



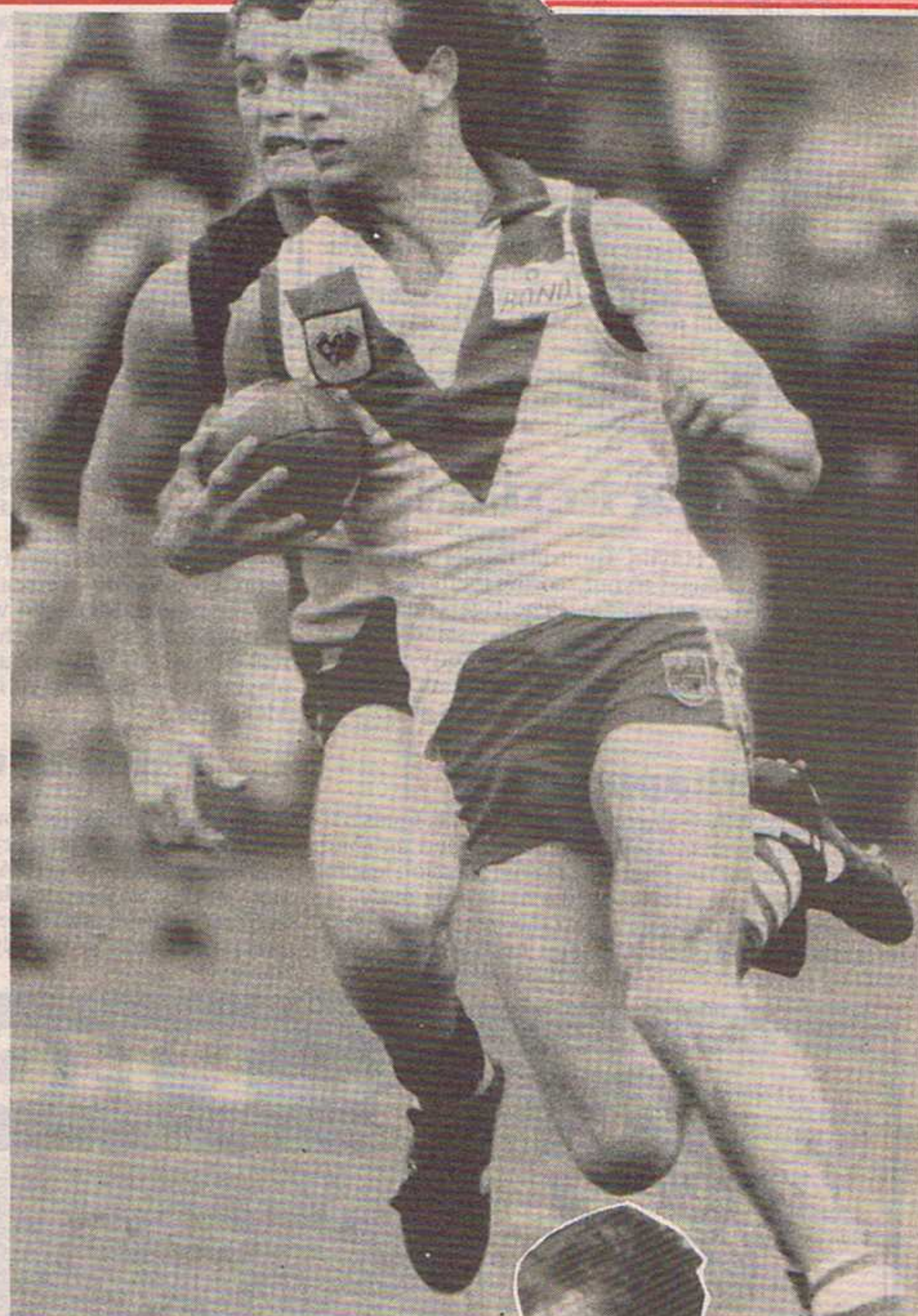
WESTSIDE Football

TELEPHONE 227 6722

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION

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STARS ON THE GO



DOUBLE trouble...these two ferocious ball-getters were stars of Saturday's double-header semi-final at Subiaco Oval — and will be key men in the coming two finals battles. LEFT: Dashing Shark Stephen Edgar has the break on Falcons forward Gavin Howlett. RIGHT: Speedy Bulldog Peter Matera breaks away from talented Tiger Ben Allan. RIGHT: And Claremont's big-man ace Peter Mann is set to emerge as a key rookie in this week's preliminary final.

HE'S JUST THE MANN!

DYNAMIC rookie Peter Mann is confident that Claremont can rebound to win the 1989 premiership.

But before the Tigers can contemplate a grand final rematch with South Fremantle, they must beat the flag-hungry East Fremantle line-up in Saturday's preliminary final.

Mann, widely acclaimed as the Tigers best player in their 16-point loss to the Bulldogs, says that Claremont have the fire-power to sink the Sharks, despite their lack of finals experience.

"We've got too much mobility for them," said a confident Mann, who had watched the far less talented West Perth side stretch East Fremantle with their running game in the first semi-final.

"So long as we do it right, we'll be too quick for them around the ground; unlike against South when we were found wanting in the final 10 minutes."

Mann, forced into ruck duties when No. 1 leaper Peter Higgins limped from the ground in the first quarter, added that he enjoyed his contest against Sandover Medallist Craig Edwards.

"Craig's pretty clever and I learnt a lot from that encounter," said the 1989 WAFL All Star.

"He has a big influence at centre-bouncedowns because he uses his size to knock opponents out of the way."

"For me, it was a real thrill just to be in the game. I've never played in front of a crowd that big and once the nerves settled down I was okay."



PICTURES: Julian Cowan

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RALPH FLASHBACK

IT was like a blast from the past when Claremont's Warren Ralph led quickly, marked strongly and kicked accurately in the opening minutes of play. It was the finals series two years back when Ralph reappeared as Claremont's spearhead after a stint in the VFL. The 30-year-old Ralph came out of retirement this year after playing in South Australia last season and has been content to find form and fitness in the Tigers reserves side. But he never gave up hope of a league recall and with encouragement from coach Gerard Neesham, he persisted. "It was pleasing to be back on familiar territory," said Ralph, whose four-goal effort certainly justified the surprise inclusion of the one-time top WAFL sharp-shooter.

Pure pleasure

THE age-old question of whether coaches should be able to call matches off when the result is beyond doubt — such as a huge winning margin — cropped up again midway through the last term of the first semi replay. The Sharks had the game well under control and as time ticked on — indicating that it would be a late day in view of the second semi still to come — radio 6NR commentator Kim Hagdorn raised the idea for discussion. But much-travelled football veteran John Hayes said no way. "It's worth the pleasure to watch Brian Peake perform like he is," referring to the Bomber's great 10-kick last term.

BIGGER RETURN

SUBIACO coach Haydn Bunton thinks that there should be some changes to our scoring methods — and Claremont would certainly agree. The Tigers hit the post four times in Saturday's second semi — and Bunton believes that a poster (which, after all, is pretty close to a goal) should be worth more than just one point. "Maybe we should have two or three points for such a shot," says the master coach.

Unhappy snap

WEST Perth's Wayne Dayman knew that his finals participation was over instantly when he pulled up sharp towards the end of the Thursday training session leading up to the first semi. He snapped a hamstring muscle in his left leg — the opposite leg to the one that troubled him earlier in the season — and he was resigned to watching Saturday's replay from the sidelines.

EF	v	WP
5	9	4 15
39		39
		UMP

FRUSTRATING FALCONS

WEST Perth supporters could well be excused for pulling their hair out as the Falcons missed more shots at goal than Barry McKinnon has at Premier Peter Dowding! They really blew it with a 3.10 first term and their 2.7 in the vital third quarter didn't help either. In fact, at one stage the Falcons had kicked more points (6.19) than East Fremantle had in scoring shots (9.9).

The incredible half-time 5.9 to 4.15 draw meant that they had played six quarters of football (three hours) and still nothing separated the two combatants.

Menaglio's move

DON'T write off West Perth skipper Peter Menaglio as far as next season is concerned. The skilled 31-year-old has really enjoyed his football this season, helped by a refreshing attitude towards training allowed to him by coach George Michalcyk. He feels that his comeback from a planned retirement was well worth it and now he plans a 3½-month overseas holiday with wife Michelle. On his return, Menaglio will take 12-months leave-of-absence from school teaching to tackle a new career in real estate. "It will probably be an incentive to keep playing to get established in the real estate world," said Menaglio.

Falcons remember

THE black armbands worn by West Perth players on Saturday were in memory of one of the club's great stalwarts, Ernie Cooley. A long-time official and voluntary worker at Leederville, the 76-year-old Mr Cooley suffered a heart attack before the first semi-final draw and passed away peacefully in the week leading up to the replay.

HIGH-POWERED

ADRENALIN was certainly pumping through the veins of South Fremantle forward Glen Jakovich last Saturday. Sporting a nasty gash to the head, the 16-year-old rookie forward was in the thick of the Bulldogs celebrations after their 16-point win over rivals Claremont. With fists clenched and mouth working over-time, he let the emotion of the moment pour out. The grand final appearance, with the possibility of a Bulldogs premiership, crowns an amazing year for the youngster. Apart from making his WAFL debut, Jakovich was selected as a Teal Cup All-Australian and was also a member of the Hamilton High School team which won the Quit Cup. Standing at 192cms and weighing 91kgs, he certainly has a big future ahead of him. The gash was courtesy of Claremont full-back Peter Melesso, who hit him while punching the ball away 10 minutes into the last quarter. But Jakovich scotched suggestions that the blow had been deliberate. "Melesso was just going for the ball," he said.

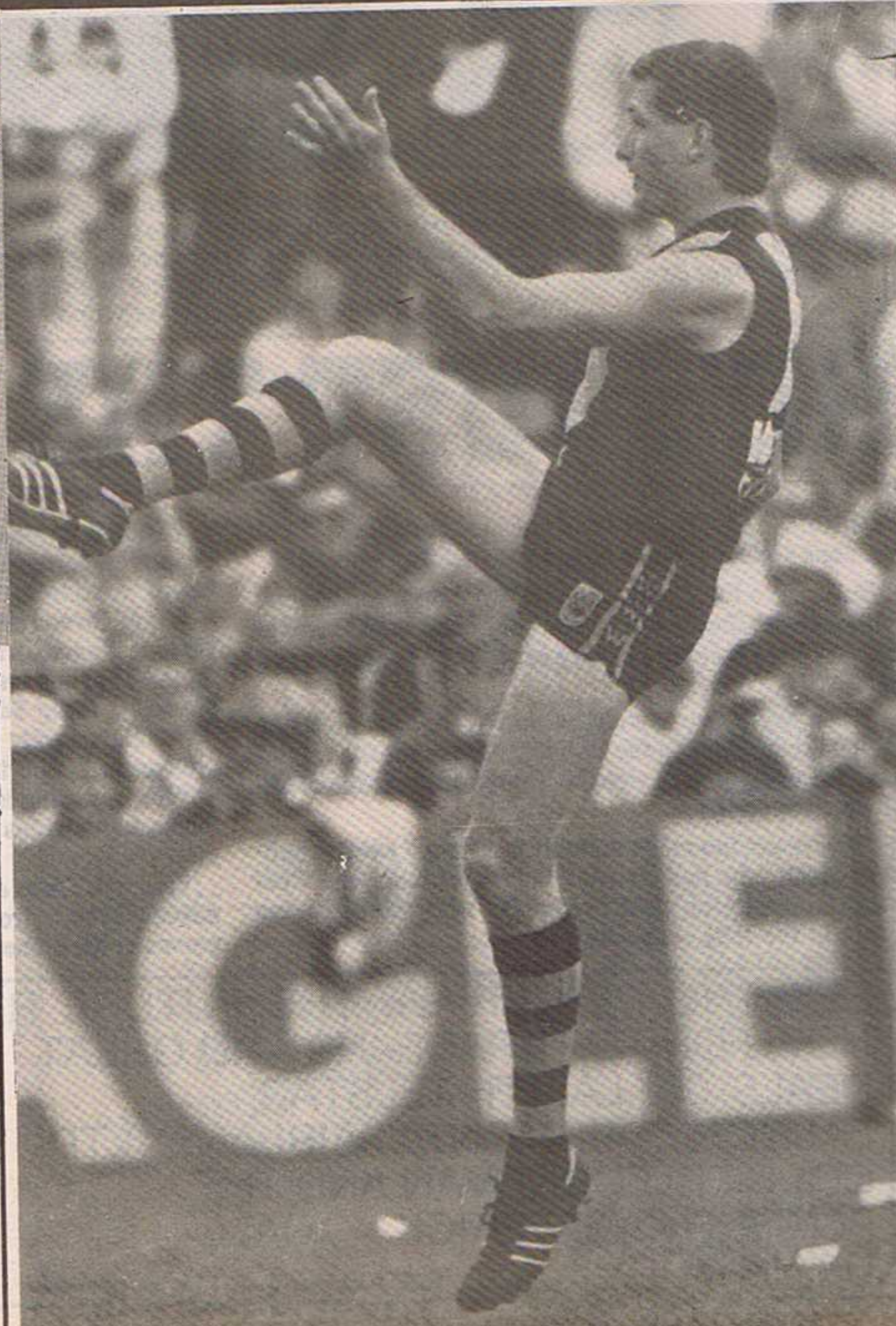
Confidence-booster

EAST Fremantle big man Brad Tunbridge is about to cut loose in the WAFL finals. Tunbridge, who looked out of sorts in the drawn first semi-final, says that he is now ready to fire after a spell on the ball in the replay last Saturday. "I got a lot of my confidence back," Tunbridge said after the Sharks 43-point win over the Falcons. "I needed a run on the ball and though I'll probably be back in the forward line for the preliminary final, I feel a lot better for it. I've been dropping a lot of marks recently, but you'll find that I'll start taking them again from now on."

NO HANGOVER

SOUTH Fremantle ruckman Craig Edwards denied that he was a victim of the post-Sandover Medal blues after his mediocre effort against Claremont last Saturday. Edwards said that he was hampered by an ankle injury sustained during the third quarter. "I rolled the ankle and then it blew up like a balloon," the Medal man said. "I can't see that winning a medal would change anything to my game because I'm still the same person. I've been around long enough to know that you've got to do more than just walk out there to play well." Edwards cleared away doubts about his fitness for the grand final when he said: "I've got a couple of weeks to rest and get fit. I'll be there and I'll be totally fit."

PHOTO ACTION



RALPHIE'S BACK!

STRAIGHT-shooting Warren Ralph is back and he's out to win his third premiership Medal with the Tigers. The fast leading full-forward, who retired after spending the 1988 season with Glenelg in the SANFL, returned to WAFL action in Round 12 this year, only for injury to sideline him in the following match. His inclusion for the second semi-final team was unexpected, but fruitful and he looked every bit the Ralph of old, kicking three goals in the first quarter. With one finals match under his belt, the veteran goalkicker looms as a big threat to East Fremantle in the preliminary final, but regardless of the result it will be enjoyable just to watch a champion full-forward in action.

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Do we need the VFL?

SATURDAY'S second semi-final was the most interesting and absorbing game played at Subiaco Oval all year.

The game was skilful, fast and tough and the result remained in doubt until the last five minutes.

It begs the question: do we really need the VFL?

I tend to fluctuate. At times it's great to compete in the VFL with a WA team.

At other times I believe we are being used up and that our own eight WAFL teams can provide a high standard of play and supporters can get more involved.

Supporters of Claremont, East Fremantle and South Fremantle, after attending home and away matches all year, have the opportunity to enjoy watching their teams play in the finals and perhaps win a premiership.

The Eagles should be make the five in 1990, yet all those who have become regular VFL watchers won't be able to attend the finals.

The big-time supporters can make a whizz long weekend of it in Melbourne and the peasants can watch it on television.

Perhaps a leaf should be taken out of the Wildcats and the National Basketball League's arrangements for the finals.

The position where a team finishes on the ladder determines where the finals are played.

ALEXANDER'S ANGLE

By State coach
RON ALEXANDER



If the Eagles finish on top, all finals are still played in Melbourne in front of Victorian crowds.

If the VFL hierarchy want us to believe that this is really a national series, action must be taken to find a more equitable formula for determining where finals games are played.

For the VFL to say that all finals games will be played in Melbourne and that's that shouldn't be accepted by West Australians, who help fill the Victorian coffers at home and away matches.

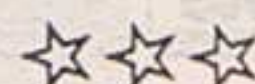
Players get off lightly

IN THE past month Darren O'Brien, Maurice Rioli, Peter Higgins and Peter Melesso have all had striking charges against them dismissed or been given a suspended sentence.

Higgins and Melesso have been reported a number of times.

The tribunal obviously judges each case on its merits, but it appears that these players have been treated somewhat leniently.

Perhaps it looked that way because the finals were so close to when they were reported.



Appetites whetted

THE standard of play in the WAFL has improved greatly since 1987 and last Saturday's successful double-header was testimony to this.

The 30,000 plus who attended must have been impressed and I'm sure most of them will be back to see the remaining two games which promise so much.

Local clubs show nouse

MIDWAY through this season Billy Krakouer and Scott Rowland had fallen out with their clubs and wanted to switch.

The administrators of East Fremantle and Claremont showed admirable commonsense and swapped these two players directly without any money changing hands.

Their attitude was refreshing and a sign of greater co-operation between clubs.

Since then Rowland has become a strong, dependable player with Claremont and has the chance to play in a premiership team.

The same applies to Billy Krakouer, who has played consistently well with the Sharks.

It's ironic that these two players will meet this week and at 5pm on Saturday one will be convinced that he made the right move and the other may not be quite so sure.



Billy Krakouer... good move.

Is Shark victim of injustice?

EAST Fremantle reserves players are disappointed and feel that an injustice has been perpetrated on their team-mate, Ron Adams.

Adams played in Sunday's reserves second semi-final and was suspended for four weeks for striking a Perth player on the chest with his forearm.

Adams has been at East Fremantle for four years and has never been reported. This was to have been his first grand final.

The East Fremantle reserves players have no argument with the umpires, but believe the tribunal has one law for league players and another for reserves.

They simply believe there has been an injustice and are attempting to raise the \$1000 necessary to appeal and have commonsense prevail.

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Media men feel pinch

WHAT a sad story in the media box last Saturday.

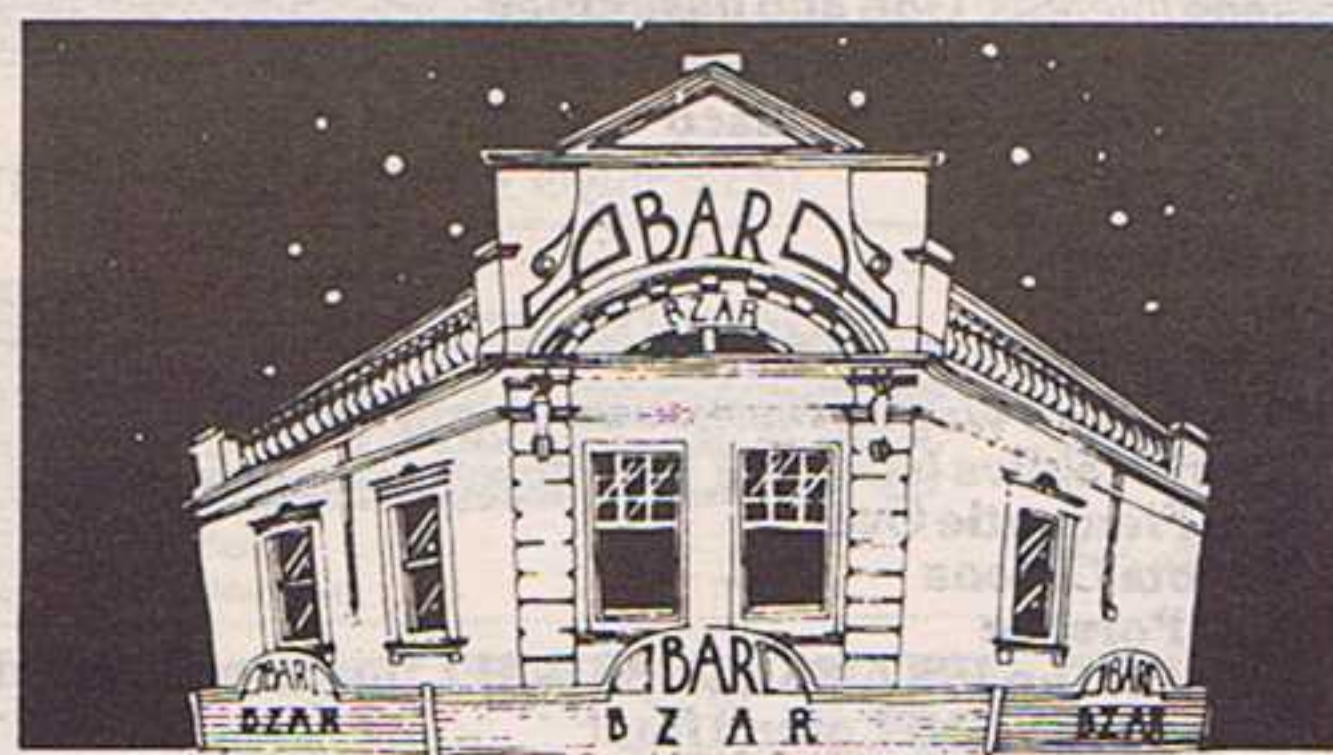
All the big, tough footballers of yesteryear were moaning "my throat, my voice, boy am I tired."

Having to call two games on one afternoon in a row was taking its toll.

Wayne Harvey and Percy Johnson (ABC and 6PR) were on their knees.

George Grljusich was undaunted and advised all that the umpires were doing a magnificent job and he firmly believed that Glen Lee was the best umpire in Western Australia and that means Australia.

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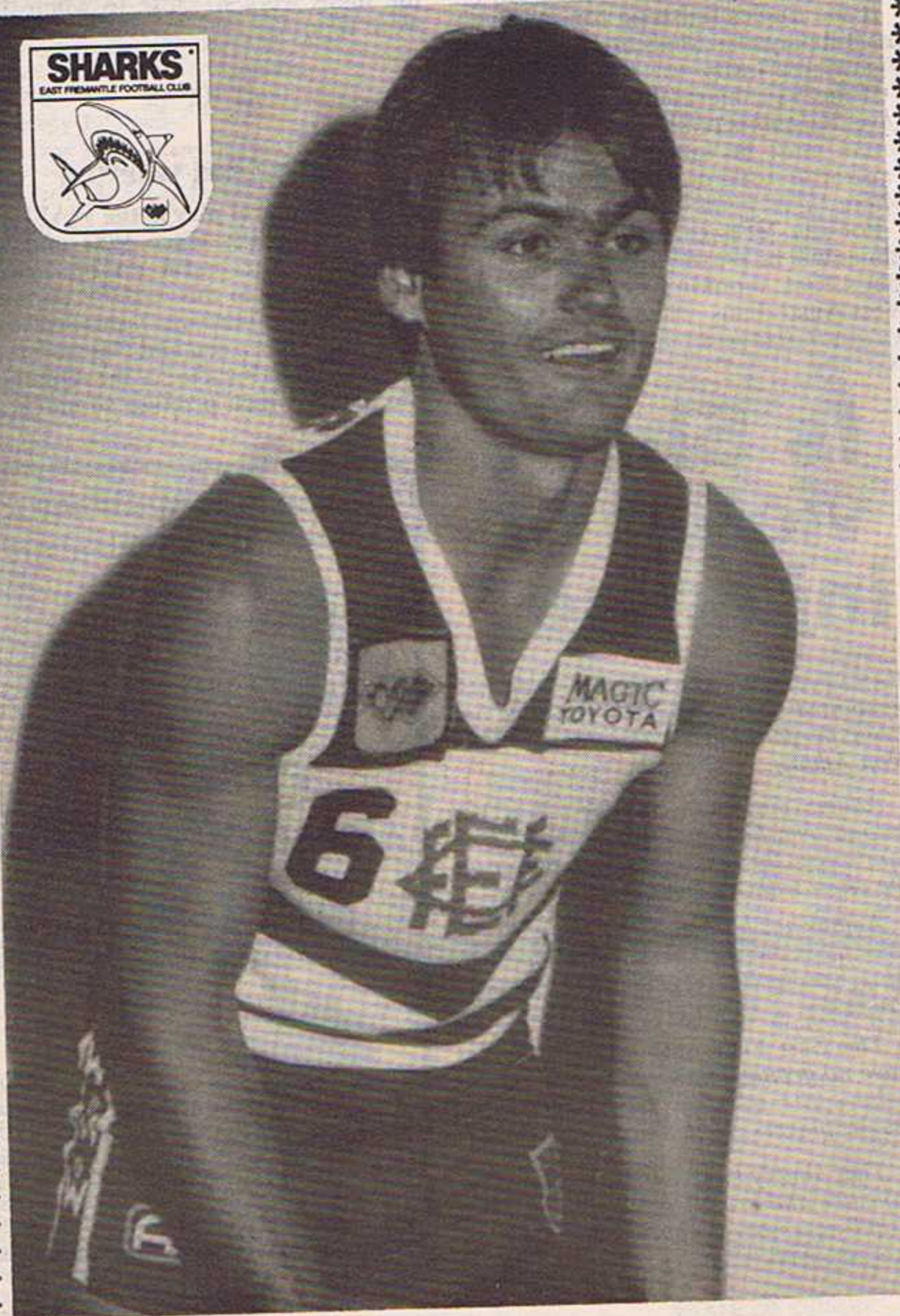
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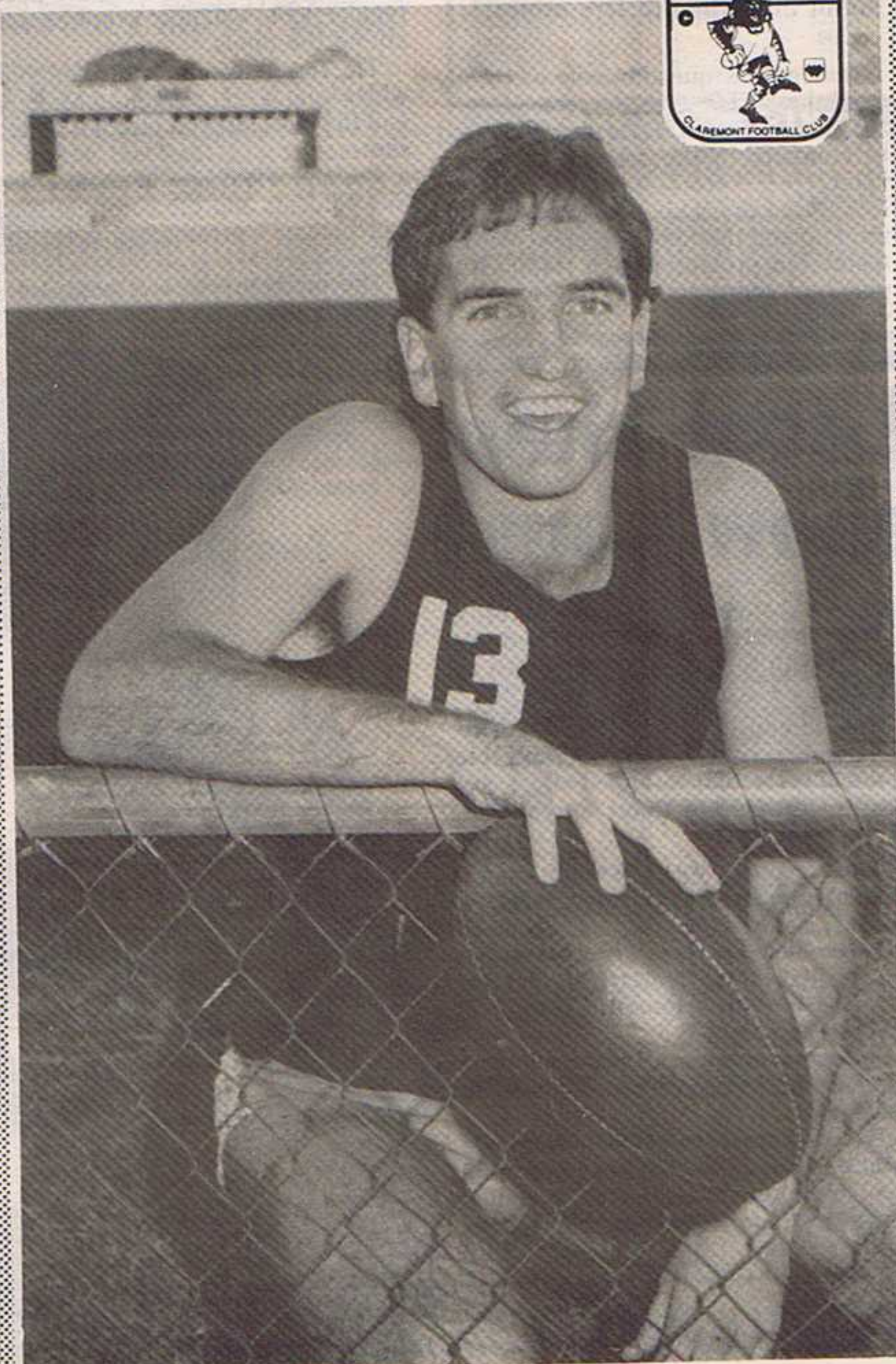


Nickname: **Bear** Why?: **Long story**
 Date of Birth: **4/7/61** Place of Birth: **Geraldton**
 Height: **175cm** Weight: **70kg**
 Age Started Playing: **6**
 Previous Club/s: **Brigades in Geraldton Junior Club: St Patricks College**
 Marital status: **Married to Annette**
 Residence: **Palmyra**
 Occupation: **Plant operator** Place of work: **CBH**
 Other Sporting Interests: **Golf and basketball**
 Favourite Position: **Centre** First Position: **wing**
 League Debut: **1987** Versus: **Subiaco**

FAVOURITES:

Actor: **John Cleese**
 Drink: **Beer**
 TV Show: **China Beach** Food: **Roast**
 Movie: **A Fish Called Wanda** Music: **Varied, anything really**
 Holiday Resort: **Maldive Islands**
 Ground: **East Fremantle Oval**
 Your Car: **Toyota Corona**
 Favourite Car: **Porsche**
 Career Highlights: **The 1987, '88 and '89 WAFL finals rounds and fairest and best in the 1986 GNFL grand final**
 Worst Moment in Football: **Losing in the last two preliminary finals and losing successive GNFL grand finals**
 Hard Things in Football: **Training**
 Football Idols: **Maurice Rioli, Stephen Michael and my eldest brother Barry, who played with South Fremantle**
 Toughest Opponent: **All of them**
 Most Respected Opponent: **Maurice Rioli**
 Most respected umpire: **All**
 Most Memorable Game: **The Fremantle derby first semi-final in 1988**
 Ambitions: **Win the 1989 flag with East Fremantle**
 What do you like about Football: **Meeting people**
 How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: **Relax and listen to music**
 Who Influenced Your Career: **The Brothers at St Patricks College**
 Guernsey Number: **6** Any Reason: **The closest one I could get to 7**
 Any Superstitions: **None**
 Worst Injury: **Ankle ligaments**
 Luckiest Break: **Graham Melrose inviting me down to play with East Fremantle**

TONY BEERS



Nickname: **Beersy** Why?: **Surname**
 Date of Birth: **7/11/62** Place of Birth: **Melbourne**
 Height: **186cm** Weight: **86kg**
 Age Started Playing: **7**
 Previous Club/s: **Collingwood Junior Club: Banyule**
 Marital status: **Single**
 Residence: **Claremont**
 Occupation: **Sales manager** Place of work: **Reebok in the city**
 Other Sporting Interests: **Golf and tennis**
 Favourite Position: **Centre-half-back flank** First Position: **Full-forward**
 League Debut: **1982** for **Collingwood** Versus: **Essendon**

FAVOURITES:

Actor: **Bill Murray** Drink: **Milk**
 TV Show: **7.30 Report** Food: **Seafood**
 Movie: **My Fair Lady** Music: **Classical**
 Book: **The Covenant** Holiday Resort: **Bali**
 Ground: **Subiaco Oval**
 Your Car: **Ford Laser** Favourite Car: **1968 Holden sedan**
 Career Highlights: **1987 premiership with Claremont and selection for WA last year**
 Worst Moment in Football: **Losing the 1988 grand final**
 Hard Things in Football: **Cleaning my boots**
 Football Idols: **John Annear and Steve Malaxos**
 Toughest Opponent: **All the same**
 Most Respected Opponent: **Phil Bradmore**
 Most respected umpire: **Bryon Hadjimihalakis**
 Most Memorable Game: **1987 grand final**
 Ambitions: **See out the year**
 What do you like about Football: **That winning feeling and comradeship**
 How do you Mentally Prepare for a Game: **Relax**
 Who Influenced Your Career: **My father, Gerard Neesham and John Annear**
 Guernsey Number: **13** Any reason: **Warren Ralph took my number**
 Any Superstitions: **No**
 Worst Injury: **Ankle reconstruction**
 Luckiest Break: **Getting switched to centre-half-back in 1987**

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DON'T WRITE SHARKS OFF

IT was only natural that, given the rare opportunity to weigh performances in the first semi-final against those in the second semi-final on the same day, that Claremont were instilled as favourites to beat East Fremantle in Saturday's preliminary final.

The Sharks winning effort against West Perth was considered by most to be overshadowed by Claremont's losing performance against South Fremantle.

It is true that the second semi-final was a far more impressive match than the first semi replay involving East Fremantle and West Perth.

Unfortunately, football is not that simple and it's dangerous to draw a line through those efforts in a bid to determine who South's grand final opponents will be.

Just the same, Claremont should be able to continue their good record against East Fremantle since Gerard Neesham defected from the Port camp to coach the Tigers three years ago.

Naturally, Claremont will monitor closely the fitness of ruckman Peter Higgins this week after he left the ground early last Saturday with a foot injury.

There are those who believe that without Higgins, the Tigers will struggle to overcome the barrage of big men in the East Fremantle camp.

Encouraging

However, Peter Mann gave an encouraging performance when swung into the ruck in Higgins' absence last Saturday and the skills of another Claremont big man in Dean Farmer can't be ignored.

Farmer has played with renewed vitality since rejoining Claremont this season and is more than just an adequate replacement should Higgins miss the game.

Players often respond to the chal-

But Tigers look too steady

lenge in big games and if Farmer gets an opportunity, he is sure to acquit himself well. It must be remembered that he will be playing for a place in the Claremont grand final team.

Claremont have the midfield and attacking players to exploit East Fremantle.

With Peter Thorne, Ben Allan, Tony Evans, Dale Kickett and Neesham himself in good form, it is simply a matter of earning greater result from effort in front of goals.

The return of Warren Ralph to full-forward gives Claremont a focal point in attack. He kicked four goals last Saturday in a bright return to league football.

Brilliance

For East Fremantle to advance and provide a derby grand final, they will again look to the experience and brilliance of the players who did most to steer them to victory last Saturday.

Brian Peake continues to gather kicks with consummate ease; George Christie works hard midfield; Stephen Edgar and John O'Sullivan are reliable in defence and Clinton Browning and Neil Lester-Smith are always dangerous up forward.

As well, rover Brad Rowe showed signs that he is finally returning to the form which makes him one of the most exciting players in the WAFL and the No. 1 draftee outside the VFL.

Towards the end of last week's match, his confidence returned and his explosive pace left opponents floundering in his wake.

But Claremont appear to have an edge and Neesham should take the Tigers to their third successive grand final appearance.

SCIO

Football's No. 1 supporter



PREVIEWS

by Gary Stocks

THE COVERAGE

RADIO

6PR — Saturday 12.30pm: Hawthorn vs Essendon. 2.15pm: Claremont vs East Fremantle.

6WF — Saturday noon: Hawthorn vs Essendon. 2.20pm: Claremont vs East Fremantle.

6NR — Saturday 2pm: Claremont vs East Fremantle.

REGIONAL RADIO WEST — Saturday 2.20pm: Claremont vs East Fremantle.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 2: Saturday 2.15pm: Live to metropolitan area (last quarter) and regionals: Claremont vs East Fremantle.

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

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WESTSIDE'S EXPERT SELECTIONS



	Claremont v E. Frem.	Hawthorn v Essendon	Geelong v Melbourne
RON ALEXANDER	East Fremantle	Essendon	Geelong
ROB BENNETT	Claremont	Hawthorn	Geelong
PETER BOSUSTOW	East Fremantle	Hawthorn	Geelong
DAVE CLEMENT	East Fremantle	Hawthorn	Geelong
GRANT DORRINGTON	Claremont	Hawthorn	Melbourne
ALAN EAST	East Fremantle	Essendon	Melbourne
IAN MILLER	Claremont	Hawthorn	Geelong
BILL MATHER-BROWN	East Fremantle	Essendon	Geelong
GARY STOCKS	Claremont	Essendon	Geelong
GEORGE TEMPLE	Claremont	Hawthorn	Geelong
MOST FAVOURED	—	Hawthorn	Geelong



Merv Dellar...hard worker



Gerard Neesham...finals veteran

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WHO PLAYS WHERE

WAFL — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
 (Preliminary final)

LEAGUE: Claremont v East Fremantle.

PRIME RESERVES: Perth v Swan Districts.

UNDER-19s: East Perth v West Perth.

VFL — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

(Second semi-final)

Hawthorn v Essendon, at VFL Park.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

(First semi-final)

Geelong v Melbourne, at MCG.



Flashback...

This week's preliminary final rivals have met three times this season for the following results:
 Round 7 — May 20: Claremont 10.18 b East Fremantle 4.11 — Tigers by 43 points.
 Round 14 — July 8: Claremont 16.13 b East Fremantle 11.17 — Tigers by 25 points.
 Round 21 — August 26: East Fremantle 13.17 b Claremont 12.15 — Sharks by eight points.

1989 FORM GUIDE

Figures in brackets are winning (W) or losing (L) margins, (D) indicates draw.

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(50) L(8) L(16)
 SOUTH FREN. W(43) W(20) W(16) 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) W(16)
 EAST FREN. 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(-) L(43)
 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(-) L(43)



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THE BUZZ

By football's Mr Flamboyant
PETER BOSUSTOW

Double-headers the way to go

WEST Perth, who gracefully bowed out of the finals last Saturday, must treat the retention of big Craig Nelson as a priority over the summer months.

The Falcons wasted no time sitting down to reappraise their 1989 performances under new coach George Michalczyk.

Within 48 hours of losing the first semi-final replay to East Fremantle, the Falcons hierarchy had begun recruiting for next year.

But their No.1 recruiting priority is in their own back yard.

Nelson has been the subject of offers from interstate clubs in the past.

It was patently obvious that Nelson, along with skipper Peter Menaglio, was the catalyst to igniting West Perth's premiership flame late in the season.

But now Nelson has made noises of uncertainty about his future. He must be retained by West Perth if they intend to remain a force in the competition.

Menaglio, under Michalczyk, has found a renewed enthusiasm for the game and played some of his best football for two or three years.

The Falcons skipper indicated late last year that he might retire. But that now seems out of the question and the Falcons can bank on another top season from the tough midfielder.

West Perth probably won't lose any young players to the VFL draft in November, though defender Darren O'Brien has caught the eye of several talent scouts with his skill and tough approach to the game.

But if they lose Nelson to retirement or to any of the South Australian clubs that have made overtures in his direction, West Perth would drift to long odds to repeat anything near their 1989 resurgence.

The Falcons deserve plenty of accolades for what they gave to local football in the last two months of this season.

It was their drive, from a seemingly impossible position, to finish in the top four and then record that historic draw to force last Saturday's replay, that provided fans with such a memorable day of football last weekend.

West Perth also could be the trigger to East Fremantle going on from those two tough encounters to win the premiership.

East Fremantle have been playing on memory in recent weeks and the draw with the Falcons two weeks ago came as a rude shock.

That near-failure will inspire an East Fremantle form revival.

As the best finals side in the competition, because experience in finals is the key to success, East Fremantle should pave the way for another big financial boost to the WA Football Commission — a Derby grand final.

With the success of the double-header last weekend, when a crowd of more than 30,000 turned up to pay tribute to West Perth and the forthright leadership of the commissioners and three clubs, Claremont, South Fremantle and West Perth, the grand final should attract in excess of 35,000... particularly if it's a Derby.

Indication

Last Saturday's successful day for football, at a time when public support is needed most, was also an indication of what the people want.

They want value for money and the sporting feasts offered on a day when four top teams are in action.

The commission is in the process of making some pretty tough decisions. We in the football world all know that.

But it appears that one of the easier decisions the four-man commission will make, or should make, is to stage more double-headers next year.

The flexibility to reshuffle fixtures on a weekly basis as major rugby leagues and the South Australian NFL do in Adelaide to maximise public and media interest, is a must.

And there is nothing wrong with an end-of-season feast of football on the one day when the first and second semi-finals could be staged as a double-header.

Last Saturday was a major success and the commission should strike while the iron is at its hottest. Double-headers are the way to go.

They could also alleviate one of the commission's most pressing problems, ground rationalisation.

STILL MATES

IT'S good to see that footballers can still be friends even though they change their colours from time to time. Claremont "recruit" Scott Rowland quit the Sharks camp mid-season when he obviously couldn't impress coach Graham Melrose. But that didn't stop him from spending a few moments in the East Fremantle dug-out at half-time in the first semi-final as he waited to prepare for his own game later in the day.

OUT OF BOUNDS

HOPEFULLY, the unruly spectator who walked onto Subiaco Oval last Saturday to criticise the umpiring now realises the folly of his actions — he could have altered the result of the second semi-final. The interjection forced umpire Glenn Lee to ask South Fremantle defender Matt Sambraio to take a kick out again, after having steered the ball safely to a team-mate. Sambraio's repeat kick went out of bounds on the full, giving possession to Claremont when only a few points separated the teams. Had the Tigers been able to convert a score, it might have lifted them on to victory; a subjective comment, but very plausible.

HEATED QUESTION

WHILE we're firing a few barbs at umpires, here's a curly one. Why do the whistle-blowers insist on taking players around on an acute angle when they mark the ball in the goalsquare? The Falcons fans didn't like the angle that Craig Nelson had to fire from in the second quarter after taking a strong mark in the square. The ball had come downfield directly from the centre and he marked about two-metres from the goalpost. So why did he end up over near the boundary line? Surely it's time umpires ruled that a mark in the goalsquare deserves a kick from inside the goalpost. So why did he end up over Nalder had a similar problem to overcome before posting the Bulldogs 13th goal.



Falcons coach George Michalczyk consoles big ruckman Craig Nelson.

GOAL BUNGLE

WEST Perth fans — and the hundreds of spectators behind the goals at the three-tier stand — couldn't believe it when the goal umpire signalled a point when Craig Nelson steered a first quarter shot through the big sticks. Umpire Paul Smith will almost certainly find himself in the lesser-grades this week.

OVER-EXPOSED

WEST Perth's big-man deficiencies were well exposed by East Fremantle in the first semi-final replay last Saturday. On at least three occasions, the 185cm tall ruck-rover Craig Turley was pitted against the Sharks man-mountains of Brad Tunbridge and Lance Durack at boundary throw-in ruck duels. Though he contested bravely, the part-time West Coast Eagle lacked height and strength against his vastly-bigger opponents.

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RUNNING TROUBLE

ONCE again we've got cause to criticise a league team runner. West Perth's stand-in man Peter Curley (Liam O'Connor is suspended over a fighting incident with a rival club trainer) stuck his nose into an area where he had no right to be in last Saturday's first semi-final replay. During the first quarter Curley found the ball rolling at his feet as an altercation occurred some 40-metres away. He picked up the ball and refused to give it back to two waiting East Fremantle players who wanted to get on with things. The runner had no right handling the football and while the Sharks pair told him where to go, it should have been the umpires exercising that control. As we've said before and we'll say it again and again... runners have no right to be where the footy action is taking place.

INSEPARABLE

FOOTY fans must have been wondering if the first semi-final battle between East Fremantle and West Perth would ever end. Not only were the scores in last Saturday's replay all tied up at 39 points each at the long break, but both teams kicked 1.5 into the wind in the first-half. Then the second semi-final had the fans wondering if history was about to repeat itself as the score in the Claremont/South Fremantle match was tied on 77 points 23 minutes into the third term and they were only a point apart early in the last quarter.

CRUCIAL THROW

THAT controversial 50-metre rule is going to prove dangerously decisive one day — if it's not dropped in the near future. The field umpires have obviously cut down on the number of 50-metres they award — Saturday's double-header saw only two handed out — but they missed one bad one. East Fremantle's Robert Weber was lucky not to give 50 metres away when he threw the ball back to a team-mate instead of to the Falcons recipient of a free kick. But umpire Trevor Garrett wasn't watching...

PAINFUL REMINDER

AFTER months out of the game through injury, South Fremantle full-back Matt Sambraio needed a reminder of the rules from umpire Glenn Lee in last Saturday's second semi-final — and it almost cost him dearly. Sambraio tried to play on from the goalsquare after Claremont had kicked a point in the third quarter, but he forgot to kick the ball the regulation two-metres or so from his hands. Lee pulled up play, but before bouncing the ball, he politely explained the rules to the surprised defender. The painful reminder came moments later as Scott Rowland scored a point for the Tigers from the resulting goalmouth action.

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Blockbusting Bennett mangles Magpies

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



ON THE EAST COAST

THREE block-busting kicks by Darren Bennett in the dying moments of the VFL elimination final helped to sink Collingwood and must have been galling for the hierarchy of the West Coast Eagles, who sacked him last Christmas.

Bennett goaled at the 17, 19 and 23-minute mark of the final quarter as Melbourne, his adopted VFL team, skipped away to a match-winning break and an appearance in this Sunday's sudden-death first semi against Geelong.

Injuries have restricted Bennett to just a dozen appearances (out of a possible 23) but anyone capable of kicking four goals, including the three matchwinners, in a VFL final can't be short of ability.

Earlier this season, in one of his first appearances in Victoria, he booted five goals as Melbourne knocked off Geelong in the Panasonic Cup grand final.

Instead of travelling around Australia, one of his original life-after-football ambitions, the 24-year-old recaptured his zest for playing VFL football, especially with Melbourne so desperate for his services.

The former East Fremantle spearhead had four debut games with the Eagles in 1987 but didn't play at all in 1988.

No qualms

Knowing the full history of his recurring knee problems, the Eagles hierarchy didn't believe he could consistently come up and had no qualms in allowing him to join the national draft.

Their generosity has helped Melbourne to gain a recognised goalkicker who takes some stopping.

On Saturday, Bennett had kicked only one goal until midway through the fourth quarter, being well held by Denis Banks.

But his sheer presence and height was always a potential problem and once Melbourne gained the advantage through their slick little men, no-one could have cut off Bennett's leads, which resulted in his three set-shot goals from 45 metres.

There were five West Australians involved in Saturday's elimination final, witnessed by 63,000 fans, and three in Sunday's exciting MCG qualifying final, which attracted more than 80,000.

Adopted Demon Earl Spalding (ex-Perth) had an auspicious day at half-forward, his athleticism and marking ability again to the fore.

Often Spalding tried to knock the ball on, to give his smaller teammates such as Ricky Jackson and Greg Healy as many ground opportunities as possible.

He finished the game as strongly as he started it — 23 possessions being an indication of his team value.

Running role

The third West Australian in Melbourne's side, Alan Johnson (ex-Perth), was also a key contributor,



Darren Bennett...back on target

streaming out of defence and revelling in his responsible running role.

He was going just as hard early, when Melbourne were behind, as later when the Demons took control.

Johnno had 24 possessions, just three behind the most prolific player afield, Tasmanian half-back Stephen Febey.

The two West Australians in Collingwood's side, key position pair Michael Christian and Craig Starcevic, had mixed days.

Starcevic could have been a match-winner, but for some diabolical goal kicking.

He booted 3.5 with one miss. Conceivably he could have kicked six or seven.

His coach, Leigh Matthews, was pleased with his improved showing, considering he'd not been part of Collingwood's best team all year.

In addition to kicking three goals, Starcevic (ex-East Perth) also involved his teammates, one handball to Craig Kelly resulting in a reviving goal during the third quarter.

Christian (also a former East Perth player) was not as impressive and was clearly inconvenienced when the rain came in the third term.

He remained competitive to the end but will not remember the game with affection.

SA's leading goalkickers

Rudi Mandemaker (Cent Dist)	87.55
Allen Jakovich (Woodville)	86.61
Scott Hodges (Port Adel)	68.55
Chris Lindsay (West Torrens)	64.20
James West (Glenelg)	58.28
Sean Tasker (North Adel)	50.33
David Stoeckel (South Adel)	49.34
Phillip Harper (Woodville)	46.11
Peter Bennett (North Adel)	46.31
Mark Ducker (Norwood)	40.24
Andrew Pascoe (Norwood)	40.19
Gilbert McAdam (Cent Dist)	40.21
Ian Willmott (Sturt)	39.22
Douglas Smart (North Adel)	39.28
Darren Jarman (North Adel)	39.15
Rohan Smith (Port Adel)	36.27
Steven Sims (North Adel)	36.28
Leon Grosser (West Adel)	35.28
Damian Kitschke (Sturt)	33.27
David Hynes (Port Adel)	32.17

How WA players performed in VFL

	KICKS	MARKS	HBALLS	SCORE
MELBOURNE				
Alan Johnson	20	8	4	—
Earl Spalding	14	5	9	1.0
Darren Bennett	7	4	1	4.1
COLLINGWOOD				
Michael Christian	9	4	10	—
Craig Starcevic	15	7	5	3.5
ESSENDON				
Bill Duckworth	9	—	—	—
Darren Bewick	19	3	3	3.1
GEE LONG				
Mark Bairstow	10	—	8	0.1

Eagles pair set for Sunday battle

EITHER Guy McKenna or Chris Mainwaring will really enjoy Sunday's VFL first semi-final clash between Geelong and Melbourne ... even though they won't be playing, naturally enough.

One of them will enjoy it more than the other, because as the live television coverage comes in via the big screen at the Burswood Convention Centre, Mainwaring or McKenna will have been named Eagle-of-the-Year for 1989.

The West Coasters will hold their vote count and presentation of trophies this Sunday, with \$5000 going to the club champion, \$3000 to the runner-up and \$2000 for the third place-getter.

The Australian Airlines/Burswood Eagle-of-the-Year will carry a trophy and a medal as well as the cash.

It will be a surprise if someone other than McKenna, the VFL's best half-back flanker, or Mainwaring, the exciting midfielder, wins the award.

Outsiders

However, tough utility player John Worsfold has claims, but the field tapers off to the "outsiders" after that trio.

The Golden Eagles will present their player-of-the-year with a trophy and a cheque and the best first year player (based on the fairest and best votes) will receive a gold medallion.

Peter Sumich and Steve Jackson will battle out the best first-year player — and both have strong claims to winning that title in the VFL.

Eagles supporters are invited to the function, with tickets at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children available from their Kings Park Road office.

HOUGHTON WINES PRESENT ...
IN THE EAGLES NEST
 with Alan East

Drinks will be provided and lunch is available, with the trophy presentation leading into the live telecast of the VFL semi-final, with additional presentations being made at half-time in the big game.

Phantom function!

EAGLES promotions people are hoping that their planned VFL grand final brunch will not turn out to be a phantom function!

Functions organiser Tracey Bradshaw is going ahead as per normal with the organisation of the gala event planned for Olympic Park, Melbourne (just across the line from the MCG) on Saturday, September 30.

Last year the event attracted an incredible 1400 people and this year's event can still draw up to 1200 — providing the airline pilots strike ends before then.

"Even if the pilots strike doesn't end, we're still going ahead," says Tracey.

"We can expect at least 400 people at worst, but we're obviously hoping for a change in the airline situation."

Injury time

A NUMBER of Eagles players have pencilled in appointments with the surgeon's scalpel now that the footy action is over for them.

Rookie rover Don Pyke has had his troublesome shoulder tightened up — and good news is that there's no problem with a suspect knee.

Defender Andrew Lockyer has had a spur taken off a heel and ruckman David O'Connell is readying himself for a trip to the table this week for a shoulder operation.



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Essendon notch a rare win

ESSENDON recorded only their second win in what are known as the "baby" finals, with their comfortable win over Geelong in Sunday's qualifying final.

Since the introduction of the final five in 1977, Essendon have played in seven elimination finals — six of which they lost. Their only win in an elimination final was in 1983, on their way to a then record grand final loss to Hawthorn.

Sunday's game was Essendon's first qualifying final. The Bomber's first win in an elimination final wasn't recorded until their sixth attempt.

IN the 58 years since the introduction of the Page System (1931-1988) in Victoria the minor premiers have won the premiership 32 times.

Hawthorn will be attempting to stretch the sequence of minor premiers winning the flag to six, which would establish a record.

The minor premiers went on to win the flag in each of the five years from 1927 to 1931. Under the Page System, the previous record sequence was four years, from 1937 to 1940.

MELBOURNE played in — and won — their third consecutive elimination final on Saturday, becoming the first team to perform that feat.

The only other team to win two successive elimination finals was St Kilda, in 1972 and 1973, the first two years of the final five.

Melbourne have joined Collingwood (1974, 1980 and 1984) and Fitzroy (1979, 1981 and 1986) as the only teams to win three elimination finals.

THE 18 elimination finals have been lost by nine clubs — with Carlton and Essendon being the only clubs to lose and then make the finals the following year.

The West Coast Eagles became the 12th loser of an elimination final to miss out on the five the following year, by finishing 11th this year.

Essendon have played in the finals in the season after three of their six elimination finals' losses — 1972, 1981 and 1982.

Carlton have a perfect record — after losing the 1983 and 1985 elimination finals, they finished fourth in 1984 and were runners up in 1986.

THE hallmark of Melbourne's three elimination final wins has been their third quarters.

They kicked 7.5 against North Melbourne in 1987, to establish a record for the third quarter of an elimination final.

In the last two years — against the Eagles in 1988 and against Collingwood on Saturday — Melbourne have scored more in the third quarter than they have for the rest of the game.

Their third quarter score of 9.2 on Saturday broke their 1987 record by nine points.

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LONG ON TALENT

... and yet another star from Darwin

WATCHING Channel 7's telecast of the VFL qualifying final on Sunday brought back some fond memories of last year's Bicentennial Carnival in Adelaide.

While South Australia gave a bold exhibition to beat Victoria in the carnival grand final to claim the Australian Championship, there was another team which, even in Adelaide, was more popular than the Croweaters.

It was the team from the Northern Territory which was captained by Mr Magic himself, Maurice Rioli.

Some of the Territory boys didn't enjoy wearing boots too much, but their lightning pace and dazzling skills made them the most exciting combination at the carnival.

Those who watched the carnival will never forget how the Territory boys bamboozled the VFA in the B-grade grand final, reducing their experienced opposition to a shambles.

Apart from Rioli, there were several other outstanding players in the team and one of them — Michael Long — caught the attention of talent scouts around the country.

East Fremantle made a bid for the lively rover and thought they had him until Essendon moved in and watching Long dazzle the Geelong defence on Sunday reminded me of how he simply toyed with the opposition in Adelaide 18 months ago.

Long ... and short

There was just nothing the Cats defence could do to thwart the energy and pencil-thin Aboriginal who is Long by name, but short in stature; long in talent, but short in fear.

A mark he took in the opening term on Sunday gave the perfect example of the balance and poise of one of football's hottest properties.

Running the same way as the ball, he took on a much taller and stronger Geelong opponent, won the mark with an acrobatic swirl and his feet hadn't even hit the ground and he was off like a startled gazelle.

Long is not unlike the diminutive Willie Rioli, who has had a sensational debut season with South Fremantle.

Finals pressure

Willie is still only a teenager, but he adapted to the pressures of final-round football in WA with the same ease with which Long slotted into VFL finals football — reinforcing the opinion that Darwin is still the untapped recruiting zone of the country.

The surface has barely been scratched and already WA has seen the likes of Bill Dempsey, Basil Campbell, Maurice, Sebastian and Willie Rioli and Benny Vigona.

The success of those players also adds weight to the argument of one of the game's greats, Barry Cable, who believes the potential in our own North-West is tremendous.

In his role with the Football Development Trust, Cable is one of the few people from this part of the State who has seen, first-hand, the exciting skills of Aboriginals, particularly in the North.

TAKING STOCK

By GARY STOCKS
of the West Australian



Michael Long...live-wire Bombers recruit

Old memories revived

THE VFL's decision to award Brownlow Medals to those seven men who had lost the prestigious VFL best and fairest award on a countback proved to be a winning gesture. In a night of nostalgia, the awarding of the seven medals retrospectively saw the new Medallists admitted to the Brownlow club. They were Harry Collier, Allan Hopkins, Herb Matthews, Des Fothergill, Col Austen, Verdun Howell, Noel Teasdale and the late Bill Hutchinson.



Col Austen...beaten on a countback in 1949

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Aaron Hunter (West Perth) 20 on 15th	Nicky Yarran (East Perth) 21 on 20th
Bruce Atwell (East Perth) 24 on 16th	Steve Cummings (Perth) 23 on 21st
	Doug Gibb (South Frem) 27 on 21st
	John Ditchburn (South Frem) 28 on 22nd

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LUNCH FRIDAYS

Around the grounds Commission sees clubs surviving

LET'S start with something unusual. When South Fremantle met Claremont last week it was their fourth meeting for the season, and each match was played on a different ground.

The first match was at Albany, the second at Fremantle Oval, the third at Claremont and the second semi-final at Subiaco.

It's the first time this has happened.



Paul Mifka...unlucky.

Mifka's luck runs out

WEST Perth's Paul Mifka gets my vote as the unlucky player of the finals.

In both first semi-finals he was clobbered from behind, retaliated and was penalised.

To add salt to the wound, his coach dragged him when the Sharks goaled as a result of his action.

I remember when the two-umpire system was introduced 12 years ago, they said these decisions would be eliminated.

Record tallies

WHAT about Geelong's record tally this year — 2916 points in 22 matches!

The WAFL record was established in 1981 when three clubs scored more than Geelong in our 21-game programme.

Claremont scored 3352 points, Swan Districts 3035 and South Fremantle 2941.

FOOTBALL FACTS

By top WA football historian DAVE CLEMENT



Ton of tons to Bulldogs

SOUTH Fremantle entered the Bradman League last week.

Their 105-point score against Claremont was their 100th century against the Tigers.

East Fremantle are the only other club to record a century of 100-point scores against another club — with 102 against Subiaco and 100 versus Perth.

This week they have the chance to crack the ton against Claremont.

Freak goal

AFTER watching football for more than 40 years I've seen some miraculous goals kicked, but that third-quarter effort by Glen Jakovich last week was one of the most freakish of all.

I had a ringside seat when Jakovich kicked the ball with the inside of his boot and rolled it toward the goal post.

Just when a behind appeared certain, the ball went over a bump, swung away from the post, rolled along the goal line, struck a divot and just missed the other post.

TIGERS 8-5

WHILE it may be 25 years since Claremont beat East Fremantle in a final, the Tigers still have the better record, having beaten the Sharks eight times to five.

It was that memorable grand final in 1964 when the Tigers last won over East Fremantle but, come to think of it, they've met only three times since.

The last time was in 1979 preliminary final. That was the year when the Sharks came from the first semi-final to take the flag. (Claremont lost the second semi to South Fremantle that year, too).

Commission sees clubs surviving

THE new Football Commission is confident that all existing WAFL clubs can survive financially in the years to come.

And the Commission is well advanced in plans to admit at least one extra team to the WAFL competition.

WAFL chairman Dr Peter Tannock said this week that self-help was the philosophy of the Commission in its bid to restructure the finances and administration of football.

"Clubs will need to be part of a licensing arrangement with the Commission and the onus will be put back on them to survive," Dr Tannock said.

"We will help them restructure their debts and provide incentives for them to become self-sufficient."

by Alan East

Other points made by Dr Tannock included:

*The possibility of East Perth returning to play home games at Perth Oval.

*The WACA Ground being used for more night matches, particularly WAFL games on a Friday night.

*The West Coast Eagles maintaining their own club identity with a Board of Directors and being independent of the Commission if the licence buy-back scheme succeeded.

*The likelihood of a team from Bunbury joining the WAFL in 1991, with the South-West as their zone.

Dr Tannock rejected claims by the Subiaco City Council that the local authority was losing an income-earning facility.

He said that Subiaco Oval belonged to the Government and had only been vested in the council in 1981 and then leased to the Football League. It was now simply being taken back by the Government and vested in the Football Commission.

Mr Edwards said that he badly wanted to see football get back on its feet, but the Government wasn't able to prop up private enterprise (such as Indian Pacific Ltd, the public owners of the Eagles) and that was why he supported the Eagles licence buy-back plan.

"We have great confidence in the future of local football and the people now at the Commission and we feel comfortable about the game's future," he said.

Subiaco Oval

Dr Tannock was well-pleased with this week's State Government announcement that virtually gives Subiaco Oval to the Commission, enabling better control of gate receipts and the potential for greater use of the ground.

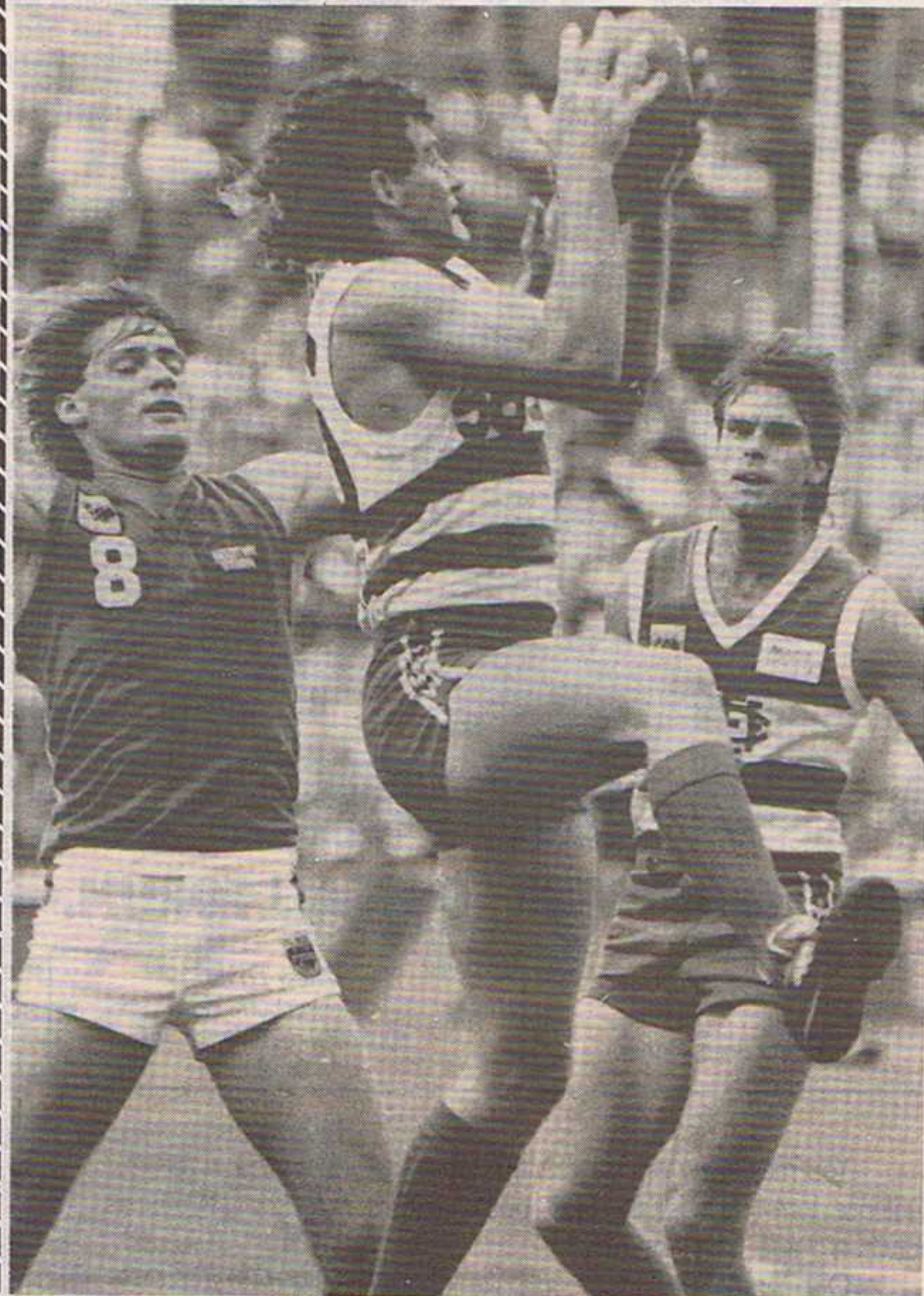
Dr Tannock said that the Subiaco Oval move was most significant for the future of football and the ground would be developed into a super sports stadium in the long-term future.

The Government's move will provide the WAFL with a \$650,000 income bonus for each of the next five years — brought about by the removal of repayments on the Subiaco Oval grandstand and a moratorium on the payment of any gate receipts to the Government.

"But after those five years, football will have to be self-supporting," said Sport Minister Graham Edwards.

"This Government assistance has removed doubts about the solvency of WA football and is aimed at putting the sport back on a viable level."

TOP MARK



East Fremantle rookie Darren Hammond marks strongly in front of Falcons defender Craig Turley, with Sharks winger Robbie Weber looking on.

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(by the 13/10/88)

Is Bomber waiting for Melrose's job?

THE emotion that is being charged up at East Fremantle over their premiership prospects raises a very sensitive question about coach Graham Melrose.



Graham Melrose...serious

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Despite continued denials from "official" sources at the club, it's pretty common knowledge that Melrose isn't the most popular man around East Fremantle.

In fact, the word at Subiaco Oval last Saturday was that he had resigned on Friday night.

By his own admission, he makes no apologies for his looks, actions or moods. He's there to win a flag for East Fremantle and that's all there is about it.

Talent

It's also fair to say that the Sharks haven't done justice to their talent in the last three years; they could have — or maybe even should have — gone on and won three more premierships after Ron Alexander snared the 1985 flag.

That premiership was the culmination of a four-year revival plan instigated by former president Merv Cowan; adopted by Alexander — and supported by new president Harry Morgan.

But while Alexander was there for one more year before Melrose took the next step up the coaching ladder from the reserves side, the flags eluded the Sharks.

They bombed out disgracefully against Subiaco in the 1986 grand final and then couldn't get past the Lions in the '87 and '88 preliminary finals.

It wouldn't take a football genius to work out that East Fremantle has had the best line-up of talent in the last four years — even today, their reserves side would beat the bottom four teams of '89!

So what's gone wrong?

BENNETT'S BURST

By **ROBERT BENNETT**
of The Sunday Times



Can't Melrose mix the mould of magnificent men into a mighty machine? Or do the players let themselves down with their individual football?

The Sharks really struggled — over an eight-day period, in fact — before they put paid to a plucky West Perth side in the first semi-final(s). The Falcons displayed the type of team spirit and enthusiasm that the Sharks would love to have.

Value for money

Melrose, never an outgoing person even in his days as captain of East Fremantle or as a key player at Swans Districts (sharing in premiership success at both clubs by the way), responds sharply if you dare suggest that East Fremantle haven't got value for money in recent years.

He's a pretty prickly customer whenever he's questioned by the media over team tactics, placings, form or losing efforts.

There's none of the professional analytical approach that you find in the top VFL coaches after losing efforts.

It's common knowledge among the players, supporters, officials — and even the sponsors — that he's not all that well liked.

But he rules with an iron fist and one has to appreciate the fact that the team is still in contention for a flag, while five others aren't.

Background

But lurking in the background in the last three years has been one of East Fremantle's favourite sons, Brian Peake, a more popular player you'll seldom find.

And the veteran has all the credentials to coach a league side.

People have been talking about Bomber's future for the last five years — just about the only person who hasn't written Peake off at some stage is Peake himself!

He has always expressed a desire to coach and he's even turned down some unofficial approaches from rival clubs.

Obviously he wants the job at East Fremantle and it's just been a matter of patience.

Is he wanting to win this year's flag off his own boot (he's done pretty well so far in this finals series) and then lodge his application for the job next year?

Or does he already know that if he hangs in there long enough he must soon get the job — the fans will demand that, shortly.

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MIGHTY MENAGS



West Perth skipper Peter Menaglio breaks away from East Fremantle roving rival Brad Rowe in Saturday's first semi-final. Menaglio will be a priority for the Falcons to keep at Leederville next season.

Tough time for Todd

CONTINUAL speculation on who will coach the Eagles in 1990 must be a difficult pill for John Todd to swallow.

Todd has seen the highs and lows of football and knows the rules. He also knows the rules that the Eagles administration are playing by — but that doesn't help him. Whether or not Todd survives the raffle is 50/50. But one thing is certain — when the final decision is made, Todd and his family will be relieved of enormous mental pressure, either way.

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- 46 Scott Watters (South Fremantle)
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- 43 Gury Baxter (East Fremantle)*

* Denotes that tally includes games with more than current club as follows: Scott Watters — 46 South Fremantle, 2 Eagles.

100 GAMES

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O'Sullivan rates No. 1

THERE is no doubt that East Fremantle's John O'Sullivan is the WAFL's best centre half-back.

Players of the calibre of South Fremantle's John MacDonal and Claremont's Mark Brayshaw have played well this season, but O'Sullivan consistently proves in the big games that he is a class defender.

He may lack a yard of pace, but makes up for it with his disciplined, defensive football, close checking and strong marking.

O'Sullivan is well supported in defence by Stephen Edgar, who has had an outstanding season on a half-back flank, Shane Ellis and Jon Derecourt.

Claremont struggled at centre-half-forward last week when Peter Mann went into the ruck.

The Tigers need him at centre-half-forward, but you can bet that whoever plays there will not be given any latitude by O'Sullivan.



John O'Sullivan...the best.



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Fortune deserts plucky Falcons

THEY say that fortune favours the brave.

West Perth certainly gave the last two months of football their best shot, which included five straight victories and a draw.

But their luck wasn't strong enough to produce a fairytale ending to the first semi-final replay.

The Falcons played to their maximum in the past seven weeks and did a tremendous job, but their early goal-front inaccuracy last week finally saw them falter.

Confidence

Not putting the score on the board really sapped their confidence and in the second half the Sharks' pressure football and superior skill told.

The forward problems West Perth encountered for most of the season finally brought them undone.

Full credit to coach George Michalczyk and West Perth for helping to create a 1989 finals frenzy.

The Falcons didn't grab the glory, but they had a big say in the results.

Priorities

Michalczyk can take heart from his first year as coach. He has a solid nucleus of talent with players like Darren O'Brien, Brad Gwilliam, Malcolm Williams, Paul Hasler, Paul Mifka, Oral McGuire and Warren Taylor, plus first-year players Dennis Repacholi, Chris Davies, Jon Riggs and Nick Tana, who have all done well.

The Falcons have two priorities off-season. They must retain the services of Peter Menaglio and ruckman Craig

Bulldogs have great depth

SOUTH Fremantle have some outstanding talented footballers and they produced a top effort to beat Claremont in one of the best finals games for years.

While everyone was impressed by Souths stars, the Bulldogs won because they received solid contributions from all 20 players.

The form shown by some of the lesser lights last Saturday played a significant part in Souths victory.

They included Dean Irving (until injured) in the ruck and up forward; Merv Dellar, a hard-running and consistent ballgetter; Dean Nalder, a solid contributor at centre-half-forward; Mark Ryder, a tyro in a back pocket who capably filled in for Cliff Collard; Troy Wilson played a dogged game on a half-back flank and Peter Worsfold worked hard all day, especially with a great last quarter on a centre wing.

Stan Magro can look forward confidently to the grand final with a side that will have a red hot go.

Michalczyk's boys ran out of luck

Nelson for another season and recruit a support ruckman and at least one key forward, possibly two.

There is no doubt that the Falcons proved that on any given day the physical attributes of most teams can be neutralised.

It's the mental attitude that plays a significant part in the end result.

Moir is all fired up

GLEN Moir, the boy from Beverley who started his league career with Perth, drifted to East Fremantle, then moved to the country and back again, made a good impression in his first league final.

Moir's contribution around the packs was a significant factor in East Fremantle's victory.

He added pace midfield, was aggressive in his football and was always a danger up forward.

In this week's tough preliminary final, Moir, along with Brad Rowe, Billy Krakouer, George Christie and Craig MacLean, will have to produce consistency in midfield to upset the Tigers.

Moir's opportunity to play finals football has taken time, but the 25-year-old rover will certainly remember his first taste of September action and look to extending his season further than this weekend.



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No excuses for Tigers

MINOR premiers Claremont have regrouped for an all-out assault on East Fremantle at Subiaco Oval this Saturday.

There will be no Tigers excuses for defeat this time.

They were beaten by a fierce and dedicated South Fremantle side in the second semi-final, which has forced them into this cut-throat confrontation with the other Port side.

Though they were beaten, Claremont should not be despondent, because it was a tremendous battle and they were far from disgraced.

Dangerous

The Tigers laid siege on their goal for long periods and made good use of their possessions; they had system in their midfield and looked dangerous in attack — too dangerous for the Sharks on their first semi-final performance.

Commander-in-chief and on-field general Gerard Neesham will be confident; his officers and troops have served him well and have the ability to not only still make the grand final, but win the premiership.

THE GENERAL

Neesham will take on a more authoritative role in the preliminary final than he did against South Fremantle.

Not only is the General a great tactician, but a fine on-field leader who leads best from the front. He sums up dangerous situations fast and quickly turns defence into offence with a sweeping move or a positional change.

Experience in finals rounds certainly counts and not even East Fremantle's veteran Brian Peake can beat Neesham's record of grand final appearances.

IT'S WAR

THE finals war continues this Saturday as Claremont and East Fremantle clash in the do-or-die preliminary final.

The two teams have waged many a pitched battle in recent seasons and produced some heavy artillery on their way to this penultimate game; a shot at glory for the victor; the end of the road for the vanquished.

Though Claremont have a 2-1 win/loss record against East Fremantle in 1989, the Sharks won the all-important psychologically-boosting final encounter three weeks ago.

Man-for-man the teams square up even-stevens, with the Tigers having the edge in speed, while the Sharks boast a formidable battery of big men.

The Tigers commander has played in the last six WAFL grand finals — two each with Swan Districts, East Fremantle and Claremont — winning four premierships with three different clubs.

THE LIEUTENANTS

Claremont pair Peter Thorne and Ben Allan provide Neesham with two of the finest deputies in the WAFL.

By their own standards, Thorne and Allan were down on their game against South Fremantle, though Thorne deserved his place among the team's best six players.

The experienced ruck-rover has the ability to win a game off his own boot; he knows how to get the ball and what to do with it and he rarely wastes a possession.

Allan, usually a one-grab performer, showed touches of the fumbles last

Saturday with some one-handed efforts; but there were moments of brilliance like when he intercepted hand-passes between opponents.

THE SERGEANTS

Sergeant Peter Mann certainly earned his stripes against the Bulldogs with an outstanding performance as a ruckman.

The key forward stepped into the breach when ruckman Peter Higgins limped from the fray with an ankle injury and Mann proceeded to win his battle with Sandover Medallist Craig Edwards.

Though the Bulldogs giant dominated at centre bouncings, Mann's mobility around the ground almost got Claremont home.

Likewise, Sandover Medal runner-up Mark Brayshaw demonstrated his versatility by going to centre-half forward to replace Mann.

The WAFL All-Stars centre-half-back led well and provided the Tigers with a lot of options up front.

He will head up the Claremont defence again this week, a line that has proved hard to break through this season, conceding just 1724 points in the qualifying rounds.

SECRET AGENT

CLAREMONT'S real danger-man could be Dale Kickett, an electrifying rover whose ability to take inspirational marks was in evidence last week.

He is always a danger around the goals and his lightning fast reflexes make certain he uses the ball to good effect.

Kickett is one player that the Sharks will have to watch closely.

Skipper John Scott, ruckman Peter Higgins and midfielder Scott Rowland make up the quintet of non-commissioned officers.

The minor premiers hope that Higgins can prove his fitness, otherwise they will have a shortage of tall-timber to combat the East Fremantle ruck battery.

Scott has a steadying influence in the backline. A 178-game player, he has the height, strength and mobility to take on any forward in the WAFL.

THE INFANTRY

There is no shortage of back-up for the stars at Claremont. Big Peter Melesso will start in the backline and will pick-up Brad Tunbridge if he starts at full-forward.

Mosquito man Tony Evans set the second semi-final alight with a devastating display of roving and his four goals — most of them from brilliant snap-shots — brought the crowd to its feet.

Scott Edwards, on the other wing, had a workmanlike game as did Brian Beresford in the back-pocket and Mark Hann on a wing, while half-back Tony Begovich rebounded the Tigers into attack on numerous occasions.

Former captain Tony Beers showed his versatility when he came off the interchange bench to take over at centre-half-back and though he'll probably miss the starting 18 again, he is a handy back-up player.

Warren Ralph looms as a match-winner for Claremont after his surprise return to league action last weekend.

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THE PLAYERS

1. SCOTT ROWLAND

25yrs 185cm 82kg
Games played 9*
Will relish this finals clash with his old side; played strongly in midfield last week, using many of his 16 kicks to damaging effect.

2. PETER THORNE

28yrs 178cm 68kg
Games played 92*
Worked hard for his 15 kicks, but never threatened to control the game as he is capable of doing. Was not allowed to roam free and that's his biggest danger-point as he helps control the Tigers midfield.

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 61
Appeared to be injured as he favoured an arm during the second semi, but still collected 24 possessions. Looms as a danger-man in the centre and must help curb the running Sharks players.

8. SCOTT EDWARDS

20yrs 179cm 75kg
Games played 30
Had to work extremely hard for his kicks against a tough and relentless Brad Collard. Provides good midfield run and can move deep into attack.

9. BRIAN BERESFORD

21yrs 180cm 83kg
Games played 27
Found life a little tough in the last line of defence and though he produced a disciplined negating game, he needs to be more attacking. Used handball well.

11. GERARD NEESHAM

34yrs 173cm 79kg
Games played 40*
Kept himself out of the game till midway through the second term. Exerted some immediate influence, but lacked support in midfield, but still remains the mastermind to the Tigers game-plan and he will need to be watched closely.

12. TONY BEGOVICH

22yrs 180cm 83kg
Games played 68
Played with superb aggression off a half-back flank, helping keep danger-man Richard Geary fairly quiet. Took seven strong marks and kicked well out of defence.

13. TONY BEERS

26yrs 187cm 84kg
Games played 92*
Went straight into action when called off the interchange bench early in the game; marking strongly at centre-half-back in the reshuffle of players when Peter Higgins was injured. Showed the benefit of his finals experience.



Tony Begovich...aggressive

14. DALE KICKETT

21yrs 179cm 68kg
Games played 33
Was held in check in attack with some tight defensive work from Ned Fimmano, but posted a couple of handy goals and produced several outstanding marks.

15. WARREN RALPH

30yrs 190cm 85kg
Games played 118*
The game's former top goalkicker made a surprise return to the league side and quickly stamped his mark on the contest, with strong marking and three good first-quarter goals. Finished with four and gives the Tigers a new-look in attack.

17. CAM LEWIS

28yrs 180cm 75kg
Games played 69
Went into the game under an injury cloud and didn't look his usual dashing self. Used the ball effectively, but seemed to lack run.

19. PETER HIGGINS

22yrs 198cm 90kg
Games played 34*
His early ankle injury was a blow to Claremont's game-plan, forcing a major reshuffle of their big men. However, the ankle has improved and his chances of playing are looking better.

20. PETER MELESSO

27yrs 193cm 95kg
Games played 55*
Played solidly in defence, using negative tactics to advantage. Kept Glen Jakovich out of the action for most of the game, but found the South big guns too over-whelming in the end.

22. NEIL PARK

27yrs 183cm 81kg
Games played 43*
An aggressive versatile midfielder who could be recalled for this game. A feature of his game is tackling and clever use of handball to open up opportunities for his team-mates.

24. JOHN SCOTT

28yrs 185cm 84kg
Games played 105*
Worked hard in defence against some tall timber; never gave up and was one of the team's most effective players. The Tigers captain initiates many successful forward thrusts and his long, accurate kicking often catches the opposition out.

25. PETER MANN

18yrs 193cm 86kg
Games played 21
Showed his real potential in an emergency, taking on the ruck duties when Peter Higgins was injured and battling manfully against the odds. A first-year player, he showed maturity beyond his years and is a key member in his side's premiership bid.

26. DEAN FARMER

25yrs 193cm 94kg
Games played 30*
Comes into contention with the injury to Peter Higgins; has played strongly in the reserves and can be used as a key forward.

28. TONY EVANS

20yrs 178cm 75kg
Games played 20
Was an unexpected danger-man in attack, given a free-wheeling role out of a forward pocket and posting four damaging goals. Adds pace and flair to the Tigers mobile division.

29. KEVIN MITCHELL

26yrs 180cm 75kg
Games played 15
Was cut out of the game with some tight-checking attention and never allowed to roam free. Likes taking big marks and capping his game with exciting goals, but needs to be more determined if he gets a run this week.

31. BRENDAN BARROWS

18yrs 180cm 77kg
Games played 18
Has fallen out of favour after a great start to the season. One of many skilful youngsters at Claremont whose creative game can produce some uncanny goals.

32. MARK HANN

26yrs 176cm 68kg
Games played 87
Has made a great recovery from a shoulder injury and played strongly off a wing. Ten of his 14 kicks went straight to a team-mate and his duel with talented young Greg Turner was a match highlight.

44. MARK BRAYSHAW

22yrs 187cm 85kg
Games played 62
Seemed a little out-of-touch — possibly a legacy of his impressive runners-up effort in the 1989 Sandover Medal. Had to move into attack with the Peter Higgins injury and got better as the game went on, kicking two late goals.

50. RYAN TURNBULL

18yrs 188cm 84kg
Games played 9
Thrived with the added responsibility of matching ruck skills with the East Fremantle big-man brigade. Is learning to use his body and mark strongly and has the capacity to impress even further in this game.



Peter Thorne...ballgetter

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; Warren Ralph 22 Carlton, 14 Glenelg.

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LEFT: Claremont coach Gerard Neesham appears tight-lipped, but you can be sure he had plenty of encouraging words for his players.



Don't worry mate... that's West Perth coach George Michalczyk consoling senior player Paul Mifka after last Saturday's loss.



What a sight... the thousands of spectators weren't disappointed with the display.



LEFT: Dynamic East Fremantle rover Brad Rowe flies for a mark ahead of West Perth's Tim Adam in the first semi-final.

BELOW: The new and the old... East Fremantle skipper George Christie (right) and rookie Darren Hammond give the thumbs up to the Sharks chances in Saturday's preliminary final.



Down... but not out. There was no love-lost between long-time friends and foes when they played on each other in the second semi-final — as this picture clearly shows. Christie was tackled on the deck and then made off with the football before Claremont's Ben Allen could get to him.



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Thousands of fans at League Headquarters were entertained with the quality of football on display.



It was a great day for South Fremantle and these three — defender Mark Ryder (left), ruckman Craig Edwards (middle) and wingman Greg Turner — played their part.

SUPER SEMIS STARS

WHAT a day at the footy it was last Saturday. More than 30,000 fans turned out to watch the first WAFL semi-final double header and the four teams didn't let them down. East Fremantle and West Perth continued their titanic first semi-final battle with the scores still tied at half-time. And if that wasn't enough, Claremont and South Fremantle produced another nail-biter in the second semi-final. Westside Football's photographer JULIAN COWAN was at Subiaco Oval last Saturday and caught all the action.



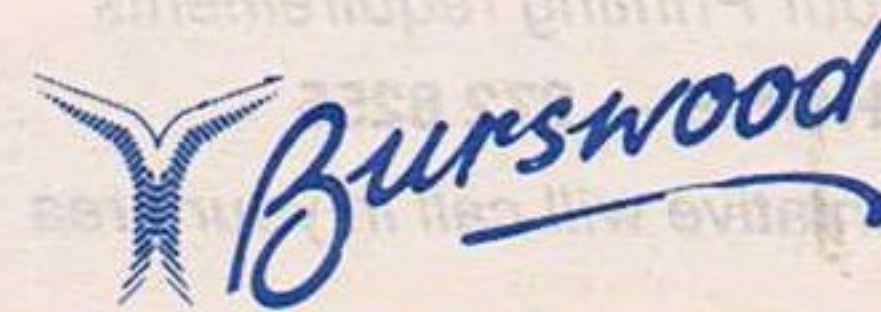
...and former team-mates Gerard Neesham and Rob Solin capture clearly shows. Solin sent Neesham sprawling to the Ben Allan could do anything to assist his coach.



The faces Tim Adam (left), Nick Tana and Paddy Madaffari say it all... West Perth are out of the finals.

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Sharks ready to stalk target

EAST Fremantle are gearing themselves up for a derby grand final.

The Sharks, blown out of the premiership hunt in the previous two preliminary finals, believe that they are on target to meet Port rivals South Fremantle a week on Saturday.

But first they must negotiate the awesome task of beating Claremont — and avoid a hat-trick of preliminary final failures.

The mood in the Sharks dressing room after last Saturday's first semi-final replay win over West Perth was buoyant.

Challenge

It did not bother the Sharks who won the second semi-final battle that was just starting out on the ground — both teams have to be beaten. For the Sharks, it was just a question of which order they have to tackle the challenge.

The Sharks believe that their extended first semi-final battle enabled them to work a few gremlins out of their system and that this Saturday the heavy artillery will be at its destructive best.

Had the Sharks played either Claremont or South Fremantle 10 days ago, they would have almost certainly lost. They were flat and the less-experienced and less-talented West Perth side was able to expose some chinks in commander-in-chief Graham Melrose's armoury.

But they were not playing them two weeks ago and now they have warmed to the occasion.

"We lacked concentration when we played West Perth the first time," said "sergeant" Brad Tunbridge after last Saturday's win.

"A few players also needed an extra run, so the replay was a bonus for us," he said.

THE GENERAL

East Fremantle veteran Brian Peake burst back to his best form in the final quarter of the first semi-final replay.

He asserted his presence in midfield, picking up 10 kicks over the last term to help seal the Falcons' fate for 1989.

Bomber's return to form augers well for the Sharks because he is a true match-winner and that fact is cause for real concern in the Claremont camp.

IT'S WAR

THE finals war continues this Saturday as Claremont and East Fremantle clash in the do-or-die preliminary final.

The two teams have waged many a pitched battle in recent seasons and produced some heavy artillery on their way to this penultimate game; a shot at glory for the victor; the end of the road for the vanquished.

Though Claremont have a 2-1 win/loss record against East Fremantle in 1989, the Sharks won the all-important psychologically-boosting final encounter three weeks ago.

Man-for-man the teams square up even-stevens, with the Tigers having the edge in speed, while the Sharks boast a formidable battery of big men.

Peake's experience in finals football helped steady the rocky Sharks in their struggle to overcome West Perth and his influence will have a big bearing on Saturday's outcome.

THE LIEUTENANTS

Skipper George Christie and centre-half-back John O'Sullivan were two of East Fremantle's best players against the Falcons.

Stability and experience counts for a lot in finals football and the Sharks boast ample portions of both ingredients, especially with these two stars.

Christie led from the front with a superb ruck-roving display as West Perth battled to stay in the finals hunt.

Young troopers like Craig MacLean and Darren Hammond followed his lead and the threat was no more.

O'Sullivan dominated danger-forward Gavin Howlett for the second consecutive week, nullifying one of the Falcons' key avenues in attack.

He marked strongly and made good use of his numerous possessions and he will need to reproduce that form if he is opposed to exciting Tigers rookie Peter Mann.

THE SERGEANTS

Non-commissioned officer Stephen Edgar is working above and beyond the call of duty for East Fremantle.

The dynamic half-back has shed his quiet achiever tag with some scintillating performances in the second half of this season.

Edgar was the Sharks' best player last Saturday; he won the ball well and made good use of his 19 possessions.

Forwards Clinton Browning, Neil Lester-Smith and Brad Tunbridge make up the Sharks' quartet of sergeants. Each is capable of being a match-winner; Lester-Smith for his ability to bob up at the right time to kick important goals; Browning because he is a sure-marking mobile forward with a good eye for goal and Tunbridge's size and marking strength make him a difficult customer to out-manoeuvre.

THE INFANTRY

With troopers MacLean, Hammond, Peter Quill, Shane Ellis, Glen Moir, Billy Krakouer, Chris Waterman and Robert Weber making up the support

SECRET AGENT

DYNAMIC Brad Rowe is a rover with electrifying brilliance; enough talent to smash a rival defence into shattered pieces. But his form has been a little off since his return from injury. However, his 18-possession effort last week showed that he's getting the football again — and that spells danger for the Tigers; especially around the goals.



Brad Rowe...electrifying

staff, it demonstrates just how strong the WAFL competition has again become.

The 17-year-old MacLean featured among the Sharks' best players in both first semi-final clashes and he is destined to be a big star if he can maintain his cool approach to the game.

Quill, with wingman Weber and rookie ruck-rover Hammond, will cause Claremont commander-in-chief Gerard Neesham big headaches. They are all big possession-getters and are capable of sweeping the Sharks into the grand final; playing on a refreshing brand of youthful enthusiasm.

Big-man muscle comes in the shape of the versatile Lance Durack and the high-leaping Clinton Wolf; enough height to control the aerial duels.



Shane Ellis and Billy Krakouer...all smiles

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THE PLAYERS

6. ERIC COOPER

28yrs 175cm 70kg
 Games played 29
Worked hard when used off the interchange bench last Saturday; plays aggressively and is a good ball-getter when the going gets tough. Likes the centre best.

7. BRIAN PEAKE

35yrs 177cm 86kg
 Games played 301*
Showed that his influence is far from waning with a strong performance on Saturday, particularly in the last quarter when he had 10 kicks. Was used cleverly around the middle of the ground and hardly wasted a possession.

8. PETER QUILL

20yrs 179cm 69kg
 Games played 40
Was solid on a wing against West Perth; had the better of several opponents and is a key midfielder, but wasted many kicks.

9. JON DERECOURT

21yrs 185cm 83kg
 Games played 63
Was used in a variety of roles from the last line of defence to attack; providing strength in some forward-line moves. Is best suited in a back pocket.



Clinton Browning...dangerman

10. CLINTON BROWNING

27yrs 188cm 79kg
 Games played 152*
Was kept under control by a tight-checking Falcons defence, but looked stronger for the run after an injury absence. Kicked four strong goals from some strong marks and is a real dangerman.

11. JOHN O'SULLIVAN

24yrs 185cm 79kg
 Games played 97
Reigned supreme at centre-half-back, proving impassable, particularly early when West Perth controlled the ball. Marked superbly (eight marks) and set up many attacking moves.

13. STEPHEN EDGAR

22yrs 175cm 76kg
 Games played 56
A real dasher off a half-back flank; curbed the dangerous Malcolm Williams at times and used the ball long and efficiently to be his team's best player.

16. BRADLEY ROWE

19yrs 178cm 64kg
 Games played 21
Took another step back to top form with patches of pure excitement on the ball. His reading of the play was superb and his ability to share the football brought many team-mates into the game.

17. CRAIG MACLEAN

18yrs 180cm 74kg
 Games played 18
Has improved enormously in recent weeks, proving to be a hard-working ruck-rover with considerable defensive skills. Shows great stamina.

18. NEIL LESTER-SMITH

25yrs 180cm 71kg
 Games played 80
Had to contend with plenty of close-checking attention from the West Perth defence, but every time he slipped loose, attacking moves resulted. His four goals were all handy contributions and he's a dangerman this week.

19. GLEN MOIR

25yrs 170cm 70kg
 Games played 8*
Was recalled to the side for the first semi replay and gave the following division added strength and aggression and looms as an ideal player in this game.

23. BEVAN GRAY

26yrs 182cm 75kg
 Games played 10.
Missed the replay team, but is a speedy and dangerous midfielder.

24. SHANE ELLIS

28yrs 186cm 86kg
 Games played 172*
Was solid without being conspicuous in defence; had very few possessions, opting to play a negating game against Paddy Madaffari. His finals experience is invaluable.

26. CLINTON WOLF

20yrs 197cm 93kg
 Games played 13
Found the physical strength of Craig Nelson hard to handle and spent time on the interchange bench. But his leaping power will be a different story against Claremont.

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.

34. BILLY KRAKOUER

22yrs 170cm 65kg
 Games played 8*
Was guarded closely in a forward pocket, but his use of handball was magnificent and he always looked dangerous when he broke upfield to create opportunities.

35. ROB WEBER

22yrs 180cm 74kg
 Games played 28
One of the team's most consistent performers on a wing; enjoying a top tussle with Jon Riggs and holding sway for most of the game with a 19-kick effort.

39. CHRIS WATERMAN

20yrs 180cm 77kg
 Games played 43*
Struggled to get into the game and was used sparingly, but his presence mid-field gave the Sharks some physical strength. Will improve with the outing.

40. GEORGE CHRISTIE

27yrs 174cm 70kg
 Games played 127
Worked extremely hard either on the ball or in defence. His 15 kicks were well-used and he provided an ideal linkman for the Sharks midfield operations.

42. MICHAEL LITTLE

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



George Christie...linkman

44. MICHAEL BROADBRIDGE

21yrs 186cm 78kg
 Games played 39
Has failed to win a place in the two finals line-ups, but is one of the Sharks best half-backs; a long-striding strong-marking player who can also move into attack.

48. BRAD TUNBRIDGE

25yrs 193cm 93kg
 Games played 40
Started at full-forward, but exerted his influence as a ruckman. Needs to take more marks around the ground.

50. LANCE DURACK

25yrs 193cm 88kg
 Games played 48
Was unusually quiet last week, but put in his share of bullocking in the ruck contest with Craig Nelson and then helped keep Warren Taylor quiet when he resumed at full-back.

56. DARREN HAMMOND

25yrs 177cm 85kg
 Games played 9
Has flourished in this finals series, showing great capacity to ruck-rove strongly and use the ball exceptionally well, especially coming out of defence.

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 Water-son 13 Richmond.

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• PERTH •

The powers of umpires

THE footballers of WA were treated to a great crowd response with 30,000 plus attending the double-header.

All four teams rose to the occasion and the fans certainly received value for money.

Two incidents in the games drew attention to the need for an immediate review of the laws, or, more to the point, who administers them.

Craig Nelson clearly goaled from a strong mark, which may or may not have had any effect on the game, and Dean Nalder hit the point side of the goalpost from his set shot and was granted a goal at the 22min mark of the last quarter.

I questioned the decision with the umpires and was told that they could not over-rule the goal umpire, even though both agreed it was not a goal.

A similar incident worked in Claremont's favour in the 1987 grand final.

Neither incident detracted from the performances of the two winning sides, but in most major sports the central umpire has the veto over linesmen or goal-judges and uses this power frequently.

If there was any doubt in the goal umpire's mind, he should have immediately consulted the field umpire and possibly the players concerned.

If doubt still remains, a second shot could be awarded but of course this could not happen if the shot was not from a set free-kick or mark.

A total review of our laws is necessary to avoid incidents such as these, which could have a crucial bearing on the result of a match.

It would be a rank injustice to lose a big game through a poor decision by a goal umpire.

Forward step for football

WITH the likelihood of Subiaco Oval being handed to the WAFL, the future of our national game looks to have taken an up-turn.

The Football Commission now have a base which can generate money for football — not cricket (as is the case at the WACA or local councils).

The first objective should be to clear existing debts and then set in place a strong foundation for WA football.

STRAIGHT TALKING

With Claremont coach GERARD NEESHAM



Stephen Edgar... improved.

Edgar shows his class

STEPHEN Edgar has shown promise as a player for the past four or five years, but 1989 has seen him blossom into one of the most exciting half-backs in the competition.

Initially a rover and then played on the wing, he had difficulty in achieving consistency.

Since Graham Melrose shifted him to a half-back flank, he has shown all the qualities required of a class half-back.

I thought he was best on the ground in both first semi-finals, just as he was in the last home and away fixture.

Edgar is a good example of allowing a player to mature in the WAFL before moving to the next level, where I believe he will be a success.

FROM WHERE I SIT

Wheelchair sports critic BILL MATHER-BROWN



We don't need a Vic coach!

ONE of the big attractions of the West Coast Eagles profile is that the team is West Australian — and that's the magnetism which attracts the roaring crowds when they play at home.

Former Collingwood player, but Claremont-cultivated, Geoff Miles is the only ring-in. But he has been in WA long enough to be considered one of the locals. He certainly plays as though his loyalties are with us.

Recent newspaper reports suggest that the Eagles administration have been looking at a Victorian coach to succeed John Todd if they, for some erratic reason, decide to replace him.

They were talking to coaches — or former coaches — like Kevin Sheedy, Robert Walls, David Parkin, Mick Malthouse and Tom Hafey.

Financial

I can't see the Eagles having access to Sheedy if Essendon continue their good finals form; the only reason he would leave the Bombers would be for a bigger financial reward...and surely the West Coasters aren't in that league!

It might be argued that Sheedy was in charge of Essendon when they donkey-licked the Eagles towards the end of this season.

So what!

The Eagles gave it to Essendon in like fashion last season, so it was only one for one.

Hafey, like Todd, is a real tough nut as a coach. They sacked him from the Sydney Swans, apparently because he was too tough for a few players to get along with.

In the last couple of years, that same team played some dynamic football and should have gone on to bigger and better things. Their fade-out might have gone against Hafey, but his track record is still pretty impressive.

Parkin rates highly and he didn't deserve the treatment he received from Carlton.

He is a premiership-winning coach and I thought that the swap of Parkin for Walls was a bad mistake from the start.

Walls has enjoyed some success, mostly reaping the development work done by Parkin before the team fell in a heap.

Coaches have to be going pretty badly before a club will dump them as early in the season as the Blues said goodbye to Walls and that, in itself, would worry me if he were invited West.

The current pregnant pause in the coaching appointment at the Eagles is a bad sign.

The fact that the heirarchy has held off an announcement indicates that they are waiting for someone more pliable than Todd.

If this is the case, then they are after a mouse, not a coach. Good coaches are the builders of good teams. Todd has already proved that he can achieve success.

Flavour

Take the West Australian flavour away from the Eagles by tossing in a few Vics, South Aussies, Tasmanians or even a couple of Gaelic goers and they will lose me — and, I think, a lot of other people inspired by the concept of a powerful team of Sandgropers beating the rest of Australia.

The way Todd rebuilt this year's shattered team to walk over Geelong and Carlton at the end suggests that he and those Eagles are more than ready to bounce back next year.



LES'S LYRICS

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

Trio tell the story

After Saturday's double-header Where football was the winner West Perth made their exit Defeated, but certainly no sinner.

All the three teams left In the race for premiership glory Are led by three individuals With a fairly similar story.

Neesham, Magro and Melrose All liked to play it rough And when it comes to coaching They make it just as tough.

When playing the game themselves They always gave their all. And when preparing their troops Their expectations are just as tall.

It's more than a coincidence We're left with these three sides And if they're true to their coaches For a flag they'll hold the tides.



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FROM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Sharks make it a double

THE East Fremantle reserves side capped off a prosperous weekend for the Sharks when they moved through to the Prime Reserves grand final with a 15-point victory over Perth in the second semi-final on Sunday.

Playing the day after the league side's first semi-final win, loyal Sharks supporters and members sat among the Subiaco Oval debris of Saturday's double-header and cheered the reserves to victory.

East Fremantle won, 14.13 (97) to 12.10 (82), despite a last quarter fight-back from Perth.

The Demons were 16-points down at three-quarter time, but with the aid of a strong wind and two early goals, they looked capable of hitting the front for the first time in the match.

Rebounded

Goals from Scott Spalding and Brendon Baker reduced the deficit, though East Fremantle rebounded with a timely goal from David Bushell.

A goal from Perth full-forward Damian Gordon at the 14-minute mark made the difference five points, but that was as close as the Demons got to beating East Fremantle all day.

Goals from Dean Cole and Wayne Nannup sealed the game for East Fremantle and forced Perth into a preliminary final encounter against a rejuvenated Swan Districts side.

Colin Waterson lined up at full-forward for East Fremantle and he put the first two goals on the board for the Sharks, though he was well held after half-time.

Defence

Perth found the East Fremantle defence hard to penetrate in the first term and Perth captain Tony Tomizzi tried hard to inspire his side, scoring the only goal for his side in the first term.

Perth let the Sharks off the hook in the second quarter when, after kicking four goals, East Fremantle's Steve

Prime RESERVES

By TANIA ARMSTRONG



David Bushell...gave the Perth defenders some headaches during last Saturday's second semi-final

Bilcich goaled from a free kick and Waterson kicked his third.

In a physical third quarter, Perth held East Fremantle to three goals at the scoring end and set the scene for a fourth quarter fightback.

Opposing ruckmen Guy Baxter and Ian Newman fought out an even contest all day and East Fremantle won the game on the ground, thanks to their smaller players Cole, David Rowe and Bilcich.

COMMONWEALTH BANK.

presents ...

The national view



by JOHN WARREN

Let's ban coloured boot boys

ONE of the most attractive features of our game has been its appeal to the basics.

The game is recognised as a free-flowing contest not overly complicated by hard-to-interpret offside laws or forward passes.

In addition to this, the game has been widely acclaimed for a dearth of space-age type gear and unsightly padding.

Ask any foreigner what it is about Australian Football that excites or amazes them and they will invariably cite (apart from its readily identifiable skills) the colourful and snugly-fitting playing uniforms.

Given that the uniforms are such a feature and also that Australian Football is a team game involving more players on the field than any other football code, it's a pity some players set themselves apart from their teammates.

They are taking the field, would you believe, in gear such as green and even, heaven forbid, pink boots!

These colours on football boots look ridiculous and what's really disappointing is that they are obviously designed to give the wearers more exposure and identity than their fellows.

It certainly singles the wearer out...but for the wrong reasons.

Jokes

The pink and green boot brigade get most upset when they become the butt of jokes and innuendo.

They become upset when the "great unwashed" pelt them with a variety of missiles and abuse them with reckless abandon.

But if these players weren't "lairs" at heart, they would retreat back to being just one of the team of 20 men.

It would be in the best interest of football if the authorities could vet boot colours the same way as they strictly monitor guernsey colour and design.

If they don't, these players — actively aided and abetted by their agents and sponsors — will soon be sporting customised headbands and wrist bands.

Look at today's tennis players. They are mobile billboards.

The VFL have resisted the temptation to let advertisers run riot on official team uniforms by restricting sponsors logos to discreet dimensions. Compare this to Sydney Rugby League teams who have commercial advertising emblazoned over both the front and back of guernseys in a most garish fashion.

They look terrible!

Let's hope that our game will not sell its soul completely to commercialism. Officials should remind the coloured boot brigade that they are engaged in a TEAM sport.

Lions continue winning streak

SUBIACO'S winning streak in the under-19s competition continued over minor premiers East Perth in the second semi-final on Saturday.

Subiaco have now won eight games in a row and they go into the grand final full of confidence and with a big possibility of winning the club's first under-19s premiership since 1975.

In a fourth-quarter fightback, the Lions overcame a 20-point half-time deficit to win 12.6 (78) to 7.15 (57).

East Perth had all of the play in the first term, but they were inaccurate in front of goals, kicking 2.6.

Defence

The East Perth defence of Graham McKnight, Mark Harris, Mark Hall and Darren Crook kept Subiaco under enormous pressure and forced the Lions to make a lot of mistakes.

Goals from East Perth's Brant Softly, Charles Gow and Chris Bagshaw in the second term stretched the Royals quarter-time lead of 10 points.

Subiaco began the third term just how coach Eddie Pitter ordered when lanky ruckman Matthew Burton

UNDER 19s

started the Lions fightback with a goal at the eight-minute mark.

Burton, the team captain, marked well under pressure when he dragged down a good mark in the goal square and scored from point-blank range.

The rest of the quarter was a battle of the backlines before Greg Willison kicked a late goal for Subiaco and East Perth were kept goalless.

Brilliant

Subiaco hit the front three minutes into the last quarter when Darren Kesler ran into an open goal and scored after a brilliant tap-on from a team-mate.

Goals from Royals Marcus Seecamp and Brant Softly couldn't stop Subiaco's run and the Lions stormed home to victory with a seven-goal last quarter.

For Subiaco, youngster Matthew Teeuwisson excelled in defence and East Perth's Graham McKnight also played a great game in defence, producing some eye-catching runs up field into attack.

East Perth will now meet West Perth in the preliminary final this Saturday.

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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.

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Kicking football into the future



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



TOYOTA CUP

Loxley moves on — after a top effort

WAYNE Loxley is a young football administrator on the move — again.

Loxley is becoming an expert at moving office, leaving the Town and Country Football Development Trust office two weeks ago to take on the position of Football Manager with Subiaco.

Earlier this year, the FDT moved from the Perth Superdrome to League Headquarters and after weeks of sorting through and packing football publications and momentos, Loxley has now shifted further around Subiaco Oval to the Lions office.

Loxley has taken over the role left vacant by Trevor Nisbett after his departure to the football manager's position with the West Coast Eagles.

Nisbett made his first trip east with the Eagles when they played their last game and Loxley finished with the Trust a fortnight ago.

Primary school football — and Aussie Footy in particular — will miss Loxley, who has dedicated himself to improving the football skills of children in years one to seven during his three years at FDT.

Lions coach

Loxley has also coached the Subiaco reserves side for the past six years and both roles have obviously helped equip him for the Lions top football administrative role.

One compensation for the FDT is that while they are losing the talent and enthusiasm of Loxley as a staff member, he will not be lost to West Australian football.

As Aussie Footy co-ordinator, modified rules have been Loxley's forte though he modestly refuses to accept any accolades.

"I have to say I didn't get it off the ground; Brian Douge did a lot of the early work," Loxley said.

"I've taken over from what he started and branched out into a few new areas."

The Trust's Aussie Footy programme is more advanced than anywhere else in Australia and hours devoted by Loxley, the initiative of the FDT and the WAFL development managers are responsible.

"Our network of junior councils also make a big difference," he said.

"The nine junior councils work in a reasonably co-ordinated fashion — no other State has that."

Oscar Aussie

One of the popular initiatives of the FDT which goes hand in hand with Aussie Footy is the unique football personality called Oscar Aussie, who began work with the FDT in 1988.

Oscar visits primary school clinics and this year was seen taking part in half-time activities during the Eagles home games at the WACA Ground and Subiaco Oval.

Another introduction in Loxley's era was the FDT activity forum at half-time intervals of the Eagles, an extension of the Little League of previous years.

"That has helped us to promote the whole Aussie Footy programme without having to keep saying 'look isn't it great'," he says.

Special school games have also been introduced in the Town and Country Little League this year and Loxley says that they have had a great response from audiences.

"In terms of response from the public, it's been great," he says.



Wayne Loxley...on the move.

Sporting "firsts" are what the FDT are aiming for in the increasingly competitive sporting environment and another first was the introduction of Hungry Jack's lightning carnivals this season for over 6000 primary school students.

"Compared to all the other sports, we're the only one to have a uniform lightning carnival for primary schools," he said.

One of the Trust's major aims is to get all primary schools playing Aussie Footy and Loxley says the lightning carnivals were a great help in assessing progress.

"We can say that 324 out of the State's 600 primary schools played in our carnivals."

"On top of them, there are others that play football and Aussie Footy in some form.

"We'll have the majority of them playing by the end of next year."

Loxley says the acceptance of modified rules by the public has changed over the last few years and this has made his job easier.

"The community and teachers in particular, are now aware of the need to modify rules; whereas only five years ago Brian Douge would have been banging his head against a brick wall," added Loxley.



Happy young Falcons after winning the Town and Country shield

Shield to West Perth

IF the number of budding young footballers taking the field for West Perth during the half-time break every Saturday is any indication, then the Falcons are assured of a bright future.

West Perth were awarded the Town and Country Little League shield last Saturday after they fielded the highest number of Little League players during the half-time games this season.

West Perth were rewarded after playing 385 footballers and they won from Subiaco (383), Swan Districts (380), Claremont (370), East Fremantle (362), South Fremantle (342), East Perth (340) and Perth (328).

The presentation of the shield took place after the regular Town and Country Little League action at the half-time interval of last Saturday's second semi-final.

John Harries (left), of Town and Country WA Building Society and Football Development Trust general manager Grant Dorrington presented the shields to West Perth title league manager Ross McMillan.



THE young Rossmoyne side face their toughest game of the year this Sunday when they take on Toyota Cup regional champions Karoonda in the East/South Fremantle zone grand final at East Fremantle Oval.

Lynwood finished behind Karoonda on the ladder and ahead of Rossmoyne, but they had no match for an improved Rossmoyne side who ran out 12-point winners, 13.12 (90) to 11.12 (78).

In the South Suburban/Perth zone, East Victoria Park and Roleystone both moved through to their grand finals when they were comfortable preliminary final winners.

Grand final

In the A-Division, Roleystone advanced to a grand final meeting with minor premiers Kenwick when they scored a 11.12 (78) to 6.6 (42) victory over Gosnells.

East Victoria Park set up a grand final showdown with Thornlie when they were 25-point winners over Kelmscott, 11.12 (78) to 8.5 (53).

The grand final of the East/West Perth zone will be played at 2.30pm at Leederville Oval this Sunday between Bayswater/Morley and Osborne Park and it promises to be an exciting clash.

The two sides have fought out some close games this year, though Bayswater were 25-point winners in the second semi-final.

Osborne Park moved through to the grand final last Sunday when they were big winners over Cougars, 24.13 (157) to 4.5 (29).

Plate final to Swanleigh

SWANLEIGH emerged as the 15s plate grand final premiers when they demolished Osborne Park in the East/West competition.

Swanleigh displayed excellent form to down Osborne Park 12.9 (81) to 5.2 (32).

The Morley 15s and Osborne Park 17s both advanced to their respective grand finals when they dominated their preliminary finals.

Morley defeated North Innaloo 13.14 (92) to 6.10 (46), while Osborne Park showed their strength when they ran out 130-point winners over Cougars, 24.15 (159) to 4.5 (29).

Sunday's grand finals at Leederville Oval are:

15's — 12.30pm: Morley v Noranda.
17's — 2.30pm: Bayswater v Osborne Park.

Final flags at Perth

THE 1989 season ended in the Perth Junior Council when East Victoria Park and Forrestfield took out their respective championships.

EVP dominated the 13s competition when they outran Forrestfield 9.9 (63) to 3.4 (22), with East Victoria Park's Clinton Lake best on ground.

The 15s grade was won by second-placed Forrestfield, beating top side Centrals 9.14 (68) to 5.6 (36), with Troy Kish standing out.

The 1989 fairest and best players in the Perth Junior Council are:

13s Bradley Smith (East Victoria Park) 51 votes; David Della Bona (Carlisle) and Nathan Tann (Queens Park) 29 votes.

15s Phillip Fitzgerald (Carlisle/Collier) 28 votes; Troy Kish (Forrestfield) 25 votes.

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Country Roundup

Tigers devour Collie Saints

THE South Bunbury Tigers advanced to yet another South-West League grand final with a hollow victory over the Collie Saints last Sunday.

South Bunbury won by 100 points — 23.14 to 7.10.

Though they had winners all over the ground, it was in the big-man department that South were able to gain an early ascendancy and this enabled their runners to dictate terms.

Ruckman Jamie O'Donohue and Peter Old controlled the centre bounce-downs and Shane Stempel and lanky wingman Rod Steele added to South's pronounced height advantage.

Centre Chris Raykos, who started on a half-forward flank and switched with Scott Meadows, directed play repeatedly into Souths forward line and finished with six goals.

Though big-hearted Bruce Jackson gave his all for four quarters, Souths sheer weight of numbers made his task impossible.

Collie bounced out of the blocks with a flourish and for most of the first quarter it was an even contest.

But at the 19min mark, after the scores had been level for several minutes, Steele scored South's fourth major.

Raykos followed with another and South Bunbury were away.



Dean Winning. . . medal winner.

WINNING WINNER

FORMER Claremont and East Perth player Dean Winning has won the fairest and best award in the Upper Great Southern League. The Railways captain-coach polled 30 votes to take out the Leo Graham Medal by seven votes from Boddington's Gary Winter-ton. Wagin's Gavin Bolt was third on 20 votes. Winning also won the Radio West footballer-of-the-year award and his club's fairest and best.

KARRATHA FOOTBALL CLUB

Committee, members and supporters wish the League and Reserves teams all the very best in the **GRAND FINALS** this weekend

Tigers take Fortescue premiership

HOT favourites Tigers won their fourth Fortescue National Football League premiership with a 20-point victory over Hill in Sunday's grand final.

The 16.23 (119) to 14.15 (99) victory was a triumph for coach Charlie Salmon after three previous grand final disappointments.

It was Salmon's first flag following on from two losses and a draw and he set the standard of play by being best-on-ground.

Little separated the sides even though Tigers frittered away chances with a 2.12 first term and they trailed by a point at half-time.

A six-goal third term followed and then the Tigers running players Salmon, Ware and Dave Maher took control in the final term to extend their lead.

Other good players were Cunningham, Vance and M. Taylor, while Hill were well-served by Noye, O'Donnell, Yarran and Keyser.

Dampier's second chance

DAMPIER earned a re-match with Karratha Kats when they won a tough preliminary final against the Karratha Kats in Sunday's North Pilbara League.

After conceding the Falcons a start, Dampier improved steadily to win 16.17 (113) to 8.17 (65).

A. Jackson, G. Dornan, M. Ford and Kulrich kicked two goals each for Dampier, with their best players being Dornan, Carter, McGuire and Jackson.

Best for Falcons were Spilsbury, Gray, Kimberley and Osborne, with Shane Gidgup kicking three goals.

Royals miss grand final

TOP Southern Districts side Royals will miss out on this year's grand final after losing easily to South Barker in Sunday's preliminary final.

South Barker, led by Richard Ugle with five goals, finished too strong for Royals, winning 14.16 (100) to 10.8 (68).

A strong third quarter, when they kicked 4.6 to nil, set up the victory for South Barker after they trailed by three points at half-time.

They finished strongly with a five-goal final term to thwart any Royals fightback.

Thriller

The loss was a blow for Royals, who had headed the table all season, only to lose a thrilling second semi-final to North Albany by three points.

Keith Punch kicked four goals for South Barker, while Greg Hambley was Royals' best with three majors.

South Barker made it a double with their reserves side playing Royals in the grand final, while Railways and North Albany meet in the colts premiership battle with all games at Collingwood Park.

Ominous

Two more from Raykos in quick succession and the signs were ominous for the Saints at half-time when they trailed by 40 points.

In the third term Collie again opened with determination and had the ball in attack for the first six minutes of the term, but failed to a score.

South Bunbury booted a goal through Gavin Thornton in their first attack.

Goals from Paul Carpenter and Brett Earl lifted the Saints flagging spirits momentarily but it was short-lived.

South scored again through O'Donohue before the third-quarter break.

The final term was a formality. Souths continued to dominate in all departments and the only highlight for Collie was the fifth goal by full-forward Earl.

With a nine-goal final quarter, South Bunbury completed a workmanlike display and set themselves up for an exciting encounter with top side Harvey-Brunswick in this Sunday's grand final.

ALBANY PLEA

ALBANY has staked a claim to be included in an expanded WAFL competition in the future. WA Democrats sports spokesperson, Senator Jean Jenkins, has made the suggestion of an Albany-based team in a submission to the newly-formed WA Football Commission. The Democrats submitted that six country areas should be considered in future WAFL expansion — North West, Mid-West, Central Wheatbelt, Goldfields-Esperance, Great Southern and South West.

Veteran reaches 50-year target

VETERAN North Midlands Football League secretary Ted Duffy celebrated 50 years of service at a special function last week.

Duffy retired as a Three Springs player in 1939 (at the age of 28) and immediately took on the secretary's job, which he has held ever since.

WAFL country liaison officer Jock Beattie made a special presentation on behalf of the Country Football League; East Fremantle general manager Bob Uittenbroek represented the Sharks and North Midlands president Jim Milloy made a presentation from the district.

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Brigades recruit Stuart Milliken.

BIG RECRUIT

GREAT Northern finals aspirants Brigades snared the likely recruit of the year when a talent scout happened to watch Coastal League side Eneabba in action mid-season. Starring for the minor league team was big Victorian Stuart Milliken, a former top player in the strong Mornington Peninsular competition. He was quickly enticed to Geraldton and emerged as a key centre-half-forward in Brigades finals build-up.

MEDAL TO HART

KUKERIN team-mates Darryl Hart and Ross Ditchburn produced a club quinella when the Central Great Southern League's fairest and best was decided. Hart, a rover, polled 13 votes to clinch the Charlie Punch Medal, one clear of Ditchburn, the 1988 winner. Third place went to Wanderers rover Mick Quartermaine, on nine votes.

Country finals

ONGERUP — Grand finals — League: Newdegate 14.15 d Jerramungup 4.8. Reserves: Ongerup 11.12 b Jerramungup 7.2.

AVON — Preliminary final — Tammin 15.9 b Youk 11.10.

LOWER SOUTH WEST — Preliminary final — Boyup Brook 12.19 b Southerners 12.6.

FORTESCUE — Grand final: Tigers 16.23 b Hill 14.15.

UPPER GREAT SOUTHERN — First Semi-final — Wickepin 9.12 b Williams 8.10.

Second Semi-final: Boddington 20.9 b Railways 11.9.

GREAT NORTHERN — Second Semi-final — Railways 24.25 b Towns 6.12.

NORTH PILBARA — Preliminary finals — Dampier 16.17 b Karratha Falcons 8.17.

SOUTH-WEST — Preliminary finals — South Bunbury 23.14 b Collie 7.10.

CENTRAL WHEATBELT — Grand final — League: Beacon 14.10 b Bencubbin 9.11. Reserves: Kalannie 15.8 b Nungah 13.16.

EASTERN DISTRICTS — Preliminary final — Burracoppin 15.14 b Kulin 9.6.

MORTLOCK — Preliminary final — League: Morgan Hills 16.13 b Goomalling 13.18.

CENTRAL MIDLANDS — Grand final — League: Moora Rovers 20.13 b Moora Warriors 9.11. Reserves: Dandaragan 14.11 b Moora Warriors 10.13.

GOLDFIELDS — Preliminary final — Railways 12.11 b Kambalda 10.14.

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS — Preliminary final: South Barker 14.16 b Royals 10.8.

NORTH MIDLANDS — Grand Final — League: Mingenew 16.12 b Dongara 13.15. Reserves: Dongara 11.7 b Mingenew 4.9.



Sunday League

SUNDAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE GRAND FINALS

GOSNELLS OVAL
COLTS — 9.50am
Applecross v Gosnells
RESERVES — 11.50am
Gosnells v Osborne Park

LEAGUE PRELIMINARY FINAL — 2.20pm

Canning v Wanneroo
The schedule for Sunday September 24 at Gosnells Oval will be: 11am Master Rules — W.A. State team v composite team. Noon Super Rules — W.A. State Team v composite team. 1pm Super Boot Long Kicking Competition. Sponsored by Burley-Sekem.

1.30pm LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

MATCH DETAILS

League second semi-final

GOSNELLS 4.3 10.7 14.10 20.18 138
WANNEROO 1.4 1.6 5.7 7.11 53
GOALS — GOSNELLS: S. Ward, P. McGilvray 4, Lamb 3, Groiff, Dominish, Khapton 2, Hayden, Lathwell, O'Keefe. WANNEROO: Hill 3, Rogers 2, Collinge, Fraser
BEST — GOSNELLS: Paul Rond, Dean Hayden, Laurance Winmar. WANNEROO: John McElwee, Tom Floyd, Steve Hill.

Reserves preliminary final

Osborne Park 17.13 (115) d Applecross 10.17 (77).

Colts preliminary final

Gosnells 13.8 (86) d Wanneroo 8.11 (59).

League Grand Final

PINJARRA 2.3 4.9 9.15 14.22 106
MIDLAND 3.2 5.5 8.5 11.7 73
GOALS — PINJARRA: Staples, Stack, White 3, Triscari 2, Waters, Cox, W. Gordon. MIDLAND: Narrier, Nairn, Taylor, Jose 2, Roberts, Snedden, Hall.
BEST — PINJARRA: Reg Stack, Mike Staples, Graeme Waters. MIDLAND: Barry Moore, Ray Keen, Brett Crawford.

Reserves Grand Final

KWINANA 4.2 5.10 11.13 18.17 125
FREMANTLE 2.0 4.2 6.3 9.4 58
GOALS — KWINANA: Coomer 7, Brown, Mathieson 3, M. Indich 2, E. Dann, C. Indich, Hall. FREMANTLE: Merindino, C. Collica 2, Simich, Dimattia, Teague, G. Abrell, S. Phillips.
BEST — KWINANA: Stephen Brown, Dave Mathieson, Edmund Dann. FREMANTLE: Clarence Ryan, George Corriea, Steven Phillips.

Colts Grand Final

MUNDIJONG 2.2 5.7 11.9 14.9 93
FREMANTLE 2.3 3.5 6.6 11.8 74
GOALS — MUNDIJONG: Sparkman 6, Heslington 3, Trichilo, Davis 2, Walley. FREMANTLE: Pringle 4, Gaudaines 3, R. Collica 2, C. Collica, W. Walley.
BEST — MUNDIJONG: Leonn Williams, Troy Sparkman, Mark Heslington. FREMANTLE: Darres, Pringle, Mathew Verney, Rob Collica.

Hawks skin Roos in tough semi replay

GOSNELLS stormed into the Sunday Football League grand final with a crushing 85-point win over reigning premiers Wanneroo.

The match was the replay of the drawn second semi-final at John Dunn Oval.

Gosnells now have all three teams, league, reserves and colts, in the grand finals.

Wanneroo gave little evidence of the tough, unrelenting style that enabled them to snatch a last-second draw with Gosnells a week earlier.

From the first bounce the Hawks dominated the match and won 20.18 to 7.11.

The game was as good as over at half-time when the usually free-scoring Roos had managed just 1.6 to the Hawks' 10.7.

The Roos now face the prospect of having to beat a confident and rested Canning in next Sunday's preliminary final at Gosnells Oval.

Battered

On Sunday's performance the Roos, physically and mentally battered, will face an uphill battle to get a shot at defending their premiership title at Gosnells Oval on Sunday week.

Any doubt that this year's Bowden Medallist, Gary Smallridge, is not the best player in the competition were put to rest when the Gosnells centreman gave yet another match-winning display of skill and endurance to dominate the midfield play.

The Roos went into the game needing a big performance from goal-kicking ace Tony Fraser, but for the second week in a row he was shut out of the game by the resolute and close-checking Paul Rond, who restricted Fraser to one goal.

Hawks centre half-back Phil Latham, well supported by half-back flankers Paul Hill and Glen O'Rourke, shut out Roos captain-coach Gavin Carter while at the other end Dean Hayden was unbeatable at centre-half-forward for the Hawks.

Gosnells' goal-kickers were spread among nine players while for the Roos half-forward Stephen Hill kicked four goals in a lone effort.

Trouble

Wanneroo were in trouble early when it was obvious that their outstanding centreman Howard Collinge was affected by a shoulder injury suffered the week before.

Collinge did not play after half-time and is in doubt for the preliminary final.

So too is wingman Robbie Saylor, a late withdrawal from the team because of an achilles tendon injury.

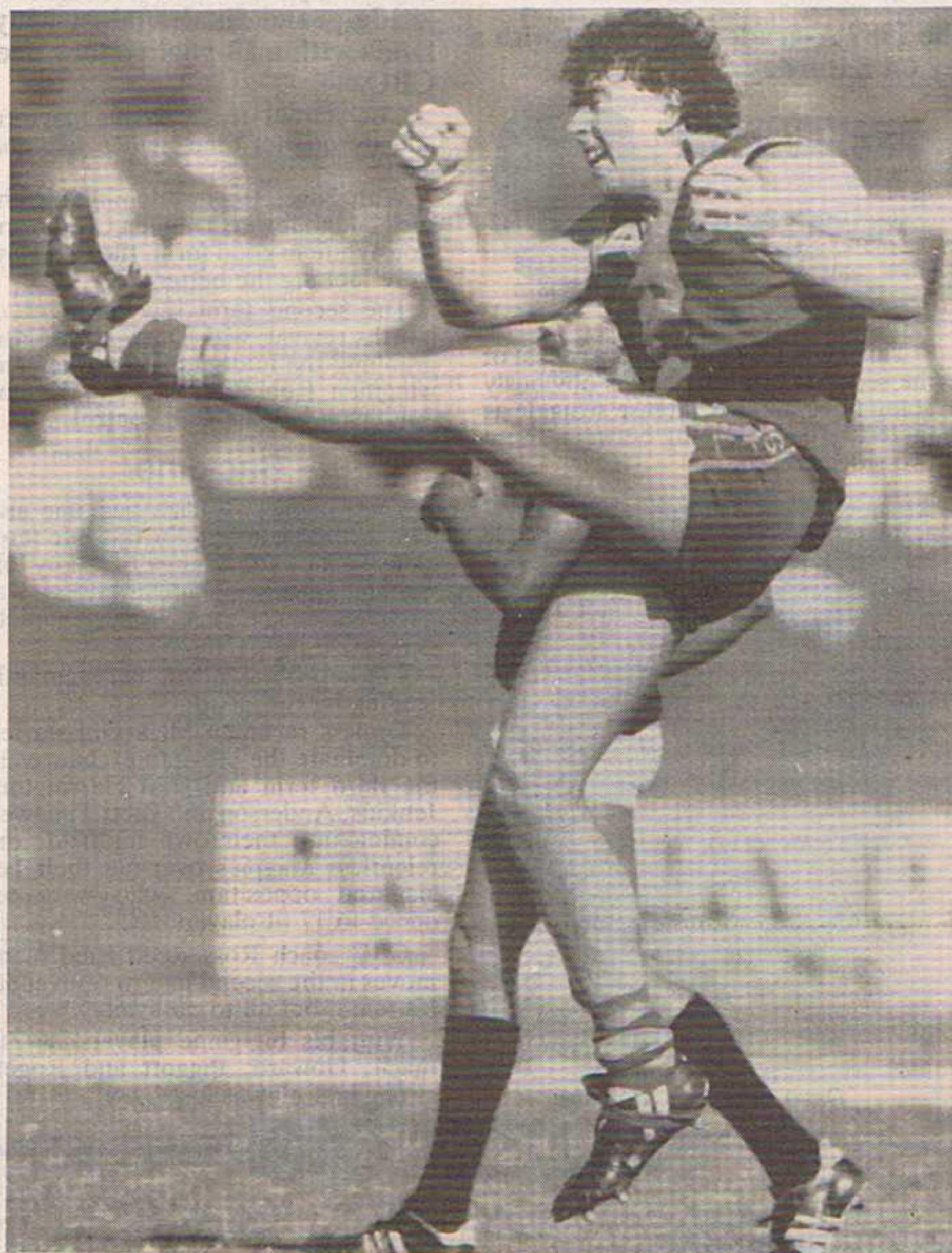
It is doubtful whether these two players will be fit for Sunday's preliminary final against Canning.

SITUATIONS VACANT

1990 Coaching Position

INNALOO A.F.C. REQUIRES COACHES

for the 1990 season
SENIORS RESERVES & COLTS
Applications to PO Box 61
Doubleview 6018. Enquiries
to Greg Ph 446 2602



Gosnells Gary Smallridge drives the Hawks forward.

Pinjarra flag at first attempt

PINJARRA celebrated their first season in the Metropolitan Football League with a 33-point win against Midland in the grand final.

It was Pinjarra's 16th premiership since 1945 in 30 grand final appearances.

Experience told for Pinjarra in the second half after Midland had held a two-point break at half-time.

Former Sunday League players Graeme Waters and Chris Turner, along with South-West League player Reg Stack, who played with Carey Park, dominated the around-the-ground duels and set up goals for Pinjarra.

Inaccurate

If it had not been for inaccurate kicking for goal, the margin would have been much greater.

The main offender was forward Mike Staples, who booted 3.6.

Midland coach Ken Baker shuffled his players to try to achieve the right balance.

However his players were unable to overcome the strong Pinjarra defence, who turned back attack after attack.

Key player

Pinjarra coach Nigel Gilbert was expected to be a key player but he exerted little influence on the game.

Key forwards Warren Gordon, Lee Cox and Terry White controlled the aerial duels and between them booted five goals.

In the minor grade grand finals Kwinana achieved back-to-back flags in the Reserves competition with a 65-point win against Fremantle.

Mundijong played a skilful brand of football to upset favourites Fremantle and take off the Colts pennant.



Pinjarra coach Nigel Gilbert is chaired off after their premiership win.



The flag-winners...Metropolitan premiers Pinjarra.

A roundup of news from the West Australian Amateur Football League

North Beach storm into grand final

NORTH Beach Tigers moved into the 1989 A-grade grand final with a solid 43-point victory over Wembley on Saturday.

The game started with Wembley's runners covering a lot of ground and setting up opportunities for forwards Rod Alderton and Noel Lant-zke.

The two forwards were converting with efficiency and the Magpies looked good. But to the Tigers credit, they fought back late in the quarter and were only 13-points down at the break.

North worked hard in the second quarter, mainly through Ian Linford, Ian Halley, Mark Deeble and Corry Bewick and kicked six goals to take a seven point lead at half time.

Tough clash

The third term and was typified by the clash of ruckman David Higgins and Luke Wundke, who were slamming into each other trying to gain the ascendancy.

It was North who converted through Deeble, Yarran and the tall men up forward and with four goals for the quarter, they set themselves up for the extra week's break.

Wembley did not get value for effort as Grant Callaghan was inspirational and continually brought the ball out of the centre bouncedowns.

Callaghan continued his outstanding play at the start of final period, but had little support and so much so that full back Schultz was able to come up forward and rub salt right into the wound with a couple of goals.

Creative

Ian Linford was clearly North's best player, with his creative play and excellent disposal by both hand and foot, while Grant "Dobbie" Callaghan gave Wembley everything with total commitment and more possessions than any other player.

SITUATIONS VACANT

1990 Coaching Position

INNALOO A.F.C. REQUIRES COACHES

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A-GRADE
by
TREVOR SCHORER



This week's Grand final is a repeat of the second semi-final and is obviously going to be another intense struggle as there has been nothing between these two sides all year.



Dave Higgins...ruck star.



Bill Payne — 250 games

WELL-known Wembley amateurs ruck-rover, Bill Payne has set his retirement date — 1990.

He was a State representative in 1978 (vice captain) at Adelaide; 1979 (captain) at the Hobart Carnival; 1980 in Perth; 1982 in Perth for the national carnival and 1983 in Adelaide.

A Wembley stalwart, he played in A-grade grand finals in 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1984.

Bill was runner-up in club fairest and best awards in 1978, 1979, 1981 and 1982.

He played D-grade and A-grade this season.

Norths set to face Maylands for flag

NORTH Fremantle bulldozed their way into this week's B-grade grand final against Maylands with a 10-goal victory over CBC.

CBC started strongly in the first term and by quarter-time held a two-goal lead.

With Nigel Rogers dominating the ruck and followers Damien Cronin and Lou White in good form, the Old Boys were looking the better side.

The second term saw the start of Norths revival, with Drew Herrington grabbing the midfield ascendancy and wingmen Rob Biondillo and Kymon Anderson helping gain control.

Backline

The Magpies ruthless backline also gained the upperhand with some ferocious tackles and when CBC's key forward Chook McDermott was stretched off, North took complete control.

The long break saw North Fremantle leading by two goals.

Tireless ruckman Mick Gill started to dominate the big-man exchanges in the third term and with Herrington, Jenkins, Anderson and Brett Timewell coming into their own midfield, the relentless Magpies over-ran their beleaguered opposition, who were reduced to 17 fit players.

CBC coach Ross Reed tried many moves in the second half to rejuvenate his team, but all to no avail.

With his big-game players in Z-mach, Howard, Piggott and Rogers struggling, all was lost.

MILESTONES

100 GAMES — MICK COCKBURN

MICK (Cobby) Cockburn joined the Wembley Football Club in 1981 as a colts player and has experienced many of the ups and downs that go with football.

He was a member of the beaten colts grand finalists in 1982, but tasted success in A-Grade in 1984.

Mick has been an exemplary club member, serving on the committee for three years before work commitments encroached on his time.

He returned this year to continue his career with the Magpies and played his 100th game in the D-Grade grand final — celebrating with a Wembley victory.

The Wembley Football Club management and members take this opportunity to thank Cobby for his tremendous enthusiasm over the years and the excellent service he has given to the club.

EAST Fremantle backman Gary Wann played his 100th game last weekend, adding another milestone to his list of football achievements.

A dedicated club man, he has served on the committee since 1983 and was voted best club man that year and received the most promising player award in 1984.

Wann has been club delegate to the WAAFL since 1983 and has been president of the club committee for the last two years as well as in 1984.

B-GRADE
by
PETER RUSH



Only captain Joe Lawrence gave a solid four-quarter performance.

Other good players for North Fremantle were Vanderwiellen, Looby, Heatley and Olczyk.

Battle

This week's grand final at Perth Oval between Maylands and North Fremantle is sure to be an intriguing battle.

Both coaches, Glen Hurst and Wally Sidebottom, will have had a good look at each other's side in recent weeks and will try to grasp the right formula to attain victory.

The key to the game will be the ability of each side to get the ball out of the centre.

Maylands ruckman Paul Carlsen had the better of his second semi-final clash with Mick Gill, but Gill is a seasoned campaigner and is sure to fight back.

The Rams following division of Ossie Dikolli, Gary McNamara, Steve Goddard and Greg Davis will find their opponents in Herrington, Jenkins, Wright, Reed and Biondillo also wiser after their second semi clash.

Control

If the Rams can get the ball out of the centre they will open the game up by moving it quickly, while North will close the game up if they can win control midfield.

The backlines of both sides also provide plenty of drive, with defenders Wayne McKinlay and Harley Haywood (Maylands) and Rob Looby and Kevin Jones (North) being the keys.

After three tough finals clashes, the Magpies will be adjusted to hard football, while the Rams have had one game in three weeks and will be fresher.

The game will be a titanic struggle, but Maylands with more class, speed, commitment and desire should record a hard-earned victory.

Innaloo upset Mt Lawley

INNALOO clashed with Mt Lawley in the preliminary final of the WA Women's Football League competition at Fremantle Oval last Sunday.

Mt Lawley had beaten Innaloo on three previous occasions but this time they were outplayed by Innaloo, who were in fine form after their crushing victory over Curtin in the first semi-final.

Spectators were treated to a high standard of football with strong marking and good disposal highlighting the match.

Mt Lawley dominated the game early, but Innaloo lifted in the second half, playing the effective team football that had brought Curtin's season to an abrupt end the previous week.

Innaloo held a nine-point lead at three-quarter time and pulled away to win by 16 points — 10.15 (75) to 7.17 (59).

Mt Lawley's Chris Leonard was best on ground with team-mate Debbie Turner also in excellent form to help set up many effective moves.

Innaloo's victory won them a place in this Sunday's grand final against Carlisle, who advanced through the qualifying round matches and semi-finals undefeated.

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AMATEUR NEWS

A roundup of news from the West Australian Amateur Football League

HIGHLIGHTS

C-GRADE

OSBORNE Districts ran out comfortable winners against Carlisle after an inspiring third quarter display that produced a six-goal lead that was too great a hurdle to conquer.

The match started evenly with both sides showing the tremendous spirit and ability that enabled them to be grand finalists. However, the better skill of the Osborne Districts team allowed them to take control and influence the outcome.

Rowan Carson was energetic all day and provided his team with most of its attacking football, which, combined with fellow Osborne Districts teammates Tony Melville and Paul Murray, resulted in the downfall of Carlisle.

Carlisle were well-served by Steven Gillam, Ian Callaghan and Murray Ford, but their efforts were not quite good enough against the powerful Osborne Districts.

D-GRADE

IN a heart-stopping climax to the season, Wembley won their first premiership since 1984 with a four-point victory over Trinity Aquinas, who must rate as the unluckiest team for the year.

Wembley were on top all year and obviously deserved their well-earned victory.

However, Trinity Aquinas shook the Magpies right to their foundations. As this was the only Trinity team contesting the finals, their entire club turned out in support, which must have lifted the players.

Either team could have won this memorable match which fittingly ended the race for promotion to C-Grade for 1990.

E-GRADE

AFTER a late season hiccup, Bullcreek pulled out all stops to destroy a Hamersley combination that had fought valiantly all season to become grand finalists.

Having to play through all the finals to reach the premiership decider was a definite disadvantage to Hamersley, who tired dramatically after quarter time.

Bullcreek played inspirational football after the quarter time break and convincingly eradicated any threat made against them for the flag.

Inaccurate kicking at goal hampered Hamersley's many attacking moves and they finished with 13 points for the game, posting nine in the first half.

F-GRADE

A GRAND final that was never in doubt saw the West Coast machine outplay a lethargic Old Wesley to record the coastal club's only success for the 1989 season.

A 13-goal to nil first half indicated the one-sided aspect of the match, which offered little more than a necessary pre-requisite to claiming a flag for the West Coast team.

G-GRADE

WANNEROO capped off a fine year by winning their top grade team's premiership to continue their climb up the Amateur League's divisions.

The Roos kicked five goals to one to set up an early lead that was to prove too great to overcome.

Redcliffe fought back determinedly in the second quarter to keep Wanneroo goal-less, but they did not capitalise on their great work, kicking five points instead.

Inaccuracy can be blamed for both team's failure to record large scores as Wanneroo squandered seven shots in the third quarter, with Redcliffe missing at six attempts in the fourth.

The match was played with great determination from both backlines, which accounts for the large points tallies, with the winner being the team luckiest enough to score goals.

H-GRADE

WEMBLEY ensured that their club had two reasons to celebrate by notching up their second premiership for the day, outclassing Riverton in all but the second quarter to run out convincing 50-point winners.

Richard Catlin, Jon Manning and captain Wayne Thomas provided the Magpies with a reliable avenue to goals and were not let down by the talented trio, who each posted four goals.

Wembley are one of the strongest clubs in amateur football and their strength was never more evident as their third senior side was obviously far too good for their opposition.

I-GRADE

SWAN Athletic gave their supporters some consolation for the club's disappointing year by wrapping up the grand final and bringing in their first lower-grade premiership.

Bullcreek found the going too tough in the final analysis and succumbed to the tune of 52 points.

J-GRADE

MURDOCH overcame the talent of Swan View to run out premiership victors by two points in what was a magnificent effort from the underdogs as Swan View had been the power team all season, with most pundits expecting them to be runaway winners.

A super backline performance enabled Murdoch to pressure Swan View's forwards to such an extent that their usually accurate goalkickers were never allowed to get into stride, resulting in the Swans tally of a soul-destroying 19 points for the match.

K-GRADE

COOLBELLUP fought back hard to erase a seven-goal half-time deficit, but could only manage to get within three goals at the final siren, giving Rockingham a well-earned victory.

Rockingham started like men possessed with a four-goal first quarter and an eight-goal second quarter. However, Coolbellup came back after half-time, but could not make much headway against a determined Rockingham defence.

L-GRADE

John XXIII won their second premiership in as many years when the L-grade team blitzed Melville in the second half of a brilliant grand final.

Centremen Adam Zambon set an example of desperation that his teammates followed.

The move of Rob Watt into the ruck after half time was a match-winning one as he took total charge.

Melville did not recover from the blanketing of forward Chris McCarthy by Andrew Parkin after he had kicked four first-term goals. Their lack of an effective forward cost them dearly.

FINALS RESULTS

PRELIMINARY FINALS

A-GRADE

North Beach 3.3 9.7 13.10 18.13
Wembley 5.4 8.6 8.9 11.12
Best — North Beach: M. Kiely, C. Mitchell, I. Linford. Wembley: D. Callaghan, D. Holder, G. Ryan.
Goals — North Beach: M. Deebie 5, C. Bewick 4, P. Bistrup 2, A. Yarran 2, D. Court 2, R. Schultz 2, M. Kiely 1.

B-GRADE

North Frem 2.1 9.3 15.6 20.9
CBC 2.1 8.4 9.8 10.13
Best — North Fremantle: Stapleton, Looby, Farrell. CBC: McDonald, Rogers, Pigott.
Goals — North Fremantle: J. Olczyk 4, G. Nelson 3, D. Herrington 3, Jenkins 3. CBC: G. Howard 3, V. Newton 3.

GRAND FINALS

C-GRADE

Osborne Districts 13.12 d Carlisle 8.15

D-GRADE

Wembley No. 2 3.3 7.6 7.8 7.14
Trin-Aquin No. 2 2.1 3.2 6.3 8.4
Best — Wembley: R. Taylor, B. Payne, M. Bevilacqua.
Goals — Wembley: Bevilacqua 3, Evans 2.

E-GRADE

Bullcreek 3.0 7.4 9.6 15.7
Hamersley 2.5 3.9 4.12 4.13

Best — Bullcreek: A. Lees, G. Watson, S. Barnett.
Goals — Bullcreek: Meyers 3, Matjer 3, Lees 2.

F-GRADE

Westcoast No. 2 20.12 d Old Wesley No. 2 6.10

G-GRADE

Wanneroo 5.7 5.9 8.16 8.17
Redcliffe 1.1 3.6 4.6 7.12
Best — Wanneroo: B. King, G. Abbott, A. O'Connor.
Goals — Wanneroo: R. Connolly 2, D. Thorpe 2, A. O'Connor 2.

H-GRADE

Wembley No. 3 17.14 d Riverton 9.12

I-GRADE

Swan Ath No. 2 5.4 10.7 12.12 13.14
Bullcreek No. 2 3.0 4.1 6.4
Best — Swan Athletic: C. Daly, B. Gordon, P. Scarfone.
Goals — Swan Athletic: Erceg 4, Scarfone 4, Lamers 3.

J-GRADE

Murdoch 5.0 6.5 10.9 13.11
Swanview 1.3 3.11 5.16 8.19
Best — Murdoch: J. Rees, M. Court, S. Seargent.
Goals — Murdoch: Nairn 3, Miller 3.

K-GRADE

Rockingham No. 2 16.14 d Coolbellup No. 2 14.13

L-GRADE

John 23rd No. 2 14.16 d Melville No. 2 9.11

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WHO WAS THE LAST PLAYER TO WIN TWO SANDOVER MEDALS IN A ROW?

Last week's Burley-Sekem winner was Neville Redmond, of Balga, who correctly identified Greg Carpenter as the captain of the last Sandover premiership team.

Post to: Burley-Sekem Quiz, Westside Football, PO Box 442, Morley, 6062, WA.

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OUR OFFICE
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Telephone 382 1799.

YOUR 1989 FIXTURES



SERIES TWO

ROUND 8
Saturday 27 May
Claremont 9.7, Subiaco 12.19, Claremont.
East Perth 8.13, East Fremantle 14.29, WACA.
Perth 11.13, Swan Districts 24.10, Lathlain.
South Fre. 6.11, West Perth 12.15, Fre.

ROUND 9
Saturday 3 June
West Perth 12.19, Claremont 27.9, Leederville.
Subiaco 13.14, Perth 14.12, Subiaco.

Sunday 4 June
East Perth 15.15, Swan Dists 12.13, Dampier.
Monday 5 June
East Frem 21.14, South Frem 20.15, East Frem.

ROUND 10
Saturday 10 June
Swan Districts 13.18, Claremont 22.12, Bassen.
Perth 12.10, East Fremantle 17.13, Lathlain.
East Perth 15.16, West Perth 14.16, WACA.
South Frem. 16.15, Subiaco 7.9, Frem.

ROUND 11
Saturday 11 June
Clarmt 21.11, E Pth 17.13, Clarmt
Perth 11.10, Sth Frem 18.18, Lathlain.
Subiaco 8.16, W. Pth 14.21, Subiaco.
E Frem 20.16, Swan Dist 16.10, E Frem

ROUND 12
Saturday 24 June
Sth Frem 16.13, Claremont 11.4, Frem
W Perth 15.13, East Frem 23.13, East Frem
East Perth 17.16, Perth 19.8, WACA.
Swan Dist 14.17, Subiaco 14.11, Bass

ROUND 13
Saturday 1 July
Perth 12.8, Claremont 16.13, Lathlain
E Frem 15.12, Subiaco 14.14, East Frem
E Perth 11.11, S Frem 19.16, WACA
Swan Dist 18.12, W Perth 15.11, Bass

ROUND 14
Saturday 8 July
Claremont 16.13, Est Frem 11.17, Clarmt.
Subiaco 22.17, East Perth 13.6, Subiaco.
West Perth 17.18, Perth 16.11, Leederville.
South Frem 14.10, Swan Dist 14.7 Frem.

SERIES THREE
ROUND 15
Saturday 15 July
Subiaco 15.12, Claremont 11.16, Subiaco.
East Frem 20.19, East Perth 12.12, East Frem.
Perth 22.6, Swan Districts 9.9, Lathlain.
West Perth 11.14, South Frem 13.16, Leed.

ROUND 16
Saturday 22 July
Claremont 18.15, West Perth 3.12, Claremont.
South Frem 14.15, East Frem 20.6, Fremantle.
Swan Dist 21.13, East Perth 12.14, Bassendean.
Perth 18.19, Subiaco 14.16, Lathlain.

ROUND 17
Saturday 29 July
Claremont 13.12, Swan Dist 9.15, Claremont.
East Frem 27.15, Perth 3.11, East Frem.
East Perth 8.14, West Perth 16.10, WACA.
Subiaco 12.9, South Frem 13.14, Subiaco.

ROUND 18
Saturday 5 August
East Perth 17.14, Claremont 10.17, WACA.
S. Frem 20.8, Perth 13.5, Fremantle.
West Perth 18.11, Subiaco 13.10, Leederville.
S. Dist. 12.10, E. Frem. 14.21, Bassendean.

ROUND 19
Saturday 12 August
Claremont 16.8, South Frem 12.11, Claremont.
East Frem 16.19, West Perth 20.10, East Frem.
Perth 16.20, East Perth 12.14, Lathlain Park.
Subiaco 15.10, Swan Dist 23.26, Subiaco.

ROUND 20
Saturday 19 August
Claremont 15.17, Perth 7.15, Claremont.
Subiaco 10.18, East Frem 21.10, Subiaco.
South Frem 21.14, East Perth 7.4, Frem.
West Perth 16.17, Swan Dist 12.16, Leed.

ROUND 21
Saturday 26 August
E. Frem. 13.17, Claremont 12.15, East Frem.
East Perth 12.17, Subiaco 20.17, WACA.
West Perth 27.15, Perth 10.15, Leederville.
S. Dist 11.15, S. Frem 17.14, Bassendean.

SGIO PREMIERSHIP FINALS

1st Semi-final
Saturday 2 September
East Frem 16.14, West Perth 16.14, Subiaco.

Saturday 9 September
1st semi-final replay
East Frem 17.17, West Perth 9.22
2nd semi-final
South Frem 19.9, Claremont 12.17.

Sat 16 Sept Preliminary Final Subiaco
Sat 23 Sept Grand Final Subiaco

PREMIERSHIP TABLES

SGIO WAFL LEAGUE

	P	W	L	For	Agst	%	Pts
CLAREMONT	21	17	4	2376	1724	137.82	68
SOUTH FREM	21	16	5	2336	1868	125.05	64
EAST FREM	21	15	6	2537	1982	128.00	60
WEST PERTH	21	11	10	2195	2146	102.28	44
Swan Dists	21	10	11	2236	2243	99.69	40
Subiaco	21	6	15	1971	2209	89.22	24
Perth	21	6	15	1968	2559	76.90	24
East Perth	21	3	18	1752	2640	66.36	12

WAFL PRIME RESERVES

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	%	Pts
EAST FREM	21	15	6	-	2533	1925	131.48	60
PERTH	21	14	7	-	1447	1986	123.21	56
SWAN DIST	21	12	8	1	2415	2233	108.15	50
SOUTH FREM	21	12	8	1	1994	1870	106.63	50
Claremont	21	12	9	-	2055	1905	107.87	48
East Perth	21	6	15	-	1995	2297	86.85	24
West Perth	21	6	15	-	1938	2486	77.96	24
Subiaco	21	6	15	-	1733	2408	71.97	24

WAFL UNDER-19s

	P	W	L	For	Agst	%	Pts
EAST PERTH	21	13	8	1483	1372	108.09	52
SUBIACO	21	12	9	1734	1275	136.00	48
WEST PERTH	21	11	10	1415	1352	104.66	44
PERTH	21	11	10	1305	1363	95.74	44
South Frem	21	10	11	1328	1603	82.84	40
Claremont	21	9	12	1531	1482	103.31	36
Swan Dists	21	9	12	1457	1582	92.10	36
East Frem	21	9	12	1483	1707	86.88	36

1989 VFL TABLE

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	%	Pts
HAWTHORN	22	19	3	-	2678	1748	153.20	76
ESSENDON	22	17	5	-	2240	1705	131.38	68
GEELONG	22	16	6	-	2916	1987	146.75	64
MELBOURNE	22	14	8	-	1876	1944	96.50	56
COLLINGWOOD	22	13	9	-	2216	1964	112.83	52
Fitzroy	22	12	10	-	2069	2125	97.36	48
Sydney Swans	22	11	11	-	1959	1958	100.05	44
Carlton	22	9	12	1	1921	2079	92.40	38
N. Melbourne	22	9	13	-	2061	2301	89.57	36
Brisbane Bears	22	8	14	-	1792	2274	78.80	32
W.C. Eagles	22	7	15	-	1948	2247	86.69	28
St Kilda	22	7	15	-	2108	2502	84.25	28
Footscray	22	6	15	1	1614	1855	87.01	26
Richmond	22	5	17	-	1725	2434	70.87	20

SANFL TABLE

	P	W	L	For	Agst	%	Pts
NORTH ADELAIDE	22	19	3	2513	1585	61.32	38
PORT ADELAIDE	22	18	4	2529	1818	58.18	36
CENT DIST	22	13	9	2156	2187	49.64	26
NORWOOD	22	12	10	2180	1975	52.47	24
GLENELG	22	12	10	2033	2030	50.04	24
West Torrens	22	10	12	1879	2189	46.19	20
West Adelaide	22	8	14	2177	2301	48.62	16
Woodville	22	8	14	1985	2223	47.17	16
South Adelaide	22	6	16	1796	2352	43.30	12
Sturt	22	4	18	1781	2369	42.92	8

SANFL GAMES

This week's finals in the SANFL are:

Qualifying Final — Port Adelaide v Central District.

Elimination Final — Norwood v Glenelg.



VICTORIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ROUND 1
Friday 31 March
W Coast 14.12, Essendon 17.10 (W)
Saturday 1 April
Cwood 13.15, Hawthorn 11.17 (P)
Carlton 10.13, Footscray 19.18
Melbourn 18.8, Fitzroy 16.15
St Kilda 21.16, Brisbane 15.7
Sunday 2 April
Sydney 12.17, Richmond 11.7
North Melb 18.17, Geelong 17.21

ROUND 2
Saturday 8 April
North Melb 11.6, Hawth 21.15 (P)
Richmond 24.12, Footscray 13.10
Fitzroy 20.12, Collingwood 16.11
St Kilda 13.18, Carlton 13.14
Essendon 14.10, Melbourne 9.14
Sunday 9 April
Brisbane 18.15, Sydney 8.17
Geelong 26.19, West Coast 11.14

ROUND 3
Saturday 15 April
St Kilda 19.8, Fitzroy 19.18 (P)
Hawthorn 20.16, Essendon 13.13
Collingwood 19.21, Bears 11.9
Footscray 8.18, Nth Melb 12.12
Richmond 8.13, Melb 18.14
Sunday 16 April
Sydney 20.15, West Coast 11.17
Geelong 16.21, Carlton 9.10

ROUND 4
Friday 21 April
Melbourne 11.13, Brisbane 14.11
Saturday 22 April
Collingwood 23.21, St Kilda 14.11
Fitzroy 11.13, Sydney 23.15
Sunday 23 April
West Coast 10.12, North Melb 18.7
Footscray 12.15, Geelong 14.15
Tuesday 25 April — Anzac Day
Richmond 9.12, Hawthorn 15.20.
Carlton 15.20, Essendon 21.12.

ROUND 5
Saturday 29 April
Hawthorn 18.17, Carlton 10.11 (P).
Melbourne 11.16, Footscray 10.11.
Fitzroy 16.17, Geelong 16.16.
Essendon 20.18, St Kilda 12.12.

Sunday 30 April
Nth Melb 20.14, Richmond 26.15.
Sydney 19.17, Collingwood 9.12.
Bears 10.13, West Coast 19.11.

ROUND 6
Friday 5 May
West Coast 12.9, Fitzroy 12.17, WACA.
Saturday 6 May
Carlton 15.12, Richmond 9.12, VFL Park
Melbourne 9.10, Collingwood 18.16, MCG
Hawthorn 26.15, Geelong 25.13, Princes Park
St Kilda 13.17, Sydney Swans 9.13, Moorabbin
Sunday 7 May
Brisbane 8.11, Footscray 6.15, Carrara
N. Melbourne 17.19, Essendon 16.9, MCG

ROUND 7
Friday 12 May
Sydney 7.16, North Melb. 9.13.

Saturday 13 May
Richmond 13.14, West Coast 13.12.
Melbourne 12.14, Carlton 11.14.
Collingwood 16.10, Footscray 11.12.
Hawthorn 25.15, Fitzroy 13.6.
Geelong 35.18, St Kilda 16.13.

Sunday 14 May
Brisbane 12.9, Essendon 17.10.
STATE OF ORIGIN
Tuesday 16 May 6.30pm
Vic 19.12, WA 10.12, WACA.

ROUND 8
Saturday 20 May
Carlton 12.8, Collingwood 16.13
St Kilda 18.7, North Melb. 17.10
Footscray 8.16, Fitzroy 9.9
Hawthorn 22.25, Sydney 12.11
Essendon 21.19, Richmond 12.15
Geelong 26.23, Brisbane 6.14

Sunday 21 May
Eagles 12.21, Melbourne 13.17

ROUND 9
Saturday 27 May
Essendon 19.11, Collingwood 7.16.
Richmond 10.17, Geelong 32.19.
Carlton 24.15, Fitzroy 18.14.
St Kilda 18.10, Eagles 12.11.
Brisbane 10.11, North Melb. 25.15.

Sunday 28 May
Sydney 6.7, Melbourne 6.16.
Footscray 10.13, Hawthorn 17.15.

ROUND 10
Friday 2 June
N. Melbourne 12.11, Melbourne 16.17.
Saturday 3 June
St Kilda 13.21, Richmond 13.14.
Footscray 14.14, Sydney Swans 10.6.
Essendon 18.14, Fitzroy 10.9.
Collingwood 13.10, Geelong 23.16.
Carlton 17.13, Brisbane Bears 18.10.

Sunday 4 June
Eagles 15.15, Hawthorn 16.14, Subiaco

ROUND 11
Friday 9 June
Sydney 8.9, Carlton, 12.13

Saturday 10 June
Footscray 9.8, St Kilda 7.12.
Fitzroy 1.8, North Melb. 6.13.

Sunday 11 June
Eagles 11.15, Collwd. 17.14.

Monday 12 June
Hawthorn 8.6, Melb. 10.9.
Richmond 5.15, Brisbane 3.8.
Geelong 12.17, Essen. 4.11.

ROUND 12
Friday 16 June
Eagles 16.9, Foots 11.11, WACA

Saturday 17 June
Collwd 18.15, Rmond 9.15.
St Kilda 8.8, Hthorn 10.12.
Melb 2.8, Geelong 13.11.
Carlton 7.9, N Melb 5.10.
Essdn 7.8, Syd Swans 7.15.

Sunday 18 June
Bris 18.6, Fitzroy 19.14.
ROUND 13
Friday 23 June
Hthorn 15.16, Bris. Bears 4.11

Saturday 24 June
Fitzroy 15.5, Rmond 9.13
Melb. 10.4, St. Kilda 8.8
C'wood 14.24, Nth Melb. 8.8
Essendon 3.10, F'scray 3.5
Carlton 9.10, Eagles 5.11

Sunday 25 June
Sydney 14.19, Geelong 16.15

STATE OF ORIGIN
Saturday 1 July
Victoria 22.17, S. Australia 9.9

ROUND 14
Friday 7 July
North Melb. 18.19, St Kilda 9.13

Saturday 8th July
Essendon 9.7, Carlton 8.10
Hthorn 19.27, West Coast 6.14
Richmond 10.14, Sydney 7.8
Geelong 11.16, Fitzroy 8.10

Sunday 9 July
Brisbane 14.8, Melbourne 20.4
Footscray 15.15, Collingwood 7.15

ROUND 15
Saturday 15 July
Collingwood 12.8, Carlton 15.6
Melb. 17.15, North Melb. 11.15
Fitzroy 12.20, St Kilda 13.8
Essendon 25.10, West Coast 1.12
Brisbane 11.11, Geelong 22.19

Sunday 16 July
Sydney 16.21, Footscray 10.17
Richmond 15.14, Hawthorn 22.10

ROUND 16
Saturday 22 July
Geelong 17.7, Melbourne 16.16
Richmond 9.12, Essendon 14.15
Hawthorn 21.11, Collingwood 11.11
Footscray 6.10, Carlton 6.10
Brisbane 14.10, St Kilda 12.18

Sunday 23 July
West Coast 16.16, Sydney 9.16
North Melbourne 8.18, Fitzroy 16.11

ROUND 17
Friday 28 July
Richmond 6.15, Fitzroy 18.15

Saturday 29 July
N. Melb. 9.14, Hawthorn 23.16
Geelong 14.20, Collingwood 19.11
St Kilda 16.10, Essendon 20.13
Carlton 15.6, Melbourne 10.19

Sunday 30 July
Sydney 12.23, Brisbane 9.16
Footscray 10.12, West Coast 16.13

ROUND 18
Friday 4 August
North Melbourne 12.12, Brisbane 25.17
Saturday 5 August
Carlton 14.6, Hawthorn 14.11
Collingwood 11.15, Sydney 12.13
Fitzroy 23.13, Melbourne 15.13
St Kilda 13.12, Geelong 17.11

Sunday 6 August
West Coast 19.16, Richmond 10.19
Footscray 3.5, Essendon 7.9

ROUND 19
Friday 11 August
Richmond 11.10, Carlton 15.14
Saturday 12 August
Melbourne 9.9, Hawthorn 12.15
North Melb 11.14, Collingwood 11.12
Fitzroy 11.6, West Coast 5.10
Essendon 15.11, Brisbane 7.5
Sunday 13 August
Sydney 25.9, St Kilda 16.13
Geelong 18.16, Footscray 10.14

ROUND 20
Friday 18 August
West Coast 18.18, Geelong 12.10

Bunt's on the ball

COMETTI

By Channel 7 commentator
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IT was interesting to see Subiaco coach Haydn Bunton question the scoring system in Aussie Rules football.

In the wake of the first semi-final replay, Bunts made the point that the weighting of six points for a goal and only one for a point seemed a little odd.

I tend to agree. In fact when somebody of Bunton's standing raises a question about the nature of the game, it should stimulate even broader discussion.

What would you do if you had the power to change certain elements of the game?

Probably, if you're like me, you wouldn't want to change things too much.

To a point, the game has stood the test of time and the international interest that it's attracting around the world through television indicates that the basic ingredients shouldn't be tampered with too much.

Footy could stand some fine tuning

What we're really talking about is refinement. For instance, I think the 50-metre penalty is a marvellous innovation but it does need the recall of the 15-metre penalty to complement it.

Involuntary or unintentional infringements should leave the umpires with a far greater margin for discretion.

The VFL rules committee has been very active in recent seasons and, with the exception of South Australia, most States have been prepared to adopt their recommendations, I think, for the betterment of the game as a spectacle.

Contentious

The most contentious change along with the 50m penalty has been the requirement to kick after being granted a free-kick.

This was introduced to ensure marking did not fade further from the game. I don't know if it's done that but it remains an honourable objective.

Mind you the penalty for being forgetful is too tough. A 15m penalty against the kicker would be fairer.

The loss of ground and, more important, time, would be a gentler reminder, while at the same time not rewarding the team which gave away the initial free-kick.

During the pre-season Panasonic Cup series we saw games in which the clock was stopped when the ball went out of bounds. I think this is a must for the future.

Reduce the quarters to 20 minutes and stop the clock while the ball is out of play. This would tidy up a less than exciting element of the game, where in a close finish the side defending a lead may feel less inclined to get ruckman to constantly thump the ball out of bounds.

The final siren should sound with the teams playing, not while a boundary umpire is foxing the ball.

Tie-breakers

And, finally, East Fremantle and West Perth highlighted the need for a tie-breaking system.

The Eagles and Hawthorn played until the next score in the Panasonic Cup earlier this year but the flaw was that nobody knew.

If you play sudden-death, the players and spectators need to know. Hence in that game, the siren should have sounded at the regular time and play restarted with a bounce, either in the centre or at the scene of play at the siren.



Haydn Bunton...coming up with some radical suggestions.

The thought of sudden-death may not be so attractive if your side happens to be kicking into a gale.

Personally, I think a goal-kicking shoot-out would make for an interesting finish. Let's say from a spot 40 metres out, directly in front.

Ah, Haydn's got a lot to answer for. He should never have got me thinking.

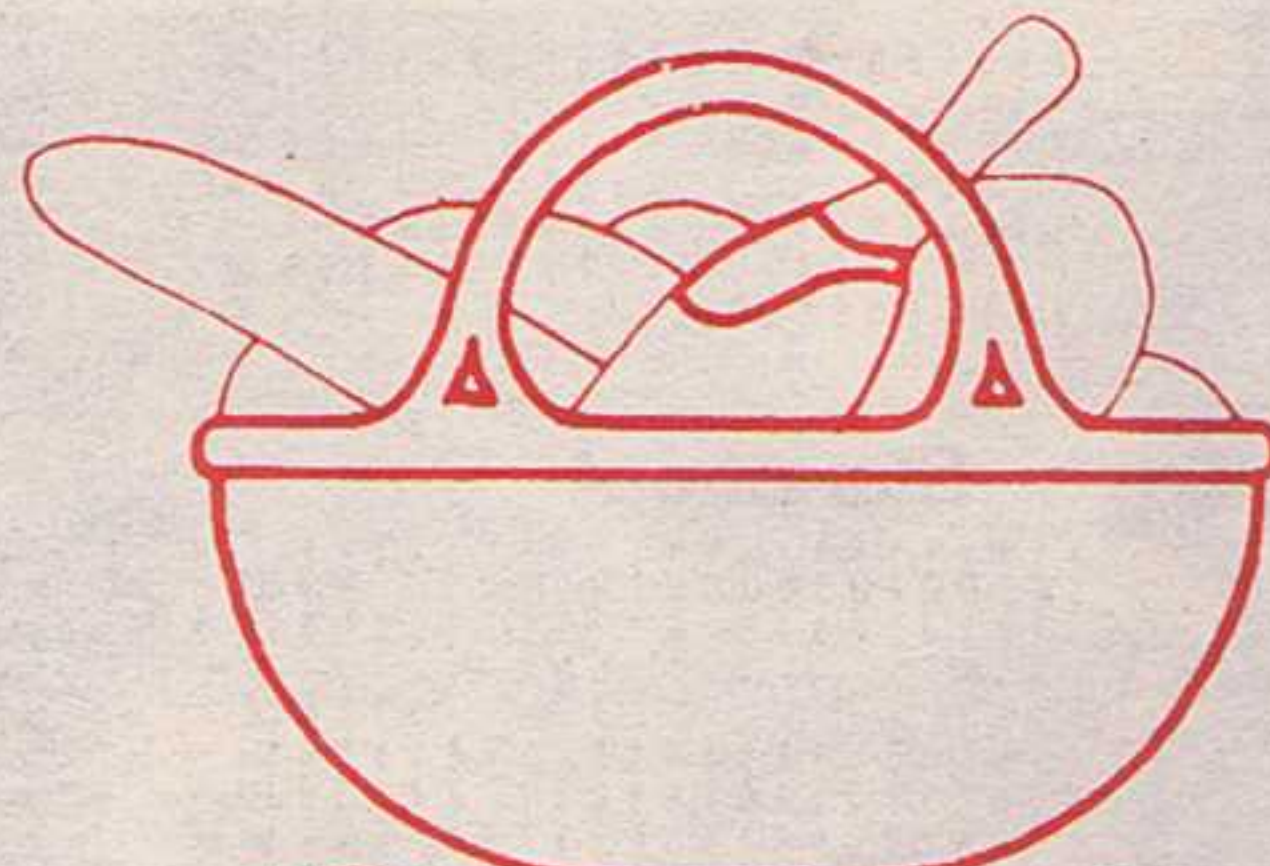
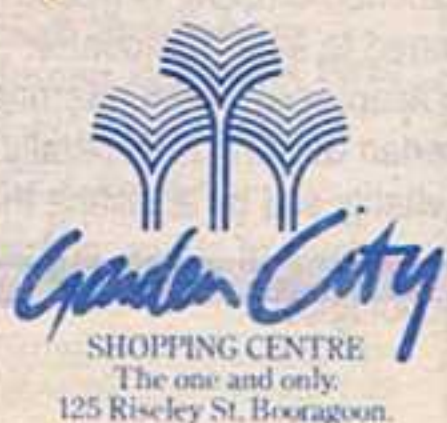
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