



# WESTSIDE Football

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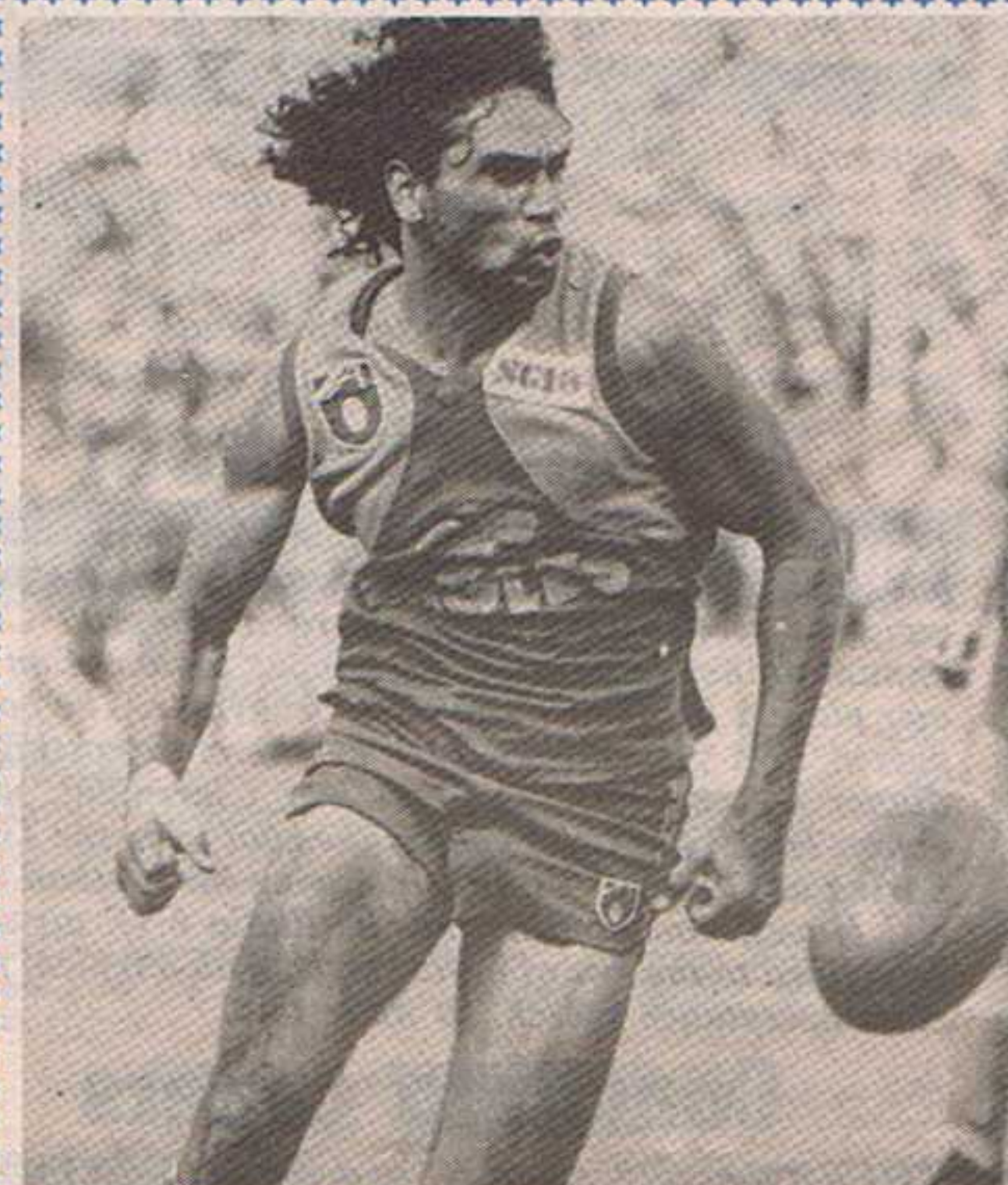
A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION

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## Hot Toddy...

John Todd and his Swan Districts team are the State League champions for this season. Full stories and pictures inside



## Eagles Go, Go, Go

THE West Coast Eagles have stormed the bastions of Victorian football — surging into Saturday's AFL preliminary final.

The big clash is against Essendon at AFL Park, Waverley and players like superstar Chris Lewis (left) and Paul Peos and Peter Sumich (right) will be key performers again this week.

Westside Football will be there...and for a full report on last Saturday's sensational first semi-final victory over Melbourne, see inside



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# Here is the news...

SUNDAY night's news bulletin on Channel 7 said it all.

There was no mention of the WA grand final when the news bulletin opened up — and you had to wait for the third sports item to learn the result of what used to be the State's major sporting event.

Taking its place at the head of the sports news was a story on the conquering West Coast Eagles on their return home, followed by a summary of the AFL second semi-final between Collingwood and Essendon.

## FACT OF LIFE

It's a pity, but a fact of football life.

WA league football, as we have known it, is dying a quick death. Further evidence of this was the smallest crowd in more than 40 years to attend a WA league grand final.

It's now all West Coast Eagles.

Many devotees lament the transistion, but Australian Rules football, with the influence of television, has taken on a new dimension.

The entry into the AFL and subsequent success of the West Coast Eagles will eventually transform even that competition.

With South Australia about to enter a team, the last bastions of traditional football as we have known it, are about to crumble.

## MEGA-BUCKS

The Victorians, who created the monster, will resist. But eventually that Big Vee will also be devoured by a competition that will revolve around television and mega-bucks.

This is my 21st football year as a football writer. While I haven't been around as long as some of my colleagues, I have been privy to the biggest change in Australian Rules football in this State's history.

It started with Leon Larkin's State-of-Origin football concept back in 1977.

The local clubs didn't want that concept at first; but when they were convinced it was then the Vics who

## ...and State footy runs a poor third

didn't take it seriously — till they got beaten a few times.

That was the springboard to eventually launch a national league and catapult a WA team into the AFL.

Before the State-of-Origin series, WA rarely beat the Victorians. It was even more galling to see players recruited from this State play against us in those often one-sided encounters.

I was at the MCG that day in 1970 when WA almost did the impossible — beat Victoria on their own hallowed soil in an interstate match. I still remember the game vividly. We lost 17.9 to 15.15; just six points.

We lost it in the dying seconds when a former Victorian, Len Clark, tried to chip the ball into the centre instead of hugging the safety of the boundary line. A former West Australian, Wayne Richardson, intercepted the pass and kicked the goal that won the Vics the match.

## GALLING LOSS

That was probably the most galling loss I've ever experienced as a football writer.

These days we don't need a wing and a prayer to beat Victorian teams. We do it consistently, albeit at club level.

The Victorians will soon be looking for ways and means to try and stop the insurgents from interstate.

Look what has happened to rugby league in Sydney.

On Sunday, interstate teams won all three grand finals, with four of the six teams coming from outside NSW.

Sooner or later Victoria will face a similar prospect.

In their bid to retain their dominance, the Vics will try to dilute the interstate strength.

by

**Robert  
Bennett**  
of the Sunday Times



But eventually the tide of progress will swamp them.

In time, it won't be Victorians controlling the competition. It won't be mainly Victorian umpires in charge of games; it won't be Victorians meting out tribunal justice; they won't have all the finals played in Melbourne and they won't be able to cling to a competition that is still the VFL with a couple of interstate teams included.

They will be forced, out of financial necessity and pressure from other States, to reduce the number of teams based in Victoria.

It's a joke that the competition will have a lop-sided number of teams next season because the Victorians refuse to rationalise the number of clubs in their own backyard.

## LICENCE FEES

Propped up by licence fees from interstate clubs, the Vics have been able to pump money into their ailing clubs.

But eventually the funds will dry up and less-successful financial clubs will be forced to amalgamate.

The West Coast Eagles have shown, by playing their way into the last three, that the interlopers from interstate, properly organised and given a fair go, will eventually put the skids under what is really the same old VFL competition dressed up as the AFL.

For a truly national competition to succeed, some finals must be played in other States.

This could be achieved by the team finishing higher than its opponent having the right to play the game on home soil.

If this system now applied, the first semi-final against Melbourne would have been played in Perth.

But that's down the track.

The 1990s are going to be exciting times for football.

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## Footy Rumours

## GOSSIP FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

### Talent scouting

FORMER West Perth president Rod Brown has really turned the full circle as far as the local State League is concerned, so it seems. He's gone from being protective of local club players to where he acts as something of a talent scout for the Melbourne Football Club, briefing Demons officials on potential draft choices in the West. He told Radio 6PR listeners last Saturday that the Demons were watching Swan Districts closely; particularly Paul Gow and David Ogg.

### Thank goodness!

RADIO 6PR personality Gary Carvolth owes Eagles coach Mick Malthouse a vote of thanks — and so do the rest of us! Carvolth threatened to bare his posterior in the Hay Street Mall if Stevan Jackson played in defence against Melbourne — as critic Percy Johnson claimed he would. Johnson was adamant that Jackson would be used as a defender and though Percy's not often wrong, we're glad he was in this case, because GC's rear wouldn't be a pleasant sight.

### Bunts happy

SUBIACO coach Haydn Bunton hopes that any of his Lions players nominated in the November AFL draft are selected by the Eagles. He wants as many talented players as possible to stay in WA and he's quite happy to accommodate players coming back from the Eagles whenever they are made available for Subiaco. And Bunton has made it quite clear that he'll be coaching the Lions again next year — but has hinted that maybe his time at Subiaco could be nearing an end. "I'm not getting any younger, you know," Bunton told a 6PR panel show on grand final day.

### Changing habits

THE State Football League's decision to present a sculptured trophy to the 1990 premiers and not the traditional cup worried State coach Ron Alexander. The former East Fremantle premiership coach (who is destined for Fitzroy next season) said: "How do you drink out of a trophy."



Stan Magro...opting out at Souths

### Support for Magro

STATE coach Ron Alexander didn't pull any punches during Radio 6NR's champagne grand final breakfast at the Quality Langley Plaza Hotel last Sunday. He made a pointed comment on the long-running West Coast Eagles versus Claremont saga and then stated his annoyance at the way South Fremantle had advertised their league coaching position seeking a replacement for Stan Magro. He said that Claremont would not have been happy with the Eagles taking Tony Begovich to Melbourne on the eve of the State League grand final. "But then maybe the Eagles owed Gerard one," Alexander said. "Souths virtually passed a vote of no confidence in Magro by advertising his job. If I was Magro, I would have done the same thing as he did and resign."

### Interchange umps

IAN Cleland, the ABC radio man who rates the umpires in the AFL arena, came up with a great idea last weekend — interchange umpires. He was highly critical of one of the umpires in Sunday's second semi-final between Collingwood and Essendon and suggested that he should be dragged. "Coaches use the interchange bench to replace players when they're going bad, so why shouldn't the umpires have the same system," he asked. "There is an emergency umpire sitting on the boundary line, so he should be thrown into the game if one of the field umpires is going bad."

### Helpless Sharks

WHEN it comes to free publicity for the local State League, Radio 6PR are to the forefront — but not all the clubs see it that way. Seven of the clubs got behind a 6PR promotion that involved giving free tickets away to the home-and-away games — but one club refused to be part of the campaign. Radio 6PR were grateful for support from Subiaco, Claremont, Swan Districts, Perth, East Perth, West Perth and South Fremantle...which just left one club out in the wilderness!

### Getting the boot

IT'S not often a player gets the boot twice from a club — but John Hayes has that distinction! Hayes was the recipient of the 'Old Boot' award at the 200 Club's annual dinner recently — an honour bestowed on former players for their outlandish behaviour. The boot is passed to a player each year by the club hosting the dinner — and this year that was Claremont, which means Hayes has twice copped the boot from the Tigers, having once played with them during his football travels! Hayes, now dominating the Radio 6NR airwaves, responded to the award in fine style, with a typical first-class acceptance speech, so we're told.

### Coaching capers

THERE'S been no shortage of drama at East Fremantle since their first semi-final departure from the 1990 action. Current coach Ron Wilcox has been re-appointed; but only after a huge split over the decision. Apparently former Shark Ken Judge was the hot tip for a day or so.

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# THE GRAND FINAL COACHES

## Swans face player drain

**SWAN Districts could pay a hefty price for winning this year's Pepsi Cup grand final.**

The black and whites, considered rank outsiders at the start of 1990, now shape up as the biggest losers in November's AFL national draft.

Athletic defender Paul Gow, gifted follower David Ogg, rangy ruckman-forward Shane Strempele and versatile pair Brendon Retzlaff and Todd Menegola are all on AFL club hit-lists after impressive 1990 seasons and outstanding grand final performances.

Swans coach John Todd is aware of the rebuilding challenge he could face — and his Claremont counterpart, Gerard Neesham, has endorsed fears that the premiership combination could be decimated by the draft.

Neesham believes that Swans have

*Football writer and 6NR commentator KIM HAGDORN looks at some repercussions of the Swan Districts premiership victory.*

got at least three players who will be prime targets in the draft.

"Gow, Strempele, Ogg and even Menegola could all go east over summer," he said. "It's an enormous problem for Swans."

### VETERANS

And Swan Districts, who now start the 1990s as they did the 1980s — with a wealth of talent and promise — could lose veterans Don Holmes, Kim Hetherington and Len Gandini on top of the already confirmed retirements of Don Langsford and club captain Brad Shine.

Holmes and Langsford become the only four-time premiership players in

the 56-year history of Swans and both feel that the time is ripe to retire.

Hetherington and Gandini will consider their retirement over the summer months.

The highly-successful Todd, who bucked the odds after being dumped as West Coast Eagles coach last October, admitted after beating Claremont last Sunday that the player drain from Swans will be a major headache as the premiership euphoria settles.

But the 53-year-old veteran of more than three decades as a senior coach will use his influence to guide his talented young crop in the right direction.

Todd is quick to point out that he has plenty of depth at Bassendean.

"If we lose a few in the draft, as it seems we could, we have some young players coming through who deserve an opportunity," Todd said.

"We've never stood in the way of

any player bettering himself at the next level.

"We've always held a policy of looking at our players at the end of the year and that'll be the case again now."

Todd intends to meet with his long list of potential draftees before November's draft.

"I hope I can guide them correctly," he said. "I want to see them have a long and lasting career in the AFL. There's too many players playing in the AFL who have become lost in the system."

"I hope that our young players don't fall into the same category."

Todd, who was at his supreme best during the preliminary and grand final to secure the seventh premiership flag for the Bassendean clubrooms, says he found coaching in 1990 as difficult and as challenging as in the early 1980s, before the inception of the West Coast Eagles and the division of interest and hype across the local football scene.

"It's tough anywhere," he said bluntly.

"To win a grand final and get a group of men locked in to a common bond is no different now than in the early days."

### MAGNIFICENT

"It's always hard to win. But this year has been magnificent and I enjoyed it. Last year I felt that I wouldn't bow out of football on a bad note."

"I didn't feel as though I had a bad season, but I had to put that right in my own mind."

"I believed I still had the ability and I've always been brought up on a bit of grit and I wasn't about to surrender."

"The longer anyone involved in coaching stays in the game, the more rewarding it becomes."

"You become more experienced and relaxed and it's easier to pass the experiences on to the people under you."

A calm and controlled Todd, though visibly relieved that his 487th outing as one of the State's most colourful league football coaches yielded his fifth premiership, admitted he would savour last Sunday for "the next few weeks."

"I'll sit down and have a think about everything overall," he said leaving the door open on speculation that the master coach might be about to retire.



Gerard Neesham addresses Swans players after their premiership win

## Tiger coach looks ahead

**CLAREMONT coach Gerard Neesham, re-appointed for next year, faces the prospect of yet another rebuilding program.**

The tough Tigers mentor, who blamed wasted scoring opportunities and inaccuracy in front of goal for his side's grand final loss, looks certain to lose at least seven players.

Star forward-ruckman Peter Mann and rover Tony Evans will both negotiate contracts with the West Coast Eagles after delaying their AFL entry for a season.

Retirement announcements are expected from experienced midfielders Peter Thorne, John Annear and Scott Rowland, plus defenders John Scott and Darrell Panizza.

And, like his former Swans coach John Todd, Neesham will also closely monitor the outcome of the November AFL draft.

The Tigers could lose talented rover Joe Cormack, follower Jeremy Guard, 1990 leading goal-kicker Todd Ridley and Eagles squad member Ryan Turnbull before the 1991 season starts.

### SUCCESSIVE

After last Sunday's loss — Neesham's first as a non-playing coach and his eighth successive grand final with three clubs — the Tigers boss refused to be drawn on his possible player losses.

"That's next week's problem. But it's a problem that every club has got," he said.

Neesham admitted that he found it tough watching his charges on the field last Sunday.

In the previous nine times that the Little General has relished grand final day, he has been a player. His first trip to the big day was in 1977 when East Fremantle lost to Perth.

He was back again in 1980, under Todd, when Swans lost to South Fremantle. After a stint with South Melbourne (now the Sydney Swans) in 1982, Neesham tasted his first premiership with Swans and Todd in 1983.

Since then, grand final day in Perth has been synonymous with Neesham; a day that he doesn't make any other arrangements for.

### DIFFICULT

"It was obviously far more difficult to sit and watch the players and not be able to influence the game myself," Neesham admitted.

"I thought we did very well this season, considering the player losses we have suffered over the past few years."

"We'll get better for the experience of this year's finals campaign, with a lot of youngsters coming through."

"I don't necessarily think we played better than Swans in the grand final, but we definitely wasted a lot of opportunities up forward," he added.

Neesham conceded that the recruitment of a key, goal-kicking forward will be a priority to the club over the summer.

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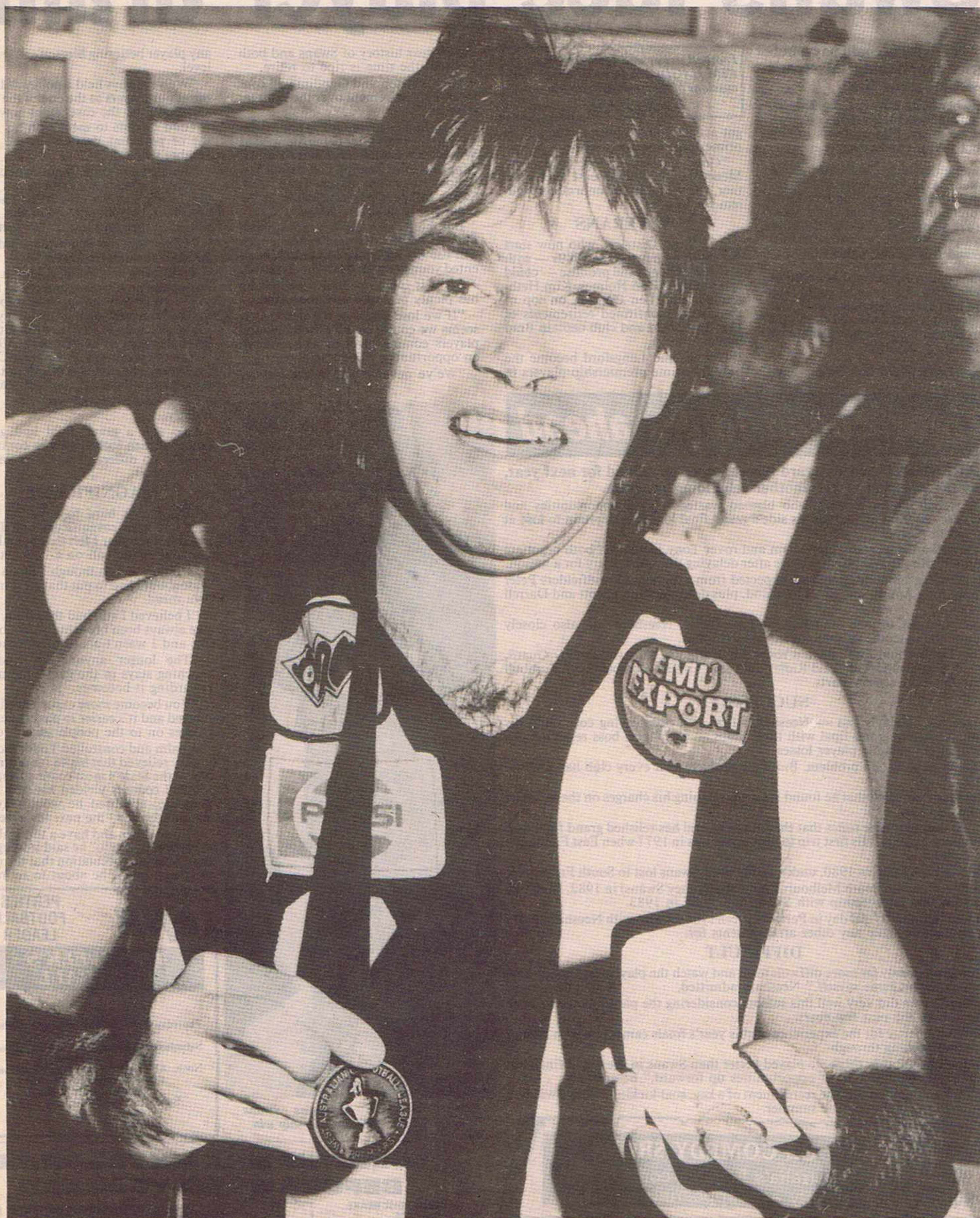




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# Neesham pays tribute to

## Swans

A PERSON'S character can sometimes best be determined not by how he wins, but by how he copes with defeat.

Claremont coach Gerard Neesham, though obviously disappointed at losing the 1990 State League grand final to Swan Districts, was magnanimous in defeat last Sunday.

There were no sour grapes from the Tiger as he bravely gave a lengthy congratulatory speech to the Swans players in their changerooms.

Neesham told Swans they were deserving winners.

"I believe you played better football than us throughout the year," Neesham said.

### GREAT SIDE

"You have a great side and for football's sake, I hope you can keep your players together.

"We've given it our best shot; we were here last year as winners and the year before as losers.

"We want to be back next year and the beauty of playing in a grand final is that someone has to put everything on the line. It takes a lot of character to come back and do it again after losing.

"Swans did that in 1980 when I was there. We lost that year and again in the 1981 finals, but won in 1982.

"Claremont have a similar character and we will be back next year.

"We've accepted our loss, you were worthy winners and hopefully, we'll see you back here in 12 months time."

by  
George  
Temple



## Narkle's chance for rare double

DASHING midfielder Phil Narkle could earn himself a place in football history — he could become the second person to win two major football flags in the one season.

Narkle was part of the Swan Districts premiership side last Sunday, but he could also line up with the West Coast Eagles in the AFL grand final if the Eagles can get past Essendon in Saturday's preliminary final.

However, he must first recover from a troublesome groin strain that has bothered him for the past three weeks.

"It would be terrific to win two flags like that," Narkle said last Sunday, while celebrating with his Swans teammates.

"It was a good feeling to win this premiership."

The injury-plagued Narkle indicated he would continue playing in 1991.

"I will see the club doctor in the pre-season and discuss it with him," Narkle said.

"My legs will tell me when it's all over. When I can't play at a level that I like and when the injuries get too great, that's when I'll call it a day."

\* Former WA great Stan Heal achieved the rare double in 1941 when he played in Melbourne's premiership team while stationed in Victoria in the Navy and then returned to Perth to be part of West Perth's flag-winning side.

# Walker's medal caps magical

WITH two months remaining in the 1990 season, a Simpson Medal was the furthest thing from the mind of Swan Districts rover Greg Walker.

The son of the triple Sandover Medalist and club president Bill Walker was told to 'take a two-week holiday' by his coach John Todd.

Walker had played just one league game to that point and his form was not improving...it was worsening.

"I needed a break and Toddy told me to take one," Walker said.

Walker earned a recall to the seniors in the last qualifying match when ruckman Travis Edmonds was sidelined with a virus.

"Luckily for me, Toddy went for a small man instead of another big one," Walker said.

"I didn't think I was ever going to get my spot back because the rovers were all playing well."

### REVIVAL

Walker spent a lot of time on the interchange bench in that match, but performed well in the final term when Swans staged an amazing revival to over-run Claremont at Claremont Oval.

But after an ordinary performance in the second semi-final, when Swans lost to the Tigers, Walker was certain he was headed back to the twos.

"Toddy grabbed me on the Tuesday night and told me to stop worrying," he said.

"Toddy said I was playing in the preliminary final and my job was to tag Willie Rioli."

Walker managed to relax and was among Swans best players, totally shutting the potential Bulldogs match-winner out of the game.

This made him a certain starter for

## comeback

the grand final re-match with Claremont, but onlookers would have been surprised to see Walker wearing a walkman while camped on the bench in the early part of the game.

### RELAX

"Toddy gave me the walkman and told me to listen to the music and relax.

"He said that people were expecting me to tag someone like Tony Evans.

"He said he would let me know when he wanted me to go on."

History will show that Todd's ploy worked. Walker came on midway through the first term and while he was not the unanimous choice as best-on-ground among the media, there can be no disclaiming his solid contribution to Swans winning cause.

# Rowland is not looking ahead

VETERAN Tigers centreman Scott Rowland, who came out of retirement mid-season, is undecided about his future after Sunday's grand final loss to Swan Districts.

Rowland rejoined Claremont in the hope of playing in his second consecutive premiership side for his adopted club.

But that dream evaporated when the Tigers kicked a wasteful 4.8 in the first term.

"We certainly didn't capitalise on our hard work in getting the ball into our forward line," Rowland said.

"We kicked poorly in the first quarter and again in the final term when we added 2.8.

"Who knows, if that had been the

other way around, we could have won."

But 'could haves' and 'ifs' don't count for much in grand final post mortems, as Rowland well knows.

## JACK DANIEL'S FINALS MAN

SWAN Districts big man Shane Stempel was West-side Football's Jack Daniel's Finals Man for last Sunday's State League grand final.

Stempel kicked three important goals from full-forward in the opening term to give Swans a great start and then took a turn in the ruck, where he outpointed his Claremont opponents.

Stempel was switched back to full-forward after half-time to again be a good focal point, totally outplaying his different markers.

He took eight strong marks and finished with 4.2, complementing his game with some strong work at ground level.



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# The comeback kings

by  
Alan East

THE glory of the Swan Districts premiership victory was something akin to a prodigal son story ... multiplied many times over.

Not only did coach John Todd return to the Bassendean Oval locker rooms after a two-year stint in the national league, but he then created three more comeback stories.

And they all played a major role in helping the club win their seventh premiership.

The men he worked on, in order, were John Cooper, Graham Melrose and Don Holmes...and his persuasive powers made all three vital members of the premiership campaign.

Todd wanted:-

\* Cooper, his club president for the 1982 premiership victory, back in the fold, as chairman of selectors.

\* Melrose, his team captain in two previous premierships (at Swans in 1982 and East Fremantle in 1974) back into football, as the team's runner.

\* Holmes, a triple premiership player in 1982-3-4, back in the team to add experience.

And what Todd wanted, he got...much to the pleasure of the three men concerned.

## The Cooper story

John Cooper had to think long and hard before accepting the invitation to be chairman of selectors.

But, in the end, the retired bank manager became enthusiastic about the challenge and it became a real labour of love.

"It keeps me young, mixing with these guys," said Cooper, with his cherub face split like a water-melon; the grin going from ear to ear.

"It's something to motivate me; keep me interested and I like being around these young fellows. I keep them on their toes."

The affinity between the two men has been immortalised by the naming of the John Todd/John Cooper pavilion at Bassendean Oval; but the link goes much deeper than just a building. It's a deep feeling of trust and loyalty and that's what the renewed power structure at Swans has been built on.

Club president Bill Walker, who took over from Cooper in 1983, oversees the operations with an iron fist, but it's men like Cooper in the support structure that make the club work.

Cooper's involvement with Swans goes back to 1951 as a player, notching 123 games as a burly back pocket specialist who played with plenty of spirit and enthusiasm.

He took that dedication into his many off-field roles, working as the club treasurer, coaching the colts team, serving as club secretary, vice-president, president and now in his second stint as chairman of selectors.

His work extended right to the top at WA Football League level, serving as a club delegate, a member of the old Board of Directors and a host of other roles including his recent challenge as chairman of the committee that restructured the metropolitan boundary zones for the eight clubs.

So how did he feel at 5pm on Sunday?

## ENDEAVOUR

"Great, absolutely great. It's such a good feeling to belong to a club like this. The team has shown so much endeavour and we always thought it was possible to win the flag.

"While it was obviously very hard to replace Ed Blackaby after his two years of hard work as coach, there's no doubt that John Todd is the best in the business.

"It's a bit like owning a good horse and you've got the choice of using your loyal and capable stable jockey for the Melbourne Cup or putting the very best jockey in the land on board. You've got to go with the best and that's why we had to entice Toddy back to Bassendean."

## The Melrose story

EVEN Graham Melrose had to admit it — the smile spreading across his face was a rather rare occurrence in recent years.

Football has dealt some tough cards in recent times to the former Sandover Medallist, Simpson Medallist and great premiership-team player.

His venture into the world of coaching is something he would rather not reflect on; even though he tackled the role back at his original club of East Fremantle, it wasn't an altogether-pleasant experience.

"Yes, I was pretty bitter about football at the end of last season," admitted Melrose as he savoured the premiership victory at Swans.

"I didn't have much enthusiasm for the game, that's for sure.

"But right now it feels great; it's good to be part of this club; they're excellent people and I'm glad Toddy talked me into this job."

## INFLUENCE

Todd called on his former skipper because he felt that Melrose related to successful Swans teams and as the runner, he could exercise on-field influence over the players, especially the younger guys.

But it was a challenge getting him back.

Melrose opted out of coaching when East Fremantle lost their third successive preliminary final under his guidance last September and he didn't really want to know much about the game.

But it was to be a prophetic day when young son Glen dragged Melrose down to the WACA Ground in mid-season to watch Swans play East Perth.

"Toddy nailed me that day and said he wanted me back at the club; his regular runner Chris Stannage was injured and he was pinch-hitting," said Melrose. "I wasn't too keen, but he's pretty persuasive at times, so I agreed and I'm glad I did."

A pleasant sidelight to the Swans premiership is that it has restored the smile to the face of a great champion of the past; it's given Melrose a new perspective and a fresher belief in the game.

"Footy's a great game; it's a great leveller, too," he said.

## The Holmes story

Don Holmes had a pretty rough preparation for Sunday's grand final — not the sort of morning a coach would like as he prepares for a premiership.

Holmes was up at 2am delivering the Sunday Times to his customers; a paper full of West Coast Eagles glory and State League premiership predictions.

He grabbed a couple of hours sleep later in the morning — and then went out to be a history-maker, winning a fourth premiership medallion for Swans; joining team-mate Don Langsford as the only people to have achieved that honour.

By the end of the day Holmes had a premiership medallion hanging around his neck; culminating a season that started with retirement.

Holmes had left the West Coast Eagles squad and resisted overtures to

continue with Swans; he had some business interests that required his time and his football career was over after 12 years.

"But I'm glad I got talked into coming back," grinned Holmes, reflecting on the fact that his comeback started when the season was nearly over.

"The lure of playing in a premiership team was obviously what convinced me to pull on the boots again.

"Toddy had been chipping away at my resolve all year, he'd keep in touch and keep suggesting I should play again.

"Bill Walker kept inviting me down to the sponsors lounge to watch games and every time I went near the place, people kept asking me why I wasn't playing."

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# Langsford bows out ... again

HOW many times can a footballer retire?

Only twice, according to Swan Districts veteran Don Langsford.

The 31-year-old pharmacist says that his grand final winning game last Sunday was definitely his swan-song.

"I'm pleased I made a comeback, but that's it for sure this time," says the ruck-rover whose guernsey No. 11 has graced the football for 13 seasons.

"I agreed to come back to Swans for two years and now that I've completed my contract, I'll quit while I'm in front."

Langsford, a product of Scotch College after coming to the city from Gibson, just near Esperance, played his 237th league game for Swans on Sunday and he's not tempted by the 250-game milestone.

After being a West Coast Eagles squad member, but never playing a game in the national league, Langsford retired from Bassendean at the end of the 1987 season.

He went to the Mortlock League, where he teamed up with an old foe in former South Fremantle champion

Stephen Michael to help Toodyay win a premiership.

After that one season break, he resumed at Bassendean last year and has now collected his fourth premiership medallion.

"Ed Blackaby talked me into coming back last year and I'm glad he did," says Langsford. "I was quite happy to continue this season after a summer talk with John Todd when he convinced me that I could play an important role in his team plans."

"There's been a great atmosphere at the club this season and it's a top note to bow out on."

\*\*\*\*\*

SWAN Districts wingman Andy Holmes was one player praying that last Sunday's State League grand final would not end in a draw — he is getting married to fiancée Tracy Pernel this Sunday. During the traditional Monday premiership pub crawl this week, Holmes' team-mates singled him out for some close attention. First, he was handcuffed and a short time later was released — only to be placed in a set of stocks!

## Gandini wants chance to atone

SWAN Districts midfielder Len Gandini has put on hold plans to retire from league football.

Gandini, 28, was almost certain to hang up his boots after Sunday's grand final — but an indifferent performance on his part has changed his mind.

"I'm elated with the result from the team's point of view, but personally speaking, I'm devastated," Gandini said.

"It was fantastic watching the young kids come through this year and they were the ones who took the game up to Claremont."

"As for my game, it was pretty poor and it will play a large part in my decision on whether to quit or not."

"I would hate to finish on such a bad effort."

"I want to go out winning a grand final — and playing well."

\*\*\*\*\*

IT WAS a double windfall for premiership pair Len Gandini and Shane Stempel in the early hours of Monday morning. After celebrating Swans success at Bassendean Oval, the duo kicked on to the Burswood Casino, where they won a fistful of dollars playing roulette.



Don Langsford nursing son Andrew (3)

## Stempel is in demand

TALENTED Swan Districts utility player Shane Stempel is certain to be playing in the AFL next year.

Stempel, one of the hottest draft properties in Australia, has been contacted by at least two top-five AFL clubs interested in his services.

But there is no guarantee under the draft rules that they will get the chance to pick him.

The bottom clubs get the early picks and Stempel does not want to play with them.

"It's not worth going unless it's to one of the better clubs," Stempel said after Swans grand final win last Sunday.

### NO GUARANTEE

"But I won't know what's happening till the draft itself — there's no guarantee I will get drafted, so I'm not getting my hopes up."

"I only came to Swans because John Todd was coach; I knew he could get the best out of me and I've learnt a lot."

Last Sunday was Stempel's third consecutive premiership.

He had wins with South West National Football League club South Bunbury in 1988 and '89 before joining the Bassendean State League club this year.

His former South Bunbury coach and current Swans team-mate Peter Hodyl says that Stempel will be a huge success in the AFL.

"Perth people have only seen the tip of what he can do," Hodyl said.

"Shane must step up a level; he has a lot to learn and that's the best place for him to learn it."

"He's his own worst enemy though. If Shane wants the world, he has the ability to get it. But if he settles for half, he'll be lucky to get that much."

## Fingers crossed

ACTING Swan Districts skipper Peter Hodyl had his fingers crossed during the State League finals series. Hodyl's wife Messa is expecting their second child and there was every chance it could have been due on grand final day.

Celebrating at Bassendean Oval after Swans premiership last Sunday, Messa said: "The baby's not due for another week yet, but our first child arrived at this time almost to the day."

Mario, Lorraine, Natasha and Korey congratulate John Todd and all of the Swan Districts Premiership team. Top effort boys!

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# Tigers complete big year

CLAREMONT won their second reserves flag in four seasons when they overpowered a disappointing South Fremantle at Subiaco Oval in Sunday's grand final.

The Tigers took the 1990 Pepsi premiership pennant when they ran out 37-point winners over Souths, 12.18 (90) to 7.11 (53).

Claremont started in fine style when forward Brendan Barrows posted the first goal of the match three minutes after bouncedown and the Tigers took a 15-point lead into the first break.

## IMPROVED

The premiership was confirmation of how much the Tigers improved during the season under coach John Dimmer, after losing three of their first five games and at one stage sitting in last position.

By Tania Armstrong

They then became the season's trend-setters and the Bulldogs never looked like catching them. The Tigers outscored Souths in every quarter and changed ends with leads of 15, 25, 33 and 37 points.

The win was Dimmer's second as coach, guiding them to victory in 1987 and the fourth premiership of his football career after playing in Subiaco's reserves side in 1972 and the Lions league win the next season.

"It was a very good four-quarter performance," said Dimmer.

"We were in front all the way and Brendan got us off to a great start when he kicked two goals in the first term.

"They were great solitary efforts where he beat his opponent on his own."

## PEPSI RESERVES

Dimmer also praised the efforts of his half-back line — flankers Dale Ballantyne and Matt Elliott and centre-half-back Jamie Brayshaw, as well as full-back and skipper Phil Gilbert.

Other good players in a fine team performance from the Tigers were Rob Malone, Andrew McGovern and ruckman Adam Clark.

For South Fremantle, ruckman Martin Atkins was again their best and forward Steve Pinzone battled hard for four quarters.

Forward Ashley Flugge made the most of his opportunities when he came up with two goals to finish as the Bulldogs' only multiple goalscorer, while Grant Nalder and defender Tony Amoroso battled hard.



Claremont forward Brendan Greene eludes a tackle from Bulldogs ruckman Martin Atkins



The victorious Tigers reserves side head off on a lap of honour

# Falcons gamble pays off

WEST Perth's bold gamble to keep their under-19s side together for a whole season paid handsome dividends when the Falcons won the grand final on Sunday.

West Perth clinched their first premiership in the colts grade in 22 years when their future stars accounted for Claremont, 11.9 (75) to 4.11 (35) at Subiaco Oval.

Claremont looked to be the superior side when the game opened up, breaking away by two goals.

But the Falcons replied with two goals from accurate kicks from forward Nathan Howat.

Scrappy football dominated the second quarter, with the Tigers being the only side to register a goal — leaving them five-point leaders at half-time.

Whatever West Perth coach Jim Di Carlo said to his young charges at the interval obviously fired them up as they came out aggressively in the third term.

The Falcons seemingly scored at will in that quarter, with gangly forward Chad Innes proving to be a focal point in attack, posting five match-winning goals in 20-minutes.

## SUPERIOR

Innes had superior judgement — plus a height advantage — on his Claremont opponent Michael Adams and though the Tiger tried desperately, he was out-classed on a number of occasions.

The Falcons' inspiring third quarter knocked the spirit out of the Tigers and

## Finally a flag

SUNDAY'S league premiership for Swan Districts was a fitting reward for one member of the support structure — fitness expert Merv White.

"That's my first premiership," said White, a physical education teacher at Servite College.

"I've been involved with four clubs and been in quite a few finals series, but that's the first premiership team I've helped prepare."

White has had a long association with two veteran WA coaches — John Todd and Mal Brown.

He was with Todd at East Fremantle and Swans in the 1970s and then worked with Brown at South Fremantle and Perth in the 1980s, before re-summing with Todd this year.

It's a farewell present for White, who takes off shortly for a year of study at Anaheim University, in California.

## Pepsi Under-19s round-up with GAVIN EBBS

the final term saw West Perth players running free all over the ground.

Jeremy Crawley's unsuccessful attempt from 25-metres out was indicative of Claremont's lack of confidence.

The Tigers, however, were not without their share of good performers such as centreman Brad Wira, who ran hard all day; Quentin Leach, with a four-quarter effort; Justin Pass, who had the unenviable task of minding explosive Falcon Andrew Figliomeni; half-back Stuart Ringholt and burly ruckman Michael Rogers, who worked hard around the ground.

West Perth's other top players included Jamie Merillo, the elusive Gavin Bailey, Paul Dean, Justin Driffill and the promising Todd Curley.

## JUBILANT

Falcons captain Driffill accepted the under-19s flag and it was a jubilant Jim Di Carlo who led his players on a victory lap of League Headquarters as they belted out their version of the West Perth anthem.

Ironically, Di Carlo was a member of the last victorious West Perth under-19s side that won the colts premiership 22-years ago — and he now steps down from the coaching job.

After the match, the elated Falcons coach said he was proud of his players for their efforts all season.

"It's been a long time between drinks," said Di Carlo.

"Next year I won't be coaching, as I plan to spend some time with my family, but I'm hoping to do some development work for the club in Wanneroo."

## Weekend winner

WESTSIDE Football, in conjunction with Club Rumours and the Margaret River Hotel, will be providing Mrs J. McDonald, of Scarborough, with a fabulous weekend away.

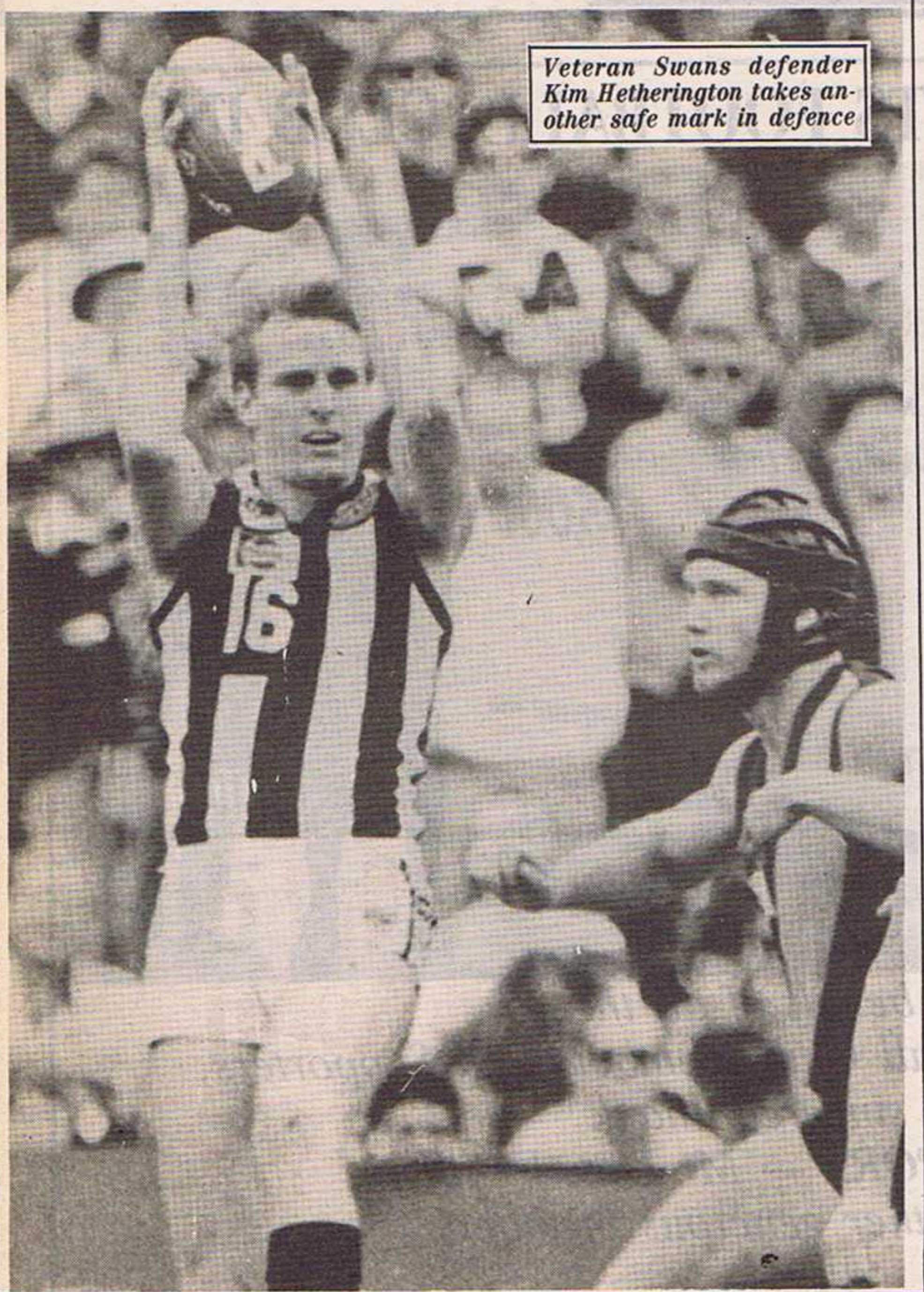
Mrs McDonald's entry was first correct out of our competition barrel that picked Swan Districts as the 1990 Pepsi premiers.

Her prize is a great weekend at the Margaret River Hotel, including bed and breakfast on Friday and Saturday, plus a sumptuous three-course dinner for two from their set menu.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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## MILLER'S MARK



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# TODD SEWED EARLY SEED

**WESTSIDE FOOTBALL:** Congratulations — and did you envisage such a result when you started off this season?

**JOHN TODD:** I honestly felt that we had a lot of talent; the players had started to develop before I left (to join the West Coast Eagles in 1988). We only recruited one player this year and that was Shane Stempel, but we opened the door for a few players who had been around for a while. They just needed the opportunity and they grabbed it. Even today we had to leave two players out, Travis Edmonds and Steve Bazzo, who were marvellous contributors for us this year. That's the sad part about it, but it will make them more determined. They're young and they've got a future and today they were a part of it. I'm not boasting, but I told the players at the very first training session that we've got to aim for the top and we don't have a lot to lose because many people didn't rate us. I said we had to get out there and see how far we could travel down the path. We gained our momentum with some early wins and from then on it was always possible. Anything's possible and it depends largely on how many men are prepared to follow you. We have a lot of players who are quiet achievers and they were able to pull it off.

**WESTSIDE:** Was it hard to select the final 20 today?

**TODD:** Very hard. There was only one change — Langsford for Bazzo — but it was hard. There was also the decision on whether or not to play Brent Hutton (who was concussed in the preliminary final a week earlier) because he could give us something different up forward that the others couldn't. The doctor and I discussed it at length and we took a punt and it came off. Brent played well. He had a hand in about four goals and played magnificently.

**WESTSIDE:** Is there anyone you gave a special task to today who deserves mention?

**TODD:** They just played well as a team. A number of players were given roles to do and they all contributed as a team performance, which is the way it's been all year. We've had to play consistent football and win some tight games and that helped us to firstly get to the grand final and then win it.

**WESTSIDE:** How confident were you of winning the premiership after losing the second semi-final?

**TODD:** I still thought we would win because the players were so disappointed at the way they played that game. On the Monday night after that match, they had a get-together and realised that Claremont were beatable. The first three games against them (which Swans won) didn't really sink in, but after the semi-final the guys realised they could win. They gained a lot of confidence from the final quarter and half of that match and were determined to have a real dip at them today.

**WESTSIDE:** What was the reason behind giving injured skipper Brad Shine your premiership medal?

**TODD:** Shiney is our captain and he's had trouble playing this season. But he toughed it out with the reserves and helped the younger guys as a captain should. His help off the field has been enormous and the honour that Brent Hutton paid him by wearing Shine's guernsey is the feeling that runs right the way through these players. Hopefully, they'll never lose it.

**WESTSIDE:** In 1982 you visited Subiaco Oval the day before the grand final to have a walk around. You've said that it was then that you got the feeling you were going to win the premiership that year; were there any similar omens in 1990?

**TODD:** That's the funny thing about premierships, the intensity of trying to win the first one is extremely high, but after that you tend to relax a little bit. You have the experience of having been there to pass onto the young guys who haven't. That's why I say to all the people who coach that they should never drop off because they are so close to it (success) that they don't realise it. People must be encouraged to stay in the game because the longer you remain the more mature you become and the better coach you become. But to answer your question, no I didn't take that walk this year.

**WESTSIDE:** Are you concerned that you may lose players in the AFL draft and be forced to start afresh next year?

**TODD:** That's a possibility, but we do have a lot of young players at Swans who deserve an opportunity. Ever since I've been at Swans, we've assessed the players at the end of the year and always created openings for those who deserve the opportunity. It's not going to be any different this year; we'll talk to the players and see what develops. I want to talk to the drafted players and guide them correctly because I want to see them have a long-lasting career in the AFL. There are too many players who have been lost in the AFL system.

LOVE him or hate him, you have to respect Swan Districts coach John Todd. After losing the West Coast Eagles job to Mick Malthouse last season, he returned to his old club Swan Districts and converted them into premiership material. Some pretty hard decisions were made along the trail, attracting plenty of criticism, but that's Todd's nature...he's prepared to take the tough turn. In the end, he has again been vindicated and Westside Football's GEORGE TEMPLE had this interview with Todd in the aftermath of Swans premiership glory.



The Grand Master — four-times Swan Districts premiership coach John Todd in caricature

**WESTSIDE:** Is coaching football in 1990, in terms of winning premierships, tougher than it was in the early 1980s?

**TODD:** It's tough anywhere to win a grand final. All the players have to be locked in a bond to keep plugging away together. It's always hard to win. We've had a magnificent year and I've enjoyed it so much. Last year I was faced with bowing out of football on a bad note and I didn't think that I had a bad season. I just had to put it right in my own mind that I still had the ability. I was brought up on a bit of grit and wasn't about to surrender and I've enjoyed the result. I'll enjoy it over the next few weeks and then go fishing and have a bit of fun.

**WESTSIDE:** Where will you be in 1991?

**TODD:** I don't know; I'll have to sit on that and look at the situation. You can't go on for ever, can you? I love this club and will never be too far away. We've been in five grand finals, winning four of them and that's an enormous achievement. It's a pretty unique achievement for two players in particular, Don Holmes and Don Langsford, who played in all of those matches.

## Coaches agree

EAGLES coaches past and present — Mick Malthouse and John Todd — do think alike, so it seems. Malthouse was a special comments man on Radio 6PR on Saturday and he forecast a Todd move seconds before it happened. Swan Districts winger Andy Holmes was guilty of failing to chase his Tigers rival Mark Hann early in the first quarter and Malthouse said: "He should be dragged and spoke to about chasing harder." Seconds later Holmes was heading for the bench for a little telephone chat with Todd.



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# Beware rebounding Bombers

A WEEK after their remarkable turn-around to win the first semi-final, the West Coast Eagles face Essendon, a club in a similar predicament.

Just as the Eagles reputation was severely dented after a 59-point loss to Collingwood in the qualifying final replay, Essendon's pride was tarnished by the club's 63-point second semi-final defeat by the Magpies.

And you can bet the Bombers will be fired up for a big performance this week.

Whether that lifts them to victory remains to be seen, but they will be a were tougher proposition than they were last Sunday.

## FAVOURITES

Essendon have been premiership favourites for most of the season and should they get over the Eagles, they would then be favoured to reverse their result against Collingwood. But FIRST they must overcome the Eagles.

And that will not be an easy task.

The West Coast's forward line

Football writer GARY STOCKS, of *The West Australian*, looks at the Eagles challenge against Essendon

worked as efficiently as it has done all season when they kicked 19 goals to dump Melbourne out of the premiership race last week.

With Stevan Jackson offering a target at centre-half-forward, Peter Sumich continuing his fine form at full-forward and Chris Waterman chipping in with a more-than-useful contribution of six goals, things worked efficiently.

The problem the Eagles have found up forward this year has been consistency and those the players must maintain that work rate against the tight Essendon defence, led by David Grenvold, Gary O'Donnell and Anthony Daniher.

As well Craig Turley, Chris Mainwaring, Chris Lewis and John Worsfold, who provided the inspiration last Saturday, must give similar displays against the Bombers.

Perhaps the play which best illustrated the determination of the Eagles came in the third quarter when Turley, out-numbered 2-1 by Melbourne players in a race for the ball, got there first, tapped the ball in front of himself before delivering to Mainwaring, who found Guy McKenna. A handpass from McKenna hit Langdon on the chest and he goaled with a raking 50-metre drop punt on the run.

It was a classic case of turning defence into attack and highlighted the spirit in the team.

Worsfold never fails to produce grit and determination and there was one classic case where he had the ball between himself and Simon Eishold, he dived to the ground to take possession, rolled over and hit his feet almost in the same action and sent the Eagles out of danger.

Last week's motivation for the Eagles was a TV replay showing the Melbourne players running around Subiaco Oval gesticulating to WA fans after they had beaten the West Coasters in round 20.

A couple of highlights from Saturday's impressive win — particularly several incidents that literally made the hair stand up on the back of your head — would surely provide the motivational edge this week.

There must still be some doubts in the minds of the Essendon players and if the Eagles can again start ferociously, they could destroy the Bombers spirit early in the clash.

Eagles who have to maintain their momentum will be midfielders Turley, Mainwaring and Lewis; but a lot of responsibility will fall to defenders Michael Brennan, David Hart and Paul Peos, who must be even tighter and meaner.

Runners like Brett Heady and Dean Kemp need to work over-time and the incoming players — there will be at least a couple — must show fresh legs and inspiration.

The incentive is their first AFL grand final and that must be an emotional driving force for the Perth players. Come 5pm on Saturday, they could be celebrating the fact.

# Eagles face a mental barrier

THE WEST Coast Eagles must overcome several psychological hurdles if they are to progress into their first AFL grand final.

As the players jubilantly sang the club song on Saturday night, there was a feeling that they already achieved something big — the club's first victory in a VFL/AFL finals match.

On Sunday morning, the theme of coach Mick Malthouse's address was for his players to realise that one win wasn't good enough and that every player must re-commit themselves to overcoming their preliminary final opponent.

Beating Essendon on the rebound is an enormous challenge.

The Eagles have lost once to the Bombers this season — by 39-points in round 11 — after suffering the humiliation in 1989 of kicking only one goal for the entire match (round 15) and losing by 142 points.

## CONFIDENCE

While the Eagles have gained confidence from Saturday's big win over Melbourne, many insiders believe players still have a "mental block" about defeating Essendon.

Saturday's final will be a supreme test of the players physical and mental character.

Essendon have a lot of damaging on-ball players and Eagles skipper Steve Malaxos is expected to resume in the side — and follow opposing leader Tim Watson all over the ground.

Brownlow Medallist and 6PR special commentator Gerard Healy has these thoughts about the battle: "The Eagles will again be underdogs, but can surprise the Bombers by playing with the aggression and purpose they displayed against Melbourne.

"If I was coach, I'd allow the on-ball players to go for broke.

"Guys like Brett Heady, Craig Turley, Chris Lewis and Dean Kemp are all excellent performers and revelled in their attacking roles last weekend.

"I'm tipping Essendon to win, but I'm sure the Eagles will continue to cement their standing as a genuine force, both in and out of Perth."

Westside Football's Melbourne correspondent KEN PIESSE looks at this week's AFL preliminary final

## Possible line-ups

### ESSENDON

**BACKS:** Alan Ezard, Anthony Daniher, Gary O'Donnell

**HALF-BACKS:** David Grenvold, Kevin Walsh, Paul Hamilton

**CENTRES:** Michael Long, Tim Watson, Greg Anderson

**HALF-FORWARDS:** Mark Harvey, Terry Daniher, Peter Cransberg

**FORWARDS:** Adrian Burns, Simon Madden, Derek Kickett

**RUCK:** Paul Salmon, Mark Thompson, Darren Bewick

**INTERCHANGE (from):** Paul Van Der Haar, Andrew Manning, Keiran Sporn, Bill Duckworth

### WEST COAST EAGLES

**BACKS:** Tony Begovich, Andrew Lockyer, David Hart

**HALF-BACKS:** Michael Brennan, Phil Scott, Paul Peos

**CENTRES:** Chris Mainwaring, Craig Turley, Dean Kemp

**HALF-FORWARDS:** Brett Heady, Stevan Jackson, John Worsfold

**FORWARDS:** Chris Waterman, Peter Sumich, Karl Langdon

**RUCK:** Laurie Keene, Guy McKenna, Chris Lewis

**INTERCHANGE (from):** Steve Malaxos, Peter Melesso, Peter Wilson, Todd Breman

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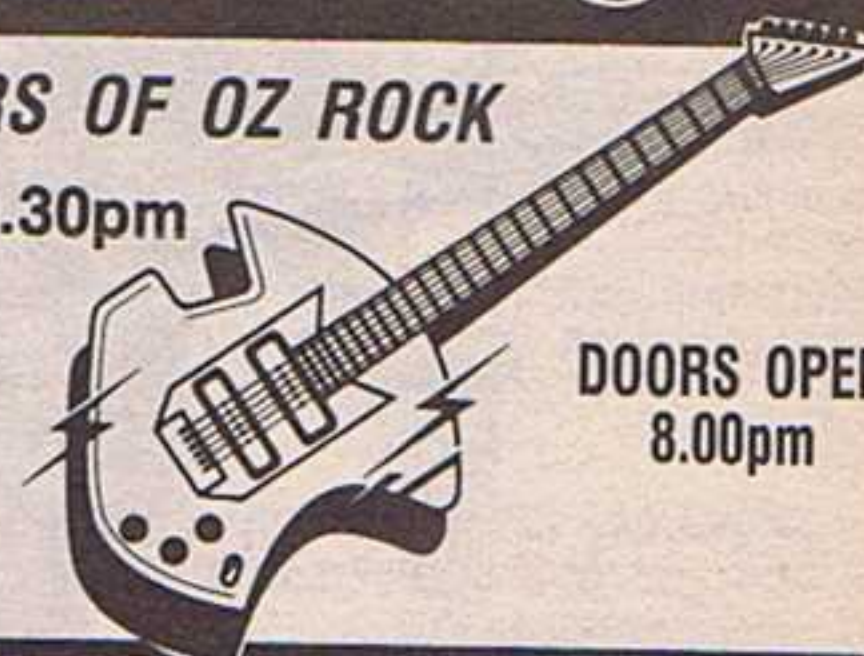
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YES, you have got an extra week to enter our fabulous Nissan All-Stars contest — and maybe have the use of a magnificent Nissan motor vehicle for a whole week. The Nissan All-Stars contest is extended by a week, courtesy of the West Coast Eagles advancing to the AFL preliminary final — but hurry, entries now close next Tuesday, October 2. Fill out the team placings map on this page and send your entry in today

## Champions emerge in finals

By KIM HAGDORN

FINALS football brings out the best in champion players — and that's why several new names have emerged as candidates for the 1990 Nissan All-Stars AFL team.

Collingwood's Michael McGuane and magical West Coast Eagles midfielder Chris Lewis have produced impressive form in recent games to stake strong claims to a berth in the team.

McGuane continued his brilliant finals series with a damaging 31-possession performance in the Magpies 63-point blitz of premiership favourites Essendon last Sunday.

### HISTORIC

McGuane was one of the Magpies who embarrassed the West Coasters to the tune of 59 points at Waverley two weeks ago, in the historic qualifying final replay and he is a candidate to win a spot on the half-back-flank, or even as a running ruck-rover in the All-Stars team.

Lewis, who has had an enormous finish to the season, capped off by sizzling finals form showing a maturity beyond his years, could also win a spot as an on-ball player.

The exciting Aboriginal star has captivated Melbourne audiences with his

mercurial skills and has become an inspirational player for the Eagles.

His performances have been all the more commendable in view of the horrendous attention he has received from opponents in their unscrupulous attempts to curb his brilliance.

His disposal by foot and hand has matched the magic normally reserved for the uncanny brilliance of the likes of Geelong's Gary Ablett and Collingwood's Peter Daicos.

Only Daicos, with his unforgettable snap-shot goal in the drawn final three weeks ago and the brilliance of Collingwood forward Gavin Brown can rival Lewis for any player-of-the-finals tag.

Daicos is a certain starter in the All-Stars team, but Brown, having spent most of the season at full-forward, faces some stiff opposition.

Another Magpie to have burst into calculations for an All-Stars guernsey is nippy rover Tony Francis.

But Francis will compete for a spot with Brownlow Medalist John Platten, Essendon's Darren Bewick, Footscray's Tony Liberatore, Brisbane's David Bain and Sydney's Barry Mitchell.

## Big win for little champ

TONY Liberatore, one of football's smallest players, had his biggest moment when he was a surprise winner of the 1990 Brownlow Medal.

The Brownlow count for the AFL's best and fairest player produced a shock result, with little Liberatore — standing at just 164cm, or 5ft 5in on the old scale — giving Footscray another accolade in a year of revival.

Hardly mentioned amid numerous pre-count rumours and speculation of alleged leaks, Liberatore polled 18 votes to win the coveted award by one vote from Collingwood winger Graham Wright.

Attention in the weeks leading up to the count centred on Essendon's Greg Anderson, St Kilda's big-marking forward Stewart Loewe, Brisbane's rover David Bain and North Melbourne's 19-year-old goal-kicking sensation, John Longmire.

### BETTING CLOSED

Official bookmakers in Melbourne and Darwin refused to take any further bets on Anderson and Bain a fortnight before the count, after it had been rumoured they would finish one and two.

Loewe was listed at 3/1 favourite at the time of the Anderson-Bain quinella rumour and the big Saint drifted in the betting.

Then just 24 hours before the count another "leak" allegation tipped Longmire as the winner and the bookmakers again closed the books on a leading candidate.

All the time Liberatore had been ignored — till he hit the front early in the count and was not headed.

The gutsy 24-year-old, who has battled to string together 37 senior games



Dashing Footscray rover Tony Liberatore...a surprise Brownlow winner

with the Bulldogs in five years, conceded he is not the most gifted footballer to win the medal — or indeed, in today's football.

But he epitomises the emotion prevailing at Footscray in a time of crisis.

This time last year the Bulldogs were facing liquidation and Liberatore, along with teammates and loyal club supporters and administrators, were busily shaking collection tins and conducting chook raffles in an effort to gain \$1.5 million to avoid being disbanded.

In a courageous turn-around, the Bulldogs survived an amalgamation threat with Fitzroy, appointed Terry Wheeler as coach to replace Mick Malthouse and stormed home to nearly snatch a place in the finals, earning Wheeler the AFL Coach-of-the-Year accolade.

That courage and spirit which helped the Scraggers survive over the past 12 months was captured in the Brownlow Medal count, with Liberatore taking out the game's most prestigious individual honour.

## NISSAN

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Andrew Lockyer earned a recall from the football wilderness when he lined up for the Eagles for the first time in 17 weeks against Melbourne last Saturday. He took on and beat dangerman Darren Bennett at full-back and deserves to hold his place against Essendon

# Focus on the finals

By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**,  
who flew to Melbourne last  
weekend with the West  
Coast Eagles

## Jeans ends an era at Hawthorn

**THERE** is a saying in Melbourne football circles that coaches are like modern-day nappies — dependable and efficient, but disposable.

That theory has been proven in the past three weeks, with the demise, one way or another, of four of the AFL's 14 coaches from 1990.

The usual end-of-season shuffling of men at the top has been highlighted by the shock retirement of coaching maestro Allan Jeans from Hawthorn, after nine seasons at the helm.

In Brisbane, reluctant coach Norm Dare stepped out of the Bears hot seat — where he managed to persuade former Carlton premiership coach Robert Walls to take over the post — Alex Jesaulenko's sacking from Carlton in favour of a return of David Parkin and Rod Austin severing ties with Fitzroy, where former Eagles coach Ron Alexander is a tip to re-surface.

Jeans joined Hawthorn in 1981 after

16 years with St Kilda between 1961 and 1976, etching his name in Saints history by coaching them to their only premiership in 1966.

Hawthorn finished sixth in Jeans first year 1981 and from there he moulded an awesome unit which appeared in every finals series and seven consecutive grand finals.

Jeans led Hawthorn to three premierships — in 1983, '86 and '89 — surrendering the coaching job and a premiership to the club's football director, Alan Joyce, for the 1988 season while he underwent neuro-surgery.

Joyce now officially steps into Jeans position, while the master coach continues at the club, devoting his many talents to recruiting and development.

### LIMELIGHT

Always one to shun the limelight and take a back seat to his players, Jeans released a statement with his unexpected announcement.

"I coached St Kilda for 16 years and

have been at Hawthorn for 10," Jeans said.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my coaching career, but after 559 senior games and at the age of 57, I think it is the opportune time to step down."

Jeans won 355 of those 559 coaching appearances, losing 202 and drawing two.

And all of those were on top of his 77 games with the Saints between 1955 and '59, which included a State guernsey in his debut year.

The retirement of Allan Jeans ends an era at Glenferrie Oval.

His reign over the 1980s was nothing short of awesome, though he did not fare so well at the start of a new decade in 1990, when the Hawks bowed out to Melbourne in the elimination final.

That game brought down the curtain on one of football's masterminds. A coach unemotional in victory, gracious in defeat and one who has nothing left to prove to the football public of Australia.



Allan Jeans...will be honoured at the AFL grand final after accepting an invitation to toss the coin before the big match

THE Eagles stretched their 45-point half-time lead to 66 points at the 19-minute mark of the third term, the greatest margin to separate the two sides all day. Chris Waterman gave the side the 11-goal break when he booted his fifth goal and second for the quarter. But Melbourne, through Earl Spalding, Graeme Yeats and Greg Healy, kicked three goals between the 24 and 27-minute mark to leave the Demons 48-points in arrears at three-quarter time. In fact, the Demons were responsible for eight of the game's last 11 goals, narrowing the Eagles winning margin to 30-points.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FORMER** North Melbourne coach Ron Barassi was quick to congratulate the Eagles players on their stunning victory when he bravely boarded the team bus before the West Coasters left Waverley for Tullamarine Airport. "You were too good," said Barassi, who had written off the Eagles in previous weeks when he said they had as much chance of winning a final as he had of winning the Brownlow Medal. "But the umpires were against us," he said as he disembarked, a quip met by friendly jeers from a happy bunch of Eagles.

\*\*\*\*\*

**EAGLES** coach Mick Malthouse has joined the call for an AFL finals match to be played outside of Melbourne. The former Victorian — he's been officially adopted by footy fans in the West — said that any future AFL finals match involving two interstate sides should be switched away from Melbourne. With a South Australian team entering the competition next year, such a prospect isn't all that unrealistic.

\*\*\*\*\*

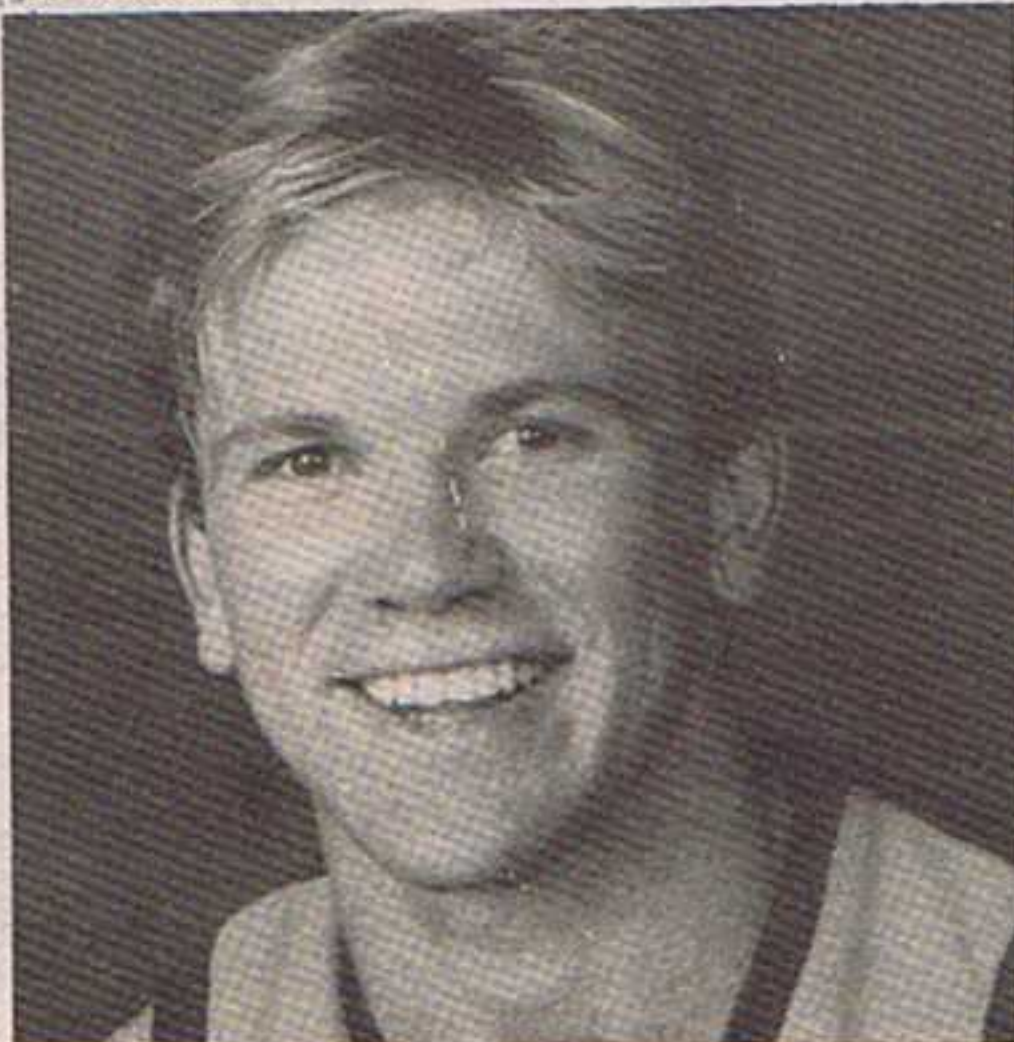
**EAGLES** defender Paul Peos is developing a reputation for meanness out on the field. The ferocious way he tackles his opponent right from the outset is giving the West Coasters new-found toughness — and Peos was one of the first into the pre-match niggling last Saturday. The Eagles need toughness and Peos adds to the team's growing strength in that department.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THERE** was one notable absentee when the West Coast Eagles flew into Melbourne last Friday afternoon — Peter Wilson. But the word was that he was coming on a later flight, so no-one was too concerned. Wilson had strained a hamstring muscle late in the previous week's game and was staying back in Perth for some extra medical attention. He was due to travel to Melbourne on the late flight, along with skills coach Tim Gepp, but decided in the end that he wouldn't be fit enough to play, so he stayed home. It was the fifth game Wilson has missed in six rounds.

\*\*\*\*\*

**EAGLES** wingman Chris Mainwaring started the game in sizzling form when he posted the Eagles first two goals inside 90 seconds. Mainwaring's preparation for the big game was intense; he spent 20 minutes alone on Princes Park, the ground where the Eagles have an early Saturday morning run, after the rest of the squad had ventured in for breakfast.



Chris Mainwaring...psyched up

\*\*\*\*\*

**POST-MATCH** celebrations in Melbourne at the weekend were under threat when a strike at Victoria's biggest beer supplier, Carlton United Breweries, threatened to turn pubs 'dry'. The pub with no beer became a reality when CUB clerical workers walked off the job on Wednesday over a \$15 wage rise dispute. Popular drinking holes around AFL Park and the Melbourne Cricket Ground, who were expecting huge crowds after the final sirens, averted disaster by calling in beer reinforcements from elsewhere.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOT** one newspaper critic in Victoria tipped the West Coast Eagles to beat Melbourne in Saturday's first semi-final and they were forced to eat their words after the side's amazing victory. The closest anyone came to tipping the Eagles was popular football commentator and former host of the ABC's, The Winners, Drew Morphett, when he said: "Don't write the Eagles off just yet" on a radio preview on Melbourne's new radio station, TTFM on Saturday morning. Witty Tonight Live host Steve Vizard typically tipped a draw in the The Herald's football form guide.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE** dropping of Eagles captain Steve Malaxos for the first time in his 75-game AFL career made the back page on every Melbourne newspaper last Friday. The Age carried the headlines 'Eagles dump Malaxos' while The Sun read 'Malaxos Axed'. Saturday's Sun suggested 'Eagles Panic' along with a story of how cracks were showing in a battle-weary West Coast. Just as well they weren't fresh and fully-stocked with players, wasn't it!

\*\*\*\*\*

THE Eagles match committee of Trevor Sprigg, Ian Miller and Tim Gepp, along with coach Mick Malthouse, have had their work cut out in recent weeks with some tough decisions at the selection table. Ruckman Phil Scott was dropped from the side for the qualifying final and the rematch, while captain Steve Malaxos was left out of the first semi-final showdown with Melbourne. "They have had to make two of the toughest decisions ever; they were not decisions taken lightly," said team manager Trevor Nisbett, speaking on radio 3LO before the match. "The changes made to the team were intended to give the side more flexibility." Nisbett also voiced his opinion on the AFL when he said "until an interstate team wins a final, I don't think the AFL has arrived." Well Trevor, the AFL arrived at 5pm last Saturday.

**EAGLES** players could have been excused for thinking there was a spy in their midst when George Spalding, father of Melbourne centre-half-forward Earl Spalding, lobbied at their hotel on Friday afternoon. George, a well known football personality in WA and a former player and president at Perth, gave his 25-year-old son a surprise visit. But he was quick to congratulate the Eagles on their win in the rooms after the game.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TREVOR** Grant, one of Melbourne's most respected football writers, summed up the Eagles invasion of Victoria in a front page article in Sunday's Herald. "...the West Coast Eagles gave Victorian football a grim reminder that its once-untouchable power base is eroding. The days of Victorian domination at the business end of the league ladder are gone."

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per Swan at Subiaco Oval on Sunday  
— and that cherished pennant.  
grapher JULIAN COWAN was there  
tion, the colour and the drama.  
y; from the frenzied boundary-line  
s, the dancing girls, the mascots and  
at half-time...and the final whoopee  
g captain, Peter Hodyl (below)



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Can the West Coast Eagles — those upstarts; imposters; pretenders, call them what you will (if you're a Victorian) from the West — reach their first AFL grand final by beating Essendon in the preliminary final at AFL Park, Waverley?

I hope so and looking at their performance against Melbourne last Saturday, they could very well just do that.

It was a sensational first semi-final performance by the Eagles and Melbourne fell for the old three-card trick.

They tried the rough-house tactics on Mick Malthouse's team, but the Eagles were ready for them and just concentrated on playing football.

The Eagles handed out a few well-placed bumps of their own to win the physical contest as well.

Demon Stephen O'Dwyer was totally undisciplined and Andrew Obst, who had a tremendous game against the Eagles in Perth this year, concentrated more on the man than the ball.

Unlike Collingwood a week earlier, Melbourne — one of the AFL's close-checking teams — let their opponents run loose all over the park.

By the same token, it could be argued that the Eagles played so well that they escaped the attention of their markers.

Malthouse will want repeat performances this Saturday from big Laurie Keene, who was easily the best big-man afield, midfielders Chris Lewis and Chris Mainwaring and forward Chris Waterman.

They had big influences on the game, but so did recalled defender Andrew Lockyer; a surprise inclusion, but a fairly logical one when you recall his previous clashes with his former teammate and work-mate, Darren Bennett.

He should retain his place in the

team and this Saturday he must line-up on Bombers dangerman Paul Salmon.

After an indifferent season, Lockyer grabbed his chance last Saturday and gave the back-line some real dash. He did a fantastic job on big Bennett and that's why he must be handed the task of watching Salmon.

The Eagles will miss the suspended Dwayne Lamb — whose ability to negate key opponents has been well documented this year — and the injured Scott Watters.

The selectors will have their fingers crossed about Guy McKenna, but the tough defender is confident his elbow injury will not keep him out of the side.

## OVER-ZEALOUS

It's a shame for Lamb, not only because he's had such a good year, but it means that Jim Stynes has now forced him out of the team twice — once by breaking his arm and this time enticing was over-zealous tackle.

Though Essendon were disappointing in last Sunday's second semi-final, beware the Bombers on the rebound.

They were obviously in a cruise mode their extended break, but they will be better for the run and will be eager to atone against the Eagles.

It promises to be a tough encounter, but the fact the match will be at Waverley gives the Eagles a big chance.

They have become familiar with the ground during this finals series; it's their fourth game in as many weeks.

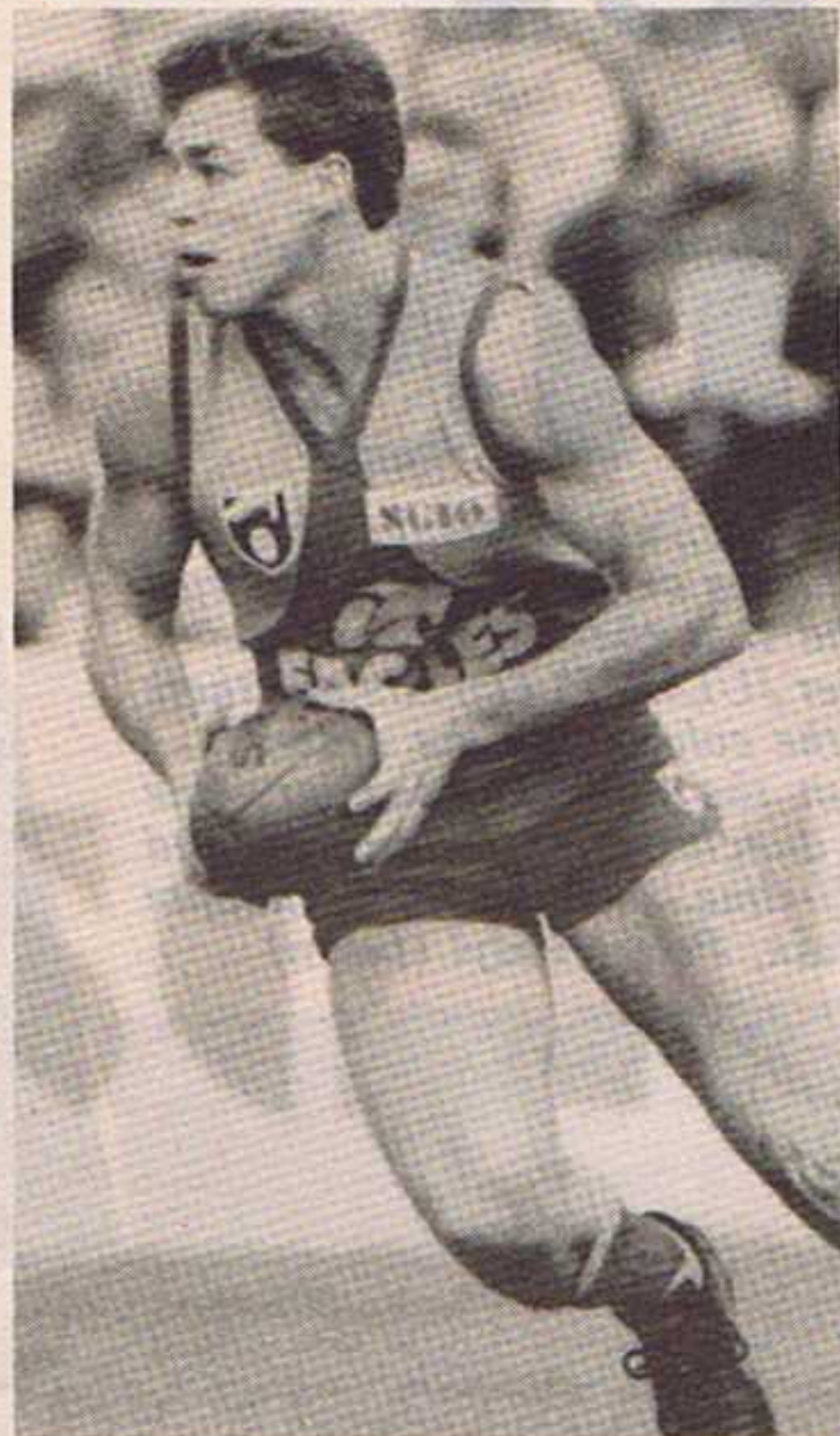
They enjoy the wide open spaces and no doubt Mick Malthouse will attempt to run the Bombers off their feet.

## Viewpoint




with State Coach

**RON ALEXANDER**



Chris Waterman...dangerman up forward



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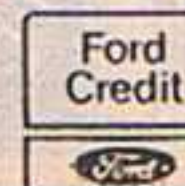
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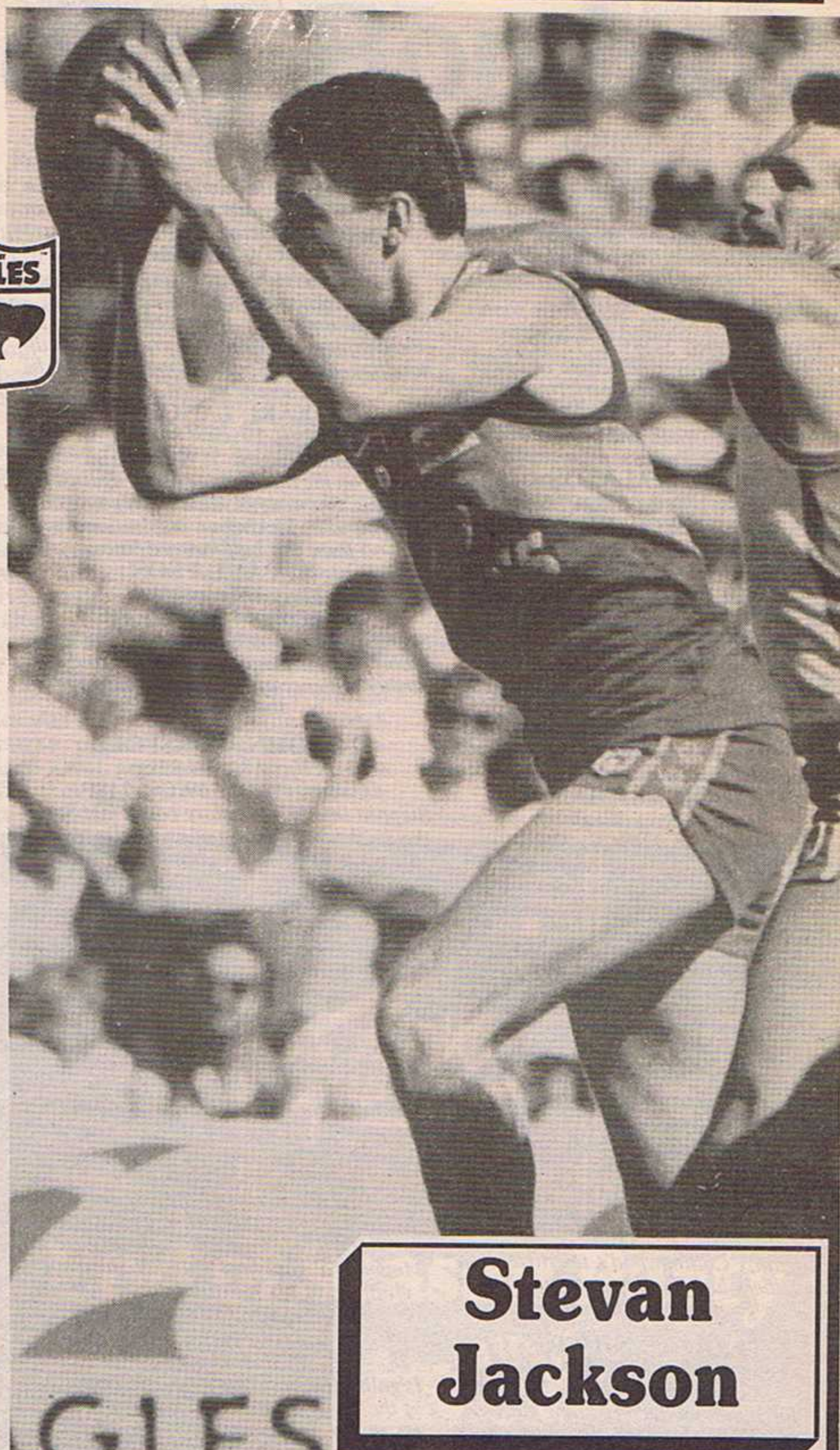
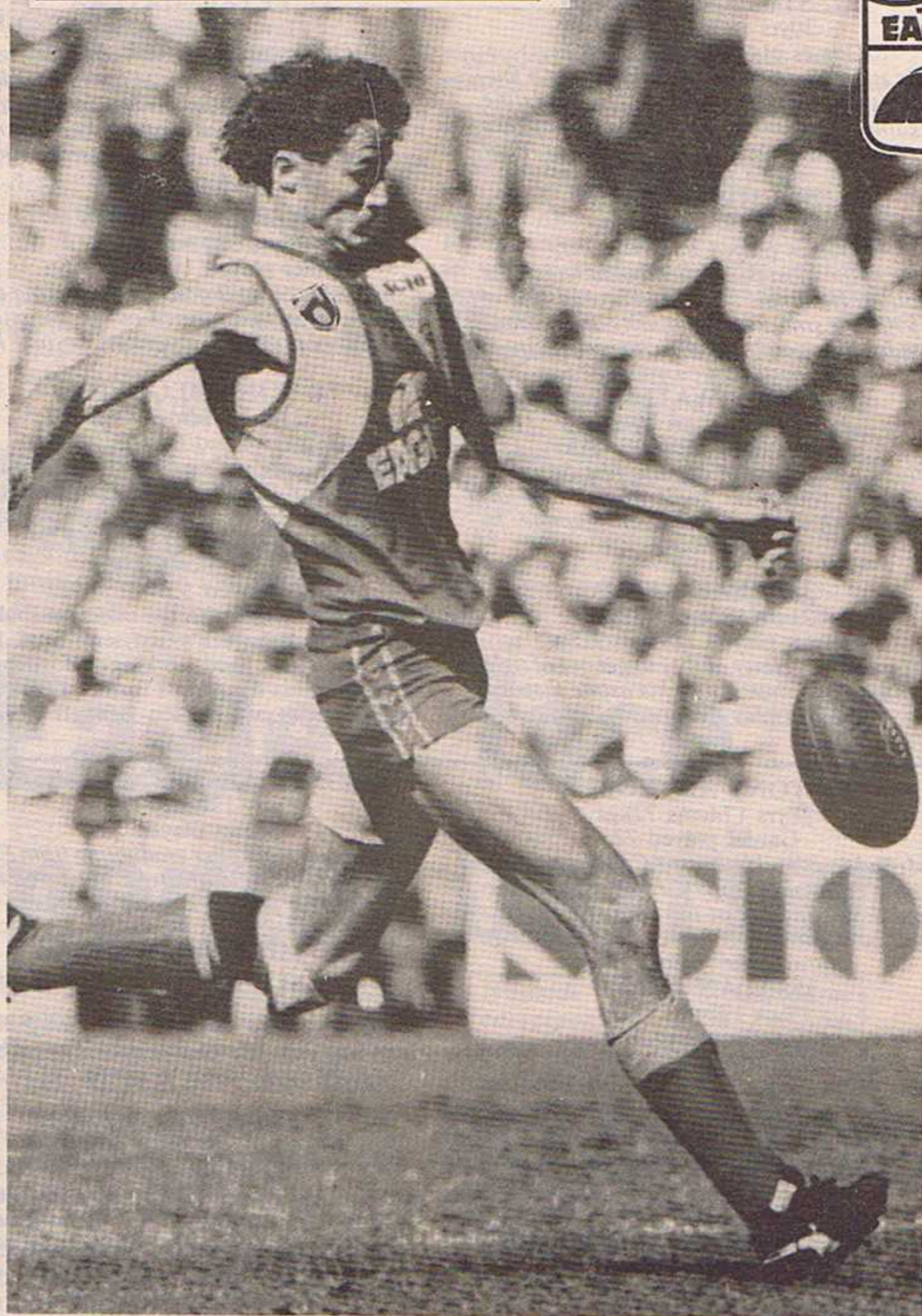




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## PLAYER PROFILES

### Laurie Keene



### Stevan Jackson

**NICK NAME:** Basil  
**FAVOURITE POSITION:** Ruck  
**CURRENT POSITION:** Ruck  
**NUMBER:** 25  
**DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:** 2.1.62 Subiaco  
**RECRUITED FROM:** Subiaco  
**HEIGHT:** 203cm **WEIGHT:** 105kg  
**FIRST SENIOR GAME:** 1987 Eagles vs Richmond, 1981 Subiaco vs East Perth  
**GAMES PLAYED:** 35 Eagles, 137 Subiaco, 4 WA  
**FOOTBALL HONOURS:** 1980 Medallists Medal; 1981 Media Guild Footballer-of-the-Future; 1986 Footballer-of-the-Year awards from Media Guild, The West Australian, Daily News, Channel 7, Radio 6NR; 1986 All Australian selection, 1986 Subiaco fairest and best; 1986, '88 Subiaco premierships sides.  
**MARITAL STATUS:** Married to Deanne  
**OCCUPATION:** Surveyor  
**SCHOOLS ATTENDED:** Scarborough Senior High School  
**CAR:** Mitsubishi Pajero  
**FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES:** Surfing  
**FAVOURITE FOOD:** Anything of quantity  
**FAVOURITE DRINK:** Red Back Beer  
**FAVOURITE SPORTS (OTHER SPORTS):** Golf  
**FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP:** Peter Gabriel  
**FAVOURITE TV SHOW:** University Challenge, Bread  
**FAVOURITE MOVIE:** A Fish Called Wanda  
**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:** Coaches and team-mates  
**OPPONENTS YOU ADMIRE:** None  
**MATCH DAY ROUTINE:** No set routine  
**FOOTBALL INJURIES:** Knee, Achilles tendon  
**BIGGEST THRILL:** Selection in Eagles, winning grand finals with Subiaco in 1986 and '88  
**MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:** 1986 State-of-Origin match  
**FOOTBALL AMBITION:** To play consistently and to win a premiership with the Eagles

**Nickname:** Jacko  
**FAVOURITE POSITION:** Anywhere up forward  
**CURRENT POSITION:** Forward  
**NUMBER:** 27  
**DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:** 9.3.70 Perth  
**RECRUITED FROM:** South Fremantle  
**HEIGHT:** 193cm **WEIGHT:** 91kg  
**FIRST SENIOR GAME:** 1989 Eagles vs Brisbane Bears, 1988 South Fremantle vs East Perth  
**GAMES PLAYED:** 29 Eagles, 22 South Fremantle, 1 WA  
**FOOTBALL HONOURS:** 1985 State Schoolboys, 1989 VFL Rookie-of-the-Year  
**MARITAL STATUS:** Single  
**OCCUPATION:** Policeman  
**SCHOOLS ATTENDED:** St Brendan's College, Melville Senior High School  
**CAR:** Commodore  
**FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES:** Horse racing, sleeping  
**FAVOURITE FOOD:** Most  
**FAVOURITE DRINK:** Beer  
**FAVOURITE SPORTS (OTHER SPORTS):** Horse racing, cricket, darts  
**FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP:** No favourites  
**FAVOURITE MOVIE:** Death Wish I, II and III  
**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:** Parents, coaches  
**MOST ADMIRABLE FOOTBALLER:** Malcolm Blight  
**OPPONENTS YOU ADMIRE:** All of them until we run out on the ground  
**MATCH DAY ROUTINE:** Eat spaghetti, bet on the horses  
**BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:** Sitting on the interchange during the 1988 first semi-final against East Fremantle, betting on Tawriffic in the 1990 Perth Cup  
**FOOTBALL INJURIES:** Nothing major  
**BIGGEST THRILL:** Eagles selection  
**MOST MEMORABLE MATCH:** First league game and first game with the Eagles  
**FOOTBALL AMBITION:** To be a regular player with the Eagles

# ANGOVE'S.... Pick a fine wine

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# Possible starters in the AFL preliminary final



**3. CHRIS MAINWARING**  
24yrs 180cms 82kgs  
Games played 79WCE, 48EF  
*Brilliant last Saturday in perhaps the most disciplined and team-oriented performance of his career. Is a key to any premiership hopes.*

**4. PETER SUMICH**  
22yrs 191cms 89kgs  
Games played 41WCE, 58SF  
*The record-breaking goal-kicking ace has added a new dimension to his game in the finals series with his hard work and creative play up forward.*

**7. CRAIG TURLEY**  
24yrs 185cms 80kgs  
Games played 31WCE, 72WP  
*The talented ruck-rover has come of age in the finals. Saved the finest performance of his short career for last Saturday's victory over Melbourne when he collected 29 possessions.*

**8. STEVE MALAXOS**  
29yrs 177cms 83kgs  
Games played 75WCE, 9Haw, 145CI  
*Will probably wait until the last minute before knowing if he will return to the side in what could be a confidence building, emotive selection by coach Malthouse.*

**9. PETER WILSON**  
26 yrs 183cms 82kgs  
Games played 19WCE, 54Rich, 94EF  
*A well disguised omission by the Eagles' hierarchy last week because of a hamstringing injury. His pace and courage will be required to upset the Bombers' mid-field play.*

**11. TODD BREMAN**  
24yrs 182cms 82kgs  
Games played 22WCE, 97Su  
*His long kicking and clever reading of the game could be an asset to the Eagles' mid-field, particularly on the wide expanses of Waverley*



**3. PAUL SALMON**  
25yrs 206cms 103.5kgs  
Games played 123  
*If any one Bomber could single-handedly end the Eagles 1990 premiership dream, it's the 'Big Fish', the tallest and most skilful big man in the AFL.*

**4. MICHAEL LONG**  
20yrs 178cms 78kgs  
Games played 47  
*Quiet against Collingwood's talented band of midfielders last Sunday, but his class is unlikely to go missing again on Saturday.*

**5. TERRY DANIHER**  
33yrs 188cms 88.5kgs  
Games played 289  
*One of the coolest footballers in the game. A sure overhead mark or equally effective at spoiling when in defence and can be used anywhere up forward.*

**6. ANTHONY DANIHER**  
27yrs 191cms 90kgs  
Games played 183  
*Has shown grit and courage to be back in the game after suffering a broken jaw in a controversial incident against Fitzroy in round 14. Lowered his colours to Collingwood's brilliant Gavin Brown.*

**12. PHIL SCOTT**  
29yrs 193cms 95kgs  
Games played 65WCE, 79Su  
*Made a welcome return to the team last week to assist Laurie Keene take on the Melbourne big man battery. Will again be an asset against the Bombers big guns in the ruck and up forward.*

**14. MICHAEL BRENNAN**  
25yrs 188cms 90kgs  
Games played 78WCE, 76EF  
*The unsung hero of the Eagles defence in 1990. Seldom beaten and always reliable in defence with his talent to close out often more fancied opponents.*

**17. GUY McKENNA**  
21yrs 185cms 82kgs  
Games played 62WCE, 48CI  
*Remains under an injury cloud with an elbow injury. His calm in a crisis, sure ball-handling and pin-point disposal would be sorely missed.*

**19. KARL LANGDON**  
22yrs 191cms 89kgs  
Games played 51WCE, 31Su  
*Started on the interchange bench against the Demons. Showed his value when going onto the ground by kicking an inspirational goal from the half-forward line.*

**20. PAUL PEOS**  
22yrs 181cms 85kgs  
Games played 34WCE, 41EP  
*Seems to have finally thrown off the injury problems that plagued his season and gave further evidence of his overall ability against the Demons.*

**24. JOHN WORSFOLD**  
22yrs 182cms 85kgs  
Games played 74WCE, 25SF  
*Stepped into WA's history books last Saturday as the first captain of an Eagles team to win an AFL final. Celebrated the occasion with a typically aggressive and disciplined display from the half-back line and also enjoyed a run on the ball.*

**8. DARREN BEWICK**  
23yrs 178cms 78kgs  
Games played 54  
*The former West Perth star forms part of the star-studded midfield running division. His pace and slick ball-handling skills will be a handful for Eagles tagger David Hart.*

**9. DEREK KICKETT**  
27yrs 183cms 88kgs  
Games played 29  
*A calf injury midway through the season slowed the brilliant midfielder down, but despite one glaring error which gave the Magpies a goal last Sunday, he showed glimpses of his most damaging football.*

**10. GARY O'DONNELL**  
25yrs 181cms 78kgs  
Games played 69  
*Is gaining the recognition he deserves as one of the toughest and most consistent defenders in the game. His negating tactics have cut out some damaging forwards and he can turn defence into attack with his polished disposal.*

**11. GREG ANDERSON**  
24yrs 188cms 89kgs  
Games played 64  
*The brilliant left-footer is one of the many Bombers who can turn a game from his own boot. Was cut out of last week's match when the Magpies manned-up on the blond bombshell.*

**25. LAURIE KEENE**  
28yrs 203cms 105kgs  
Games played 35WCE, 137Su  
*One of the best afield in the victory over Melbourne. Will be vital in the Eagles hopes of curbing the Bombers big man duo of Simon Madden and Paul Salmon.*

**26. PETER MELESSO**  
28yrs 193cms 95kgs  
Games played 7 St Kilda, 1 Sydney, 6 WCE, 56 CI, 16 EP  
*Will be in contention for the job of out-muscling big Paul Salmon. Has completed a controversial five-week suspension after trial by video in round 20.*

**27. STEVAN JACKSON**  
20yrs 193cms 91kgs  
Games played 30WCE, 20SF  
*His strength and strong marking was a feature of the Eagles' coherent forward line against Melbourne. Will find it tougher against Essendon's Kevin Walsh or Paul Van Der Haar.*

**28. CHRIS LEWIS**  
21yrs 191cms 80kgs  
Games played 68 WCE, 7CI  
*One of the most damaging footballers in the nation. His finals series and second half of 1990 have smacked of maturity and on-field leadership not normally expected in a sportsman so young.*

**31. CHRIS WATERMAN**  
22yrs 181cms 80kgs  
Games played 22WCE, 51EF  
*Played the game of his life last Saturday when he booted six goals from a half-forward-flank after a selection gamble by Malthouse.*

**33. DEAN KEMP**  
21yrs 182cms 73kgs  
Games played 22WCE 21Su  
*His pace and clever ability to get out of tight confines and then utilise his astute disposal was on full display against Melbourne last week.*

**13. TONY ANTROBUS**  
28yrs 174cms 72kgs  
Games played 22  
*Missed last week's loss to Collingwood because of an ankle injury. His pace and dogged determination at the base of the packs will be a concern if he recovers in time to return to the roving division.*

**15. ALAN EZARD**  
27yrs 172cms 70kgs  
Games played 142  
*A brilliant veteran of the halcyon days of the mid-1980s, he has lost none of the pace that made him a dangerous rover in the 1984 and '85 premiership combinations. Clever around the packs, he always looms as a danger with his sure tackling and spoiling.*

**16. PAUL HAMILTON**  
23yrs 189cms 82.5kgs  
Games played 93  
*A reliable utility player who was quiet against Collingwood. Can be used in a variety of positions, but seems to prefer a defensive role.*

**17. KIERAN SPORN**  
24yrs 186cms 81kgs  
Games played 32  
*Elusive and dangerous around the goals, or can also be used in an on-ball or midfield role. Will be considered after the failure of some of the Bombers key followers.*

**18. PAUL VAN DER HAAR**  
32yrs 192cms 92.5cms  
Games played 200  
*The 'Flying Dutchman' has recaptured some of his aerial wizardry that made him a legend in Essendon's 1984 and '85 premiership combinations. Is dangerous in the air as a key defender or as a target up forward.*

**22. BILL DUCKWORTH**  
31yrs 187cms 85kgs  
Games played 126  
*In the closing stages of his nine-year stint with the Bombers. Could be swung in to add vigour to a defence that was cut to ribbons by the Magpies last week.*

**34. DEAN IRVING**  
24yrs 200cms 95kgs  
Games played 16WCE, 38SF  
*Will be a contender for a recall against the Essendon big men, but with the success of the experienced Phil Scott against Melbourne, could again be an onlooker.*

**36. DAVID HART**  
26yrs 177cms 75kgs  
Games played 73WCE 62SF  
*Another brilliant display of roving and negating tactics to completely out-play the elusive Ricky Jackson. Is one of the many Eagles who has come of age in 1990.*

**37. PETER MATERA**  
21yrs 180cms 80kgs  
Games played 5WCE, 57SF  
*Not without a chance of making this week's trip. Played strongly in his return to South Fremantle's league team after a knee reconstruction and provides an aggressive option for the forward line.*

**39. BRETT HEADY**  
20yrs 183cms 76kgs  
Games played 19WCE, 34Su  
*Remains a constant danger to opposing defenders. Is seldom hustled out of a contest and shows a mental toughness beyond his years.*

**44. TONY BEGOVICH**  
23yrs 183cms 84kgs  
Games played 8WCE, 77CI  
*Justified Malthouse's gamble to play him in the first semi-final with a tidy performance and several blistering dashes from defence.*

**45. ANDREW LOCKYER**  
24yrs 190cms 95kgs  
Games played 55WCE, 57SF  
*The biggest surprise in the selection shake-up prior to last week's first semi-final. He gave a polished, hard-working performance in keeping his dangerous former East Fremantle teammate Darren Bennett to just two goals.*

**23. PETER CRANSBERG**  
23yrs 190cms 77kgs  
Games played 23  
*A surprise packet after graduating from East Perth. The gifted left-footer is sure overhead and can play in defence or attack.*

**24. MICHAEL WERNER**  
21yrs 188cms 88kgs  
Games played 26  
*A classy forward who can kick goals from a long way out. Missed last week's game, but is a chance to return.*

**26. MARK THOMPSON**  
27yrs 175cms 73kgs  
Games played 117  
*One of the few good performers last week. Had 20 possessions from his half-back-flank and repeatedly drove the Bombers forward.*

**27. SIMON MADDEN**  
33yrs 198cms 98kgs  
Games played 347  
*The best ruckman in the business; his astute ruck work and finals experience will be difficult to counter.*

**29. DAVID GRENVOLD**  
24yrs 183cms 87kgs  
Games played 33  
*A tough, tagging defender, he has been able to curb some top forwards.*

**30. KEVIN WALSH**  
28yrs 193cms 82kgs  
Games played 161  
*An under-rated defender with the ability to ignore personal statistics in his disciplined endeavours to curb an opposing forward.*

**32. TIM WATSON**  
29yrs 185cms 88.5kgs  
Games played 263  
*An inspirational captain who plays strongly midfield and produces some amazing solo efforts.*



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## FORM GUIDE

IT WAS mud in the eye for the Melbourne bookmakers last Saturday as rank outsiders, the West Coast Eagles, stormed to a 30-point first semi-final victory over highly-fancied Melbourne.

The Eagles were 9/2 chances with the bookies at barrier rise, but they burst from the starting gates to leave the Demons well back by the half-way mark.

Not even a concerted sprint to the line in the final term could salvage anything for John Northey's side and Eagles trainer Mick Malthouse was extremely satisfied with his stable's performance.

The Eagles have now had three finals starts this season for one win, one draw and one loss.

The determined approach shown last Saturday ensures a thrilling contest in the preliminary final against Essendon this Saturday — especially as the Eagles are back on familiar territory at Waverley for the fourth week in a row.

They lifted their rating against Melbourne, literally running them off their feet with their fast-moving brand of football and that's the formula for this week.

# Eagles turn it around

## FAVOURITE NUMBERS

IF YOU are a West Coast Eagles fan or a betting person, the guernsey numbers to watch for are 3, 4, 7, 25, 27, 28 and 31.

The key to an Eagles victory is the pace and strength of their midfielders and following division — Chris Mainwaring (No. 3), Chris Lewis (No. 28), Craig Turley (No. 7) and Laurie Keene (No. 25).

Mainwaring, Keene, Turley and Lewis were the Eagles top players last start and they are in top condition for back-to-back wins.

Lewis dominated in the centre of the ground and his skills ensured the Eagles kept rebounding into attack.

When Lewis wasn't winning the ball, it was Mainwaring on his wing or the revived Turley out of the centre.

This combination showed a clean pair of heels to their opponents and supported the agile Keene at all times.

Keene showed he was back to top form by beating the high-profile Mel-

bourne ruck division of Jim Stynes and Stephen O'Dwyer almost single-handedly.

He won the battle of the centre bounceds and made his physical presence felt all over the ground. Keene marked strongly and even showed some ground-level dash as he cleared the ball out of the danger zone.

The Eagles have lifted their work-rate in the forward line through Chris Waterman (No. 31), Stevan Jackson (No. 27) and Peter Sumich (No. 4).

The presence of another tall player in Jackson took the pressure off Sumich last Saturday and Malthouse can be expected to employ that tactic again this week.

And not only will the Essendon defenders need to keep an eye open for the fast leading Sumich and the strong Jackson, but Waterman will need close attention after kicking six goals with some elusive half-forward play last Saturday.

## THE TRACK

DRY weather must prevail if the West Coasters are to continue their finals ride.

They have proved they can win on the wide expanses of AFL Park, but they need firm going under-foot and fine Melbourne weather, which has been a bonus in recent weeks.

Minor premiers Essendon will be no pushover; they are a fast-running team who also enjoy wide open spaces and the Eagles will need to cover a lot of territory to win.

## THE ODDS

PUNTERS who have followed the long odds of the Eagles in this finals series are well in front and will be re-investing this Saturday.

After all, the draw paid half the odds of 4/1 offered and last week's 4/1 was snapped up by the astute punters.

This week the odds are less generous, with 2/1 or 9/4 being quoted. And you've missed the market for the grand final. The Eagles were 33/1 officially for the flag before last week's game...and now they are 7/1 chances.

# Bombers to rebound

## FORM BOOK

ESSENDON coach Kevin Sheedy claims that the Eagles should start favourites for Saturday's preliminary final — but they won't.

The under-done Bombers needed a hard hit-out to be a serious threat for the flag and while their losing scoreline hardly flattered them on Sunday, the side will improve dramatically on preliminary final day.

The extra week's break because of the drawn qualifying final went against the Bombers.

Last Sunday, Derek Kickett was playing his first match for 50 days; Paul Van Der Haar and skipper Tim Watson their first matches in 42 days; Alan Ezard and Andrew Manning's first in 32 days and Paul Salmon and Mark Harvey's first in 29 days.

While outplayed for most of the day, the Bombers did have willing contributors in Mark Thompson, Darren Bewick and Ezard, while Salmon looked good before cramping late in the game.

Essendon's tackling and ferocity, which was challenged on Sunday, is likely to be at a season-high come preliminary final day.

The Eagles may have the momentum, but this topsy-turvy finals series could see the Bombers re-group and earn a place in the premiership play-off against Collingwood.

## FAVOURITE NUMBERS

THE Essendon danger-players are many and varied and the team's favourite numbers are 1, 3, 4, 10, 26, 27 and 32.

Mark Harvey (No. 1) is a polished and courageous half-forward who kicked only one goal last Sunday, but could have posted four. He is almost impossible to contain for a whole game.

The giant wearing guernsey No. 3 is Paul Salmon, the awesome follower or forward took a dozen big marks to be close to his team's best player in a beaten side on Sunday. He has often proved to be the Eagles bogey man, with his height something difficult to counter.

Michael Long (4) didn't play to his usual high standard last weekend, but he is certain to be a key player this time around. His speed and unselfish sharing of the ball helps to break up opposing defences.

The No. 10 worn by Gary O'Donnell will be seen in close proximity to Eagles danger-man Chris Lewis at centre bounces and across half-forward. He restricted the great Peter Daicos to three goals on Sunday and will adopt those negating tactics against the brilliant Lewis.

Mark Thompson (26) was a marvelous player, especially early against Collingwood and he revels in the big-time atmosphere of finals football.

The experienced frame of Simon Madden (27) poses a formidable threat to the Eagles. The game's best ruckman

with heaps of experience will rise to the occasion.

Bombers captain Tim Watson has worn No. 32 for many seasons and he is a dynamic contributor, keen to atone after a downer last Sunday. The wide-open expanses of Waverley will suit his explosive running style.

## THE TRACK

THE playing surface at AFL Park Waverley is certain to again be in excellent condition.

Essendon didn't look at home on the MCG last week and they will relish the wider expanses of Waverley; they have a team built on explosive runners.

The Bombers were certainly under-prepared after their long break and they could be found suspect if the Eagles run them ragged.

## THE ODDS

THE Melbourne official football bookmakers aren't taking any risks with Essendon, despite their poor form last Sunday.

The Bombers are quoted at 2/5 and they are tipped to shorten even more as the week progresses.

Essendon are big losers for the bookies if they win the flag, as they have been heavily supported all year.

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The Eagles prepare to run through their first semi-final banner at AFL Park

## Waverley becomes familiar territory

THIS Saturday's AFL preliminary final at Waverley will be the sixth match there this season for the West Coast Eagles — and it's an interesting break up.

The first two appearances were under lights in the pre-season Foster's Cup contest, with narrow losses to Essendon and North Melbourne.

Then the Eagles went through the entire 22 home-and-away games without playing at Waverley — but now the team lines up there for their fourth consecutive week.

The Eagles finals efforts this year have resulted in a thrilling draw, a disappointing beating from Collingwood in the replay and then last Saturday's enthralling victory over Melbourne.

When you add in the Eagles two-point elimination final loss to Melbourne in 1988, then Waverley is becoming a home-away-from-home, holding no great fears for the players.

# That third term sealed

## the flag

FOOTBALL traditionalists often claim that the third quarter is the championship term — and how applicable that was in relation to Sunday's State League grand final.

Swan Districts set up their great premiership victory with a seven-goal second quarter — but it was a crunching third term that sealed the issue.

The Swans kept favourites Claremont to just 1.1, kicking with the wind advantage.

For Swans coach John Todd, victory would be very sweet and his game plan was perfectly executed by a disciplined team.

Swans aggression to the ball, their fierce desire to chase and tackle and their ability to completely shut down the Tigers midfield runners — with the exception of captain Mark Hann, who was terrific.

Swans had all the stars and players like Paul Gow, Phil Narkle, Shane Stempel, David Ogg, Greg Walker, Danny Penny and Don Langford led the way.

Swans certainly proved to be the bogey team for the Tigers this season, making it four wins from five encounters.

The Boys from Bassendean are worthy champions for 1990.

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Former player, coach, commentator and now West Coast Eagles selector

## The airborne Eagles

FLYING is obviously a major part of the football life of the West Coast Eagles — with half of their season devoted to air travel.

The players have adapted to this difficulty extremely well, but often you don't realise just how much time is spent flying...not forgetting the boring waiting time before the flights.

It was interesting looking at some statistics in a Melbourne newspaper at the weekend, which showed that the Eagles had travelled 31,265km in the past five weeks, from round 21 when the team went to Brisbane, then Geelong and the last three weeks of finals.

When you consider that the round trip from Perth to Melbourne is 5444km, the players still have 10,888kms to fly before the season is over.

## Attitude plays a major role

IT was very satisfying to be involved in the club's first finals win last week; a just reward for the players who have worked extremely hard this year.

Finals football gets down to attitudes; mental and physical toughness and the desire to win determines just who is the best on that given day.

Last Saturday was tremendous; this week it's a completely new ball game...and a whole new match plan.

Essendon are on the rebound in a preliminary final that they must win in order to secure a much-cherished grand final appearance; something they feel they deserve after being league leaders for most of the season.

### AGE BRACKET

It's interesting to note the ages of the players in the respective sides.

Last week's Melbourne team had every player in the 20 aged under 26 years — and they were playing their 10th finals game in four years.

The Eagles had 12 players under the age of 23 years; the oldest being 28 and most of them having only tasted AFL finals fever this season.

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## Big day for Radio 6NR

WESTSIDE Football and Radio 6NR combined forces last Saturday morning to present Westside's Buccaneer-of-the-Year award to dual winners, Claremont's Mark Hann and East Fremantle's Gary Smallridge.

The pair, who tied for the award with 135 points each, visited the 6NR studios at Curtin University to receive their Ray Montgomery sculpture — and share the \$500 prizemoney presented by Buccaneer Pools (and Swan Districts fan) Peter Borrello.

ABOVE LEFT: Mark Hann (left) and 6NR commentator John Hayes. ABOVE: Peter Borrello (centre) congratulates Gary Smallridge (left) and Mark Hann. LEFT: (left to right) Phil Lamb, Kim Hagdorn, John Hayes and Ron Alexander host 6NR's grand final football breakfast at the Quality Langley Plaza Hotel on Sunday.



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The Buccaneer-of-the-Year honour has been shared by two players — East Fremantle's Gary Smallridge and Claremont skipper Mark Hann.

The two centreliners tied on 135 points each — a remarkable rating of 6.4 for each of their 21 games; which is confirmation of their great consistency.

Another Shark in Sandover Medal favourite Clinton Browning was third, one point away, with Swan Districts defender Mick Grasso fourth on 133 points.

The two winners will share the \$500 Buccaneer Pools cheque and will each receive a Ray Montgomery sculptured trophy.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

# 1991 COACHING POSITIONS

### W.A.C.A.E. AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

REQUIRES COACHES & PLAYERS

For the 1991 season  
For the following grades

- C GRADE ● COLTS ● K GRADE

NOTE: UNIVERSITY STATUS IN 1991

Applications to be addressed to

**THE SECRETARY**

12 Oronsay Rd, Greenwood 6024

Enquiries: M. Farrell PH 446 4667

### WYALKATCHEM FOOTBALL CLUB (Inc)

(Affiliated with Mortlock Football League)

Invites applications for:

- A GRADE PLAYING COACH
- PLAYERS for 1991

Applications are to state experience and remuneration and be forwarded to,

**The Secretary**  
Wyalkatchem Football Club  
PO Box 89  
Wyalkatchem 6485



### SOUTH PERTH FOOTBALL CLUB

(Affiliated with the Sunday Football League)

Invites applications for

the position of **COACHES**, as follows:

- LEAGUE ● RESERVES ● COLTS

Applications stating experience and remuneration should be forwarded to the Director Administration, PO Box 94, Como 6152 by no later than 12th October 1990.

For initial enquiries please contact the President Gary Thomas, A/Hrs on 361 4916.



### CARLISLE AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

Invite applications for the following coaching positions:

C, H, K, C colts, & Ladies grades.

APPLICATIONS TO THE SECRETARY,  
C.F.C., 4 1st AVE., KENSINGTON 6151.

Please state experience and relevant details.

Applications close 19 October 1990

### WILLETTON FOOTBALL CLUB

(affiliated with the Sunday Football League)

**REQUIRES COACHES**

- LEAGUE ● RESERVES ● COLTS

Written applications quoting previous experience and remuneration expectations to:

**THE SECRETARY**  
WILLETTON FOOTBALL CLUB  
PO BOX 111, WILLETTON 6155  
Applications close November 1st, 1990

### Wanneroo Football & Sporting Club (Inc)

Affiliated with

SUNDAY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**COACHES REQUIRED**

Playing of non-playing for 1991.

For League, Reserves, Colts teams.

Applications should be in writing stating past experience and remuneration required.

Applications close September 30, 1990.

APPLY TO:

**Wanneroo Football & Sporting Club (Inc)**  
1/33 Buckingham Drive, Wangara 6065

### CORRIGIN FOOTBALL CLUB (Inc.)

(Affiliated with the Eastern Districts Football League)

Invites applications for the position of LEAGUE COACH for 1991.

Forward applications stating experience and remuneration required to:

**The Secretary**  
P.O. Box 190, Corrigin 6375  
Applications close October 15, 1990.

### SCARBOROUGH AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

**COACHES REQUIRED**

For the 1991 season

Scarborough Football Club, an established A Grade Club in the WA Amateur Football League, invites coaching applications for the 1991 season for its following teams:

**A GRADE, A COLTS, D GRADE, H GRADE**

Applications in writing to be forwarded to The President, PO Box 8, Scarborough, WA, 6019, by Monday, October 8, 1990.

### NAREMBEEN FOOTBALL CLUB

(Affiliated with the EDFL)

**Requires a League Coach for the 1991 Season**

Work is available in Narembeen for electrician, refrigeration mechanic and farm work.

Written applications stating experience and remuneration required to

**The Secretary**  
PO Box 47 Narembeen 6369  
Closing 2nd November, 1990

### YORK FOOTBALL CLUB (Inc)

Require nominations for COACHES

- LEAGUE ● RESERVES

for the 1991 Season

Applications in writing, stating remuneration requirements and experience to:

**THE SECRETARY**  
PO BOX 199, YORK 6302  
Applications close Monday, Oct. 15th, 1990

### MINES ROVERS FOOTBALL & SPORTING CLUB — Collie

(Affiliated with SWNFL)

Requires applications for coaches in the following grades:

- LEAGUE — (playing coach preferred)
- RESERVES ● COLTS

Remuneration requirements and experience to be in writing to

**THE SECRETARY**  
PO BOX 23, COLLIE 6225  
Applications close Oct 22, '90



### TIGERS FOOTBALL & SPORTING CLUB (Inc)

Manjimup (Affiliated with LSWFL)

Invites applications for the following coaching positions for the 1991 season:—

- LEAGUE, RESERVES, COLTS

TIGER teams are loaded with potential and short term success is possible for the right coaches. We are a very progressive Club with a first class oval and outstanding fully licensed Club facilities. Coaching applications, stating experience and remuneration required, to:—

**The Secretary, PO Box 215, Manjimup WA 6258**

### SOUTH HEDLAND FOOTBALL CLUB

(affiliated with NPFL)

Invite applications for **LEAGUE & RESERVES COACHES**

For the 1991 season

Forward applications to

**THE SECRETARY**  
PO BOX 2075, SOUTH HEDLAND 6722  
or Telephone (091) 723 106 a/hrs  
Applications close November 30th, 1990

## Shine played a skipper's role

**TOUGH** Swan Districts captain Brad Shine didn't get a kick in Sunday's grand final victory — but he played a significant role in his team's success.

The battle-weary Shine has only managed three senior games this year, with his troublesome knee injury keeping him out of league action.

But the Swans players had their skipper high in their attitude going into the game and they were determined to win for him.

Shine ran onto the ground with the team, tossed the coin (calling incorrectly) and then handed his beloved No. 2 guernsey to late inclusion Brent Hutton, who wore it with pride in the match in honour of his captain.

And after the game, an elated Swans coach John Todd paid tribute to the courageous Shine by handing him his premiership medallion.

"I was deeply honoured that Hunky (Hutton) wore my guernsey and that Toddy should give me his medal," Shine said as he enjoyed the victory celebrations.

"Though I didn't play, I felt I was still a part of things today and it's this sort of team spirit that has made the club what it is — premiers.

"I would also like to thank Peter Hodyl, my vice-captain, who has shouldered the burden of leading the team in my absence this year.

"Peter led from the front and did a magnificent job."

## Relegation system would work

THE likelihood of a South Australian team in the AFL next year has resulted in the predictable questions about a present team disbanding or amalgamating to make way for the Croweaters entry or whether there will be 15 teams and a bye.

There are often suggestions that it's essential for Australian Football's future that "struggling" clubs should be forced out of existence.

Such a decree sits easily with the new breed of entrepreneurial types whose judgement is based on dollar earnings and the necessity to win matches.

Unfortunately, that word "tradition" means nothing to them. The hopes, dreams and marvellous memories of legions of club supporters is of no importance.

The facts are that some club has to finish last, another second last and so on up the AFL ladder. It should never be forgotten that these lowly-placed clubs are just as important as those enjoying success.

What our game eventually needs — after suitable restructuring — is a promotion and relegation system.

### PLAYER ACCESS

For such a divisional system to work, the promoted club would need access to quality players from the club being relegated. This would be difficult to arrange, but not impossible.

The concept of a promotion and relegation system is born from the opinion that some cities will need more than their present one team at elite level. There are other large population centres who should be able to take part in the National League.

Despite claims that promotion and relegation will never work in Australian Football, there are numerous examples of such a system surviving in soccer. It also works excellently in the VFA in Melbourne.

Such a relegation system would enable struggling clubs the chance to rehabilitate in less-demanding surroundings, with the eventual possibility of promotion through performance.

The following scenario would see a two-division system in operation by the turn of the century — without any of the present AFL clubs being forced out of existence.

**DIVISION ONE** — Essendon, Hawthorn, Melbourne, Perth, North Melbourne, Geelong, Footscray, Carlton, Sydney, Brisbane, St Kilda, Collingwood and Adelaide.

**DIVISION TWO** — Fitzroy, Richmond, Hobart, Launceston, South Adelaide, North Perth, West Sydney, Gold Coast/South Brisbane, Canberra, Albury/Wodonga, Darwin, Ballarat.

Further possibilities for inclusion in Division Two could be Shepparton, Sale, Cairns, Mt Gambier and even additional clubs from Adelaide and Perth.

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**view**



by **JOHN WARREN**

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## PLAY OF THE DAY



SWAN Districts defender Stephen Eaton was one of many stars in defence as the black and whites marched to an emphatic premiership win over Claremont.

In addition to the spoils of victory, he collected the 6NR Coachman Restaurant award for the play-of-the-day.

Playing in the last line of defence, Eaton was under enormous pressure as three Claremont players stormed towards goal. As the football headed towards the big opening, Eaton threw himself in front of the trio, forcing the ball through for a point and saving a certain goal.

Eaton's desperation wins him a dinner for two at the Coachman Restaurant, in Rivervale.

After the big game, why not celebrate?

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**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7th**  
at 1.00pm

All League players will be in attendance

\*\*\*\*\*  
**100 CLUB MELBOURNE CUP DAY**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th**  
from 10.00am.

Loads of fun and door prizes

\*\*\*\*\*  
Friday Night Jackpot could reach \$1000 this week. Draw takes place at 6.30pm in SPORTSMAN'S BAR — don't miss it!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Female invasion

THERE'S no sign of sexual discrimination at Perth's Channel 10 — they will prove that this weekend when they send a three-woman crew to Melbourne to cover Saturday's preliminary final between Essendon and the West Coast Eagles. Lisa Dalton, camerawoman Gayle Adams and editor Debra Darby will make the trip, following on from recent treks by sports editor Ian Brayshaw and reporters Tim Gossage and Peter Ensell. Just as well Collingwood aren't playing — Magpies coach Leigh Matthews resents females in clubrooms and he evicted well-known football writer Caroline Wilson, of *The Age*, from their rooms, saying "it's no place for a woman".

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## PERTH FOOTBALL CLUB (INC.) APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANT LEAGUE COACH

Duties include:

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- Responsible for coaching of Reserves team on match day
- Assist in the selection of League and Reserves team

It is envisaged that the successful applicant will have had relevant coaching or playing experience at a Senior Level.

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For details please contact **GARY ROGERS** on 362 4499.

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### SUNDAY OCTOBER 14th

Contact Cheryl on 328 7900 for sponsor sheets NOW.

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### CONGRATULATIONS

to John Todd and the players on winning the Premiership and to Greg Walker on his Simpson Medal win.

### COMING EVENTS

#### BEVERLEY CUP

Thursday October 11 — \$15 per head bus departs 10.30am. Limited numbers so book early through club.

#### MEDAL COUNT & CABARET

Friday October 19 from 7.00pm

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# Kicking football into the future



## THE HUNGRY JACK'S WHOPPER CLUB

with Guy McKenna



## Lucky HJ's winner off to Melb.

THERE are 20 youngsters in Western Australia who know what it is like to be an Eagle for a day.

They are the lucky youngsters who were winners in Channel 10's Kids Company football competition.

The segment was aimed at children aged between six and 12. Hosted by Todd Johnson, it helped juniors develop their skills technique and general football knowledge.

The Hungry Jack's Eagles competition, in conjunction with Channel 10, will send 11-year-old Grant Morisey, of Booragoon and a friend to the 1990 AFL grand final on Saturday, October 6, after winning the superdraw prize. He will fly courtesy of Ansett Airlines.

Weekly winners received tickets to the Eagles home games, an Eagles jumper and a photograph with Guy McKenna, which has been displayed in local Hungry Jack's stores.

Each runner-up received a football personally autographed by Guy McKenna, with bonus winners receiving a \$10 Hungry Jack's voucher.

Winners of the Eagle-for-a-Day competition throughout 1990 were:

Bradley Arthur, of Woodvale; Matthew Brennan, of Cloverdale; Jay Bootham, of Kingsley; Clinton Heron, of Maida Vale;

## The smile was wide!

AFTER being pipped on the post by Melbourne in the 1988 elimination final, the entire West Coast Eagles camp was keen to make amends in last Saturday's first semi-final.

And at half-time, with us eight goals in front, I was wearing a huge smile.

We all felt that all we had to do was go goal-for-goal in the last half and the match was ours. However, the last quarter saw Melbourne kick a few more goals than expected.

People watching the game back home would have started to get a bit nervous...but I think we knew we had the game won.

### FANTASTIC

The support for the side when we arrived home was fantastic...fans were literally hanging from the rafters at Perth Airport. Some players took about an hour to get out of the terminal.

This week we take on Essendon in the preliminary final — our last chance to make it through to the grand final



Carli Beange, of Wilson, is pictured with Oscar Aussie during her day as an Eagle

Nathan Williams, of Gosnells; Carli Beange, of Wilson; Scott Palumbo, of Waikiki; Peter Slater, of Bayswater; Ryan Brydon, of Waikiki; Bilyabna Pavlovic, of Morley; Paul Williams, of Duncraig; Jason Brand, of Craigie; Cameron Anderson, of Palmyra; Christopher Ntaumenopoulos, of Duncraig; Ricky Verner, of Wattleup; Scott Smith, of Padbury; Tim Cooper, of Byford; Todd Keating, of Winthrop and Joseph Pracilio, of Hamilton Hill.

and renew our friendly rivalry with Collingwood.

The Bombers will be tough this weekend.

They will come out breathing fire after their loss, just like we did after Collingwood taught us a finals lesson.

So kids, make sure you're watching (and barracking) because this week's preliminary final should be a cracker-jack match.

## Little Eagles

THERE must be some pretty proud juniors around town right now as the Eagles fly the WA flag high in the AFL.

I'm referring to those lucky players who wore the Eagles guernseys in the Hungry Jack's Little League matches at half-time in our home games.

While it was generally a toss of a coin that decided who wore our jumpers and who were the 'visitors', I'm sure that the boys who represented the Eagles did so with great pride.

I guess it's a big talking point among juniors from these clubs who were Eagles players for a night — Balga, Mandurah-Murray, Willetton, Ongerup, Avon, Noranda, High Wycombe, Kwinana, Central Great Southern, Darling Range and Northern Districts.

Maybe one day some of those players will wear the senior blue-and-gold guernseys as well.

And when the Eagles win this year's premiership, won't those youngsters have something to remember!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**JULIAN COWAN PHOTOGRAPHY**

P.O. BOX 51, DARLINGTON,  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6070

299 6904

\*\*\*\*\*

## Port sides triumph

HISTORY was created at East Fremantle Oval last Sunday when players from East Fremantle and South Fremantle Toyota Cup sides joined forces for the first time to take on a Swan Districts combined side.

Fierce rivalry between the Fremantle boys was put aside for the day, with the red and white and blue and white guernseys swapped for jumpers carrying all three colours — red, white and blue.

The Fremantle players, coached by Willetton's Michael Latina, worked well together and proved too good for Swans, winning 9.9 (63) to 7.9 (51).

Little separated the two sides during the match and Swans went into half-time carrying a two-point lead, 3.6 (24) to 3.4 (22) before Fremantle fought their way into the lead.

### BEST PLAYER

Fremantle full-forward Scott Thompson kicked three goals and received the umpires award for best player afield. Other good players for Fremantle were York and Morrellini.

Drew Cornelius collected another umpires award for being Swans best player and he was ably supported by Arvino and Scarli.

Thornlie cruised to victory in the South Suburban Toyota Cup grand final when they downed Armadale by 21 points at Maddington, 7.7 (49) to 3.10 (28).

Wingman Brett Bonetti was a driving force behind Thornlie's win, along with rover Justin Kickett, ruck-rover Steve Ferguson, full-back Grant Williams and key position player Paul Eddy.

Mighty Milo says...



### RUCKWORK SKILLS

THE art of ruckwork is not necessarily left to the big boys any more. In today's modified Aussie Footy games, everyone gets a chance to be a ruckman.

You can either punch the ball or palm it to your team-mates. Obviously, the palming is better as you can direct the ball straight to another player, whereas a punch can go anywhere.

Watch the ball as it is thrown up and leap off the ground on one foot and bring the other foot up underneath to help push you into the air. Straighten your arm right out and hold your fingers tightly together.

You can use two hands to palm the ball, especially when it is being tossed in from the boundary line (in older age groups).

If you are leaping from a standing start, jump off with both feet. If you are running in, try jumping off on one foot.

If two players claim a mark, what does the umpire do?

The ball is bounced

It's marvellous what a difference



makes



## Quairading's easy flag

QUAIRADING proved too good for Federals when they took the Avon Football Association flag at Brookton last Sunday, 18.23 (131) to 10.4 (64).

Sean Powell finished with four goals for the premiers, while former West Perth player Sean King was best-on-ground, giving Quairading match-winning drive from midfield.

Other top players for the winners were Mills and Wells, while Wayne Ryder and Hilsz tried hard for Federals.

It wasn't all bad news for Federals, who won the reserves from Quairading, 12.14 (86) to 3.11 (29).

Fred Woods kicked three goals for Federals and best for Quairading were Brown and Anderson.



Sean King...inspirational for Quairading

## Calingiri's premiership

CALINGIRI won a Mortlock Football League thriller to take the premiership by four points from Goomalling last Sunday, 8.17 (65) to 8.13 (61).

After trailing by 23 points at the last break, Calingiri produced an amazing fightback which saw them hold Goomalling scoreless while they added 3.8.

Calingiri were on fire during the finals series, winning the first semi-final, preliminary final and eventually the grand final in a great run to the flag from third place.

For the premiers Fields and Sinclair each kicked two goals and Fields was voted their best from Kelly and King. Goomalling's best were Haywood, Smith and Sewell.

Goomalling lost another thriller in the reserves when Toodyay ran out six point winners 7.12 (54) to 6.12 (48).

Best for Toodyay were Kay, Keay (two goals) and Rewell, while M. Yarran, McGill and S. Yarran battled hard for Goomalling.

Central Midlands and Mortlock played an inter-district match before the game, which was won by Central Midlands, 12.21 (93) to 5.5 (35).

For Central Midlands, Narrier kicked three goals and their best were Medlin, Henderson and Jolly. Best for Mortlock were Manuel, Simons and Gaunowald.

## Lake Grace set for big first

LAKE Grace created history when they easily beat a disappointing Williams, 16.10 (106) to 6.15 (51) in the preliminary final and moved into their first Upper Great Southern League grand final.

After starting slowly, Lake Grace slipped into top gear and with Mark Bairstow (five goals) dominating the centre, assisted by Dean Carruthers and strong defence from full-back Ray Reynolds, they established a winning lead.

Full-forward Rodney Walker kicked four goals, taking his season's tally past the century.

For Williams, Michael Kowald and rover Tony Warren were best with captain-coach Michael Kain trying valiantly in a lost cause.

Lake Grace, who have progressed to the grand final from fifth spot, now meet reigning premiers Boddington in a grand final showdown this Sunday.

The grand final will see the sheer class of Mark Bairstow, playing his last game for the club for at least two seasons after re-signing with Geelong, pitted against the experience and reliability of the Boddington combination, with most experts tipping Boddington to win consecutive flags.

In the reserves, Pingelly were too strong for Williams, winning 13.19 (97) to 6.4 (40).

# Country stab kicks

## Best could make a comeback

**BIG** forward Darren Best is poised for a return to State League football next year after a fairytale season with South West club Boyanup-Capel-Dardanup.

Best tied with Augusta-Margaret River forward — and former East Perth team-mate — Justin Cook for the Hayward Medal this year, following a mixed career with the Royals.

But with East Perth now anticipating a mass exodus of leading players through the AFL national draft, Best is high on his old club's recruiting list.

After sharing the prestigious Hayward Medal as the SWNFL best-and-fairest player, the strongly-built Best also tied for one of WA football's richest football prizes, the \$2500 Myles South West Times award.

He shared the winner's cheque with star Collie centre-half-forward Jeff Davidson, a talented brother of former Eagle and now a Brisbane Bear, Peter Davidson.

The award is voted on by leading media personalities in the league.

Davidson is also expected to take a shot at the State League next year.

His impressive 1990 season has been keenly watched by East Fremantle talent scouts — but an AFL club or two are also interested in his services.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE South West premiership celebration was something of a Lions reunited occasion.

The revamped Harvey-Brünswick-Leschenault Football Club triumphed by winning the 1990 premiership — and the South West Lions were helped by the Subiaco Lions.

Harvey's successful year was achieved with strong support from players like former WAFL Lions 1988 premiership team members Graham Jones and Glen Hutcheson, well supported by fellow Subiaco players Bernie Sloan and Graeme Garnaut.

The 1990 premiership was sweet revenge for the Lions, who just a year earlier had to cope with the disappointment of a grand final defeat at the hands of South Bunbury.



Mark Bairstow (left), a key performer for Lake Grace in the Upper Great Southern grand final this weekend, but lowering his colours to Mal Bennett (right) in the league's best-player award

ANOTHER former East Perth big man is also in an award-winning mood.

Big ruckman Mal Bennett eclipsed Lake Grace champion Mark Bairstow for the Narrogin Observer newspaper's

footballer-of-the-year award in the Upper Great Southern League.

Bennett polled 29 votes to beat Bairstow, the 1986 Sandover Medallist, with Williams player Michael Kowald third. The former Royal collected \$250.

BRILLIANT mid-fielder Shawn Colbung caught the eye of city talent scouts with his form in the Southern Districts League's finals series.

Colbung capped a memorable year when he won the Hamilton Medal as best-afield in the grand final, helping Royals to victory over Railways.

Colbung turned in a stunning premiership performance after winning the Kleeman Medal as the league's best-and-fairest player.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE Great Northern Football League has raised the possibility of entering a combined side in a pre-season competition as part of next year's State League build-up.

The WA Football Commission's Director of Football, Grant Dorrington, recently discussed the idea — along with other football matters — at a special meeting with GNFL representatives in Geraldton.

Dorrington was told that it would cost around \$1 million a season to enter a Great Northern side in the State League and any such move could be hampered by the cost.

But the League would be keen about playing in any pre-season competition.

\*\*\*\*\*

NORTH Albany coach Peter Western has retired — with some hard-hitting farewell thoughts on umpires.

After seven years coaching either league or reserves with Norths in the Southern Districts Football League, he bowed out in the preliminary final, suggesting that the game was being ruined by "whistle-crazy umpires."

Paying tribute to victors Railways, who showed the greater desire, he said that his team could not get their running game working.

\*\*\*\*\*

TAMBELLUP wingman Foster Farmer has won the 1990 Charlie Punch South Fremantle Medal for the fairest and best player in the Central Great Southern Football League.

Farmer polled 14 votes to win comfortably from last year's winner Mick Quartermaine (Wanderers), with eight votes, on a countback from rising young star Russell Williams (Wanderers) and former Claremont player Tom Pearce (Kukerin).

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# Kicking football into the future



Premiership celebrations were the order of the day for Swan Districts last Sunday with their victory over titleholders Claremont in the 1990 State League grand final. ABOVE: Swans president Bill Walker with his son Greg, who won the Simpson Medal for best-on-ground. RIGHT: The victorious Swans team. BELOW: Coach John Todd with the new-look Pepsi premiership trophy



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