard to see Subiaco causing the Sharks too many problems.

Ruck duels will again be crucial with Shane Cocker and Keene sharing these duties for Subiaco.

HANDS FULL

East Fremantle youngster Clinton Wolf will have his hands full in trying to counter the tall Lions due.

But Wolf has a lot of ability and should give as good as he gets.

A highlight of the game will be the clash between Murray Wrensted and Subiaco's Brad McDougall in the centre.



Ball-hunting...it's Subiaco's Ian Dargie with the ball and Claremont's Julian Urquhart trying to deprive him of it.

McDougall has fired in the second half of the season and Wrensted has the potential to be one of the best players in Australia — provided he is motivated.

The outcome of this clash is sure to have a big bearing on the result.

East Fremantle's Shane Ellis and Chris Waterman played brilliantly on the wings in the first semi-final and coach Graham Melrose is likely to retain them in those roles.

Ian Dargie and Greg Carpenter will have a tough assignment in trying to keep Ellis and Waterman at bay.

The Sharks half-back line of Jon Der-court, John O'Sullivan and Stephen Edgar is one of East Fremantle's strengths.

Subiaco's John Georgiades was one of the Lion's best players last week and his encounter with O'Sullivan will be worth going a long way to see.

East Fremantle champion Brian Peake holds the key to the match.

His presence on the ground inspires young players like Peter Quill and Glen Symonds to bigger and better performances and his own brand of magic can turn a game.

BREMAN'S ROLE

The role picked out for Todd Breman will not be known until the match starts but whether it is in defence or at full-forward he will have to show more than he did last Sunday.

But Breman is capable of producing the goods when the chips are down.

Other players likely to play key roles for Subiaco are the Taylor brothers, Brian and Neil, Mick Jennings, Andrew Brice, Graham Jones, Tony Cope and Clinton Brown.

For East Fremantle Ray Sterrett, Lance Durack, George Christie and Clinton Browning have been consistent all year and can be relied upon to keep up their good work.

East Fremantle look the better team, but the Subiaco players will play their hearts out for Bunton.

This game could go right to the wire.

NOT QUITE RIGHT

AN article in last week's Westside Football related to several "behind-the-play" incidents in the July 9 Claremont-Subiaco clash. This inferred that Claremont captain-coach Gerard Neesham was involved in behind-the-play actions that resulted in his seven-week suspension. Those incidents were, in fact, not behind the play, but in the vicinity of the football.

1988 FORM GUIDE

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

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) W(34).
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) L(37).

WHEN THEY LAST CLASHED

APRIL 24: At Geraldton - Subiaco 15.19 b East Fremantle 8.12 - Margin: 49 points.
MAY 21: At East Fremantle - East Fremantle 18.13 b Subiaco 11.13 - Margin: 42 points.
JULY 23: At Subiaco Oval - Subiaco 6.7 b East Fremantle 3.9 - Margin: 16 points.



Emu Export present ...

WESTSIDE'S EXPERT SELECTIONS

Subiaco v East Fremantle

RON ALEXANDER	East Fremantle
ROBERT BENNETT	East Fremantle
PETER BUSOSTOW	East Fremantle
DENNIS COMETTI	East Fremantle
DAVE CLEMENT	East Fremantle
HARVEY DEEGAN	Subiaco
GRANT DORRINGTON	East Fremantle
ALAN EAST	East Fremantle
BILL MATHER-BROWN	East Fremantle
IAN MILLER	East Fremantle
GARY STOCKS	East Fremantle
MOST FAVOURED	East Fremantle



Subiaco's Ian Dargie shows the pain as a dislocated finger is tended to.

927 GNR

Teac Footballer-of-the-Year

DAVID BAIN
(East Perth)

FINAL VOTES:

- 23: David Bain (EP)
- 13: Ben Allan (C)
- George Christie (EF)
- 12: Peter Sumich (SF)
- Peter Menaglio (WP)
- Scott Watters (SF)

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SUBIACO vs EAST FREMANTLE

TOTAL FOOTBALL

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BENNETT'S BURST

By **ROBERT BENNETT**
of The Sunday Times



Let's cheer the Sharks on...

THE WAFL shouldn't take sides in a football match, but in this Saturday's preliminary final between East Fremantle and Subiaco, there will be a few under-the-breath cheers for the Sharks.

The reasonably brief recent history between the two teams shows that Claremont have Subiaco's measure in finals football.

Unfortunately, that is no secret with the WA football public.

Tigers coach Gerard Neesham has devised the formula to hijack Subiaco's game plan in the finals.

The Lions short game is brought undone by Claremont, who occupy the space of the Subiaco runners.

Haydn Bunton's team, which is not embarrassed by highly-skilled players, can't handle the harassment.

And don't be fooled by the last-half revival of the Lions because at that stage Neesham told his players that enough was enough.

So, if Subiaco beat East Fremantle and all the WAFL directors gag on their White Horses, what happens come grand final day?

Not much, I can tell you. Neesham's water polo style of football completely unsettles the Lions, who get left in the wake.

There is no earthly reason, apart perhaps from the skill of Bunton, to suggest that the Lions can roll the Tigers.

The WAFL should be secretly hoping for the East Fremantle-Claremont showdown on September 18 because

there is plenty of emotion built into that clash.

Under those circumstances, Neesham will sit himself on the bench now that he has completed his term of suspension. He may not even bother if Subiaco make the play-off for the premiership.

***** BIG SWITCH

SPARE a thought for the 6NR commentary team last Sunday.

Peter Vlahos and his team of experts were enjoying themselves calling the Carlton-Collingwood clash before a moderate crowd of 83,000 at the MCG.

Then, just as the Pies mounted a challenge to roar back into the game, the station crossed to Subiaco Oval, which housed 11,000.

The public obviously gave Sunday football a huge thumbs down, but few of the media outlets were willing to make an issue of the paltry turn-out.

It indicates that the swapping and changing of WAFL finals gives WA football fans a feeling of being second-best.

And nobody likes that.

***** TOO MANY ERRORS

THE Eagles did us proud last Saturday, but it still was a game which the WA team should have won.

And I'm not talking about Murray Wrensted's last-second kick. Mistakes earlier in the match were just as costly.

It's just that those errors will not live as long as Wrensted's. I hope he comes out and kicks the winning goal this Saturday.

***** In search of talent

THE Eagles are taking a swag of WAFL talent across to the VFL grand final in an effort to win a few signatures.

I guess this saves the VFL clubs from spending a buck to get them over!

The Eagles have gone ahead in leaps and bounds over the last few months and they should get stronger if some areas are strengthened.

First and foremost, the Eagles need a quality forward to assist Ross Glendinning, who may not even be in operation in 1989.

Peter Sumich obviously rates as the key recruit in this area, but he may not be a willing party to any deal with the Eagles.

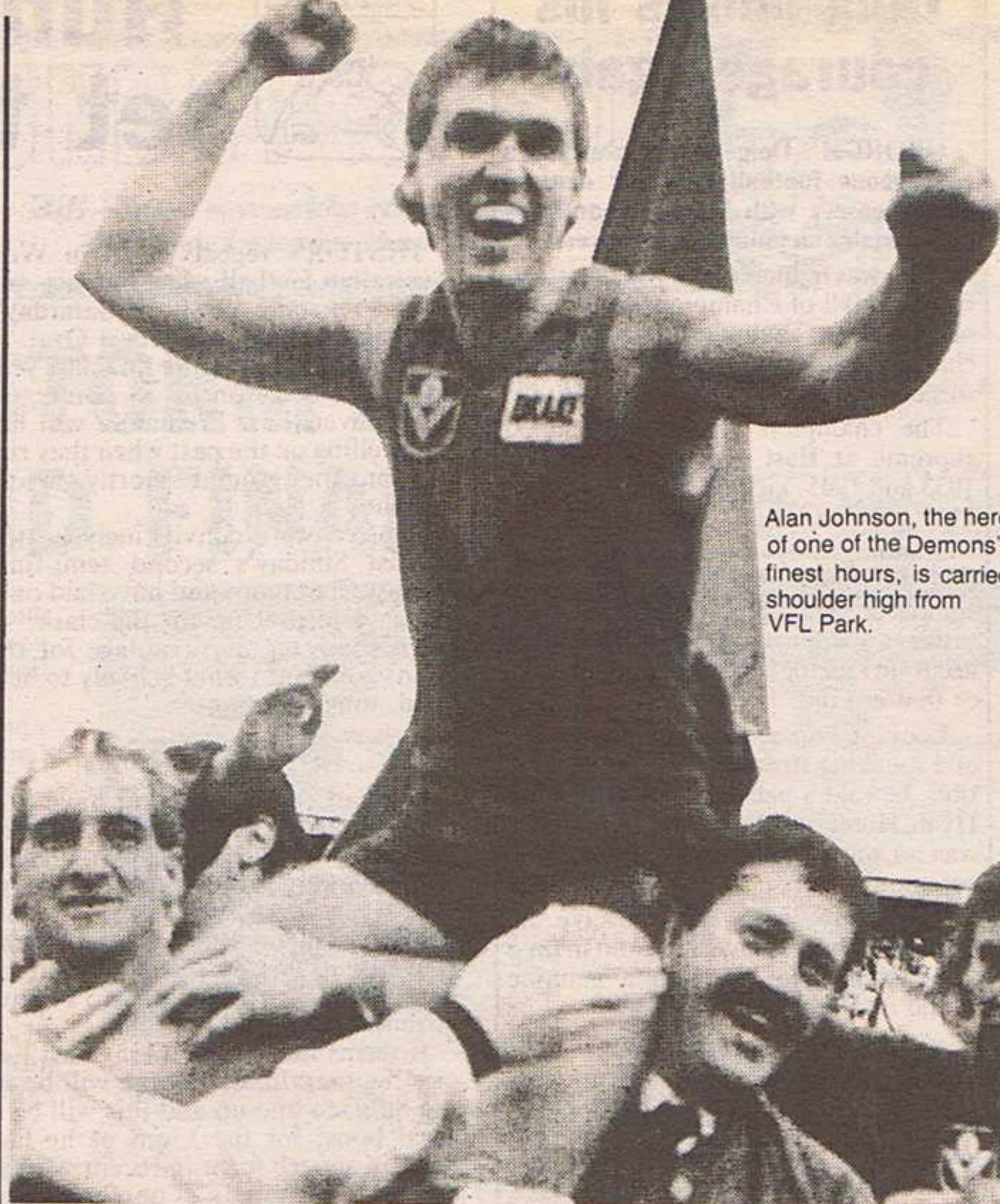
Don Pyke is the quality rover in the WAFL — and the Eagles roving department needs bolstering, though Wally Matera proved a few critics wrong this year.

Matera's problem, though, is that he hasn't any defence to his forward play, which allows opposition backmen to run free out of defence.

I'm still a believer, though, that what the Eagles need is a quality enforcer. Nobody's knocking the courage of the current line-up, though it would stand even taller with a player of the likes of a Ron Boucher or a Mal Atwell in the team.

The problem, of course, is finding one.

That could be answered in the VFL draft next March.



Alan Johnson, the hero of one of the Demons' finest hours, is carried shoulder high from VFL Park.

Glamour teams to put on a fiery contest

by

GARY STOCKS
of The West Australian

their goal-to-goal could prove the difference.

Up forward, former West Aussies Brian Taylor and Craig Starcevic were focal points in attack and with Michael Gayfer at full-back and Michael Christian at centre-half-back they look strong in the key positions.

Throw in the brilliance of Peter Dacos and there is no doubting where their strengths lie.

CONTEST

Carlton and Hawthorn have become fierce rivals in the last decade and their second semi-final clash promises to be yet another riveting contest.

The contrasting styles of the two sides always makes for an absorbing match, with Carlton playing with great skill and flair and Hawthorn using their own tough, relentless brand of football with a fair degree of skill thrown in as well.

Much will depend on Hawthorn's ability to eliminate Blues captain Stephen Kernahan from the contest, a task which will probably be assigned to State defender Chris Mew.

And while the Hawks will be looking to keep the former South Australian star under wraps, they will rely on their own flamboyant forwards Dermott Brereton and Jason Dunstall to kick a winning score.

Because Hawthorn have more options up forward and with Gary Buckenara and John Platten in exceptional form, they will be tough to beat.

It is dangerous to under-estimate a Blues line-up which has accumulated the best talent from around the country.

They will need Craig Bradley, Wayne Johnston, Wayne Blackwell and Frazer Murphy to give them the midfield control they require to kick a winning score.

FOR most of this season, football fans have been hoping for a Collingwood-Melbourne grand final.

That now cannot happen after last weekend's results, but that doesn't mean Saturday's first semi-final won't attract a bumper crowd.

With only one of the sides progressing to the preliminary final, two of the VFL's glamour teams should put on a performance which will rate with the best action seen this year.

WA fans watching Melbourne play this week will be thinking that perhaps the West Coast Eagles should be playing the Magpies.

The Eagles were desperately unlucky to lose by two points in last Saturday's elimination final. It is unfair to pull out one incident from such a tight game and declare it costly, but Ross Glendinning should have either been paid a mark or a free-kick in the last 90 seconds.

Still, that's history and the Eagles are now out of the race for the premiership.

SPECTACLE

Melbourne-Collingwood matches this season have produced some outstanding spectacles and this contest should be no exception.

The Demons were not super-impressive against the Eagles and should consider themselves a little lucky to be where they are. But they showed tremendous character to produce a second-half form reversal which carried them to victory.

Former Perth wingman Alan Johnson, who has been converted to a defender this season, was one of the instigators of that win, providing Melbourne with plenty of run out of defence in his tagging role on the Eagles rovers.

His performance — and the fact that Melbourne have now won their last two matches, including a last-round win over Carlton — must give them an injection of confidence.

But Collingwood might have too many big guns for the Demons, where

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GARY'S GOSSIP

with GARY CARVOLTH of 6PR Sport-Talk



Warren Dean set for knee operation

FORMER Subiaco star and now Melbourne utility player Warren Dean entered hospital this week for an operation on his troublesome knee.

Dean has a stress fracture of the knee cap and is hopeful that this latest operation and subsequent treatment will prove successful and allow him to resume his career with the Demons in 1989.

MEMO to the Collard brothers: Tell your manager that the VFL clubs are fully aware of your football ability. They will be in touch with you if your number comes up in the draft.

TALKING about managers, my spy down East Fremantle way tells me that Murray Wrensted has appointed a manager to supervise his affairs.

NOW NEESHAM!

THE rumour of the week concerns the West Torrens Football Club. After being knocked back by Haydn Buntton and Alan Joyce for their 1989 coaching job, they have now put feelers out to Tigers maestro Gerard Neesham. I don't think Gerard will pack up the family and head for South Australia - but you never know. West Torrens are offering "big money." While they could afford to pay Gerard, would they have enough money to recruit the rest of the "Neesham clan?"

Morley looks to the WAFL

THE Metropolitan Football League grand final was won by Kwinana last Sunday, after an entertaining match against arch-rival Cockburn. Immediately after the match, coach Tony Morley announced his retirement as a player, and indicated that he would like to coach at WAFL level next season. With his background and service to football, he should succeed with a league club.

Wiley's future

TALKING about coaches, my spy at Lathlain Park suggests that Robert Wiley will step down as coach of the Demons, after only 12 months at the helm. If the rumour is correct, it would be a tragedy for the Perth Football Club, as the industrious Wiley has achieved quite a deal in the past season. Rob's encouragement and promotion of the club's promising crop of juniors to league ranks, together with his dedication and enthusiasm, will be sorely missed if he is forced to retire prematurely.

DASHING Des Hoare has been appointed coach of the South Perth Cricket Club for the 1988-1989 season. A former international cricketer, he also played league football with East Fremantle and will be a real acquisition for the South Perth club.

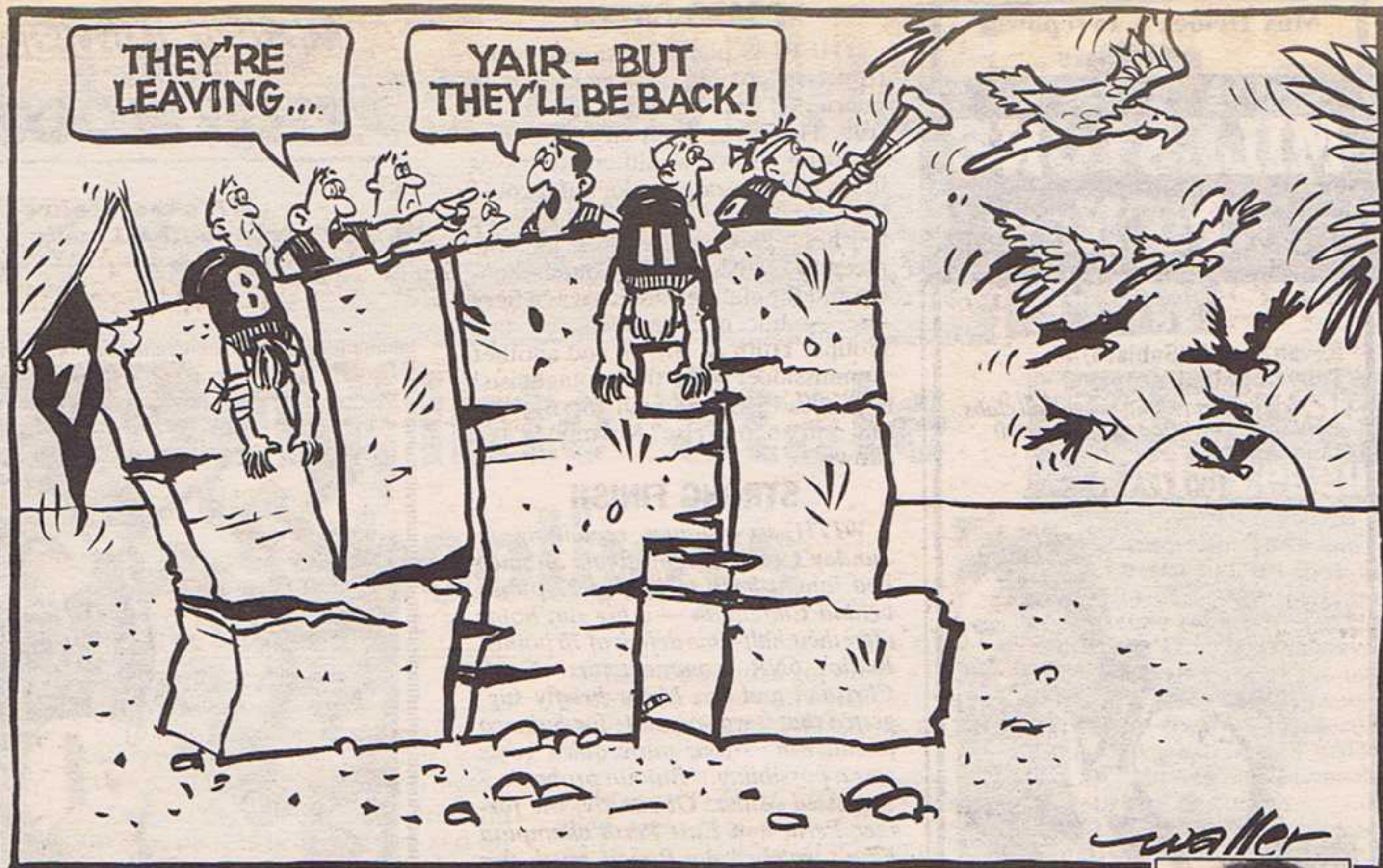
What was the WAFL's chief executive, Peter Cummiskey, doing at the Football Development Trust on Monday afternoon in deep discussion with the FDT's dietician? I will say no more!

FORGET FARMER

CLINTON Farmer is unlikely to coach West Perth next year, despite reports this week that he was a leading contender.

Farmer, a successful coach in the Sunday Football League with Thornlie has not been approached to replace Bruce Monteath.

The coaching job at the Falcons looks certain to go to Les Fong, who will take back to the club Corry Bewick and Shane Sheriden, who won the Simpson Medal in the Falcons' 1971 grand final win over East Perth.



TV puts new perspective on football

DURING the past two seasons there have been many suggestions as to why WAFL attendances have been on the slide.

The advent of the West Coast Eagles has been cited more often than not. But what some people have forgotten is that attendances at football were on a decline right around the country, with the exception of South Australia.

The problem is that the 1980s have spoiled Australians. It is too easy to nestle into the lounge chair, crack a tinny, switch on the tele and watch the wide world of sports.

The 1980s is the era of the television. The time has come where people would rather sit back in the comfort of their own living room and watch the world's finest athletes.

And, let's face it, sport these days is dominated by the wants of television.

In the VFL, a flashing red light on top of the scoreboard controls the game. The umpires don't start the game after a goal is kicked or after a break until that light stops flashing, indicating that the commercial station has returned after a burst of adverts.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

After all, the advertisers pay the money that allows us to laze around in suburbia, enjoying the best of both worlds.

Television reporters actually join the teams in their quarter-time, half-time and three-quarter time huddles and report to their viewers exactly what the coaches have said.

What would happen if a newspaper reporter wandered across the boundary line to listen to what John Todd had to say to his Eagles - and reported his words in print.

For a start, security men on the boundary line would turf the interloper over the fence. And that's fair.

Coaches and players should be accessible to the media before and after games - but from the moment the team crosses that white line, they should be out of bounds. Coaches and players should be left to themselves to work out the formula for success.

Television cameras and note pads should be restricted to the press box.

Basketball has taken the television aspect even further.

If play goes on for longer than desired, the TV producer can signal to the referee, who calls an official time-out so the station can slot the necessary revenue-earning adverts in between play.

Sport was once played for the paying customers at the ground. If you weren't there you missed the action. But they were the good old days.

TAKING STOCK

by GARY STOCKS of The West Australian



Bruce Monteath...a tough decision.

IT was disappointing to hear the news of Bruce Monteath's resignation as West Perth's coach.

It is always sad when someone of Monteath's stature decides to pursue his business interests rather than football - especially as West Perth looked to be on the brink of returning as a power in the WAFL.

They have unearthed some exciting young talent in the last two years, with players like Malcolm Williams, Neil Jackson and Darren O'Brien leading the way.

West Perth is the club with the biggest break between premierships and those young players, as well as some of their more experienced personnel, hold the immediate future of the Falcons in their hands.

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PRESSURE FOOTBALL...

Tribute from the WAFL

THE decision of the WAFL to have the Eagles as guests of honour at the second semi-final was an important step in communication between the two levels of football.

The feeling in the crowd towards the Eagles was the best I've experienced since the creation of our VFL team.

Football supporters who went to watch Claremont play Subiaco joined together to pay their respects to the top team effort put up by the Eagles.

The feeling was similar to the euphoria of State-of-Origin victories of recent years. The Eagles are still West Australian home-grown players.

The made-in-WA team will always hold a sentimental place with even the most diehard WAFL supporters.

The Eagles Saturday effort obviously won the hearts of those supporters at Subiaco Oval and the applause from the crowd was genuine.

The gesture by the WAFL Commissioners in inviting the Eagles was a step in the right direction for the future promotion and development of our game.

... and it showed how the Eagles have matured

IN what can truly be described as a great pressure game, the West Coast Eagles missed out on adding to their history by just two points.

One minute, or just one kick, stopped them progressing to the VFL first semi-final.

Most of the television sets around WA must have been tuned into Channel Seven for this outstanding game.

The last quarter epitomised why Australian Football can rightly claim to be one of the best team games in the world.

With the unpredictable bounce of the ball, the size of the ground, the physical contact and 36 players giving their maximum, the contest was exhilarating.

Under the extreme pressure and physical presence of desperate players, the quality of ball skills was outstanding.

It was magnificent to watch the young VFL apprentices like John

DORRO'S DIARY

By GRANT DORRINGTON
Football Development Trust co-ordinator



Worsfold, Guy McKenna, Karl Langdon, Dean Laidley, Chris Mainwaring and David Hart playing as if they were veterans of VFL finals.

Add to these youngsters, the small group of experienced leaders in Steve Malaxos, Ross Glendinning and Dean Turner and it was a great finale put up by the Eagles.

There is no doubt the Eagles team have been a different group over the past six weeks.

They developed that unique team ability that is the difference between success and failure — character.

They were transformed into desperate men, with their tackling becom-

ing so fierce that opposition teams could not use the ball efficiently.

To see another Sandgroper in Alan Johnson playing the game of his life, further highlighted the quality players West Australia has and will continue to produce.

Eagles coach John Todd, no doubt disappointed, must still have been thrilled with the final round of football from the team.

The players began to mould together as a team. Week by week the ingredients for success were appearing in stronger forms.

Using the disappointment of season 88, Todd has a great tool to use for the build-up to the 1989 season.

Neesham is in control

CLAREMONT'S first-quarter blitz of Subiaco was as good a display of pressure, skilled football that I've seen.

Whatever coach Gerard Neesham said to his team before the game, produced the opening burst every coach dreams of.

A fierce desire to get to the ball first and then precise use by hand and foot, set a standard of play that left the Lions wondering what had happened.

When you consider that Neesham was in the coach's box and not out on the oval leading the way, the Tigers have obviously matured as a team since the '87 premiership.

Before the game, I felt that the loss of last year's on-field motivator Stephen Goulding, plus Neesham, could cause problems in the pressure of semi-final.

Goulding was an integral part of the Tigers mid-field game control, while Neesham was obviously the organiser.

After Sunday's game, I wondered where Goulding would have fitted into such a strongly-moulded and committed group of players.

The Tigers must be complimented on their on-field performances in all three grades again this season.

The club is going through one of its strongest eras on the field, displaying tremendous commitment to being the best club in the WAFL competition.

Neesham has displayed a professional attitude to his role as senior coach; he is an astute football thinker who does his homework meticulously.

Neesham had the opportunity to coach West Perth — and sev-

eral other WAFL teams. But knowing that planning is one of the keys to success, he examined the Tigers system and saw obvious playing strength in all grades.

The '87 premiership in his first year and favouritism for 1988 are the results of thorough planning and great communication skills.

The Tigers players say that Neesham's strength is his ability to communicate with individuals, setting out clearly what he believes they can achieve and how to go about obtaining that goal.

The Tigers will take a confident team into the grand final, hungry to achieve back-to-back premierships.

Memories of that blitzing first quarter last Sunday will make them hot favourites on grand final day.



LET'S TALK INSURANCE

GETTING hurt in football is an in-built hazard of a physical man-on-man sporting contest.

But it doesn't mean footballers have to take unnecessary risks and for that reason, this week's column is devoted to a pet subject of mine — injury insurance.

There is nothing that hits home harder for medical staff than when they stand at the bedside of a patient and tell them that they will never walk again.

It can be especially soul-destroying when that person has financial responsibilities and hardship is certain to follow.

I'm all for mouthguards, headguards or any guard that is going to make participation in sport safer.

Just recently, I saw Karl Langdon hurl himself headlong into a stampede of oncoming players and he was lucky to get out of it with no more than a stiff neck.

Remember Neil Sasche? He was the Footscray player who put his head down to duck past an oncoming player and has been a quadriplegic ever since.

Any person who enjoys football in any form — soccer, rugby, Aussie rules — or sportsmen and women of all quick action games, should protect themselves with insurance.

FROM WHERE I SIT

Wheelchair sports critic
BILL MATHER-BROWN



... even though I don't really like it!

I've never really been a fan of insurance policies, being a natural cynic, I suspect everything put in front of me. I'm not too trustful of "good deals" and I like to think that any insurance policies I take out don't have any hidden holes.

With this kind of attitude you would think that I would be against any insurance that was a little out of the ordinary, for example, the Paraplegic Benefit Fund WA Ltd, which has been founded by Sir George Bedbrook.

It's intention is to insure people for up to \$50,000 if they are unlucky enough to break their neck or back and sustain severe paralysis.

The cost is \$10 per individual a year or \$25 for a family and that includes any number of children up to the age of 17. A lifetime cover for a single person costs just \$300.

Why I am pushing this barrow?

From where I sit, in a wheelchair, I've had a lot to do with the paralysed through wheelchair sports and a 30-year involvement with the Paraplegic-Quadriplegic Association.

It would be more than a fair thing for every club to levy their players \$10 to take out this insurance.

Inquiries can be made by ringing 382 3818 or writing to PO Box 127, Subiaco, 6008.

In answer to those as cynical as myself, think about the consequences.

Being hurt is one thing. Being hurt and broke is worse.

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with
REECE HOGAN

Ahmat stakes his claim

JOE Ahmat had a point to prove on Sunday — a big game was needed from the former Swan Districts player if he was to stay in the side.

Tigers coach Gerard Neesham had a possible 26 from which to choose his team and plenty of spots were up for grabs.

One of his goals stood out as he ducked and weaved, eluding two Lions players and steering it straight through the centre from 45 metres on a 45 degree angle.

Jones thrives on ruck challenge

ANOTHER good player for Subiaco was Graham Jones, whose work in the ruck was outstanding, relieving Shane Cocker after Claremont's Peter Higgins took control in the first quarter.

Higgins was injured later in the game and it was left to John Hutton to tackle Jones. Despite his aggressive style, Hutton was unable to counteract Jones' height and palming ability and this was a decisive factor in the second half change-around by the Lions.

Jones is a versatile player and can hold down positions on any part of the ground. However, after Sunday's game, it seems as though he will be used more in the ruck.

Georgiades stood tall

SUBIACO centre-half-forward John Georgiades was a bright light in what was a dull day for the Lions in the second semi-final.

His performance in the second quarter was a highlight with some excellent marks and superb goals.

He was Subiaco's only avenue for attack during a time when Claremont were working solidly in defence.

Claremont captain Tony Beers was moved to centre-half-forward after he was convincingly beaten by Georgiades and Mark Brayshaw was shifted onto the Lion.

Brayshaw gets tough job

ANOTHER player to miss last year's finals series was Mark Brayshaw — and he also proved a point with an excellent display on Sunday.

Brayshaw was keyed up to do well and played an aggressive game, breaking open packs with strong tackling and producing long, penetrating kicks into the Claremont forward line.

Brayshaw was moved on to danger-man John Georgiades in the second half, after starting at the centre-half-forward, and his close-checking tactics curbed the Lions forward.



All smiles from these Tigers (from left) John Scott, Cameron Lewis and Joe Ahmat.

Scott holds top ranking

THE WAFL's best full-back in 1988 has arguably been Claremont's John Scott and his game on Sunday showed why.

He was a stalwart in defence, preventing Todd Breman from kicking any goals.

A highlight of Scott's game was his kicking out from full-back — with one gem of a daisy cutter that travelled 50 metres and hit Grant Povey on the chest.

Povey ran the ball into attack and a goal resulted from the Scott efficiency.

Begovich makes sure

A NUMBER of contestants in Sunday's second semi-final have previously missed finals football despite being in the League squad.

One such player is Tony Begovich and his performance was proof that he did not want to miss out on this year's grand final.

In 1985, under coach Graham Moss, the robust Begovich missed the finals because of a knee injury and last year

he missed out because of glandular fever.

His form on Sunday was outstanding, with his familiar hard running and gutsy play showing out. He is aggressive with good skills and enormous talent, but some critics feel that he does not use his potential to the fullest.

This was not the case last Sunday and if he is to miss this year's grand final it will not be because of indifferent form.



Claremont's Tony Begovich watches the action as trainer Ron Chapman tends to his cramp.

CARPENTER'S ROLE

ACTING Subiaco captain Greg Carpenter showed a welcome return to form in the second semi-final, especially after half-time.

He fought on gamely and was an inspiration to the younger players, who came to the fore in the second half. Carpenter, originally from East Perth and Albany, is now serving Subiaco strongly in their premiership aspirations.

Higgins' start was a winner

ONE Claremont player who needed to put in a big game was Peter Higgins.

Tackling form ruckman Shane Cocker is no easy feat and Higgins knew that Cocker's performance could decide the game.

However, the Tigers big man was able to handle the pressure and his first quarter was outstanding, easily accounting for Cocker and giving the following division a feast of the ball.

His effort was a match-winner for Claremont and coach Gerard Neesham paid glowing tributes to Higgins after the game.

Taylor...ever the determined

SUBIACO coach Haydn Bunton once said that even if Brian Taylor faced the risk of death by playing in a grand final, he would probably still take the chance.

This attitude by Taylor was obvious on Sunday, as he never gave up despite Claremont's almost unassailable lead.

He ran hard all day despite the warm conditions and always gave Subiaco opportunities when in trouble.

Taylor was the Lion's leading possession-getter — 30 kicks, 10 marks and six handballs — and he will be a vital link in the preliminary final against East Fremantle.

A new series ...

The Kresta 'Blinder'

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

Melesso was the difference

CLAREMONT'S first half of football in the second semi-final against Subiaco on Sunday laid the foundation for their 25-point victory.

The power surge came from the middle of the ground — but it was Tigers full-forward Peter Melesso, who kicked nine goals in just 60 minutes of football, who finished it off.

Melesso was held goal-less for the rest of the game, but it was all over by half-time.

His marking was brilliant, holding some magnificent overhead and chest marks while under constant pressure from the Subiaco defence.

Melesso's kicking was also accurate, both from set shots and while under pressure during the play.

He was the instigator of other goals, unselfishly giving the ball away to teammates who were in a better position. He had 16 kicks, 10 marks and two handballs.

Melesso joined Claremont last year after spells with VFL sides Sydney Swans and St Kilda.

After a good start to the 1988 season, Melesso's play fell away later in the year. However, it seems he is back to true form and will be a vital link in Claremont's premiership aspirations.

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Kresta Blinds



Haydn Bunton...can he do it again?

NOT THIS TIME, SUBIACO

HISTORY has a habit of repeating itself, but I don't think Subiaco will make their fourth consecutive grand final appearance.

In the past three years they have managed to recover from defeats in the second semi-final and win the preliminary final. But I can't see them doing it again.

Last Sunday's loss to Claremont must have taken some of the steam out of Subiaco.

The Tigers' match-winning first half left them floundering and even though the Lions produced a better performance in the second half - when Claremont relaxed the pressure

- they struggled to be direct and positive in their football.

Without the effort of Peter Georgiades at centre-half-forward, Subiaco's forward line was non-existent.

While Subiaco will improve, I doubt that they have the capacity to overcome East Fremantle this Saturday.

Of course, if Laurie Keene played he would be worth six goals to the Lions - what I would call a bonus from heaven.

Melesso the target man

ONLY a few weeks ago I said that Claremont's Peterd Melesso would be a key to his side's push towards back-to-back premierships.

Melesso certainly proved me right last Sunday with nine first-half goals.

I don't believe he'll find it that easy in the grand final but his strength and skill will again make him a stumbling block for the opposition and a key target for the Tigers.

And if you thought the Tigers were cruising last week, spare a thought for their opponents in Sunday week's grand final when you consider that coach Gerard Neesham will be back to pick up 30 possessions midfield.

When Neesham and his selectors sit down to choose their best 20, Neesham will definitely be there in what could be his last game as a player.

Murphy still a winner

JOHN Murphy, a former teammate of mine and Fitzroy captain, doesn't seem to have lost his touch for gaining possessions on the field.

Murphy has captain-coached his team, Diamond Valley, to another premiership in the Melbourne Super-ules competition.

He also collected the fairest and

MALAXOS MAGIC

MANY times I have sung the praises of the Eagles' Steve Malaxos but I thought his game in the elimination final was absolutely superb.

For a player who has missed basically three-quarters of this season with injury, his ability and stamina was a revelation.

Malaxos is an organiser, a link man who is always prepared to guts it out at the bottom of the pack.

How many times did we see his total body commitment to dive on the ball and tap it on, or that quick kick or handball to set up play.

The 'Golden Greek' wouldn't be happy with the loss but he was a real winner.

best award in the over-35 years competition and will captain-coach the Victorian team in the forthcoming championships in Adelaide early next month.

Murphy is involved in football with radio 3AW, but I know that if an opportunity came up at Fitzroy he would be happy to grab it.

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Top rating for Keene

SEASON '88 produced some outstanding individual and team efforts by the Eagles and giant progress has been made by many players in terms of improved performances at VFL level.

Since the Melbourne game at the end of July, big ruckman Laurie Keene has proved a few football critics wrong.

His ability was never questioned, but often when it was crunch time Keene was not always there.

I feel that Keene has won a few battles, physically and mentally, with himself and against stern opposition.

A player's credibility can be won or lost by performances under pressure in a final-round game and Keene won through at VFL Park last Sunday when it counted.

After two years of frustration due to injury and loss of form, he is now ready to tackle the opposition and win whenever he steps on to the field.

Keene's ability to come up next season will be a significant factor in the Eagles' prospects.

Eagles win more hearts

THE opportunities were there for the Eagles but at the finish Lady Luck walked out on them.

It was a great effort in their first finals appearance, one that saw them gain more respect from the WA public and, more important, from a few Vics.

While the VFL would have been happy in one way, though surprised that the Eagles made it after just two years in their competition they must have breathed a big sigh of relief to see the West Coasters drop out purely in terms of attendances at the remaining finals.

Collingwood, Melbourne and Carlton all have enormous followings.

But I'm sure come September '89, if the Eagles are good enough to make it, they'll have sufficient support from the Victorian public.



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FOOTBALL FACTS

By top WA football historian DAVE CLEMENT



Two players can make history

In 1941 Stan (Pops) Heal made history by becoming the only player to play in a VFL and WAFL final in the same year.

He played in Melbourne's premiership side and then flew back to Perth to be a member of West Perth's winning combination. This was possible because of a war-time agreement that allowed servicemen to move interstate without a clearance. Richmond's Royce Hart used the same ruling to play with Glenelg in the S.A. grand final in 1973 when he was doing National Service training.

So this week, East Fremantle's Murray Wrensted and Subiaco's Laurie Keene have the chance to join Heal in this unique situation of playing in final round games in two different States.

East Fremantle may start favourites this week, but the records show that the first semi-final winners have won only 20 of the 57 Preliminary finals played. However, the Sharks lead the Lions 12 to 8 in the 20 times they have met in finals.

FROM 1945 to 1948, West Perth lost four successive second semis and won three preliminary finals; Subiaco have now lost the last four second semis and won the last three preliminaries. Can they go one better than the Falcons?

HOW'S this for a double? Claremont are the only league team to win on Mother's Day and Father's Day! It was back to Mother's Day 1976 when the first Sunday game was played. Claremont 15.20 beat West Perth 13.12 at Leederville. Oval and last Sunday they completed the double.

THE second semi-final crowd was a disaster. I believe that it was the poorest attendance at a final since the War years. In open football competition, you have to go back to 1941 (a war year too) to find a smaller second semi crowd - 9,000 that year.

IRONICALLY, the only other final transferred to a Sunday was the preliminary final of 1981, to avoid a clash with the live telecast of the VFL grand final. A near-record crowd of 33,940 turned out that day and indications were that Sunday finals were "in". South Fremantle beat Swan Districts that day, but lost the big one to Claremont six days later.

CLAREMONT looked set to smash all the second semi records last Sunday, until they went to sleep at half-time. No team has ever kicked 11 goals in the first quarter of a final; no side has had 17 goals on the board at half-time and no player has ever kicked nine goals in the first two quarters. But that's where the records stopped.



West Aussies set a hot pace in VFL

INTERSTATE UPDATE

by RICHARD CANN
Eastern States statistician
for the West Coast Eagles



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

Eagles effort was a good one

THE West Coast Eagles' performance in Saturday's elimination final was the best in a final by a club based outside Victoria.

Sydney have lost all four finals they have played since changing their name from South Melbourne. Their best performance is a five-point loss to Fitzroy in the 1986 first semi-final.

The Eagles nearly became the first non-Victorian club to win a VFL final.

CROWD FIGURE

THE attendance at the West Coast Eagles-Melbourne elimination final on Saturday was the lowest at a VFL final for 34 years.

The official attendance of 43,438 was the lowest since 1954 when 41,971 people watched Melbourne defeat North Melbourne in the first semi-final.

However, the crowd was the largest the Eagles have played in front of in their two years in the VFL. It was the sixth time that the Eagles have played in front of over 25,000 people this year.

FIRST WIN

BOTH teams in Saturday's elimination final were seeking their first win in a final at VFL Park.

Before Saturday, Melbourne's only finals appearance at the ground was in last year's preliminary final, which they lost to Hawthorn on the last kick of the day.

TOP KICK

STEPHEN Malaxos established a record for kicks in a game by a West Coast Eagles' player last Saturday.

Malaxos had 29 kicks — the highest previous tally was 28 by Chris Mainwaring against Fitzroy at the WACA Ground last year.

TOP HALF

AT the end of their second season, the Eagles are one of six clubs to have won over half of their games in the VFL. The other clubs are Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon, Geelong and Richmond.

Carlton and Collingwood are the only two clubs to have won more than 60 per cent of their matches in the VFL, yet neither club has won half of its finals matches.

Five clubs — Essendon, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Melbourne and Richmond — have won over half of their finals matches.

BLUES RECORD

COLLINGWOOD recorded their fifth loss in as many qualifying finals against Carlton on Sunday.

Collingwood played in the first qualifying final in 1972 and also lost in 1978, 1979 and 1981.

Carlton have now played in seven qualifying finals, winning four of them.



Brownlow Medal favourite Gary Buckenara.

HAVE West Australian imports made a bigger impact on VFL football this year than their counterparts from South Australia?

That was the real teaser thrown at me at half-time on Sunday by my co-commentator at the big qualifying final, radio 6NR's Peter Vlahos.

He was adamant that the answer was yes. You only had to go through the list — Craig Starcevich, Michael Christian, Alan Johnson and Earl Spalding from last weekend alone.

Not to mention a couple of Brownlow Medal favourites like Michael Mitchell and Gary Buckenara.

All had done brilliantly, particularly Melbourne veteran Johnson, with his 35-possession game in a back pocket against the Eagles on Saturday and Magpie Starcevich, who booted four goals from a forward flank against Carlton the next day.

FIGHT BACK

Mandurah-born Brian Taylor kicked four goals — all in the second quarter — to help Collingwood fight back, while at the other end of the ground, Peter Sartori was to finish with five.

On the weekend results, Peter Vlahos was right. WA had clearly come out on top.

However, the South Australians have plenty to give also and as the premiership contenders take shape, we can expect some star-rating performances from the likes of John Platten (Hawthorn), fellow rover Mark Naley (Carlton), hard-hitting Danny Hughes and the skilful Steve Stretch (both Melbourne).

Platten and Naley take centre stage at VFL Park on Saturday in the second semi-final. Their duel will be one of the most crucial in deciding who goes into the grand final first.

The stakes are high.

TOUGH TASK

As Hawks centre-half-forward Dermott Brereton said: "We want to win so Carlton have to play four hard finals in a row. It's a tough task for any side. Last year we couldn't do it — that's why we are keen to do well on Saturday."

More than 70,000 fans are expected at VFL Park for Saturday's second-semi, while even more are likely to see the first-semi final on Sunday between Melbourne and Collingwood at the MCG.

It appears as though there is a fair gap between the top two sides and the next two.

Sydney's Gerard Healy sees it this way:

"No matter what happens at VFL Park, we'll be seeing the same two sides

again in the grand final. The gap between the teams, as shown at the weekend, is quite pronounced."

Healy, a former Demon, would love to see his old side figure in the grand final, especially as his brother Greg captains Melbourne.

"But it's going to be very tough for them," he says.

"Collingwood will not want to bow out of the finals with two losses. It's happened to us for the last couple of years and it's no fun."

The formidable manner in which Carlton jumped Collingwood has reopened the premiership race, which until Sunday, had been dominated by Hawthorn.

BIG MARKING

Supreme performances came from Carlton's on-ball players including Wayne Johnston and big-marking forwards Steve Kernahan, Jon Dorotich and Sartori, who contributed 11 goals between them.

Johnston was the best small player afield, having 30 possessions in a destructive performance. His commitment and courage in big matches is extraordinary and along with ruckman Justin Madden, he dominated the game.

Carlton kicked seven goals in the first quarter and six in the last, finishing full of running to win by 38 points.

"We needed a win like that," said coach Robert Walls. "It'll give the boys great confidence coming into the Hawthorn game."

Carlton won the only meeting between the two sides this year — in round one when they led all day to win by 15 points, 18.18 (126) to 15.21 (111).

The make-up of both sides has changed dramatically since then.

The Hawks have a new No. 1 ruckman in Greg Dear, who replaces Paul Harding, while Carlton's Ken Hunter and Peter Dean, named full-back and centre-half-back in round one, are unlikely to play — Hunter through poor form and Dean with injury.

Hawthorn will attempt to tag the brilliant Johnston, while Carlton will try to dull the effect of Platten, who has been returning to his best form in recent times.

Carlton's No. 1 tagger, David Glascock, is in doubt for the game after being injured against Collingwood. His absence could be crucial to the Blues.

Carlton will be well fancied this week, but Hawthorn can still march straight into the grand final.

As for the preliminary finalists, I believe it will be a Carlton-Collingwood re-match.

And the interstaters will play a big part in the outcome — including Buckenara, my tip for the Brownlow Medal.

How WA players performed in VFL

	Kicks	Marks	Hball	Score
MELBOURNE				
Alan Johnson	23	9	6	1.0
Earl Spalding	14	10	2	1.8
COLLINGWOOD				
Michael Christian	5	3	6	—
Craig Starcevich	17	11	6	4.2
Brian Taylor	7	7	4	4.3
CARLTON				
Wayne Blackwell	12	6	10	0.1
Jon Dorotich	4	5	3	3.0
Peter Sartori	9	5	2	5.0
Steve Da Rui	4	3	—	—
HIT-OUTS: Michael Christian 1, Peter Sartori 2, Craig Starcevich 1.				

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There was plenty of obvious support for the Eagles



The Eagles burst through the huge banner prepared by their Melbourne-based supporters, spelling out "we'd never make it,"

THE BATTLE OF VI



It's unbelievable (from left) Murray Rance, David Hart and Laurie Keene.

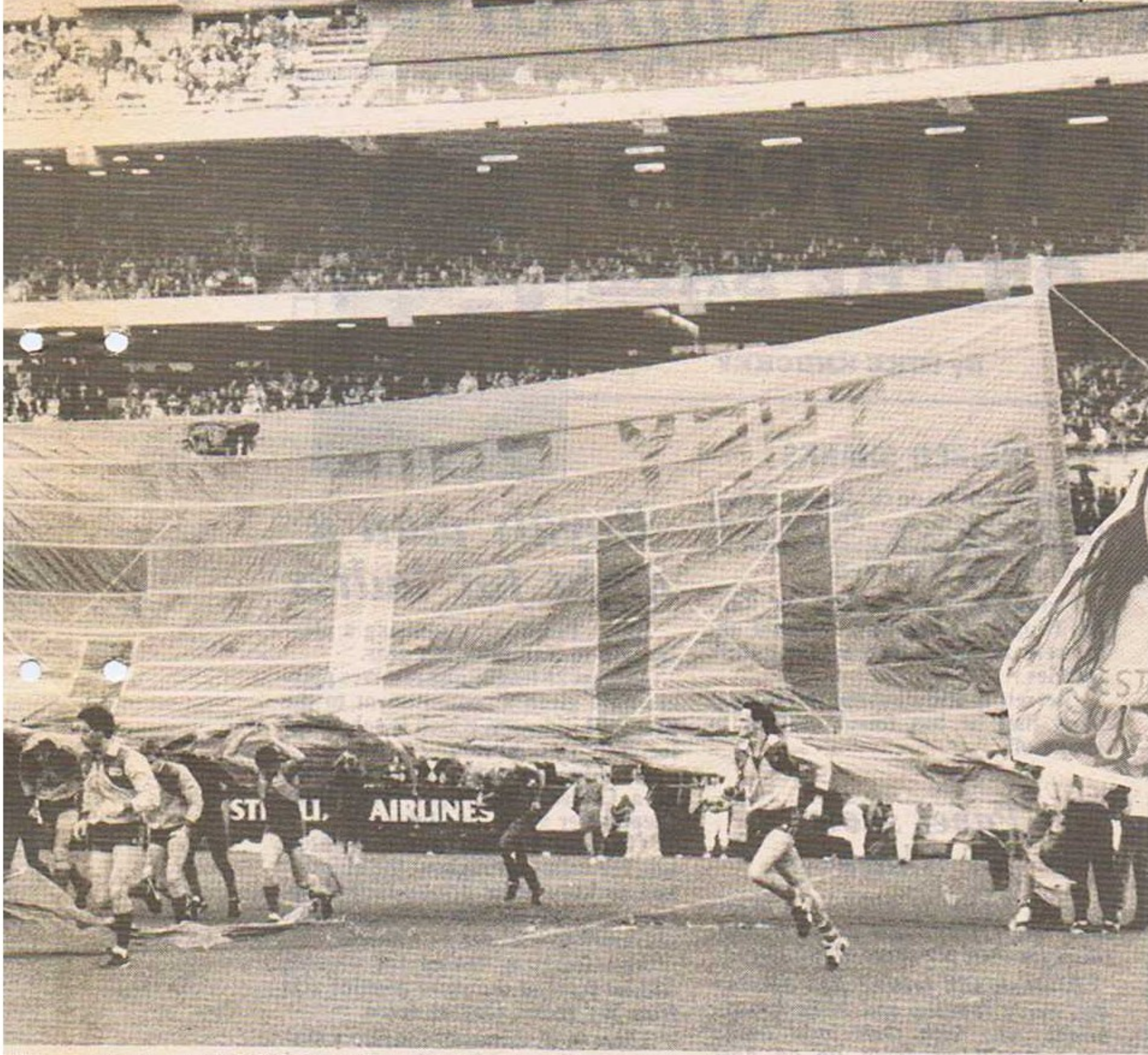


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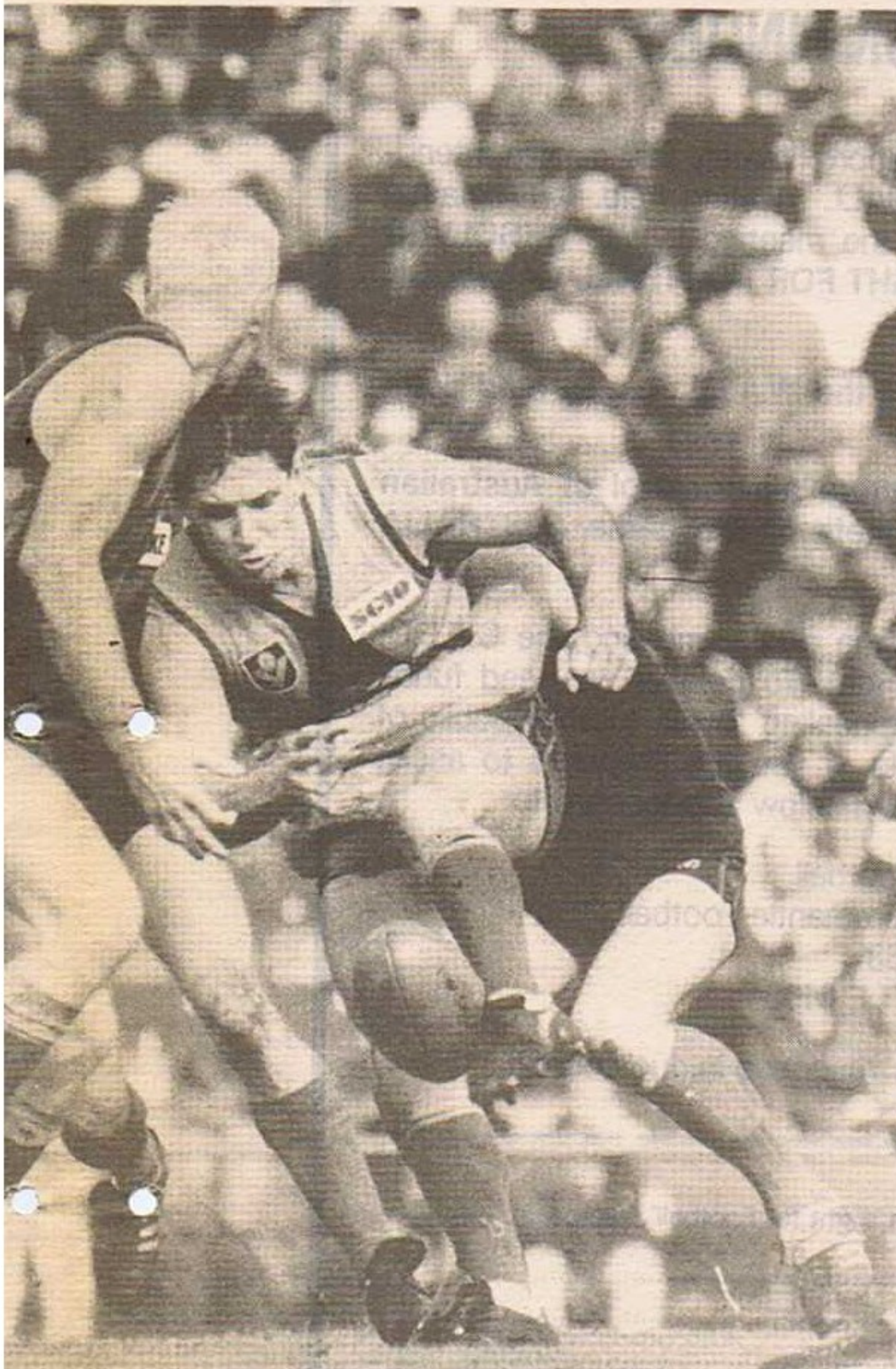
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ed supporters — with SGIO featuring prominently and the reverse slogan "They said spelling out a real message.

VFL PARK...



THE West Coast Eagles had never won a day-time game at VFL Park, that wide, slippery surface used so effectively by fast-running Victorian teams.

Night victories had occurred there for the Rookies from the West, but this was to be the real test — a genuine non-Victorian team taking part in the VFL finals.

There were 43,500 people in the stadium, the majority cheering for the glamour Melbourne side, a handful urging on the Eagles and a solid core just there to watch a great football match.

They were well pleased; so were the Demons fans who literally "stole" the game away from the plucky West Coasters.

There was no disgrace for the Eagles as they fought gamely in a contest that had everything.

The Eagles bowed out by two points — but the Vics now know that the blue-and-golds will be around for a few more years yet.

's tough getting a kick, but Dwayne Lamb manages.



Chris Mainwaring shows the disappointment

DREAMS

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Wiley looks back 15 years

AFTER 15 years in league football, Rob Wiley has elected to retire from playing.

The 33-year-old champion rover says he has little difficulty in arriving at his decision when he looked back on the changes that have taken place in the last 12 months.

"Basically, our competition has become a young man's game," he says. "The incentives aren't there for senior players to stick around anymore.

"Add to that the frustration of injuries that have started to crop up and the fact that I really enjoyed just coaching the team."

In his first year as coach of the Perth Football Club, Wiley has built a respected reputation.

He leads by example and sets hard, but fair standards which must be met.

Wiley was never too proud to come back from injury through the reserves and his discipline pact was evident when Dempsey Narkle was dropped for not turning up to training one night without informing the club.

The Perth coach enjoys reliving the highlights of his 291-game playing career.

Premiership years are always favourites and Wiley enjoyed three — back-to-back flags with Perth in 1976-77 and one with V.F.L. club Richmond in 1980.

He won eight fairest and best awards — a record at Perth which will remain that way for some time.

Wiley remembers with affection every chance he had of representing his State — 13 for WA and two for Victoria.

Of his league debut, Wiley has to think back:

"It was in 1974 against Subiaco. I remember it well, because I kicked one goal eight behinds for the day — not the kind of start that I was all that proud of.

"But I made up for it the next game by kicking eight goals one point against Claremont."



Rob Wiley...stepping down as a player



Wiley is looking forward to the challenge of 1989. He has a further year with Perth to continue as coach.

"It's difficult to plan further ahead than next year. I'll give it my best shot and see where I lie at the end of it," he says.

Wiley is bound to get plenty of support in his endeavours on and off the field.

West Australian football and Perth members in particular, have always been proud to claim his as one of their own.

ON THE BALL

By MIKE KNUCKEY



INJURED SHARKS

A DECISION on the fitness of East Fremantle stars Ray Sterrett, Scott Rowland, and David Rankin won't be made till late in the week.

Neither Rowland (ankle) nor Rankin (thigh) trained last week but underwent intensive treatment for their injuries.

Sterrett is still doubtful following a virus that he has found difficult to shake off.

Panel show for Sharks

EAST Fremantle will hold a panel show this Friday night as a curtain-raiser for their big game with Subiaco.

Panelists will include Ron Alexander, Percy Johnson and Mike Broadbridge, who with their local background, will no doubt tip an East Fremantle victory.

Drinks and meals will be available with the evening beginning at 7pm.

Royals plan a night for ladies

EAST Perth are organising a players trip to Bali later this year.

At least 25 league and reserves players have given a commitment to the proposed itinerary, which is scheduled for early December.

As a fund-raising event, there will be a Ladies Only Night this Friday (September 9) at the clubrooms.

There will be male dancers to entertain the ladies throughout the night — and to keep their drinks topped up, they can call on the services of the players who will act as waiters.

Also featuring during the evening will be some of the more popular acts from the recent players revue.

There is an element of mystery surrounding the evening. An un-named comedian, described as "a known celebrity and singer of sorts" will be entertaining the crowd at some stage.

BREMAN LOOKS TO CRICKET

THE football future of Subiaco's Todd Breman is in doubt at the end of this season.

Breman, a multi-talented sportsman, may choose to concentrate on rebuilding his first class cricket career, with the view of spending a summer in England playing cricket.

This would mean having to miss an entire football season. At least three V.F.L. clubs have shown a keen interest in obtaining Breman's services, but his recent poor form as a sharp-shooter, has dampened their enthusiasm a little.

Sunday's second semi-final was unkind to Breman in the first half. Claremont's dominance saw very few opportunities created for the Subiaco forwards, so much so that Breman was restricted to just three handballs.

At half-time coach, Haydn Bunton moved Breman to centre-half-back, where he played with much more poise and confidence for the remainder of the game.

The 22-year-old school teacher is likely to line up in his customary position of full forward in this week's bruising encounter against the Sharks.

His likely opponent will be versatile big man Lance Durack, who has slotted neatly into full-back since the emergence of young ruckman Clinton Wolf. For the moment, Breman is concentrating on Subiaco's finals campaign and won't make a decision on his sporting future for some time.

"FIGHT FOR FOOTBALL"

— CONTINUES

As reported in the media approximately 600 people attended a FIGHT FOR FOOTBALL meeting held at Fremantle Oval on 2nd August. At the meeting it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that a FIGHT FOR FOOTBALL CAMPAIGN be initiated immediately to:

- 1) Ensure the survival of the W.A.F.L. as an elite competition.
- 2) Ensure that the structure and control of Australian football is for the benefit of the game AUSTRALIA WIDE.

Encouraged by the outcome of the meeting the S.F.F.C. wishes to progress the Fight. To do this we need funds and manpower and are appealing to the football public of Western Australia for help. If you are prepared to assist please complete the coupon below and forward to:

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Jim Cross...Claremont team manager

Tigers man seeks his sixth flag

BEING the team manager of a league football club sounds a very prestigious position. But if you ask Jim Cross, the man with the Claremont job, he says "It's a lot of hard work."

Jim would know, because he has been manager of various Claremont sides since 1977, starting with the colts for two years and the reserves for seven years and is now in his third year as manager of Gerard Neesham's league side.

"It's not a job for someone who likes to make a lot of noise or have an influence on the playing side of things," he says. "It's more of an administrative position that involves making sure things run smoothly."

To give you an idea of how busy he is kept, take a look at some of his tasks.

He maintains player records and statistics, organises social functions, releases budget details and team lists, liaises with trainers, helps maintain the rooms, officiates at the inter-

change bench and in the off season attends to the communication between players and the club.

"I get a lot out of it though," he says. "I enjoy seeing the young blokes, keen and ambitious, improve as they come up through the grades. The camaraderie and mateship are important to me also."

There can be no doubting the success of the teams he has managed. Two premierships from the colts in 1977-78, two from the reserves in 1980 and 1982 and one from the league side last year, speak for themselves.

In his involvement as team manager, no Claremont team has ever lost a grand final.

Jim is fairly confident he can keep his record in tact by making it six flags from six attempts when Claremont play next week.

ON THE BALL

By MIKE KNUCKEY



Neesham won't give any clues

CLAREMONT coach Gerard Neesham is certainly toying with the idea of playing himself in the grand-final on Saturday week.

His last appearance on the field was against Subiaco when he received a hefty suspension from the tribunal for striking Glen Hutcheson.

Many people down at Claremont Oval would like to see Neesham don the Number 11 guernsey for the big game. But Neesham wouldn't give away any clues in his post match interview.

"I will wait and see. At the moment I am as good a chance as anyone," he said.

Hutton shows his aggression

WHATEVER Claremont coach Gerard Neesham did to psych up John Hutton before the clash with Subiaco, it certainly paid off.

Hutton's aggression was quickly noticeable, especially in his ruck duels with Graham Jones. He had trouble countering Jones' height, but he continually threw his body on the line in an attempt to win the ball.

Hutton, a versatile player with good skills and an excellent kick, also tackled hard and delivered some solid bumps.

Despite playing out of position, Hutton was one of the hardest triers on the field and should have earned a place in the Tigers grand final line-up.



Rookie Tiger Dale Kickett has the front running.

Lee in the hot seat

SECOND semi-final umpire Glen Lee is believed to have been spoken to by Umpires Adviser Bob Phillips after Sunday's game.

The talk was prompted by Lee's failure to report Subiaco's Rod Willet for striking Claremont defender Peter Owens in the second quarter.

WAFL chief executive Peter Cummiskey ordered an inquiry into the matter after a request by the Claremont Football Club.

Lee obviously witnessed the incident between the two players as he penalised Willet 50-metres for the crude tackle.

This oversight by Lee may prove costly in terms of his selection for the last two finals fixtures.

Regardless of his appearance before the tribunal, Willet won't be available this week due to a torn hamstring — a legacy of last week's game.

Team-mate Andrew MacNish is in the same boat. He tore his hamstring in the warm up exercises before the game and may not play again this season.

Morton was in superb touch

CLAREMONT defender Noel Morton produced a classic defender's game on the half back-flank last Sunday.

Morton ran hard and long; saved goals and punched in true defensive fashion. But most importantly, he turned defence into attack on countless occasions.

He was the most experienced player afield on Sunday and this was a decisive factor. He knew when to attack and knew when to drop back into a vacant goalsquare and capitalise on other situations that make working in defence so important.

His work had a big influence on the outcome of the game.

Winning break

IT is generally agreed that Claremont were the more superior side in last Saturday's second semi-final clash with Subiaco. But statistics can be deceiving.

Claremont's flying start gave them a comfortable cushion for the rest of the day.

In the first six minutes of the match, the Tigers kicked 4.1 — and those 25 points turned out to be the winning margin.

Cummiskey stands by Sunday move

WAFL chief executive Peter Cummiskey was quick to defend the League's decision to play the second semi-final on a Sunday, despite the poor attendance of only 11,000.

"I doubt whether we would have got that many people if we had left the game on the Saturday," was Cummiskey's view.

It would have put the Claremont-Subiaco encounter in direct competition with the telecast from Melbourne of the Eagles-Melbourne finals clash.

"I don't think people would have got out of their armchairs to come down and watch the game at Subiaco Oval," said Cummiskey.

Subiaco coach Haydn Bunton supported Cummiskey in his decision, saying that he thought there was no disadvantage in playing on Sunday.

"Our training schedules will alter, but having one day less won't effect our preparation for the preliminary final this week," said Bunton.

Sunshine hits the players

CLAREMONT players were running hot last Sunday and no wonder when you consider the weather the game was played in.

Numerous players lay exhausted on the changeroom benches after the game, sweat oozing from their pores. The temperature reached 24.8deg C at 2.25pm, five minutes into the first quarter.

A glance around the crowd showed numerous hats and caps donned to protect noses from the blazing sun.

In a light-hearted interview after the game, Peter Cummiskey spoke of an errand he was running before the match.

"I called into a house in Floreat but couldn't find the owner for some time — he was out the back enjoying a swim in his pool."

Setback for Broadbridge

EAST Fremantle's Mike Broadbridge has received another tough break relating to the fractured wrist he received in the third-last qualifying game.

Broadbridge had further X-Rays last week, reveal a second crack in the same bone.

The cast had to be reset and it will now be another six weeks before the wrist will be healed.

While Broadbridge had no hope of being fit for any of the remaining football finals, it is particularly disappointing for him as it will delay his start to the cricket season.

That is only three weeks away and Broadbridge is on the threshold of a promising cricket career playing with Melville in the first-grade competition.

South Fremantle

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TIGERS

What's Happening at Claremont

Saturday, September 9
 Preliminary Final — Subiaco Oval
 Reserves 11.40am Claremont vs Subiaco
 Congratulations to the League and Under 19 teams on making the grand final after good performances in the second semi-final last Sunday.

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

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Harvey and Carey Park do it easy

HARVEY-Brunswick overcame the loss of key players Derek Hall and David Morris to comfortably finish the 1988 season for Busselton 15.23 to 10.5 in the South-West League elimination final on Sunday.

David Obal (five goals) picked the right day to return to form with Austin Letto (three goals) also proving handy up forward.

Sean Mooney was impassable at centre-half-back, while Frank Wilson thrived on the responsibility of being his side's leading ruckman.

For Busselton, Ross Gibson (three goals) was useful, while Michael Krygger tried hard all day. Youngster Ian Guthridge, given the onerous task of tagging Dom Crognale, performed his task to perfection.

EASY WIN

Carey Park returned to top form with an easy victory over Bunbury in the qualifying final, 20.10 to 12.17.

Kernutt Thorne, playing as a ruckman/forward, kicked six goals to be the best player afield.

Michael Hastie (four goals) also played strongly, while others to show out for the victors were Keith Narkle and Glen Dehring.

Grant Hawkes, Kim Gibbs and Tony Venturini all tried hard for Bunbury, while Ashley Collard chipped in with three majors.

This week Bunbury face up to Harvey-Brunswick, who will need to be at their best to give themselves a chance of victory in the first semi-final.

Premiership favourites South Bunbury are expected to move straight into the grand final by defeating arch rivals Carey Park.

Double to the Karratha Falcons

THE Karratha Falcons capped a highly-successful season when they won the league and reserves premierhips in the North Pilbara League.

Minor premiers Falcons went one step further when they won an exciting league grand final over the Karratha Kats, 14.20 to 13.9.

Both sides started well, with the Falcons having most of the play, posting five goals to the Kats three.

The second quarter was an even affair with Kats showing signs of a revival and going into the long change only two goals down.

However, in the third quarter the Falcons worked well in attack and were solid in defence, kicking five goals to one to set up a match-winning lead.

This left the Kats with a seven-goal deficit to make up in the last quarter but despite this, they worked strongly in attack and kicked six goals.

However, it was not enough and Falcons won the flag by 17 points.

The Eric Pratt Medal for fairest and best in the grand final was won by Brian Rouke, with good performances from Falcons Shane Gidgup, Russell Sparks and Kats Mark Hodgson.

In the reserves, the Falcons again downed the Kats by just six points, 10.10 to 9.10.

The game was similar to the League clash with a last-quarter comeback by the Kats. However, it was all in vain as Falcons held on to win an exciting game by six points.

Straight kicking

BODDINGTON ran out comfortable winners against the highly-fancied Wickepin 21.5 to 14.9 in the Upper Great Southern elimination final last weekend.

The loss of the league side completed a disastrous day for Wickepin, whose two earlier teams were beaten in their respective elimination finals.

In a high-standard qualifying final, Towns proved too strong for an inaccurate West Arthur 21.12 to 15.20 and earned the right to meet premiership favourites Williams in the second-semi final this week.

West Arthur now have to regroup to face the challenge from an optimistic Boddington.

by
DENIS HEANEY

Rookie leads Demons into grand final

NORTH Mt Barker thrashed a shell-shocked North Albany to win the Southern Districts Football League preliminary final at Frost Park on Sunday, 16.14 (110) to 10.15 (75).

North Albany's six goals to one in the final term made the scoreboard look respectable, after North Barker had dominated from the outset.

Best for the winners were rookie Nathan Ashton, in-form Kelvin Hardy and centreman Brad Smallwood, who celebrated his 100th game.

John Jarzabek, Keith Wynne and Kelvin Boyce were Kangas best. Greg Saunders and Brad Gilbert each kicked five goals for North Barker, while Murray Wynne and Russell Williams scored three each for the losers.

North Albany won the reserves, leading all the way to beat South Mt Barker 8.14 (62) to 7.7 (49).

Best were Steve Framton, Alan Noakes, Rod Kerr (North Albany) and Peter and Dave Hambley and Neville McGill for the Hawks.

Royals 16.18 (114) completely out-classed Railways 6.4 (40) to win the colts. Their best were Glen Willis, Jason Prosser and John Fishwick, while best for the Tigers were Jason McNaughton, Robert Swift and Mark Gilbert.

This Sunday's grand final at Centennial Oval sees North Mt Barker attempting to beat Royals for the first time since the 1986 preliminary final.

Railways will meet North Albany in the reserves and North Albany face Royals in the colts.

Fortescue thriller

FOOTBALL in the Fortescue League was extended for another week when Tigers and Centrals fought out a thrilling draw in last week's grand final.

Centrals staged a remarkable recovery to come from 27 points down at one stage to level the game in the closing minutes, 11.15 (81) each.

Centrals opened with the first goal, but Tigers led by four points after a tight first term. The flag favourites extended the lead to 22 points at half-time with Dave Maher, Billy Snooke, Mal Taylor and Dion Poole playing well.

Tigers added another goal in the third term to seemingly head for the flag, but then Centrals fought back through Jensen, Brooke and Stobaus to reduce the deficit to nine points - only to see Tigers sneak away to 27 points again.

Alan Stobaus led the Centrals last-term revival and they edged in front close to the siren, only to see Maher and Snooke post a point each to draw the game.

Wesfarmers present ... COUNTRY ROUND-UP

Country news and information can be sent to Westside Football FAX 275 1405.

COUNTRY FOOTBALL

ONGERUP — Preliminary finals — League: Newdegate 16.15 b Jerramungup 14.15. Reserves: Ongerup 14.11 b Gnowangerup 9.8. Juniors: Boxwood Hill 12.12 b Pingrup 8.3.

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS — Preliminary finals — League: North Mt Barker 16.14 b North Albany 10.15. Reserves: North Albany 8.14 b South Mt Barker 7.7. Colts: Royals 16.18 b Railways 6.4.

CENTRAL WHEATBELT — Preliminary finals — A grade: Beacon 14.18 b Mukinbudin 9.12. A Reserve: Southern Cross 10.14 b Koorda 9.9.

AVON — Preliminary finals — League: Cunderdin 17.16 b Brookton 14.13. Reserves: York 17.6 b Railways 8.8.

MORTLOCK — Preliminary finals — League: Toodyay 26.20 b Wongan Hills 15.18. A Reserve: Wongan Hills 11.14 b Wyalkatchem 5.11. Colts: Dowerin 13.15 b Toodyay 6.5.

FORTESCUE — Grand final: Tigers 11.15 drew Centrals 11.15.

CENTRAL GREAT SOUTHERN — Preliminary finals — League: Kukerin 16.15 b Tambellup 14.9. A Reserve: Austals 14.14 b Kukerin 6.10. Colts: Australs 15.10 b Wanderers 4.6.

LOWER SOUTH WEST — Preliminary finals — League: Dean Mill 15.13 b Imperials 14.12. Reserves: Southerners 18.16 b Dean Mill 5.6.

GREAT NORTHERN — Towns 13.15 b Railways 11.12. Mullewa 30.15 b Northampton 12.8. Chapman Valley 17.11 b Brigades 15.8.

SOUTH WEST — Elimination final: Harvey Brunswick 15.23 b Busselton 10.5. Qualifying final: Carey Park 20.10 b Bunbury 12.17.

NORTH PILBARA — Grand final — League: Karratha Falcons 14.21 b Karratha Kats 13.9. Reserves: Karratha Falcons 10.10 b Karratha Kats 9.10.

GOLDFIELDS — 1st Semi-final: Kalgoorlie 20.11 b Railways 8.9.

UPPER GT SOUTHERN — Elimination finals — League: Boddington 21.5 b Wickepin 14.9. Seconds: Lake Grace 10.15 b Wickepin 7.5. Thirds: Williams 13.7 b Wickepin 5.3. Qualifying finals — League: Towns 21.12 b West Arthur 15.20. Seconds: Railways 16.14 b Towns 7.9. Thirds: Pingelly 16.18 b Wagin 3.1.

MURRAY DISTRICTS — Grand Final — League: Waroona 17.19 b Pinjarra 17.13. Reserves: Harvey-Towns 12.12 b South Mandurah 9.8. Colts: Pinjarra 9.9 b Harvey 6.8.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS — Preliminary finals — League: Moora Rovers 18.12 b Moora Warriors 13.11. Reserves: Moora Warriors 12.15 b Dandaragan 9.14. Colts: Moora Warriors 18.20 b Keaney College 4.2. Little League: Moora Rovers 9.1 b Bindmilling 5.5.

NORTH MIDLANDS — Preliminary finals — League: Mingenew 18.17 b Dongara 13.12. Reserves: Morawa 8.12 b Mingenew 8.3.

Royals get a bonus

THE Royals Football Club received a grand final bonus when three players were cleared of striking charges on a technicality.

Ken Kelly, Shaun Colbung and Darryl Byatt all walked out of the tribunal and will be available for Sunday's grand final against North Mt Barker.

Southern Districts Football League president Norm Hitchcock said that a technical error due to inexperienced umpires had enabled the four players to get off the charges.

They were all reported in the second semi-final, but the umpires had not mentioned the names of the players who had been struck when submitting their reports.



Barry Kimberley...upset win.

Duncan aims at a premiership

FORMER West Perth player Peter Duncan is chasing a premiership in his coaching role with Towns, in the Upper Great Southern competitions.

Towns recorded the biggest win of the 1988 season when they thrashed Lake Grace by 131 points - after Lake Grace had kicked 27 goals the previous week.

That win was Towns ninth in succession and they added another one by beating West Arthur 21.12 to 15.20 in the qualifying final.

Towns have completely turned their season around after plunging as low as seventh on the table earlier in the year.

Keith Ballard, the GWN footballer-of-the-year last season, has returned to top form to help generate the revival.

Boddington sprung an upset in the elimination final when they downed Wickepin 21.5 to 14.9 and now play Towns this week.

Kimberley does well

FORMER Perth and Swan Districts rover Barry Kimberley has taken his determination to Geraldton this season and helped turn Towns into a competitive side.

The tough little leader set new standards of discipline at Towns and though the team finished third last, two game out of the finals, their improvement was marked - as evidenced by their last-game win over second side Railways.

After being the chopping blocks of last year's competition, Towns have emerged as likely final-four contenders for next season.

The Bulldogs are looking at a big year next season, especially if improving players like Marcus Harold, Anthony Henry, Greg Cross, Jason Drage and Robbie Callow continue to do well.

Two other former WAFL players in Mick Johns and John Sims have also ended their Great Northern season out of the four.

Sims, captain-coach of wooden-spooners Chapman Valley, was out injured most of the season. In fact, injuries affected most of their senior players, but they finished strongly with a win over fourth placed Brigades.



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Eagles top the poll in popularity

Eagles name their best

THE West Coast Eagles are probably the most popular VFL team outside of Melbourne — that's the confident boast of Bill Kerr, the man in charge of the West Australian club.

Kerr staked his business reputation — not to mention his credibility — last October when he sacked initial Eagles coach Ron Alexander after one year. He replaced him with four-times WAFL premiership coach John Todd because "he's a better coach".

Kerr now knows that the Eagles' victory over Footscray virtually confirmed that decision, at least on the premiership table.

The win put the Eagles into fourth place — and Kerr says that pleased a lot of people around the nation.

"The support we get from areas outside of Melbourne is incredible," he says.

in popularity

By

ALAN EAST

"We've got fans in Tasmania, in Queensland, in South Australia and even in the country areas of Victoria.

"If a poll was taken in South Australia, you would find that the Eagles would be the most popular VFL club.

"We've had a steady stream of mail all season, but it's really built up in the last few weeks. School children especially are always writing to us and Barry Cable, our assistant coach, spends an enormous amount of time looking after a variety of requests."

Kerr was obviously keen for the Eagles to make the finals, even though it will be a costly exercise for the Perth-based club.



Bill Kerr...happy with Eagles

The Eagles face a big expense every time they fly across the Nullarbor to do battle with a Victorian-based team. A bill of \$25,000 is a conservative estimate for an away game.

Making the finals provides an extra boost to their coffers in terms of prizemoney, but it was just another game and another expense as far as Kerr's concerned.

But it is seen as a boost for the Eagles' public image — restoring credibility and helping sway the "swinging supporter" who has been a bit lukewarm during the season when it came to watching home games.

CAREER

"A lot of footballers go through their whole career without ever playing in a finals match," says Kerr.

"It's important for the players' own careers that they took that next step.

"The players created their own little bit of history — the first Eagles team to play in the VFL finals.

"There was no chance that we went into the game in a negative mood. We gave every player an extensive breakdown of the final-five situation and they knew that even a one-point loss could toss them out of the five."

A huge upsurge in local interest has seen big crowds attend Eagles training in recent weeks — with an estimated 1500 (plus Victoria's megamouth Lou Richards) at Perth Oval training one Wednesday night.

THE fast-growing Melbourne-based Eagles supporters group packed the presentation room after the game — and more than 250 fans gave the players an overwhelming reception.

Victorian manager Ross Nicholas announced the weekly presentations, which saw the coach's award go to a courageous John Worsfold (who played the last few weeks with a stomach muscle strain); the Dunbars Restaurant honour to Laurie Keene and the Morrisons hat best-player trophy to Steve Malaxos.

Voting in the major awards for all Melbourne games saw Guy McKenna take off the top award — a full set of moleskin clothes from Morrisons of Melbourne — by one vote from Murray Rance, who collected the Langley Plaza award.

Third place in a tight finish went to Chris Mainwaring, who received the Burswood Casino award.

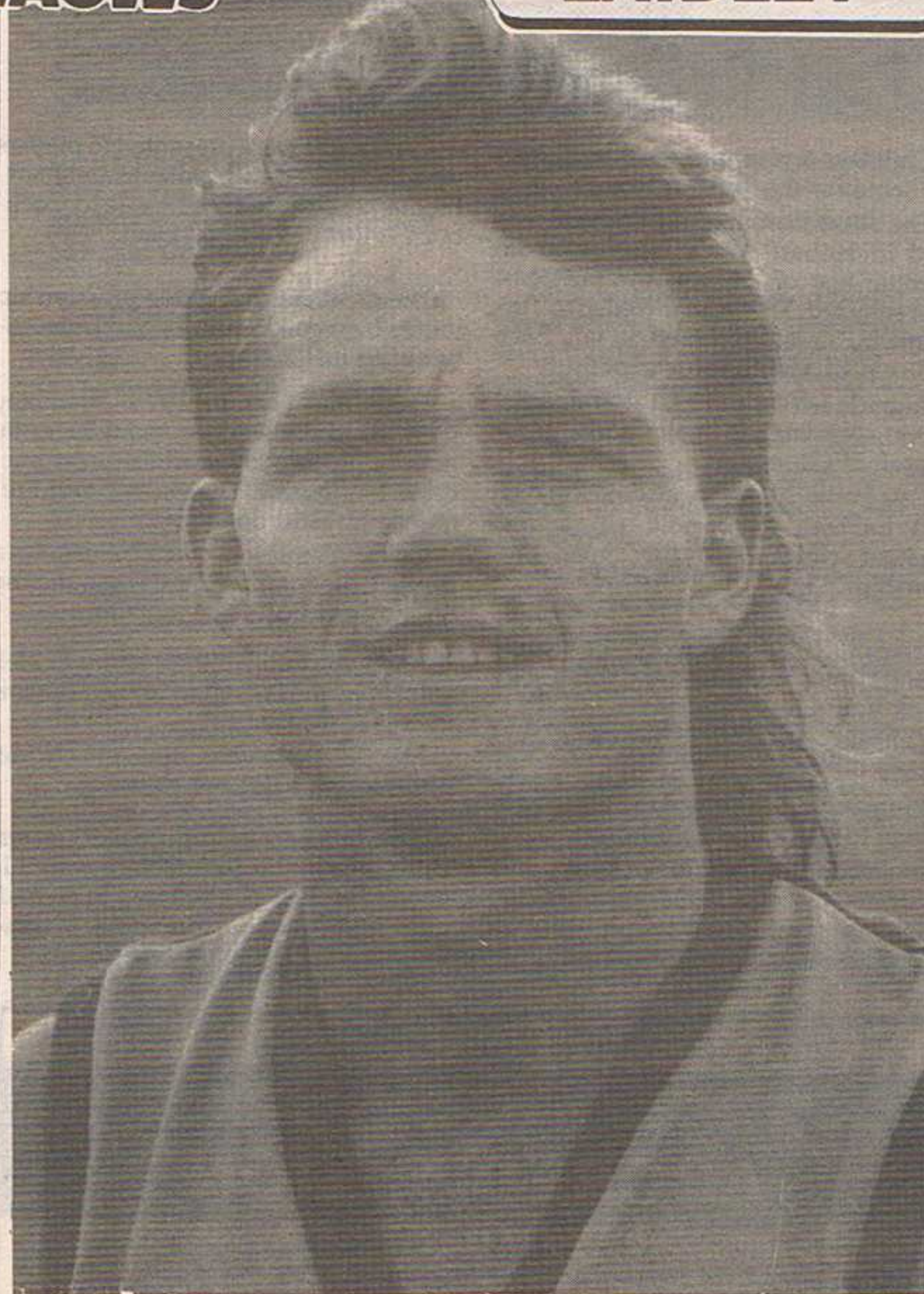
Coach John Todd also got on the receiving end when he was presented with a Morrisons moleskin hat.



Eagles star John Worsfold in a conciliatory mood.



DEAN LAIDLEY



DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 27/3/67 Subiaco WA
HEIGHT: 185cm **WEIGHT:** 76kg
GUERNSEY NUMBER: 15
RECRUITED FROM: West Perth, Westminster-Balga
NICKNAME: Tunnel.
FIRST SENIOR GAME: WAFL 1984 Claremont; VFL 1987 Eagles
GAMES PLAYED: 50 West Perth, 20 Eagles, 4 WA
FOOTBALL HONORS: State team 1986-88
FAVOURITE POSITION: Centre
MARITAL STATUS: Married to Joanne
CHILDREN: Girl, Brooke
BROTHERS/SISTERS: One brother
OCCUPATION: Bank officer
SCHOOL/S ATTENDED: Balga High
CAR: Ford Falcon XD
FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES: sleeping, surfing
FAVOURITE FOOD: Roast

FAVOURITE DRINK: Iced-coffee
FAVOURITE SPORT (apart from football): Cricket
FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP: John Cougar Mellencamp
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY SPOT: Bali
FAVOURITE NIGHT SPOT AND/OR RESTAURANT: Rumours
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Moonlighting
FAVOURITE MOVIE: Top Gun
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Tom James and John Wynne
MOST ADMIRED SPORTSMEN: Magic Johnson
BOYHOOD IDOL: Brian Peake
MATCH DAY ROUTINE: Watch cartoons
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not playing in a grand final
BIGGEST THRILL: WA winning Australian championship 1986
FAVOURITE GROUND: Leederville Oval
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Win a grand final with the Eagles

WAFL FINALS

STARTING TIMES

Colts matches will start at 9.30am for the first three finals and at 9.00am on Grand Final Day. Reserve matches will start at 11.40am for first three finals and at 11.15am on Grand Final Day. All League Finals matches will start at 2.20pm.

the first three finals is \$6.50 for adults, \$2.50 for concession and \$1.50 for children. Reserved seating for these games is available at Perth Concert Hall and His Majesty's Theatre. Any unsold seats will be on sale at the ground on the day of the match.

AFTER MATCH

At the end of all final round games, the public is asked to refrain from entering the playing area until after all presentations are completed and the second siren sounds.

GATES

All gates will open at 9.00am on the first three finals and at 8.00am on Grand Final Day.

GRAND FINAL

A limited number of reserved seating tickets are still available. Standing room tickets are available from the Perth Concert Hall and His Majesty's Theatre. \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for concession and \$2.00 for children.

PARKING

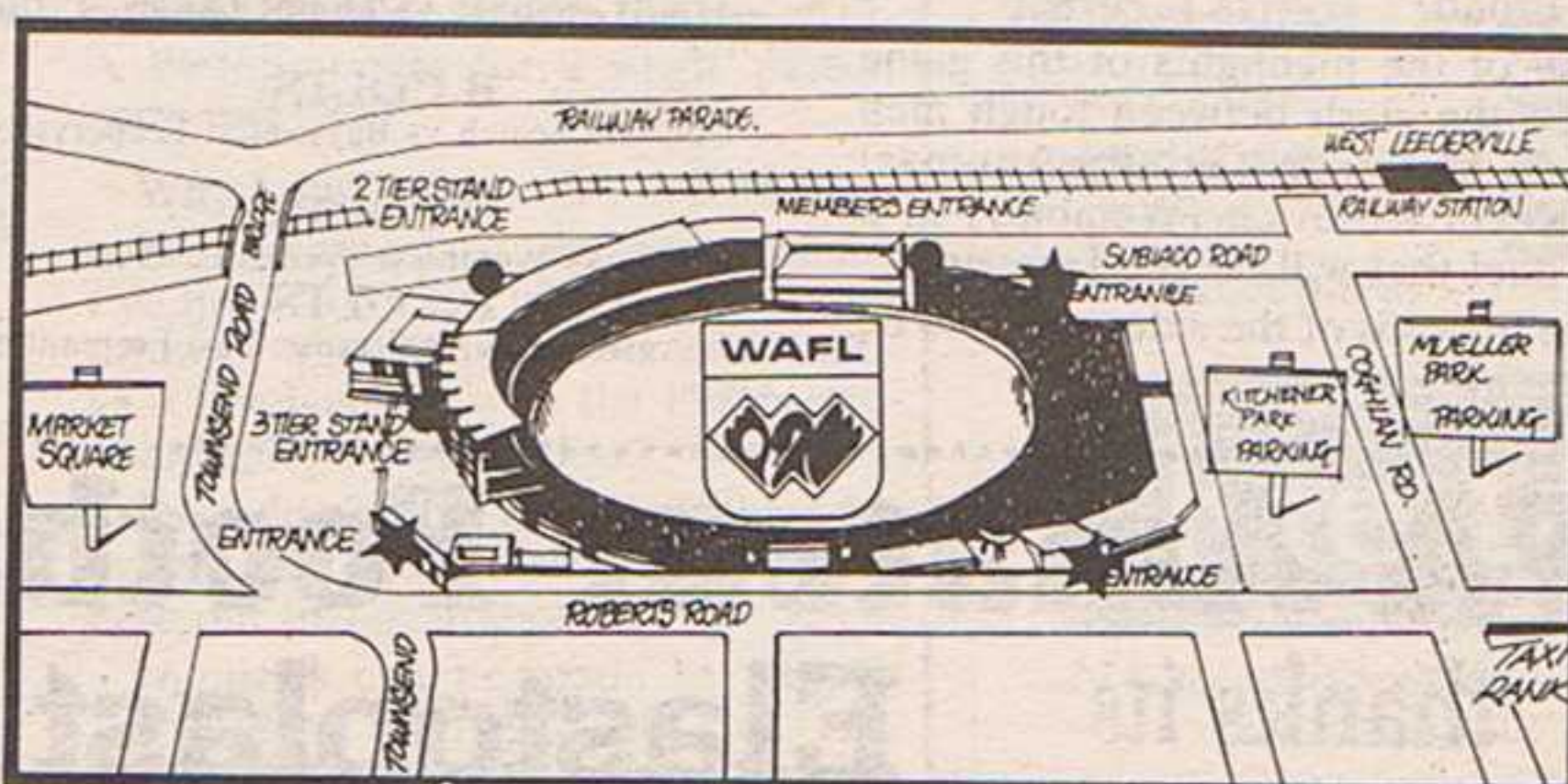
All public parking areas adjacent to Subiaco Oval will be open (see map).

ADMISSION PRICES

Gate admission for outer sections of Subiaco Oval for

BUSES AND TRAINS

Buses and trains will run as normal to and from games.



IT'S NEVER THE SAME UNLESS YOU'RE THERE AT THE GAME. BE THERE LIVE!



A roundup of news from the West Australian Amateur Football League

Mt Lawley charge into sixth grand final

MT LAWLEY stormed their way into their sixth grand final in a row when they beat Trinity-Aquinas by 62 points in Saturday's A-grade second semi-final.

The Hawks kept the pressure on their opponents from start to finish and reaped the rewards for the hard work as a team.

Captain Tony Williams, along with Justin Cook, Victor Lowe and Brad Stevens, all were creative and capitalised on most opportunities up forward.

The Hawks were solid in defence, where they were represented by five State players, with only Dave Armstrong, who performed well, the only non-State player.

Trinity-Aquinas were competitive up until midway through the third quarter, when they started to flounder.

Small men Mark Shaw, Les Fong and Mark Collins were in the thick of things, covering a lot of ground trying to get their side back into the game.

Other players who did well were Hamish Valentine and Dominic Dwyer.

EASY WINNERS

In the first semi-final, Wembley bounced back from their loss last week and put University away with consummate ease, running out winners by 25 goals.

The first quarter was even, with University kicking against the wind and appearing to be playing well.

However, in the second and third term, Wembley slammed on 15 goals to confirm that would continue in the finals race.

The charge by Wembley was led by full forward Simon Proud, with five goals, along with Brad Roberts and Kevin Symonds, kicking four each.

Other good players for the Magpies were defenders Grant Morgan, Rod Alderton, ruckman Kevin Kosovich and wingman Greg Metcalf.

University finished on a poor note, but the improvement shown during this season should stand them in good stead for the future.

The students ruck division of John Love and Aaron Devitt were again clear winners, while Simon Will tried hard.

PRELIMINARY

This week's preliminary final between Trinity-Aquinas and Wembley should see Les Fong and his side advance to the grand final.

Players such as Valentine, John Price, Mark Shaw, Mark Collins and ruck-roving duo Brad Calvin and Phil Green are the players Wembley must overcome to stop Trinity Aquinas.

While Trinity-Aquinas will have to watch the Magpies' Brad Roberts, Kevin Symonds, Grant Callaghan, Peter Falconer and new look full-forward Simon Proud.

One of the highlights of this game will be the clash between tough men Jeremy McGrade (Trinity-Aquinas) and Kevin Kosovich (Wembley) in a ruck duel that will be good viewing.

The line-ups of the sides will also be interesting.

by
TREVOR SCHORER



Victor Lowe flies for a one-handed mark

Finals fixtures

A GRADE PRELIMINARY FINAL Trinity Aquinas vs Wembley, Perth Oval, 2.30pm.
B GRADE PRELIMINARY FINAL Swan Athletic vs Bayswater, Leederville Oval, 2.30pm.
GRAND FINALS
C GRADE Morley vs Cockburn Lakes, Lathlain Oval.
D GRADE Wembley vs Rockingham, Fremantle Oval.
E GRADE R&I Bank vs Trinity Aquinas, East Fremantle Oval.
F GRADE Sawyers Valley vs John 23rd, Bassendean Oval.
G GRADE Coll/Old Scotch vs Bayswater, Inglewood Oval.
H GRADE West Coast vs Swan/Nedlands, McGillivray Oval No. 1.
I GRADE University vs Lynwood Ferndale, Robinson Reserve.
J GRADE Scarborough vs Trinity Aquinas, City Beach Oval.
K GRADE Coolbinia/Yokine vs Bayswater, Hamer Park.
L GRADE Carlisle vs Bullcreek, Melville Reserve.
A COLTS Trinity Aquinas vs Mount Lawley, Perth Oval.
B COLTS Coll/Old Scotch vs Bayswater, Leederville Oval.
C COLTS C.B.C. vs Wembley, Fremantle Oval.
D COLTS Forrestfield vs Applecross, East Fremantle Oval.

HIGHLIGHTS

C GRADE: Cockburn Lakes moved into the grand final with an impressive win over Nollamara. Cockburn were downed by Morley two weeks ago and if they can maintain last week's form, they should give Morley a hard game.

D GRADE: Rockingham fought back to earn a clash with Wembley in the grand final after a close encounter with Brentwood last week. The season's minor premiers will have to improve if they are to beat the Magpies for this year's flag.

E GRADE: Trinity Aquinas played power-house football to defeat Hamersley and earn their place in the final game of the season. They will find tougher opposition in R&I Bank, who have had a week's break.

F GRADE: John XXIII caused an upset by beating West Coast by 11 points. They will find Sawyers Valley a totally different story.

G GRADE: Bayswater No. 2 will meet Collegians Old Scotch No. 2 in a replay of the second semi-final, when Collegians ran out winners. Bayswater have a lot more to offer than the last time these two sides met and this grand final should prove to be a closely-fought contest.

H GRADE: Swanbourne/Nedlands ended Wembley's hopes of having three senior teams playing off in grand finals with a crushing 72-point victory. West Coast No. 2 will not find the grand final as easy as the second semi-final as Swanbourne have regained several top players.

J GRADE: Trinity Aquinas bounced back from a humiliating defeat at the hands of Scarborough to beat MHWP by five points. They now face Scarborough again and should provide tough opposition.

K GRADE: Bayswater go into the grand final against Coolbinia-Yokine with reasonable confidence after a solid win over preliminary final favourites Cockburn Lakes. The last time these two sides met, Coolbinia ran out winners, but do not be surprised to see the tables reversed this week.

L GRADE: Bullcreek have to again face Carlisle in the Grand Final. Only two weeks ago the Cougars inflicted one of the worst defeats seen in amateur finals, crushing Bullcreek by more than 30 goals. Carlisle must be favourites for the encounter as well.

A COLTS: Trinity Aquinas are confident of winning this year's premiership having got into the grand final without losing a game.

Trinity should have to much strength and ability for the determined Mt Lawley Brigade.

B COLTS: Bayswater made it three out of four sides to play in the grand final by beating Innaloo. Collegians Old Scotch would still be favourites, however the Blues will not make it easy for them.

C COLTS: C.B.C. will prove too strong again for Wembley in this grade's grand final. The old scholars have gone through the season undefeated and the final game should not be any exception.

Past Reflections

by JOHN DAVIES

Club fees and umpires fees remained the same for the 1956 season.

The Australian amateur carnival was held in Hobart. WA's team, with an average age of 24, was the youngest ever selected. The team travelled to Tasmania by air and returned by rail. Each player paid \$64 towards expenses.

A-grade fairest and best winner John Hilton was later to make a name for himself at Claremont.

East Perth (A), Midland Junction (B1) and Palmyra (B2), now all defunct amateur clubs, won the three premierships.

Season 1957 saw North Fremantle change their guernseys to white with black V and numbers.

Official goalkicking records were kept for the first time.

Fremantle also altered their guernsey design to black and gold hoops.

Inglewood, Osborne Park and Teachers College withdrew from the amateurs. Two divisions, A with 10 teams and B (12 teams), competed.

Certificates were presented to players who had played 150 games in amateurs. Fremantle changed their name to Cockburn Amateur Football Club.

The great era of A-grade premiership rivalry between Wembley and University began in 1958.

From that year to 1978, Wembley won 10 premierships and University nine. Only two other clubs were successful in those 20 years — North Fremantle in 1960 and CBC in 1967.

Colin Jamieson was elected a WAAFL life member (and is still serving on the board of management).

Palmyra changed their name to Melville. Maylands reverted to their original guernsey design.

For the third year, club match fees remained at \$124 per club.

The first official top goalkicker was Brian Featherby (Wembley) with 113 goals. This was not bettered in A-grade until 1986 when Brendon McFaul (Scarborough) booted 139 majors.

WAAFL DEVELOPMENT COACHING ACCREDITATION LEVEL 1 COURSE

Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8, 1989 (one week before start of 1989 season)
ALL WAAFL coaches must be Level 1 Accredited before the end of the 1989 season

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382 1799, 276 1708 ah The Football Development Trust 387 5355

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Innaloo go straight into

INNALOO stormed into the B-grade grand final by disposing of Swan Athletic by 58 points in Saturday's second semi-final at Bassendean Oval.

Swan Athletic put up token resistance for three quarters, but faced the full force of the Bulldogs in the last quarter as Innaloo did as they pleased.

Martin Hall provided Innaloo with plenty of inspiration and received good support from Tony McDonald and Dave Foster.

Other contributors for the Bulldogs were Nelson, McFaull, Bowe, Kurzke and Kettlewell.

Vice captain Valdo Sorgiovanni tried hard all day for Swan Athletic, receiving support from Ric Bath and Graeme Sumich.

Bayswater burst back into premier-ship calculations by destroying C.B.C. with a seven-goal third quarter.

After an even first half when the Blues led by two goals, Bayswater's potent brigade of running players, led by John Lawrence, slipped into top gear and ran all over a beleaguered C.B.C. combination.

INSTRUMENTAL

Dave Atkinson was instrumental in setting up goals, as was Rob Casamento and Ashly Taylor, while Steve Taylor continually ran the ball out of defence.

Syd Phoenix and Peter Smith got the better of the C.B.C. ruckmen, though Paul Hurst and Nigel Rogers worked tirelessly for their beaten side.

Denis Roberts and Glen England provided focal points for Bayswater up forward, though neither completely dominated.

Best players for Bayswater were rovers Ashly Taylor and John Lawrence and defender Steve Taylor. For C.B.C., none were better than full back Paul Piggot, Rob Wardle, Nigel Rogers, Peter Brindley, Gerry Hart and Lou White.

This week sees Bayswater take on Swan Athletic in a rematch of their qualifying final clash.

The Blues will be seeking revenge for their loss and should win.



PREMIERSHIP RECORDS

UNIVERSITY hold the record for the most premierships in the WAAFL. Since 1929, they have won 43 pennants.

Wembley have won 23 premierships since being admitted in 1938, while Mt Lawley, only 26 years in amateurs, are closing the gap with 18 flags.

Other competing clubs winning records are: North Fremantle 16; Scarborough 11; Carlisle 10; Collegians (before joining with Old Scotch) 9; Innaloo 8; Maylands, Nollamara 7; WACAE, Dianella, MHWP 6; North-bridge AICA, West Coast, Swanbourne-Nedlands 5; Bayswater, North Beach, WAIT, Forrestfield, Trinity-Aquinas, Cockburn Lakes, CBC 4; Hellenic, Swan Athletic 3; Applecross, Coolbinia-Yokine, Bassendean, Morley, Redcliffe, Whitford, Girrawheen 2; Bullcreek, Hammersley, Melville, Muresk, National Bank, Old Wesley, R & I Bank, St Norberts, ANZ Bank, Riverton, Mundaring, Navy Club 1; Still to win a premiership include: Brentwood, Coolbellup, Curtin, East Fremantle, John 23rd, Mirrabooka, Murdoch, Ocean Ridge, RAAF, Rockingham, Sawyers Valley, Victoria Park, Wanneroo.

grand final

B-GRADE

by **PETER RUSH**



Bayswater's big season

IT has been more than a decade since the Bayswater colts played in a grand final — but they are there this season.

Coach Alan Hughes has done an exceptional job with the Blues younger brigade, overcoming a mid-year slump which saw them slip out of the five.

They have won their way through the elimination final to help give Bayswater four teams in the top four and three sides in grand finals.

This weekend the senior B-grade side plays Swan Athletic in the preliminary final to decide if they can complete the quadrella.

SOCIAL SPOT

THE Maylands Football Club presents their annual trophy presentation and wind-up on Saturday, September 10 at the Maylands Bowling Club in Peninsula Road, Maylands starting at 7.30. Tickets are \$10.

V.F.L. GRAND FINAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Tickets are \$8. Free drinks between noon and 2pm.

The Raunchy Girl Dance Review

between 4pm and 6pm
VENUE: Maylands Football Club Bar, Gibney Reserve
Organised by the Maylands Bali '88 Trip Fund



INFORMATION REQUIRED

Information on game scores, best players, goal scorers and how your game was won or lost is required between 9-10 Sunday mornings:

A1-grade - Trevor Schorer — Phone 276 7171

B1 grade - Peter Rush — Phone 277 2260

Other grades - Dave Eggleston — Phone 342 8749

FINALS RESULTS

FIRST SEMI FINAL

A GRADE

Wembley 3.4 10.5 18.7 22.9
University 3.4 6.7 7.9 9.14
BEST: Wembley — Kosovich, G. Metcalfe, Symons.
University: Sawle, Divitt, Rohr. GOALS: Wembley — Proud 6, Symons 3, B. Metcalfe 3, University: P. McNe 3, Pell 2.

B GRADE

Bayswater 1.5 4.10 9.15 12.18
C.B.C. 2.1 2.8 3.11 8.15
BEST: C.B.C. — Piggott, Waddle, Rodgers. GOALS: C.B.C. — Howard 4.

SECOND SEMI FINAL

A GRADE

Mt Lawley 4.4 11.6 16.9 24.18
Trinity-Aquinas 6.1 10.5 13.7 15.10
BEST: Mt Lawley — Lowe, Williams, Stevens, Trinity-Aquinas: Valentine, Dwyer, Shaw. GOALS: Mt Lawley — Lowe 8, Stevens 6, Williams 4, Trinity-Aquinas: Valentine 5, Callino 3.

B GRADE

Innaloo 6.4 7.6 10.13 17.17
Swan Athletic 2.1 6.7 7.8 9.9
BEST: Innaloo — McDonald, Hall Foster, Swan Athletic: Bath, Sumich, Sorgiovanni. GOALS: Innaloo — McFaull 4, McLaurin 3.

PRELIMINARY FINALS

A COLTS

Mt Lawley 4.3 8.5 12.8 14.9
North Beach 2.3 5.9 5.14 10.15
BEST: Mt Lawley — Tipping, Gillespie, Proctor. North Beach: Smith, Jones Dalton. GOALS: Mt Lawley — Hinckley 4.

B COLTS

Bayswater 3.1 4.5 6.7 7.12
Innaloo 1.2 1.5 5.7 7.7
BEST: Innaloo — Properjohn, Scholes, Masters.

C COLTS

Wembley No. 2 3.0 8.0 11.3 15.4
Bassendean 2.2 7.5 7.7 7.7
BEST: Wembley — Catlin, Taylor, Gillard, Bassendean: Boyling, Taylor, Black.

D COLTS

Applecross 1.10 d Rockingham 5.5
Cockburn Lakes 20.17 d Nollamara No. 2 6.12

E GRADE

Rockingham 1.4 5.7 9.11 10.11
Brentwood 2.1 5.5 5.5 9.9
BEST: Rockingham — Miller, Pansini, Pribicevich. Brentwood: Rigg, Watson, Russell, Goodin. GOALS: Rockingham — Edwards 3.

F GRADE

Trinity-Aquinas No. 2 17.21 d Hammersley 11.14
John 23rd 15.14 d West Coast No. 2 13.15

G GRADE

Bayswater No. 2 2.4 10.8 13.10 19.11
Girrawheen 4.4 8.4 9.5 12.9
BEST: Girrawheen — Cole, Dickie, Walley.

H GRADE

Swanbourne 6.3 12.5 15.8 22.11
Wembley No. 3 2.3 4.10 6.11 9.17
BEST: Swanbourne — Thompson, Stanfield, Carey. Wembley: Dial, Upton, Fussell. GOALS: Swanbourne — Wilkshire 4, Van Mill 3.

I GRADE

Lynwood-Ferndale 6.3 13.3 18.6 20.10
Riverton 4.6 8.7 12.8 15.11
BEST: Riverton — Soltoggio, Adams, Jeffreys. GOALS: Riverton — Fielder 4.

J GRADE

Trinity-Aquinas No. 3 1.3 4.5 4.7 10.13
MHWP No. 2 2.1 3.3 9.5 10.8
BEST: Trinity-Aquinas: Wallis, Brahim, Meakins. MHWP: Van-Wees, Tanner, Block. GOALS: Trinity-Aquinas: Brahim 3, Wallis 3.

K GRADE

Bayswater No. 3 12.16 d Cockburn Lakes No. 2 9.5
L GRADE
Bullcreek No. 2 2.3 10.6 12.9 12.12
Ocean Ridge No. 2 1.7 2.9 8.12 9.15
BEST: Bullcreek — Minson, Kelemanis, Rodgers.



TOP GOALSCORERS

A GRADE: Victor Lowe 64. B GRADE: Brendon McFaull 96.

FAIREST & BEST

A GRADE: Bryn Chute (Old Wesley) 18. Ross Bell (Mt Lawley) 17. B GRADE: Harley Hayward (Maylands) 23. C GRADE: Glenn Andrews (Coolbinia-Yokine) 21. D GRADE: Aldo Dellasanta (A.I.C.A.) 17. E GRADE: Shaun Mulvey (St Norberts) 24. F GRADE: David Morey (Sawyers Valley) 18. G GRADE: Wayne Mason (Navy) 17. H GRADE: Malcolm Hodder (Bassendean) 19. I GRADE: Glen McDonald (Nth Fremantle) 16. J GRADE: Terence Woodward (Hellenic) 17. K GRADE: Darryl Pegrum (Coolbinia-Yokine) 19. L GRADE: Phillip Claxton (Sawyers Valley) 18. A COLTS: Anthony Hayes (University) 26. B COLTS: Grant Masters (Innaloo) 34. C COLTS: Lyell Bowie (Bassendean) 14. D COLTS: Warren Sojan (Applecross) 27.

Amateurs lose a stalwart

FOOTBALL lost a hard-working servant when amateurs stalwart Neville Green was accidentally killed recently.

He made an outstanding contribution as a player, coach and umpire, starting with the City Beach colts and going on to play seniors with City Beach, Wembley and West Coast.

As an umpire, he joined the WAAFL panel in 1987 after several seasons umpiring in WAAFL ranks.

He coached the Churchlands-Wembley juniors in the Claremont Tigers Cup and also coached colts and seniors at West Coast.

Neville's West Coast H-grade team appear in this Saturday's grand final.



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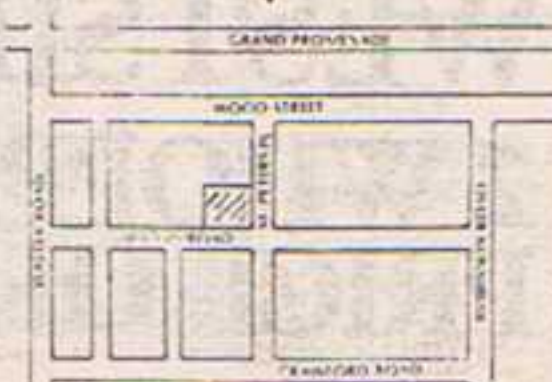


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Post-mortem into State schoolboys

A CLOSE analysis of the recent performance by the WA State Schoolboys side has been carried out with a view to the future.

Unfortunately, the side did not perform up to expectations in the Commonwealth Bank national carnival in Hobart.

The team finished fourth behind Victoria, Queensland and South Australia and Football Development Trust co-ordinator Grant Dorrington is concerned with the poor showing.

As a result a complete post-carnival analysis has been held over the last week to see where the team was lacking.

Coach Ric Evans, team manager Phil Baddock and the selectors held their own meetings for the same purpose.

By

REECE HOGAN

"If this exercise is successful, we can expect future Teal Cup sides to be stronger than ever," says Dorrington.

Despite the result, Dorrington said that the players behaviour on and off the field was outstanding and the billeting at Sandy Bay, in Hobart was successful.

Captain and All-Australian Teal Cup player Lee Walker led the side to Hobart with high hopes of winning back-to-back championships.

Their aspirations got off to a flying start when they won their first three games with some skillful play on the wet and slippery ovals.

In the first game, WA defeated the Northern Territory 6.8 to 5.5 and then they beat New South Wales 13.11 to 7.4 and the ACT 9.10 to 5.7.

Players who stood out in these games were Glen Jakovich, Craig Rinder and Tony Davidson.

However, the WA team received a big setback when captain Lee Walker received a broken collarbone in the second game against NSW and Jakovich took over as captain.

In the fourth game, WA were thoroughly beaten by South Australia, 7.6 to 2.9 and the boys then lost confidence and went down to Queensland 9.5 to 2.3.

South Australia were a relatively strong side and Queensland (who were a year older) were also strong and aggressive.

The WA players regrouped for the game against Victoria and put in their best effort, despite losing 12.6 to 5.8 — the lowest margin that Victoria won by against the other states.

AGGRESSIVE

Dorrington said that the Victorians were very strong and aggressive and justifiably won the competition.

"For WA to only lose by 40 points was a great effort considering the margins of some other games," he said.

Jakovich and Rinder earned All-Australian State Schoolboy jumpers and Tony Davidson was unlucky to miss out, considering his great efforts throughout the carnival.

Jakovich plays for South Fremantle and is rated as one of the best 15-year-olds in Australia.

He was runner-up in the J. L. Williams medal for fairest and best in the carnival and was also WA's fairest and best player and our leading goal-kicker.

Jakovich is a big ruckman with excellent skills and he seems destined for League football.

Rinder is an attacking centre-half-back with an excellent mark, while Davidson was WA's most consistent player on a half-back flank with his sure one grab game.

The final table was:

	WON	LOST	PTS
Victoria	7	0	14
Queensland	6	1	12
South Australia	5	2	10
West Australia	4	3	8
New South Wales	3	4	6
Tasmania	2	5	4
Northern Territory	1	6	2
A.C.T.	0	7	0

Town and Country Little League

THE successful Town and Country Little League fixtures have drawn to an end for 1988, with the second stage of the round robin series taking place at Subiaco Oval last Sunday.

During half-time of the under 19s game, Swan Districts accounted for Perth. For Swans Paul Sordiorwani, Craig Cawaghan, Heath Brdown, David McKibbons and Michael Martin all caught the eye.

Perth's best were Toby Lewis, Michael Brown, Travis Turnbull, Mathew Foster and Graham Schuts.

During half-time of the reserves game, Claremont beat West Perth with Troy Morrison, Darren Haunold, Damien Pullinger, Mark Gale and Daniel Pauwen shining out for the Tigers.

West Perth's best were Chris Musch, Julian Cvitan, Jeremy Penman, Ross Baker and Alex Kristinopoulos.

In the other game, during the reserves, Subiaco beat East Perth with Mathew Babich, Adam McIntosh and Jamie Valentini all playing well for the Lions. For East Perth, Enov Partington, Glen Britton and Bradley Menne caught the eye.

New team prove to be winners

THE 1988 season saw a new team in the South Fremantle council.

The amalgamation of the South Fremantle Junior Football Club and the Hilton Park Hawks formed the Fremantle Hawks — and they had immediate success, winning the 14s and 16s grand finals.

In the 16s, the Hawks and Cockburn played an exciting grand final with some talented juniors coming up through the ranks.

In the 16s plate grand final, there was a draw at full time, but two five-minute halves saw the Fremantle Hawks show too much strength.

The grand final results were:
14s division 1: Fremantle Hawks 10.10 b Rockingham 2.3; 14s division 2: Kardinya 6.9 b South Coogee 2.6; 14s division 3: C.B.C. 13.11 b Safety Bay 2.4; 16s plate: Coolbellup 12.14 b Safety Bay 9.6; 16s: Fremantle Hawks 10.9 b Cockburn 9.8.

The association fairest and best results were:
14s: Adam Larke (Kwinana) 27 votes; Peter Begovic (Rockingham) 26. 16s: Anthony Sokolich (Fremantle Hawks) 29; Nick Bolton (Cockburn) 20 and Mark Henderson (Cockburn) 20.

NUMBERS NEEDED

THE Nollamara Junior Football Club, in its 28th year, has had to combine its players with Cardinals this year owing to a drop off in numbers.

This year the 13s and 15s have suffered, but the 17s combined with Cardinals to make a team which is doing well.

Six boys have reached their 50th game this year - Greg Johnson, Jason Kickett, Brett Ramsey, Bradley Kotsano, Steven McGregor and Chris Wilson.

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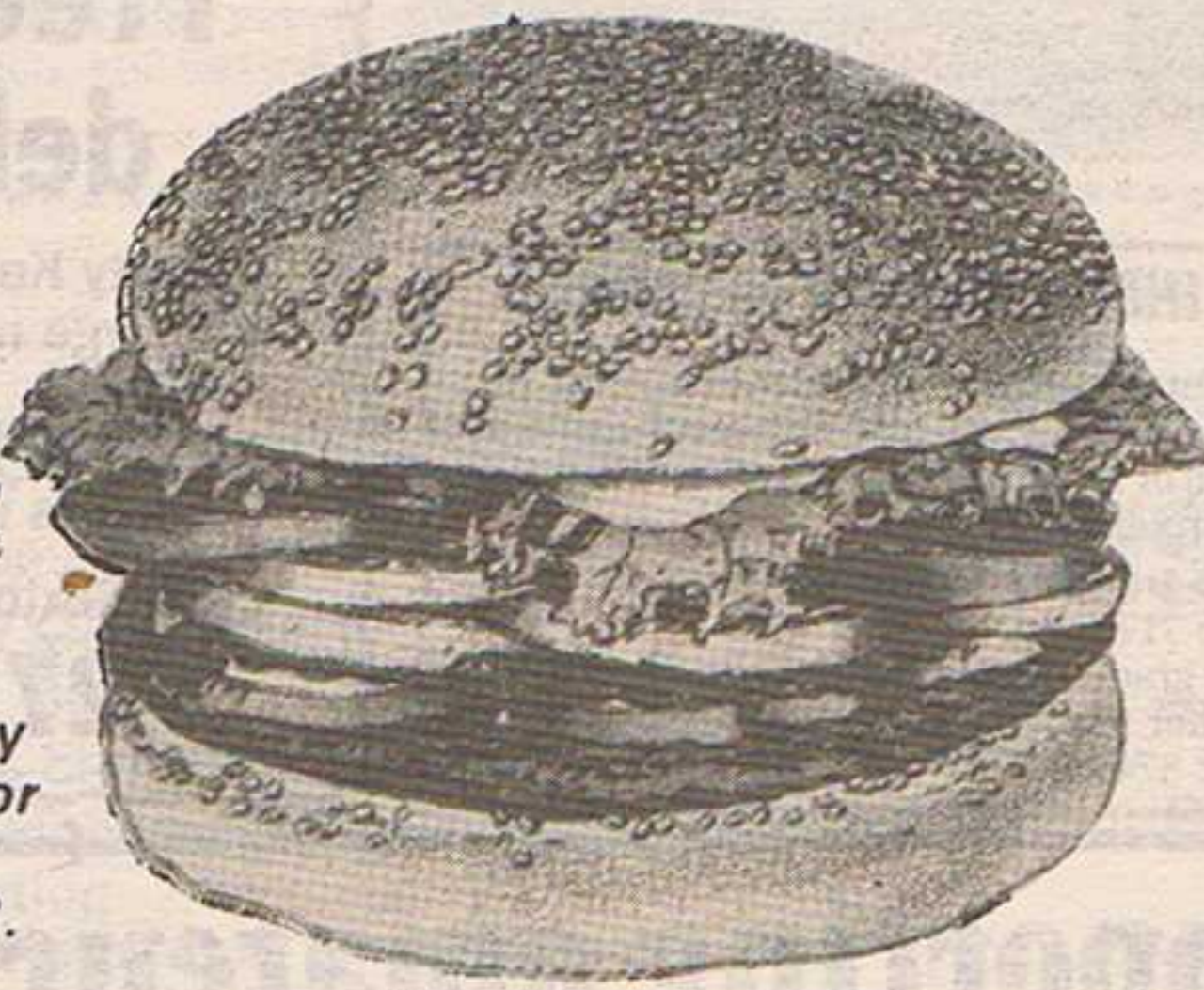
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The NFL scene

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National Director of Coaching

Ailing VFL clubs will go under

DESPITE acknowledged difficulties, the expanded VFL (or "National Competition" as many insist on prematurely calling it) is gradually taking shape.

It is an exciting concept, harnessing healthy interstate and inter-city rivalry.

There are still problems which can be resolved over the next few years as the VFL administration comes to terms with the realities of ailing Melbourne clubs, which, in spite of various rescue operations, will eventually fail.

It is natural that they will then be replaced by clubs from outside Victoria.

COMPETITIVE

Tasmania — assuming they can overcome their appalling regionalism — could definitely field a competitive team in the VFL.

So, too, could the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory — with some sympathetic and, initially, preferential establishment policies.

There would be wails from Melbourne to Darwin regarding the costs associated with teams travelling to and from that city.

However, the mainly Aboriginal Northern Territory team would be exciting — and financially exploitable — and much less of a financial burden to a national competition than originally perceived.

There are also rapidly growing regional centres such as Albury-Wodonga that could support teams. Finding an initial \$4 million is the major problem for potential clubs in all these areas.

Adelaide obviously has the talent, administrative expertise and money to successfully compete in the present competition. They have chosen otherwise for a variety of reasons.

RETAINED

South Australian football is currently basking in a situation of strength. They are the current Australian champions under State-of-Origin rules; have retained good players through an innovative funding scheme and their crowds are up.

They are now in the process of decimating the WAFL in similar fashion to that employed by the Victorians to the SANFL in past decades.

However, the Croweaters would be well advised not to become victims of a siege mentality.

In the long term, they should join a national competition. They must not become inbred — no matter how blue is the family blood. We all know what happens to the offspring if no new bloodlines are introduced. Then end up less than normal.

One of the major lessons to be learned by cities entering a national competition is that Australians will only watch what they perceive is the best football.

MINOR GRADES

Subiaco face selection dilemma

SUBIACO have some interesting selection problems with all three sides playing in this week's preliminary final.

Normal rules concerning a player's eligibility are discarded in this situation and for this reason the Lions will have open selection this week.

If a player is dropped from the senior side, he may play reserves even if he has not played reserves football this season.

An example of this happened in 1986, when Subiaco defender Greg Wilkinson was dropped on the eve of the preliminary final.

Because Subiaco had their reserves side playing on the same day, Wilkinson was able to play in the lower grade despite not having played any reserves football that year.

Tigers have plenty of experience

EXPERIENCED league players David Court and Mal Thomson should once again lead the Tigers ruck against Subiaco in the reserves preliminary final.

Both men have their final chance to impress Claremont league selectors before the grand final next week and with Peter Higgins in such good form in the league side, they will have to perform strongly.

The solidly-built Court tried particularly hard against the strong Perth ruck brigade last week but would have to lift if he is to win a league berth next week.

Claremont's main drive should come from the brilliant aboriginal roving duo of Billy Krakouer and Nicky Yarran.

Both players showed touches of sheer brilliance against Perth last week but they will be have to be at their consistent best against the Lions.

Hard workers like Phil Gilbert in defence, running player Carlo Passera, centreman Matt Elliot, utility player Gerard Milne and back-pocket specialist Dale Govan will also need to lift.

Subiaco will look to brilliant rovers Damien Read and Paul Cox, ruckman Stephen Hooper, defender Wayne Golding and dangerous half-forward Michael Mort for strong performances.

Swapped pair do well

TWO players who would have gained plenty of satisfaction from the 1988 season are Claremont's Todd Ridley and Subiaco's Callum Fraser.

Ridley was tied to Subiaco before the season but was eager to play for Claremont while Fraser was tied to the Tigers and wanted to play for Subiaco.

Both clubs agreed on the swap without any problems and both Ridley and Fraser have served their new teams with distinction in 1988.

Both players have had a taste of reserves football this season and are likely to be given more opportunities in 1989.



Subiaco reserves coach Wayne Loxley.

WALKER INJURED

EAST Perth will be without talented big man Lee Walker for this week's under-19 preliminary final.

Walker broke his collarbone during the state schoolboys carnival in Hobart and will not be considered for selection this weekend.

However, East Perth can take a lot of heart in the first semi-final performance of back-up ruckman Darren Crooks.

The hard-working big man single-handedly beat the South Fremantle ruck brigade despite standing at only 188cm (6.2).

This week he faces another test against the talented Subiaco ruck combination of Nathan Buck, Matthew Burton and Jonas Lindberg who made a surprise return to under-19 ranks against Claremont last week.

Two weeks ago, Lindberg played in the Subiaco league side against South Fremantle at Fremantle Oval.

Lindberg is very versatile and can be used in the ruck, at centre-half-forward or in defence.



East Perth's colts coach Greg Henderson.



BEN STINGA
reviews the Prime reserves and the Under-19s colts competition

Teal Cup star on the improve

ONE of East Perth's key players in this weekend's under-19 preliminary final will be former Roleystone junior Brad Annison.

The talented forward has improved dramatically this season after representing West Australia in the 1987 Teal Cup carnival.

Annison plays the centre-half-forward position to perfection, using strength to good advantage.

He has the ability to bring other players into the game with intelligent hand-passing and excellent body work and is capable of breaking packs apart single-handedly.

Annison can also be expected to kick goals at vital times and his contribution in this area can not be underestimated.

PRIME AWARDS

PRIME Computers will be awarding \$200 to the reserves player of the finals series this season.

Votes will be cast on a six through to one basis and allowances will be made to teams that are involved in only two matches.

Royals comeback has been superb

EAST Perth, the quiet achievers of the under-19 competition this season, are on the verge of completing a remarkable comeback.

At one stage this season, the Royals were struggling to get into the top four.

However, they have been able to string together nine victories in a row and are now serious premiership contenders.

During the last round this season, East Perth beat Subiaco and Claremont and for this reason they will take on the Lions with confidence this Saturday.

Subiaco have lost their last two matches convincingly — to South Fremantle and Claremont and coach Eddie Pitter must be getting a little bit worried about the form of several of his charges.

The Lions will look to utility player Grant Johnson, center-half-forward Jonas Lindberg, small men Craig Hunter and Nathan Spilcker, ruck-rover Jason Walker, ruck duo Matthew Burton and Nathan Buck, forward Chris Stannage and defender Ray Riches for significant contributions.

East Perth will be hoping for solid performances from brilliant aboriginal Cedric Taylor, utility player Gary French, forward Brad Annison, wingman Glen Crotty, ruckman Darren Crook and midfielder Ben Stewart.

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SUNDAY SCENE

Bill Wake's weekly round-up of Sunday League matches.



Bill Wake

BULLS STORM INTO GRAND FINAL

IT was a case of something old, something new for Maddington when they stormed into the Sunday Football League grand final.

They had a crushing 68-point win over Thornlie in the preliminary final at Kelmscott Oval last Sunday.

The something old came in the form of veteran defender John Begg, who made a surprise appearance for the Bulls despite having three broken ribs — a legacy of a heavy knock three weeks ago.

And the something new was big teenager Craig Olsen, who was at centre-half-forward despite having played only a handful of reserves games earlier in the season.

The Bulls' gamble in playing their pair in the key forward positions paid off handsomely.

Showing great courage, Begg made light of his injuries. He kicked five crucial goals from full-forward to set his team on the path to a 19.11 to 9.9 victory and an appointment with Wanneroo in the grand final at Gosnells Oval next Sunday.

The tall Olsen, whose football has been restricted because of work commitments this season, was unbeatable at centre-half-forward. His marking ability was too much for several opponents, including experienced Lions defender John Morgan.

BEYOND DOUBT

The Bulls, with wingman Andrew Kinross and Graham Hewson dominating, opened up a four-goal lead early and, despite a six-goal second term by the Lions, led by 17 points at half-time.



Wanneroo coach Ian McCulloch.

But the game was put beyond doubt in the third term when the Bulls slammed on 6.5 to the Lions' 1.2.

Aaren Kiernan (four goals), Begg (five) and Shaun Davey (three) were all dangerous in attack.

The Lions made a disastrous start when their best small man, Chris Davies, left the field with an injury at the 15-minute mark of the first term.

It was left to top forwards Ramon Smith (four goals) and Doug Simms to hold their attack together while centreman Wayne Hardie and defender Russ Cooper played strongly.

RUCKMAN

Maddington now face the prospect of meeting all-powerful Wanneroo, who have lost just one game this season.

Wanneroo will have the services of star ruckman Jon McElwee, who will be flown back from Canberra for the game.

McElwee has been completing a work course in the ACT. His last competitive game was against Willetton in round 15 on July 24.

It will be interesting to see if the inclusion of the big ruckman will be a bonus for Wanneroo after he has missed six weeks of football.

Maddington were runners-up to Osborne Park in 1987 and the way in which the Bulls worked as a team against Thornlie last Sunday and the spirit they showed gives them some chance of going one better in 1988.

EASY FOR KNIGHTS

KWINANA, coached by former State and South Fremantle winger Tony Morley, won the Metropolitan Football League premiership by downing Cockburn 19.16 to 9.14.

With ruckmen Tim Cullinane, Owen Dunn and Stan Osborne dominating, the Knights completely demoralised Cockburn in the second half to finish 62-point winners.

Cullinane was named best player in the inaugural Metropolitan Football League Grand Final.

Midland 17.10 (112) proved too strong for Kwinana 9.1 (55) to win the Colts grand final.

However, the Kwinana reserves team, led by veterans Geoff Groenenberg, Murray Lloyd and Mick Indich, defeated Cockburn 11.16 (82) to 8.6 (54).

GRAND FINALS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
GOSNELLS OVAL

2.15pm League — Wanneroo v Maddington
11.45am Reserves — Kelmscott v Maddington
9.45am Colts — Gosnells v Applecross

Finals results

PRELIMINARY FINALS

LEAGUE

MADDINGTON 21.15 (141) d THORNIE 11.8 (74)

GOALS: MADDINGTON: Begg 5, Aaren Kiernan 4, Davey 3, Olsen, Hewson, Adam Kiernan 2, Lambkin, Clark, G. Outridge 1. THORNIE: Smith 4, Simms 3, Williams 2, C. Davies, Morgan 1.

BEST: MADDINGTON: Kinross, Hewson, McKenzie, Begg, Olsen. THORNIE: Hardie, Cooper, Smith, Barns, Simms.

RESERVES

KELMSCOTT 21.17 (143) d OSBORNE PARK 12.8 (80)

GOALS: KELMSCOTT: Peake, Cooper 7, M. Spillsbury, Burke 2, V. Robinson, Clements, McNamara 1. OSBORNE PARK: Page 4, Cullen 3, Gatsos, Lamb, Acott, Mirco, Abraham 1. BEST: KELMSCOTT: Cooper, Spillsbury, Smith, Knuckey, Cowan. OSBORNE PARK: Dellacqua, Smith, Page, Snow, Begg.

COLTS

APPLECROSS 11.7 (73) d WANNEROO 9.6 (60)

GOALS: APPLECROSS: Eiffler, Masten 3, Tames 2, Henley, Horn, McGrath 1. WANNEROO: M. Gray 4, Cleaver 2, S. Hill, Alexander, Phillips 1.

BEST: APPLECROSS: Smith, Cooper, Simpson, Murray, Tames. WANNEROO: Mitchell, Cleaver, Collie, McLennan, Harman.

METROPOLITAN LEAGUE

GRAND FINALS

LEAGUE

KWINANA 19.16 (130) d COCKBURN 9.14 (68)

GOALS: KWINANA: Bennell, Brazier 4, Little 3, A. Morley, Osborne 2, Cullinane, Dunn, G. Jackson, Simpson 1. COCKBURN: G. McCarthy 6, Coleman, Gore, Patrick 1.

BEST: KWINANA: Osborne, Simpson, Bennell, Morley, Jackson. COCKBURN: McCarthy, Rodgers, Prowse.

RESERVES

KWINANA 11.16 (82) d COCKBURN 8.6 (54)

GOALS: KWINANA: M. Lloyd, M. Indich 3, Coomer 2, Diamattia, R. Little, Treagar. COCKBURN: R. Kawarcki, J. Florenca 2, Gerovich, Fortini, Evans, Eoanndis.

BEST: KWINANA: Panizza, Winmar, Coomer, Councillor, Diamattia. COCKBURN: Smith, Dobson, Gerovich, Prowse, Hunter.

MIDLAND 17.10 d KWINANA 9.1

GOALS: MIDLAND: Waaka 4, Bergersen 3, Caton, Firkins, Wilcocks 2, Bill, Furina, Taddei, Melville. KWINANA: Brinchley, Dowman, Greaves 2, Alexander, Griffen, Kirk.

BEST: MIDLAND: Bill, Waaka, Mullolly, Gardiner, Brown. KWINANA: Dowman, Franklin, Ogden, Griffen, Schoten.

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INFERIORITY COMPLEX!

SO the Eagles have earned the respect of the Victorian football public! Isn't that great? If I read or hear that once more I think I'll scream.

The truth is that football respect is a fleeting thing and the Victorian football public couldn't care less.

The treatment of the Eagles in the community and in the media over the season and in the wake of last Saturday's loss to Melbourne mirrors a remarkable inferiority complex.

For many, when the club was slumping they were an embarrassment but when they fought back it was cause for civic pride.

They were 'our' Eagles again. Even greater joy was to come. A brave loss, even perhaps a moral victory...didn't we show those Vics?

WHO CARES?

Well, bully for us. Dare I ask the question? Who cares what a handful of Victorian critics and fans think?

Let's put things in perspective. The Eagles are to Melbourne football what the Brisbane Bears or Fitzroy or Footscray are to Perth football (we know they're there, but who cares?).

Yet each week we were treated to some real or imaginary barb from the 'other side.'

Was this the reason for the Eagles being in existence (a bit like Chicken Man), to fight crime and evil?

How dare any Victorian besmirch the Eagles or our State.

Melbourne is the land of a million and one football critics, so I guess it's not hard to find a couple of quotes a week. But why bother?

The Eagles players have been great. What they need now is a little football maturity and self-confidence to support them.

...when defeat is cause for civic pride

No more hysterical cries about Victorian conspiracies, Victorian umpires, VFL tribunals, Victorian commentators. No more?

At a WAFL level these sorts of things are fine because they never get off the ground.

RESTRAINTS

You might try to get an edge but there are counter balances and restraints that keep it in check.

Not so in a one-team town and all you finish up with are distractions.

This is a football paper, so let's talk football. I'm having trouble rationalising the equation that tells me the Eagles (on form) may have been the second or third best team in the final five yet are out of the race.

I'm having trouble just dismissing the fact that the Eagles looked a five-goal better side against Melbourne but won't be playing this week.

I'm wondering why the Eagles played one of their worst quarters of the season, the third, when they needed only an average one to survive.

And it bothers me that as gritty as our effort in the final term last Saturday was, we laud ourselves for fighting a fight that should never have been necessary.

IRONIC

I'm sure that John Todd will be a wiser man next season.

It is ironic that the two teams he 'bagged' during the season laid in wait

COMETTI

By Channel 7 commentator DENNIS COMETTI



All smiles...that's Eagles coach John Todd as he's welcomed home at Perth airport.

for us in the finals - Melbourne and Collingwood.

As fate would have it, had we scrambled past the Demons guess who would have been next?

The Eagles were a handy team in 1987. They remained a handy team in 1988. No better and no worse.

I think that the VFL has legislated the Eagles a bright future but we are asking the players to shoulder a heavy load if we want them to fight for

personal egos or our State in some broader context.

It's what we think that's important, and we should think that under Ross Glendinning we have a pretty good VFL team.

When we're comfortable with that, a lot of the distractions will be gone, football will become a much simpler game to play and Perth can assume the leadership role it usually displays across the board.

Eagles deserve all the praise

WAY back in those almost-forgotten weeks at the start of this fairly controversial football season, a radio critic suggested that half of the people in the West hoped that the West Coast Eagles would fail this year.

That outspoken critic, former West Perth president Rod Brown, copped a whack in the mouth for his trouble. But the fact was that he may have been close to the mark.

However, it's now time to admit that all the sceptics were wrong. Whether they agreed with the dismissal of inaugural coach Ron Alexander; the power being dispensed by Eagles chief Bill Kerr or the form and style of triple Swan Districts premiership coach John Todd, didn't really matter.

The fact was that Perth was a city divided on the sensitive question of WAFL versus VFL and where loyalties should lie.

The strong finish to the Eagles' season; their gritty elimination final performance and the genuine emotional feeling in the dungeon rooms at VFL Park proved that the Eagles are on the way up.

The word that rebounded around Victoria at 5pm last Saturday was "credibility".

The boys from the West Coast had earned their football stripes and no matter what happens in future years, their 1988 season proved that they can mix it with the best - and in Victorian conditions.

Early-season claims that the Eagles couldn't handle Melbourne conditions; that they were "soft" and needed to elevate themselves to the hard-nosed world of VFL-style football were here, there and everywhere.

Coach John Todd claimed that the players needed "to cross the road".



AND LASTLY

with ALAN EAST

Well, they have done more than cross the road; they have crossed the Nullarbor in impressive style and there wasn't a footy fan in Melbourne town last weekend who still had doubts about the competitiveness of these rookies from the Wild West.

It was a fantastic elimination final; a game played in Melbourne conditions that had everything - fierce man-to-man battles; hard, bustling football; drama-filled moments; strong break-aways and persistent fightbacks; the lead changing and then a tense-nerve-tangling final-minute winning goal.

The Eagles rooms in the bowels of VFL Park were packed with heart-broken supporters. The genuine warmth that greeted the players when they emerged after a brief behind-closed-doors session with Todd was moving. It was spontaneous applause and carried over to the presentation ceremony.

Even Todd won back many of his critics.

He handled two after-match press conferences brilliantly; talking proudly about his players and being genuinely satisfied with the team.

The rousing welcome back at Perth Airport - coupled with the new-found respect the Eagles have earned in Melbourne - makes for an interesting 1989 season.



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