



WESTSIDE Football

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Picture by: JULIAN COWAN

HE'S OUR CHAMP!

South Fremantle club mates join the celebrations with the club's eighth Sandover Medallist, ruckman Craig Edwards. Showing their joy are (from left, clockwise) Brad McGuinness, Peter Matera, Ned Fimmano, Richard Geary, Stevan Jackson, Scott Watters (rear), Willie Rioli, Peter Worsfold and Maurice Rioli.

Edwards was a last-vote winner of the 69th Sandover Medal, held at the Burswood Showroom and televised live on ABC Channel 2.

The odds-on favourite didn't poll as well as expected and he only took the lead in Round 18 after a best-on-ground effort against Perth.

But the surprise packet of the count, Claremont's dashing defender Mark Brayshaw, regained the lead at Round 20 and Edwards had to wait till the last slip was read out to hear that he had snuck home by three votes, thanks to his four-vote effort in the final game against Swan Districts.

INSIDE:



presents...

Tribute to a Sharks veteran

Football's big double-header...

Eight pages of pen pics and previews

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MIXED EMOTIONS

THE mood in the two changerooms after the drawn semi-final was very mixed. Players, coaches and supporters didn't know whether to laugh or cry — and some did both. The mood was probably best summed up by Sharks goalkicker Neil Lester-Smith: "We had the game won at one stage — I guess that we just thought that we needed to give Clinton Browning, Chris Waterman and Brad Rowe (players who returned to East Fremantle's line-up on Saturday) another run before the preliminary final," he said sarcastically.

Hasler move pays off

WEST Perth coach George Michalczyk made a surprise match-saving manoeuvre in the final quarter of Saturday's first semi-final. The rookie coach switched dependable half-back Paul Hasler into the centre to replace a tiring Peter Menaglio. Hasler, who had a poor third term, got the ball out quickly enabling the Falcons to come home with a 7.4 quarter, compared to the 2.5 had they kicked in the previous term. Hasler added 1.1...including a great goal-of-the-day running snapshot off his left-foot.

PEAKE TO KEEP PLAYING

WHEN is he going to call it a day — that's what everyone keeps asking East Fremantle veteran Brian Peake. And the man who kicked the draw-snatching goal 30 seconds from time in last Saturday's first semi-final, is not giving any secrets away. "I've still got the enthusiasm to keep playing," he said propped up against a changeroom wall with his neck heavily bandaged. "I think I'll have another season, but I'll just have to wait and see what happens."

BASIL'S BELIEF

FORMER Subiaco general manager and current Lions director Basil Fuller has a reputation of being spot-on when it comes to numbers — especially winning raffle ticket numbers! But Fuller isn't a bad football forecaster, either. At a function hosted by West Perth coach George Michalczyk on Friday night (to herald his takeover of Motive Travel) Fuller made no secret of the fact that he believed a draw was on the cards in this year's finals series. Maybe it was wishful thinking (in view of Subiaco's bonanza behind the bar with an extra finals match) — or had Basil rigged the result?

Fightback was expected

DESPITE being four goals down at the final change, West Perth coach George Michalczyk was confident his side would salvage the situation. Though the match was drawn — the Sharks kicked a goal with 30 seconds remaining — Michalczyk told his players afterwards: "I knew you were going to do it — I saw the fire in your eyes at the break," said Michalczyk. He added that he did not know whether to laugh, cry or smile at the result. "I'm so wrapped in your final quarter fight back," Michalczyk told them. "You came from four goals down in a semi-final and after the way that we have had to battle this year, it's a credit to you guys," said the coach.

PEAKE'S TRIUMPH

THERE was no better player out on the field than Brian Peake to take that final kick at goal to level the first semi-final for East Fremantle. The Sharks veteran was odds-on to post a major, especially after he had been taken from the ground for a while early in the final quarter. "I wasn't too happy about that," admitted Peake (all smiles) after the game. "But there was 300 games of experience behind that kick and it was great."

Feeling the pressure

THE tension in the closing minutes of Saturday's first semi-final was almost too much for East Fremantle rover Billy Krakouer. The 22-year-old Shark could not watch as Malcolm Williams lined up on goal with three minutes of play remaining. A goal would have almost certainly put paid to any chance East Fremantle had of getting out of trouble, but to East Fremantle's relief, Williams kicked a point. Poor Williams — that's the second time this season he could have won a match with a shot at goal late in the game. In Round 3, West Perth went down to Swan Districts when he missed a shot from 45 metres out after the siren. However, Williams more than compensated with his brilliant finish to the season which helped the Falcons snatch fourth spot off Swans, so maybe he can atone in the replay!

OUT OF TUNE

THE Sharkettes — the East Fremantle dancing girls — looked more like statuettes at Subiaco Oval last Saturday. The pretty cheer-leaders stood motionless for five minutes waiting for their dance music to start ... but it never did. But like true professionals, the show went on and the girls did a routine to the background noise of 15,656 spectators. However, they got the problem rectified and everything went according to plan at half-time.

UNHERALDED HEROES

WEST Perth's Darren O'Brien and Steven Bradmore were two of the Falcons unheralded heroes from Saturday's first semi-final action. O'Brien (leg injury) and Bradmore (forearm) were in considerable pain when they were helped from the ground in the second quarter. O'Brien, who was stretchered off, returned in the third term and played a big part in restricting the Sharks offensively, while Bradmore came back for four minutes. In obvious discomfort and his arm strapped, Bradmore made a tackle and collected one possession while teammate Wayne Dayman was sidelined with a boot problem.

Operation for Ditchburn

SOUTH Fremantle's John Ditchburn faces a long recovery programme after under-going a major knee reconstruction next week. Ditchburn, who was carried from the ground in the Round 12 clash against East Perth, is open-minded about his future. "I'll go back to our farm at Kukerin for 12 months and then see how it shapes up," said Ditchburn, who plans to stay in Perth for the finals and hopefully watch Souths win the flag. On a lighter side, he says that the injury will give him a chance to catch up with old friend Noel Morton — the former Claremont star — who farms nearby to the Ditchburns. "And when Toby (Mark Bairstow) comes home, we'll all get together," he quipped. Who knows, Ditchburn might opt for country football, joining brother Ross in the strong Central Great Southern league.

DASHING DEFENDER

THERE'S an old story in football that defenders can't kick goals, especially on the run. But West Perth half-back Paul Hasler certainly disproved that theory. He notched the goal-of-the-day on ABC television (in Sunday's replay) with that great left-foot running shot (his wrong foot, too) from out on the half-forward flank to bring up West Perth's 11th.

AWARDS EVENING

THE WA Football Media Guild's annual presentation dinner will be held on Wednesday, September 13 in the WAFL function lounge, starting at 7pm. The \$20 cost includes a meal and all drinks and members are urged to RSVP to Lew Nathan on 381 9092.

PHOTO ACTION



Tough tussle at the top

ONE of the most outstanding duels in last Saturday's first semi-final will be repeated again this week — the ruck clash between West Perth's man-mountain Craig Nelson and East Fremantle's emerging rookie Clinton Wolf. The two men — pictured here in another tough, physical duel — virtually broke even in the hit-outs, with Wolf getting 25 and Nelson 21. However, Nelson's effort around the ground was decisive, taking 10 marks and having 13 kicks and five handballs compared to Wolf's three marks, six kicks and seven handpasses.

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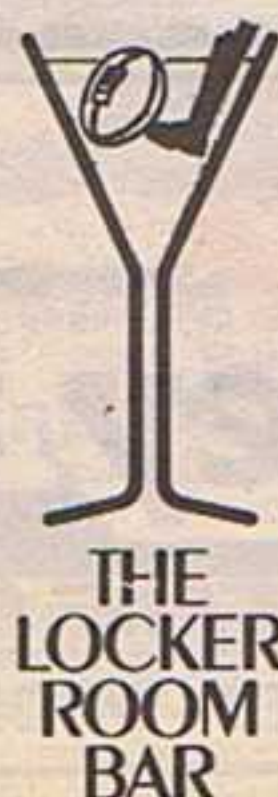
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Tribunal lets the game down

THE WAFL tribunal has done it again — shown leniency on the eve of the finals series and let the umpires down.

Six players were reported in the final set of the WAFL qualifying fixtures, with plenty of heat in the last home-and-away games providing no shortage of fiery action.

But all six left the tribunal without an immediate suspension.

Tribunal chairman Trevor O'Sullivan, a relative newcomer to the role, introduced a remarkable new "defence" in one of the cases — a phrase that is sure to haunt the tribunal in years to come.

"... because the incident involved no other players." — that was one of the reasons why Dean Irving (South Fremantle) and Don Langsford (Swan Districts) were allowed off without a penalty.

O'Sullivan upheld the charge by goal umpire Alan Mirabella, who said that he had a clear view of the two players striking each other. But no penalty was imposed; which was obviously good from Langsford's point of view, as his record has been exemplary in more than 220 games.

But the reason behind letting the players off must worry umpires.

Claremont big men Peter Melesso and Peter Higgins also walked free, with Melesso enjoying a tribunal escape for the second time in a week.

The tribunal accepted that Melesso had called field umpire Phil O'Reilly "a cheat" but imposed a three-match "suspended" sentence mainly "because of the stage of the season".

That also sets an incredible precedent. It virtually means that all key players should be able to get off scot-free if their team is playing in the finals.

Suspended sentences mean little; simply allowing the player to infringe again — and then he cops the penalty, but probably in a watered-down version. Look what happened to East Perth's Wayne Dawson; a caution on his second appearance, obviously because an earlier two-week suspended sentence was automatically imposed.

It is disappointing when umpires do their duty — and report obviously blatant cases of unsportsmanlike-football — and the charges are upheld — but players walk free. —

ALAN EAST.

COMMISSION DID THE RIGHT THING

THE WAFL Commission must have been delighted when East Fremantle and West Perth drew the first semi-final.

The positive nature of the game and the prospect of a substantial windfall from the replay would have been very satisfying.

The subsequent furore over the fixing of the finals has probably put a damper on some of the enthusiasm.

In football it is almost impossible to keep everyone happy.

Each club in the finals would have jockeyed for the fixture most suitable to their team.

To their credit the commission weren't too stubborn to change their decision.

Experience counts

PROVEN finals players are worth their weight in gold and Clinton Browning is showing the value of his experience.

Browning never got the opportunity to play at centre-half-back in the VFL, the position in which he would have shone, but he is equally at home in the WAFL at full-forward or centre-half-forward.

In 1985 he kicked six goals in the Grand Final after suffering a dislocated shoulder early in the game, a truly courageous performance.

Browning is a tough player that sometimes upsets the opposition and the crowd, but he is a favourite with Shark supporters.

Sharks waiting in the wings

EAST Fremantle have three premiership players in their reserves — Colin Waterson, who went out of the league side through injury, Bryce Forman, who has had limited opportunities, and David Rankin, a talented player who surprisingly hasn't been given a senior game this year.

These players may provide the depth that East Fremantle need to go all the way should they suffer any further injuries.

Medal count a big hit

THE Sandover Medal presentation was one of the best organised counts that I have attended.

George Grljusich and Trevor Jenkins handled the presentation very well and were well supported by Wally Foreman and Bryan Cousins.

The closeness of the count ensured that intense interest was maintained to the end.

The umpires came up with a worthy winner and most football supporters would have been pleased for Craig Edwards and his family.

Solid Bulldog defence

THE outstanding defensive unit in the WAFL competition belongs to South Fremantle.

A fit Steven Grant at full-back gives South the tall, athletic man required to combat tall, fast forwards and he is well supported by the tough and talented trio of Robert Solin, Ned Fimmano and Peter Worsfold.

John McDonald has shone out all year as a skilful team member and his ability to read the play enables him to be a high possession getter.

Any team that beats South Fremantle is going to need their running players to kick a bag of goals.

ALEXANDER'S ANGLE

By State coach
RON ALEXANDER



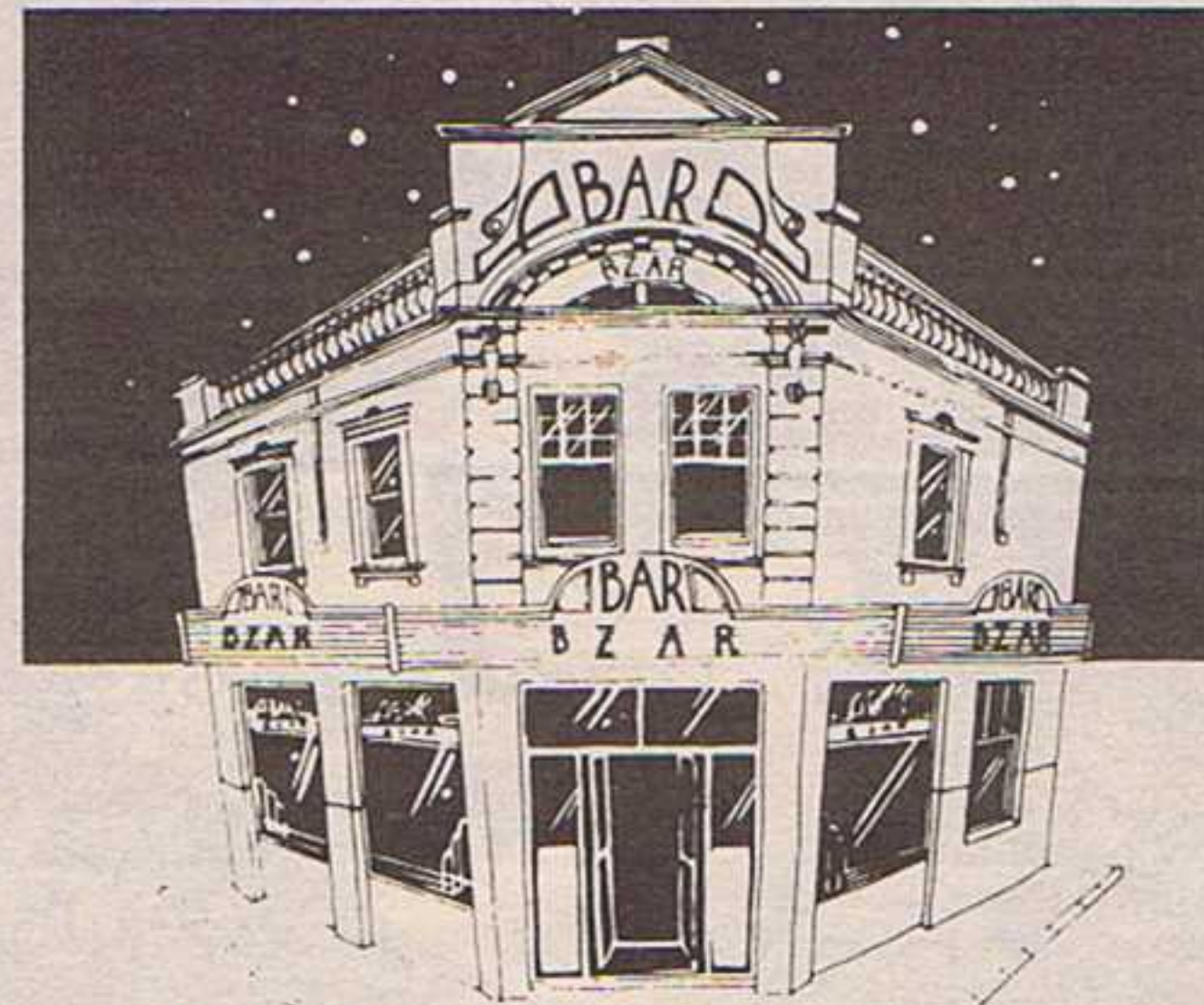
Tough man in backline

PAUL Hasler, the West Perth half-back, has stamped himself as a good league footballer.

He's very strong and goes straight and hard at the ball. He gives West Perth a real tough man in the backline.

I'm sure that some opposing forwards will take an extra look when he happens to be bearing down on them.

The feature of Hasler's game is his long, direct kicking into attack and he will again be key player in the first semi-final replay.



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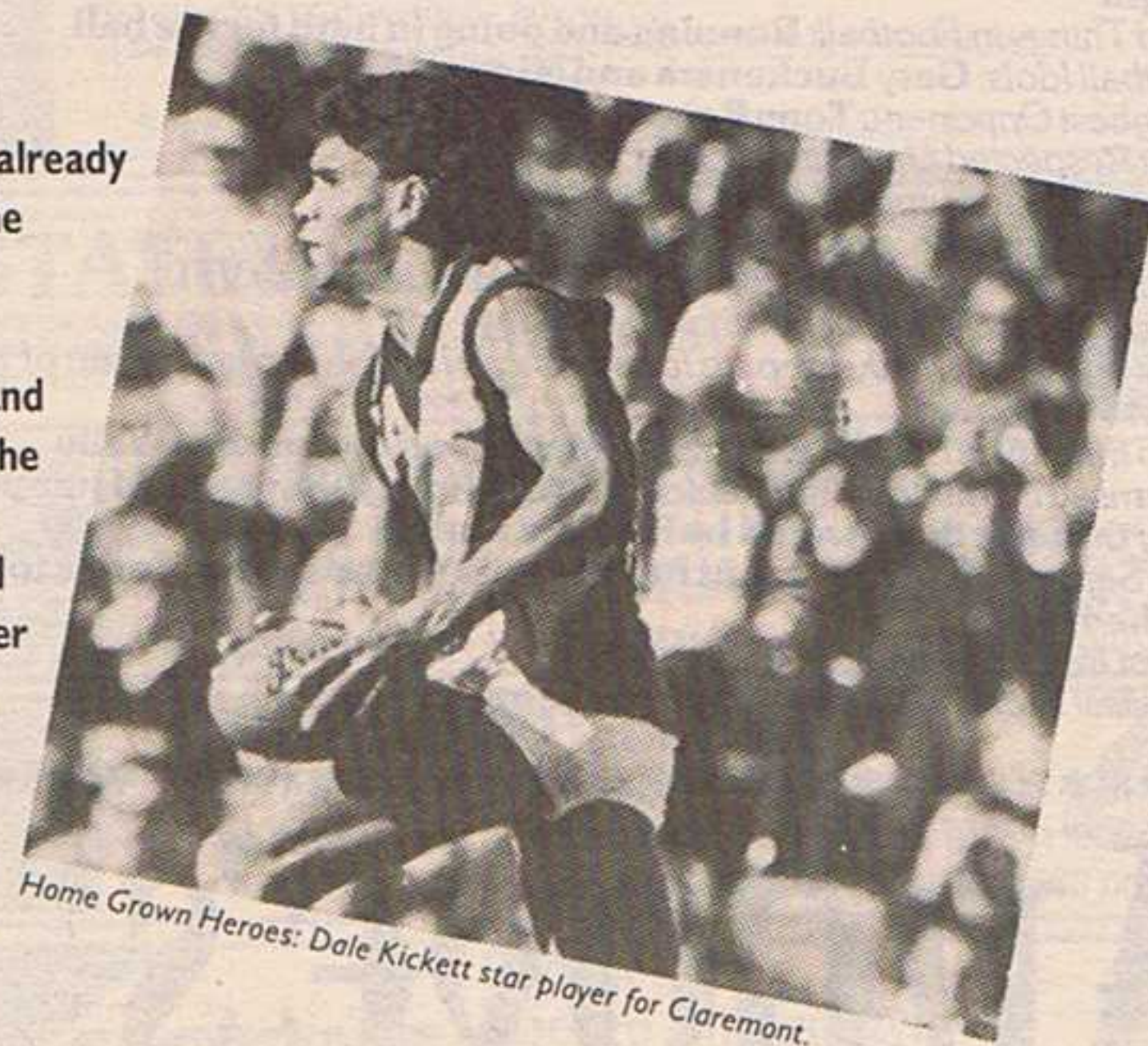
381 6113

As explosive as a Krakouer.

He's only been playing two seasons and already people are comparing Dale Kickett with the legendary Phil Krakouer.

Dale's got the same deft hands as Phil. And when he gets the ball his electrifying and lightning fast game puts the crowd under the same spell Phil Krakouer cast.

Don't believe it? Well, get to a game and check it out for yourself; you know it's never the same unless you're there at the game.



Home Grown Heroes: Dale Kickett star player for Claremont.

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PLAYER PROFILES

PETER MATERA



Nickname: **Horse** Why?: **Because of the way I run**
 Date of Birth: **3/4/69** Place of Birth: **Wagin**
 Height: **180cm** Weight: **80kg**
 Age Started Playing: **12**
 Previous Club/s: **North Albany Junior Club: Wagin**
 Marital status: **Single**
 Residence: **Spearwood**
 Occupation: **Storewood** Place of work: **Bestobell**
 Other Sporting Interests: **Basketball and cricket**
 Favourite Position: **Half-forward flank** First Position: **Half-forward**
 League Debut: **1986** Versus: **Perth**

FAVOURITES:

Actor: **John Wayne** Drink: **Beer**
 TV Show: — Food: **Spaghetti**
 Movie: **Rocky IV** Music: **Elvis Presley**
 Holiday Resort: **Mandurah**
 Ground: **Fremantle Oval**
 Your Car: **Holden HZ**
 Favourite Car: **Holden Commodore Calais 308**
 Career Highlights: **WA State-of-Origin team 1989**
 Worst Moment in Football: **Getting knocked out while I was playing in Wagin**
 Hard Things in Football: **Running and going in hard for the ball**
 Football Idols: **Gary Buckenara and Michael Tuck**
 Toughest Opponent: **Tony Begovich**
 Most Respected Opponent: **Peter Ware**
 Most respected umpire: **Mike Ball**
 Most Memorable Game: **My State game**
 Ambitions: **Win a premiership with Souths and play VFL**
 What do you like about Football: **Winning**
 How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: **Watch a replay of one of my previous games**
 Who Influenced Your Career: **Stan Magro and my brother Wally**
 Guernsey Number: **7** Any Reason: **It was Nicky Winmar's old jumper and they thought that I would be fast like him**
 Any Superstitions: **I never put my boots on the table. My Mum's told me it's bad luck**
 Worst Injury: **Knee**
 Luckiest Break: **Kicking goals and being noticed**

DENNIS REPACHOLI



Nickname: **Repper** Why?: **Surname**
 Date of Birth: **15/5/70** Place of Birth: **Perth**
 Height: **188cm** Weight: **86kg**
 Age Started Playing: **6**
 Previous Club/s: — Junior Club: **Guildford Grammar School and Kondinin**
 Marital status: **Single**
 Residence: **Bullcreek**
 Occupation: **Airplane mechanic** Place of work: **Jandakot Airport**
 Other Sporting Interests: **Waterskiing and basketball**
 Favourite Position: **Half-back flank** First Position: **Half-back flank**
 League Debut: **1989** Versus: **South Fremantle**

FAVOURITES:

Actor: **Danny DeVito** Drink: **Jack Daniels**
 TV Show: **Cartoons** Food: **Roast Lamb**
 Movie: **Jewel of the Nile, Lethal Weapon** Music: **Led Zeppelin and Jimmy Hendrix**
 Holiday Resort: **Dunsborough**
 Ground: **Leederville Oval**
 Your Car: **Holden Ute**
 Favourite Car: **1957 Chevrolet**
 Career Highlights: **1989 finals**
 Worst Moment in Football: **Not had any bad moments**
 Hard Things in Football: **Training**
 Football Idols: **Bill Duckworth**
 Toughest Opponent: **All the same**
 Most Respected Opponent: **Maurice Rioli**
 Most respected umpire: **Peter Repper and Sam Kronja**
 Most Memorable Game: **Last week's draw with East Fremantle and the win over Souths at Fremantle Oval**
 Ambitions: **Win a premiership and play VFL**
 What do you like about Football: **Meeting people and playing the game**
 How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: **Listen to Led Zeppelin and Jimmy Hendrix**
 Who Influenced Your Career: **My Mum Marie, Alan White and Greg Simpson**
 Guernsey Number: **48** Any Reason: **They gave it to me**
 Any Superstitions: **I only have a glass of orange juice in the morning and never have breakfast**
 Worst Injury: **My shoulder kept popping out**
 Luckiest Break: **Getting a guernsey in the West Perth league team**

ANGOVE'S.... Pick a fine wine

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SHARKS HAVE THE EDGE

THE faces on the players who drew last Saturday's first semi-final could tell the tale of this week's replay at Subiaco Oval.

Smiles abounded in the East Fremantle change room. They knew that in the end, they were fortunate to escape with a tie.

In the West Perth dressing room, the scene was entirely different — chins almost touching the floor and smiles a rarity.

The Falcons had their chance to claim victory when they led by six points with a minute to play, but now they might have blown their opportunity.

East Fremantle, as Graham Melrose suggested after the match, will be better off next week because Clinton Browning, Chris Waterman and Bradley Rowe all needed a run in the seniors to get them back in the groove.

Browning started on the interchange bench (with Bevan Gray) and joined the action at quarter-time. He started slowly, improved as the match progressed and when the Sharks needed him at the end, he was at his best.

That suggests he should be ready to start strongly this Saturday.

Waterman began at centre-half-forward, but was taken from the ground in the middle of the second term. Anyone who can remember his finals performance of a couple of years ago would rate him as dangerous if he is given a run on the ball this week.

Rowe did not see out the match, but not because of the hamstring problem which kept him out of the seniors for five weeks. He damaged his hip and spent most of the second half on the bench.

However, Rowe should be fit to play this week and the Sharks will be looking for him to resume the form which made him football's hottest topic in the first part of the season.

To off-set that, Craig Turley will return to West Perth (provided he gets a flight home from Melbourne) after playing for the Eagles against Collingwood last Saturday.

It must be tough for both clubs to regroup and play the first semi-final for the second time in a week. But it seems as though East Fremantle must be favoured to win through.

George Michalczyk's black board last week said that the critics didn't believe the Falcons could win and that his team could prove them wrong.

This week there should be a few tipsters around town who think West Perth can win, but the Sharks will probably start favourites once again.

Edwards will survive

CRAIG Edwards is well aware of the reputation Sandover Medalists have in their first match after being honoured.

But the genial giant does not think that the public pressure will affect him when South Fremantle and Claremont clash in Saturday's second semi-final — the second match in what promises to be a football feast in a historic double-header.

The amiable Bulldogs ruckman had the pressure valve released with a gushing sigh on Monday night when he finally claimed victory in the Sandover.

On Saturday it starts all over again for Edwards who must perform strongly in the ruck for South to have any chance of beating Claremont.

His rival will be a man equally as important to the Claremont cause — Peter Higgins, who was among the first to shake the hand of Edwards on Monday night.

Edwards uses all the tricks in the book to ensure he gets the advantage at centre bounce down, not surprising considering some of his tutors have been Eddie Pitter, Keith Slater and Percy Johnson.

South will also look to the genius of Maurice Rioli, who finished the qualifying rounds with a best-on-ground performance against Swan Districts.

Rioli, his younger brother Willie, Peter Matera and Richard Geary are the men who figured so prominently in Monday's Medal count, John Scott and Cameron Lewis.

Though Claremont have players of similar skill in Peter Thorne, Ben Allan, Gerard Neesham and Tony Evans, the Bulldogs have an edge in pace.

Ned Fimmano should return to the South backline to combine with Robert Solin and John MacDonald, while Claremont's defence will be led by Mark Brayshaw, who figured so prominently in Monday's Medal count, John Scott and Cameron Lewis.

SCIO

Football's No. 1 supporter



PREVIEWS

by Gary Stocks

THE COVERAGE

RADIO

6PR — Saturday noon: West Perth vs East Fremantle. 2.45pm: South Fremantle vs Claremont.

6WF — Saturday noon: East Fremantle vs West Perth. 2.45pm: Claremont vs South Fremantle.

6NR — Saturday noon: East Fremantle vs West Perth. 2.45pm: Claremont vs South Fremantle.

REGIONAL RADIO WEST — Saturday noon: East Fremantle vs West Perth. 2.45pm: Claremont vs South Fremantle.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 2: Saturday noon: Live to metropolitan area and regionals: East Fremantle vs West Perth. 2.45pm: Claremont vs South Fremantle.

CHANNEL 7: Saturday 5pm: Match of the day highlights. Sunday 3.30pm: Geelong vs Essendon.

Emu Export present ... WESTSIDE'S EXPERT SELECTIONS

	E. Frem. v W. Perth	Claremont v S. Frem.	C'Wood v Melbourne	Geelong v Essendon
RON ALEXANDER	East Fremantle	Claremont	Collingwood	Essendon
ROB BENNETT	West Perth	South Fremantle	Melbourne	Geelong
PETER BOSUSTOW	East Fremantle	Claremont	Melbourne	Geelong
DAVE CLEMENT	East Fremantle	Claremont	Collingwood	Geelong
GRANT DORRINGTON	East Fremantle	South Fremantle	Collingwood	Geelong
ALAN EAST	West Perth	Claremont	Melbourne	Essendon
IAN MILLER	East Fremantle	Claremont	Melbourne	Geelong
BILL MATHER-BROWN	East Fremantle	South Fremantle	Collingwood	Geelong
GARY STOCKS	East Fremantle	South Fremantle	Collingwood	Geelong
GEORGE TEMPLE	West Perth	South Fremantle	Collingwood	Geelong
MOST FAVOURED	East Fremantle	South Fremantle	Collingwood	Geelong

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First semi-final replay
11.45am East Fremantle v West Perth
Second semi-final
2.45pm Claremont v South Fremantle

VFL — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
(Elimination Final, at VFL Park)
Collingwood v Melbourne.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
(Qualifying Final, at MCG)
Essendon v Geelong.

Flashback...
May 6 — East Fremantle 19.14, West Perth 14.19 — East Fremantle by 25 points.
June 24 — West Perth 15.13, East Fremantle 23.13 — East Fremantle by 48 points.
August 12 — East Fremantle 16.19, West Perth 20.10 — West Perth by 15 points.
May 6 — Claremont 17.18, South Fremantle 15.10 — Claremont by 20 points.
June 24 — South Fremantle 16.13, Claremont 11.4 — South Fremantle by 39 points.
August 12 — Claremont 16.8, South Fremantle 12.11 — Claremont by 21 points.

1989 FORM GUIDE

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

CLARE W(69) W(42) W(46) W(93) W(20) W(15) W(43) L(30) W(80) W(48) W(22) L(29) W(29) W(25) L(20) W(93) W(21) W(21) W(21) W(50) L(8)

SOUTH FREM. W(43) W(20) W(6) W(45) L(20) W(48) W(25) L(40) L(5) W(60) W(50) W(29) W(53) W(3) W(14) L(27) W(11) W(45) L(21) W(94) W(35)

EAST FREM. W(91) L(20) W(92) L(22) W(25) L(12) L(43) W(52) W(5) W(27) W(30) W(48) W(4) L(25) W(55) W(27) W(148) W(23) L(15) W(58) W(8) D(-)

WEST PERTH L(43) L(42) W(24) W(50) L(25) L(1) W(36) W(40) L(80) L(6) W(41) L(48) L(19) W(13) L(14) L(93) W(44) W(31) W(15) W(25) W(102) D(-)

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Decisions needed soon

SO finally the WA Football Commission makes a decision...two in fact.

In the space of three days, the Commission came up with two of the most talked about decisions since the one which thrust the West Coast Eagles into the VFL.

The first, announced last Saturday within an hour of the epic drawn first semi-final, was a disgrace. That has been said and echoed throughout the football industry.

But the courageous turnaround met with greater approval. The double-headers scheduled for Saturday will be the forerunner to new-style football fixturing in this State.

But when will this Football Commission make some more decisions for the sake of the game's future?

That question is on the lips of everyone who has ever uttered a word about football.

Lesson

This Commission, not that I envy their job, has wasted enough time. It is time for some direction.

The commissioners themselves have learned a valuable lesson over the past week.

Most of all, they have learned the power and determination of clubs like Claremont and South Fremantle to have a say in their own destiny.

Claremont and Souths officials were hell-bent on reversing the original decision to put the remaining finals back a week.

The Bulldogs and Tigers are just as determined to turn around their struggling financial positions. Claremont also insist they will resist any attempt to move from Claremont Oval.

Claremont and South, the two trend-setters on the field in 1989, are not alone in their endeavours to climb out of worrying financial positions.

Concerned

Every WAFL club, even financially secure Subiaco, is gravely concerned about the uncertain future.

The Commission has before it a mammoth task to restructure the game so that it survives.

But some announcements must be made ... and soon.

The eight WAFL clubs need to know whether they start planning to be part of the existing WAFL in 1990, or start preparing for extinction.

The logical move is to extend the competition to include the rich and rapidly growing regions of the State.

The introduction of teams from Kelmscott-Armadale and the South-West has the capacity to generate increased interest in the WAFL and inject much needed sponsorship support.

THE BUZZ

By football's Mr Flamboyant
PETER BOSUSTOW



But the Commission must also offer direction on the future of the Wanneroo district.

A team from Wanneroo in the WAFL would also attract enormous support and funds. But a team from the northern-most part of the metropolitan area, as well as the one from the southern corridor and South-West would leave the competition with 11 clubs.

Amalgamation

That's where the toughest decision the Commission faces is to be addressed.

The amalgamation of East Perth and Perth must be ordered.

I can visualise the grimace on the faces of Cliff Houghton and Jack O'Dea, such devoted servants of Perth for so long, at the suggestion of a merger with their arch rivals.

But it is a logical progression. The Perth Royals, or East Perth Demons, operating from the WACA is a must for the sake of game's survival. And let's face it, both clubs are broke and offer the current competition little on the field.

So we're back to 10 clubs and a wide-

spread competition that can challenge the threat of basketball with its State-wide popularity.

We haven't addressed the problem of East and South Fremantle. They should, and will, amalgamate and offer the VFL a healthy alternative to those failing clubs in Melbourne.

A Fremantle team in the VFL would not leave the WAFL a team short, however. The same club should field a side in the local competition.

The Commission came through the debacle of last weekend with some credibility. But the rash, hasty manner with which the initial decisions were made leaves doubts that chairman Peter Tannock, Kevin Edwards and John Fuhrmann have the required confidence to make the tough decisions that lie ahead.

Football needs those tough decisions to be made soon. The game we all love has been hurt enough in the past few years.

I only hope it has suffered enough and that these recently appointed commissioners can end the misery.

RESTRICTED VIEWS

THE exciting conclusion to Saturday's first semi-final proved too much for Radio West's Frank Sparrow. The veteran caller went "off his perch" at spectators in front of his commentary position who were standing up while he was calling the game. "Would those people please sit down and give the commentators a chance," he told his listeners — who were all country people. However, Sparrow did eventually get his message across by beating the window in front of him.

FRIENDLY FLICK

EAST Fremantle defender Stephen Edgar got more than he bargained for after fouling West Perth's Malcolm Williams in the first semi-final. Umpire Grant Vernon awarded Williams a free kick and inadvertently clipped Edgar under the ear with his hand. The umpire had been trying to position Williams, but Edgar was left rubbing a sore head.

GOAL MUDDLE

IF you're in a football tipping competition and you selected the WAFL's leading goalkicker to post 78 majors for the season — don't count your winnings just yet! It seems as though Sharks sharp-shooter Neil Lester-Smith actually kicked 79 goals in the qualifying games. The WAFL's official records (as submitted by the clubs) says the Lester-Smith kicked five majors in the opening round (an incredible 22 weeks ago!) and not four, as was the media consensus. On that day Clinton Browning was credited with five, but the Sharks say that should have been four. It's taken a long time to solve that one, hasn't it?



NOT SO PRETTY

EAST Fremantle coach Graham Melrose is renowned for his grim looks — win or lose, there's seldom a smile. But he told listeners to the ABC Saturday morning sports show on 6WF that his looks didn't worry him. "Pretty people don't succeed," he said. "I'm in the game to win for East Fremantle and it doesn't bother me if I don't look pretty about it."

RUNNING HOT

THIS column has continually pointed out the folly of league team runners (and the many water-bottle carriers) getting in the road of the action. It's bad for football ... and we'll keep labouring the point till something's done about it. Did you notice that goal East Fremantle's Neil Lester-Smith kicked in the last quarter; the one that bounced about 15-metres before going through? Well, you must have noticed the Sharks trainer running alongside the ball clapping wildly. What would have happened if a Falcons defender had been running in from the behind the trainer in a bid to stop the bouncing ball? Let's leave the footy arena for footy players!

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THE HOOD

WA's most feared football critic



CHANGING NATURE

IF you don't believe that umpires decisions can change the result of a game, then here's yet another example of how wrong you can be. The West Perth-East Fremantle drawn first semi-final could easily have gone the way of the Falcons if umpire Grant Vernon hadn't badly erred in the second quarter. Sharks forward Clinton Browning man-handled Falcons defender Paul Mifka but, as is often the case, the umpire missed the first infringement, but spotted Mifka retaliating in a non-reportable manner. Vernon not only gave the unfortunate Mifka an unnecessary verbal dressing down (someone's going to knock an umpire senseless one day when they lecture players like that), but gave Browning an undeserved free kick, which resulted in a goal to team-mate Clinton Wolf.

TOUGH QUESTION

HERE'S an interesting question — though it seems a little pedantic. When West Perth's Darren O'Brien was stretchered off in the second quarter of Saturday's semi-final, his replacement Neil Jackson entered the field of play while the injured player was still five metres inside the boundary line. O'Brien returned to the field in the third term...and played a big part in the Falcons fightback. Should O'Brien have been allowed back?



MIXED MEMORIES

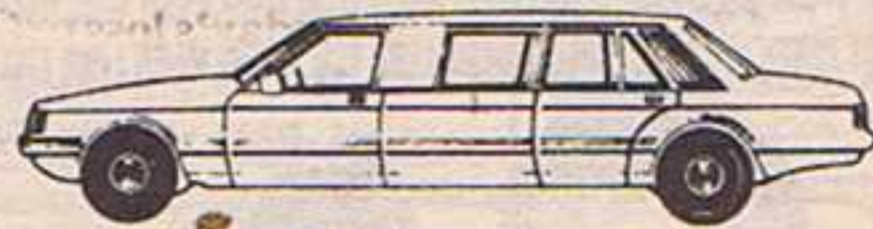
WEST Perth coach George Michalczyk gave his team a rousing talk at the three-quarter time break. He told them that in 10 years time they would look back on the game and remember one of two things — either for what they did or for what they could have done. While most Falcons will recall their brilliant fightback in the final term, defender Brad Gwilliam will live with the nightmare of Brian Peake's draw-snatching goal for East Fremantle. "He was my man," Gwilliam said after the game. "I will always look back and remember that mark. I was trying to get back when the ball dropped short to Peake. I just hope we win the replay."



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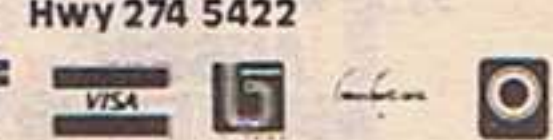
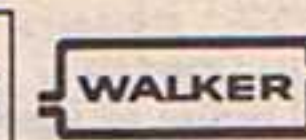
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Sumich, Jackson earn top rating

EAGLES pair Peter Sumich and Stevan Jackson are the best newcomers from Perth in this year's VFL competition.

While neither may rate in the VFL Rookie of the Year awards, because of their previous senior experience in Perth, both have been outstanding acquisitions.

Already they are carrying a heavy responsibility in the Eagles forward line.

It was significant that when both were firing in the second quarter against Collingwood, the Eagles played their best football of the year away from Subiaco Oval.

Sumich's marking and long kicking is devastating. He is the type of player capable of winning a Grand Final.

Jackson's athleticism is excellent. He snapped another brilliant left-foot goal in mid-match against the Magpies.

More muscle

He just needs to add more muscle to his frame to become even more valuable.

The pair's exploits slightly shade the

continuing excellent form of 1988 Sandover Medallist, the Brisbane Bears No. 1 rover David Bain.

Bain, 23, has defied his WA critics — especially those from the Eagles camp — who felt he would be too easily brushed aside at VFL senior level.

The former East Perth rover should win Brisbane's best and fairest award and could poll in the top 15 in the Brownlow.

Of the other WA newcomers in the VFL, Footscray's John Georgiades (ex-Subiaco) made the most impressive start with eight goals in his first game.

But six weeks later he was back in reserves football and stayed there until a knee injury ended his season prematurely.

Georgiades said he lost confidence after his excellent beginning and couldn't recapture the form which made him such a dangerous goalkicker in last year's WAFL finals.

Limited

Collingwood's Mark Bayliss (ex-South Fremantle), St Kilda's Ian Dargie (Subiaco), Fitzroy's Brad Edwards (Perth) and Geelong's Ray Sterrett (East Fremantle) all made limited appearances.

Sterrett's season ended early because of injury.

Two more Eagles, big-kicking Todd Breman (Subiaco) and ruckman Peter Higgins (Claremont), made an impression in their first year.

Breman was used across the half-back line late in the season and appeared to enjoy the challenge.

Several of the WA first-year players such as Claremont's Grant Povey (drafted by Carlton) failed to make the seniors.

Chris waits

CHRIS Mainwaring, one of five Eagles players invited to the Brownlow Medal count, has yet to sign a new contract for 1990.

VFL leading goalkickers

Jason Dunstall	Hawthorn	128.70
Tony Lockett	St Kilda	78.24
Richard Osborne	Fitzroy	68.43
Gavin Exell	Geelong	62.30
Gary Ablett	Geelong	60.38
Stephen Kernahan	Carlton	59.40
Brad Hardie	Bears	54.47
Brian Taylor	Collingwood	49.27
Peter Sumich	Eagles	45.28
Nicky Winmar	St Kilda	43.36
Robert Scott	Geelong	40.21
Stevan Jackson	Eagles	38.21
Bill Brownless	Geelong	36.27
Paul Roos	Fitzroy	36.16
Paul Salmon	Essendon	36.14
Jeff Hogg	Richmond	34.37
Simon Madden	Essendon	33.16
Dermott Brereton	Hawthorn	32.21
Peter Curran	Hawthorn	30.14
Barry Stoneham	Geelong	30.15

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

ON THE EAST COAST



The Eagles top two rookies of 1989... Peter Sumich (left) and Stevan Jackson

Todd on best behaviour

EAGLES co-coach for the day, pretty Angie Johnston, said she would jump at the chance of coaching the side again.

Angie paid \$300 at the Eagles' Melbourne auction for the opportunity of sitting next to coach John Todd and making one move.

She impressed everyone in the Eagles camp except Steve Malaxos, who Angie ordered from the ground during the final quarter.

Fellow members of the Eagles brains trust said Todd tempered his behaviour for the day, even during Collingwood's matchwinning 10-goal onslaught in the third quarter.

Angie was a big hit later in the Eagles rooms, especially with Chris Mainwaring, who she said was her favourite player.

Mainwaring was pictured kissing Angie on the cheek — but there's nothing more to it than that. Angie is engaged to a Melbourne man and will be married soon.

Wings clipped

PLANES permitting, the Eagles' trip away this year will be to Melbourne for the Grand Final.

Last year the Eagles spent 10 days in Hawaii, but the players' 1989 funds were depleted when they lost \$6000 after backing themselves at 3/1 to beat Fitzroy and were forced (by the VFL) to forfeit their winnings of \$8000 for beating Brisbane.

How WA players performed in VFL

	KICKS	MARKS	H/BALLS	SCORE
HAWTHORN				
Gary Buckenara	9	6	13	1.1
MELBOURNE				
Alan Johnson	14	3	3	—
Earl Spalding	17	6	7	0.1
NORTH MELBOURNE				
Mark Hepburn	5	3	10	0.1
Derek Kickett	4	2	3	—
ST KILDA				
Nicky Winmar	12	7	4	3.5
Ian Dargie	6	—	3	—
Paul Harding	1	2	4	—
SYDNEY SWANS				
Wayne Henwood	10	5	1	2.2
BRISBANE BEARS				
David Bain	17	8	6	1.0
John Gastev	9	4	12	1.2
Brad Hardie	17	6	5	7.5
Alex Ishchenko	4	5	3	—
Mark Zanotti	13	5	5	—
CARLTON				
Peter Sartori	5	6	3	1.1
COLLINGWOOD				
Michael Christian	9	7	8	—
Craig Starcevich	13	3	8	3.0
Brian Taylor	6	3	1	5.1
ESSENDON				
Bill Duckworth	15	10	10	1.0
Darren Bewick	12	7	8	2.0
FITZROY				
Brett Stephens	19	10	6	—
Wally Matera	14	2	8	0.2
GEELONG				
Mark Bairstow	18	7	22	1.2

Todd still full of confidence

YOU have to take your hat off to West Coast Eagles coach John Todd ... he's not lacking in confidence.

Todd's second season as coach of the West Coasters has come to an end on a disappointing note — and now his future is in the balance for the next five weeks or so.

Whether he gets re-appointed or not is the topic, but Todd says that he's definitely a candidate for next year.

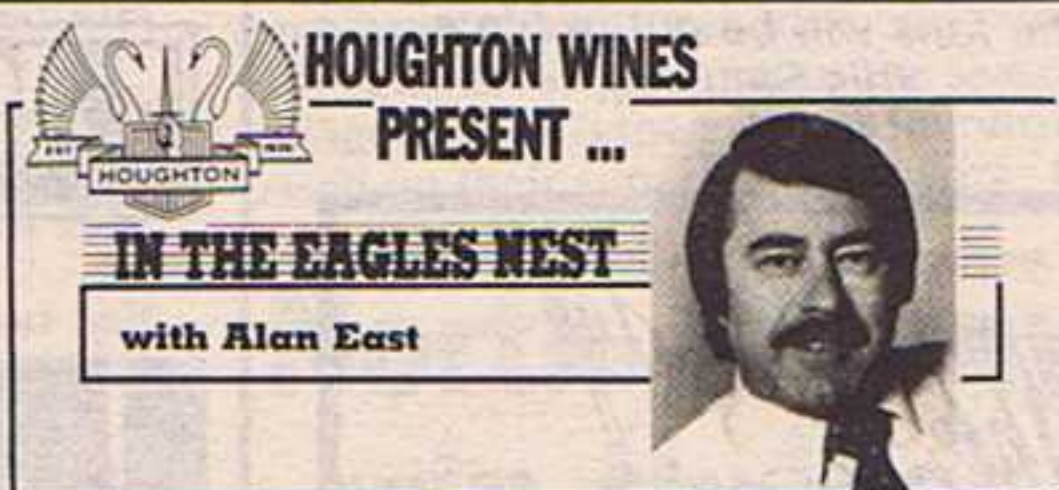
"I didn't think about quitting when we hit that trouble spot midway through the season," says Todd. "And I'm not going to quit now."

"But if I don't get the job next year, then that's footy. I've been around long enough to know that you have to ride with the bumps and I'll survive. I know I'm good enough to be a VFL coach, so I'm not going to jump off a bridge or anything."

Todd still believes strongly in the future of the Eagles and says that the players will be better for the experience of this year's disappointments.

Todd has maintained a stoic defence amidst growing speculation of who has his job next year.

"If I read and listened to the media speculation I'd end up a real fruit-cake," he said.



ROVING TARGETS

EAGLES forward (or maybe defender?) Karl Langdon suggests that dashing rovers Ben Allan (Claremont) and Brad Rowe (East Fremantle) are priority draft targets for the West Coasters.

Speaking on Channel 7 after Saturday's loss to Collingwood, Langdon suggested that the two players were "true rovers" and also included big Sharks forward Brad Tunbridge as a likely recruit.

FRIENDLY FOES

IT didn't look as though Eagles forward Chris Lewis and Collingwood's Heath Shepherd ended the 1989 qualifying season as the best of friends. Shepherd posted the Magpies 20th goal after the final siren, the result of a free kick imposed when Lewis decked him fairly hard. Judging by the action that Shepherd made towards Lewis as the ball sailed through for a goal, their first clash next year will be worth watching!



WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER WINE MAKER



WAFL MAKES THE RIGHT MOVE

SANITY has prevailed in the decision to play a double-header this Saturday to accommodate the drawn first semi-final in the WAFL.

While the WAFL could do with the extra money from another fixture, finance was really not the issue.

Neither was the call from second semi-final clubs, South Fremantle and Claremont, that they would be disadvantaged by having to wait another week — as it was initially planned — to play their game.

If you throw that into the arena, then the question can be posed ... what about the first semi-final winner.

If either West Perth or East Fremantle manage to make the grand final, then they will have played four weeks in a row to get there.

So they can toss up equal argument that they will be at a disadvantage.

Of the alternatives — putting back fixtures a week to accommodate the draw, have a double-header or play the first and second semi-finals on Saturday and Sunday this weekend — the double-header is the best alternative.

The move to play the grand final on a Sunday — even over a long weekend and the day after the VFL grand final — would not have greatly affected interest in the match.

In fact, it could have been advantageous. A long weekend could have attracted a bumper crowd as people would still have had Monday to do things.

The important consideration, in my opinion, is that the WAFL needs publicity.

The drawn first semi-final has been a big talking point. That interest, now that the Eagles are out of the competition, should be sustained this Saturday.

A lot of people who normally wouldn't bother to see these two teams play, will have had their appetites sharpened.

For many, the first semi-final was seen as possibly a one-sided encounter; East Fremantle were odds-on, in many eyes, to win.

That they are probably lucky to draw indicates that the replay should be a top game.

But having the bonus of a second semi-final on the same day should draw

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BENNETT'S BURST

By ROBERT BENNETT
of The Sunday Times



a huge crowd. And if that happens, then it has to be a big publicity bonus for the WAFL.

And that's what the local competition really needs at the moment.

It's been a long time since so little has separated four teams going into a WAFL final round.

Some fans probably believe that the Falcons were lucky to make the finals. Yet their form this season has been pretty good. The only team they have had trouble with are Claremont.

That they were able to beat South Fremantle and East Fremantle on their home territory is an indication that they are not finals pretenders.

In fact, twice in the last quarter last week they had East Fremantle on the ropes but could not put them away.

And, as the season has shown, there is very little between East Fremantle, South Fremantle and Claremont.

Each has posed a problem to the other during the season and it would be a brave man who could confidently predict which two teams will make the grand final, let alone win the premiership.

Saturday's double-header should throw some light on which are the best teams in the finals.

It will give spectators the opportunity to see all four on the same day, under the same conditions.

It promises to be a great day of football.

HOW THE EAGLES HAVE PERFORMED

	1989	1989	1989	1989
	Kicks	Marks	H/balls	Score
John Annear	170	49	57	6.4
Adrian Barich	102	23	52	2.4
Todd Brennan	151	51	61	10.14
Michael Brennan	148	49	52	2.4
Clinton Browning	25	12	6	5.1
Shane Cable	4	2	3	0.0
Joe Cormack	12	3	4	0.1
Shane Ellis	79	26	32	8.4
Richard Geary	1	1	2	0.0
David Hart	252	63	86	9.22
Peter Higgins	13	8	3	0.0
Don Holmes	38	11	13	5.3
Brent Hutton	33	19	8	0.1
Stevan Jackson	138	60	65	38.21
Laurie Keene	15	8	4	1.0
Dean Laidley	116	40	60	0.3
Dwayne Lamb	226	69	124	8.7
Karl Langdon	114	46	45	12.6
Chris Lewis	247	80	83	17.13
Andrew Lockyer	122	53	47	4.7
Andrew MacNish	60	31	40	9.8
Chris Mainwaring	340	95	140	3.22
Stephen Malaxos	177	5	100	7.8
Guy McKenna	184	113	184	1.1
Peter Melesso	11	12	6	1.1
Geoff Miles	165	71	70	12.5
David O'Connell	157	101	59	2.8
Paul Peos	47	25	19	1.7
Don Pyke	194	52	67	14.15
Murray Rance	140	69	87	1.3
Phil Scott	153	67	48	16.10
Peter Sumich	200	93	27	45.28
Craig Turley	127	39	43	7.15
Dean Turner	215	60	71	7.15
Troy Ugle	41	14	33	4.4
Chris Waterman	110	42	38	10.3
Scott Watters	35	7	20	3.0
John Worsfold	258	101	127	6.5

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INTERSTATE UPDATE

with RICHARD CAMM



Geelong set a new high

GEELONG became the highest-scoring team in VFL history, with a total of 2916 points for the qualifying rounds — but Hawthorn's percentage was the highest at the end of the qualifying rounds for 18 years.

The Hawks finished the 1971 season on top of the ladder, with a percentage of 153.7% — the last time that a team finished a season with a percentage of over 150%.

Geelong's percentage this year was surpassed only once between 1972 and 1988.

MELBOURNE became only the 13th team in VFL history to reach the finals after being outscored by their opposition over the course of the season.

The last team to end the season with a percentage of less than 100 and reach the finals was North Melbourne in 1987, with 99.4%.

Melbourne's percentage of 96.5% is the lowest by a team making the finals since Collingwood finished fifth in 1975 with 93.9%.

JASON Dunstall's 11-goal tally against St Kilda, his second double-figure tally for the year, was the seventh recorded during the 1989 VFL season.

The last time that more than four double-figure tallies were recorded was in 1972, when the feat was performed eight times, by five different players.

Tony Lockett also performed the feat twice during 1989, making this season the first year since 1971 that two players have each kicked 10 goals or more twice. In that year, Peter McKenna recorded four double-figure tallies and Peter Hudson kicked 10 or more three times.

JASON Dunstall's qualifying round tally of 128 goals is four higher than he recorded at the same stage of the 1988 season — and the highest recorded for 17 years.

In 1972, Peter McKenna kicked 130 goals in the qualifying rounds, as he had done the previous year. Hudson finished the home-and-away matches in 1971 with 140 goals, on his way to equalling Bob Pratt's record of 150 goals for the season.

PETER Melesso, recalled for the Eagles clash against Collingwood last Saturday, is the only player to have represented the Eagles in more than one game and not play in a winning side. Saturday's game was Melesso's second for the Eagles, after previously playing eight VFL games with St Kilda (seven) and Sydney Swans (one).

The only player to represent the Eagles in their three-year history, without being part of a winning team, is Glenn O'Loughlin, who played one game in 1987.



Peter Quill and Oral McGuire do battle

A classic duel on wings

THE battle on one of the wings last Saturday was a classic duel between two skilled footballers.

When you look at the stats of the two opponents — East Fremantle's Peter Quill and West Perth's Oral McGuire — you would say they played wide of each other.

Quill had 27 possessions and McGuire 26 and both were significant contributors for their sides.

Quill was always creating space for the defence to use him to carry the ball forward and his disposal was very accurate.

McGuire, whose second half was tremendous, played his best football in the fourth term. His desire to get the hard ball was terrific and he set up numerous attacking moves, both by hand and foot.

The replay should produce another great contest this week.



PUMA Presents...

IAN MILLER

Former VFL, WAFL star
Sandover Medalist and league coach

Bomber has cause to remember a big day

WELL done to Brian "Bomber" Peake on his 300th league appearance for East Fremantle.

The Bomber has achieved many personal rewards, a rather imposing record and three premierships to boot.

While I'm sure he would savour all his football memories, he will certainly long remember that historic first semi-final draw of 1989.

Peake's mark and goal under extreme pressure typifies his football style over the past 18 seasons — tough, relentless and skilful.

Peake's kick to draw the game not only created football history, but plenty of comment from football circles as to the restructuring of the remaining finals.

He's certainly a headline-grabber!

...and Craig's big night was well deserved

CRAIG Edwards was a deserving Sandover Medal winner — he's had an outstanding season.

The big ruckman has had a lot of pressure on him this season, after being runner-up in the Medal last year and then dominating all media awards.

Now that the Medal pressure is off, he can concentrate on leading the South Fremantle charge in the finals.

Claremont's Mark Brayshaw confirmed, with his runner's-up performance, that his football has really developed under Gerard Neesham.

Defender

He has emerged as a key defender with the ability to be switched into attack when needed.

Another aspect of the Sandover poll was the excellent voting of young stars like Brad Rowe, Peter Miller, Greg Turner, Andy Holmes, Dale Kickett, Willie Rioli and Garry Kemp.

Readers of my column last week would have been able to back the Sandover Medal quinella...if they could find a bookmaker!

Krakouer-jack that's for sure!

EAST Fremantle's electric rover Billy Krakouer was in superb touch last Saturday.

He displayed much of the famous Krakouer magic football skills so familiar from elder brothers Jim and Phil.

While Krakouer's skill was obvious near the goals (kicking four) he also worked hard around the ground to get the hand ball and then give it to a teammate.

It was a consistent four-quarter 30-possession effort, one that coach Graham Melrose will demand again this week in the replay.

Finally, we get the right option!

THE newly-formed WA Football Commission certainly found itself the centre of attention early this week over its arrangements to play Saturday's drawn first semi-final.

The WAFC deserves commendation for, at least, having the commonsense to change the decision — made in haste — to extend the football year by a week.

The Saturday decision to play the

grand final on Sunday, October 1 was clearly wrong.

It is difficult to satisfy everyone, but that was the third of three options available.

The basic decision should have been a choice of two options — the first to

play the second semi this Saturday and the first semi-final replay on Sunday or the second — the one they finally settled on — for a double header this Saturday.

Under their first choice, the second semi winner would have only played two games in five weeks — and that's not an ideal competitive preparation for a grand final.

Promotion

WAFL football is on a high and now the double-header can be promoted this week — and I'm sure the public will respond.

The Commission's argument that the first semi-final winner would have faced three tough games in three weeks holds no ground. Just look at the VFL final-five — Melbourne had to win four tough games in four weeks to get to last year's grand final.

There's no doubt that Saturday's double-header will see four classic teams in action — and it's well worth the admission price.

Falcons prove critics wrong

LIKE most football critics, I thought West Perth's winning run would be ended by East Fremantle last week.

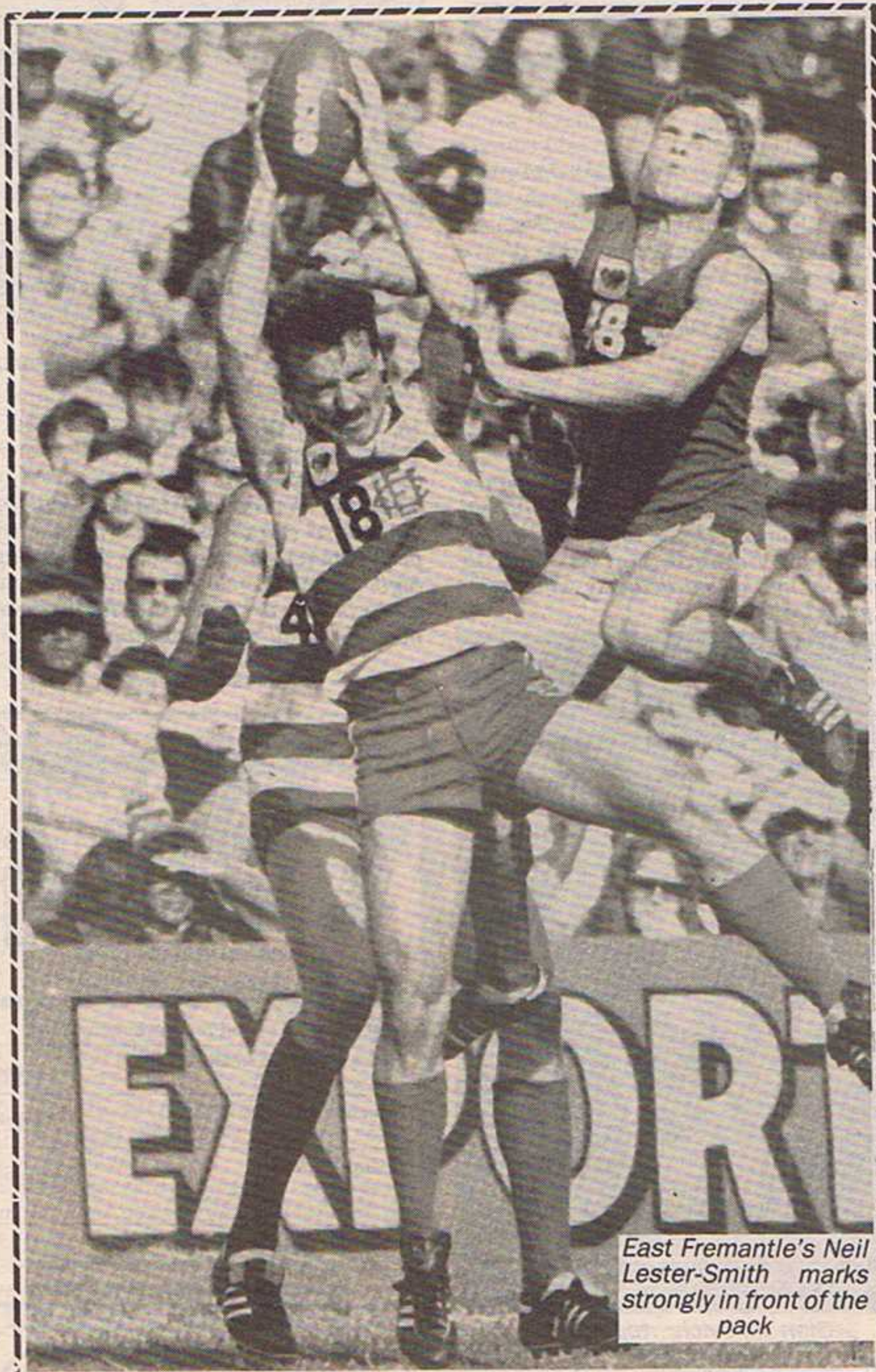
But the Falcons surge continues and it was obvious that coach George Michalczyk preferred both finals this week, because if West Perth win they would continue without a break — which would suit them.

I remember back to 1978 when East Perth were looking to win 10 games in succession to win a premiership and they set themselves for fourth spot like the Falcons did.

As it turned out, the Royals finished second with the double chance. But the week's break proved fruitless as Perth beat them in the second semi.

The Royals regrouped and won the next two games and the flag.

West Perth don't have that luxury, because there is no second chance, so maybe they would prefer to slog it out every week.



East Fremantle's Neil Lester-Smith marks strongly in front of the pack

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Bulldogs are right on target

EVERYTHING has gone according to plan at South Fremantle.

Pre-season, commander-in-chief Stan Magro and his players drew up a battle-plan blue-print for 1989 — their aim was to make the second semi-final.

Few people knew what to expect from the Bulldogs camp this year; they were something of a question mark.

They showed dramatic improvement to make the first semi-final last season — coming from the basement the previous year — but with some key young exciting players lost to the VFL, no-one knew if they could sustain their charge.

Football fans soon got their answer — South Fremantle were once again a force to be reckoned with.

Rugged style

Their rugged, running game was hard to match and they seldom looked like relinquishing their second spot behind Claremont.

Both Swan Districts and East Fremantle challenged them at different times of the season, but they withstood all the opposition.

The Bulldogs battles with Claremont and East Fremantle were classic confrontations. All six matches were in the balance almost until the final siren and though South were head-to-head 2-1 losers to both teams, they lost no friends and are not to be underestimated.

There are a lot of match-winners in this Port army. They need to be watched; given the slimmest of chances they will go in for the kill.



John MacDonald...reliable

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THE BULLDOGS ARMY



Derek Collard...hard-worker

THE GENERAL:

Magical veteran Maurice Rioli leads South Fremantle in both word and deed.

Inspirational is sometimes an over-used phrase, but even spectators get inspired when they see "Mr Magic" strut his stuff on a football field.

His skills rank with the greats and he has used them to tear teams apart.

Rioli has the knack of slipping out of packs with the ball, when there seemed to be no exit, or for drifting onto a flank unmarked.

Given space, or by allowing him to create it, the 32-year-old centreman brings his team-mates into the action and with the likes of this line-up, that spells danger.

THE LIEUTENANTS:

Craig Edwards has been another of Magro's match-winners.

The 1989 Sandover Medallist has dominated the WAFL competition this season, hence making him a huge contributor in most of South Fremantle's victories.

The 192cm Edwards uses his powerful 100kg frame to win the hit-outs at centre bouncings and around the ground.

And it is around the ground where he had been the most damaging.

South channel the ball through Edwards when they are rebounding from defence. He can mark under pressure and shows great agility in his movements to dispose of the ball to running players.

It is a simple game, but terribly effective.

Edwards is equally at home when "resting" in the forward line; he leads from full-forward like a barnstorming trooper going over the top and his shots are seldom off target.

Former skipper Brad Collard is another Bulldog star.

An outstanding wingman, Collard has speed and makes the best of his disposal.

At the same time he is not afraid to do the hard things and he displays magnificent leadership qualities. He knows how to motivate the junior and senior members of the team.

THE SERGEANTS:

Both Peter Matera and Ned Fimmano have emerged as classy performers this season and together with occasional West Coast Eagle Richard Geary

and rookie Willie Rioli work well as non-commissioned officers.

Matera confirmed his arrival as a top performer when he was the sole WAFL player selected in the State-of-Origin team earlier this year. He can ruck-rove, play in the centre or do what he likes best — kicking goals off a half-forward flank.

Fimmano has been a terrific contributor from half-back.

He is always in position early, which enables him to take strong marks. He has rarely been beaten all season and is great at rebounding the Bulldogs back into attack.

Geary and roving sensation Rioli make up a superb mobile team.

Both have outstanding individual skills, are quick to the bottom of packs and can kick snap goals.

THE INFANTRY:

There is a good mixture of big and small men in the platoon.

Dean Irving in the ruck, Matt Sambrailo at full-back, John MacDonald at centre-half-back and rookie Glen Jakovich in attack are a powerful quartet and few opponents get the better of Rob Solin.

Arthur Maskos, Derek Collard and Merv Dellar all take their turns at ruck-roving, while Peter Worsfold might be small, but he is rugged and mean and gives nothing away.

THE PLAYERS

1. WILLIE RIOLI

17yrs 165cm 67kg

Games played 20

The exciting rover forms a lethal on-ball combination with big Craig Edwards. With lightning pace and clever ball control the younger brother of Mr Magic, Maurice Rioli, is a key member of South Fremantle's premiership hopes. Can kick telling goals from long distances.

2. DEAN IRVING

22yrs 200cm 95kg

Games played 4

Now fully recovered from a groin injury that threatened his career, the skilful big man provides the back-up to No.1 ruckman Craig Edwards. Has an ability to take big marks, particularly while resting up forward.



Glen Jakovich...top rookie

3. MERV DELLAR

22yrs 177cm 79kg

Games played 48

Has recovered from a shocking run of knee problems to be one of the many hard-working followers in the Bulldogs side. Caps his game off with handy goals when resting on the forward line.

4. ARTHUR MASKOS

24yrs 177cm 88kg

Games played 54

Has proven the critics wrong after struggling to be a regular league player. Shares the ruck-roving responsibilities with Merv Dellar and is often at the base of the pack seeking the ball.

5. GREG TURNER

17yrs 177cm 70kg

Games played 17

A classy winger with explosive pace and clever ball skills. Disposal either by hand or foot is generally spot-on and has the ability to take timely overhead marks. The 1989 Teal Cup captain displays defensive skills beyond his years.

6. MAURICE RIOLI

32yrs 172cm 76kg

Games played 150*

A Fremantle legend and the winner of big-game Simpson and Norm Smith Medals; he will play a key role in the Bulldogs premiership drive with his masterly football from the centre of the ground.

7. PETER MATERA

20yrs 180cm 80kg

Games played 52

His explosive pace and skills off a half-forward flank could prove one of the major factors in winning the premiership for South. Can break open an opposing defence with his speed and tops his game with timely goals.

8. RICHARD GEARY

25yrs 183cm 80kg

Games played 35*

Working in tandem with Peter Matera across the half-forward line, the former VFL player looms as a danger-man in the finals series. Likes kicking goals and has precise disposal skills.

10. CRAIG EDWARDS

27yrs 192cm 100kg

Games played 102*

The 1989 Sandover Medallist will be looking to cap a fine year with quality performances in the finals. His strong high marking, clever hand-ball and astute body work in the ruck looms as an obstacle to all opposing finals sides.

Continued next page

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• Continued from page 10



Arthur Maskos...ruck-rover

14. CLIFF COLLARD

21yrs 169cm 76kg
Games played 76

Tough and unyielding as a ruck-rover or out of a back pocket; loves teaming up with his two brothers. Faces an injury battle.

16. DEREK COLLARD

22yrs 164cm 66kg
Games played 45

Sharing the roving with Willie Rioli, the middle brother of the Collard trio has developed a reputation for being tough and aggressive. His ball-getting skills, particularly around the goals, will be a key factor.

18. PETER WORSFOLD

19yrs 172cm 76kg
Games played 35

Aggressive and versatile player who can be used in a variety of positions. Suffered a mid-season slump in form to recover in time to be an important factor in South Fremantle's finals campaign. Has sound ball skills and can kick handy goals when used across the full-forward line.

19. MATT SAMBRAILO

24yrs 191cm 90kg
Games played 26

Has beaten adversity to become an important ingredient in South Fremantle's premiership plans after a series of injuries threatened to end his career. One of the many versatile big men in the Souths line-up.

23. GRAHAM KICKETT

29yrs 177cm 73kg
Games played 29*

An exciting mid-fielder who could get his opportunity in the finals with the injury to Cliff Collard. As a member of East Fremantle's 1979 premiership side, his experience in the finals series will be invaluable.

24. PAUL WILSON

25yrs 183cm 85kg
Games played 13

A strong overhead mark who can convert goals from outside the 50-metre line. Is a creative key forward who employs clever handball to open up play as the team surges into attack.

27. GLEN JAKOVICH

16yrs 192cm 91kg
Games played 18

A raw, inexperienced forward who will be shielded carefully by coach Stan Magro. With uncanny goal sense and an aggressive, positive approach to the game, he could be used in short bursts for the benefit of his development, adding versatility to the Bulldogs' forward zone.

29. ROBERT SOLIN

32yrs 183cm 83kg
Games played 20*

Cool in a crisis and experienced in the pressure cooker atmosphere of finals. Was a member of East Fremantle's 1985 premiership side. His carefully disguised aggression and astute defensive skills makes him a tough opponent for any forward and he seldom makes a mistake in disposal.

35. BRAD COLLARD

24yrs 170cm 69kg
Games played 91

A tigerish mid-fielder with exciting pace and clever disposal skills. The former Bulldogs captain is a dangerman whether playing mid-field or taking the occasional run on the ball.



Matt Sambrailo...fit again

39. JOHN MacDONALD

24yrs 183cm 75kg
Games played 65

A confident half-back who is always willing to run down the ground to create play for his forwards. Has excellent spoiling skills and can also take a timely mark to repel opposition forward thrusts.

41. DEAN NALDER

23yrs 193cm 94kg
Games played 16

Another of the classy big men at South who gets his finals chances after battling injury all season. Takes a strong overhead mark and can be used in the ruck.

46. NED FIMMANO

24yrs 185cm 83kg
Games played 40

Has developed into one of the most reliable defenders in the league this year with his consistent displays of tidy defensive skills from the half-back line. Is a key member in the Souths side with his neat disposal and aggressive approach to winning possession.

48. MARK RYDER

21yrs 176cm 74kg
Games played 2

One of the emerging young Bulldogs stars who did well in his recent debut. Can rove or fill a defensive role.

50. TROY WILSON

24yrs 183cm 76kg
Games played 24

Tough, hard-working defender with the ability to take strong overhead marks. Can also be used in a ruck-roving role with his enormous stamina.

51. DEAN WILSON

19yrs 172cm 76kg
Games played 36

Has struggled for a regular league berth this year, but provides excellent back-up to the Bulldogs defensive unit. Could get his chance if Ned Fimmano fails to prove his fitness for the finals.

54. CHRIS POBJOY

21yrs 175cm 72kg
Games played 4

A skilful rover who has been forced to wait in the shadow of Willie Rioli and Derek Collard. Has a liking for hard work and is clever around the goals.

15. RICHARD LYNCH

28yrs 177cm 70kg
Games played 64

Battled through early-season injury troubles to force his way back into the seniors. Is one of the back-up staff who could slot neatly into a midfield role if injury forces late changes.

Games-played tallies are current WAFL clubs only. Asterisk (*) denotes games with other clubs as follows: Craig Edwards 73 East Perth; Graham Kickett 37 East Fremantle; Robert Solin 75 East Fremantle, 42 East Perth; Dean Wilson 24 Subiaco; Maurice Rioli 118 Richmond; Richard Geary 2 Eagles, 18 Richmond.

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Peter Matera...goalkicker

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EMU EXPORT LAGER

Tigers stand tall at the top

FOOTBALL fans have witnessed another chapter in the amazing Claremont story this season.

The Tigers have been under constant siege from Victorian clubs this decade, losing enough stars to field an entire VFL team.

But Claremont have continued to be a force in the WAFL and, in 1989, doubly so.

Commander-in-chief and team general Gerard Neesham started the year without battle-hardened professionals in some key positions. In fact, he was forced to call on several recruits with no experience in top flight football.

Untried

They were good; but they were untried. The question was — would they develop in time for the Tigers to continue their finals run of recent seasons.

But the General quickly turned his boys into men and Claremont went straight to the top of the premiership table and never looked back.

Now they are about to embark on their biggest campaign — the premiership itself.

Neesham's team is deadly. They run the ball quickly and they have their on-field leaders.

THE TIGERS ARMY



John Scott...great defender



Scott Rowland...top recruit

THE GENERAL:

Claremont perform at their best when Neesham is on the field directing the play.

He is one of the game's most astute leaders and knows how to get the best from his players.

At 34 years of age, The General, as he has been tagged throughout his playing career, still has the capacity to dominate a game.

He has great finesse and is a superb tactician. Neesham's best attribute is undoubtedly his ability to put these assets into gear quicker than his opponents.

THE LIEUTENANTS:

As far as lieutenants go, there are few better 2IC's in the WAFL than Tigers duo Peter Thorne and Ben Allan.

Thorne and Allan are terrific ball players and thinkers; a dynamic duo, they both have lightning-fast reflexes; read the ball well off hands and fire bullet-like handpasses to team-mates before desperate opponents can close them down.

Their foot passing is equally efficient and both are considered lethal when in striking distance of goal.

THE SERGEANTS:

While the Tigers small men do the midfield leg work, they look to centre-half-back Mark Brayshaw, ruckman Peter Higgins, full-back John Scott and centre-half-forward Peter Mann to win the big aerial battles.

In some ways 1989 was a make-or-break season for Brayshaw. He had not been able to establish himself in the side since making his debut in 1984 and with all the talent on offer at his club, he could not afford to waste any more time.

Brayshaw is now regarded as one of the WAFL's best key-position players and his second-placing to South Fremantle's Craig Edwards in the Sandover Medal confirms his arrival.

The defender has dominated across the half-back line all season, combining well with troopers Brian Beresford, Tony Begovich, Cam Lewis and Scott.

Captain Scott is the ideal leader. A proven player at both ends of the field, he is cool under pressure, but has the necessary aggression to tackle the toughest of situations.

High-leaper

Higgins was drafted as the West Coast Eagles third ruckman this season and there is no doubting his ability in the leaping department.

A powerful 190cms, his duel with Edwards will be significant to the outcome of this game.

Mann is one of the raw recruits who Neesham blooded. He figured in the first 20 qualifying rounds and is one of the rookies of 1989.

Tall and mobile, Mann has created huge inroads into opposition defences. He takes the big marks and knows where the tall sticks are.

THE INFANTRY:

There is no shortage of back-up for the stars at Claremont.

Big Peter Melesso will start in the backline and will certainly pick up the Sandover Medallist when he takes his rest.

East Fremantle recruit Scott Rowland will share Thorne's ruck-roving duties, Mark Hann will create from a wing and with Brendon Barrows, Kevin Mitchell and Dale Kickett in the forward line, they look a formidable combination.

Highly skilled rookie rover Tony Evans is another possible dangerman.



Tony Begovich...real dasher

THE PLAYERS

1. SCOTT ROWLAND

25yrs 185cm 82kg
Games played 8*

An experienced big game player who likes the tough going. Is an important cog in the Tigers mid-field machine.

2. PETER THORNE

28yrs 178cm 68kg
Games played 91*

The catalyst in many Tigers mid-field moves. The Tigers' No. 1 rover who regularly collects in excess of 30 possessions and tops his game with handy goals while resting up forward.

5. BRIAN SUTHERLAND

20yrs 178cm 75kg
Games played 37

Has had a disappointing season, riddled with injury problems. A live-wire forward who can also be used across the centre and on the ball.

6. JEREMY GUARD

19yrs 180cm 72kg
Games played 12

One of the many promising young players in the Tigers den. A versatile midfielder with a liking for hard work. Has creative skills and can play in a variety of positions.

7. BEN ALLAN

20yrs 183cm 76kg
Games played 60

A young footballer of sheer class. Is one of the key movers in the Claremont mid-field and is a crucial linkman in the Tigers tidy pattern of play from defence into attack.

8. SCOTT EDWARDS

20yrs 179cm 75kg
Games played 29

A tough, rover-centreliner with neat skills and explosive pace.

9. BRIAN BERESFORD

21yrs 180cm 83kg
Games played 26

An under-rated defender who uses the ball cleanly coming from the half-back or full-back line. Has turned in many fine performances this season and blends in well as a member of the efficient Claremont defence.

11. GERARD NEESHAM

34yrs 173cm 79kg
Games played 39*

The master coach. In his third season with the Tigers and his third successive second semi-final. Is the general to Claremont's mid-field play with his clever and deft ball control, body use and astute coaching qualities. When the Tigers coach is on the field, Claremont look a better side.

12. TONY BEGOVICH

22yrs 180cm 83kg
Games played 67

• Continued page 13

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• Continued from page 12



Dale Kickett and Brendan Barrows

Has developed into one of the State's most accomplished defenders. Is not afraid to run off his half-back line to create play up field and has an excellent long-kicking capacity which creates play for his forwards.

13. TONY BEERS

26yrs 187cm 84kg
Games played 91*

The powerfully-built former Tigers captain has recovered from a crippling knee injury that delayed his start to the season. Can be used as a key forward or defender and his experience in big games is invaluable to Claremont's premiership hopes.

14. DALE KICKETT

21yrs 179cm 68kg
Games played 32

One of the most exciting young players in the WAFL. Has explosive pace, deft skills and a capacity to win a game from his own boot. Will be difficult for any opponent to beat and a player to be watched by his opposition.

16. JULIAN URQUHART

21yrs 180cm 73kg
Games played 28

Has battled for a regular league berth with the quality of talented mid-fielders in the Claremont camp. Is an ideal back-up player who has exciting skills and pace.

17. CAM LEWIS

28yrs 180cm 75kg
Games played 68

One of the unsung heroes of the efficient Tigers back line. An experienced and tough finals campaigner, the ageing half-back is a lynchpin to the Tigers precise use of the ball from defence through the middle of the ground and into attack.

19. PETER HIGGINS

22yrs 198cm 90kg
Games played 33*

Has one of the game's most unenviable tasks in his contest with 1989 Sandover Medallist Craig Edwards. The tough and aggressive big man has had a mixed season with injury and suspension, but will be anxious to retain his West Coast Eagles contract for next season with a series of polished finals performances.

20. PETER MELESSO

27yrs 193cm 95kg
Games played 54*

One of the game's toughest big men. Can play in defence, where he took the mark of the football year for the Eagles last week against Collingwood at Victoria Park, or in defence. Kicked nine goals in the first half of last year's second semi-final as a full-forward and can be used in the ruck. A vital member of Claremont's talented side.

22. NEIL PARK

27yrs 183cm 81kg
Games played 43*

A hard-working mid-fielder or defender. A feature of his game is tackling and clever use of hand-ball to open up opportunities for his teammates.

23. ROB FITZGERALD

20yrs 193cm 78kg
Games played 9

The back-up ruckman to big Peter Higgins. Has limited finals experience, but is tipped to develop into a fine ruckman.

24. JOHN SCOTT

28yrs 185cm 84kg
Games played 104*

The Tigers captain initiates many of his side's successful forward thrusts with his slick use of the football from deep in defence to his mid-field running players. His long, accurate kicking from deep in the backline is a feature and often catches the opposition out.

25. PETER MANN

18yrs 193cm 86kg
Games played 20

A class big man who is on the recruiting list of many VFL clubs, including the Eagles. For a player so young and inexperienced, to be such a key member of his side's premiership hopes indicates the quality of the key forward's football and his enormous potential for success.

26. DEAN FARMER

25yrs 193cm 94kg
Games played 30*

Has forced his way into contention with many top performances in the reserves in recent weeks. A strong player overhead, the curly-haired big man can be used as a key forward or in the ruck.

27. MAL THOMSON

24yrs 189cm 87kg
Games played 34

Suffered a cruel blow to his finals hopes with a serious ankle injury in the last qualifying reserves match of the season. The talented left-footer is another of the many back-up big men at Claremont.

28. TONY EVANS

20yrs 178cm 75kg
Games played 19

Has developed this year into one of the most reliable and talented rovers in the WAFL. Adds pace, courage and goal-kicking flair to the Tigers roving division and could be a match-winner.

29. KEVIN MITCHELL

26yrs 180cm 75kg
Games played 14

Likes taking big marks and capping his game with exciting goals. Is an exciting half-forward who can also be used on the ball or in the centre. Has very quick hand-ball skills which opens play for his fellow forwards.

31. BRENDAN BARROWS

18yrs 180cm 77kg
Games played 18

Another of the many skilful youngsters at Claremont. A creative forward who tops his game with uncanny goals which can break the morale of his opposition.

32. MARK HANN

26yrs 176cm 68kg
Games played 86

A pacy winger who was under close scrutiny from the WA selectors for this year's State-of-Origin match. Missed the last month of the season with a serious shoulder injury that could force him to miss the finals.

39. PETER OWENS

23yrs 193cm 85kg
Games played 53

Has battled all season to overcome major surgery to his left shoulder. When fully fit, is a talented and reliable defender with astute judgement in a crisis.

41. BRAD SMITH

19yrs 183cm 79kg
Games played 2

Made his second league appearance in the last qualifying game of the season against East Fremantle and showed tremendous courage and tackling skills. Is best suited to a half-back-flank, but can be used as a follower or a half-forward.

44. MARK BRAYSHAW

22yrs 187cm 85kg
Games played 61

The dashing, high-flying runner-up to the 1989 Sandover Medal. Can take classic big marks or decide at the crucial last moment to spoil his opponent. Creates many successful Claremont forward moves with his polished and attacking style from defence.

50. RYAN TURNBULL

18yrs 188cm 84kg
Games played 8

One of the most promising big men in the game. The talented teenager can be used as a key forward or in the ruck. Has the capacity to hold classy overhead marks when at full pace, a skill foreign to even some of the more highly rated and experienced big men in the WAFL.

3. PETER JAMES

21yrs 179cm 78kg
Games played 29

A tough and hard-working follower who has demonstrated a versatility that makes him a vital member of the Tigers plans. Coach Neesham doesn't often employ tagging tactics to opposition sides, but James is the ideal player should the Tigers boss look for a 'stopper'.

Games-played tallies are for current club only. Asterisk (*) denotes games with other clubs as follows: Scott Rowland 74 East Fremantle; Peter Higgins 4 Eagles; Peter Melesso 9 Eagles; Dean Farmer 21 Perth; Gerard Neesham 97 Swan Districts, 9 Sydney Swans, 79 East Fremantle; John Scott 73 East Perth; Peter Thorne 27 Melbourne, 34 East Perth; Tony Beers 7 Collingwood; Neil Park 3 St Kilda.



Mark Brayshaw...big improver

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Medal winners all



Medal men... (from left) Graham Ralph, Craig Edwards, David Ham and Adam Clark

Royals winner in reserves

DASHING East Perth ruckman Adam Clark polled 25 votes to win the Prendergast Medal for the fairest and best player in the Prime Reserves competition.

He finished one vote clear of Perth's Tony Tomizzi (who won last year's award) and South Fremantle's Chris Pobjoy, who tied on 24.

East Fremantle rover Dean Cole finished behind the trio on 22 votes.

Medal shared in under-19s

THE tight competition experienced in this season's under-19s competition was taken a step further with a tie in the Medallists Medal for the competition's fairest and best player.

Claremont's David Ham and East Fremantle's Graham Ralph tied on 46 votes, with no countback system being used to separate them.

Though their teams failed to make the finals, both players were worthy recipients of the prestigious award announced at Monday's Sandover Medal count.

Ham is a pint-sized rover who makes up for what he lacks in stature with courage and is following in his father Brian's footsteps at Claremont, where he played 17 league games in the early 1960s.

Ralph, who comes from Bindi-Miling in the Central Midlands League, worked hard with the Sharks league squad over summer to earn himself a regular spot in the centre.

Ralph also captained Aquinas College to a CIG Shield win in 1985.

Subiaco's Tony Godden finished five votes behind the pair on 41.

Sandover Medal 1989

THE TOP TEN

Craig Edwards (SF)	5,5,5,5,4,4,4,3,2,1,1	39
Mark Brayshaw (C)	5,5,5,4,4,3,3,3,2,2	36
Peter Thorne (C)	5,5,5,4,4,3,3,2,2,2	35
*Gary Kemp (S)	5,5,5,4,4,3,3,2,1	32
Ben Allan (C)	5,5,4,4,4,3,3,2	30
Brad McDougall (S)	5,5,4,4,3,3,2,2,1,1	30
Bradley Rowe (EF)	5,5,5,4,3,3	25
Paul Hasler (WP)	5,5,5,3,2,2,1,1,1	25
Stephen Edgar (EF)	5,5,4,4,3,2,1	24
Craig Nelson (WP)	5,5,5,3,3,1,1	23

CLUB TALLIES

CLAREMONT (19 players, 207 votes) — Mark Brayshaw 36, Peter Thorne 35, Ben Allan 30, Mark Hann 20, *Dale Kickett 16, Tony Begovich 14, Kevin Mitchell 11, *Gerard Neesham 7, Brian Beresford 6, Jeremy Guard 6, Scott Edwards 4, Tony Evans 4, Scott Rowland 4, Julian Urquhart 4, Rob Fitzgerald 3, Neil Park 3, Brendan Barrows 2, *Peter Melesso 1, John Scott 1.

EAST FREMANTLE (24 players — 198 votes) — Brad Rowe 25, Stephen Edgar 24, John O'Sullivan 21, Shane Ellis 13, Billy Krakouer 13, George Christie 12, Lance Durack 9, Revis Ryder 9, Brad Tunbridge 8, Jon Derecourt 7, Peter Quill 7, Craig Maclean 6, Dean Cole 5, Eric Cooper 5, Chris Waterman 5, David Rowe 5, Robbie Weber 4, Clinton Wolf 4, Clinton Browning 3, Darren Hammond 3, Neil Lester-Smith 3, Brian Peake 3, Michael Broadbridge 2.

EAST PERTH (16 players — 107 votes) — Peter Miller 20, Peter Cransberg 17, Mal Bennett 11, George Giannakis 10, Glent Bartlett 10, Paul Peos 7, *Lloyd Haskett 6, Andrew Embry 5, Nicky Yarran 4, Lucio Baroni 3, *Wayne Dawson 3, Dean Turner 3, Dean Bertram 2, Gavin Hawkins 2, Eric Maroni 2, Ken Seymour 2, Nicky Yarran 4.

PERTH (16 players — 99 votes) — John Clarkson 14, Mark Watson 13, Adrian Barich 11, Jeff Moore 10, Kim Fancote 8, Joe Santostefano 8, Warren Mahoney 7, Wayne Ryder 7, John Gavaranch 5, Tony Papotto 5, Todd Jenkins 4, Shane Cable 2, Merv Kelly 2, Willie Dick 1, *Gavin Whittington 1, John Zaikos 1.

SOUTH FREMANTLE (26 players — 198 votes) — Craig Edwards 39, Greg Turner 18, Willie Rioli 17, Peter Matera 16, Richard Geary 14, Maurice Rioli 14, Cliff Collard 11, John Ditchburn 7, Brad Collard 6, Glen Jakovich 6, Ned Fimmano 5, Stevan Jackson 5, John MacDonald 5, Peter Worsfold 5, Derek Collard 5, Derek Collard 4, Matt Sambrailo 4, Doug Gibb 3, Steven Grant 3, David Hart 3, Mark Sambrailo 3, Troy Wilson 3, *Dean Irving 2, Arthur Maskos 2, Merv Dellar 1, Damien Lebeck 1, Paul Wilson 1.

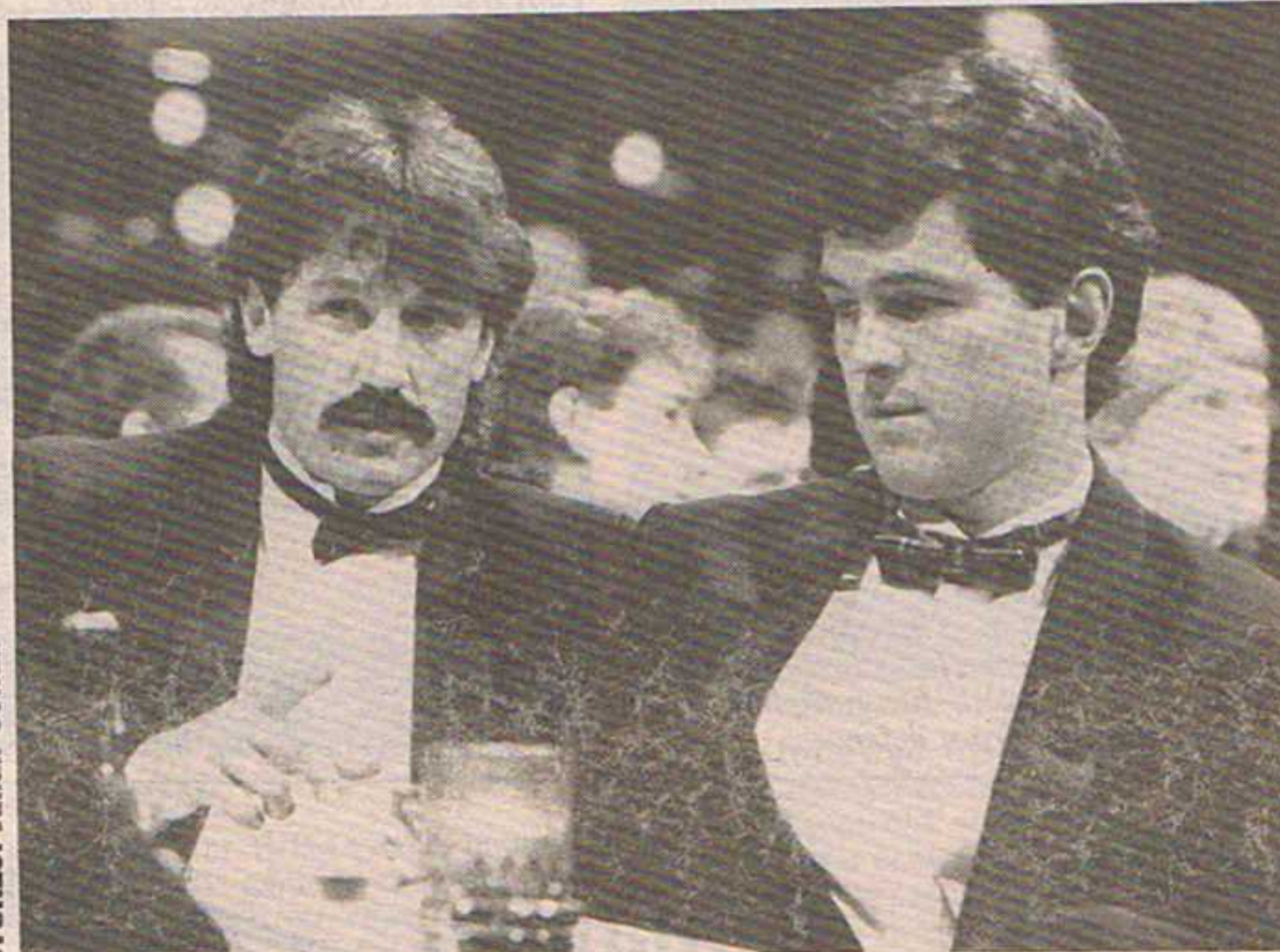
SUBIACO (16 players — 140 votes) — *Garry Kemp 32, Brad McDougall 30, Clinton Brown 13, Dean Kemp 13, Mick Lee 10, Andrew Brice 7, Brett Heady 7, Tony Cope 5, Karl Langdon 5, Greg Carpenter 4, Graham Jones 4, Brian Taylor 4, Shane Cocker 2, Neil Taylor 2, Paul Cox 1, Stephen Lester 1.

SWAN DISTRICTS (20 players — 150 votes) — Andrew Holmes 20, Mick Grasso 17, Todd Menegola 13, *Andrew Partington 12, Ken Bell 11, Peter Hodyl 11, Len Gandini 8, Brendan Retzlaff 7, Shaun Davey 6, Greg Jones 6, Brad Shine 6, Greg Walker 6, Rod O'Neil 5, *Geoff Passeri 5, Troy Ugle 5, Michael Hastie 4, Steve Bazzo 3, *Danny Penny 3, Joe Cormack 1, Bob DeGraff 1.

WEST PERTH (19 players — 161 votes) — Paul Hasler 25, Craig Nelson 23, Peter Menaglio 19, Malcolm Williams 13, Darren O'Brien 13, *Wayne Dayman 10, Sean King 10, Neil Jackson 7, Craig Turley 7, Jon Riggs 5, David Ross 5, Garry Holden 4, Dean Laidley 4, Oral McGuire 4, Nathan Higgins 3, Gavin Howlett 3, *Dennis Repacholi 3, Brad Gwilliam 2, Steven Bradmore 1.

*Ineligible

PICTURES: Julian Cowan



Tigers pair Peter Thorne (left) and Mark Brayshaw ... had to accept minor placings.

Congratulations to **CRAIG EDWARDS**

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Craig Edwards and Sandover Medal donor Robin Sandover



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

Well done Craig Edwards

In our game of football, There are many we applaud, But never more so than when One wins our highest award.

The winning of a Sandover is something hard to perceive, The esteem in which it's held Makes it so hard to achieve.

In a list of Sandover winners From past to present date, Cable, Farmer, Bairstow, Marsh and Michael must rate.

Congratulations to Craig Edwards For winning this year's race, Certainly a popular choice After last year's second place.

Craig has won something That few people ever do And I'm sure to cap the season He'd like a premierships too.



CONGRATULATIONS TO CRAIG EDWARDS ON WINNING THE 1989 SANDOVER MEDAL FROM THE DIRECTORS, MEMBERS, PLAYERS AND THE MANY SUPPORTERS OF THE SOUTH FREMANTLE FOOTBALL CLUB.





MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE EAST FREMANTLE FOOTBALL CLUB

Salutes Brian Peake for his contribution to football in this state.



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Peake the hero...once again

HERO status....that's what Brian Peake was afforded on Saturday night — yet again.

There have been many times in the illustrious career of the veteran that he has been the hero of a game — but never before has he drawn a match for his club.

East Fremantle fans were well-

pleased when their favourite son marked strongly and lined up on goal, trailing by six points with less than a minute remaining.

Peake wasn't kidding after the game when he said that 300 games of experience went into that straight kick; he's always been a big-game player and Saturday's drawn first semi-final was no exception.

A lot of people have paid tribute to Peake in the last week as he approached the triple-century of games with the Sharks (not forgetting his 66 VFL games with Geelong).

Satisfying

But for the 35-year-old plumber, there was nothing more satisfying than to be able to save the game for his club.

"I'm glad that I came back on," said Peake, who had been spelled on the interchange bench for just 90-seconds late in the last quarter.

"It's a pity it couldn't have been the winning goal; we have to go through it all again now."

It's a game Peake will long remember....among the many other outstanding performances in his 18-year career.

Tributes to the Bomber

MANY of WA's eminent football critics paid tribute to Brian Peake this week on his reaching 300 club games with East Fremantle.

Here are some comments:

Ron Alexander (former East Fremantle coach):

He was always an easy player to coach because he was so single-minded and knew exactly what he wanted to achieve.

Peake was extremely professional; he did everything required of a top sportsman in terms of looking after himself.

One of his greatest attributes is his strong marking ability; he has a great pair of hands, as was evidenced in that last mark on Saturday.

Victorian fans didn't see the best of Peake. He was given such a publicity build-up that it was real tough for him; even his coach at Geelong gave him a tough time, playing him on a half-back flank and so forth.

Peake is a great example of how to be a champion.

Geoff Christian (football writer and commentator):

Brian Peake represents the epitomy of an Australian football champion.

He has all the qualities required to not only get to the top of his sport, but to stay there.

There are two Peake highlights for me; both playing for Western Australia.

The first was the 1979 Australian championships in Perth, the inaugural State-of-Origin carnival when he captained the side to victory with an outstanding game against Victoria.

The second was five years later when he played at full-forward against Victoria and kicked seven goals.

They were marvellous displays of football.

Ron Buckley (Umpires Coach and former top WAFL field umpire):

Brian Peake has been an ornament to the game; a player that everyone can look up to.

From an umpiring point of view, he was a player you didn't need to watch; he played the game tough, but fair.

He's a player certainly worthy of being labelled as a football great.

Percy Johnson (East Fremantle stalwart and media personality):

He is the greatest player to play for Australia's greatest club.

There's no doubt that he has been East Fremantle's most skilled performer; he's got tremendous marking hands and is a player that the younger team members absolutely look up to.

I remember his junior days; even at school he loved football and was a good runner actually. His debut days back in 1972 saw him play on a half-back flank a bit and he was very quick and fully committed with his body.

John McGrath (sports editor of The West Australian and long-time East Fremantle fan):

He is one of the most durable players that this State has produced.

His stint in Victoria didn't do him justice, but he could still return home and establish himself as a truly great player. There was no better man in the game to take that last kick for goal on Saturday.

Harry Morgan (Former East Fremantle and WAFL president):

Brian Peake has made a magnificent contribution to our game, especially the East Fremantle Football Club.

He would always attend club functions and played a major part in club activities. His performances on the field speak for themselves.

Vincent Yovich (Former Perth and WAFL president and current National Football League chairman):

He is undoubtedly one of the greatest players I've seen in football.

His State matches for Western Australia have been memorable and I can recall one outstanding game at Football Park, in Melbourne, when he played on and beat Keith Greig on a wing.

Mal Brown (former player, coach and administrator):

When you consider his size and the number of games he has played, his performance has been phenomenal.

Victoria never saw the best of him; they didn't allow him to play anywhere near his best.



A pre-match massage to get the muscles working....that's 300-gamer Brian Peake with trainer Keith Grundish



The West Australian paid tribute to Brian Peake on his 300th game with this back page caricature by cartoonist Don Lindsay



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MAGIC MOMENTS



Four significant presentations in Brian Peake's football career.

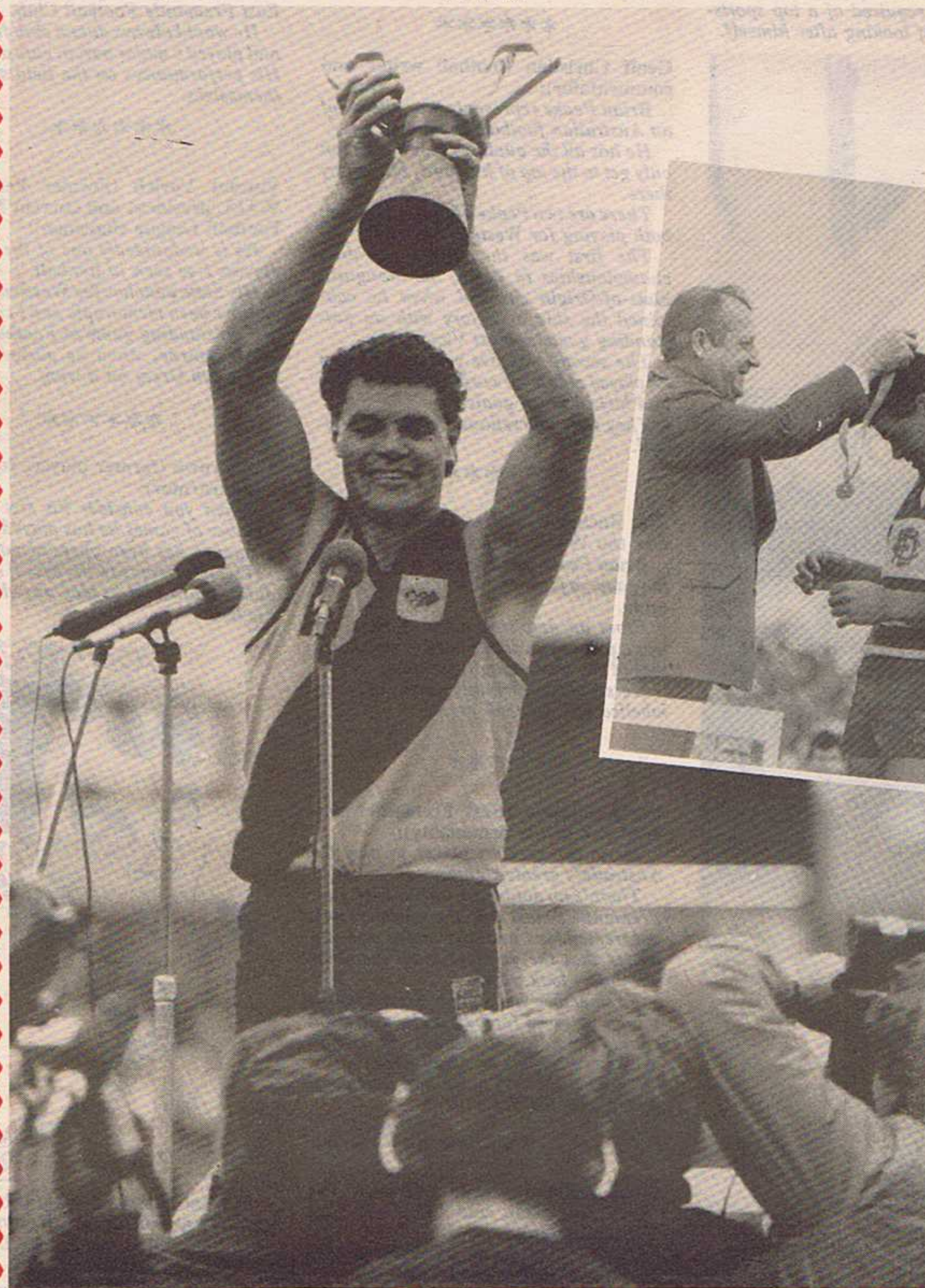
LEFT: His 1977 Sandover Medal — complete with a broken wrist that kept him out of the finals.

RIGHT: His Tassie Medal for the fairest and best at the Australian championships in Perth in 1979



BELOW RIGHT: It's 1985 and WAFL president Vincent Yovich hangs the premiership medallion around his neck

BELOW: Another interstate triumph against Victoria



Another game over...time to rest those weary feet; but no plans to hang up the boots

THE BRIAN PEAKE SCRAPBOOK

Brian Peake has featured in many photographs over the years. This selection from Westside's files captures some of the most memorable moments in his history.

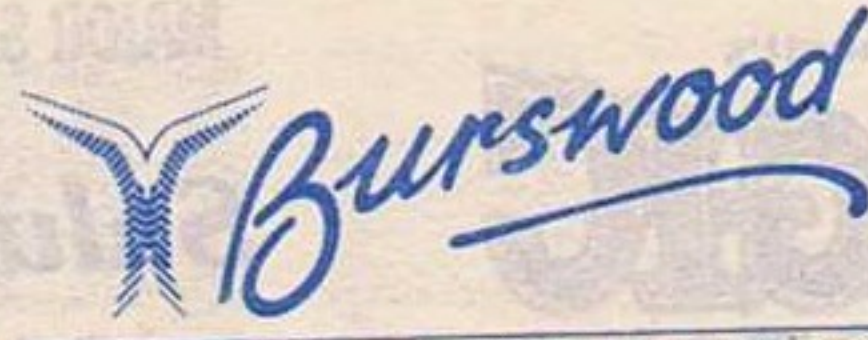
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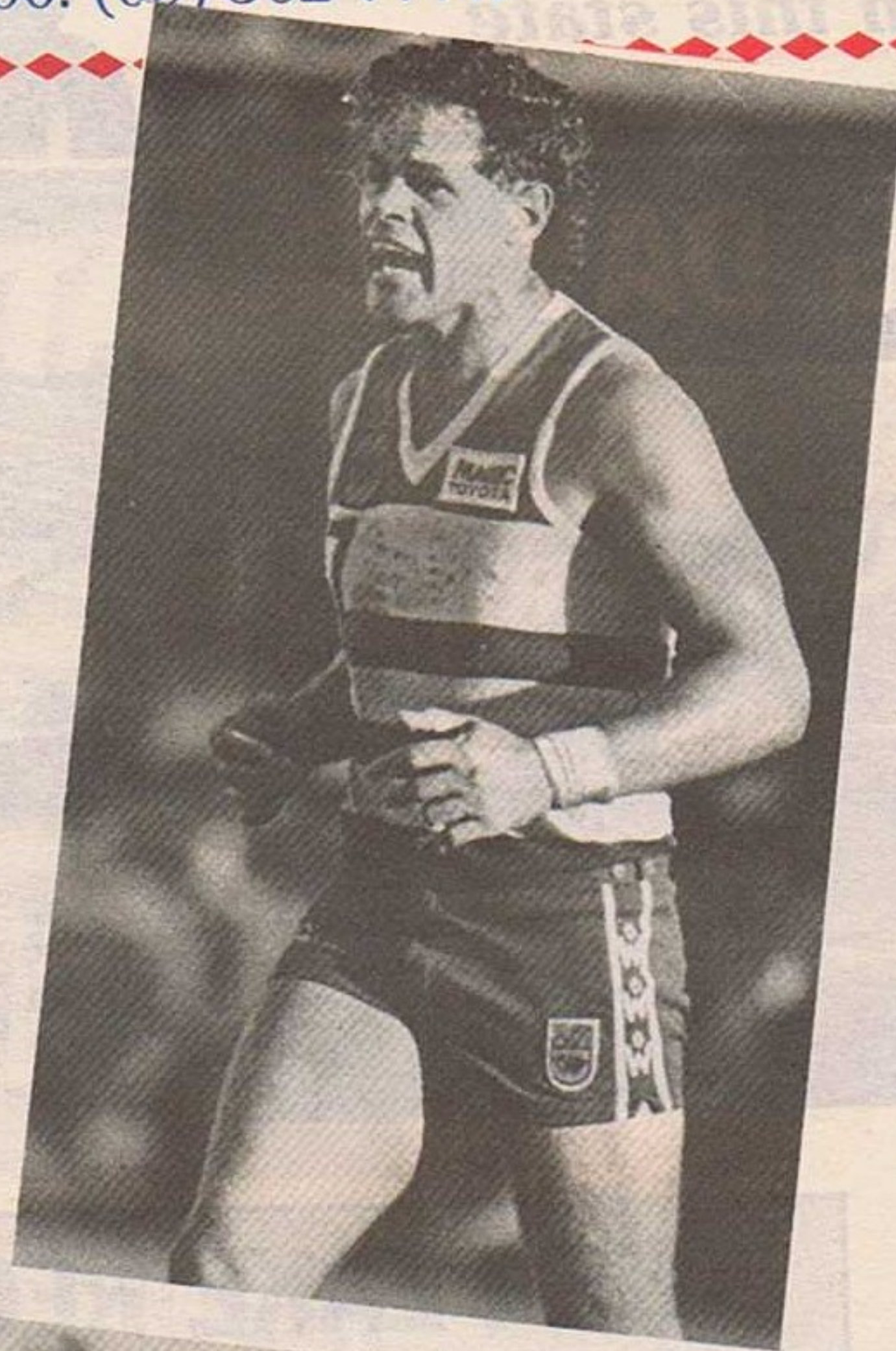
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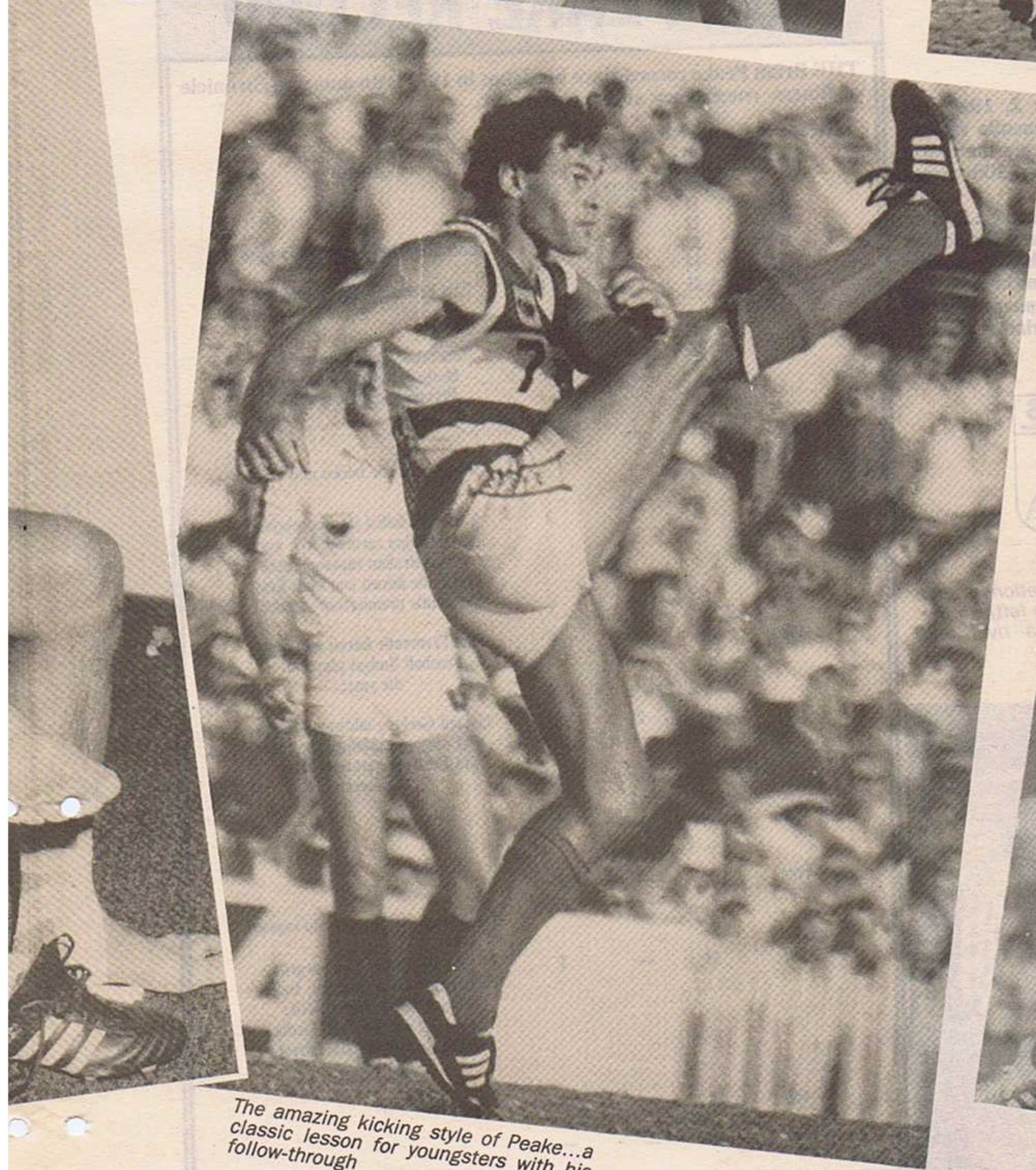
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NEW E BOOK

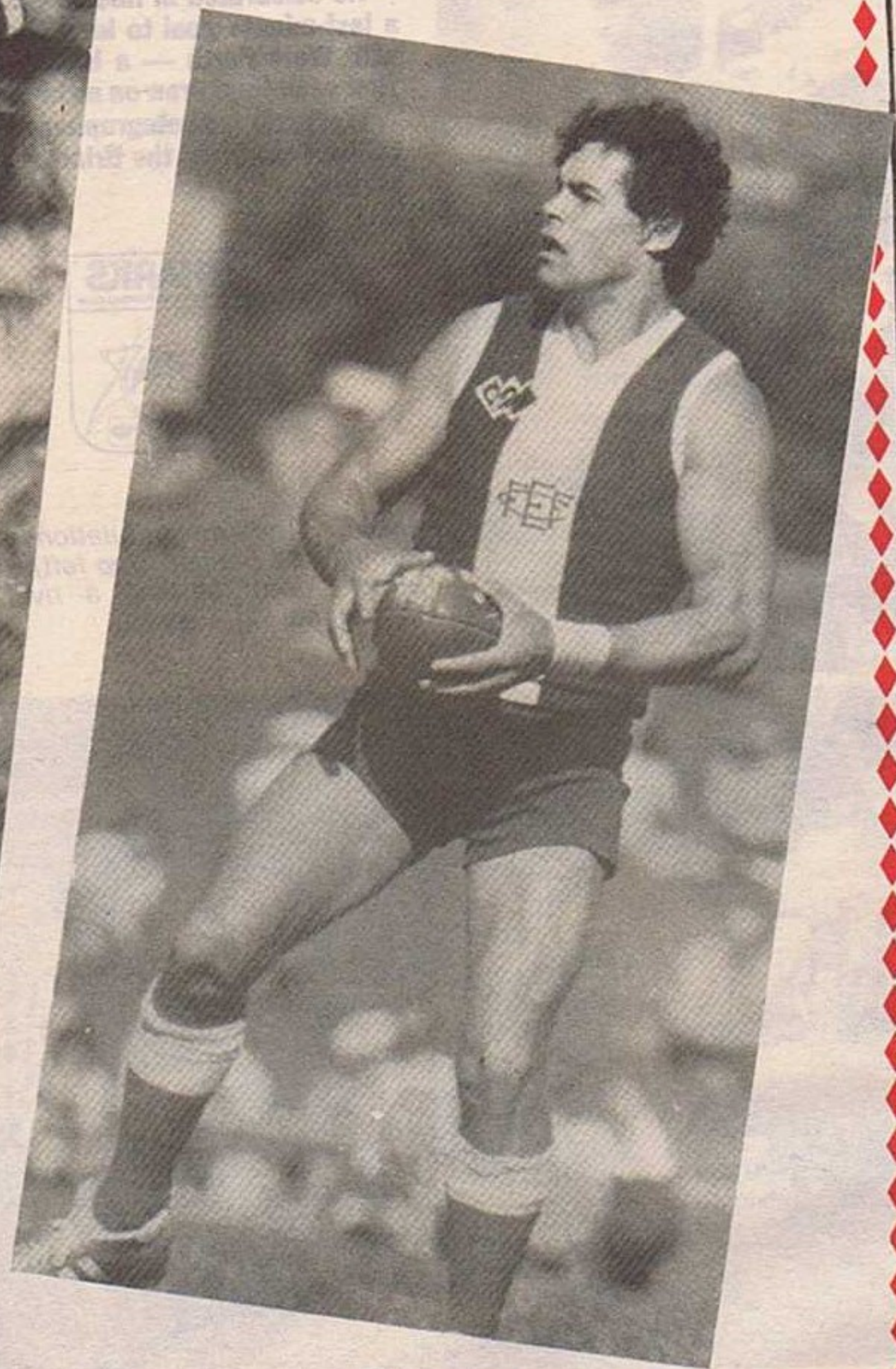
Over his 18 years of football,
some of the Peake moments



Brian Peake in action....(far left) he's still encouraging today (above) in his days at Geelong and (below) in his early East Fremantle days



The amazing kicking style of Peake...a classic lesson for youngsters with his follow-through



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Salutes Brian Peake for his contribution to football in this state.



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BOMBER'S BIG DAY



SATURDAY, September 2, 1989 was the day that East Fremantle veteran Brian Peake became only the fourth West Australian to play 300 games with one club.

He celebrated in fine style...kicking a last-minute goal to level the scores with West Perth — a history-making first semi-final draw on an historic day.

Westside photographer JULIAN COWAN captured the Brian Peake day on film.



ABOVE: The congratulations...and through the banner. (top left) on the attack...(left)...battling a rival and (below) having a spell.



THE PEAKE RECORD

THE Brian Peake record since his debut in 1972 is an amazing chronicle of fitness, consistency and achievement.

Here is his honour board.

Year	WAFL games	NFL games	State games	Awards
1972	12	—	—	—
1973	22	—	—	—
1974	22	—	2	East Fremantle premiership team
1975	14	—	2	—
1976	21	—	1	East Fremantle fairest and best
1977	21	3	3	Sandover Medal winner; 6IX footballer-of-the-year; East Fremantle fairest and best
1978	21	—	2	East Fremantle fairest and best
1979	24	2	3	Tassie Medallist for best player in Australian carnival; WA and All-Australian captain; East Fremantle fairest and best; East Fremantle premiership captain.
1980	19	1	4	East Fremantle fairest and best; Football Budget player of the year;
1981	10	2	1	(Joined Geelong midway through 1981 season; captained the Cats in 1982 and returned after 66 games)
1985	20	1	1	—
1986	23	—	2	East Fremantle premiership captain
1987	19	—	1	Footballer-of-the-Year awards from The West Australian; Daily News; Sunday Times; 6NR; Channel 7 and Football Media Guild; East Fremantle fairest and best
1988	22	—	—	—
1989	22	—	—	—

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HERE it is, the Emu Export/SGIO WAFL All-Stars line-up for season 1989.

Over the past six weeks Westside Football and the Football Budget have been revealing the names of the WAFL's best players — as selected by our exclusive panel — to make up the All Stars team.

They will all receive specially-embroidered Burley-Sekem jumpers, plus a pack of Houghton Wines, both of which will be presented at a special function at the end of the season.

The winners of our special competition to correctly place the All Stars were Kim Barrett, of Shelley and K.D. Sprigg, of Tambellup.

They both win a VIP day for two people at this year's WAFL grand final. The four winners will stay at the Langley Plaza Hotel, be chauffeur-driven to and from Subiaco Oval by Astra Limousines and wined and dined at the ground.

Westside would like to thank football's big sponsors, Emu Export and the SGIO for making the All-Stars team possible.



Coach Gerard Neesham (Claremont)

BACKS



Willie Dick (Perth)



John O'Sullivan (East Fremantle)



Lance Durack (East Fremantle)

RUCK



Craig Edwards (South Fremantle)

HALF-BACKS



Ned Fimmano (South Fremantle)



Mark Brayshaw (Claremont)



Stephen Edgar (East Fremantle)



Peter Thorne (Claremont)

CENTRES



Mark Hann (Claremont)



Ben Allan (Claremont)



Peter Menaglio (West Perth)



Brad Rowe (East Fremantle)

HALF-FORWARDS



Brad McDougall (Subiaco)



Peter Mann (Claremont)



Peter Matera (South Fremantle)



Mick Grasso (Swan Districts)

FORWARDS



Willie Rioli (South Fremantle)



Brad Tunbridge (East Fremantle)



Neil Lester-Smith (East Fremantle)



Glen Bartlett (East Perth)

INTERCHANGE

Shark pack regroups for another attack

THE East Fremantle camp was a battle-weary fortress this week, patching up the wounded and preparing for action again.

After beating minor premiers Claremont in the final qualifying game, the 1989 pre-season favourites were hotly tipped to destroy first semi-final opponents West Perth last Saturday.

The Sharks fielded all of their big guns — Brad Rowe, Brian Peake, Brad Tunbridge, John O'Sullivan, Clinton Browning, Shane Ellis, Chris Waterman and Neil Lester-Smith — and hit them with a full-frontal offensive.

The initial barrage rocked the Falcons, but in true-blue Aussie fashion, they clung on.

Changes

East Fremantle commander-in-chief Graham Melrose swung in numerous changes, but still the Falcons refused to yield.

In the end, it was the Sharks who were fighting for survival and it is a credit to them that they escaped certain elimination from the finals with a goal in the dying seconds.

But what do they do this week? The Falcons beat the Sharks in Round 18 of the qualifying fixtures and came within an ace of repeating that effort last Saturday.

But there is one thing you can guarantee — the Sharks will hit the Falcons hard from the first bounce down.

Each team has its on-field leaders or play-makers and there are those who command specific areas of play and those that just follow orders.

THE SHARKS ARMY

THE GENERAL:

Sharks veteran Brian Peake, playing his 300th league game in the blue and white colours last Saturday, demonstrated why he has survived for so long at the top level — his perseverance.

The 1989 first semi-final was not, by Peake's own admission, one of his better games. But when a lesser player may have given up, the Bomber kept fighting.

In the end Peake's efforts paid off as he emerged a triumphant hero in the dying seconds.

Leading from full-forward, Peake snared a great mark under double-Falcons pressure from which he kicked the Sharks 16th goal and tied the game.

Spirit

But his importance to Melrose's team extends beyond his physical con-

tributions. Peake is a born leader and when the chips were down last Saturday, he helped rally the spirit of his team-mates.



Billy Krakouer...livewire

They followed his example and earned a replay because of it.

The 35-year-old veteran has been somewhat of a nemesis for the Falcons defence this season. He has always caused their backline problems whether he is on a half-forward flank, nestled in a pocket or leading from the key goalkicking position.

His strength and experience allow him to outwit his much younger opponents and as long as he can keep Old Father Time at bay, he will continue to do so.

THE LIEUTENANTS:

Skipper George Christie and centre-half-back John O'Sullivan helped keep the East Fremantle ship on an even keel last Saturday.

O'Sullivan dominated his opponent Gavin Howlett, who has been an instrumental forward in West Perth's recent run of wins.

IT'S WAR!

THE WAFL's mighty first semi-final war of attrition between East Fremantle and West Perth continues with Part Two at Subiaco Oval this Saturday.

Last Saturday the Sharks and the Falcons attacked each other with a startling series of offensives which had the 15,500 fans in near fanatical hysteria.

Just when it looked all over for West Perth, they staged yet another brilliant rear-guard action — as they have been doing all season — punching an escape route through the Sharks defence in the final term.

Then it was the Sharks turn. They regrouped and fought back in the dying seconds with a goal from Bomber Brian Peake.

Now they are ready to do it all again.

Both teams have their leaders and subordinates. Here's how the two camps shape up.

The strong-marking defender had 19 possessions for the game; also took six telling marks and negated brilliantly.

The cornerstone of the Sharks defence, O'Sullivan marshalled his troops well and created whenever he was in possession of the ball.

George Christie is the Sharks veteran skipper. When he was not wreaking havoc as a ruck-rover or at half-forward, he was encouraging his team-mates.

Christie tallied 13 kicks and six hand-balls and looms as another possible match-winner this Saturday.

The 27-year-old Shark attacks the ball strongly and leads by example.

THE SERGEANTS:

Delivering messages and helping to rally the troops are non-commissioned officers Neil Lester-Smith, Stephen Edgar and Brad Tunbridge.

Lester-Smith is East Fremantle's champion goalsneak. He took his total for the 1989 season to 84 goals with a haul of five majors last Saturday.

Lester-Smith operated between a half-forward flank, where he had a terrific duel with Falcon Paul Hasler, and a forward pocket.

Though he can drift out of the game for length periods, he has the knack of bobbing up in the right spot to kick important goals.



Chris Waterman...dependable

In fact, he is the ideal foil for big Tunbridge, who plays the role as the Sharks key ruckman/forward.

Rated as one of the strongest men in the WAFL, Tunbridge is a powerful mark and a dangerous weapon in attack.

He has the skill to kick goals or feed his smaller Sharks with a foot-pass or hand ball.

Edgar is the Sharks quiet achiever — he goes about his work with calculated effectiveness. Used almost exclusively on a half-back flank, he is a great winner of the ball and knows how to get the most from his disposal, which makes him an ideal link-man.

Last Saturday his improvement was further emphasised when he was used on the ball in the final term.

INFANTRY:

Trooper Billy Krakouer showed shades of the magical skill of his brothers — North Melbourne stars Jim and Phil — at Subiaco Oval last Saturday.

The top possession-getter in the game — 30 touches — he was the best rover afield and shared the Sharks best-player honours with wingman Peter Quill.

Krakouer kicked four goals, while Quill, with his blistering pace, collected 27 possessions midfield.

Other stars were back-pocket/ruck-rover Craig MacLean, Chris Waterman at centre-half-forward, ruckman Clinton Wolf, versatile big man Lance Durack and rookie Darren Hammond.

Wolf had 25 hit-outs and Hammond worked tirelessly all day.



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Congratulates Brian Peake on his outstanding achievement

THE PLAYERS

2. DEAN COLE

21yrs 171cm 70kg
Games played 23
Dashing little rover who provides life around the packs and is a capable goalscorer; struggling to get a berth in this top team.

4. DAVID RANKIN

29yrs 172cm 73kg
Games played 132*
Talented utility player coming out of retirement; would add finals-round experience if used.

6. ERIC COOPER

28yrs 175cm 70kg
Games played 28
A gutsy centreman who coach Graham Melrose rates highly for his ball-getting ability. Was used in the middle and in attack last week without being a real danger.

7. BRIAN PEAKE

35yrs 177cm 86kg
Games played 300*
Celebrated his 300th game with a match-saving goal after a strong mark. Was a steady influence all day, particularly in attack.

8. PETER QUILL

20yrs 179cm 69kg
Games played 39
Turned in a brilliant effort on a wing; enjoying a classic struggle with Oral McGuire. Should live up to that standard again if the Sharks are to win.

9. JON DERECOURT

21yrs 185cm 83kg
Games played 62
Played out of a back pocket last week where his tough and unrelenting style helped keep the defence tight. Is a key member in the versatile backline.

10. CLINTON BROWNING

27yrs 188cm 79kg
Games played 151*
Returned to the side and was used in defence, but offers best prospects in the forward line. Would need to lift on last week's display, but can be a Sharks flag-winner.

11. JOHN O'SULLIVAN

24yrs 185cm 79kg
Games played 96
Was outstanding at centre-half-back, where he reigned supreme, setting up many attacking proves and marking strongly. Is the team's foundation for their strong defence.



Clinton Browning...winner



Neil Lester Smith...dangerman

13. STEPHEN EDGAR

22yrs 175cm 76kg
Games played 55
Solid and dependable off a half-back flank and provided some midfield sparkle when he went onto the ball in the last term. His rebounding into attack sets up many scoring moves.

16. BRADLEY ROWE

19yrs 178cm 64kg
Games played 20
Returned to league action slowly after a five-week injury break. Is an electrifying rover who will need to produce more examples of his match-winning style this week.

7. CRAIG MACLEAN

18yrs 180cm 74kg
Games played 17
Talented ruck-rover who was used in a variety of positions and played solidly. His ball-getting in tight situations has improved enormously and he works hard.

18. NEIL LESTER-SMITH

25yrs 180cm 71kg
Games played 79
The league's leading goal-scorer, but was played out of the game by Paul Hasler even though his five goals were all valuable ones, confirming just how dangerous he is.

19. GLEN MOIR

25yrs 170cm 70kg
Games played 7*
Missed last week's team, but has emerged in recent weeks as a handy versatile player, giving the mobile squad some strength and aggression.

20. COLIN WATERSON

30yrs 193cm 89kg
Games played 120*
Has returned from retirement and presents himself as a key big man in attack, but injury has sidelined him.

21. DAVID ROWE

20yrs 188cm 70kg
Games played 18
One of the many talented back-up men in the Sharks camp; handy on the ball.

23. BEVAN GRAY

26yrs 182cm 75kg
Games played 10
Started as an interchange, but didn't really produce any fireworks. Is a speedy and dangerous midfielder.

24. SHANE ELLIS

28yrs 186cm 86kg
Games played 171*
Played solidly off a half-back flank, giving the defence great stability with his experience and ability to curb dangerous forwards.

26. CLINTON WOLF

20yrs 197cm 93kg
Games played 12
Lowered his colours to Craig Nelson, but still produced a hard-working effort, taking some good around-the-ground marks.

27. GUY BAXTER

27yrs 193cm 91kg
Games played 34*
Yet another of the Sharks big-man brigade; great work-horse, but could miss this team.

30. BRYCE FORMAN

28yrs 190cm 78kg
Games played 88*
A versatile player who offers plenty of options if he takes a spot on the interchange bench.

34. BILLY KRAKOUER

22yrs 170cm 65kg
Games played 7*
Produced a top-class roving display, kicking four goals and working extremely hard in midfield and in defence. Added much-needed sparkle to the Sharks in view of Brad Rowe's poor form.

35. ROB WEBER

22yrs 180cm 74kg
Games played 27
Played consistently on a wing, where his drive into attack produced many scoring avenues. Gives the Sharks good run, but he has to watch Malcolm Williams a lot closer.

37. GEOFF SIMS

24yrs 184cm 82kg
Games played 21*
A strong ruck-rover who provides ideal back-up if needed; has plenty of experience.

39. CHRIS WATERMAN

20yrs 180cm 77kg
Games played 42*
Came back into the side and did reasonably well when used at centre-half-forward initially; but faded out of the game. However, will benefit from the run.

40. GEORGE CHRISTIE

27yrs 174cm 70kg
Games played 126
A shining example of a hard-working skipper who led by example, either on the ball or in defence. His disposal was most effective.

42. MICHAEL LITTLE

21yrs 180cm 70kg
Games played 10
Fast-running wingman currently in the reserves, but adds pace and creativity if called on.

43. BRADLEY READ

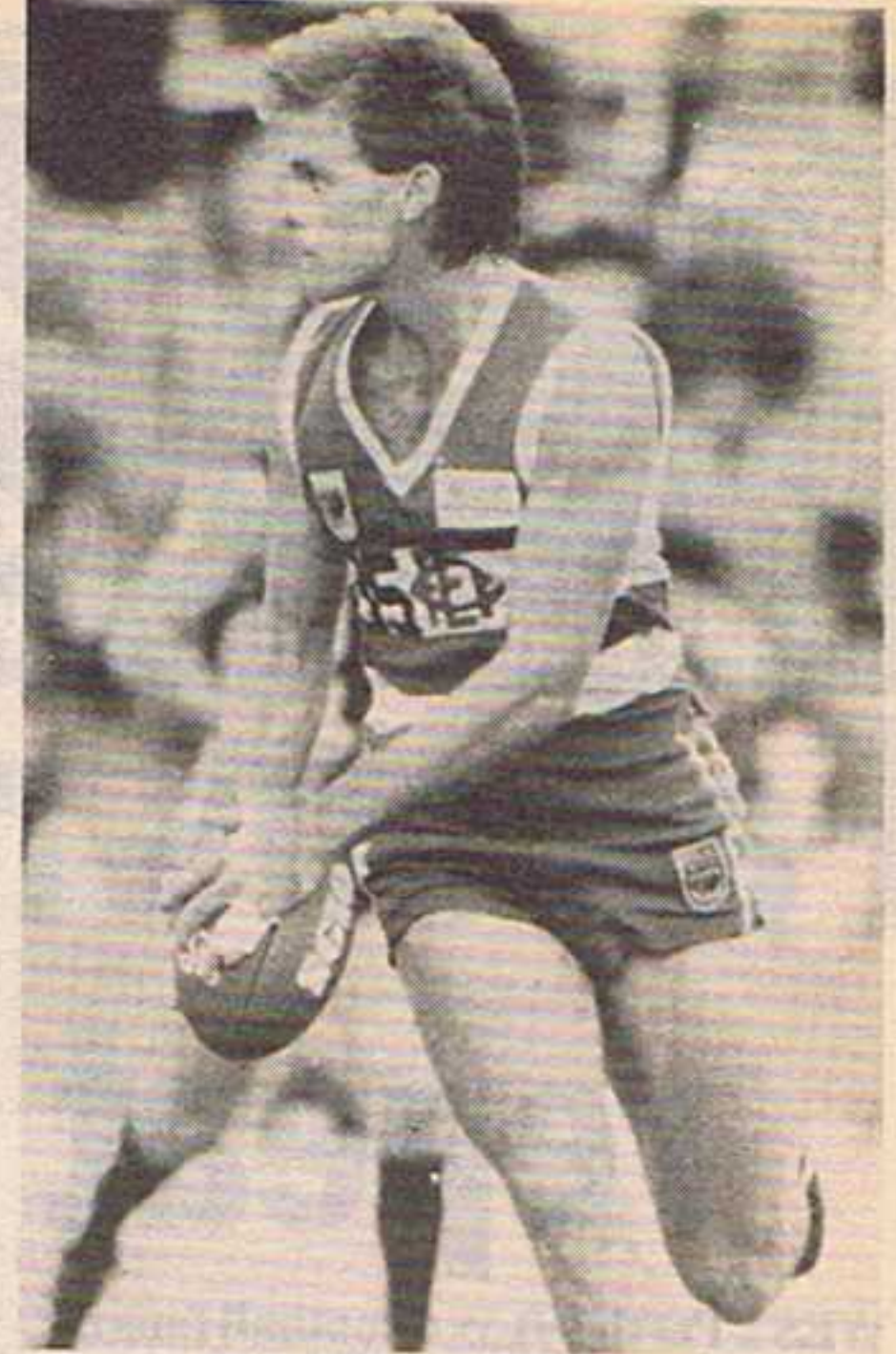
20yrs 190cm 80kg
Games played 9
Showed form on the ball early in the season, but will be struggling to make this side.

44. MICHAEL BROADBRIDGE

21yrs 186cm 78kg
Games played 39
Surprisingly failed to make last week's team, but should earn a recall as he is one of the Sharks best half-backs; a long-striding strong-marking player who can also move into attack.



George Christie...skipper



Rob Weber...fine form

47. GLEN SYMONDS

19yrs 175cm 72kg
Games played 5
Missed last week's team, but is a handy half-forward type who forced his way into the side towards the end of the season.

48. BRAD TUNBRIDGE

25yrs 193cm 93kg
Games played 39
Didn't produce the much-needed big-man influence that was expected from him in attack. Is one of the team's key players and needs to perform.

50. LANCE DURACK

25yrs 193cm 88kg
Games played 47
Performed strongly in defence, marking well at full-back, but let Warren Taylor break away a couple of times to produce valuable goals.

53. REVIS RYDER

25yrs 188cm 80kg
Games played 24
Dashing role in defence; but missed last week's game. Loves to run the ball right into attack.

56. DARREN HAMMOND

25yrs 177cm 85kg
Games played 8
Showed amazing maturity in his first finals match; a versatile mobile player who did well midfield and on the ball.

Games played tallies are current WAFL club only. Asterisk (*) denotes games with other clubs as follows: Glen Moir 29 Perth; Guy Baxter 9 Perth; Bryce Forman 12 Perth; Billy Krakouer 16 Claremont; Geoff Sims 23 South Fremantle; Clinton Browning 4 Eagles; Shane Ellis 10 Eagles; Chris Waterman 17 Eagles; David Rankin 10 Fitzroy; Brian Peake 66 Geelong; Colin Waterson 13 Richmond.

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Falcons ready for repeat battle

WEST Perth left WA football fans in no doubt that they deserved their spot in the 1989 finals round with a fighting display at Subiaco Oval last Saturday.

Largely outgunned in the big man department, the Falcons relied heavily on ruckman Craig Nelson and their arsenal of small arms fire to counter East Fremantle's heavy artillery.

West Perth, who had snuck into the finals at the last minute, took the game right up to the Sharks big guns with their simple game plan — to run them into the ground.

This tactic worked when they beat the Sharks at East Fremantle Oval in Round 18 and commander-in-chief, George Michalczyk, was confident it would work again.

Gallant

However, at three-quarter time it appeared that the leg-weary Falcons were going to exit after a gallant fight — but Michalczyk fired them up with a "do-or-die" speech and they responded by twice taking the lead after being four goals down.



Craig Turley...bonus

The Falcons have worked hard to be where they are and they are prepared to go to battle against East Fremantle again; boosted with the return of Craig Turley from VFL duties.

The Falcons might not be big, but they are mobile and they are led by one of the best thinkers in the game.

Everyone in base camp Leederville Oval is confident of a win.

THE FALCONS ARMY

THE GENERAL:

Skipper Peter Menaglio must be happy with his decision to postpone his brief retirement and return for "one more season of league football".

This season has confirmed that Menaglio is the on-field organiser of the team and West Perth's successes late in the season have been due in no small way to the skipper's efforts.

Menaglio was a tireless worker when West Perth were a little inconsistent early in the season, pairing with big ruckman Craig Nelson to get them across the line virtually off their own boot.

The skilled centreman has dictated the Falcons midfield play and he leads by example. Last Saturday Menaglio gave another virtuoso display to be among his team's best players and was only shifted out of the centre in the final quarter as he tired.

But after reaching his 31st birthday last Monday, he will be keen to celebrate with victory this Saturday.

Menaglio commands respect and his team-mates respond to his cool leadership.

THE LIEUTENANTS:

Ruckman Craig Nelson demonstrated last Saturday why he is second-in-command to his skipper.

In a best-on-ground performance, Nelson almost single-handedly took on the mighty East Fremantle ruck brigade.

He not only held his own at centre bouncings against the more agile Clinton Wolf, but hauled his 93kg

IT'S WAR!

THE WAFL's mighty first semi-final war of attrition between East Fremantle and West Perth continues with Part Two at Subiaco Oval this Saturday.

Last Saturday the Sharks and the Falcons attacked each other with a startling series of offensives which had the 15,500 fans in near fanatical hysteria.

Just when it looked all over for West Perth, they staged yet another brilliant rear-guard action — as they have been doing all season — punching an escape route through the Sharks defence in the final term.

Then it was the Sharks turn. They regrouped and fought back in the dying seconds with a goal from Bomber Brian Peake.

Now they are ready to do it all again.

Both teams have their leaders and subordinates. Here's how the two camps shape up.



Peter Menaglio...leader

frame all over the ground with tigerish ferocity.

Nelson ran hard all day and only relinquished the ruck responsibility temporarily to Ross Dunkeld for about 10 minutes in the second quarter.

In addition to his 21 tap outs, Nelson gathered 13 kicks, fed out 11 handballs and took nine marks.

Bonus

Nelson's form this season has been a real bonus for Michalczyk.

Proned to inconsistency in previous years, Nelson has developed into one of the game's best big men.

The second lieutenant this Saturday will be Craig Turley, whose presence on the ball and midfield will give the Falcons even more zip.

The speedy Turley is an outstanding reader of the game and, together with Nelson and Menaglio, looms as a possible match-winner for the red and blues.

THE SERGEANTS:

Defender Paul Mifka is a tireless worker and by combining with wingman Malcolm Williams and defender Paul Hasler, forms the backbone of the team.

Mifka abounds with energy and it is this trait that encourages his team-mates to keep trying when the going gets tough.

After a slow start last Saturday, Williams went into overdrive as the Falcons produced their revival.

His 17 kicks and four goals hurt East Fremantle, but had he been more accurate in the third quarter, Williams could have wrapped this game up; missing two certain goalscoring opportunities that should have been converted — one went out on the full.

Half-back Hasler gave another typically solid display. His duel with goal-kicking ace Neil Lester-Smith — who alternated between a half-forward flank and a forward pocket — was a feature of the game.

In the final term, Hasler was switched into the centre where his aggressive style helped the Falcons stay in the game.

Hasler reads the play well and backs his judgement; often taking front position well before his opponent.

THE INFANTRY:

Centre-half-forward Gavin Howlett has emerged as a big-hearted worker in this line-up. The key attacking position has caused problems for the Falcons all season, but since the gallant Howlett has been moved there, they have converted their forward possession into goals far more regularly.

Howlett fights for the hard ball, marks well and runs hard to create opportunities.

Defenders Darren O'Brien, Brad Gwilliam and Dennis Repacholi make up a crew of young, but willing workers in defence.

The latter two have the height to take big marks and neither is lacking in pace.

O'Brien has been a big improver for West Perth this season and he showed tremendous courage to return to the fray last Saturday after being stretched off in the second quarter.

Ruckman/forward Ross Dunkeld, full-forward Warren Taylor, rover Chris Davies, ruck-rover Paddy Madaffari and utility Wayne Dayman make up a useful band of troopers.

They all know the meaning of hard work and are not afraid to do more than their share to ensure a West Perth victory.



Nick Tana...desperate

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THE PLAYERS

1. CRAIG NELSON
26yrs 193cm 90kg
Games played 116
Showed all his class with a best-on-ground performance in last week's drawn first semi-final. It is a big task to expect the lion-hearted ruckman to do it again, but if West Perth are to win, he will have to be in top form.

7. DARREN O'BRIEN
20yrs 182cm 72kg
Games played 39
After another classy display in last week's tough semi-final, the former Colliie junior has emerged as one of the best defenders in the league. Precise ball disposal and a tough, fair approach makes him a key factor in West Perth's bid to stay in the premiership race.

8. CRAIG TURLEY
24yrs 185cm 80kg
Games played 67*
Comes back into the Falcons following division after an impressive recall to the West Coast Eagles in the past two weeks. Will add bite and ball-getting potential to the Falcons midfield.



Dennis Repacholi ... improver

9. PETER MENAGLIO
30yrs 175cm 72kg
Games played 235
A classy midfielder who sets up so much of West Perth's play. Whenever the Falcons were in trouble against East Fremantle last week, the skipper bopped up with a hard-earned possession and clever disposal to renew confidence in his band of finals rookies.

10. WAYNE DAYMAN
28yrs 177cm 77kg
Games played 78
Made his mark as a tough and relentless back-pocket specialist, but has been converted into a forward to add aggression closer to the goal and to ensure opposing defences get a battle running the ball out of the Falcons forward line. Seems to thrive on the tough going.

11. MALCOLM WILLIAMS
19yrs 178cm 72kg
Games played 39
Was instrumental in many successful thrusts forward last week and capped his big game from a wing with handy goals. A highly-skilled player who can win a game from his own boot.

16. STEVE BRADMORE
23yrs 180cm 78kg
Games played 8
Suffered an elbow injury in last week's thriller that could rule him out of the replay. A hard-working follower-forward who, if not fit, will be a loss to the Falcons plans to tag Brian Peake.

18. NEIL JACKSON
24yrs 188cm 87kg
Games played 38
Showed versatility last week when he turned in a tidy final quarter at centre-half-forward. Strong overhead marking is a feature of his game and can run the ball from defence when operating as a key defender.

20. SHANE O'NEILL
21yrs 188cm 78cm
Games played 4
Is on standby as a relief forward, but has to make way for in-form Warren Taylor in front of goals.

21. WARREN TAYLOR
23yrs 187cm 74kg
Games played 36
The four goals he kicked last Saturday were the most important of his career. A fast-leading forward who can kick goals from long distances out, will need a repeat performance if the Falcons hope to be winners.

22. ROSS DUNKELD
20yrs 190cm 77kg
Games played 21
Playing out of a forward pocket, the Falcons back-up ruckman likes it tough. His tackling and locking the ball in on the forward line last week was a feature of his tidy first finals performance. Must kick goals in the replay.

25. CHRIS DAVIES
26yrs 167cm 70kg
Games played 21
His quick handball and accurate foot disposal was a feature of his polished first semi performance. Has amazing stamina and will be looking to cap his successful move from Sunday football to WAFL with another quality display in the replay.

26. BRAD GWILLIAM
22yrs 189cm 75kg
Games played 49
Showed in his blitz of Sharks big man Brad Tunbridge last week that he is now perhaps the league's best full-back; strong and determined in the air and adopts a mean approach to forwards.

28. DAMON BUCKLEY
19yrs 195cm 92kg
Games played 5*
Will wait for the Falcons selectors to complete their deliberations, but with few injury problems and the forward line so efficient last week, it is difficult seeing the big forward getting the call-up.

29. GRAHAM HAMPSON
20yrs 177cm 75kg
Games played 23
A handy back-up utility player who can fill in on a wing or at half-forward.



Warren Taylor...on target



Neil Jackson...versatile

30. ORAL MCGUIRE
25yrs 175cm 74kg
Games played 11*
Turned in the game of his career last week when he collected more than 30 possessions in a classy display on the wing. His clash with Peter Quill this week will be a feature of the replay.

33. GAVIN HOWLETT
23yrs 185cm 83kg
Games played 34*
Kept his side in the game last week with confident and aggressive desire for the football. Is an inspirational player with amazing stamina and finishes his game off with handy goals.

34. TIM ADAM
22yrs 188cm 78kg
Games played 29
Forced his way back into the seniors late in the season and turned in a soiled, hard-working first semi-final. Versatility is his virtue and will again be used in a variety of roles.

36. PADDY MADAFFARI
23yrs 181cm 73kg
Games played 54
Has slotted well into his ruck-roving role and still remains a danger around the goals. Though slight of frame, the former Harvey forward is fearless in his endeavours for possession and is a crucial factor in West Perth's premiership hopes.

37. PAUL MIFKA
24yrs 186cm 81kg
Games played 109*
Was a major contributor at centre-half-back in West Perth's stirring first semi-final performance. Outpointed several opponents and constantly drove his side into attack. His experience and stamina will be crucial in the replay.

44. DAVID ROSS
22yrs 175cm 82kg
Games played 13
Back-up ruck-rover or half-forward who has shown plenty of potential in his first season.

46. PAUL HASLER
24yrs 183cm 82kg
Games played 60
One of the stars in last week's gruelling semi. Strong overhead and disciplined in his defensive tactics, the hard-working left-footer looms as a threat to East Fremantle's hopes of putting out the Falcons flame.

47. JON RIGGS
26yrs 183cm 76kg
Games played 16
The former sprint champion waited just one minute to get into the act last Saturday with a goal from half-forward in the second quarter almost as soon as he had run through the interchange lines. His pace could be a problem for East Fremantle's defence.

48. DENNIS REPACHOLI
19yrs 188cm 79kg
Games played 15
Was quietly effective in the first semi, but a player of enormous potential. His overhead spoling makes life tough for opposing forwards and his pace out of defence creates opportunities mid-field for his following division.

54. NICK TANA
21yrs 178cm 72kg
Games played 9
Has just one objective in mind when employing his disciplined defensive skills out of the back-pocket. The nuggety defender is ruthless in his endeavours to deprive resting rovers a possession near goal and he will do anything to keep the football out of opponents' reach. Has tremendous courage and determination.

Games-played tallies are current WAFL clubs only. Asterisk (*) denotes games played with other clubs as follows: Craig Turley 10 Eagles; Damon Buckley 1 Claremont; Oral McGuire 38 Perth; Gavin Howlett 5 East Perth; Paul Mifka 1 Eagles.



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Bonus for the WAFL

THE decision by the Football Commission to stage a double-header this Saturday should prove to be a big bonus in what has been an encouraging year for the WAFL.

It would have been a mistake to hold the Grand final on October 1. To have done so would surely have resulted in a poor gate unbefitting of a grand final that in the past has drawn crowds of more than 50,000. After last Saturday's draw, this final round is so open that any one of the four teams is capable of winning the flag. The even strength of the teams should result in some of the best final-round football seen in WA for some time.

Extra time not the answer

FOLLOWING last week's draw in the first semi-final there was talk of having extra time (possibly 10 minutes each way) to achieve a result.

A strong argument can be made for this view after the turmoil of the past few days.

Most of the other sports either play extra-time or have a penalty shoot-out. The one thing that turns me against this sudden-death proposal is that our code has such a high-scoring potential that draws are rare (45 years since the last one in a final).

A draw in the second semi or preliminary final would create real problems.

Replaying the first semi would be acceptable but replaying the second semi would not because so many pre-arranged plans would be thrown out of kilter.

People involved in Australian football make plans based on the fixture process set in place at the beginning of the year.

Still on the subject of that drawn game, Warren Ralph was the only player at Claremont to nominate a draw on the sweep we ran on the bus to the game.

It was a pity he couldn't find any small change to accompany his nomination. The players' trip fund is now a little healthier.

STRAIGHT TALKING

With Claremont coach
GERARD NEESHAM



Auntie can take a bow

ALL those present agreed that the Sandover Medal night was expertly presented by the ABC.

It was a real show of strength for the WAFL at the most exciting time of the football calendar.

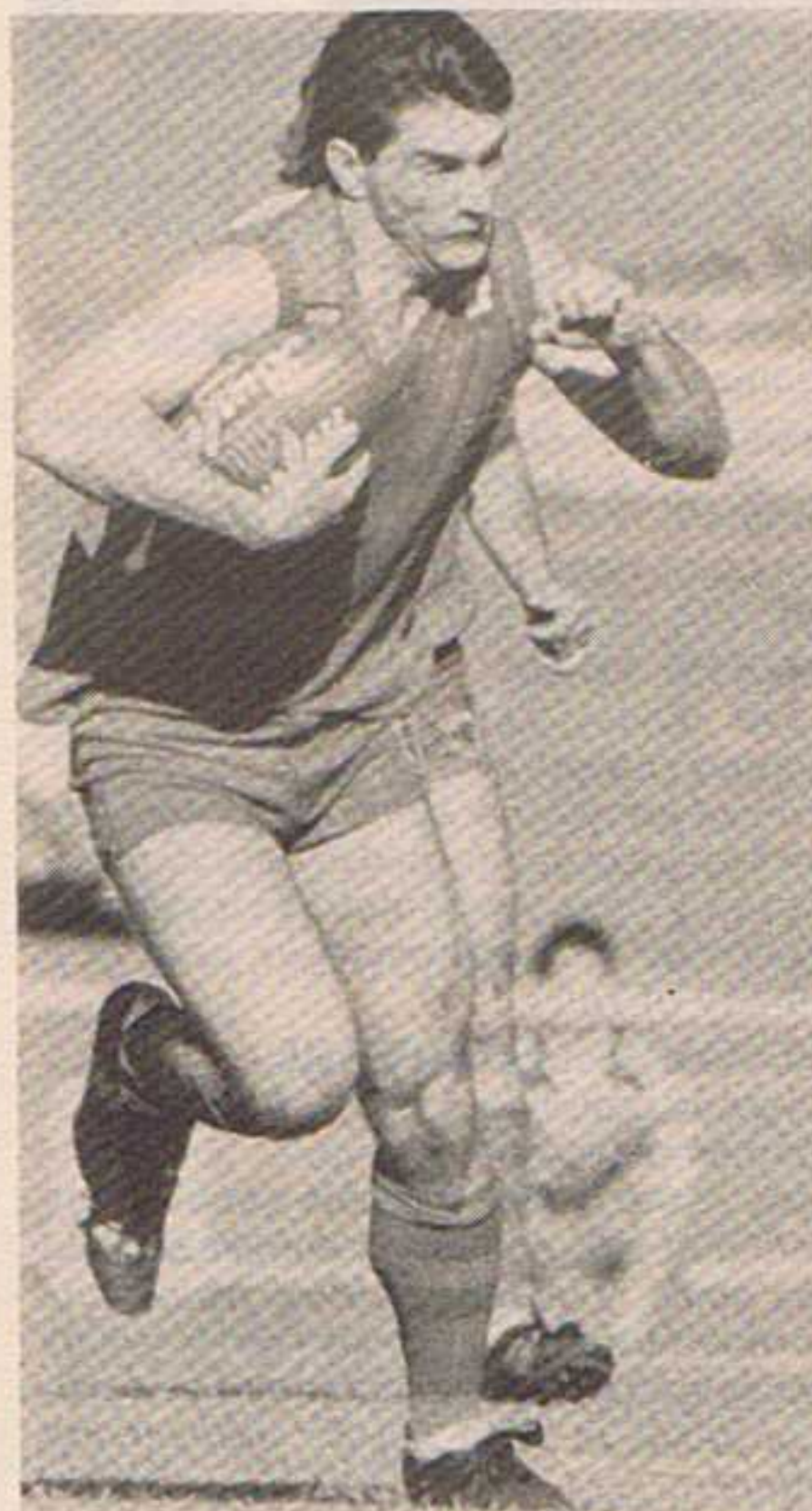
Craig Edwards was a popular winner.

He completed a consistent home-and-away series by scooping the pool for the various awards.

The value of a good grounding in the WAFL can be seen in the improvement shown by Mark Brayshaw since this time last year.

He has had a good season and so have Peter Thorne, Ben Allan and Mark Hann.

It was good to see the young half-back flankers of our competition starting to fulfil their potential, especially Stephen Edgar, Ned Fimmano, Tony Begovich and Paul Hasler.



Paul Hasler...tigerish

Falcons the draw champs

FOOTBALL
FACTS

By top WA football historian
DAVE CLEMENT



WHEN it comes to drawn games, West Perth know more about them than anyone else.

The record book shows they have shared the points more often than any other club.

They have figured in 33 drawn games. Closest to them are East Fremantle with 19 and South Fremantle 17.

Ironically West Perth were involved in the last drawn final-round match, the first semi-final of the under-age competition in 1944, when the Falcons kicked 7.21 to Perth's 9.9.

The Demons won the replay.

The grand final that year wasn't played till October 21, the latest finish ever to a WA football season.

The first one

THE first drawn final was back in 1905 at Fremantle Oval when East Fremantle and West Perth finished with 41 points each in the Challenge Final.

The Blue and Whites disputed these scores, claiming they had won by a point.

West Perth won the replay by four points at North Fremantle Oval.

The last draw between these teams was in 1932 when the score was 10.11 apiece.

Back to 1974

EAST Fremantle's last drawn match was 352 games ago, back in April 1974 at East Fremantle Oval against Swan Districts.

Brian Peake would remember that game. So, too, would his captain that day, Graham Melrose.

The highest...

WHILE on the subject of drawn games, West Perth have played in the three highest-scoring draws.

The highest was in 1946 when Swan Districts kicked 18.11 to West's 17.17.

There was a tie at Fremantle Oval in 1960 when South Fremantle and West Perth finished with 16.15 each — just one point more than last week's scoreboard.

A week earlier West Perth and East Perth had drawn at Perth Oval. This made the Falcons the only team to draw two successive games.

...and lowest

AND the lowest-scoring draw? In 1913 West Perth 3.3 drew with Perth 2.9.

In the years before 1898 when only goals could be scored (there were no behind posts) there were many instances of one-one, two-two and even nil-all draws.

West Perth feature again here. They drew five games in 1897.

Kennedy is anti-mergers

NORTH Melbourne coach John Kennedy echoes the thoughts of most Eastern States footy fans with his staunch anti-merger or amalgamation thoughts.

Amid much debate about the future of some of the lower-ranked Melbourne-based clubs, including his own North Melbourne, Kennedy says the clubs can fight their way out of trouble — given the chance.

"I go back in my own history," he said. "Hawthorn have been the best club over the past 10 years, but when I started people didn't want Hawthorn in the league."

"It wasn't until 1957 before they got even a sniff of the finals after having entered the competition in 1925."

"They were so bad that people wanted them out of the league."

"If mergers had been on and the same attitude existed that is prevalent now, there would be no Hawthorn today."

"If you want people to work and work for a club you must give them the opportunity."

"North Melbourne are pretty competitive."

"Certainly we had some bad performances but we had some good ones, too. I don't think Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy would say North Melbourne are not competitive. Collingwood's Leigh Matthews wouldn't either."

Max Heiden's Tyrepower

MILESTONE MEN

50 GAMES

49 Brad Gwilliam (West Perth)
49 Oral McGuire (West Perth)*
48 Scott Watters (South Fremantle)*
46 Scott Watters (South Fremantle)
45 Merv Dellar (South Fremantle)
43 Guy Baxter (East Fremantle)*

* Denotes that tally includes games with more than current club as follows: Scott Watters — 46 South Fremantle, 2 Eagles; Oral McGuire — 38 Perth; Guy Baxter — 9 Perth.



Scott Watters

100 GAMES

98 Tony Beers (Claremont)*

* Denotes that tally includes games with more than current club as follows: Tony Beers — 91 Claremont, 7 Collingwood.

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LUNCH FRIDAYS

TANIA ARMSTRONG reports on the Town and Country Football Development Trust activities.



Swans spread junior work around

SWAN Districts don't have a full-time development manager in operation at present — but junior development is handled by a committee of voluntary workers.

After Peter Mahoney left the development manager's post late last year, Swans set up a system involving 14 football development co-ordinators.

Swans director Alec Abbott heads the group, who meet monthly for a progress report as well as directing the Swan Districts junior football association.

Swans general manager Brian Close says that the scheme is working well and is saving the club money.

TOYOTA CUP

Rolystone take semi

ROLEYSTONE put an end to Belmont's promising season when they won last Saturday's South Suburban/Perth Toyota Cup first semi-final.

Belmont joined the South Suburban/Perth zone from Swan Districts this year and they have been in the top half of the ladder all season.

Their season came to an abrupt end in the A-division final when they lost to Rolystone by seven points, 9.6 (60) to 8.5 (53).

In the second semi-final, minor premiers Kenwick advanced to the grand final when they beat Gosnells 14.13 (97) to 10.6 (66).

In the East/West Perth zone, Bayswater/Morley, competition runners-up to Karoonda, moved through to the grand final with a close win over Osborne Park.

Bayswater/Morley won 16.8 (104) to 15.11 (101) and Osborne Park will now meet Cougars in the preliminary final next week.

Last Sunday's Toyota Cup results were:

East/West Perth — Bayswater/Morley 18.8 d Osborne Park 15.11.
South/Suburban Perth — A-division: First semi-final — Rolystone 9.6 (Heppenstall) d Belmont 8.5 (Corley). Second semi — Kenwick 14.13 (Dearle) d Gosnells 10.6 (Curtis). B-division: First semi — East Victoria Park 16.10 (Godfrey) d Forrestfield 8.4 (Hanns). Second semi — Thornlie 11.10 (Stubberfield) d Kelm-scott 6.8 (Ebsary).

"We're very happy with the progress and it's also saving us and the Football Development Trust money because it cuts down the travelling expenses," he said.

"If you hand tasks to individual people, they have more time to attend to them."

"Peter Mahoney was very successful when he was here and he set up most of the programmes for us."

"Those people are now following on from his work and we've been fortunate enough not to have any hiccups."

The Swans juniors are thriving, with local school Eastern Hills finishing as Quit Cup runners-up, six under-17s players representing WA in the Teal Cup (the highest out of any club) and eight under-15s made up 32 per cent of the State schoolboys side.

School competitions such as the CIG Shield and Quit Cup and handled by David Lindsay, as well as the new Toyota Cup — where he coached Bassendean to a premiership — and all Aussie Footy projects.

Joe Sorgiovanni is in charge of elite squads such as Teal Cup and State

schoolboys and the Tip Top State junior football championships.

Ian Foss was responsible for Footy Week at the start of the season and "Kick-off time in 1989" was run by Laurie Tilbury, in addition to producing regular newsletters.

Michael Johnston specialises in umpire development, Peter Manucci and Bruce Douglas handle coach education and Allan Raynor takes charge of the Town and Country Little League.

Gary Tester, Swans fitness co-ordinator, handled the Hungry Jack's lightning carnivals at Bassendean Oval and country recruits keep charge of country zones.

Richard Walker, in Bunbury, handles the South-West juniors, Esperance local Gary Harman looks after the South-East and Gary Hywood, also in Bunbury, handled the PIBA country championships.

Full rules for juniors come under Ron Mitchell's control and Brian Close, who is a great believer in "many hands make light work" oversees it all from Bassendean Oval.



Town and Country little league semi-final action

JUNIOR FINALS UNDER WAY

JUNIOR councils in the metropolitan area are well into this year's finals. Here is a round-up of the finals action.

The SUBIACO-WANNEROO junior league produced some superb grand finals at Kingsway Reserve, Landsdale.

Kingsley ended one of their best seasons on record when they won three premierships.

Kingsley Red (13s Gold) beat Warwick White's 13.14 to 4.4, with Kingsley's S. Gobby best-on-ground.

D. Barbieri (Whitford Lions) was best-afield when his team thrashed Ocean Ridge, 13.12 to 6.5 to run out 49-point winners.

The 15s plate grand final saw Northern Districts 9.18 beat Ocean Ridge 4.11, with P. Harnment (Northern Districts) best.

Two points separated 16s premiership champions Kingsley 5.8 (38) from Northern Districts 5.6 (36), Kingsley were well represented by M. Campbell.

Whitfords took out the 17's premiership when they beat Warwick.

The remaining games saw Wanneroo 6.4 beat Girrawheen 2.5 (13s Maroon); Kingsley 9.13 down Warwick Black 6.4 (14s Gold); Warwick 12.16 were good for Kingsley 10.5 (15s), and Warwick White 11.11 beat Whitfords Lions 6.6 (16s).

Four winners

THE SOUTH FREMANTLE junior council provided four different premierships winners in their grand finals — Safety Bay, Coolbellup, Cockburn and Fremantle Hawks.

Safety Bay (14s White) won the Len Haywood Memorial Shield with a close win over South Coogee 7.4 to 6.8, while the Henry Nairn Shield was won by 14s Red division side Cockburn 22.16, who easily defeated Fremantle Hawks 5.5.

The 16s plate division grand final saw Coolbellup dominate Kwinana 14.8 to 4.10. CBC won their division when they beat Fremantle Hawks to win the Vic Jeffery Memorial Shield.

Winners

THE East/West competition held their grand finals on Sunday, with Morley, Bayswater and East Perth taking out championships.

Premiership leaders Morley won the 13s flag, beating Osborne Park 4.14 (38) to 4.5 (29), while in the 14s, Bayswater ran out 34-point winners over Osborne Park, 16.8 (104) to 10.10 (70).

Following are the results and this week's features:

First semi: 15s — North Innaloo 17.12 d Cougars 7.10.

Second semis: 15s — Noranda 17.7 d Morley 12.16; 17s — Bayswater 16.8 d Osborne Park 15.11. Preliminary final: 15s — Osborne Park 14.16 d Balga 11.9.

15s: Plate final — Swanleigh vs Osborne Park, at 10.30am.

15s: Preliminary final — Morley vs North Innaloo, at 12.30pm.

17s: Preliminary final — Osborne Park vs Cougars, at 2.30pm.

All finals will be played at Perth Oval.

Double

MAZENOD were in good form when the Swan Districts Junior Council played their first and second semi-finals last Sunday.

Mazenod won the 13s first semi when they beat High Wycombe 8.12 (60) to 5.7 (37), while the 13s second semi went to Swan View 9.11 (65) to Bassendean's 8.6 (54).

Mazenod were also successful in the 14s first semi when they beat Kalamunda by two points, 8.9 (57) to 8.7 (55).

Bassendean dominated the 14s and 15s second semi finals, beating Swan View 10.8 (68) to Mazenod 11.12 (78) to 4.7 (31).

Following are the fixtures for the preliminary finals at Forster Park, Cloverdale. 13s Bassendean v Mazenod, 10.30am; 14s Mazenod v Swan View, 12.10pm; 15s Swan View v Mazenod, 2pm.

Demons

THE PERTH junior football council started their preliminary finals last Sunday, with Forrestfield 13s and Centrals 15s both winning a chance at the premiership.

Forrestfield 13s defeated Centrals 6.3 (39) to 3.4 (22), while the 15s final saw Centrals 13.14 (92) run out 38-point winners over East Victoria Park, 8.6 (54).

Fixtures for the grand finals at Lathlain Park on Sunday are — noon: 13s — East Victoria Park v Forrestfield. 2pm: 15s — Forrestfield v Centrals.

Dominant

KAROONDA dominated East Fremantle council's preliminary and second semi-finals last weekend when then they won both the 14s and 15s preliminary finals and the 17s second semi.

A 17-point margin saw Karoonda win the preliminary final in the 14s, 7.8 (50) to Lynwood/Ferndale 4.9 (33), while Willetton ran out 47-point winners over Bullcreek 8.7 (55) to 1.2 (8).

The 15s preliminary final was won by Karoonda 11.13 (79) to Riverton 4.6 (30). The 17s second semi final saw Kooranda take out their third respective win when they thrashed Lynwood/Ferndale, 17.9 (111) to 10.9 (69).

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P/CODE

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Last week's Burley — Seekem winner was Troy Babry, of Bayswater who correctly identified Ron Alexander as the last captain of an East Fremantle premiership team.

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Westside Football, PO Box 442
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SUNDAY SCENE

Bill Wake's weekly round-up of Sunday League matches.



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The national view



by JOHN WARREN

High costs a problem for juniors

THE National Football League will host a Forum on November 29, 30 and December 1 in order to address the current problems confronting the game.

My role will be to present the facts relevant to the National Coaching Scheme and to make observations and recommendations about the identification of talent, the national draft as it applies to elite juniors and the various national junior championships.

In Australia Football there is no doubt that we can be proud of our junior series.

The Shell Cup under-15 championships, contested between New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, serves a definite developmental purpose and is an eagerly-awaited contest, with all teams possessing a realistic chance of winning.

The under-16 secondary schoolboys championships are a well conducted series, which has just been won by Queensland — helped by the sensible age concession which penalises the "big three" States by up to a year in terms of players age eligibility.

The Commonwealth Bank Teal Cup is a wonderful showpiece for our code, with the talent quite outstanding.

The selection as an All-Australian player ensures great attention from governing bodies and allows the player to attend a skills camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

Fund-raising

However, there is one "fly in the ointment" — the extraordinary and, at times, quite demeaning efforts that junior football officials, the players and their parents, have to endure in order to reach such national junior championships.

With the colossal expenditure now regarded as normal in the fielding of senior teams — and with the grossly-inflated payments to individual players which is also regarded as normal — surely the time has arrived to introduce realistic subsidies to struggling States and Territories.

The time MUST come when conducting chook raffles in pubs in Canberra and NSW to raise funds is just not on!

The uninformed might claim that it would not matter if the ACT (for example) did not compete at national level. Such an observation would be totally wrong, in context with Canberra's wonderful contribution to VFL football over the years. On a per capita basis — and more relevantly on a per club basis — the number of elite players produced has been exceptional.

Consider Alex Jesaulenko, Michael Conlan, Brett Allison, Adrian Barich, Shaun Smith and Michael Werner, plus Ed Blackaby's contribution to the WAFL.

A body that has produced such talent deserves a system which substantially reduces the onerous cost burden associated with representation at national level.

Other States and territories, especially those who have to annually bear the burden of our high airfares, have equal problems.

Last kick sets up another final draw

A DECISION by umpire Ron Schnaars to award Wanneroo captain-coach Gavin Carter a free-kick in the goal square 15 seconds before the final siren resulted in the second drawn final-round football match in Perth in 24 hours.

Wanneroo were trailing Gosnells by six points as the clock ticked towards siren time in the second semi-final at Gosnells Oval, when Carter vigorously tackled a Hawk defender.

Schnaars had no hesitation in penalising the Gosnells player for holding the ball and Carter kicked the equalising goal from only five metres out as the siren sounded to end the match at 13.13 each.

Coincidence

The incredible coincidence of the draw coming so close to the West Perth-East Fremantle tie in the WAFL semi-final the day before, left players and supporters of both teams shell-shocked.

Canning, who had little trouble in beating Osborne Park 19.15 to 14.11 in the first semi-final at John Dunn Reserve, will now have to wait another week for the outcome of the Roos-Hawks replay before knowing who they meet in the preliminary final.

Gosnells had a slight edge on the Roos for most of the day, leading at the three changes by seven points, nine points and 13 points, respectively.

final draw

With their Bowden Medal-winning centremen Gary Smallridge in top form, ruck-rover Gavin Biffin playing creatively in midfield and defender Paul Hill strong in the backline, the Hawks looked set to keep their unbeaten record intact and go straight into the grand final.

But the Roos stayed in touch due mainly to some brilliant goal-kicking by lively flanker Stephen Hill, who cut loose with five goals in the second and third terms and a spirited display by rover Mark Bonomelli.

Centremen Howard Collinge played wide of Smallridge and also played a big role in lifting his team.

Hawks coach Stephen Hargrave made an astute move when he placed Paul Hill on the dangerous Stephen Hill, cutting off the Roos' main goal supply.

At the other end Hawks forwards Dean Hayden and Peter McGilvray kicked three goals each.

Experience

Canning's wealth of experience provided by former VFL players Peter Bosustow and Kevin Taylor paved the way for their impressive 34-point win over the highly-fancied Saints.

With the rescheduling of the second semi-final between Gosnells and Wanneroo set for this Sunday at John Dunn Oval, Canning will have an extra week to prepare for their preliminary final showdown with either Gosnells or Wanneroo.

The SFL directors have decided to continue the minor grade fixtures and the format for the following weeks will be:

FIXTURES

Sunday League

John Dunn Oval Kelmscott
PRELIMINARY FINALS — Colts 9.50am
Gosnells v Wanneroo. Reserves 11.50am
Applecross v Osborne Park.
SECOND SEMI-FINAL — League 2.20pm
Gosnells v Wanneroo.

SEPTEMBER 17 — 9.50am, Colts Grand Final; 11.50am, Reserves Grand Final; 2.20pm, League Preliminary Final.

SEPTEMBER 24 — 11am, Preliminary game to be announced; Superboot long-kicking competition sponsored by Burley-Sekem. 1.30pm, League Grand Final.

These arrangements will be subject to change if there is another drawn game in the minor grades.

Metropolitan League

Thornlie Oval
GRAND FINAL — Colts 10am Fremantle v Mundijong. Reserves noon Fremantle v Kwinana. League 2.20pm Pinjarra v Midland.

MATCH DETAILS

SUNDAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Second semi-final

GOSNELLS 1.4 7.6 11.11 13.13 91
WANNEROO 0.3 5.9 9.10 13.13 91
GOALS — GOSNELLS: McGilvray, Hayden 3, Foster, Smallridge 2, Knappton, Latham, O'Keefe 1. WANNEROO: Hill 5, Bonomelli, Fraser 2, Carter, Collinge, McElwee, Waddell 1.
BEST — GOSNELLS: Gary Smallridge, Paul Hill, Gavin Biffin. WANNEROO: Mark Bonomelli, Howie Collinge, Andrew Bairstow.

First semi-final

CANNING 6.4 12.7 17.10 19.15 129
OSBORNE PARK 4.1 6.4 10.9 14.11 95
GOALS — CANNING: B. Johns, D. Johns 4, K. Taylor 3, Bosustow, Schuiling 2, S. Cook, Hunter, Joseph, A. Wisken 1. OSBORNE PARK: Vanderlist 4, Cullen, Neville 3, Allen, O'Connell, Shepherd, Stephenson 1.
BEST — CANNING: Dean Johns, Ron Hunter, Peter Bosustow. OSBORNE PARK: Brian Dawson, Gary Batt, Mark Stephenson.

Midland earn re-match

MIDLAND won a hard-fought preliminary final against Mundijong by seven points and earned a re-match against Pinjarra in the Metropolitan Football League.

Pinjarra beat Midland by three points in the second semi-final.

Midland began brilliantly to be 25-point leaders at the first break and still led by 21 points at half-time.

Mundijong's kicking for goal was abysmal in the first half as they booted 11 behinds.

In the second half Mundijong fought back strongly but just failed to bridge the gap.

Midland's Darren Narrier contributed six goals with fellow forward Wayne Sneddon kicking three majors.

Narrier, Russell Gordon and Bruce Moore were all in good form while veterans Ian Williams, Charlie Tenardi and Gary Gianatti all played top games for Mundijong.

In the minor grades Mundijong won the colts preliminary final against Pinjarra by 31 points and Kwinana were 59-point winners over Midland in the reserves preliminary final.

Mundijong and Kwinana, respectively, will take on Fremantle in the colts and reserves grand finals respectively.

The league grand final between Pinjarra and Midland promises to be the match of the season.

Since 1945 Pinjarra have contested 29 grand finals and won 14 flags. Midland have played in five grand finals since 1961 and notched two flags.

Rival coaches Ken Baker (Midland) and Nigel Gilbert (Pinjarra) will put the playing coach, non-playing coach roles on the line in this game.

Baker is an astute judge but his main aim in the grand final will be to try to contain Gilbert, the main architect of Pinjarra's second semi-final win.

PRELIMINARY FINALS — League: Midland 14.11 (95) d Mundijong 12.16 (88). Reserves: Kwinana 14.19 (103) d Midland 5.14 (44). Colts: Mundijong 11.9 (75) d Pinjarra 6.8 (44)

6NR TOTAL FOOTBALL



The 6NR team (from left) Ian Miller, John Hayes, Phil Lamb, Kim Hagdorn, Ken Judge and Stuart Hillier, with sports director Peter Vlahos in front.

The complete football coverage without interruptions.

THIS WEEK

Thursday 9.30pm: Football Team Selections

Saturday 8am: World of Football

noon: East Fremantle vs West Perth

2.45pm: WAFL: Claremont vs South Fremantle

5pm: All Sports Review

Sunday noon: Sports Station

3pm: SFL: Gosnells vs Wanneroo

5pm: All Sports Review

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Last year's Buccaneer of the Year award was a tie — with Perth's Joe Santostefano and Claremont's Ben Allan sharing the spoils.

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A roundup of news from the West Australian Amateur Football League

Rams storm into the grand final

MAYLANDS stormed into the B-grade grand final with an emphatic 21-point victory over North Fremantle.

The Rams signalled that they meant business with a three-goal opening burst that laid the foundations for a big lead, which North Fremantle could not overcome.

Maylands' early ascendancy was instigated by the cohesive teamwork of midfielders Ossie Dikolli, Greg Davis, Rob Gray and Rob Mulder and the unexpected ruck dominance of Paul Carlsen.

The Magpies had a solid backbone in the Jenkins brothers, but they lacked support and North were unable to bridge a three-goal deficit before half-time.

Maylands reasserted their superiority in the third term.

After Dikolli was injured, star utility Steve Goddard slotted into the middle and created countless opportunities for a hard-running Rams midfield.

The usually tight and tenacious Magpies backline, led by Rob Looby and Kevin Jones, were suddenly powerless.

When Maylands held a five-goal break at three-quarter time, the result looked almost beyond doubt.

North, however, fought back with vigour, slamming on three quick goals without reply.

With Drew Herrington, Dave Reed, Rob Biondillo and Kyron Anderson coming alive, the game was suddenly up for grabs.

B-GRADE

by

PETER RUSH



The Rams responded to the challenge with Mallard, Goddard and Dikolli teaming with the inspirational Harley Haywood to finally lay to rest North Fremantle's surge.

In the first semi-final CBC overran Collegians Old Scotch with a seven-goal last quarter to continue their finals presence.

The Lions led for the first three quarters but a series of injuries left them undermanned for the crucial last term in which CBC dominated.

Lethal forwards Graeme Howard and Ric Zumach contributed eight goals between them while Chook McDermott was more than useful at centre-half-forward.

Captain Joe Lawrence was back to his best after returning from injury while rugged key defenders Paul Piggot and Rob Reed led the way in defence.

This week's preliminary final at Fremantle Oval sees two of the oldest amateur teams in North Fremantle and CBC clash.

CBC go into the game as slight favourites but will need their big guns in Howard, Zumach, Piggot, Rogers, Reed and Lawrence firing if they are to overwhelm the determined Magpie combination.

Wembley triumph...but North Beach go down

WEMBLEY turned on a powerful third quarter to kick seven goals and clinch the A-grade first semi-final against Nollamara with a 46-point margin at Leederville Oval on Saturday.

The Magpies were two points down at quarter-time and one point at half-time as both sides produced some tough, tight play.

Back pocket player Shane Paddon was outstanding for Wembley and along with Luke Wundke, Grant Callaghan, Kevin Symonds and wingman Craig Dawson allowed the Pies to stay in the game.

Nollamara were well led by Mick Tea, Clayton Lewis and Chris White.

The Wembley runners came alive in the third quarter with Craig Dawson, Glen O'Donnell, Symonds and Callaghan doing well and with Brad Hunt tagging White, the Magpies took the ball up the ground very smoothly.

Up forward, youngster Heath Gillard and Dean Holder were making it easy for the runners by presenting a target.

Wembley continued their dominance in the final term, outscoring their opposition five goals to two.

Mt Lawley win

Wembley's victory put them into the preliminary final against North Beach, who went down to Mt Lawley by 15 points in a tough second semi-final struggle.

Apart from the second quarter, when the Hawks gained a three-goal break, the clash was a goal-for-goal affair right down to the final siren.

Good players for Mt Lawley were Peter Taylor, John Pinneri, Andrew Chapman and Leigh Sprlyan.

North received good service from Ian Linford, Clive Mitchell and Corry Bewick, who marshalled his side from the middle of the ground.

North's clash this week with Wembley will see some exciting individual battles.

The ruck clash between Luke Wundke and North's David Higgins should be a big factor for the running players in each side.

Centreman Bewick will have his hands full with Wembley's Glen O'Donnell, who has been in fine form over the last few rounds.

Association fairest best medal winner Dave Perry will not have an easy time as he fronts up to one of the most consistent ruck rovers in amateur football in Grant (Dobbie) Callaghan.

Dangerous

Wembley will also have to watch young Aboriginal stars in Alec Yarran and Mark Deeble, who have been extremely dangerous up forward all year.

North are not without dangers in defence as Wembley have goal wizard Kevin Symonds as well as Heath Gillard and Dean Holder to counter.

A bonus for Wembley this week will be the return of centre-half-forward Brad Roberts and his clash with Clive Mitchell could well be the deciding factor in what promises to be an exciting preliminary final.

A-GRADE

by

TREVOR SCHORER



FAIREST AND BEST AWARDS

A GRADE
Dave Perry (North Beach) 21; Justin Cook (Mt Lawley) 19; Richard Joyce (Trinity Aquinas) 17; Corry Bewick (North Beach) 14.

B GRADE
Harley Hayward (Maylands) 31; Joseph Lawrence (CBC) 14; M. Tory (Coll/Old Scotch) 14.

C GRADE
John Lawrence (Bassendean) 24; S. Bombardieri (Osborne Districts) 15.

D GRADE
Peter McKiernan (WACAE) 12; W. Bariolo (Wembley) 10; A. Boney (Trinity/Aquinas) 10.

E GRADE
Stephen Anastos (John 23rd) 30; S. Mulvey (St Norberts) 29.

F GRADE
Kent Brown (Mt Lawley) 14; P. Kenny (Victoria Park) 14; S. Ashley (Dianella) 12.

G GRADE
K. McKeown (Navy) 26; C. Samakovidis (Ocean Ridge) 20; Victor Drayton (Girraheen) 19.

H GRADE
Arthur Fielder (Riverton) 25; J. Robinson (University) 19.

I GRADE
Andrew Miller (RAAF) 16; M. O'Keefe (Carlisle) 14.

J GRADE
Timothy Fetherstonhaugh (Murdoch University) 14; P. Kowalski (Swan View) 14; R. King (Morley) 11.

K GRADE
Trevor Jackson (Rockingham) 20; D. Kahl (Cockburn Lakes) 18.

L GRADE
Ross Putland (Brentwood) 21; R. Wilford (Melville) 17.

A COLTS
Michael Cawley (University) 14; S. Docherty (Trinity/Aquinas) 13.

B COLTS
Ross Nicholaidis (Dianella) 26; A. Bosich (Swan Athletic) 22.

C COLTS
Grant Damiani (Whitfords) 14; C. Woodley (Wanneroo) 14; C. Anderson (Rockingham) 11.

D COLTS
Glen Walters (Applecross) 18; P. Darnell (Ocean Ridge) 14.

THE A-grade goal kicking award went to Ken Pride (Old Wesley) with 50 goals.

He also won the award in 1984. The B-grade goalkicking honours went to Graeme Howard (CBC) with 111 goals.

Goal umpires at fault

AN umpiring mistake cost Bassendean their chance of winning a premiership when Carlisle beat them 11.11 (77) to 12.3 (75) at Inglewood Oval.

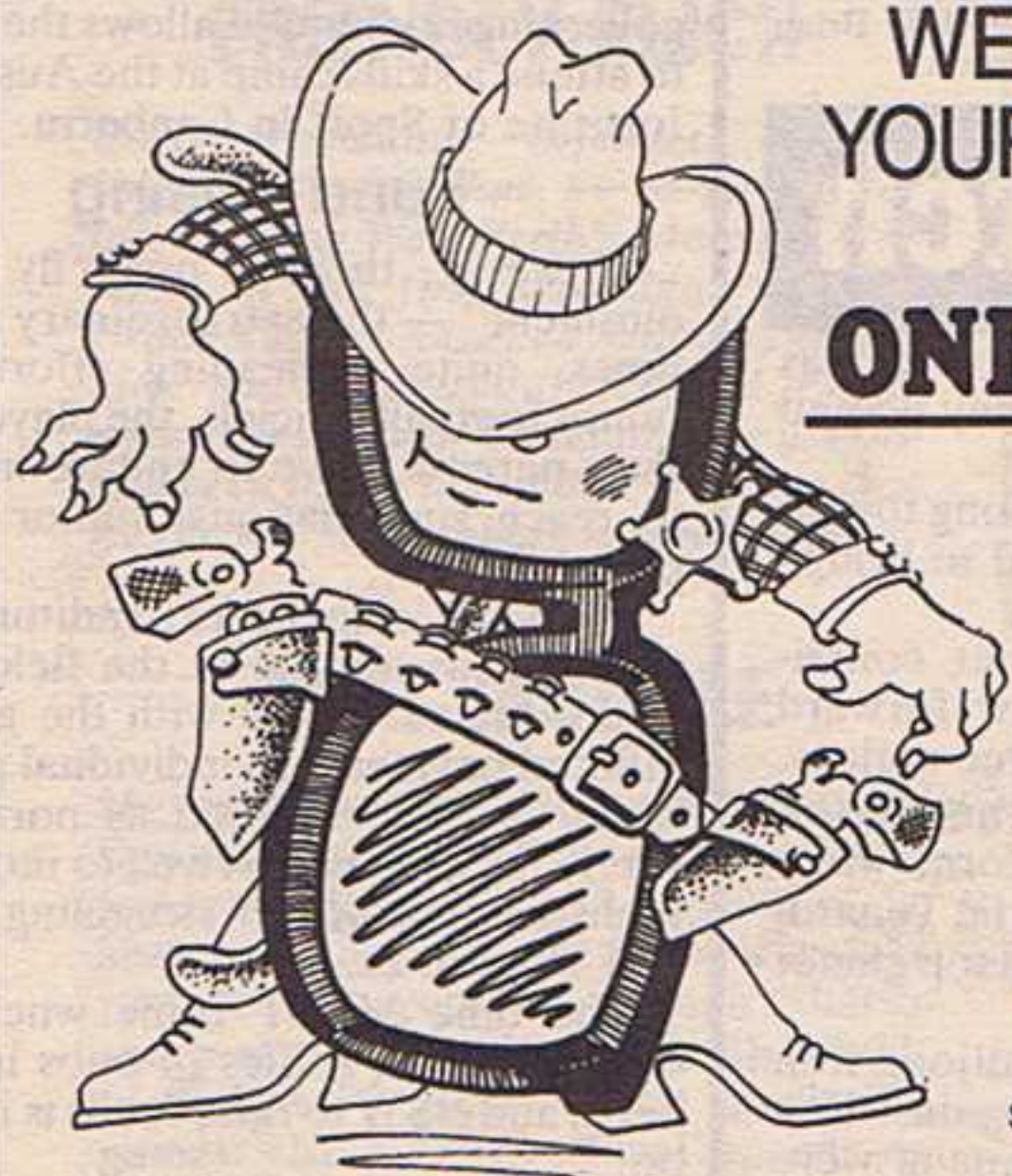
Bassendean were convinced they had won when they kicked the final goal of the day.

But later it was revealed that an error had been made and Carlisle had won by two points.

The matter was taken to the Amateur Association and a decision on Tuesday saw Carlisle advance to the grand final schedule for this weekend.

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Kicking football into the future



TRIO OF VETERANS

THE average age of the stars in West Australian football has taken a dramatic tumble since the inception of the West Coast Eagles in 1987.

But during this finals series, there are three veterans who hold the key to the prospects of their respective teams.

The experienced trio of centreman, Brian Peake, Peter Menaglio and Maurice Rioli, still excite the fans with their special attributes — and can still change the direction of a game.

Peake will always be remembered



Brian Peake...dependable

as one of football's all-time greats. The 1979 All-Australian captain, Tassie Medallist and 1977 Sandover Medallist proved last Saturday — if indeed, any proof was needed — that at 35, he still has plenty to offer the Sharks.

It was Peake who initially thwarted a West Perth charge in the last quarter and who later snatched a draw with a perfect kick from 35 metres out of goal.

For a player of lesser experience and poise, the pressure of the situation could have taken its toll and a kick that should normally have been converted, could easily have slewed off the side of the boot.

It was fitting that in his 300th game for the Sharks, Peake should emerge the hero.



Peter Menaglio...classy

... and they can all shape their team's hopes

At the same time Falcons skipper Menaglio gave a classical display of his skills.

He worked tirelessly in the packs, was responsible for establishing West Perth's run-on football and set a fine example for his teammates.

A veteran of more than 230 games, Menaglio was about to retire from league football at the end of last season and embark on a European holiday which he had been promising himself for many years.

Menaglio might still take that vacation at the end of this season but the Falcons will be anxious to persuade him to return in time for next winter.

Menaglio is a player highly respected in opposition camps. But he has not been afforded the honour of State representation as often as he could have been.

Rioli, too, has produced his best for South Fremantle in the weeks leading up to the finals series and another weeks rest might be just what the brilliant centreman needs to hone his skills to a fine point.

He played his 150th game for the Bulldogs in the last qualifying game of the season and gave a classical display, bringing back memories of the wizardry he so often produced in interstate and finals football in the past.

TAKING STOCK

by GARY STOCKS
of The West Australian



Like Peake and Menaglio, Rioli is a big-game performer and seeing him in action during this year's finals should be a highlight.

The odd man out in the battle of the centreman will be Claremont's Ben Allan who, at 20, is 15 years Peake's junior, 12 years younger than Rioli and concedes 11 years to Menaglio.

Allan has the opportunity to put his stamp on league football in the future and is one of the State's outstanding prospects.

Let's hope that Peake, Rioli and Menaglio can continue to play and pass on the knowledge so desperately sought by the competition's younger players.



Maurice Rioli...inspirational

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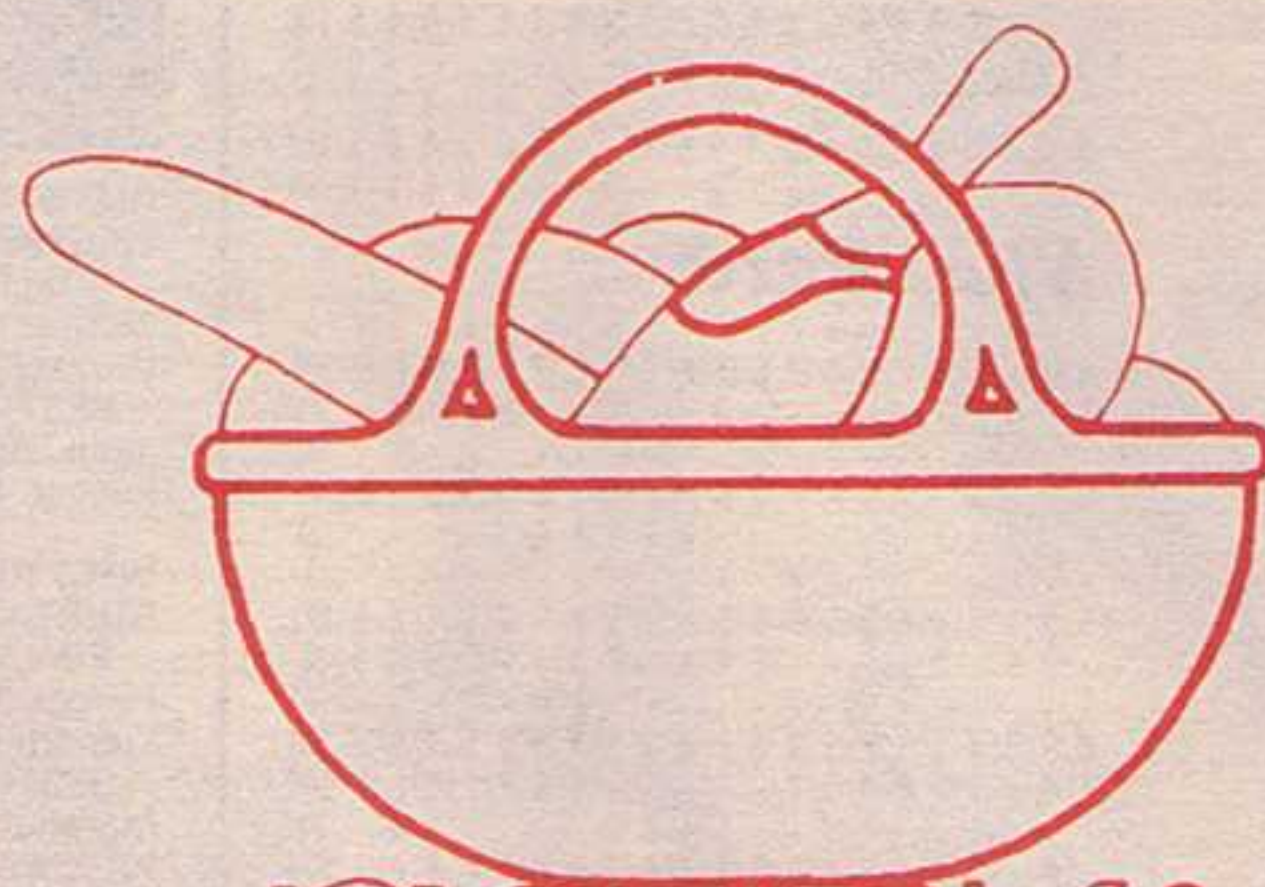
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