



# WESTSIDE Football

VOL 11, No. 2, Thursday, April 6, 1989

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION

## EAGLE DIVES ON A BOMBER

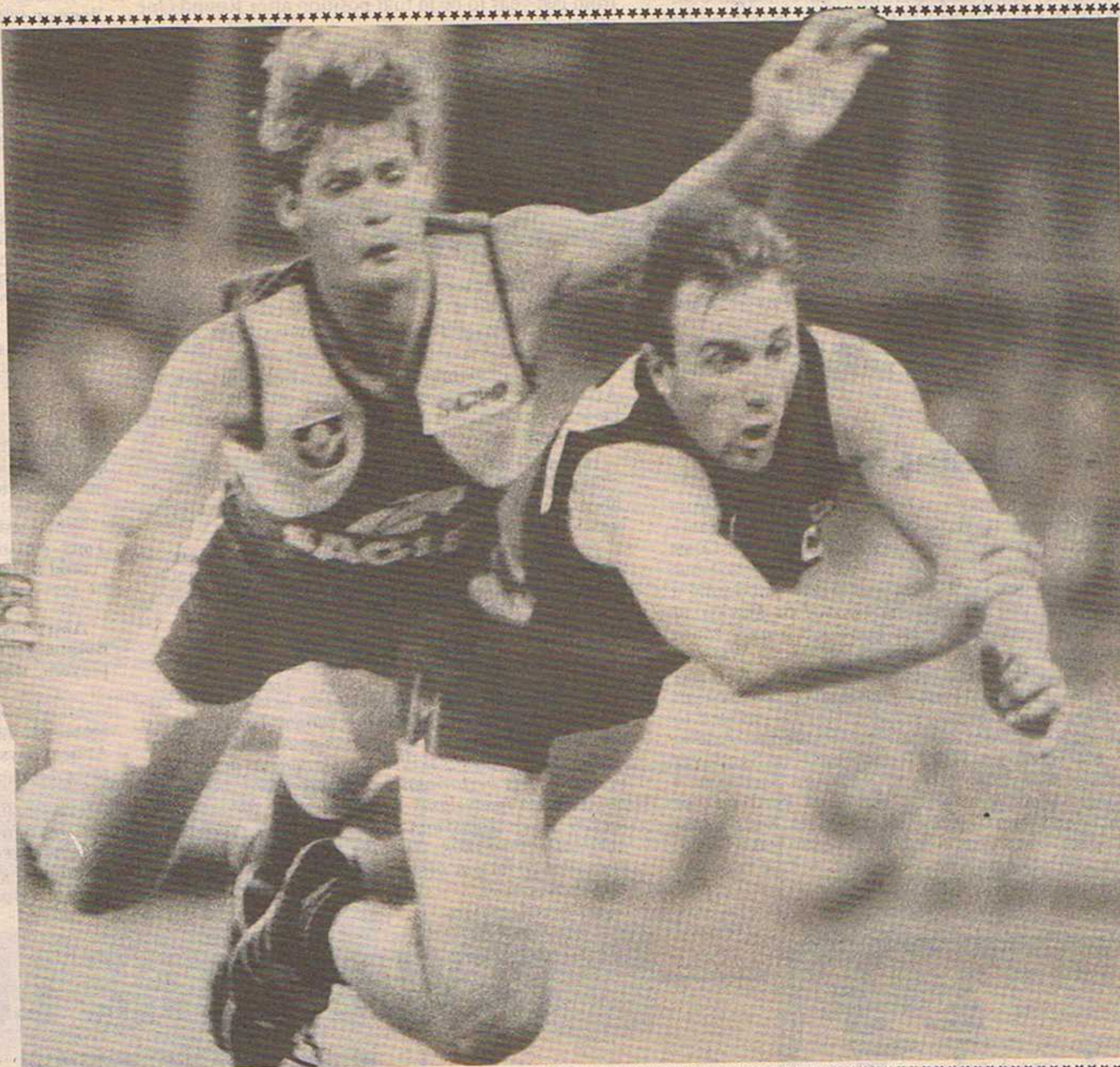
WEST Coast Eagle Craig Turley swooped all over Essendon half-forward Tim Watson in last Friday night's clash at the WACA Ground.

The Turley-Watson tussle was a highlight in a disappointing outing for the WA-based VFL side with the rookie defender constantly harrasing and winning the ball from his experienced Essendon opponent.

Watson kicked three goals for the match and would have been more damaging had the 23-year-old from West Perth not been in such breathtaking form in his VFL debut.

Turley, like fellow rookies Don Pyke and Peter Sumich, was among the Eagles best players on the night.

— Picture: JULIAN COWAN



# LETHAL LIONS

by GEORGE TEMPLE

SUBIACO'S veteran Taylor brothers, Neil and Brian, have a warning for WAFL fans — don't be fooled by the Lions poor pre-season form.

The defending premiers, who failed to post a victory in their three practice matches, are ready to roar back now that the action is serious.

The experiments are finished and the big guns will be firing this Saturday when Subiaco face

their 1988 grand final opponents, Claremont, at League Headquarters.

"We tried a lot of young guys in the practice matches," former skipper Neil Taylor said this week.

"They all did well, playing against full-strength league sides. The experience they gained will be lessons well learnt.

"Don't read too much into those results. Our players are good enough to win the flag again. Make no mistake."

## Don't take Subi too easily!

Pre-season favourites East Fremantle are fairly logical choices for premiers in 1989, but Brian Taylor — the Lions fairest and best player last season — is not worried about that.

He said: "East Fremantle's big problem is the number of star players they have. They don't know how to play as a team and that's what we do best.

"The Sharks may have the edge over us in skill, but individuals don't win premierships.

"We have a strong squad and when Haydn (Bunton) gets down to choosing his team, you can be sure that it'll be a lot stronger than the sides we fielded against West Perth, East Fremantle and Swan Districts."

Neil Taylor sees rookies from last year like Paul Cox, Gary Kemp and Brett Heady playing major roles in Subiaco's push for a place in the finals.

"Competition for places will be hard," he says.

"We have Shane Cocker and Graham Jones to lead our ruck for example, but if they don't perform there's Graham Garnaut, Jonas Lindberg and Stephen Hooper waiting in the wings.

CONTINUED PAGE 2

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## Bombers play

ESSENDON certainly had Channel Seven (and their viewers) and other sections of the media guessing on Friday night when Kieran Sporn swapped jumpers at half-time. Before the break, Sporn was sporting his No. 17 guernsey, but re-emerged wearing Tony Tranter's No. 43. Many spectators must have thought Bombers coach Kevin Sheedy had fielded 21 players — but no head count was called for.

## SUPPORT GROUP

THE West Coast Eagles will have some powerful supporters on their trip to Geelong this weekend.

The club's Golden Eagles group of sponsors will make their inaugural trip to an away match to lend solid support for the players.

Initiated by Golden Eagles president Dalton Gooding, the coterie group will stage an exclusive dinner at Melbourne's Cafe Edouard with colourful Max Walker as the guest speaker.

The club raised \$110,115 towards the Eagles coffers last season and the dinner will see the fund-raising plans for 1989 unveiled.

## Medal Men

AN interesting fact was raised on the ABC's Saturday morning sports show last week — only one Sandover Medallist is currently playing for the West Coast Eagles. Murray Wrensted, the winner in 1985, has been dropped by the Eagles and is now pondering a future with VFL club Collingwood, or staying at home with East Fremantle. The 1986 winner Mark Bairstow, plays for Geelong, while Mark Watson, who won in 1987, has stayed with Perth. And last year's winner, David Bain — the final player to be cut from the original Eagles squad in 1987 — moved to Brisbane Bears from East Perth over summer. Add to that list Fitzroy's John Ironmonger, a Sandover Medallist with East Perth in 1983 and Richmond's Michael Mitchell, who tied with East Perth's Peter Spencer and then Claremont team-mate, and current Eagle, Steve Malaxos in '84. Phil Narkle was a Medal winner with Swan Districts in 1982, but he is on the injured list and will not play in 1988.

## Tough forecast

EAGLES coach John Todd believes that anyone who can forecast this year's VFL final five will be a genius.

Commenting on how tough it is to win games regardless of who you are playing, Todd pointed to the fact that Collingwood were the only top-five side from last year to be in that position after Round One of this season.

Reigning premiers Hawthorn, Carlton and the Eagles all lost their opening matches, while Collingwood and Melbourne both won, but sit behind bottom-half sides of '88 in Footscray, St Kilda, Sydney Swans and Essendon.

It's certainly early days, but as Todd points out, St Kilda lost 10 games by less than 10 points last season and could easily have finished in the five — not last.

## SHEEDY'S LESSON

YOU'RE never too old or experienced to learn something in football is the philosophy of Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy, still regarded as one of the game's gentlemen.

Sheedy told members of the WA Football Coaches Association at a breakfast seminar on Saturday how he learnt a valuable lesson after the club's back-to-back premierships in 1984-85.

He said that the Bombers had kept their premiership players together for too long and hadn't looked ahead to cater for the time when some of the veterans wouldn't be around.

He admitted that he got caught short when his senior stars all started retiring and the club hadn't cultivated young players to graduate and fill the gaps.

## Big effort

*RUCKMAN Phil Scott looks like being one of the big improvers for the Eagles this winter. The big man's versatility around the ground has sometimes been questioned, while his skill as a ruckman has never been in doubt. His performance at full-forward on Friday night was a marvellous contribution to the side. He kicked seven goals and proved to be a more-than-adequate target man, dominating the marking duels even though he was often out-numbered by Essendon opponents.*

## WAFL RECRUITS

THE West Coast Eagles have "drafted" two of their young players into WAFL ranks for this season.

Young Victorians Andrew Geddes and Scott Williamson will play with Swan Districts and East Perth respectively as part of the Eagles development plans.

Geddes is an 18-year-old ruck-rover from the Victorian country town of Katunga, while Williamson, 18, is from Wangaratta and has prospects of developing into a good centreman or ruck-rover.

The two young men, both students at the University of WA, came to Perth (along with fellow Victorians Jeremy Crough and Matt Richardson) after being drafted by the Eagles in November.

The foursome split in half when Richmond claimed Crough and Richardson in the recent pre-season draft.

## MODEST PRAISE

EAGLES iron-man John Annear plays football for keeps and seldom gives anything away — especially to the opposition.

When asked this week how he rated Essendon's Tony Antrobus as an opponent, he hinted that he "could be" a good player, but it would depend on how he survived under constant pressure.

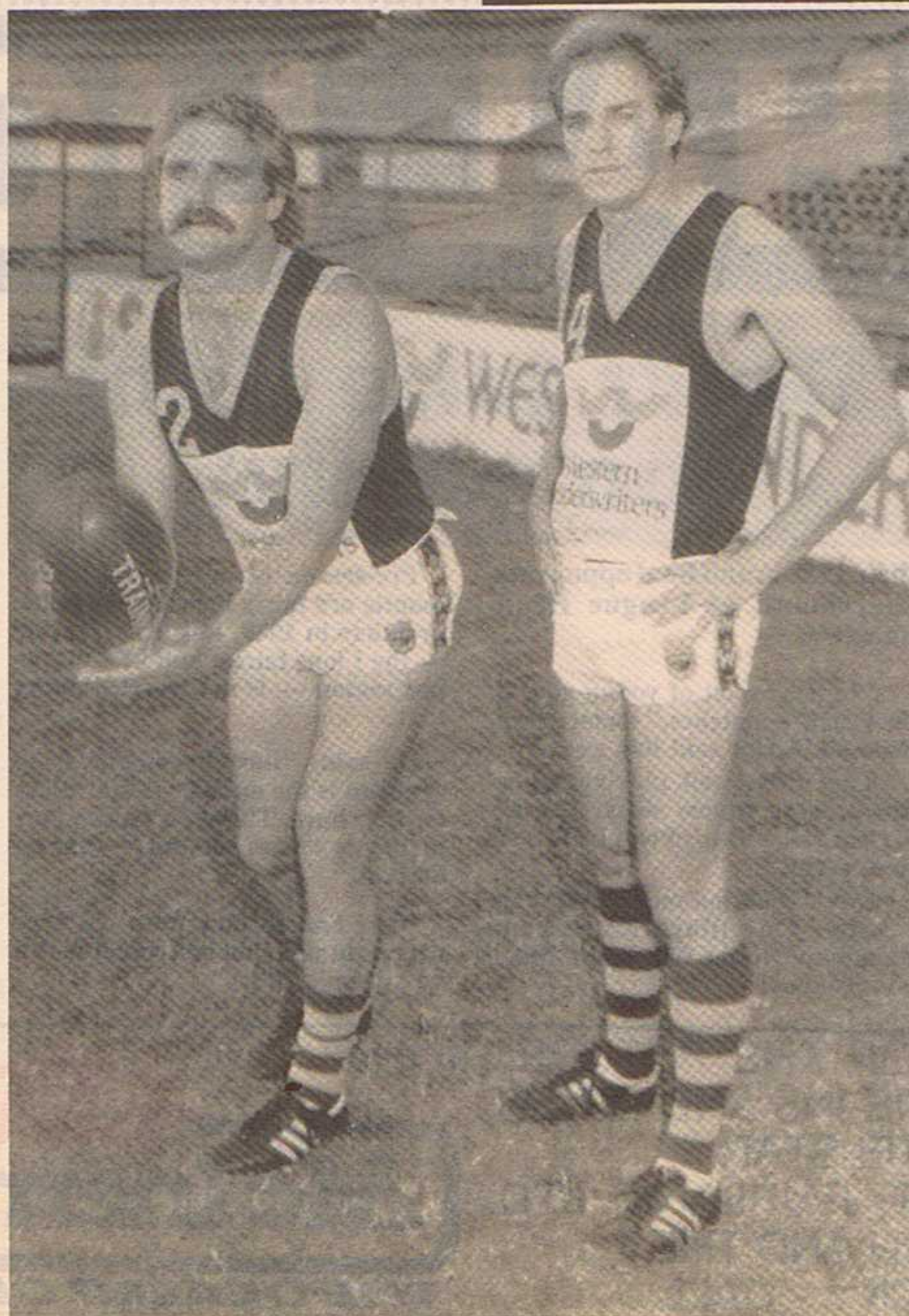
Antrobus, now 28, is in his third season with the Bombers after being one of South Australia's leading players, winning the Magarey Medal in 1983.

Like his fellow South Australian John Platten, Antrobus is highly-regarded as a top-line rover, but Annear says that he can be brought back to earth with some tight, close attention.

The tussle between the dogged Annear and Antrobus was a fascinating one on Friday night and though the Bombers rover finished with 11 kicks and two handballs, JA was just as effective with 10 kicks and three handpasses.

# BEWARE THE LIONS

From Page One



TAILS UP... Subiaco's Taylor brothers Neil (left) and Brian shape up for another season.

"Hopefully Greg Wilkinson will be fit to play in the second half of the season. He's a big part of our team. His influence on all the players is the same as Gerard Neesham's at Claremont. When Neesham's on the field, the Tigers are a far better side."

Brian Taylor, who has not missed a League game in two years, expects to start the year in the back pocket, but finish the season on the ball.

"That's the way it's been for the past two seasons. I think Bunts tries to look after me a bit in the early rounds," he said.

Both Taylors said that they would be taking each game as it comes as they enter yet another season — Brian's 11th and Neil's 15th.

"Experience is an important part of any team and it's up to ourselves, Clint Brown, Mick Lee and the others to help the younger players," Neil and Brian said.

## WESTSIDE Football

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# CANDID COACHES

FOOTY followers everywhere are geared up for the first bounce-down of the 1989 WAFL season this Saturday.

Media, administrators and supporters alike are eagerly awaiting the start of competition — the coaches and players most of all.

Everyone has an opinion. Who will make the four? Who will be premiers? Will Swans get off the bottom? We let you know what the coaches think.

**GRAHAM MELROSE** (East Fremantle): "We're aiming for the number one position this season. That's what we play football for. There's no point aiming for anything less. We've got the edge on talent. We've just got to make it work for us."

"It will be tight at the top though. There are six teams fighting for a place in the four. But it will come down to ourselves, Subiaco and Claremont with South Fremantle and East Perth fighting for the remaining place."

**IAN McCULLOCH** (East Perth): "I'd like to say we're going to win every game. We'll definitely be in the four. We've developed a more direct approach in our style of play and after three scratch matches I'm reasonably happy."

"I have the best centre-half-forward in the competition in Peter Cransberg and by the time the finals come round East Perth will have improved another 25 per cent."

**ED BLACKABY** (Swan Districts): "Ability wise our players are as good as



by **GEORGE TEMPLE**

any. I think we proved that by beating Subiaco in Bunbury last Saturday and that's virtually the side we'll field this week with maybe one or two minor changes. I won't make any false promises, but Swans will be in the running for the final four."

## 'Good blend'

**STAN MAGRO** (South Fremantle): "Souths certainly have the talent to be in the four again this season. We have one or two injury worries to key players which causes concern, but we have a lot of good youngsters who should acquit themselves well."

"Once we get our experienced players back to provide that good blend we will be hard to beat. Of course East Fremantle, Subiaco and Claremont will take up the other three places. The question is what order we will all finish in."

**ROB WILEY** (Perth): "There's no question about it. Perth will be in the four this year. We just missed out in 1988 and I think we're a better side this

# ALL TALKING AND NO SQUAWKING ... YET

time round. We've lost some players, but so have other clubs.

"I believe we've recruited well and have adequate players to cover our losses. The return to Lathlain Park has also made a difference to us. The atmosphere is great among the players. They seem so much more positive within themselves."

"East Perth are improvers and they will challenge us for the four, as will South Fremantle. I don't think anyone will argue with the fact that Claremont, Subiaco and East Fremantle are certainties for the finals. But then again there aren't any certainties in football! Time will tell!"

## 'Hungry'

**GEORGE MICHALCZYK** (West Perth): "There are some positive signs at Leederville Oval. My strategy is to knit together a team hungry for success and when we get the right combination I promise West Perth fans that the Falcons will start climbing the ladder again."

"Our pre-season preparation has been intense. But nothing in football matters except on match day. We have good players and when we start playing as a team we'll start winning big matches."

**GERARD NEESHAM** (Claremont): "There are a few unknown packages this season. We played South Fremantle in a scratch match. They're a young side and from what I saw of them, they'll be very hard to beat. Perth are a strong side on paper too. In fact, I'd say they're a real threat to any side this season. East Perth have improved a lot also."

"There will be six sides fighting it out for the top position. East Fremantle is everyone's favourite because of their



Stan Magro ... injury worries.

depth of talent and Subiaco aren't to be underestimated. They have the money to recruit if necessary."

"West Perth are an unknown quantity and Swans seem to have got over their problems of last year."

"We have a young side with only 10 players from the 20 that played the grand final last year available this Saturday. We'll just have to wait and see."

**HAYDN BUNTON** (Subiaco): "There will be an evening up of the competition this year. The bottom sides have all improved over last season, making them much tougher opponents."

"We've lost some players from our premiership side, but still have the basis of that team. I'll bring in some young players which will again give us a good blend."

## ALEXANDER'S ANGLE

By **RON ALEXANDER**



# Trading hours will hit footy

FOOTBALL has a new enemy — and few people have recognised its danger.

The West Australian Football League season starts this week and Saturday afternoon trading is looming as a giant obstacle with the potential to decimate many sports in this State.

Saturday afternoon sports are already finding that registrations for their winter competitions are way down.

Shop assistants are obviously under pressure to work on Saturdays with the demand for extended trading hours demand coming from the consumers.

Many young people are dropping out of sport in favour of earning some dollars on a Saturday afternoon.

And it can be expected that part of the normal football crowd won't be queuing up at the turnstiles, but rather queuing up at the cash registers.

## Sheedy adds to Bombers depth

**ESSENDON** coach Kevin Sheedy seems to have handled his summer recruiting fairly carefully and he would have been pleased with his team's first-up results.

David Grenvold (Glenelg), Michael Long (St Marys, Darwin), Kieran Sporn (West Adelaide) and Andrew Underwood (Sturt) all started quickly, with the South Australians doing particularly well.

Essendon had three promising players out with injury (Mark Harvey, Mark Thompson and Bill Duckworth) and this indicates that they will have a lot more depth in 1989.

## Eagles can recover

MANY people seemed to have panicked with the Eagles first-up loss to Essendon.

Losing early games puts everybody under strain, but the Eagles do have more depth than most VFL sides, with players like Chris Waterman and Dean Turner playing with their WAFL club sides on Saturday.

The Eagles overall list of good players will stand them in a good position mid-season when all teams have injured players on their list.

It appears that the VFL salary cap and the draft system will help bring back the high-powered clubs to the field.

In past years powerful clubs like Carlton, Essendon, Collingwood and, to a lesser degree Hawthorn, have picked the country's best interstate recruits, as well as enticing the best players from the bottom VFL clubs.

This produces a two-edged sword — you strengthen your own club and weaken the already weaker ones.

Now if a player wants to leave his club, he must go into the draft, so he cannot select the team he wants to play with.

Therefore, the build-up to the 1989 season has seen fewer player movements than in previous years.

Clubs who have been continuously fleeced of their good players — like Footscray, Fitzroy, St Kilda and, in recent years, Richmond — can now retain their good players as well as get an early pick in the draft.

With teams starting to even out, so should the difference in scores.

With fewer easybeats in the competition, it should be possible to get into the final five by winning just 12 games.

## To see them play away,



## you should see us now.

### ITINERARY 1.

**FRIDAY 12 MAY 1989**  
DEPART Perth 5.15pm TN19  
ARRIVE Melbourne 10.30pm

**SATURDAY 13 MAY 1989**  
Richmond vs Westcoast Eagles

**SUNDAY 14 MAY 1989**  
Melbourne Tigers vs Wildcats  
DEPART Melbourne 7.00pm TN14  
ARRIVE Perth 8.45pm

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### ITINERARY 2.

**FRIDAY 23 JUNE 1989**  
DEPART Perth 7.50pm TN9  
ARRIVE Melbourne 1.05pm  
North Melbourne vs Wildcats

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE 1989**  
Carlton vs Westcoast Eagles

**SUNDAY 25 JUNE 1989**  
DEPART Melbourne 7.00pm TN14  
ARRIVE Perth 8.40pm

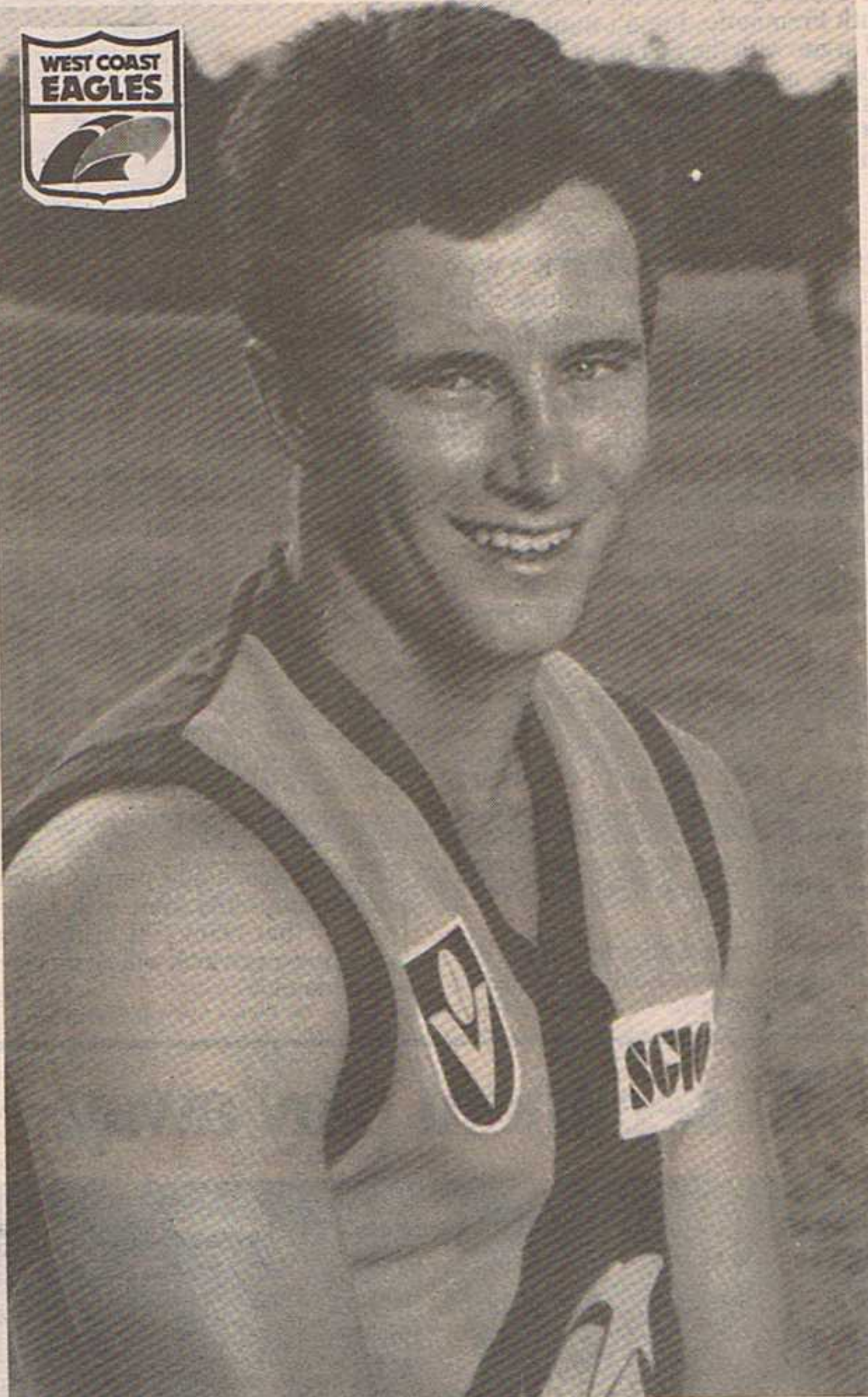
### PLAYING DATES

EAGLES	WILDCATS
8 April Geelong	22 April Adelaide
16 April Sydney	13 May Melbourne
30 April Brisbane	14 May Melbourne
13 May Richmond	3 June Brisbane
21 May St Kilda	22 June Melbourne
24 June Carlton	23 June Melbourne
8 July Hawthorn	14 July Sydney
15 July Essendon	15 July Castlemaine
20 July Footscray	25 August Sydney
12 August Flinders	26 August Sydney
19 August Collingwood	1 September Hobart
	2 September Melbourne

**AUSTRALIAN**

# PLAYER PROFILES

## DON PYKE



**NICK NAME:** Pykey  
**FAVOURITE POSITION:** Rover  
**CURRENT POSITION:** Rover  
**NUMBER:** 37  
**DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:** 5/12/68. Illinois, U.S.A.  
**HEIGHT:** 179cm **WEIGHT:** 73kg  
**RECRUITED FROM:** Claremont/Belconnen  
**FIRST SENIOR GAME:** 1987 Claremont  
**GAMES PLAYED:** 35 Claremont, 1 Eagles, 2 WA  
**FOOTBALL HONOURS:** 1987 Claremont Premiership, 1988 Claremont fairest and best, 1988 state games South Australia, Victoria.  
**MARITAL STATUS:** Single  
**OCCUPATION:** Accountant  
**SCHOOL/S ATTENDED:** Hawker College A.C.T.  
**CAR:** Mazda 1300  
**FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES:** Beach & sleeping

**FAVOURITE FOOD:** Pepper steak  
**FAVOURITE DRINK:** Caramel Milkshake  
**FAVOURITE SPORT (OTHER SPORTS):** Golf, tennis, basketball  
**FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP:** Midnight Oil  
**FAVOURITE TV SHOW:** Sledgehammer  
**FAVOURITE MOVIE:** Caddyshack  
**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:** My father and Gerard Neesham  
**MATCH DAY ROUTINE:** Late breakfast and relax  
**BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:** Losing the 1988 WAFL grand final  
**FOOTBALL INJURIES:** Knees  
**BIGGEST THRILL:** Playing League Football  
**MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:** 1988 State Game vs Victoria  
**FOOTBALL AMBITION:** Play at the highest possible level for as long as possible.

## Malcolm Bennett



**Full Name:** Malcolm Bennett.  
**Nickname:** Benno. *Why:* From my surname.  
**Date of Birth:** 30/1/62. **Place of Birth:** Wongan Hills, W.A.  
**Height:** 198cm. **Weight:** 95kg.  
**Age Started Playing:** Seven.  
**Previous Club/s:** West Perth.  
**Junior Club:** Nungarin.  
**Marital Status:** Single.  
**Girlfriend's Name:** Anita.  
**Residence:** Maylands.  
**Occupation:** Technical officer.  
**Place of Work:** Agricultural Department.  
**Other Sporting Interests:** Cricket, basketball, fishing.  
**Favourite Position:** Ruck. **First Position:** Ruck.  
**League Debut:** 1981. **Versus:** Claremont.

### FAVOURITES:

**Actor:** Harrison Ford. **Drink:** Beer.  
**TV Show:** L.A. Law. **Food:** Steak.  
**Movie:** Die Hard.  
**Music:** Dire Straits, Toni Childs.  
**Book:** Savages.  
**Holiday Resort:** Kalbarri.  
**Ground:** WACA Ground.  
**Car:** Commodore. **Favourite Car:** Commodore.  
**Career Highlights:** League debut.  
**Worst Moment in Football:** Fractured vertebrae in back.  
**Hard Things in Football:** Sunday mornings.  
**Football Idols:** Carl Ditterich.  
**Toughest Opponent:** Craig Nelson.  
**Most Respected Opponent:** Craig Nelson.  
**Most Memorable Game:** First League Game.  
**Ambitions:** To play in grand final side.  
**What do you like about Football:** Comradeship.  
**How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game:** Sleep in.  
**Who Influenced Your Career:** Mel Clements, coach at Nungarin.  
**Guemsey Number:** 19. **Any Reason Given to me.**  
**Superstitions:** None.  
**Worst Injury:** Vertebrae.  
**Luckiest Break:** Invited to trial for West Perth.



# Eagles No. 1 supporter

# COME ON TODDY!

THE appointment of Murray Rance as captain of the West Coast Eagles is another chapter in the "Swan Districts connection" for Eagles coach John Todd.

Rance, one of Todd's most devoted disciples of the 1980s, is certainly a senior Eagles player with his long VFL and WAFL record.

But the decision to make him captain ahead of John Annear or Steve Malaxos is baffling ... almost as puzzling as having four vice-captains.

Naming four deputies to Rance — Annear, Malaxos, Laurie Keene and John Worsfold — smacks of indecision; almost as much indecision as the Eagles showed in their handling of the VFL draft.

Todd has a record of baffling decisions with some of his proteges at Swan Districts.

As State coach, Todd had a history of playing excessive numbers of Bassendean Boys and now his policy is spilling over into the Eagles — Perth's VFL team.

The Eagles coach seems to forget

## Stop playing favourites

that the team he sends out every week carries with it the hopes of this State.

Todd has escaped criticism in recent times and that's probably part of the problem of Perth being simply a one-team-town.

In Melbourne, the fast-talking Todd would already have been tried (and probably crucified) by the hard-hitting football media.

Todd continually slams the media in this town for what he claims is a lack of knowledge.

It doesn't take good judges long to wake up to what Toddy is up to at the Eagles right now — and over the past six months. And it could be his undoing.

He has been cleaning the place out of players who have a personality and character of their own and their replacements are not up to VFL football.

## THE BUZZ

By football's Mr Flamboyant  
PETER BOSUSTOW



If a player is not totally committed to Todd's way of thinking, the Eagles ship him out.

### Flamboyant

How would Todd cope with the flamboyant character and playboy images of Dermot Brereton or Warwick Capper? He didn't want Alex Ishchenko or Mark Zanotti because of their high-profile image.

Coaches must be able to bend and cope with individuals as they are; to get the best out of them for the sake of the team and their devoted supporters.

Let's face it, Todd is difficult to get along with.

Just ask a few of the media boys in town who have to cop his constant barrage of abuse, just for doing their job and promoting the game we all love so much.

Todd flew at an unsuspecting rookie radio reporter last Friday simply because the kid asked: "Do you think your inexperienced players let you down in the end?"

That's a good question and Todd failed to provide any acceptable answer.

Todd has let too many VFL footballers go free — Alex Ishchenko, John Gastev, Wally Matera, Murray Wrensted and Mark Zanotti were all too good to lose in this, the Eagles third year.

And Ross Glendinning could easily have had another season of football if things had been different in the Eagles camp.

Come on Toddy, there are a few others in this town who know a bit about the game and if you can't roll with the knocks, as you want your players to, the Eagles will go under.

## TODAY'S FOOTBALL

ABC radio sports commentator Keith Slater raised some interesting theories on the 6WF show last Saturday when the question of modern-day football came up. Talking about how former players would survive in today's football, with its fast run-on style, Slater said that he would enjoy playing today. A top-class ruckman who was very mobile, Slater would obviously be in the mould of a Simon Madden with his agility. The panel was also comparing the kicking style of former Perth ace forward Murray Couper, rated by critic Geoff Christian as one of the best kickers of the football ever.

### SPORTING RIVALS

THERE'S always been plenty of controversy between the rival football codes, soccer and Australian Rules. How about the feature in the Daily News last week involving radio 6NR? The editorial was mainly about the station's Aussie Rules coverage — but the paid advertisements supporting the feature were all from soccer supporters!

### VERBAL JOUSTING

HARD-hitting East Fremantle president Hans Beyer doesn't mince his words when he wants to say something. The club's current battle with the West Coast Eagles over compensation payments for the loss of Clinton Browning and Shane Ellis saw the Sharks chief fire a few barbs at the Eagles hierarchy. He's already threatened legal action — and those harsh words worry the Eagles people, who are still licking their fingers after the Paul Harding/Gary Buckenara costly court case. Don't let anybody tell you that the WAFL and its VFL "protege" get along well!

### CHANGES COMING

TALKING about Eagles/WAFL administration, isn't it confusing with the proposed Football Commission? We keep hearing about this big change, but it keeps getting post-

poned — just who is running WA footy, eh? One thing is for sure — acting WAFL general manager Brian Cook has impressed a lot of people in the few months that he has been sitting in the chair out Subiaco way and if the mail is right — and mine usually is — it will be a pity if he's lost to the local administration when the Football Commission comes into existence with a full-time Commissioner.

### LATE MAIL

BY now all of WA knows that the Eagles lost by 16 points to Essendon at the WACA Ground last Friday night. Well, a loss is a loss and you can't expect to win them all. However, a number of Eagles players were of the boil — particularly the ever-reliable Steve Malaxos. Now, Malaxos was widely-tipped to captain the Eagles this season and one wonders whether the announcement giving the job to Murray Rance on the eve of the season affected Stavros or not! With all the publicity in his corner, it may have been easier on him to have announced the captaincy a little sooner.

### BAD START

STEVE Malaxos may have realised he was going to have a bad night from the first bounce. The All-Australian player was almost caught in the centre square as the umpire went to bounce the ball. It appeared from the sideline that it was Laurie Keene who told him to get out, thus giving the Eagles the regulation five players in the square. But you're forgiven Steve, despite your 22 possessions, many of which seemed to go to the opposition.

### BOOT PROBLEM

TROY Ugle — either get some smaller boots or learn to tie your laces up! You made infrequent appearances on the ground against Essendon, but still managed to lose your boot twice ... maybe that's why.

### EACH-WAY BET

STEEL-eyed John Todd emerged from the Eagles dressing room last

## MARLOWS

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## THE HOOD

WA's most feared  
football critic



Friday night to his summation of the evening's events to an informal gathering of the press. In the way of an excuse he also said: "I wish you guys wouldn't keep writing how great our players are." Two years ago, while a regular panellist on 6PR's Footy Show, Todd said: "Why don't our press write our players up? They do in the VFL. They make them into champions." Which way do you want it, Toddy?



Radio man Tim Flynn stands in the background as WAFL commissioner Peter Tannock announces his award.

### FLYNN'S FOLLY

THIS column has often had a light-hearted shot at radio's mega-mouth Tim Flynn — and he now features again, but this time it's the paper committing the folly. Flynn was inadvertently left out of the paper's pictorial coverage of the media award winners — and the award he received was wrongly credited to someone else. How wrong is wrong! Anyway, Tim (now in semi-retirement from football, but he'll be back) was judged radio commentator of the year, while the ABC's Trevor Jenkins took that honour in the television arena.

### TIGHT VIEWING

THE new Southern Stand facilities at the WACA Ground might be good for sponsors, spectators and even cricket commentators. But they are below-standard for football-watching media. The press box is simply too high up and a view of the entire ground has too many poles, beams, windows or bars in obstructive positions. And then there's a host of "support staff" sitting outside the media boxes who continually affect the viewing. Cricket people might love the WACA, but not so for their football counterparts.

### STRICT SECURITY

TALKING about the WACA Ground, it's amazing how many security people are employed there. Every corner you turn there's a security person scrutinising your activities; membership badges of various sorts are checked two or three times and you certainly can't set foot on the oval. But try to get a drink in the bars — suddenly the place seems short-staffed!

### NUMBERS UP

DID you notice that trainers, waterboys and other support staff running around the WACA on Friday night sporting numbers on their backs. That is a new VFL rule to identify and control the number of trainers and so forth on the ground. But some wag in the Members' Bar quipped that it was to help the umpires learn to count.



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Jack Lucas (Perth) 28 on 8th  
Graeme Garmant (Subiaco) 20 on 9th  
Neil Taylor (Subiaco) 32 on 10th  
Andre Parlington (Swan Dist) 27 on 11th  
Scott Annandale (East Frem) 21 on 13th  
Brent Hutton (Eagles) 25 on 15th

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# MIGHTY MAGPIE!



## Christian destroys attacking Hawks

THE creators of the Boy's Own Annual would have been suitably impressed.

Michael Christian single-handedly stopped Hawthorn from winning Saturday's opening round match against Collingwood — well almost . . .

He took six soaring marks in the final stanza as the reigning premiers repeatedly stormed the ball towards gun-forward Jason Dunstall.

But the ace Hawks goalkicker, impeded by close-checking Michael Gayfer in only his fourth game, could only watch helplessly as the athletic Christian drifted across and marked on his own, repelling attacks with ease.

Four of the marks were in the last 10 minutes when the Hawks attacked relentlessly — without result.

"The pressure applied by the boys downfield made a defender's job easy," said Christian, in his third year with Collingwood after six seasons with East Perth.

"I was very conscious of cutting off Dunstall. I thought he's the guy they'd be looking for in the last bit, so I had one eye on him and one eye on my bloke (Andrew Gowers).

"I tried to hedge my bets a bit. I knew where they would be going. Dunstall is a great player and they rely on his ability to kick their goals.

"My first three quarters were not outstanding by any stretch of the imagination. But it was good to play well when it mattered most."

### Broken nose

Christian had his nose broken in the opening five minutes of the game, adding further lustre to his scintillating display.

Christian's show-stopping effort, combined with the amazing eight-goal debut by Subiaco's John Georgiades, now with Footscray, were among the major highlights of the VFL's opening round.

Georgiades kicked eight goals, continuing his outstanding form which helped Subiaco to last year's WAFL premiership — he kicked six in the grand final and 17 for the final series.

However, the five-goal performance from Collingwood's Mandurah-born Brian Taylor was equally impressive, especially as he was pitted against one of the VFL's best players, Hawthorn's Gary Ayres, winner of the '88 Norm Smith Medal for best-afield in the grand final.

Taylor kicked 5.4 and gave several goals away with some superb play, highlighted by big leaps, which until this season had been absent from his game.

"It's something I haven't been able to do in previous years," Taylor said.

### Confident

"It happened to me once in a practice match. I've never been off the ground in my life, but suddenly I had this feeling that I could do it and it made me confident."

"I'd never known what to expect before. If you do it (fly high) a lot like Gary Ablett it's a thing you can get used to."

Taylor took a succession of brilliant marks, one over Ayres in the first-quarter being a gem. His big leap over Andrew Collins to mark in the second term was also an enormous effort.

Taylor says he wants to be responsible for at least six goals a match this season, whether they come from him directly or from his work in the packs.

"I'm just interested in the team winning, not winning the goalkicking," he said with a smile.

"I'm happy to get three (goals) a week and help the other forwards to get three as well."

**FOOTNOTE:** Ken Piesse will join radio 6NR's sports editor Peter Vlahos to call Sunday's Geelong-West Coast Eagles clash from Kardinia Park, Victoria, from noon.

## ON THE EAST COAST

Leading football journalist and 6NR commentator **KEN PIESSE** reports from Melbourne.

# Ablett the danger as Eagles regroup



THE enigma of VFL football, brilliant Geelong utility player Garry Ablett, could determine the fate of the West Coast Eagles when they clash at Kardinia Park on Sunday.

Ablett, the stubble-faced forward who made an indelible impression on the minds of WA football fans when he kicked eight goals in a losing Victorian side in 1984, has turned defender under new coach Malcolm Blight.

## VFL PREVIEW

by **GARY STOCKS** of The West Australian



Ablett has discovered consistency in defence under a man who showed similar class in his career with North Melbourne.

Blight, too, earned a reputation as a match-winner, once kicking an 80-metre goal after the siren to snatch victory for the Kangaroos.

Perhaps Blight, a man of skill equal to Ablett, can understand the mind of one of the most gifted men to grace a field in the '80s — something other coaches could not.

In recent years there have been rumblings of discontent at Kardinia Park.

Ablett's spasmodic brilliance caused some headaches with his previous coaches, but the move by Blight to use Ablett in defence could solve the problem. It takes Ablett away from the rigours of a close-checking backman.

Ablett kicks the ball with such depth that the play can move swiftly from defence to attack for Geelong.

### Problems

The Eagles go to Geelong, even at this early stage of the season, with more than their share of problems.

The loss to Essendon at the WACA Ground last Friday night, when a height deficiency was a problem, has put them behind the eight-ball in their quest to finish in the top five for the second successive year.

To get back on course, they must beat a Geelong team which boasts as much natural talent as any side in the competition. And then it's on to the SCG, a venue that the Eagles have not been able to master in two seasons of VFL competition.

The Geelong attacking unit, combined with Ablett's great kicking, is a dangerous force.

Bill Brownless is in form, Dwayne Russell is starting to live up to his potential and Barry Stoneham is providing an aerial target at centre-half-forward, giving Cats plenty of options in attack.

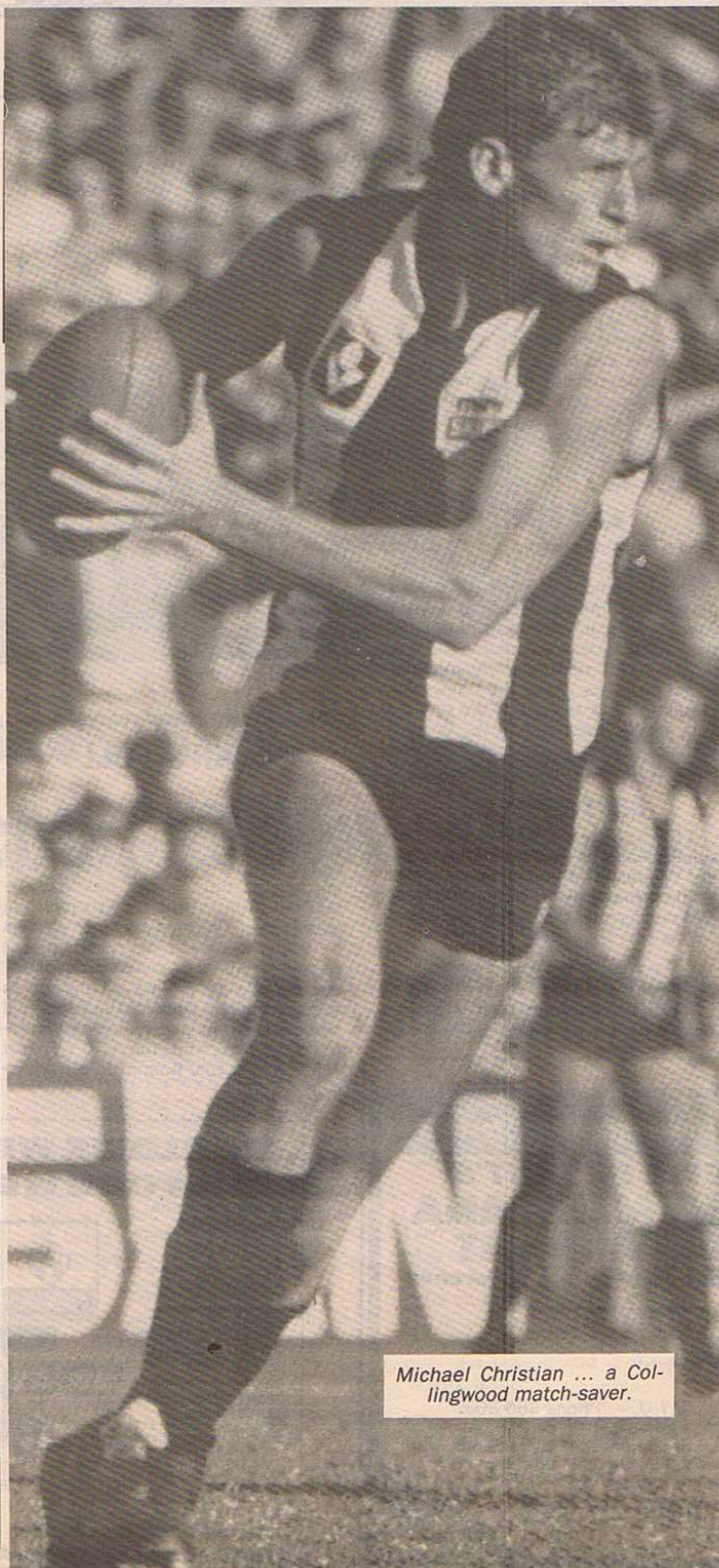
Rover Sean Denham and the Cameron boys, Gary and David, combine with Darren Troy and Mark Bairstow to give Geelong a potentially match-winning mid-field presence.

### Underdogs

The Eagles are accustomed to travelling to Kardinia Park as the underdogs and the same thing will occur this week.

Much will depend on the fitness of senior players, who were missing from their opening games against the Bombers. They certainly could not win with the same team they fielded last week.

They will need big efforts from Phil Scott and Karl Langdon in attack, Chris Mainwaring, Don Pyke, John Annear and Laurie Keene on the ball and Peter Sumich and Murray Rance in the key defensive positions.



Michael Christian ... a Collingwood match-saver.

927  
**6NR**

**Chris Gogos**

JEWELLER & VALUATOR

### Eagle of the Year

Last week's votes:

- 3 Phil Scott
- 2 Steve Malaxos
- 1 Murray Rance

This week's broadcast games:-

Saturday — from 2pm  
WAFL — Claremont vs Subiaco  
Sunday — from noon  
VFL — Geelong vs Eagles

Tune into Saturday's Countdown to the Bouncedown from 1pm.

927  
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# TIGERS CAN ATONE

CLAREMONT coach Gerard Neesham has a long memory and he doesn't miss many opportunities to get square.

Throughout the summer he was haunted by the ghost of last year's grand final.

Subiaco overcame the odds to beat one of the shortest-priced premiership favourites in recent history. Neesham knows he cannot turn the clock back and have the game replayed, but he can still get some small compensation for his side's shock defeat.

His first opportunity comes this Saturday on the opening day of the WAFL season, when a grand final re-match

takes place at Subiaco Oval and the reward is four premiership points, rather than the Premiership Cup.

There have been some changes for both teams over the summer.

Subiaco are without the star of the finals series, John Georgiades — who kicked eight goals on debut for Footscray last Saturday in the VFL — tough wingman Ian Dargie and defender Kevan Sparks.

Claremont have farewelled rover Don Pyke, experienced defender Noel Morton and key position player John Hutton will be out for the season. As well, Peter Melesso and Peter Higgins have been signed by the Eagles.

The personnel will be a little different, but the clubs remain the same and Neesham will be after revenge.

Pre-season form suggests that the Tigers should win the match. But we have all learned never to consider form when assessing the prospects of the Haydn Bunton coached Lions.

Three losses from three pre-season practice games counts for little. There was nothing to lose in those matches and now there is. Pride (and points) are on the line.

Subiaco have not yet uncovered the players needed to offset the losses of stars like Georgiades, in particular, and Dargie and for that reason Claremont should start the season on a winning note.

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**PREVIEWS**

by  
**Gary Stocks**

## THE COVERAGE

### RADIO

Saturday

6PR 11.55am-2.30pm: Fitzroy v Collingwood. 2.30pm: West Perth v South Fremantle.

Sunday

11.55am-2.30pm: Geelong v Eagles.

Saturday:

6NR 2pm: Subiaco v Claremont.

Sunday

11.55am: Geelong v Eagles

Saturday

6WF 2pm: East Fremantle v East Perth

### TELEVISION

Channel 2: Subiaco v Claremont. 2pm to regional stations, 4.20pm final quarter coverage to metropolitan viewers.

TVW Channel 7: Sat 5pm — VFL Highlights. Sun — Geelong v Eagles.

Emu Export present ...  
**WESTSIDE'S EXPERT SELECTIONS**



Tally does not include VFL tips	Tally	Subiaco v Claremont	E. Frem. v E. Perth	Swans v Perth	W. Perth v S. Frem.	Geelong v Eagles
RON ALEXANDER		Claremont	East Fremantle	Swans	West Perth	Geelong
ROB BENNETT		Claremont	East Fremantle	Swans	West Perth	Eagles
PETER BOSUSTOW		Claremont	East Fremantle	Perth	South Fremantle	Geelong
DAVE CLEMENT		Claremont	East Fremantle	Swans	South Fremantle	Geelong
DENNIS COMETTI		Claremont	East Fremantle	Perth	South Fremantle	Geelong
GRANT DORRINGTON		Claremont	East Fremantle	Perth	South Fremantle	Eagles
ALAN EAST		Claremont	East Fremantle	Swans	West Perth	Geelong
IAN MILLER		Claremont	East Fremantle	Perth	West Perth	Geelong
BILL MATHER-BROWN		Claremont	East Fremantle	Perth	West Perth	Geelong
GARY STOCKS		Claremont	East Fremantle	Perth	South Fremantle	Geelong
GEORGE TEMPLE		Subiaco	East Fremantle	Perth	South Fremantle	Geelong
MOST FAVOURED		Claremont	East Fremantle	Perth	South Fremantle	Geelong

how about you?

## Royals on the improve

WHEN the WAFL fixtures were first released several months ago, a line would have been drawn through the East Fremantle-East Perth clash and noted as a match to avoid.

A lot has changed since then. East Perth have since won three practice matches, while East Fremantle have been a little inconsistent and suddenly the match looms as an exciting contest.

It would be unreasonable to suggest East Perth should win the match, but the Sharks — pre-season premiership favourites — can expect a tough battle.

There is little doubt East Fremantle have the most talent of all the clubs. Their losses over the summer break have been minimal — though they will miss Ray Sterrett — and they will be hoping from a selfish point of view that Shane Ellis and Clinton Browning spend more time at the port club than they do with the West Coast Eagles.

The Royals have found new system through coach Ian McCulloch, who takes over from Gerard McNeill and with a few of their young players ready to assume senior roles in the league team, they could be in for an exciting time.

The Sharks should win, but if the Royals receive strong efforts from the likes of Peter Cransberg, Peter Miller, Mark Cartier, Lloyd Haskett and Rod Lewis, the score will be tight at the end.

## Blackaby looks for hopeful signs

IT seems like a long time since Swan Districts enjoyed the halcyon days of the early 1980s. For Ed Blackaby it must feel like an eternity.

He will get an early indication on Saturday as to whether there is some hope of a return to the good old days during his stint as a coach with the Bassendean club.

There will be good news and bad news for Blackaby, one of football's likeable characters.

The match against Perth at Bassendean Oval will provide some encouragement, but it should be Perth who finish the contest with four premiership points against their name.

Swans will be competitive this season and they will be in the chop up for a place in the four, but Perth could have the edge in experience required to win their first contest of 1989.

With Mark Watson, Joe Santostefano, Brad Fox and Shane Cable in fine early-season form, the Demons look threatening.

Swans managed to beat Subiaco in Bunbury last Saturday, but that joy will be shortlived unless they can produce a brilliant blend of team work.

## Rivalry to continue

A LITTLE less than 12 months ago West Perth and South Fremantle were engaged in an all-out feud off the field.

As one accused the other of foul play in the famous Ned Fimmano-Peter Menaglio incident, the clubs grew in their dislike of each other.

That seems to have passed with the two clubs taking on a more friendly rivalry as West Perth took up the challenge to get more fans through their Leederville Oval gates than the Bulldogs.

Both sides go into the season's opener with unconvincing form. South have twice squandered match-winning opportunities in pre-season games, while West Perth were less than impressive against East Perth last Saturday.

Stan Magro faces the biggest test in league football this year, overcoming yet another serious player drain for the Bulldogs, while George Michalczyk seems to have injected some life into the ailing Falcons.

The key to West Perth's prospects rests with a handful of experienced players led by Peter Menaglio, Craig Nelson, Malcolm Williams, who had a brilliant debut season last year, Sean King and Paul Mifka.

If South Fremantle are to break a long-standing Leederville Oval hoodoo they will need their West Coast Eagles players — if they still have them — to lead the way.

South have the talent and should start the season on a high note.

## WHO PLAYS WHERE



**WAFL — Saturday, April 8 (Round 1).**

Subiaco vs Claremont, at Subiaco Oval.  
East Fremantle vs East Perth, at East Fremantle Oval.  
Swan Districts vs Perth, at Bassendean Oval.  
West Perth vs South Fremantle, at Leederville Oval.

**VFL — Sunday, April 9 (Round 2).**

Geelong vs Eagles, at Kardinia Park, Geelong.



Angelo Del Borrello

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# Old friends rally around the footy flag

**TAKING STOCK**  
by GARY STOCKS  
of The West Australian



THEY say that when you are riding high, you are surrounded by friends and when you are down, you find out how many of them are loyal.

A quick glance at the WAFL this season will reveal who the dedicated men are in Australian Football.

It doesn't take Einstein to tell you that football has gone through the most traumatic period of its 104-year history in Western Australia.

But a look at all the local clubs, as well as the West Coast Eagles, shows the type of people who have football in their blood, people who are prepared to fight for the game's survival.

Some of the game's greatest players and others who had outstanding careers, are now mingled into the clubs, doing their bit to preserve history.

No-one has done more for football after retiring as a player than Barry Cable.

## Success

His association with the West Coast Eagles as an assistant coach has had a lot to do with the club's success with local football fans.

He is anxious for the WAFL and Eagles to work together to ensure the future of a great game. Testimony to that is his willingness to help out at junior level.

Any time the Football Development Trust has a promotion, he is on hand to give the young players the chance to mingle with one of the game's greats. He is there because he cares for the game and football would be lost without the Cables of this world.

Young players need direction from men who have reached great heights in the game.

This line-up of past stars at each of the eight WAFL clubs emphasises the resurgence in club football.

**SUBIACO:** Haydn Bunton, Neil Randall, George Young.

**CLAREMONT:** Gerard and Harry Neesham.

**EAST FREMANTLE:** Graham Melrose, Percy Johnson.

**EAST PERTH:** Ian McCulloch, Gary Gillespie, Wayne Duke, Gary Bygraves.

**WEST PERTH:** George Michalczyk, Bill Dempsey.

**PERTH:** Robert Wiley, Murray Couper, Tom Mullooly, Brian Cook, Doug Farrant.

**SWAN DISTRICTS:** Ed Blackaby, Bill Walker.

**SOUTH FREMANTLE:** Stan Magro, Tony Micale, Tony Ryan, Brian Ciccotosto.

That represents an impressive array of past talent and football is indeed in good hands.

Obviously a lot of people who would like to be involved in some capacity, cannot find the time because of business commitments. But the work of this group, initially as players and now in a variety of other roles, must be commended.

There is now a constant reminder of past WAFL glories at each of the clubs and one gets the feeling the WAFL can come back strongly this year.

Now that most people have grown accustomed to the Eagles and fitted them into their sporting life, WAFL attendances could climb again.

The first two weeks could tell the story, with the Eagles playing out of town, at Geelong and Sydney on consecutive Sundays.

The presence of some of these big names must also help to bring back members to local clubs — members who turned their backs on their clubs when VFL football took a more prominent position in WA.

There is also a strong incentive for WAFL club members to buy a season's pass. In previous years all money from those passes has gone to the WAFL, but now the clubs will benefit directly.



Neil Randall ... a strong worker at Subiaco.



Gary Bygraves ... back with the Royals.

## "TOP MARK"



Westside Football photographer Julian Cowan captures fiery Karl Langdon taking a strong mark against Essendon.

### Topmark Special Of The Week ...

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## STRAIGHT TALKING

With Claremont coach  
**GERARD NEESHAM**

### Masterstroke

## How the VFL kept their ailing clubs alive

A GREAT deal has been said about the pros and cons of the national draft and the expanded VFL competition that has so drastically affected football across Australia.

I believe a number of facts were conveniently pushed into the background in order to sell the proposal to our State.

Just before the 1987 season the VFL had three major problems:

1. A financial crisis for seven of their 12 clubs.
2. The gap between the top and bottom halves of the competition.
3. The ever-decreasing sponsorship dollar in Victoria.

For the VFL not only to survive but also trade out of its problems a change in tack was needed.

As I was involved in the Sydney Swans' first year in Sydney it was obvious to all, including Alan Schwab, that there was a large market place outside Victoria and the nights of chook raffles and gambling nights were a thing of the past.

The move to WA and Queensland has provided the VFL with a much-needed money injection through licences, national TV and a broader range of sponsorship. This money has been ploughed back to the ailing clubs in Victoria.

Their next masterstroke was basically to abandon all transfer fees. In my

opinion, this has been the single most significant factor in the VFL's efforts to keep the Melbourne clubs alive.

It meant on average a drop in expenditure of \$300,000 on top of which they could still pick up quality players and in doing this they have used WA as a stepping stone.

Don't get me wrong. I enjoyed watching the games on TV last weekend as much as the next bloke, but 10 weeks down the track, when we've had five hours of football every weekend, the quality will become obvious.

A truly national strategy for our great game would see all the lesser leagues remain at a high standard with a national league as the icing on the cake.

We are now competing nationally with basketball and soccer and soon athletics, swimming and hockey to name a few other sports will be receiving national exposure as well.

There are only so many TV hours and sponsorship dollars available. The expanded VFL competition is "too fat" and not the best we could present.

**MEMO: John Warren.**

Having read your article last week it seems obvious that you do not appreciate the general trend of sport.

Our game is becoming more complete with people being able to attack and defend. The days of the set attack and set defence are gone unless our archaic lawmakers decide to give us numbers and zones as is the case in netball.





# DEMON 'GUT-BUSTERS'

## IAN MILLER

Former VFL, WAFL star  
Sandover Medallist and league coach



## Wiley has two good men at the helm

CONGRATULATIONS to John Gavranich and Kim Fancote on their appointments as Perth's captain and vice-captain, respectively.

I had the pleasure of introducing both players to Lathlain Park in 1984.

Gavranich came from West Perth, where he had limited League opportunities, and Fancote arrived from Brookton with a big country reputation.

I see their appointments as excellent in terms of players who have displayed strong personal team character and commitment.

Gavranich has always been a real fighter. Not blessed with natural football flair, he has worked long and hard at his game.

### Humour

Fancote, on the other hand, was always going to make it. He is a willing listener, keen to improve and always puts the team first.

He possesses good skills, reads the play well and has proved to be a gutsy midfielder. He will add his 'special' sense of humour to the changerooms.

Coach Rob Wiley knows he has two men at the helm this year who will literally 'bust their guts' for the Demons on and off the field.

## Ingredients are right

WE are in our third season of living with the Eagles in this town, a year in which I predict a much brighter and more viable WAFL competition.

It was purely a case of survival in '87. Last season was better in terms of playing strength, and from what I've seen pre-season there are several exciting young players who will make the game more competitive in '89.

Of course from a spectator viewpoint the bottom line must add up to competitive football.

One has to be realistic and acknowledge that the old days are gone. But we have all the ingredients for a bright future.

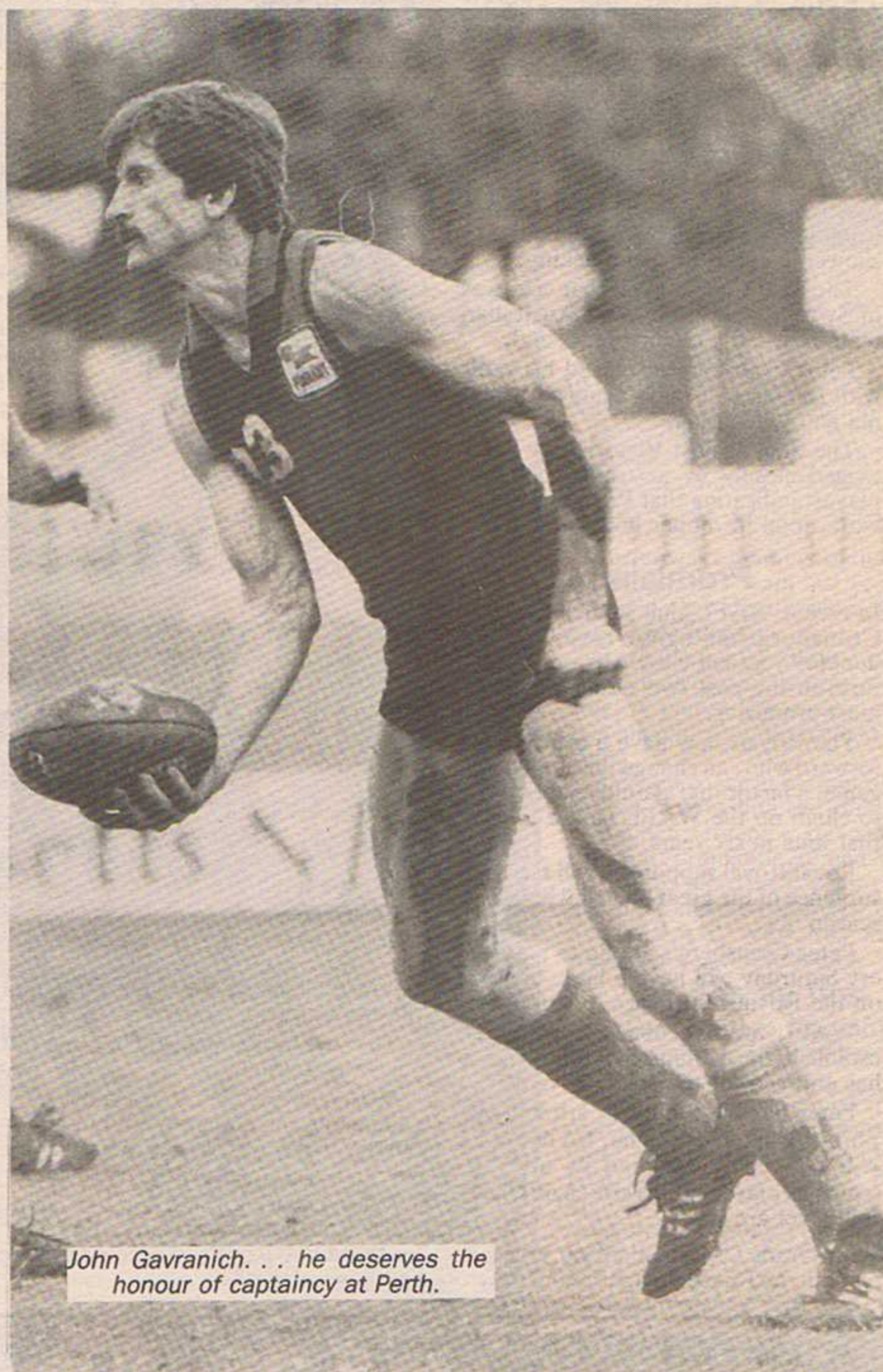
The big question is can the WAFL resell the game back to the public?

The strategy of playing all games on Saturdays with three Sunday games in the country is good, but maybe not flexible enough.

The WAFL also comes up against not only VFL football but Saturday afternoon shopping, which affects players and spectators in all sports.

I would liked to have seen ground rationalisation this year but it was not to be.

For the sake of football, I hope that the WAFL regains some of the ground it has been forced to sacrifice in the past two or three seasons.



John Gavranich... he deserves the honour of captaincy at Perth.

## Thumbs up for captain Rance

EAGLES skipper Murray Rance slotted in well in his new role last Friday night.

I was impressed with his display at centre-half-back in a relatively inexperienced defence, but more so with his efforts to try to lift the Eagles a couple of times with strong dashes into the centre when a full commitment was required.

Rance had solid support from tyro vice-captain Steve Malaxos.

Last week I lauded Essendon's appointment of Tim Watson as captain. He certainly did some inspirational things when they were needed.

## Double role for Douge

WEST Coast Eagles football director Brian Douge must be one of the few men capable of holding down his VFL administrator's post and role as selector and team runner.

Douge, who has never shirked the issue when it comes to work, both physical and mental, is truly a football addict.

Having known him for more than 15 years I can vouch for his thorough preparation, dedication and commitment.

While the talk pre-season has been of player recruiting, in the long term Douge will prove to be the prize recruit for the Eagles.

I'd like to know what sort of bait Bill Kerr used to persuade him to move from the Football Development Trust.

Douge and the Eagles didn't get off to the start for '89 they required against Essendon and in the next couple of weeks the onus will be on the selectors to come up with a better formula.

## That key spot's a big problem

THE Toyota ad says 'Oh what a feeling.' When it comes to filling the centre-half-forward spot, the Eagles continue to say 'Oh what a problem.'

Last Friday night, against Essendon, it was there for all to see.

Michael Brennan, who was used there against the Bombers, is a real worker and dogged competitor, but he's not a true centre-half-forward.

He lacks the height and finesse for the position.

In fact on many occasions the whole half-forward line was non-existent last week.

Players who should have been at the fall of the ball were not there. So Essendon were able to whisk the ball away far too easily and another scoring opportunity for the Eagles was missed.

Admittedly the options at centre-half-forward don't jump out at you.

The best bet in the long term is Peter Sumich. His stint in defence will assist his development and was a good first-up effort.

Phil Scott's seven-goal display up forward was nothing short of superb.



Peter Sumich... good debut.

## Matera a real Fitzroy bonus



FORMER Eagles rover Wally Matera, snapped up in the secondary draft by Fitzroy, will prove to be a real bonus for the Lions.

Fitzroy have not had a true rover since Garry Wilson.

I'm not comparing Matera with Wilson, Fitzroy's fairest and best and a Victorian representative on numerous occasions, but Matera has shown in the past two seasons that he has the qualities to succeed at VFL level.

He needs to be able to concentrate on his football for four quarters and improve his kicking for goal, areas which let him down previously.

I believe Matera was a surprise omission from the Eagles' list but he has now another opportunity, as has former Eagles player Kevin Caton, to re-establish his career at Fitzroy.

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# Cransberg's got what it takes

IN 1984 a tall, thin young player from South Bunbury arrived at the Teal Cup trials with another young player in current Subiaco ruck-rover Brad McDougall.

Peter Cransberg immediately impressed with his great hand and foot skills.

An exceptional high mark with a long left-foot kick, Peter quickly showed his flair for goal kicking.

The Teal Cup carnival that year was in Sydney where the West Australian team finished a creditable second.

Peter Cransberg displayed his skills with top-class displays against Tasmania and Queensland.

The final against Victoria saw Peter tagged closely by a strong Victorian player, indicating that Peter needed to work upon his upper body strength.

## Promising

In recent WAFL club scratch matches Cransberg has again revealed undoubted football class. His pre-season form in the past two weeks has been most promising.

The Royals now have a centre-half-forward who can change the course of a game, a factor that should enable them to climb up the WAFL ladder for the first time in six years.

Loyal Royal supporters will see a resurgence of the great blue and blacks in season '89.

Peter Cransberg's ability to play every Saturday will have a large bearing on the Royal resurgence.

WAFL football needs stars to re-establish the community following it has enjoyed for the past 100 years.

Peter has the ability to attract supporters back to the game. No doubt he will be keenly watched by all VFL scouts as players of his size, agility and skill level are rare.

With Grant Campbell still to take his place in the Royals League team, coach



Peter Cransberg ... real potential.

Ian McCulloch has two highly talented players in his forward zone.

They are both capable of booting 100 goals this season.

Season '88 saw the Royals show great endeavour and commitment but an inability to score goals when they counted cost them dearly.

Peter Cransberg and Grant Campbell will provide the 'cream on the cake' for the young Royals to become a football power in '89.

## DORRO'S DIARY

By GRANT DORRINGTON



TALK of the Royals returning to power highlights the efforts of diminutive rover Peter Miller.

Peter comes from John Ironmonger territory in Margaret River but definitely didn't drink the amount of milk put away by 'giant John.'

Peter had to work hard to gain his League place last season due to his lack of size and genuine pace.

The saying "it's not the size of the dog in the fight but the fight in the dog" surely applies to Peter.

Courage and an ability to be at the bottom of the packs has made Peter a very serviceable recruit.

He hates to be beaten and has a capacity to work hard for the full four quarters, something football supporters will be able to see for themselves this season.



Peter Miller ... all courage.

## Little man with a big heart

Max Heiden's Tyrepower presents

## MILESTONE MEN

NOTE: Games played are for current club unless denoted by an asterisk \*

### 50 GAMES

- 49 Brad McDougall (Subiaco)
- 48 Peter Owens (Claremont)
- 47 Shane Cocker (Subiaco)
- 45 Sean King (West Perth)
- 46 Scott Watters (South Frem)
- 46 Tony Begovich (Claremont)
- 46 Mal Bennett (East Perth)\*
- 46 John MacDonald (South Frem)
- 45 Mark Brayshaw (Claremont)
- 42 Jon Derecourt (East Frem)
- 42 Andy Holmes (Swan Dist)
- 42 Mick Grasso (Swan Dist)

\*Denotes that tally includes games with more than current club as follows: Brad McDougall 23 Subiaco 26 South Fremantle, Mal Bennett 33 East Perth, 13 West Perth.

### 100 GAMES

- 96 Ray Holden (West Perth)
- 95 David O'Connell (Eagles)\*
- 94 Craig Nelson (West Perth)
- 94 Adrian Barich (Eagles)\*
- 93 Bryce Forman (East Frem)\*
- 92 Tony Beers (Claremont)\*
- 92 Glen Bartlett (East Perth)\*

\*Denotes that tally includes games with more than current club as follows: David O'Connell 7 Eagles, 88 Claremont; Adrian Barich 26 Eagles, 68 Perth; Bryce Forman 79 East Fremantle, 12 Perth; Tony Beers 85 Claremont, 7 Collingwood; Glen Bartlett 88 East Perth, 4 Eagles.

### 150 GAMES

- 148 Don Holmes (Swan Districts)
- 142 David Rankin (East Frem)\*

\*Denotes that tally includes games with more than current club as follows: David Rankin 132 East Fremantle, 10 Fitzroy.

### 200 GAMES

- 199 John Annear (Eagles)\*
- 194 Grant Campbell (East Perth)

\*Denotes that tally includes games with more than current club as follows: John Annear 42 Eagles, 43 Collingwood, 65 Richmond, 49 Claremont.

### 250 GAMES

- 246 Neil Taylor (Subiaco)

### 300 GAMES

- 278 Brian Peake (East Frem)

### 350 GAMES

- 344 Brian Peake (East Frem)\*

\*Denotes that tally includes games with more than current club as follows: Brian Peakes 278 East Fremantle, 66 Geelong.



Craig Edwards ... odd man out.

## Craig's the odd man out at South

## FOOTBALL FACTS

By top WA football historian DAVE CLEMENT



WHEN former East Perth ruckman Craig Edwards won South Fremantle's fairest and best award last year he became the only player from another WA League club to do so (my records go back to 1926).

Noel Carter (Richmond) and Hassa Mann (Melbourne) are two other 'strangers' on South's list.

Former East Perth players have been award-winners at four other League clubs — Peter Thorne at Claremont, Alex Hamilton at Subiaco, Graham Farmer at West Perth and Frank Sparrow at Swan Districts.

Mark Watson, the Butcher Medallist at Perth for the past two years, is the only 'foreigner' on the Demons' honours list.

At East Fremantle the Lynn Medal has never been won by an outsider.

### NEW STARS ON THE HORIZON

THE only certainty about season '89 is that it will produce another crop of top footballers.

From the last five seasons I've plucked out three. Perhaps they didn't appear on day one.

1984 saw the arrival of David O'Connell, Paul Mifka and Derek Kickett; 1985 Mark Bairstow, David Bain and Darren Bewick; 1986 Peter Sumich, Joe Cormack and John Georgiades; 1987 Don Pyke, Ben Allan and Troy Ugle and 1988 Mark Bayliss, Stevan Jackson and Malcolm Williams.

## POST SCRIPTS

IT'S easy to be a lounge-room critic but the incident where Collingwood were credited with a goal when the ball bounced off the goalpost is sure to rekindle the argument for two goal umpires.

Fortunately these incidents are rare but they do happen occasionally.

In the last century allegations of cheating were rife and one particular protest resulted in a goal umpire having to give an explanation of his decision.

He said he left his walking stick against the goalpost and the ball hit it first, then the goalpost.

A semi-final in Melbourne many years ago was won by a point when an Essendon player was credited with a goal after hitting the post in the last minute of play.

When Swans Districts beat East Perth to win their first premiership in 1961 they got six points for a poster.

The goal umpire later claimed the ball had crossed the goal line first.

## RISE AND FALL

IN 1979 the umpires were happy to start the new season with a considerable pay increase.

In 1989 they start with a big reduction (like most others associated with the WAFL competition).

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# EAGLES MEN HOG ALL THE LIMELIGHT

WHILE Phil Scott was the attention-grabber on the field for the West Coast Eagles last Friday night, the club had another "team-member" who pre-occupied the thoughts of footy writers covering the game.

No-one knew his name, but if God had thrust a cigar in his mouth then he would have passed as a Groucho Marx look-a-like.

But this guy wasn't laying anyone in the aisles with his performance!

He had tears of anger in the eyes of some football commentators because he insisted on occupying the aisle.

For years, footy scribes in this town have had to put up with inferior facilities at most grounds, so there was a murmur of satisfaction when a new press facility was built in the Lille-Marsh stand at the WACA ground.

Last Friday was the first time football writers had reported a game from the Southern Stand addition.

But they hadn't counted on Groucho Marx and his band of wise guys.

## Stats men

They identified themselves as the stats men from the Eagles — all six of them!

You know, the guys who take down all the info that makes a coach decide whether someone has been doing his job or not and where to analyse weaknesses and strengths.

No-one is denying that it might be an important job — though premiership coach Haydn Bunton ignores stats. But it is still an in-house thing.

If the Eagles see stats-taking as important, then they, like the media, should arrange a working facility for them at matches.

Eagles coach John Todd and his coaching staff then took over that position, so Groucho and his men were asked politely if they could move to one-side, as they obstructed the view of almost a third of the ground on the riverside wing.

Groucho saw it as something else and set up camp in front of the radio commentary box. After a few words they



BOMBER SMILES... Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy with two of his star performers Kevin Walsh (left) and Gary Foulds.

moved on — only to park in front of the box occupied by the print media.

Just as it seemed they would ablige, Groucho dug in his heels; he claimed he had permission to stay there from the Eagles camp.

Outside the media box at the WACA is a landing to enable people to get between sections. It is meant to be a thoroughfare.

## Too hard

The others followed suit.

The security people at the ground put the matter in the too-hard basket, obviously hoping that the media would forget about it. We haven't.

The first point that has to be made is why erect a new press facility, if the West Coast Eagles are allowed to park themselves in front, blocking the view of the media? And why didn't Todd and his men use the coach's box?

I can imagine the reaction if members of the press or the public took up a position in front of the coach's box and impeded Todd's view.

It's very hard to report on a game if you can't see a fair amount of the action. But that didn't bother Groucho. After all, he had a job to do. Count how many kicks so-and-so had.

## Nuisance

Why the Eagles need six people to do stats is another question, particularly when some appeared to be bludging on the job; making a nuisance of themselves.

The Eagles are very sensitive to criticism.

They obviously believe only good things should be written about them.

Yet they get a much fairer coverage from a generally partisan press than most football clubs.

It is common knowledge that the Eagles are trying to "neutralise" one influential football commentator because they feel he has it in for them.

If they succeed — and I'd be very surprised if they do — then we might as well give up writing footy; let the Eagles and other such sporting bodies hire PR men and take out advertisements in newspapers so they can be assured of the kind of things they want people to read about.

If Friday night is going to be an example of what to expect from the Eagles camp, then they can expect more brickbats than bouquets.

# UMPS NEED MORE POWER

TO each his own I guess, but my skin crawls when I tune into one of footy's recent innovations — "wired for sound" umpires.

Not that I have anything against the men in white. It's just that I believe you can evaluate the best performers by the least attention they attract.

An umpires' job is to keep the game clean and flowing and to call their decisions as fairly and decisively as they can.

I expect them to have an authoritative no-nonsense approach to their job and to treat all players the same.

The umpire is in charge of the conduct of a match, and whereas in most other sports he can take direct action (send off etc.) to keep things under control, his only armoury in our game is a 50-metre penalty or a report, which in the case of a grand final is useless.

The umpires, instead of demanding that they be given a better method of keeping control, are resorting to pleas for co-operation from the players.

You don't hear them identify players by number, but by name. They don't tell 16, 5 or 10 to come back on the mark. They say "it's your ball Mike, Lofty or Jacko."

## Dodge

This is done to build up some kind of friendly rapport and is supposed to douse any heat that may have built up.

It is another dodge, contrived by the football administration, to keep the umpires' minds off the need for having

## FROM WHERE I SIT

Wheelchair sports critic  
BILL MATHER-BROWN



more direct power to control a game.

I believe that umpires should refer to players only by their numbers. This keeps things impersonal and far more professional.

It also removes the inference that the umpire might be favouring a particular player.

Some umpires are using a player's nickname as well as his first name, so imagine how it would sound if a footballer had a not-to-complimentary nickname such as Slugger.

He pushes a forward in the back 20 metres from goal in a grand final and the viewing public hear the umpire say "Come back on the mark, Slugger. It's your ball, Bob."

The inference might be that Slugger isn't as popular as Bob and that the umpire is favouring him a bit. I don't think it is likely, but you know what people are.

If umpires stuck to numbers they would sound more authoritative as well as appearing far more professional and unbiased.

I don't believe it's imperative for a good umpire to have to know any of the players.

If he knows his job he will conduct the game objectively and fairly and the

players will react to him right from the first bounce.

## No-nonsense

I played wheelchair basketball under an Olympic basketball umpire, Henry Perazzo, in Melbourne during an Australian championship and just after the game started I was involved in an unfriendly act with a Victorian or two.

Henry blew his whistle, called a foul against me and said in a no-nonsense manner "Cut that out five or you'll be off the court."

He wasn't kidding and I knew it, so I settled down to play the game the way he wanted it played.

Given the same power, Aussie Rules umpires could command the same respect and players would react accordingly.

The umpires, when assigned to a tough game, should be able to exert a controlled discipline when necessary.

I would respect an umpire far more if I saw him run across to a player and say "No more of that 20 or you'll be off the ground."

He would sound as if he were the man in charge and not a soft touch trying to please everybody.

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City of Dreams

# BURSWOOD RE

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The Eagles run through the banner marking John Annear's 150th VFL game.

# BOMB BLIT

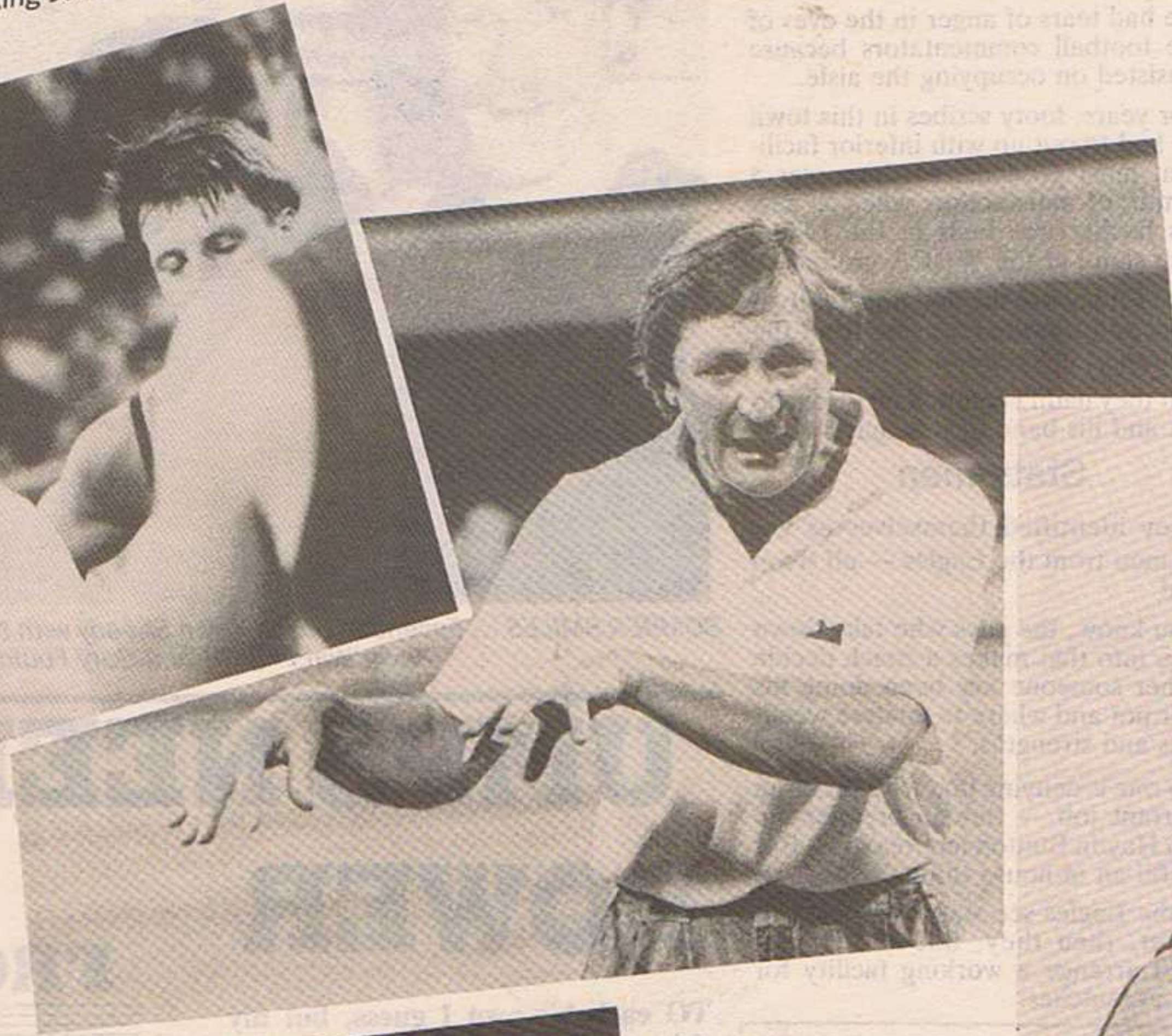
**THE** West Coast Eagles crumbled at the WACA ground last Friday by a superior Bomber force.

Though the Eagles burst to an early five-goal lead, rock-steady performance to outgun the home side over the final three terms.

Westside Football photographer Julian Cowan was at the WACA



Eagles coach John Todd (above) gives his players a verbal blast... while Essendon counterpart Kevin Sheedy (right) seems to be dancing with delight.



An Essendon fan shows her support.



Essendon's

City of Dreams

# BURSWOOD RE

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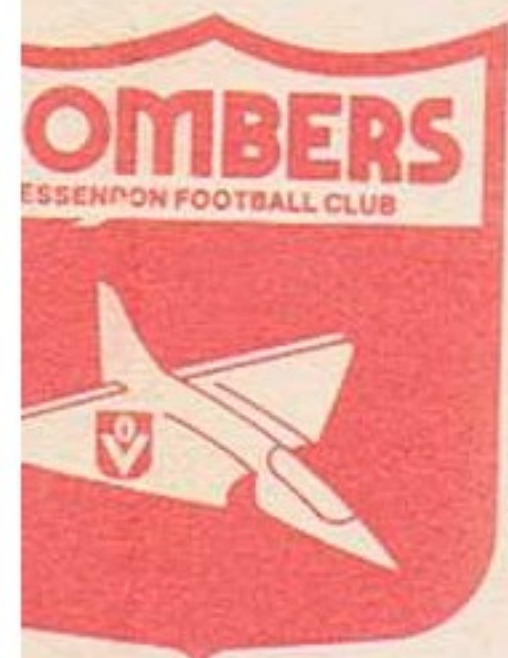
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## BER TZ

Last Friday night when they were blitzed

rock-steady Essendon produced a vintage three terms.

the WACA to catch the action.



Above: Eagle Phil Scott outleaps Simon Madden while Bomber Anthony Antrobus waits for the spill.



Murray Rance... a strong captain's game.



Essendon's Greg Anderson... best on ground.



Right: Eagles football manager, Brian Douge... a hair-raising effort.



Eagles (left-right) David Hart, Steve Malaxos and Adrian Barich show who lost.

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## Georgiades joins an elite group

THE eight goals kicked by former Subiaco player John Georgiades was the most kicked on VFL debut by a West Australian since Warren Ralph kicked 9.4 in the opening round of 1984.

Ralph kicked 55 goals in his first season for Carlton, but only added 17 goals to his tally in two further seasons with the Blues.

Essendon's John Coleman kicked 12 goals in the opening round of 1949, which stands as the VFL record for a player on debut.

The best first-up performance by an Eagles player is four goals by Wally Matera in the Eagles' first match in 1987.

### Scott's feat

PHIL Scott became the fourth West Coast Eagles player to kick seven goals in a VFL match when he posted that tally against Essendon on Friday.

Scott joined Don Holmes, Chris Lewis and Ross Glendinning as the only

Eagles' players with a seven-goal performance to their credit.

Scott kicked only four goals in his first season for the Eagles, but improved his season tally to 18 last year.

### Debutants

FIVE Eagles players — Shane Ellis, Peter Sumich, Craig Turley, Todd Brennan, and Don Pyke — made their VFL debuts on Friday night, the most to do so in one game since the West Coast Eagles first game in 1987.

On that day, 15 players appeared in their first VFL game against Richmond, at Subiaco Oval on March 29, 1987. Since then, 24 more players have been blooded into the VFL.

A total of 47 players have now represented the Eagles in VFL matches.

### Opening burst

ST Kilda's Tony Lockett went within one goal of becoming the first player since 1984 to kick 10 goals in the opening round of a VFL season.

The last player to achieve that feat was Footscray's Simon Beasley, who kicked 11 goals against Richmond on the same day that Carlton's Warren Ralph kicked nine goals against North Melbourne.

### Record averted

ST Kilda's strong second-half performance against the Brisbane Bears enabled them to avoid equalling their record of eight opening-round losses, established between 1942 and 1949.

The last time that St Kilda opened the season with a win was 1981, when they defeated Footscray by 49 points.

### Top dogs

FOOTSCRAY'S 59-point win over Carlton on Saturday has taken them to the top of the VFL ladder for the first time since round five of 1985. They were the League leaders after winning four of the first five games, but stayed there for only one week.

### INTERSTATE UPDATE

by RICHARD CANN



John Georgiades ... a top VFL debut.



HANDBALL HINT ... Graham Farmer, one of the masters in the art of handball, keeps a watchful eye on Milestone man John Annear.

TOUGH Eagles ruck-rover John Annear is certainly in the news as far as personal milestones go — as readers of Max Heiden's Milestone Men segment on Page 10 will be aware of.

Going into this season, Annear was poised for a number of milestones, the first of which he achieved last Friday when he notched his 150th VFL game — his 42nd with the Eagles after 43 with Collingwood and 65 with Richmond.

This week he celebrates another

### MILESTONE DOUBLE

target — 200 senior games overall, adding in his 49 with Claremont before leaving them back in 1981 to tackle Victorian football.

He has another milestone coming up later this season with his 50th game for the Eagles — but it's unlikely that he'll ever celebrate that 50th game with Claremont, judging on his continued good VFL form.

### HART'S TARGET

EAGLES rover David Hart celebrated his 100th senior game last week when he lined up against Essendon. But turn the clock back a few years and that milestone was never going to be achievable. Hart had come down from his Bruce Rock home to try out with West Perth, but after playing all seven games in the first round, he quit the city lights and headed home. South Fremantle kept their eyes on him and enticed him back to town for another crack at league football. He successfully made the grade down at Fremantle, playing 55 games with the Bulldogs before graduating to the Eagles.

### VFL leading goalkickers

Tony Lockett, St. Kilda	9.4
John Geogiadis, Footscray	8.4
Richard Osborne, Fitzroy	8.5
Phil Scott, West Coast Eagles	7.1
Ian Fairley, North Melbourne	5.1
Jason Dunstall, Hawthorn	5.5
Brian Taylor, Collingwood	5.3
Mark Mickan, Brisbane Bears	4.0
Gary Lyon, Melbourne	4.2
Dwayne Russell, Geelong	4.1

### HOW THE EAGLES HAVE PERFORMED

	1989	1989	1989	1989
	Kicks	Marks	H/balls	Score
John Annear	11	1	2	0.0
Adrian Barich	7	1	2	1.0
Todd Brennan	10	2	2	1.1
Michael Brennan	6	2	3	0.1
Joe Cormack	4	1	2	0.1
Shane Ellis	7	1	5	0.0
David Hart	10	2	3	0.1
Laurie Keene	11	5	2	0.0
Karl Langdon	8	4	2	2.1
Chris Mainwaring	8	3	2	0.2
Stephen Malaxos	18	3	4	0.0
Guy McKenna	10	3	11	0.0
Paul Peos	8	6	1	0.1
Don Pyke	17	3	4	2.1
Murray Rance	9	5	7	0.0
Phil Scott	12	8	0	7.1
Peter Sumich	9	1	1	0.0
Craig Turley	12	6	1	10.0
Troy Ugle	3	0	3	0.0
John Worsfold	10	5	3	1.0

### How WA players performed in VFL

	KICKS	MARKS	H/BALLS	SCORE
<b>HAWTHORN</b>				
Gary Buckenara	12	3	7	1.0
<b>MELBOURNE</b>				
Alan Johnson	13	5	3	—
Earl Spalding	7	1	3	0.1
<b>NORTH MELBOURNE</b>				
Jim Krakouer	19	4	7	3.2
Mark Hepburn	8	4	9	2.1
<b>RICHMOND</b>				
Michael Mitchell	7	1	2	0.1
Peter Wilson	22	1	—	2.0
<b>ST KILDA</b>				
Nicky Winmar	14	1	7	2.0
Paul Harding	8	5	6	—
<b>SYDNEY SWANS</b>				
Wayne Henwood	1	—	—	—
<b>BRISBANE BEARS</b>				
David Bain	16	5	3	1.2
John Gastev	8	4	5	0.2
Brad Hardie	8	2	1	1.0
Alex Ishchenko	7	7	6	—
Rod Lester-Smith	24	13	8	—
Mike Richardson	9	2	6	—
<b>CARLTON</b>				
Wayne Blackwell	12	4	5	—
Jon Dorotich	6	2	4	0.1
Ken Hunter	12	10	8	—
Peter Sartori	—	—	—	—
Steve DaRui	5	4	6	—
<b>COLLINGWOOD</b>				
Michael Christian	11	8	7	—
Craig Starcevic	5	3	5	2.1
Brian Taylor	10	7	1	5.3
<b>ESSENDON</b>				
Darren Bewick	6	—	4	—
<b>FITZROY</b>				
Brett Stephens	9	3	8	—
Wally Matera	15	4	2	0.3
<b>FOOTSCRAY</b>				
<b>GEELONG</b>				
Mark Bairstow	15	1	2	0.1

HIT-OUTS: Alex Ishchenko 6.

### Shock results

Collingwood's 10-point win and Footscray's inspired victory against Carlton were just two of the shock results in the opening round.

North Melbourne hung on grimly to beat highly-fancied Geelong by just two points...even though Geelong's acting skipper, Mark Bairstow, nearly snatched victory.

With just seconds to spare, he had a flying shot from 40 metres out, but his kick — under intense pressure — fell short and North survived.

West Australian pair Jim Krakouer and Mark Hepburn were fine players for North and Hepburn's two goals in the final quarter were match-winning contributions.

Krakouer was reported on a striking charge against Geelong's genius, Gary Ablett, who earlier had cannoned into Hepburn.

**Drink safe**  
DRINKSAFE... for your health's sake.

# Playing-coaches back in the South-West

THE 1989 South West National Football League season appears set to open with a few surprises.

Only two coaches from 1988 remain to lead their clubs this year — John Rogers (Bunbury) and Peter Rowe (Mines Rovers).

Playing coaches are coming back into prominence, with six clubs appointing on-field leaders — Peter Featherby (Busselton), Mick O'Brien (Carey Park), Peter Old (South Bunbury), Mark Skehan (Harvey Brunswick), Peter Slater (Collie) and Peter Rowe (Mines).

The off-field coaches will be John Rogers (Bunbury), Neil Earl (Augusta-Margaret River), Les Holmes (Donnybrook) and Peter Betti returns to the South West to lead perennial cellar-dwellers Boyanup-Capel-Dardanup.

With numerous former WAFL players still in negotiations with various country leagues, many clubs have not finalised their playing list.

Bunbury and South Bunbury seem set to stay near the top of the table, along with Harvey Brunswick.

## Recruiting

Boyanup appear capable of improving considerably on last season after an extensive recruiting campaign. Along with Collie, Mines Rovers and Carey Park, they should figure in the battle for final-five places.

Donnybrook, Busselton and Augusta-Margaret River appear to have a long, hard season in front of them.

The lack of umpires in the South West is proving a problem, with an acute shortage of field umpires and senior boundary umpires.

The opening set of fixtures on Sunday sees Boyanup clash with 1988 runners-up Bunbury in what could be an early indication of Boyanup's prospects of rising up the premiership table.

The game of the day appears to be Carey Park and Collie at Kelly Park.

Carey Park surprisingly beat reigning premiers South Bunbury in a practice match, while Collie gave Bunbury a tough time in a similar situation.

Harvey Brunswick play Donnybrook at home and should be too strong on the day.

Augusta-Margaret River make the lengthy trip to Collie to meet Mines Rovers, which should prove a close match and the other fixture sees Busselton playing South Bunbury at home.

# the South-West

## WA side down the Magpies

THE State Youth Development Squad proved far too strong for the visiting Collingwood under-16s in the Town and Country Interstate Challenge at the WACA Ground last Friday winning 28.8 (176) to 2.3 (15).

The WA team set up the 161-point victory in the first quarter when they kicked 9.1 to the Magpies solitary goal. Seven goals each in the next two quarters put the result beyond doubt.

A four-goal performance by WA

centre-half-forward Ashley McIntosh earned him the Town and Country fairest and best award for the local side and Brendan Murray took the award as Collingwood's best player.

Other good players for WA were Brett Milner, who kicked six goals, Steven O'Reilly (at full-forward), Lee Walker, Tony Godden, Kane Morphet and Chad Innes.

The Collingwood team was the champion side in its age group in Victoria and was coached by former South Fremantle and Collingwood star, Max Richardson.



Town & Country's managing director Ray Turner congratulates WA's best player Ashley McKintosh.

## Six new coaches in Sunday League

SIX clubs will open the 1989 Sunday Football League season with new coaches next weekend.

All the coaches from last season's top five sides have been replaced — but only one from the bottom nine clubs.

Defending premiers Wanneroo will be coached by former South Fremantle and Richmond start Gavin Carter, who replaces Ian McCulloch, now the league coach at East Perth.

Carter was a member of the Wanneroo premiership team last year.

Gavin Outridge replaces Max Kieran at Maddington.

Outridge, who played 42 league games with Swan Districts, was a Maddington player last season, while also coaching the reserves team to the grand final.

The new coach at Mandurah was also chosen from within the club ranks.

Stephen Green, a 150-game player with East Fremantle, joined Mandurah in 1988 to serve his coaching "apprenticeship" and he has taken over from Peter Betti, who has moved to Boyanup-Capel-Dardanup.

## Family ties

A family with a long affinity with West Australian football have the reins at Kalamunda this year.

Gary Armstrong, a player with the club for the past four seasons, replaces Gary Gibellini and he also has father Ken, coach of the 1976-77 Perth premiership teams, assisting him.

Thornlie's Paul Mountain is the only non-playing coach among last season's top five teams.

The assistant coach at Kelmscott in 1988, the former South Fremantle and West Perth player gets his chance at senior level with Clinton Farmer taking a year off football. Mountain's assistant is Percy Johnson jr.

Berry Beecroft retired as coach of Osborne Park at the end of last season and his shoes will be filled by former Claremont midfielder Cam Shepherd, who hopes to beat off some long-running injury problems to play as well.

Coaches at the other eight clubs are: Brian Needle (Applecross); Kevin Worthington (Armadale); Peter Bosustow (Canning); Steve Hargrave (Gosnells); Paul Vasoli (Kelmscott); Peter Ashworth (Kenwick); Geoff Murray (South Perth) and Don Hadlow (Willetton).

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presents ...

## Changing times bring changing attitudes

ONE of the most difficult tasks now confronting Australian Football administrators, especially those of us who are getting pretty "long in the tooth," is in deciding just what interests young potential footballers.

It is obvious that the changing times we hear so much about have had a profound influence on juvenile attitudes compared with those once regarded as "normal."

An attitude drastically changed can be firmly categorised under the heading of "hype".

Having emerged from an era where there was some barracking at football games — but certainly never any noise at activities such as cricket, swimming or tennis — one's mind literally boggles at what now is regarded as normal behaviour at stadiums throughout the country. American-style encouragement is in.

Another extraordinary phenomenon is that of personal dress. To see youths and young men wearing brightly coloured, floral clothing is a sobering experience for one who once exchanged heated words with a mother who tried to persuade him to don a windcheater of plain white with the exception of a single row of blue diamond motifs across the shoulders. It was certainly not in masculine mode. And, believe me, we took great importance in projecting our masculinity.

Now many young men happily wear bright clothes, earrings, bangles, necklets and have hair down to their shoulders. We would rather have dropped dead.

One of our problems is that we have, by making gods out of senior coaches courtesy of the media, allowed them to exert undue influence on how the game is played.

## Shambles

The way the 15-metre penalty degenerated into a shambles — and which nearly sent the VFL Umpires' Director and some of his advisers into the giggle house — was due to some coaches deliberately formulating unattractive and totally negative tactics.

Despite what some administrators and officials say, there are thousands of former Australian Football supporters — mostly in the 40-60 age bracket — who do not now relate to a game which has drastically altered.

There can be no argument that athletically and physically, today's players are fitter and more talented than their forbears. And the game is much faster. The salient question is: is the game now enjoyed by a greater percentage of the population on a per capita basis? The answer is "no."

## The national view

by JOHN WARREN

There is also the additional stigma now burdening all contact sports perceived as being unduly violent.

The Laws Review Committee contains some dedicated people who have come up with some sound suggestions.

Much work, however, has still to be done. Some of this surely must be in the area of the now almost total ignoring of designated field positions.

## Stigma..

Even experienced journalists and commentators find it impossible to nominate where many players are supposed to be stationed.

This has got to be a minus — in fact an absolute joke.

I hope the Committee can come up with important recommendations which can be adopted — and which can be reasonably interpreted by umpires as well as being appreciated by the public.

After all, it is the public whom we rely on to support the game and they should have the last word.

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# Bulldogs recover from injury toll



**INJURIES** took a terrible toll on South Fremantle in the 1987 season and it took most of last year for the Bulldogs to recover.

More than 18 players — enough for an entire football team — were sidelined with one ailment or another in '87. Souths plummeted from three consecutive wins to 18 successive losses to finish the season in the basement.

It was painful for all genuine football followers to watch as the talented Bulldogs tried desperately to muster even meagre opposition for each Saturday's game.

Making the finals last year was some consolation for what could have been.

And as season 1989 unfolds, Souths are expected to challenge the big three — Claremont, Subiaco and neighbours East Fremantle.

The Bulldogs have a fine blend of youth and experience under the tutelage of coach Stan Magro and captain Maurice Rioli.

## KNOW YOUR CLUB

By George Temple



But if they are to challenge the established premiers contenders, they may have to rely on a late surge up the table to be finals contenders.

Injuries are again proving a problem for Magro.

Six key players have been sidelined with long-term injuries, while several others have niggling strains that would certainly hamper their performance.

Additionally, Magro must find replacements for players recruited by VFL and South Australian clubs.

Gone are goliath Gordon Gatti and Chris Baxter (to South Australia), Mark Bayliss to Collingwood and Peter Sumich, Scott Watters, Stevan Jackson and Richard Geary to the West Coast Eagles.

### REGULARS

Of the latter four, only Sumich is likely to be an Eagles regular. But there is a very real possibility that one, or all of the others, could also be required by Eagles coach John Todd at any given time.

On the injured list at present are Matt Sambrailo, Dean Irving and Dean Nalder (groins); John Ditchburn, Merv Dellar and Mark Sambrailo (knees).

"Most of these players are big key position men," Magro said.

"At the moment we're operating with only one true ruckman in Craig Edwards. It's in these areas that I'm really concerned."

Concern and panic are not to be confused here. Magro isn't panicking; primarily because he is extremely happy with his off-season recruiting campaign.

Robert Solin, joining his third WAFL club and Maurice's youngest brother, Willie Rioli, will be immediate included in the league line-up.

Magro said: "Both are league players. Rob's a top utility player with more than 100 league games behind him and Willie is the class rover that we lacked last year."

Souths have a high regard for the Pinzone brothers, Domenic, 21 and Steve, 18, from Waroona. The light-weight duo are basically rovers, but can also be used as wingmen, thus giving the Bulldogs more flexibility.

They have also enticed Paul Fimano to join his brother Ned at Souths.

New to league football this season will be Australian Teal Cup player Glen Jakovich, Greg Turner, Ken Kelly and Darryl Wyllie. Magro believes that Todd Grierson, a reserves player last year after being recruited from Kardinya, will make his league debut this season.

### Sensation

Jakovich could be the big sensation of the season. Capable of playing either at full-forward or centre-half-forward, the former South Coogee player is a strapping 192 centimetres and 91 kilograms, but is still only 16 years of age. In fact, he turned 16 on March 23 and is a strong aerialist who is not afraid to use his strength.

Stevan Grant played 10 league games last season (kicking 14 goals) and Magro is hoping the pair can develop into a powerful forward-line combination.

Turner, from Mandurah, is a graduate of Souths colts and reserves ranks. A 19-year-old running player, he was close to gaining selection for the 1988 first semi-final before Magro finally opted for experience in preference to the youngster.

Kelly and Wyllie are ruck-rover/rover type running players. From Mandurah and Katanning respectively, they both figure prominently in the coach's mind for Saturday's game at Leederville Oval.

In the final analysis, Magro said: "There are a lot of ifs and buts to be taken into consideration. If we can survive the early rounds, we will make the four for sure. Our season could be decided in the first round."



It's another Rioli ... this time a young Willie is in the Bulldogs camp.

BELOW: Glen Jakovich accepts his senior guernsey after an outstanding junior career.



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# SWANS WARNING FOR THE CRITICS

SWAN Districts, bottom of the football ladder in 1988, are being tipped for the basement spot again in September — but be warned!

Victory against defending premiers Subiaco in a pre-season practice match last Saturday has given the players and supporters some heart. It also vindicates coach Ed Blackaby, who strongly rejects the prophets of doom.

Blackaby believes that Swans have recruited well and have mustered a credible squad good enough to topple any side in the competition.

On the debit side, Swans have lost the services of key players Peter Old, Alan Sidebottom, Tony Solin and Stuart Stevens.

On the credit side, Swans supporters welcome home four familiar faces — Don Langsford and Len Gandini back from spells in the country, Brad Shine returns after a three-year stint with VFL side Carlton and Joe Ahmat returns from Claremont.

"Last year Swans were like lambs to the slaughter," Blackaby said. "The wealth of experience these players can pass on will be invaluable to our new recruits and the players we blooded in 1988."

"Langsford and Shine are triple premiership winners with the club; Ahmat won a premiership with us in '84 and Gandini's been around a bit."

### Impressed

Sean Davey, Andrew Strickland, Craig Hoycard and Michael Hastie are four new players who have impressed pre-season.

The 182-centimetre tall Davey is from Maddington and has the ability to work hard and can be used anywhere across the half-back or half-forward line.

Recruited from Gosnells, Strickland is a 180-centimetre tall ruck-rover. He has demonstrated a passion to fight for the ball and be prepared to work for his side when the chips are down.

"He's got a long way to go, but he has plenty of aggressiveness and that's the way I want him to play," the coach said.

Twenty-one-year-old Hoycard is 188-centimetres tall and is almost a certainty to start at centre-half-forward on Saturday — provided he recovers from a thigh injury.



Ken Bell ... ruck strength

Hastie is another ruck-rover. Hailing from Carey Park, in the South-West, he is suited to the back pocket.

Swans forward division will be spearheaded by Darren Williams and Kernut Thorne — both exciting players with huge potential.

Thorne, from Carey Park, played one game in 1988 before returning to his home town. He has a big reputation, both as a goalkicker and the taker of high-flying marks.

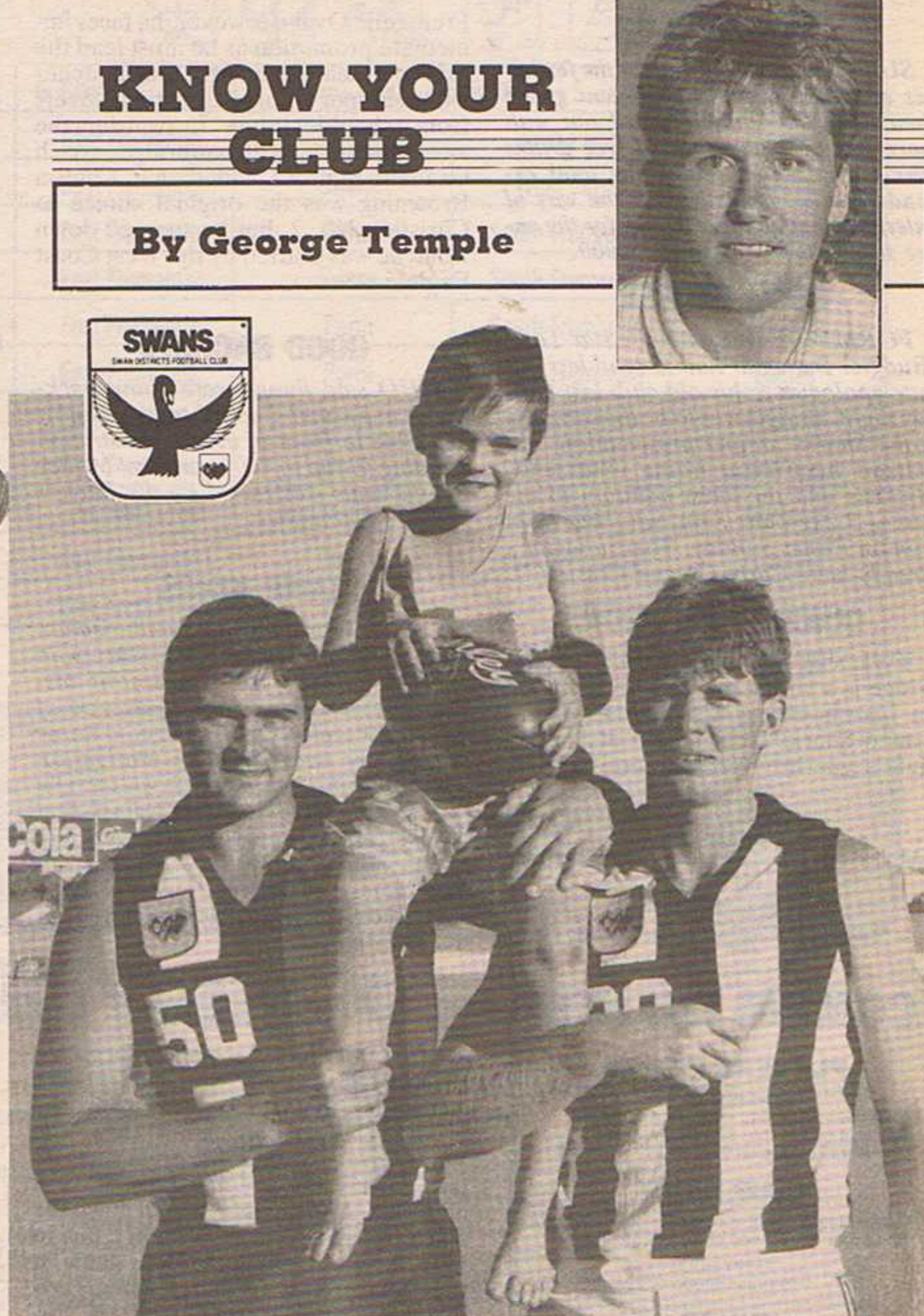
Williams, who played nine games in 1987, returns to Swans after a spell in the country.

### Ruck boost

Swans have struggled a little in the ruck recently and the hard-working Bob de Graff will have some welcome support from Perth and Kalamunda big man Ken Bell and Tasmanian John Mills ... both are nearly two metres tall.

Bell played eight games for Perth in 1984 and '85. Although lacking in pace, the 95-kilogram follower works hard, much in the same mould as former vice-captain Peter Old.

Mills is very much an unknown quantity. Originally from North Hobart, he was recruited from the Burswood Casino where he was working as a security guard. Bearing a striking resemblance to big Ron Boucher — the Swans mean-man from their halycon days in the early '80s — he can also be used at



John Mills (left) and Craig Hoycard give Nicholas Blackaby a big lift.

## KNOW YOUR CLUB

By George Temple



centre-half-forward as well as in the ruck.

Add players like Danny Penny, the best first year player in 1988; Steve Basso, the 1988 Swan Medallist; Mick Grasso, Kim Hetherington, Geoff Passeri, Shane Renfree, Greg Walker and Peter Ware and Swans begin to take on a better look.

It is also probable that Eagles trio

Don Holmes, Troy Ugle and Brent Hutton will be available to Blackaby at different times throughout the season.

"We are very much an unknown quantity," Blackaby said. "Time will show how good we are or whether we need to look deeper into our resources for new players."

"I'm confident though."

Best wishes to "The Fighting Swans" members and players from

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# Dempsey in a new role at Leederville

THE name Bill Dempsey has been engraved permanently on the hearts and minds of all West Perth supporters. Big Bill played 343 games for the Cardinals, as they were then known, with his on-field heroics earning him many accolades.

Now the name can warm the stomachs of Falcons fans as well.

"Dempseys" is the new name for the restaurant at West Perth Football Club headquarters. Though Big Bill has nothing to do with the restaurant, other than in name, he says the "tucker's pretty good".

In fact, you can get an appetising roast rack of lamb or veal cordon bleu at Dempseys for just \$8.75.

Lessees Mia Caple and Ken Jackson opened the a-la-carte restaurant on February 2 and also provide bar snacks and cater for seminars. There are three eating areas and each can be hired for \$75 a day.

Meanwhile, affable Bill Dempsey is somewhat embarrassed by it all. He said with a chuckle: "I don't really mind. I just want it to make money for the club."



Bill Dempsey in familiar surroundings... complete with his old No. 12 guernsey. He's pictured with Mia Caple and Ken Jackson.

## BIG SPEND-UP

SUBIACO made the most of the festivities after last year's magnificent grand final win. The club splashed out with more than \$2,600 worth of free drinks over the weekend, taking the total expended on club members in the way of entertainment and free drinks for the entire season to more than \$15,000.

## GOOD EXCUSE

FORMER East Fremantle star Tony (Budgie) Buhagiar had to send last minute apologies to his old club last Sunday night. Budgie was to be the compere at the Sharks jumper presentation, but instead he was at home with wife, Michelle and the latest addition to the nest — 3.2kg baby Sam, who was born 4am on Easter Sunday. The Buhagiar's already have Carly (5) and Cassie (2).

## QUICK PROMOTION

TWENTY-year-old Michael Broadbridge is a young player with a big job on his shoulders. Broadbridge was named Sharks vice-captain at Sunday night's guernsey presentation at East

Fremantle Oval. However, he faces immediate promotion as he must lead the side in at least their first four matches while skipper George Christie recovers from a shoulder injury. In awarding the vice captaincy to Broadbridge, coach Graham Melrose added that Clinton Browning was the original choice as Christie's No. 2, but he stepped down when he was drafted by the West Coast Eagles.

## GOOD BACKING

WHO said things were going backwards at Swans? Backed seating is now available in front of the administration building for up to 800 members! Money for the seats was raised by the Players Welfare Committee.

## CAMP KINGS

A LATE pre-season familiarisation camp at Fairbridge Farm, Pinjarra paid early dividends for Claremont last Saturday. The camp was to allow 30 of the Tigers senior players to get to know each other socially. The motivation worked with a thrilling 11-point win over premiers favourites East Fremantle. There may not have been any premiers points at stake, but the win would have given the Tigers a huge psychological boost with the season starting on Saturday.

## LIONS AWAIT

SUBIACO have long since forgotten the early 80s when all and sundry were calling for them to be axed from the WAFL competition. Since then, the Lions have enjoyed some great success, particularly the premierships of 1986 and 1988. And another season down the track, the catch cry is "Two in a line in '89. But after failing to win a game in their four pre-season matches many critics have Subiaco written off for this season. However, you should never underestimate Haydn Bunton. The Lions will be there when it matters most — at the end of the season.

## BUNT'S DAY

AND on the subject of Haydn Bunton, he could be somewhat lost for words this Saturday. The mercurial coach is to attend the official opening of Haydn Bunton Road, adjacent to Subiaco Oval. This recognises the outstanding sporting talents and contributions made to Australian Rules Football, and sport in general, by Haydn Buntons, senior and junior.

## ON THE BALL

with GEORGE TEMPLE



## RICHO TOPS

AN interesting fact was revealed in the VFL Record for last Friday night's game. Mike Richardson, formerly of Swan Districts, has played 59 consecutive VFL matches to head the VFL list for an unbroken sequence of appearances. Melbourne's Steven Stretch is his closest rival on 48 games, followed by another Melbourne star, Sean Wright on 47.

when Perth achieved their hat-trick of flags in 1966-67-68 and his firm, Houghton Motors, were one of football's first major club sponsors.

## CICCO'S TRIBUTE

SOUTH Fremantle might be the ferocious Bulldogs, but general manager Brian Ciccotosto showed that he was a lamb at heart last Friday when he showered club secretary Karen Lockhart with a magnificent bunch of flowers for Secretary's Day. Cicco deserves a pat on the back himself as he is currently holding the fort down at Fremantle Oval, doing a variety of jobs in these times of financial cut-backs.

## SPONSOR HONOUR

PERTH have re-named the seating area outside the sponsors lounge at Lathlain Park the Cliff Houghton Deck. Mr Houghton has been a long-time supporter and past president at Demonland and is also the club's No. 1 patron in 1989. He was at the helm



### COMING EVENTS

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Sunday May 7th  
Club opens 3.30pm, show starts 5.00pm followed by a disco. \$10.00 per head. Phone Ray or Des on 279 8818.

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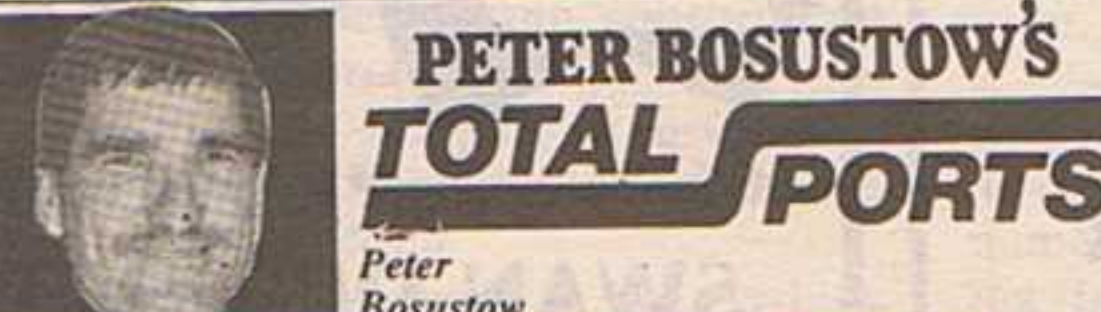
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## KIDS BY THE DOZEN

### FOOTY WEEK KICKS OFF WELL

THERE was an excellent response to Footy Week, says Football Development Trust general manager Grant Dorrington.

Dorrington says that all areas covered by the week have been well-attended, particularly the opening day, last Sunday.

"Thousands of our young footballers turned out for Family Fun Days everywhere" he says.

"They enjoyed the sausage sizzles and meeting the Eagles and WAFL players."

"The players held mini-coaching sessions as well. It was really good for football for the stars of tomorrow to meet their heroes of today."

Eagles players attended various clubs such as: East Victoria Park — Adrian Barich, Phil Scott; Palmyra — Chris Waterman, Chris Mainwaring; Huntingdale — Shane Cable; Melville — Stevan Jackson; Karoonda — Michael Brennan, Andrew Lockyer; Riverton — Scott Williamson, Dwayne Lamb; South Fremantle — John Worsfold; Rockingham — Peter Sumich; Byford — Barry Cable; Perth Oval — Paul Peos, Don Holmes, Brent Hutton; Redcliffe — Dean Laidley; High Wycombe — Murray Rance; Pickering Brook — Joe Cormack; Belmont — Guy McKenna; Cloverdale — Todd Breman; Midvale — David Hart, Troy Ugle; Mosman Park — David O'Connell, Don Pyke; Wembley Dragons — Andrew Macnish, Peter Higgins; Scarborough — Geoff Miles; Karrinyup — Dean Turner; Wembley Downs — Steve Malaxos; Swanbourne Tigers — John Annear.



The FDT's Football Week saw hundreds of youngsters get some expert coaching tips ... and Perth Oval was alive with eager juniors.

ABOVE: Grant Campbell holds the attention of this big group. RIGHT: Royals rover Ray Ewen shows how to hold the ball. BELOW: East Perth skipper Glen Bartlett talks to another group.



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7pm — Presentation of Jumpers.  
8pm — Announcement of League Side.

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## ON THE BALL

by GEORGE TEMPLE

TOP SHARKS ... these two East Fremantle rovers will be wearing the No. 1 and No. 2 guernseys this season. Roger Kerr gets his old number back while rookie Dean Cole moves into the second spot.



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## Who said that ...

"A lot of us older blokes have been rested for some of the practice games." Essendon's Simon Madden on the Bombers heavy build-up to last Friday's opening game against the Eagles.

\*\*\*\*\*

"It's good to be back in a position where you are riding the highs and lows." Malcolm Blight, new coach of Geelong.

\*\*\*\*\*

"We are able to train anywhere; that's why we are mentally tough enough to win in Melbourne." Eagles coach John Todd on the team's variety of training venues.

\*\*\*\*\*

"One or two clubs will either be relocated or simply drop out and I think that will be within two years." Footscray president Nick Columb.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Murray is a hell of a nice bloke and he deserves the honour of leading the side." Eagles chief executive Bill Kerr on the appointment of Murray Rance as captain.

\*\*\*\*\*

"It's certainly an honour and I regard it as a real bonus. But I'll be looking for help from the rest of the team." Murray Rance on his appointment as Eagles skipper.

\*\*\*\*\*

"The club has never stood in the way of an individual trying to better himself." East Fremantle president Hans Beyer indicating that Murray Wrensted would be released from his contract if he wished to join Collingwood.

\*\*\*\*\*

"We will not stand for it and neither will our members; thousands of dollars have already been pledged towards legal action." East Fremantle Hans Beyer claiming that the Eagles should pay for the services of draftees Clinton Browning and Shane Ellis.

\*\*\*\*\*

"It cost a lot of money to relocate him and his family from Victoria and some compensation is appropriate." South Fremantle general manager Brian Ciccotosto on compensation claims for losing Richard Geary to the Eagles.

\*\*\*\*\*

"I'm on top of the world." WAFL umpire David Johnson on his selection to make his VFL debut.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Like Maurice Rioli, Michael has a touch of magic about him." Darwin football official Graeme Smith on Essendon recruit Michael Long.

\*\*\*\*\*

"The champion WA school team will go to Melbourne for five days and play Victoria's champion schools team." Football Development Trust general manager Grant Dorrington unveiling expansion plans for the Quit Cup.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Why would a footballer with no past history of injury or malingering, who has everything to gain by playing at the top level, want to fake an injury." Eagles star Laurie Keene on questions last year about the extent of his knee injury.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Some of the dashes he made were above and beyond the call of duty." Collingwood coach Leigh Matthews praising the performance from Michael Christian.

\*\*\*\*\*

"If I go I'd like to slip quietly into town and work hard in the reserves before getting a crack at the league team." Discarded Eagle Murray Wrensted on his plans to move to Collingwood.

\*\*\*\*\*

"We played typical WA football, playing wide on the ground and didn't man-up enough." Eagles coach John Todd after losing to Essendon.

\*\*\*\*\*

"The great days of club football have left us and the great days of national football are ahead of us." Geoff Christian, on 6WF's sports show.



**Toyota  
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**WA policy influences  
 the Vics**

WESTERN Australia is not the only State in Australia where people are working overtime in an effort to get youngsters playing football — as a recent Victorian move has shown.

Following the success of WA's hard-working Football Development Trust, the VFL has established the Victorian Football Foundation to work along the same lines.

Collingwood under-16s coach Max Richardson, whose team took part in last Friday's Town and Country Interstate Challenge, says the VFL draft system has forced Victorian clubs to focus on their juniors more so than in years gone by.

"We can only pick two draft players from each State," Richardson said. "That only makes a total of eight, so we're putting a lot of emphasis on our juniors."

**Junior squad**

The Collingwood Football Club has had a development squad of 14 to 17-year-olds for a decade, though Richardson admits that many Victorian clubs still don't have such squads.

About 48 players have come through this squad to play senior football for the Magpies, including Mike McGuane, Terry Keays and Gavin Crosisca.

Richardson's side recently completed a football tour of WA, enabling the Town and Country WA Youth Development Squad and other juniors in the South-West, Swan Districts and East Fremantle districts to match themselves against the visitors.

"By conducting a trip like this, we're hoping to help WA with their junior development as well," Richardson added.

"Like WA's Football Development Trust, the Victorian Football Foundation's major job is to get into the schools and get kids playing football again."

**Harder games**

Most of the touring squad of 38 will play in this season's Victorian Quit Cup schools competition. Many of the team members found that the games played in WA were a lot harder than the games back in Melbourne.

The squad also admitted it tough to play on WA's sandy surfaces and in the heat — though they appreciated spending some time in the sun.



*It's all go as this young Bomber sets out after the ball in the little league clash with the Eagles at the WACA ground on Friday night.*

A NEW football competition for teenagers will get underway in April, thanks to a major sponsorship deal from Toyota Australia and their Perth dealers.

Toyota has provided an injection of funds into an area of football that has suffered in the past by helping establish the Toyota Cup for under-17s as a new community competition.

The Toyota Cup will be divided into six zones — East/West Perth, Subiaco, Claremont, South Suburban/Perth, East Fremantle/South Fremantle and Swan Districts and all games will be played on Sundays.

**Knockout**

The champion team in each region will be decided by August 13 and they will compete against each other in a knockout competition the following weekend.

The Toyota Cup final will be played at Subiaco Oval on August 27 as a curtain-raiser to the Eagles v Carlton match.

A co-ordinator will oversee each zone and they will meet with all coaches monthly to give them the opportunity to provide input into the running of the competition.

**Quit Cup goes interstate**

THE leading secondary high schools in WA and Victoria will clash in the Quit Interstate Challenge in Melbourne on September 2.

The winning team in the WA Quit Cup Barry Cable Division will travel interstate to meet Victoria's Quit Cup champions in a curtain-raiser to the Collingwood v Eagles match at Victoria Park.

The success of the Quit Cup in WA in its inaugural year of 1988 has led the Victorian Quit campaign to establish a corresponding first 18 secondary schools challenge.

The Quit campaign has been a project of the Health Department since 1984 and as well as performing a valuable service to football in WA, it is promoting non-smoking through sport — an area which appeals to young people.

**Loxley sees even  
 reserves competition**

THE standard of the WAFL reserves competition is now similar to what the Under-19s competition was a few years ago, according to Subiaco assistant coach Wayne Loxley.

"We've really got two colts competitions going at the moment," says former Subiaco footballer.

"This is because we've lost the top 20 to 30 per cent of our players to the West Coast Eagles," says Loxley. "And players are getting league games at a much younger age than they used to."

"With players moving up quickly, you've naturally got younger guys playing reserves and colts football even earlier."

Loxley feels that the reserves competition will be very even this year and says this is a great reflection on player-depth in WA and is a credit to West Australian football and its young players.

**Dedicated**

It is also due to dedicated people like Loxley, who is a full-time employee of the Football Development Trust.

He is moving into his sixth year as coach of the Lions reserves side, having taken them to a premiership in his first year in 1984 and finishing runners-up to Perth last season.

Loxley would naturally like to go one

better this year, but says that no reserves coach should begin a season by aiming to win a premiership.

"The success would be good for the players and the club, but we're only aiming to be strong enough to be competitive," says Loxley.

"The No. 1 aim for any club is for the league side to win a premiership. If the league side is successful, the reserves will play a part in that success with players being called on to help out during the season."

**Big squad**

Subiaco's senior squad is made up of 50 to 60 league and reserves players who have been training over summer, though pre-season started later than usual due to the trip to Canada by senior players for their match against South Australia in Vancouver.

"They guys are really keen to get going this Saturday," says Loxley. "It should be a very even competition and it's hard to say how anyone will go at this stage, especially as Perth and Swans have done a bit of recruiting."

**Tigers coach against  
 send-off  
 proposal**

CLAREMONT Under-19s coach Larry Kickett doesn't agree with the idea of introducing the send-off rule for bad behaviour into the WAFL colts competition.

The proposal to introduce the controversial rule has come up once again over pre-season and is discussed at WAFL level.

"I think we can do without it," says Kickett. "It's up to coaches to discipline their own players."

"You will find that the majority of this year's Under-19s coaches are former league players and these people have the expertise to discipline their players," added the former East Perth and Claremont footballer.

Kickett is now in his third year as the Tigers Under-19s coach after taking his team to the grand final in his first two years in charge, winning last year's flag and finishing runners-up in 1987.

He expects this year to be very challenging and says the players he has been working with over the summer have the potential to again form a very competitive side.

"We're looking forward to holding onto Claremont's tradition of doing well in the colts and we've got a healthy squad of 35 training with us," he said.

Kickett says that Claremont's success in the Under-19s last year and over the past seven years makes all of their games that little bit harder.

"We want to learn to withstand the extra pressure that will be placed on us from other clubs because we were last season's premiers," he says. "We have been successful for a number of years now and other clubs tend to gauge their progress on how they perform against us."

"Our aim this season is to be competitive, consistent and qualify for the finals."

## Big-man clash to open season

NOLLAMARA face the biggest test of the round as they front up to last season's grand finalists Trinity-Aquinas when the A-grade amateur season opens on Saturday.

The two trump cards will be exciting forwards Ray Smith and Mick Rea and Trinity-Aquinas will need some strong defensive work to stop this pair.

One solution to Rea's possible dominance could be State centre-half-back Jeremy McGrade, who has the strength and ability to negate the big forward.

These two sides are certainties for the top five this season and this match will give a good indication of the formation of the table at the end of the year.

Former West Perth player Peter Cutler will have a big influence on the fortunes of Old Wesley and if he is available for the first game, North Beach will have to stop him early.

However, North have the players to do this and under new coach Corry Bewick they look too good, and as Old Wesley have been traditionally slow starters.

The derby clash of Wembley and University could go either way and will show signs of past derbys.

University have recruited well with a good pre-season preparation, but they will still need their experienced players such as the Lill brothers, Mark Paganini and big man Aaron Devitt to fire to get the points.

### Young stars

Wembley will be looking for their older brigade in Rod Alderton, Dobbie Callaghan, Peter Falconer and Simon Proud to combine with the young stars such as dynamic rover Brad Metcalf, who looks set for his best season yet.

Scarborough and West Coast clash in a battle of the new coaches in Darryl Freame and Tim Gepp respectively.

Both sides struggled last season and have appointed the two high-profile coaches in an effort to lift their clubs up the premiership table.

Scarborough have a few former players returning to the club and combined with their new staff, should be able to run out winners; but in a tight struggle.

West coast will improve this year with a well-organised pre-season and sound recruiting, but will find the confined spaces of Millington Reserve hard to handle.

Mt Lawley should be too good for Innaloo, but not without a struggle as Yaluma Park is always worth a few goals to the Bulldogs.

Mt Lawley's running game could be the difference, but they will have to stop the Kettlewell Brothers, in particular Craig, who is capable of destroying a side whether up the ground or around the goals.



Les Fong ...back with Trinity-Aquinas.

by  
**TREVOR SCHORER**



### OUR OFFICE

The West Australian Amateur Football League office is situated in the three-tier grandstand at Subiaco Oval.

Postal address: PO Box 56, West Perth 6005.

Telephone 382 1799.



Tim Gepp ... coaching debut.

### FIXTURES

#### A-grade

ROUND NO. 1 — 8 APRIL  
Old Wesley vs North Beach, Lathlain Oval  
Nollamara vs Trinity/Aquinas, Des Penman  
Scarborough vs West Coast, Millington  
Innaloo vs Mount Lawley, Yuluma Park  
University vs Wembley, Fremantle Oval

#### B-grade

ROUND NO. 1 — 8 APRIL  
North Fremantle vs Maylands, Gilfraser  
Dianella vs Col/Old Scotch, Perth Oval  
Bayswater vs Curtin AFC, Hillcrest Park  
Cockburn Lakes vs CBC, Anning Park  
Mount Lawley vs Swan Athletic, Inglewood

#### A colts

ROUND NO. 1 — 8 APRIL  
Old Wesley vs North Beach, Lathlain Oval  
Nollamara vs Trinity/Aquinas, Des Penman  
Scarborough vs West Coast, Millington  
Innaloo vs Mount Lawley, Yuluma Park  
University vs Wembley, Fremantle Oval

#### B colts

ROUND NO. 1 — 8 APRIL  
North Fremantle vs Maylands, Gilfraser Oval  
Dianella vs Col/Old Scotch, Perth Oval  
Bayswater vs Curtin AFC, Hillcrest Park  
Cockburn Lakes vs CBC, Anning Park  
Mount Lawley vs Swan Athletic, Inglewood

## Bayswater favoured to go one step better

by  
**PETER RUSH**



C.B.C.

The CBC combination looked impressive in last weekend's knockout carnival, though they have lost coach Glen Hurst and Paul Hurst to North Fremantle. They should feature in this year's fight for the five.

CURTIN

The campus side has also recruited well with notable additions being Warren Marshall, Steve Dessman, Paul Couper and Peter Hodge.

The Tigers have a lot more depth at the club and look set to give the competition a big shake.

MT LAWLEY

Some heavy player-losses have not been offset by recruiting and this could see the Hawks struggle.

DIANELLA

The Panthers have been hard-hit with player losses. The opening of the club's impressive new clubrooms has not inspired the players and Dianella also look likely to struggle.

COCKBURN LAKES

The southerners have won five premierships in a row in lower grades under coach Max Ford, with an ageing side. They will find B-grade a lot tougher.

## Maylands take the prizemoney

MAYLANDS took the honours and the prizemoney when they won their own knockout carnival last weekend at Gibbney Reserve.

Six teams were originally due to compete, but late withdrawals from Morley and Applecross left Maylands, CBC, Coolbinia-Yokine and Sunday League club Kwinana to do battle.

CBC pulled out after two games and Maylands went on to beat Kwinana by nine goals in the final.

Good players for the Rams were Wade McKinlay, Paul Naughton, Shane Gidgup and Bruce Loo.

### Redcliffe on the improve

IMPROVING G-grade club Redcliffe go into this year's competition full of confidence after a successful recruiting summer.

Chasing their first premiership, Redcliffe have appointed Robert Meikel as the new coach and with players of the calibre of Brian Arbon, Mike Outridge, Eddie Hoyer, Ritchie Patching, Ray Armstead and Dave Callanan, they look the side to beat.



Corry Bewick ... starting with North Beach

## Wealth of experience in amateur coaching

RIVAL football leagues could well be envious of the coaching experience now available in amateur ranks.

W AFL club West Perth have got four of their former players coaching A-grade sides in this season's amateur line-up.

Leading the way are rovers Les Fong (Trinity-Aquinas) and Corry Bewick, with North Beach.

Former ruck-rover Rod Alderton, took Wembley, a struggling club the previous year, to play off in the preliminary final in his first season as coach.

Another former West Perth and Perth player in Mick Rea is trying his luck in the coaching arena by taking over Nollamara, who have always been in the finals, but fail to go on with it.

Former Perth player Darryl Freame takes over at Scarborough, who have battled since their appearance in the 1985 Grand Final.

East Perth figure prominently with dual premiership coach Greg Hyde (Mt. Lawley) and Barrie Quick (Old Wesley) both succeeding in their role over the last two years.

The royals are also represented by amateur State coach Ralph Needham, one of the WAAFL's most successful mentors at club and State level.

Former Subiaco and East Fremantle player Tim Gepp is at West Coast; and the Sharks have also had a big influence through former State coach Harry Neesham and big man Brian Needle with North Fremantle in the last few seasons.



# NATIONAL SCOREBOARD

VFL



## Friday, March 31

**ESSENDON** 6.4 11.8 14.8 17.10 (112)  
**WEST COAST** 6.4 7.6 10.9 14.12 (96)  
**GOALS** — Essendon: Salmon, Ezard, Sporn, Watson 3, Antrobus 2, Underwood, Madden, Considine 1. West Coast: Scott 7, m Pyke, Langdon 2, Breman, Worstfold, Barich 1.  
**BEST** — Essendon: Anderson, Foulds, Madden, Daniher, Underwood. West Coast: Scott, Mainwaring, Pyke, Malaxos, Breman.  
 Played at the WACA Ground Perth. Umpires: Ross Castle, Grant Vernon. Attendance 26,000.

## Saturday, April 1

**COLLINGWOOD** 3.4 8.8 11.12 13.15 (93)  
**HAWTHORN** 2.3 5.6 8.15 11.17 (83)  
**GOALS** — Collingwood: Taylor 5, Starcevic, Barwick 2, Kerrison, Alexander, Dalcos, Perkins 1. Hawthorn: Dunstall 5, Morrissey 3, Gowers, Buckenara, Whittman 1.  
**BEST** — Collingwood: Brown, Daicos, Cloke, Turner, Barwick, Christian, S Morwood. Hawthorn: Schwab, Tuck, Morrissey, Anderson, Ayres.  
 Played at VFL Park. Umpires Juhn Russo, Ian Clayton. Attendance 50,287.

**ST KILDA** 2.6 7.9 14.12 20.16 (136)  
**BRISBANE** 3.1 11.4 11.6 15.7 (97)  
**GOALS** — St Kilda: Lockett 9, Owen, Burke 3, Winmar, Dwyer 2 Bowey 1. Brisbane: Mickan 4, McIvor, Capper 3, Williams, Hardie, Phillips, Bain, Merrett 1.  
**BEST** — St Kilda: Lockett, Grant, Burke, Harding, Winmar, Coghlan. Brisbane: McIvor, Lester-Smith, Williams, Gastev.  
 Played at VFL Park. Umpires Denis Rich, Gary Forster. Attendance 17,236.

**FOOTSCRAY** 5.3 9.6 17.13 19.18 (132)  
**CARLTON** 1.2 2.6 8.10 10.13 (73)  
**GOALS** — Footscray: Georgiades 8, O'Keefe 3, Cousins, Campbell, Cullen 2, Wallace, Williams 1. Carlton: Murphy 3, Naley 2, Silvagni, Kernahan, Gleeson, Glascott, Verbeek 1.  
**BEST** — Footscray: McGuinness, Wallace, Georgiades, Atkins, Wynd, Hogg, Macpherson. Carlton: Glascott, Naley, Gleeson, Bradley, Hunter, Murphy.  
 Played at Princes Park. Umpires Peter Carey, Peter Cameron. Attendance 22,000.

**MELBOURNE** 6.3 11.4 15.7 18.8 (116)  
**FITZROY** 1.2 6.7 13.12 16.15 (111)  
**GOALS** — Melbourne: Lyon 4, Stynes, Eishold, Seow, Newport 2, O'Dwyer, Stretch, Healy, Jackson, Tingay, Grinter 1. Fitzroy: R Osborne 8, Broderick, Roos 3, Lyon, McGrath 1.  
**BEST** — Melbourne: Newport, Stretch, Seow, Johnson, Stynes, Eishold. Fitzroy: Wynd, Osborne, Armstrong, Lyon, Broderick, Matera.  
 Played at the MCG. Umpires Shane Harris, Morten Snedden. Attendance 25,792.



LET'S MOVE IT... Big Eagle Laurie Keene tries to sort out this Bombers pack.

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### Top performer

This week's top performer in the West Coast Eagles was **STEVE MALAXOS** with 18 kicks, four handballs and three marks.

## Sunday, April 2

**NORTH MELB** 2.5 11.9 14.14 18.17 (125)  
**GEELONG** 6.3 9.12 14.17 17.21 (123)  
**GOALS** — North Melbourne: Fairley 5, J Krakouer 3, Smith, Spargo, Hepburn 2, Love, Buckley, German, D Harris 1. Geelong: Russell 4 Browniess, G Hocking, Couch 2, Ablett, Scott, Troy, D Cameron, Yeats, Morgan, Stoneham 1.  
**BEST** — North Melbourne: J Krakouer, Spargo, Schwass, Fairley, R Smith, German, McCarthy. Geelong: Couch, Russell, G. Hocking, McCrabb.  
 Played at the MCG. Umpires Bryan Sheehan, David Johnson. Attendance 24,383.

**SYDNEY** 4.3 6.7 11.14 12.17 (89)  
**RICHMOND** 3.3 8.5 9.6 11.7 (73)  
**GOALS** — Sydney: G Williams, G Healy, B Toohey, D Murphy 2, L Higgins, S Wright, T Morwood, T Thrupp 1. Richmond: D Weightman 3, P Wilson, P Egan, J Hogg 2 J Pickerin, T Powell 1.  
**BEST** — Sydney: Williams, Healy, Willis, Neagle, Eustice, Murphy, Thrupp. Richmond: Egan, Weightman, Lambert, Mitchell, Nixon.  
 Played at the SCG. Umpires Brendan Carland, Chris Mitchell. Attendance 8611.

## VFL RESERVES

**RICHMOND** 9.11 (65) d **SYDNEY SWANS** 7.16 (58)  
**GOALS** — Richmond: Launder, D Bower, Mahoney 2, Peters, Ryan, T Young 1. Sydney Swans: Teal 2, Bishop, D Scotot, Ogler, Wright, O'Donahue 1.  
**BEST** — Richmond: Lee, Knights, Mahhny, Griffiths, Leys, B Bower. Sydney Swans: McAsey, Holdsworth, Parsons, Bryne, Ogler, Lloyd, Kellett.

**HAWTHORN** 17.24 (126) d **COLLINGWOOD** 15.7 (97)  
**GOALS** — Hawthorn: Bourke 7, Morris 3, Cummons, Beardsley 2, Hall, Hopkins, Wicks 1. Collingwood: Shepherd, McKeown 4, O'Brien, Ryan 2, Keays, Pritchard, Shepherd, Lister, Ryan 1.  
**ST KILDA** 22.17 (149) d **BRISBANE** 12.22 (94)  
**GOALS** — St Kilda: Wedding 8, Dvojnport 3, Turner, Cummings, Handley, Doyle 2, Russo, Griffiths, Kourkemelis 1. Brisbane: Not available.  
**BEST** — St Kilda: Wedding, turner, Freeman, Devonport, Taylor, Dargie. Brisbane: Not available.

**CARLTON** 15.14 (104) d **FOOTSCRAY** 14.7 (91)  
**GOALS** — Carlton: Majerczak 3, Minton-Connell 2, Povey, Aitkin, Henry, Poursanidis, Dennis, Phillips, Francis, White, O'Sullivan, Kennedy 1. Footscray: Collins 7, Beasley 5, Kellett, James 1.  
**BEST** — Carlton: Butts, Loone, Phillips, Aitkin, Majerczak, Garvey. Footscray: Collins, Wigney, Ervine, Evans, Liberatore, Beasley.

**FITZROY** 20.18 (138) d **MELBOURNE** 9.14 (68)  
**GOALS** — Fitzroy: Scott 7, Conlan, Handley 3, Strooper 2, Bolzon, Caton, Osborne, Keane, Woods 1. Melbourne: Howat 2, Febey, Viney, Chiron, Normington, Ford, Mahoney, Beveridge 1.  
**GEELONG** 19.23 (137) d **NORTH MELB** 11.18 (84).

## OTHER STATES

### TASMANIA

TFL: Glenorchy 18.16 (124) d New Norfolk 12.8 (80), Clarence 28.13 (181) d North Hobart 12.13 (85), Sandy Bay 18.23 (131) d Burnie Hawks 15.16 (106), South Launceston 16.14 (110) d Hobart 12.13 (84), North Launceston 7.8 (50) d Devonport Blues 5.7 (37).  
 NTFA: Burnie 3.7 (25) d Scottsdale 1.4 (10), Penguin 4.12 (36) d Ulverstone 4.7 (31), Smithton 16.12 (108) d Latrobe 11.9 (75), Launceston 14.13 (97) d Deloraine 13.10 (88), Georgetown 15.22 (112) d East Devonport 5.11 (41), Wynyard bye.

### CANBERRA

ACTFL: Canberra Southern Cross pre-season competition: Ainslie 0.1 2.2 5.5 8.7 (55) d Queenbeyan 2.3 2.5 2.7 3.7 (25), Eastlake 4.2 6.3 9.4 15.5 (95) d Manuka Weston 0.4 1.7 1.8 1.8 (15) Belconnen 4.2 8.7 11.9 14.13 (97) d Tuggeranong 2.3 2.3 3.4 4.6 (30). UNDER-19s: Queanbeyan 13.16 (94) d Ainslie 2.5 (17), Manuka Weston 8.7 (61) d Eastlake 7.4 (46), Belconnen 8.12 (60) d Tuggeranong 2.3 (15).

### NEW SOUTH WALES

#### SYDNEY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CAMBELLTOWN 1.2 2.4 4.7 5.9 (39)  
 NORTHSHORE 0.3 4.6 4.6 5.7 (37)  
**GOALS** — Campbelltown: G Reid 2, B Kershaw, S Noack, R Podbury 1. North Shore: P Robertson 3, C Jones, R Faulkner 1.  
**BEST** — Campbelltown: G Noack, G Reid, G Kellner, R Haines. North Shore: P Donaldson, G Dignan, K Phillips, P Carr.



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5.00 p.m. — View Training  
 5.30 p.m. — Sausage Sizzle  
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## HIGH PRAISE INDEED

ARE the 1989 expectations of the West Coast Eagles too high? Coach John Todd thinks so.

The Eagles finished just a kick or so outside the final five in their debut year of 1987 and went one better to make the finals last year. Again, just a kick prevented them from going on with their finals campaign.

So it's natural that the public expectations of the elite team from the West is high; after all, it is every club's ambition to improve and the Eagles have often claimed that every year is another step forward in their lesson of surviving in the VFL.

Todd has maintained in the build-up for this season that the Eagles have to aim to finish in the top three; he says it's difficult, if not impossible, to win a premiership from any other position in the five, especially with the travelling the Eagles face.

### Drafting

The summer campaign of drafting and re-drafting players left the Eagles with a 38-man squad which Todd and his football director, Brian Douge, maintain is an excellent blend, carefully picked and after a lot of thought.

But obviously Todd is not fully satisfied. He told the press after Friday's loss to Essendon that everyone expected too much of the Eagles — don't

## ... but do we expect too much?



**AND LASTLY**

with **ALAN EAST**

keep talking about how good our players are, was his plea.

"We have a lot of work to do," said Todd. "It's not inexperience or their lack of ability; I've got no complaints on those points. We just have to learn to run straight and we produced some typical WA football at the crucial times against Essendon when we just didn't man up and didn't hold control of the ball long enough."

The Eagles' summer recruiting has been a tough job and it hasn't gone completely the way they would have liked.

But Todd believes they can still be a better side in 1989 and one of his reasons for that bold statement revolves around his goal-kicking philosophy.

### Scoring

The absence of Ross Glendinning, a 111-goal performer in two seasons with the Eagles, leaves a big gap in the scoring mechanism of the side.

"We have tried to spread our goal-

icking around a lot more," says Todd.

"We need our half-forwards, rucks, rovers and even our centreline players to chip in with goals."

Todd has tried to develop a formula to kick 20 goals a match working on the basis that a full-forward should kick four; the following division (rucks, ruck-rovers and rovers) eight between them; the half-forwards at least six and the centreliners two or three.

That formula is obviously hard to police on a weekly basis, but given that the Eagles are working on that familiar Todd flexibility formula, the goalkicking certainly looks capable of a more even spread this year.

### Rewards

Todd believes that year two of his coaching reign will see him reap greater rewards from the players. He knows that he's not always the most popular coach in the business, but he also believes quite fervently that he has a ruthless, dogged determination to succeed and the players know what he wants from them. If they won't give it, then they can go ... as quite a few from last year have done.

"I want players who are always going to give me 100 per cent," says Todd. "I don't want players who will give it to me when it suits them, it has to be all the time — when the team needs it."

Todd has total confidence in himself and his methods and, as he says, he's not over-awed by coaching in the VFL even though he never played in Victoria and he's certainly not in awe of any of his illustrious coaching compatriots.

But he believes that we expect too much of our Eagles players.

"People are a bit naive if they expect our players to produce their best football immediately on entering VFL ranks," he says. "We sometimes expect them to walk on water, to leap tall buildings and all that."

"But look back over the years — the best players from the West who have gone to Victoria have taken a year or two to find their feet. We're asking these guys to step straight into VFL ranks and be match-winners."

"All I ask of the players is that they are honest with me and the team. If they give me everything they've got every time they wear the Eagles guernsey, then I'll be happy."



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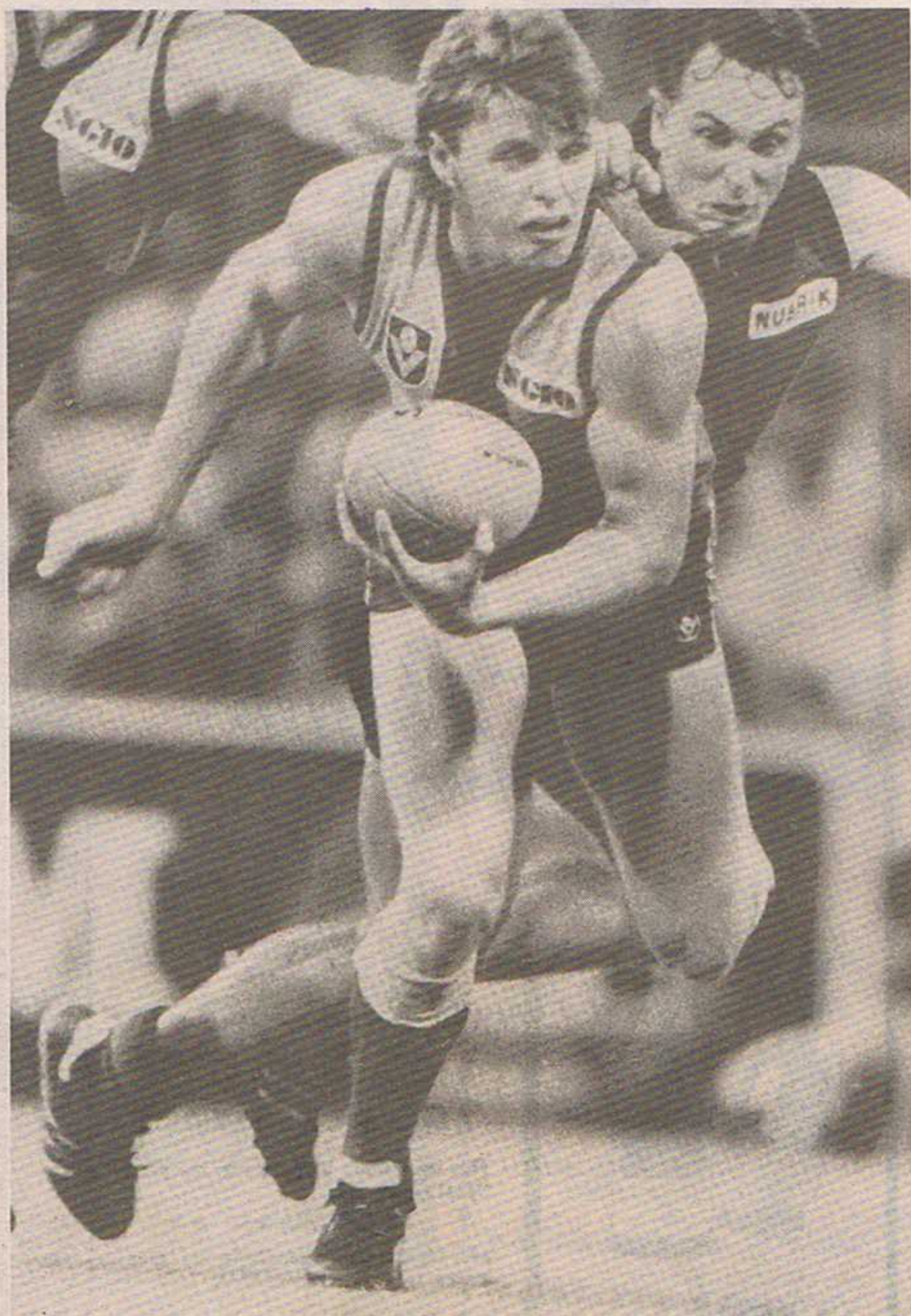
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Eagles forward Michael Brennan is under some fierce Essendon pressure.

— PICTURE: Julian Cowan.