

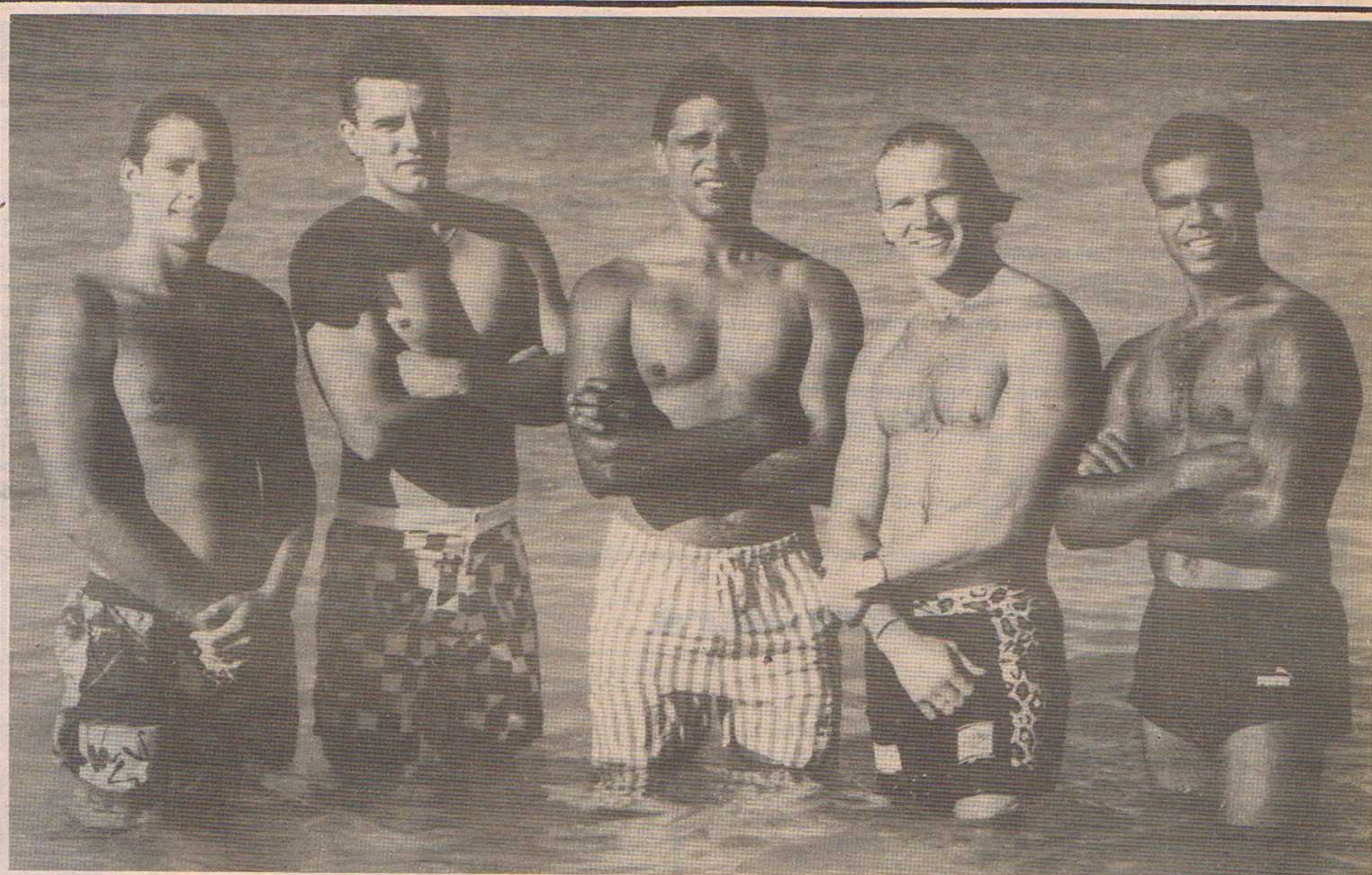


WESTSIDE Football

TELEPHONE 227 6722

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION

FAX 227 9487



COOL DUDES

THE West Coast Eagles plan to run hot this winter ... but over summer they really kept their cool.

Pictured having a break from the gruelling training sessions are some manly gentlemen who are better-recognised in blue-and-gold guernseys.

From left, the bronzed beach Aussies are Adrian Barich, Peter Sumich, Chris Lewis, Chris Mainwaring and Troy Ugle.

LET'S KICK OFF IN STYLE

THE 1991 football season is about to kick off — and Westside Football will be right there at the bouncedown.

The State's only weekly football newspaper enters its 13th season and with 319 editions behind us, we think we know what we're talking about.

Welcome to our first edition for the season; a smaller version than our normal weekly 28-page publication which will be in your newsagency next week.

Football is still Australia's greatest winter-time sporting activity. Despite the knockers; the challenges for the throne; the financial crisis moments and the attempts to muzzle the game's physical attributes, footy is still king.

This year Westside Football will cover more than 1500 football matches, ranging from the elite national AFL competition, the WAFL and SANFL, to the amateurs, Sunday League and the numerous country associations right across the State.

And that doesn't include the hundreds of junior matches; with thousands of young players enjoying learning the art of Australia's great game.

Westside Football's boast is that if the result isn't in our weekly paper, then it hasn't happened!

As a paper of record, Westside will attempt to keep all readers up to date with events at home and on the eastern seaboard.

Our WA writers will cover the activities of the West Coast Eagles and

the eight WAFL clubs; we will seek to provide a fair balance of coverage between the two levels of football that still split the loyalties of many West Australians.

Our photographers will bring pictures from the big games and our behind-the-scenes people will have the facts and figures associated with all the big names and the successful teams.

Westside Football is a paper for the people; you, the readers. If you want something special added to our columns, then give us a call on 227 6722, send us a fax on 227 9487 or drop us a line to PO Box 119, Northbridge 6895 and tell us what you want to read.

Let's get on with the game ...

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Success makes it tougher

WHO would want to be in Mick Malthouse's shoes? Plenty, of football people, you may well say.

Well, here's one critic who wouldn't be in any hurry to take on his job.

On paper and performances so far this season, it would appear that Malthouse has the best coaching job in the AFL.

But it is that fact in itself that seems certain to provide him with a difficult season.

Having demolished three AFL opponents in recent practice matches -- Adelaide, Essendon and Geelong -- after the way they performed last year and given the talent at their disposal, through some good and lucky recruiting, the West Coast Eagles are expected to be the hot shots of 1991.

EXPECTATIONS

There's nothing wrong with that. But fortunately it can, and looks like providing an unrealistic expectation of how they will perform this season.

I've heard normally sober judges predicting the Eagles will win the premiership.

It's that kind of intoxication with the side that will create a situation that anything less than a title will be a disappointing year.

While the Eagles are running hot at the moment, the finals are a long way away.

Certainly they should have a good season. For a start, they have had the benefit of Malthouse

for a season. He came in cold last year and it took him most of the season to forge the Eagles into a tough, competitive combination able to match it with Victoria-based teams on their home soil.

Secondly the task of beating the Eagles in Perth will be just as daunting as it was last season when they lost only one game at home.

And thirdly, they have a reservoir of talented reserves which will put pressure on players for a place in the team; something that has been lacking in previous seasons.

In the past, the lack of back-up numbers and quality of some of those making up the Eagles squad forced the club to often gamble with the fitness of some players and rely on others who weren't performing up to scratch.

So really there's no reason to believe the Eagles won't have another good season this year.

IMPATIENCE

But in the past there has been impatience at an administration level for success. Evidence of that can be found in the fact that the Eagles had three coaches in four years.

Malthouse did a great job to get the Eagles into third spot last season after an abortive year in 1989.

But too much should not be expected of him and the Eagles this year.

In fact, the club and supporters should be happy if they just make the finals.

by
**Robert
Bennett**
of the Sunday Times



Anything beyond that should be viewed as a bonus. The better Melbourne-based teams are still going to be difficult to beat in Victoria. It's to be remembered that the Eagles had a lucky run in Melbourne last year in terms of weather.

So there are still challenges there. Though it was a good first-up effort by Malthouse, it also needs to be remembered that they were bundled out of the Foster's Cup early.

COLLINGWOOD

An insight on how far the Eagles have advanced, if at all, this season will be provided in their second-round clash with Collingwood at Waverley.

Though they have been very mediocre in pre-season games, Collingwood are a hard and tough opponent and will have a point to prove this year...that last season's elimination final and subsequent premiership win was not a jag.

So the Eagles can expect a tough match. But back to Malthouse. He faces a tough season in terms of expectation. So he will have a lot more pressure on him this season than last year.

But if I have to fill some-one's shoes, I'd rather be in Malthouse's position than that of new Wildcats basketball coach Murray Arnold.

GOSSIP FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

CLUB



presents . . .

Footy Rumours

Tribunal retains same chairman

THE senior tribunal for the AFL will again be chaired by Neil Busse, while the AFL has also retained Max Croxford as its special investigations officer.

Mr Busse is supported on the tribunal by Frank Goode, Brian Le Brocq, Norm Price, Ian Ridley, John Schultz and Graham Sherry.

Former West Australian Dr Tony Capes is the AFL's medical commissioner.

Demons unite

A NUMBER of former prominent Perth players have got together to help the football revival at Lathlain Park. A special Football Affairs Committee sees one-time stars such as Greg Brehaut, Pat Astone, Gary Gibellini, Noel Wilson, Wim Rosbender and Steve Turner joined by recently-retired vice-president Michael Redenbach, league coach Ken Armstrong and his assistant Ken Hunter, director Peter Pope and football manager Gary Rogers.

Lions enter their den

SUBIACO have introduced some innovative ideas to promote their club even better in their metropolitan zone.

This Saturday the Lions will stage their practice match schedule at Millington Reserve, in Karrinyup, home of the local junior football club.

The Lions league, reserves and

under-19s players will take part in a special metro v country practice match.

On Tuesday, March 26, Subiaco will be training at McDonald Road, in Whitfords, where the local junior club will also be involved in a session with up to 60 senior players.

Eagles to remain

THE West Coast Eagles will retain that name despite suggestions to adopt the Perth Eagles as an alternative. A number of public surveys conducted by the club and in various media outlets indicated overwhelmingly that the public preferred the West Coast Eagles name.

The major reasons given was that the current name promoted the whole west coast of the State and not just Perth. The various polls returned an 81percent vote in favour of the name.

Tigers in need

CLAREMONT have sent out an SOS call to their loyal fans to help bolster their ranks of volunteers.

Head property man Jack Watkins needs some able-bodied assistants and the Tigers are also in need of trainers to support head trainer Ron Chapman.

The Tigers will travel to Bunbury this weekend for a Sunday practice match clash with Swan Districts at Hands Oval.

Umpire hopes

WEST Australians could have five local representatives on the AFL field umpiring panel this season. Senior umpire Mike Ball was joined late last year by Greg Scroop, with Grant Vernon

Brotherly love is in full force at Lathlain Park, where talented Aboriginal Merv Kelly (right) has been joined by younger brother Austin, from Bunbury. The duo have looked in sparkling pre-season form and could share on-ball duties this season.



and Trevor Garrett also getting a taste. If David Johnson, the State's first national-league umpire, can regain fitness he should be able to reclaim a spot on the panel as well. ...

... and vacancies

THERE are plenty of vacancies in the local squad of umpires preparing for the coming WAFL season. Umpires coach Ron Buckey says that openings are there for boundary and goal umpires in the lower grades and the success of WA men-in-white graduating to the national arena should be the incentive to take up the whistle. The umpires train at Harold Rossiter Reserve, in Victoria Park, under the supervision of physical fitness instructor and former Perth player, Clinton Roberts.

DOUBLE TAKE

THE name Steve Martin will be in action in two different football spheres this season.

Last year the Sunday Times introduced football writer Steve Martin to their readers -- and now South Fremantle have appointed Steve Martin as their football manager.

The two are not related -- but there is a Bulldog's connection as the Sunday Times man is a brother of South Fremantle's Ken Martin.

Martin the football manager is a 28-year-old with a degree in recreation studies and a former player at Denmark in the Lower Great Southern and with the West Coast amateurs side.

His role at Fremantle Oval covers everything from juniors to seniors, with a big emphasis on coaching clinics and development in the Bulldogs zones.

CLUB



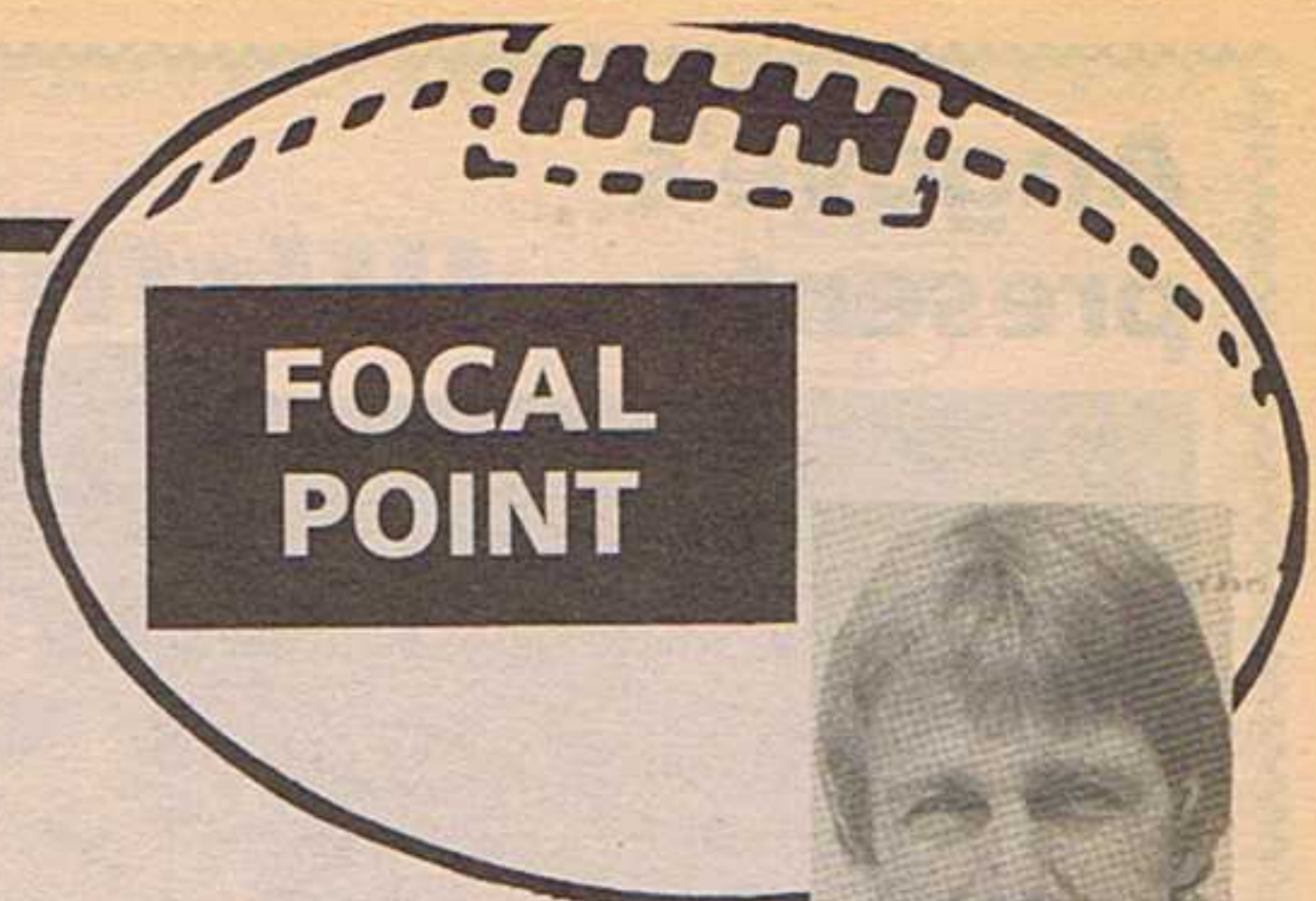
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CLUB



Worsfold sees a big problem



KIM HAGDORN looks at the West Coast Eagles' biggest problem... how to fit all the players in.

JOHN WORSFOLD, one of the game's toughest and meanest defenders, has found an issue he would rather shirk than meet head-on.

The new Eagles captain balks at the prospect of having to name a team for the West Coast's AFL season-opener against Melbourne, at Subiaco Oval, on Sunday week.

Regarded Australia-wide as one of the toughest customers in the AFL, Worsfold wouldn't trade places for anything with the Eagles selectors over the next fortnight.

Some of WA football's biggest modern-day names will be missing when the curtain goes up for the Eagles 1991 premiership campaign to begin.

Stars of the 1980s -- and pioneers of WA's courageous venture into national football four years ago -- such as former captains Steve Malaxos and Murray Rance; work-horse ruckman Phil Scott and the mercurial Phil Narkle could all be forced to mark time in the WAFL before recalls to the big league.

EXPERIENCE

Worsfold points bluntly to the enormous depth of talent and experience in the Eagles 52-man squad as the basis for the selection jigsaw confronting coach Mick Malthouse and selectors Trevor Sprigg, Ian Miller and Tim Gepp.

"I'm sure glad I'm not a selector," Worsfold said after the Eagles had trounced Geelong by 74 points at Subiaco Oval last Sunday.

"In previous years we've had probably 30 to 32 players with legitimate claims to a game each week.

"This year will be a lot different. There is up to 45 blokes at the moment with real claims to a place in the side for the opening game.

"In other years players have been able to use niggling injuries as excuses to rest or slacken off at training. But there'll be none of that this year.

"The experience we've gained through playing in the finals last year and with

many of us now having three or four years of AFL footy under our belt, it will strengthen the club. Our added depth of good players will be a real bonus.

"Our off-season recruitment has added to that strength with many of the new players already experienced in big-time football."

DIPLOMACY

Worsfold, who could win as many Oscars for diplomacy as he could for courage and sheer football skill, would not speculate on a prospective structure of the side to meet Melbourne.

But the first-year skipper did have a message for his teammates in 1991.

"The fate of every player this year is in his own hands," he said.

"Some pretty tough selection decisions have to be made. We know that.

"But anyone who misses out will know it's not through poor form, but that whoever gets the nod is in even better form.

"That's good for the team and the club.

"It's probably a bit like Hawthorn were for so many years during the 1980s.

"The Hawks so often had big names in their reserves, all pushing for a game in the seniors.

"We have the capacity this year to have a similar strength and depth in players."

Fancy a little bet?

WITH football betting now well and truly legalised with outlets in Melbourne and Darwin, the way is open for punters to cash in on their favourite teams.

The current markets being framed offer footy fans the chance to virtually bet on any aspect of the season.

The current market has Hawthorn as premiership favourites at 11/4 after some heavy support from the legion of big-betting Glenferrie Road backers.

Reigning premiers Collingwood are

next in line at 7/2, while the Eagles are fifth-fancied at 9/1. But the West Coasters are odds-on to make the finals -- 7/2 on to finish in the five and 3/1 on to make the six.

If you fancy a wager on any of those teams, then Melbourne registered football bookmaker Peter Schroeder will accommodate you. He's available on (03) 434 1369 or PO Box 832 Eltham, Victoria, 3095.

Here's the latest market on the AFL teams:

Club	Premiership	Final Five	Final Six
Hawthorn	11/4	1/8	1/11
Collingwood	7/2	1/6	1/8
Essendon	6/1	2/7	1/4
Melbourne	8/1	4/9	1/5
Eagles	9/1	2/7	1/3
North Melb.	12/1	7/4	evens
Carlton	15/1	2/1	5/4
Geelong	20/1	2/1	5/4
St Kilda	25/1	11/4	7/4
Adelaide Crows	66/1	6/1	3/1
Footscray	100/1	10/1	6/1
Sydney Swans	200/1	20/1	12/1
Brisbane Bears	250/1	25/1	14/1
Richmond	330/1	33/1	20/1
Fitzroy	330/1	33/1	20/1

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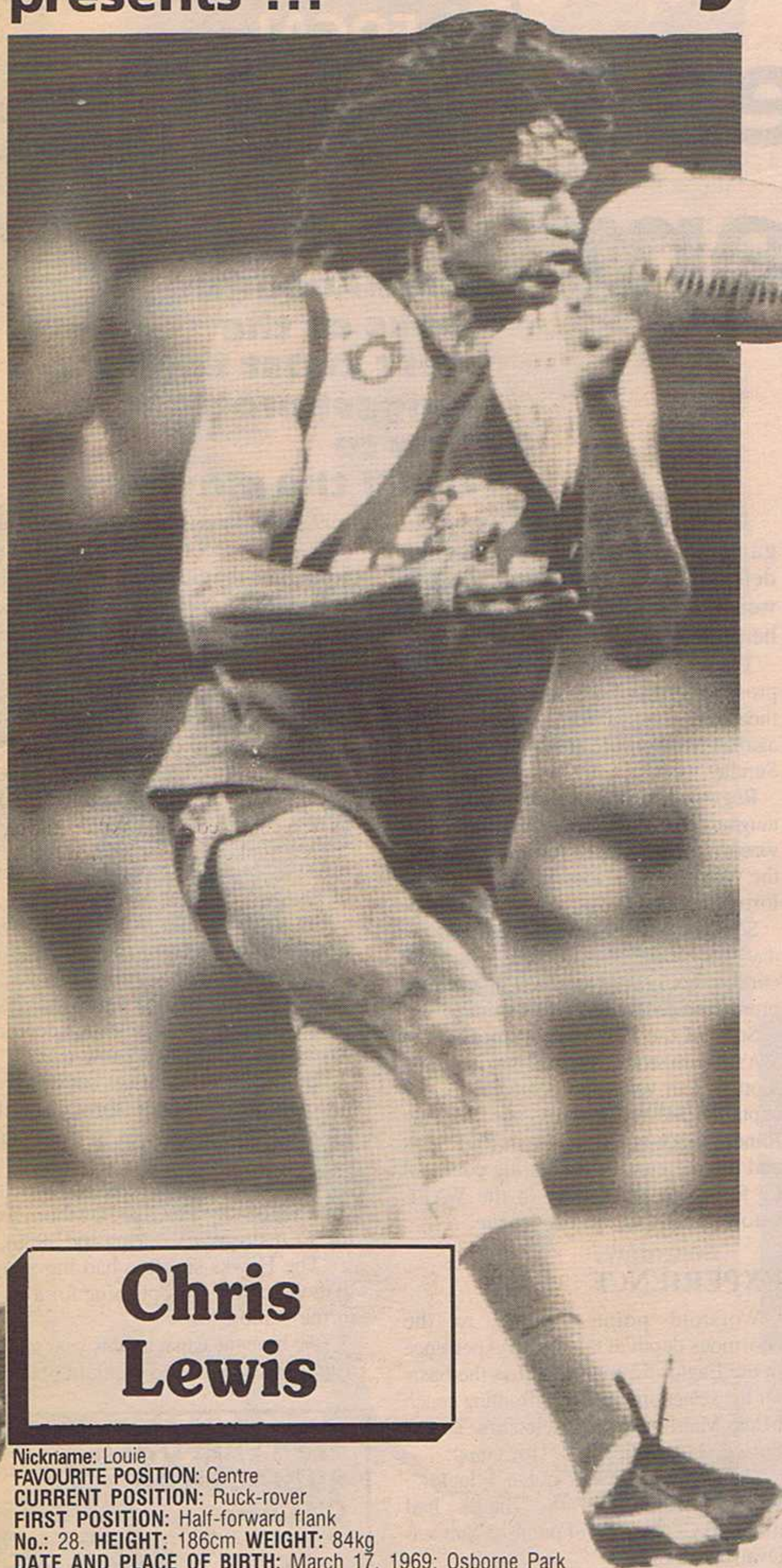
Player Profiles

Andrew Lockyer



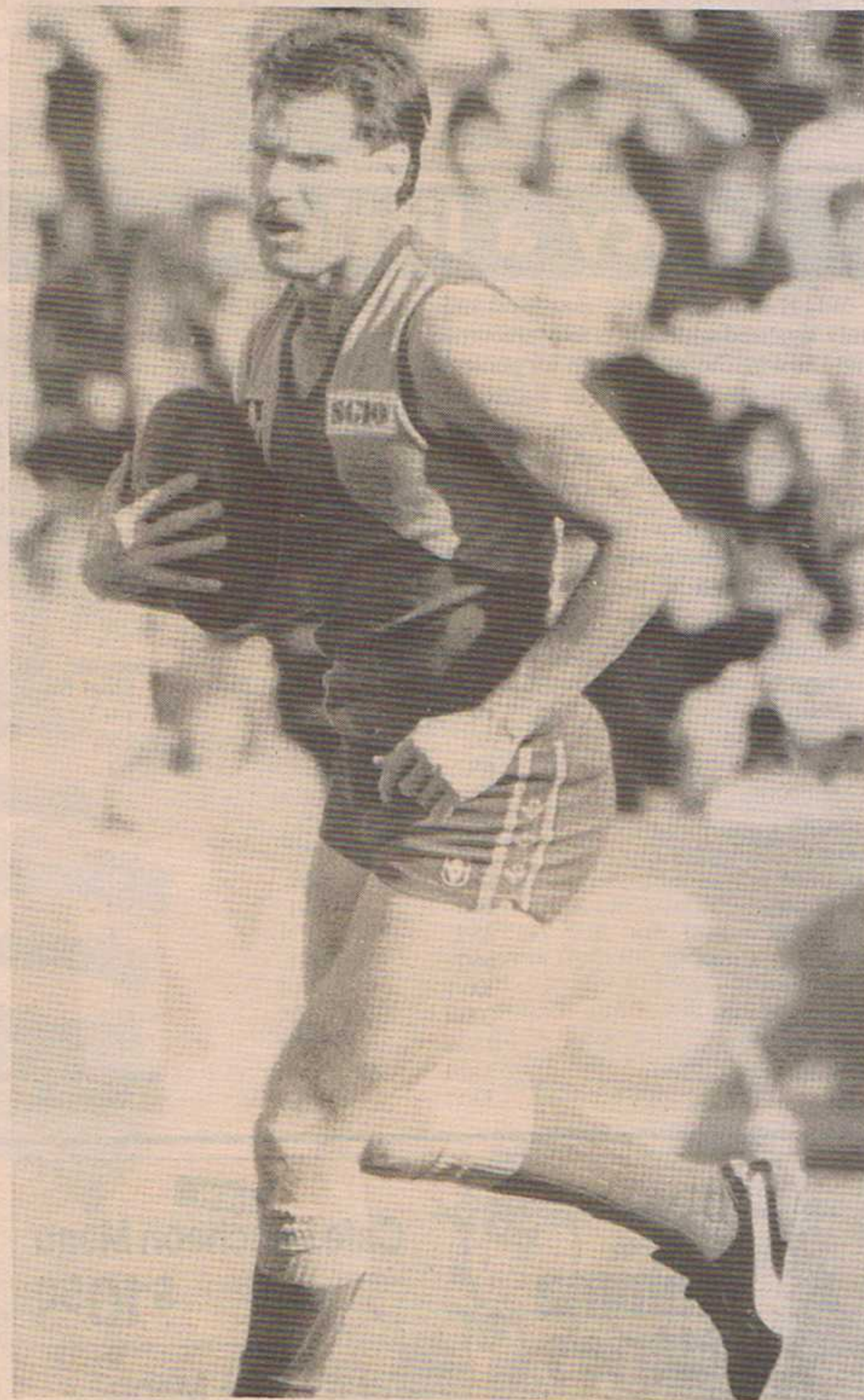
NICK NAME: BA, Locks
FAVOURITE POSITION: Full-back, centre half-forward
CURRENT POSITION: Full Back
NUMBER: 45
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 7.7.65 Carnarvon
RECRUITED FROM: East Fremantle
HEIGHT: 190cms **WEIGHT:** 95kgs
FIRST SENIOR GAME: 1984 East Fremantle vs East Perth, 1987 Eagles vs Hawthorn
GAMES PLAYED: 56 Eagles, 60 EF, 6 WA
FOOTBALL HONOURS: State games 1988 and 1989, EF premiership 1985
MARRIED: to Michelle
OCCUPATION: SGIO Sales Consultant
SCHOOL'S ATTENDED: Geraldton SHS, Northampton HS
CAR: Commodore
FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES: Gardening
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak

FAVOURITE DRINK: Banana FM
FAVOURITE SPORT (OTHER SPORTS): Basketball, golf, tennis
FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP: Robert Palmer
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Fawlty Towers
FAVOURITE MOVIE: Dead Calm
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Father and brother
MOST ADMIRER FOOTBALLER: Stephen Michael
OPPONENTS YOU ADMIRE: —
MATCH DAY ROUTINE: Wear same shorts and socks
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing 1986 grand final with EF, 1988 elimination final with the Eagles and 1990 AFL Preliminary Final with Eagles.
FOOTBALL INJURIES: Groin, ankle
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning a premiership in 1985
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: 1985 grand final, 1988 Elimination Final v Melbourne
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Play consistently, make the five with the Eagles



Chris Lewis

Nickname: Louie
FAVOURITE POSITION: Centre
CURRENT POSITION: Ruck-rover
FIRST POSITION: Half-forward flank
No.: 28. **HEIGHT:** 186cm **WEIGHT:** 84kg
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: March 17, 1969; Osborne Park
RECRUITED FROM: Claremont. **JUNIOR CLUB:** Mirrabooka
FIRST STARTED PLAYING: Aged 5yrs
FIRST SENIOR GAME: 1986 Claremont; 1987 Eagles
GAMES PLAYED: 69 Eagles; 7 Claremont
FOOTBALL HONOURS: Eagles club champion 1990
MARITAL STATUS: Single
GIRLFRIEND'S NAME: Nicole
OCCUPATION: Football officer, Football Development Trust
SCHOOLS ATTENDED: Mirrabooka SHS, Christchurch College
CURRENT CAR: Toyota Landcruiser (1985). **DREAM CAR:** Landcruiser (top model)
FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES: Golf
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak
FAVOURITE DRINK: Banana milkshake
FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP: Warumpi Band
FAVOURITE MOVIE: Flatliners
OTHER SPORTS: Golf
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My family
MOST ADMIRER FOOTBALLER: Stephen Michael
BEST PLAYER YOU HAVE SEEN: Stephen Michael
MATCH DAY ROUTINE: Be relaxed and keep my mind on the job
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Injury and losing
FOOTBALL INJURIES: Hamstring and Groin
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Collingwood drawn final
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play for a while.
YOUR PERSONAL MOTIVATION: To be a winner



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NO WONDER some Victorians were against the formation of the Eagles -- the West Coasters now have more depth in their squad than any other side in Australia.

Being able to have the pick of the cream of Western Australian talent has paid big dividends, or, more accurately, will do so in the near future.

Sides like Collingwood, Hawthorn and Essendon may be able to give the Eagles a solid contest with their best 20 players. But AFL football takes its toll and rarely do teams field their top side and this is more evident towards the end of a gruelling season.

Critics claim that the Eagles are light on in the ruck department when Laurie Keene is unavailable.


REPLACEMENTS

But not too many other sides have four genuine replacements -- the lion-hearted Phil Scott; outstanding rookie Dean Irving; the promising David Hynes and the experienced Mark Hepburn. In addition, a much-fitter and determined Andrew Lockyer can take a turn on the ball if necessary.

It is in the running brigade, the life-blood of modern-day football, where the Eagles talent runs deepest -- Brett Heady, Dwayne Lamb, Chris Lewis, Steve Malaxos, John Worsfold, Guy McKenna, Peter Matera, Scott Watters, Chris Waterman, Chris Mainwaring, Don Pyke, Troy Ugle, Craig Turley, Adrian Barich, Andrew Macnish, David Hart and so many others.

With outstanding new potential like Tony Evans and Mitchell White coming to the fore, there's no shortage of versatile talent.

With



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

THE ideal situation for any football club is to have multiple players fighting for multiple positions in the team.

This certainly has been the case so far for the West Coast Eagles during their practice games and with just one more hit-out to go, against the Sydney Swans this Saturday, the selection of the final line-up for the season-opener against Melbourne is not going to be easy.

Gone from the Eagles squad are John Annear, Dean Turner, Warren Dean, Brett Hutchinson, and Peter Melesso. But apart from the new players coming into the camp, the selectors are all smiles as players like Dean Laidley, Chris Waterman, Scott Watters and Peter Matera are back again after missing much of last season through injury.

The added skills of Watters and Matera are a real bonus, one offering close-in ball-getting ability and the other producing sensational bursts of real football speed.

When you add names like Mark Hepburn, David Hynes, Tony Evans, Dale Kickett, Mitchell White, Matt

The Vics had reason to complain



Chris Waterman ... part of the talented running brigade.

With the huge advantage in talent and depth now held over the rest of Australia, plus the great home-ground record, the West Coasters should win all their home games.

There are maybe one or two sides who can get within three or four goals, but the rest will get thrashed.

If past plots repeat themselves it will go something like this. The visiting team gives a good account of itself until about the 12-to-20 minute mark of the third quarter, then it's wipe-out time and a six to 14-goal defeat is on its way.

The Eagles will again finish in the top three and with the grand final being played at AFL Park Waverley for the first time because of the redevelopment work

at the MCG, it's easy to see why the West Coasters should be on the same level of betting as Collingwood and Hawthorn.

Perth make a bold decision

Congratulations to the Perth Football Club administrators who selected Ken Armstrong to return to Lathlain Park as senior coach.

This is a crucial decision that will help put the Perth club back on the map in the long-term.

Armstrong has the experience and ability to restore the once-famous Perth structure which will see good players come through in a disciplined, informative and stable environment.

When WA last beat the Vics, Armstrong was chairman of selectors and he made a major contribution to that win.

Perth have been devastated over the years through a combination of player departures and a lack of development in bringing young players through their zones.

Things will happen under Armstrong, but it's going to take two or three years for these results to emerge.

Let's hope that the administrators who had the foresight to appoint Armstrong will also have the courage and patience to stand by him in what is going to be a very hard slog.

It takes time to build a side, but if the foundations are solid then the future can be much-improved.

Turner takes new role

THE national league career of Dean Turner is over and he has retired to concentrate on his playing role with East Perth and prospective coaching duties.

I have great respect for Dean; not only is he a courageous and skilled player, but he is a thinker and not intimidated by the politics of football clubs

Dean is a straight-shooter who will earn the respect of those players he coaches. He should be an early selection to play for WA against South Australia -- providing his form is up to standard -- and that will be some compensation for missing the side last year.

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HERE is your special alphabetical guide to this year's West Coast Eagles squad.



Meet the Eagles ...

38 ADRIAN BARICH (Perth)

23yrs 178cm 85kg Games 38 Eagles, 89 Perth

Is showing dashing form in pre-season work and offers the Eagles added strength and speed, particularly in the tight Melbourne games.

44. TONY BEGOVICH (Claremont)

23yrs 180cms 83kgs Games 9 Eagles, 77 Claremont

An aggressive defender who will benefit from his debut last year; always gives his best when he gets a chance in the seniors

11. TODD BREMAN (Subiaco)

25yrs 180cms 77kg Games 22 Eagles, 96 Subiaco

A strong-marking forward whose long kicking style makes him a danger-man in attack; has the versatility to play in defence or across the centre

14. MICHAEL BRENNAN (East Fremantle)

25yrs 185cms 82kgs Games 81 Eagles, 76 East Fremantle

A tireless worker in defence; will handle the responsibility of vice-captain without any worries and is never beaten

60. MATTHEW BURTON (Subiaco)

19yrs 210cms 90kgs Games 6 Subiaco
A lanky ruckman who made a late arrival in WAFL ranks last year; the son of former Lions ruckman Peter Burton and drafted for the future.

32. MATT CLAPE (East Perth)

21yrs 185cms 81kgs Games 46 East Perth
A dashing defender who stakes a claim to a half-back flank spot; much under-rated as he plays with coolness and flair.

31. IAN DARGIE (St Kilda, Subiaco)

27yrs 178cms 72kgs Games 10 St Kilda, 60 Subiaco

A tough competitor who returns after two years with St Kilda; is versatile to play anywhere around the flanks and is a real goer.

40. TONY EVANS (Claremont)

21yrs 178cms 75kgs Games 42 Claremont
A genuine ball-getting rover who relishes the bottom-of-the-packs contest and reads the ball well around the goals; makes a delayed entry to the Eagles.

43. BRAD GWILLIAM (West Perth)

24yrs 189cms 75kgs Games 4 Eagles, 55 West Perth

A key defender who is keen to rebound after injury curtailed a promising start to his AFL career last season.

49. DEREK HALL (West Perth)

19yrs 186cms 80kgs Games 21 West Perth

Has come from country football to national league in two seasons; shows potential at centre-half-forward, but is a versatile player with nice skills.

36. DAVID HART (South Fremantle, West Perth)

26yrs 177cms 75kgs Games 74 Eagles, 62 South Frem, 7 West Perth

A tough little man whose roving skills, especially in defence, have improved considerably and his experience weighs in his favour.

1. BRETT HEADY (Subiaco)

21yrs 180cms 73kgs Games 20 Eagles, 34 Subiaco

A key half-forward who was one of the AFL rookies of last season; has great aerial judgement, but will find himself under more pressure this year.

16. MARK HEPBURN (North Melb, Claremont)

22yrs 194cms 87kgs Games 56 North Melb, 5 Claremont

A superbly-talented big man who is recovering from a pre-season injury. His ability to play in key positions makes him a great recruit.

22. DAVID HYNES (Port Adelaide)

23yrs 194cms 86kgs Games 121 Port Adelaide

A high-leaping player who is being tested at centre-half-back; but can also serve as a ruckman.

34. DEAN IRVING (South Frem)

21yrs 200cms 105kgs Games 16 Eagles, 36 South Frem

A much-improved giant who now shapes up at the team's No. 1 ruckman in just his second year in the AFL. Needs to add a touch of aggression.

27. STEVAN JACKSON (South Frem)

20yrs 192cms 93kgs Games 31 Eagles, 23 South Frem

An exciting forward with strong hands; likes to play across the half-forward line, but is seeking consistency in his game.

48. GLEN JAKOVICH (South Fremantle)

17yrs 192cms 91kgs Games 42 South Fremantle

One of the game's most outstanding young players with a huge future, providing he is allowed to develop. Looms as a key centre-half-forward.

25 LAURIE KEENE (Subiaco)

29yrs 203cm 100kg Games 135 Subiaco, 35 Eagles.

The team's most potent ruckman, but still troubled by injury and if he could make it back he would be a huge bonus.

2. DEAN KEMP (Subiaco)

22yrs 180cms 70kgs Games 23 Eagles, 21 Subiaco

An exciting centreliner who had a great debut year in the AFL, with cool, composed football. Is battling a shoulder injury at present.

33. DALE KICKETT (Fitzroy, Claremont)

22yrs 179cms 68kgs Games 15 Fitzroy, 35 Claremont

Didn't settle in at Fitzroy and now has the chance to show his skill in the talented Eagles squad. Tons of speed and a touch of typical Aboriginal genius.

The numbers game

THERE has been some frantic guernsey-swapping going on in the Eagles camp over summer...as can be seen by the numbers worn by players in the three practice matches.

Livewire forward Brett Heady (formerly No. 39) is sporting Don Pyke's treasured No. 1, while Pyke has opted for No. 10, the retired Dean Turner's old jumper.

Key-position player Craig McGrath has switched out of 40 (now proudly worn by rookie rover Tony Evans) and into the No. 21 jumper which David O'Connell wore for 27 games. O'Connell is now gearing up for a season with Fitzroy.

Dean Kemp has moved up the order from 33 into John Annear's No. 2, while Chris Waterman has grabbed Heady's discarded 39, the number he is most familiar with at East Fremantle.

TON-UP TARGET

TWENTY-NINE-year-old foundation Eagle Dwayne Lamb is on target to become the first West Coaster to reach the 100-game milestone for the club.



Dwayne Lamb ... set for a century.

Lamb, last year's runner-up to club champion Chris Lewis, is poised on 85 games after four seasons in the blue and gold colours.

If Lamb takes the field in all 22 home-and-away fixtures, he will reach the

magical ton along with vice-captain Michael Brennan (81) and wingman Chris Mainwaring (80).

And if the Eagles happen to play 26 games like last season (Heaven forbid another draw!), captain John Worsfold (75) and David Hart (74) could also join the honours list.

COACHES SEMINAR

SECOND-year West Coast Eagles coach Mick Malthouse is prepared to give away a few of his coaching secrets.

Along with Eagles fitness advisor Brian Dawson, Malthouse will kick off the Australian Football Coaches Association 1991 seminars on Monday evening at Subiaco Oval.

Dawson will discuss the work the players put in during pre-season, while Malthouse will cover the importance of planning for a season.

The Insurance Exchange of Australia seminar is the first of a number of informative gatherings planned to entertain coaches of all levels, from juniors to seniors, throughout the season.

All interested people are invited to watch the Eagles train at Subiaco Oval from 5pm, while the seminar will begin in the President's Lounge at 7pm.

AFCA 1991 members will be admitted free while a \$15 charge for others will include AFCA membership for the year. Bookings can be made by phoning Gerard McNeill at the Football Development Trust on 381 5599.

COURIER AUSTRALIA

Anything, anywhere. Fast!

Presents

In the
Eagles
Nest with Tania Armstrong



Eagles turn it on for fans

ALL Eagles supporters are invited to join the players at Subiaco Oval this Sunday for the club's official guernsey presentation and family day.

The day begins at 11am with the players conducting coaching clinics on the oval along with many other attractions including handball and kicking competitions, a social club sausage sizzle, an autograph booth and memberships will be on sale.

Free entry is a bonus and all 1991 players will be in attendance to receive their official jumper for the season.

Activities will end at 2pm and all are hoping for better weather than the rain that was dished out last year.

GOOD TIMING

IT was a case of same place, different time for Eagles football manager Trevor Nisbett when his wife Pam gave birth to their third child, Bradley John, last Sunday.

Nisbett's first two children had arrived on a Saturday causing him to miss the footy so the club did the right thing by scheduling a Sunday fixture.

Needless to say, while the Eagles were devouring Geelong in a practice match at Subiaco Oval, Nisbett was across the railway line at Pam's bedside.

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... the class of 1991

5. DWAYNE LAMB (Subiaco)
29yrs 180cms 83kgs Games 85 Eagles, 134 Subiaco
Still rates as the team's best negating player; reliable and versatile and despite his desire to kick goals, he is at his best mopping up in defence.

19. KARL LANGDON (Subiaco)
22yrs 190cms 82kgs Games 53 Eagles, 31 Subiaco
A fiery half-forward whose brilliance is gradually being harnessed in a more consistent style; has the capacity to kick great goals.

28. CHRIS LEWIS (Claremont)
21yrs 184cms 76kgs Games 69 Eagles, 5 Claremont
The reigning club champion who is one of the most exciting players in Australia; plays destructively in midfield, but dangerous anywhere.

45. ANDREW LOCKYER (East Fremantle)
25yrs 190cms 95kgs Games 56 Eagles, 60 East Frem
Has accepted the challenge to lift his rating and is much fitter and tougher; does best at full-back, where he is a most unselfish player.

18. ANDREW MACNISH (Subiaco)
25yrs 180cm 74kg Games 20 Eagles, 80 Subiaco.
A talented half-forward who looks set to make a full return to football after some frustrating injuries.

8. STEVE MALAXOS (Claremont)
29yrs 177cms 83kgs Games 66 Eagles, 9 Hawthorn, 145 Claremont
A courageous player who can be a driving force in the team's midfield operations; also plays well out of a back pocket.

3. CHRIS MAINWARING (East Fremantle)
25yrs 179cms 70kgs Games 80 Eagles, 48 East Frem
A much fitter and stronger player this year; performs with dash and aggression off a wing and is often the instigator of Eagles forward moves.

30. PETER MATERA (South Fremantle)
21yrs 180cms 80kgs Games 5 Eagles, 58 South Frem
Has the speed to be a danger-man across half-forward; a bonus now that he is fit again after a bad knee injury last season.

21. CRAIG McGRATH (Fitzroy, East Perth)
27rs 190cms 88kgs Games 11 Eagles, 58 Fitzroy, 10 East Perth
Uses his strength and experience to be a focal point at centre-half-forward; takes a good mark and plays intelligently.

17. GUY McKENNA (Claremont)
21yrs 185cms 85kgs Games 64 Eagles, 48 Claremont
Has improved each year with his style of play off a half-back flank, where he plays with dash and uses handball creatively.

6. GEOFF MILES (Collingwood, Claremont)
29yrs 185cms 79kgs Games 71 Eagles, 31 C'wood, 42 Claremont
A versatile pinch-hitter who specialises in back pocket roles, but relishes the chance to play in attack.

41. PHIL NARKLE (Swan Districts, St Kilda)
30yrs 178cms 72kgs Games 18 Eagles, 48 St Kilda, 137 Swan Dist
Has the skill and experience to be a valuable player, especially on a wing; but faces a tough battle to stay fit enough to keep his spot.

20. PAUL PEOS (East Perth)
23yrs 183cms 76kgs Games 35 Eagles, 41 East Perth
Is keen to cement a regular spot in the team and appeals as a strong, rebounding player at half-back or on a wing.

10. DON PYKE (Claremont)
22yrs 178cms 75kgs Games 20 Eagles, 51 Claremont
Has regained confidence and determination and should get more opportunities as a rover; but still lacks strength in the packs.

23. MURRAY RANCE (Swan Districts, Footscray)
29yrs 191cms 89kgs Games 57 Eagles, 40 Footscray, 118 Swan Dist
Is under pressure for his centre-half-back spot, but his experience and leadership qualities make him a valuable key-position player.

52. SHANE PORTER (North Launceston)
19yrs 186cms 86kgs
Has been frustrated by injury since his arrival in Perth, but he looms as a hard-hitting half-back with the potential to develop.

12. PHIL SCOTT (Subiaco)
30yrs 193cms 91kgs Games 66 Eagles, 79 Subiaco
A lion-hearted big man who never shirks the issue when given the ruck responsibility and can also play in a key position.

4. PETER SUMICH (South Frem)
23yrs 190cms 89kgs Games 42 Eagles, 58 South Frem
After collecting 135 goals in two seasons the sharp-shooting left-footer is out for the magical century; is leading with strength and marking well.

50 RYAN TURNBULL (Claremont)
19yrs 196cm 92kg Games 25 Claremont
A talented ruckman who is being groomed for a permanent defensive position.

7. CRAIG TURLEY (West Perth)
25yrs 185cms 80kgs Games 32 Eagles, 70 West Perth
Developed enormously as a midfielder last season and aims to build on that improvement; highlights his play with fierce ball-getting.

35. TROY UGLE (Swan Districts)
22yrs 175cms 78kgs Games 32 Eagles, 38 Swan Dist
A tough little man who has worked hard to improve his body strength; plays well out of a back pocket, but also dangerous in attack.

39. CHRIS WATERMAN (East Fremantle)
22yrs 180cms 77kgs Games 23 Eagles, 45 East Frem
Is showing the benefit of an injury-free pre-season build-up; plays creatively on the half-forward line, but has also shone on a half-back flank.

13. SCOTT WATTERS (South Fremantle)
22yrs 175cms 78kgs Games 13 Eagles, 59 South Frem
A skilled rover at his best in the packs and ready to show his creative ability after a solid pre-season without injury.

37. ROBERT WEST (Wodonga)
22yrs 174cms 76kgs
Will take time to break into this team, but has the capacity to develop into a handy ball-getting rover with good strength.



Mick Malthouse...dictating terms

47. MITCHELL WHITE (Subiaco)
17yrs 190cms 75kgs Games 13 Subiaco
Has impressed in practice games as an exciting half-forward, but his youth and inexperience will hold him back for a while; a Teal Cup star.

9. PETER WILSON (East Fremantle, Richmond)
27yrs 183cms 80kgs Games 19 Eagles, 54 Richmond, 94 East Frem
On the recovery trail after an injury setback; an electrifying player with great dash and inspiration, particularly off a half-back flank.

24. JOHN WORSFOLD (South Fremantle)
22yrs 182cms 82kgs Games 75 Eagles, 25 South Frem
Tough and courageous; he has graduated to the captaincy and also from a half-back role to be a key midfielder.

THOSE HIGH-FLYING EAGLES

THE make up of the West Coast Eagles squad is as varied as the bouncing ball on a wet and slippery day.

The official player biographies produced by the Eagles office shows that the players have a variety of likes and dislikes, favourites and fears; highlights and lowlights ...

Each week, Westside Football will unveil some of the inner-most thoughts of the Eagles players in our Angove's Player Profiles segment.

But as a pipe-opener, here's a sneak preview of some of their answers to a variety of questions.

For example, favourite drinks of our super-fit stars range from Ouzo being the choice of Adrian Barich; Chris Lewis and Brett Heady like milkshakes, with banana and spearmint their favourite flavours respectively; Scott Watters is a Wild Turkey fan; Stevan Jackson a lime cordial man and Laurie Keene's taste runs to piping hot Screwdrivers.

Many of the players are sponsor conscious with Emu Export and Pepsi featuring prominently, though Phil Narkle opts for a rival soft-drink!

Water is popular, with Peter Higgins insisting on it being icy cold, while only a couple of players including Peter Matera and Andrew Lockyer are scotch sippers.

Peter Wilson makes it quite clear that while Emu Export is his favourite drink, that doesn't apply until September — part of his fitness vow for this season.

Players who feature prominently in the "Most admired footballer" section include Ross Glendinning — by far the most dominant — Barry Cable, Gary

Ablett, Ken Hunter, Stephen Michael, Russell Ebert (SA recruit David Hynes, naturally), Maurice Rioli and Michael Tuck.

North Melbourne (and Claremont) recruit Mark Hepburn will obviously be asked who Trevor Musty is, while Phil Narkle still has brother Keith on top of his list.

Sporting activities other than football include the normal diversions such as surfing, golf, tennis (providing you allow coach Mick Malthouse to win!), basketball and American grid iron.

Karl Langdon, Troy Ugle and Todd Breman are into fishing; Ian Dargie loves skin diving, Glen Jakovich and Derek Hall fancy a game of squash, Dean Irving is into scuba diving and shooting while Steve Malaxos lets his Greek background come out with a love of soccer. Shane Porter is a worry — lawn bowls is his choice!

Occupations of our elite Eagles range from a host of students, insurance consultants and salesmen to a few specialist roles such as Robert West's role as a groundsman; Phil Scott's life as an agricultural research officer; Don Pyke

and Craig McGrath balancing budgets as accountants and Peter Sumich as a fruit and veggie buyer.

Players with tradesmen hands are Troy Ugle (welder), Dean Kemp (electrician), Peter Higgins (plumber), Glen Jakovich (mechanic) and Shane Porter (fitter).

Players who would prove handy to know are Michael Brennan, a loans officer with the Commonwealth Bank; Adrian Barich, a public relations officer with the Department of Social Security; Stevan Jackson, a policeman-turned security guard and John Worsfold, a pharmacist.

Sports shows and comedy caperts fill the main selection as preferred TV shows, with Growing Pains, Cheers and LA Law coming in for strong support as well. Phil Narkle is a fan of Bugs Bunny; Michael Brennan a lover of The Jetsons; Ian Dargie and Matt Clape are into cartoons, Brad Gwilliam still remembers the untouchables and Phil Scott shows his agricultural background by choosing the weather.

There's much more among these fascinating profiles, so stay tuned ...

HOUGHTON'S TOP PERFORMER

Western Australia's Premier Wine Maker

THE BIG BATTLE...

Here's how your team shapes up

From
KEN PIESSE
in Melbourne



THE new-look Australian Football League is about to kick off into its first season...and the feeling of optimism is thriving right across the nation.

For the first time, a 15-team competition will contest the home-and-away series, with each side having a bye. —The belated and much-publicised arrival of the Adelaide contingent, the Crows, takes the concept of national football a little further and with teams now based in Australia's five major cities, the competition looks truly national.

From the Brisbane Bears to the West Coast Eagles, the Sydney Swans to the Adelaide Crows, the AFL teams will fly across the nation over the next six months.

And, in addition, Fitzroy will play several of their home matches at Hobart, giving Tasmania a taste of national football as well.

So how do all the clubs shape up? Let's start with the West Coast Eagles...

EAGLES

THE greater depth that the Eagles now boast makes them a very formidable side.

They have recruited wisely with the addition of players like Mark Hepburn, Dale Kickett and Ian Dargie, who have all tasted AFL football with other clubs.

There is no doubt that the Eagles young players will have matured considerably and there is plenty to suggest that rookie recruits like Mitchell White and Glen Jakovich will also feature prominently.

The Eagles have been most impressive in their practice match form and while they were disappointed to lose their opening Foster's Cup clash with St Kilda, they have tuned up nicely since then.

ADELAIDE

THE AFL's newest club attracted 42,000 fans to their first practice match, against Essendon at Football Park.

A convincing win was followed by another against Geelong, promoting high expectations for the side's debut year.

On-field leaders Tony McGuinness (returning from Footscray) and captain Chris McDermott will be well-supported by experienced players such as Andrew Jarman, Bruce Lindsay and Mark Mickan, who has returned to his home town from the Brisbane Bears.

Geelong's Bruce Lindner was another excellent signing, along with boom Port Adelaide full-forward and reigning Magarey Medallist Scott Hodges, who finally signed after a contractual dispute.

BRISBANE BEARS

THE recruiting of forwards Peter Curran (Hawthorn) and David Cameron (Geelong) was a major plus for the Bears coach Robert Walls, who agreed to release high-priced Warwick Capper back to the Swans.

A morale-boosting victory against Collingwood in the opening pre-season game was not being over-rated by Walls, in his first season with the most-northern of the AFL's affiliates.

Geelong's Shane Hamilton, Hawk Russell Dickson and North Melbourne Under 19 premiership player Travers Martin-Beynon, a former Queensland, all signed over summer, adding much-needed depth to the ranks.

The inclusion of South Fremantle's Peter Worsfold was also seen as a bonus, as his tenacity is something the Bears need more of.

CARLTON

HAVING played in 11 straight final series from 1978-88, Carlton missed the finals in each of the last two seasons -- and sacked "favourite son" Alex Jesaulenko in favor of the tried-and-true David Parkin, a former Blues dual-premiership coach.

Recruits included Subiaco best and fairest winner, 20-year-old wingman Damian Hampson, Sturt's Ben Judd (drafted in 1989) and highly-rated North Hobart teenager James Cook, recruited with the future in mind.

Rover Mark Arceri, from North Melbourne, adds depth to the small-man brigade, while youngsters such as Andrew Phillips and Fraser Brown are expected to advance.

COLLINGWOOD

THE year as defending champions started badly for Collingwood with injuries to three key premiership players -- skipper Tony Shaw, star forward Gavin Brown and dour defender Mick Gayfer all within weeks of the start of the practice matches.

Newcomers include tall Adelaide-born ruckman Andrew Pascoe and 16-year-old Nhill teenager Jason McCartney, regarded as one of Australia's best young country footballers.

Three priority 1989 draft choices in SA trio Kym Russell (22), Troy Lehmann (18) and Matthew Kelly (19) are all in full training. Russell's brother, Scott, was one of the rookies of the AFL season in 1990.

Controversial full-forward Brian Taylor has retired, while WA's Mark Bayliss returned home. Utility player Terry Keays joined Richmond and made an immediate impression.

ESSENDON

LIKE Collingwood, the Bombers have suffered injuries early in the season and even before their first serious game, a Foster's Cup match against Carlton in late-February, they were being touted as the side to slide.

The retirements of Paul Van der Haar and Bill Duckworth has robbed the team of experience, while star draft choice, Port Adelaide's Rohan Smith, opted to stay in Adelaide and play with the Crows.

Glenelg forward John Fidge, a former two-club AFL representative, was recalled from SANFL ranks for another try at the big-time, along with fellow South Australians Gavin Wangeneen (17), Shane Radbone (20) and Allan Schwartz (22), who were all drafted in November, 1989.

FITZROY

THE Roys seem destined to finish among the bottom four clubs after a turbulent summer which saw skipper Paul Roos resign

and almost head to Collingwood and fellow All-Australian Gary Pert given his marching orders.

Across-the-board pay-cuts don't seem to have affected the morale of the players, as new coach Robert Shaw works hard to patch up the holes. However, a first round Foster's Cup loss to Carlton in Hobart -- Fitzroy's adopted home ground this season -- was a disappointment.

Newcomers include Tasmanian David Donato, who was selected third in the 1990 draft, as well as West Coast Eagles pair David O'Connell and Joe Cormack.

FOOTSCRAY

THE loss of gifted Adelaide-born teenager Simon Tregenza to the Crows was a major blow to the Bulldogs, along with Chris Grant's early absence because of glandular fever.

Swan Districts defender Paul Gow looks promising and seems tall enough to play a key defensive role, while veterans Rick Kennedy and Brian Royal were among the most impressive summertime trainers.

Few teams play with the ferocity of the Bulldogs, but unfortunately for their supporters, who have been without a flag in almost 40 years, the club lacks depth and needs a virtual injury-free season to be a consistent nuisance.

GEELONG

THE return of Mark Bairstow after a year away at his WA country farm, boosted by the availability of Damien Bourke and Andrew Bews, boosts the playing strength.

However, the pre-season disaster of superstar Gary Ablett announcing that he was quitting football, having just turned 29, stunned the Cats camp.

The inclusion of fiery East Perth ruckman Stephen Hooper, the No. 1 draft choice for 1990, was seen as a necessary move, after long-running injuries to former skipper Damian Bourke and his brother, fellow ruckman, Tim Bourke.

David Cameron, Bruce Lindner, Shane Hamilton and Mark Yeates have moved interstate, while Darren Morgan considered an offer from the Sydney Swans.

HAWTHORN

HAVING missed their goal of eight consecutive grand final appearances with their early departure last season, the Hawks moved fast to re-gather top billing with the recruiting of South Australian quartet, Darren Jarman, teenager Matthew Robran, experienced Greg Whittlesea and James Weeding.

Jarman (23), from North Adelaide, was considered to be the best footballer outside the AFL and he proved to be a very prominent player in Hawthorn's opening Foster's Cup matches.

Another newcomer was South Fremantle teenager Willie Rioli, the younger brother of former Richmond and WA champion, Maurice Rioli.

The Hawks let go Russell Morris, Sean Ralphsmith, Peter Curran and Russell Dickson, as well as releasing their hold on Stephen Byers, who was drafted to Fitzroy.

MELBOURNE

The inclusion of forward line imports Rod Owen (from St Kilda) and Phil Egan (Richmond) was coupled with the recruiting of Woodville's Allen Jakovich, who kicked 9.8 in his first SANFL season in 1989 followed by 101 in 1990.

Aboriginal rover Fabian Francis was one of the few newcomers to break into Melbourne's opening Foster's Cup team.

The Demons named a new skipper, Garry Lyon (in place of Greg Healy) and also cleared Steve Newport as part of a pre-draft arrangement with St Kilda, which secured the gifted Owen.

NORTH MELBOURNE

THE highly-skilled Kangaroos share with St Kilda the tag of being the most likely 1991 improvers.

The inclusion of West Australian Peter Mann, a member of Claremont's 1990 grand final team, Brisbane's Mark Roberts, Adelaide's Justin Staritski and Melbourne's John Ahern with help overcome the loss of Mark Hepburn back to Perth and Mark Arceri and Paul Bryce to rival Melbourne clubs.

A key to North Melbourne's success was the mateship created among players late last season when the young Roos won 10 of their final 12 games and again in Christchurch during their torrid pre-season survival camp.

RICHMOND

THE arrival of inter-staters Todd Menegola and Mark McQueen has boosted their playing-stocks and they looked promising in the Tigers losing first-round game against Melbourne.

Collingwood's Terry Keays seems keen to earn inclusion in the early games, while veteran David Cloke is also considering playing one last year -- at the age of 36.

The loss of Andrew Payze to the Adelaide Crows was a blow, but it appears that many of the Tigers promising young players are maturing fast, particularly centre-half-forward Michael Gale, best and fairest winner Stephen Ryan and centreman Matt Knights.

ST KILDA

AN AGGRESSIVE summer of recruiting has seen the Saints improve as much as any other club, bar Hawthorn.

They have added Melbourne's Brian Wilson, reversing his 1990 decision to retire and fellow experienced players Steve Newport, Russell Morris and Sean Ralphsmith all joining the camp.

The inclusion of Gilbert McAdam, from Central District, the 1989 Magarey Medallist in South Australia, seems certain to be another winning pick-up.

Seasoned Grant Lawrie changed his mind about retiring and played in the opening game, along with comeback rover Danny Craven, who had been sidelined with a broken leg.

The Saints lost Rod Owen to Melbourne and Ian Dargie back to Perth.

SYDNEY

THE Swans look set to struggle with the all-important loss of Gerard Healy, who was forced into premature retirement because of a wrist injury.

Warwick Capper has rejoined after three disappointing years in Brisbane, while Carlton's Warren McKenzie was another pick-up expected to play up forward.

Interstate pair, Hobart's Dale Hall and South Fremantle's Mark Collins, seemed likely to take time to settle, but much is expected of Ballarat's Dale Lewis, who was brilliant in two debut games last season before he was injured.



how about you?



WHERE THEY HAVE GONE ...

Almost a full team of West Australian players were given a football challenge when they were called up in this season's AFL draft.

Eleven of the East Coast AFL teams nominated WA players in the November draft, with the Brisbane Bears also having a pre-draft choice from WA.

Big ruckman Stephen Hooper, who was a star with East Perth last season after having previously tried out with Subiaco, was the first player chosen in the national draft going to Geelong, who had negotiated first choice after some player-swaps with last year's bottom side, the Brisbane Bears.

Sixteen players were picked from last year's WAFL teams, with former South Fremantle forward Allen Jakovich receiving his call-up to the AFL via South Australian club Woodville.

Willie Rioli (South Fremantle) and Brian Stanislaus (East Perth) were selected in the draft as Northern Territory players even though they were in WA club football last season.

This is how the WA players fared in the November draft, in order of selection.

1. Stephen Hooper (East Perth) Geelong.
6. Allen Jakovich (Woodville) Melbourne
7. Damian Hampson (Subiaco) Carlton

8. Paul Gow (Swan Districts) Footscray
9. Matt Clape (East Perth) Eagles
10. David Ogg (Swan Districts) Brisbane
13. Todd Ridley (Claremont) Essendon
16. Todd Menegola (Swan Districts) Richmond
25. Peter Worsfold (South Fremantle) Brisbane
34. Brad Read (East Fremantle) Hawthorn
36. Matthew Burton (Subiaco) Eagles
40. Mark Collins (South Fremantle) Sydney
44. Willie Rioli (South Fremantle) Hawthorn
52. Brendan Retzlaff (Swan Districts) Collingwood
53. Stephen Pears (Perth) North Melbourne
54. Brian Stanislaus (East Perth) Sydney
64. Derek Hall (West Perth) Eagles

In addition, West Perth defender Paul Mifka and Swan Districts big man Shane Stempel were picked up by the Brisbane Bears as their priority WA choices before the national draft.

Goldfields job for Daniels

FORMER Claremont and Footscray player Allen Daniels is moving to the Goldfields to take up a coaching position with Mines Rovers.

Daniels, who has played with Collie in the South West for the last two seasons, will be following something of a family tradition. Both his father Ted and grandfather Bob played for Mines Rovers but the Collie-based team, not the Kalgoorlie club.

"I think I'm ready to coach a league side," says Daniels. "Unfortunately, it couldn't be with Collie; I know the players too well."

The past two seasons have seen Mines finish as wooden spooners in the Goldfields league, but the experience of Daniels, with 166 senior games and five State matches, should provide the catalyst to lift the side from the bottom of the ladder.

Daniels reserved one of his best performances in the SWNFL for his last game, when he was best-on-ground against Harvey-Brunswick-Leschenault in the grand final, gaining the prestigious Pike Medal in a losing side.



FORMER Claremont and Footscray player Allen Daniels is moving to the Goldfields to take up a coaching position with Mines Rovers.

LIVE-WIRE COUPLE

WEST Coast Eagles coach Mick Malthouse should be well-pleased with his live-wire mosquito squadron that seems certain to be bolstered by fit duo Peter Matera and Scott Watters. The speedy Matera lined up on a wing in the practice match against Geelong last Sunday and proved to be a valuable link-man across the centre. Watters had a brilliant third term, showing his ability to gain kicks in the tight clinches around the centre. Watters was playing his best football towards the end of last season until he suffered a groin injury against Melbourne in the first semi-final. If pre-season form is to be used as a guide, both players should be in strong contention for a guernsey in the opening match at Subiaco Oval against Melbourne on Sunday week.

DANGER SIGNS

EAGLES full-forward Peter Sumich sounded the alarm bells at the start of the third quarter against Geelong last Sunday. Sumich is already nursing a broken nose from a previous practice match clash against the Adelaide Crows in Bunbury and the club's medical men had no hesitation in sending him from the field after he copped another blow to the face last Sunday. However, he showed courage to return to the battleground in the last term, but soon departed as a precautionary move.

Sumich was quoted third favourite at 6/1 to top the AFL goalkicking this season and the last thing the Eagles want is an early-season absence through injury.

BATTLING BLUES

DAVID Parkin, the newly re-appointed coach of Carlton, is lamenting the lack of experienced players in his camp. Parkin, a former Blues premiership coach, sees a need for more on-field leadership amongst his charges. Parkin has suggested that today's crop at Princes Park doesn't have the leadership qualities of players from his previous era — men such as Mike Fitzpatrick, Geoff Southby, Rod Austin, Rod Ashman, Wayne Johnston, Bruce Doull and Ken Hunter. Those type of players produced inspirational football and Parkin has set himself the challenge to build that type of on-field leadership into his current crop of players.

Melbourne gossip from the AFL arena

Sniffin' around

DEMON DEFICIENCIES

THE unsuccessful road to the finals that Melbourne have travelled over the past four years has highlighted several deficiencies in the Demons camp. However, Demons coach John Northey has taken steps to re-affirm the club's contention as a force this season. The club seems to lack the toughness needed to go right through till the end of September and a search for key-position players has been a priority. They swapped tagger Steve Newport for the unpredictable Saint, Rod Owens before the November draft and instigated a wide net to recruit a host of new players. Melbourne, under one of the AFL's best coaches, had a first-up Foster's Cup win over Richmond and then a close loss to grand finalists North Melbourne.

GOOD EXCUSE

EAGLES football manager Trevor Nisbett is one of those highly-efficient and zealous operators who never misses a trick. But last Sunday he missed seeing his third match in just over a decade of football involvement. And his excuse has been the same every time. Last Sunday his wife Pam gave birth to their third child, a boy Bradley John. The Nisbetts have also got a boy and a girl, both of whom arrived on a match day.

COMEBACK CURTAILED

AN attempted comeback by former Essendon premiership player Shane Heard seems to have ended before it starts. After two years playing with Horsham, Heard returned to Windy Hill this year as assistant to the Bombers under-19 coach, Peter Hickmott. He decided to try a comeback, but limped off the ground last Saturday in

a practice match against Melbourne. A torn hamstring seems certain to dampen his enthusiasm.

CARROLL THE TIP

SYDNEY Swans veteran Dennis Carroll is tipped to captain the Harbour City team this season. The 30-year-old, who was talked out of retirement last year, is likely to be rewarded for his 10 years of service as he seeks to add 17 more senior games to achieve his much-cherished 200-game target. The Swans No. 1 player, centreman Greg Williams, is likely to be the new vice-captain, replacing Gerard Healy, who has opted for the pre-season draft.

TUCK IN TOUCH

VETERAN Hawthorn ruck-rover Michael Tuck is geared up for his 20th season of AFL competition. The lanky 37-year-old with the kangaroo-dog frame is keen to add to the record-breaking 405 games that he had notched up at the end of last season. Tuck has come through a pre-season fitness test that saw his troublesome Achilles tendon surgery provide no worries and he could well be in the side for the final of the Foster's Cup this Saturday.

FIERY RETURN

CARLTON fire-brand David Rhys-Jones is on the road to recovery after seriously damaging his knee mid-way through last season. The talented blond bombshell suffered another setback when a secondary infection affected his damaged knee, prolonging his agonising rehabilitation. Despite suggestions that he was finished, Rhys-Jones has made a remarkable comeback. While he will miss the opening AFL round, he is looking forward to an early return to the Carlton line-up.

SPIES NEEDED

LEGENDARY coach Alex Jesaulenko believes that the east-coast AFL clubs should quickly set up more efficient spy networks in the West. Jezza says that the isolation of the West Coast Eagles is proving to be a bonus for them; not a disadvantage. He says that the Melbourne-based clubs know just about everything that happens in the camps of their rivals — especially any

club in-fighting. But with the Perth media working hand-in-hand with the Eagles hierarchy, very little scandal escapes to the east coast. And Jezza is particularly cynical about the Eagles re-locating their Melbourne office right into AFL House, in Jolimont, where their Victorian manager, former Footscray general manager Stephen Nash, can keep a tight eye on everything that happens.

Your 1991

Eagles

Fixtures

- Sunday 24 March (Round 1) Eagles v Melbourne, Subiaco
- Saturday 30 March (Round 2) Collingwood v Eagles, Victoria Park
- Sunday 7 April (Round 3) Eagles — Bye
- Friday 12 April (Round 4) Eagles v Nth Melbourne, WACA
- Sunday 21 April (Round 5) Eagles v Adelaide, Subiaco
- Saturday 27 April (Round 6) Geelong v Eagles, Waverley
- Saturday 4 May (Round 7) Hawthorn v Eagles, Princes Park
- Saturday 11 May (Round 8) Essendon v Eagles, Windy Hill
- Sunday 19 May (Round 9) Eagles v Fitzroy, Subiaco
- Sunday 26 May (Round 10) Eagles v Sydney, Subiaco
- Saturday 1 June (Round 11) Richmond v Eagles, Waverley
- Sunday 9 June (Round 12) Brisbane v Eagles, Carrara
- Friday 14 June (Round 13) Eagles v Footscray, WACA
- Saturday 22 June (Round 14) Carlton v Eagles, Princes Park
- Sunday 28 June (Round 15) Eagles v St Kilda, Subiaco
- Saturday 6 July (Round 16) Melbourne v Eagles, MCG
- Friday 12 July (Round 17) Eagles v Collingwood, WACA
- Saturday 20 July (Round 18) Eagles — Bye
- Friday 26 July (Round 19) Nth Melbourne v Eagles, MCG
- Sunday 4 August (Round 20) Adelaide v Eagles, Football Park
- Friday 9 August (Round 21) Eagles v Geelong, WACA
- Sunday 18 August (Round 22) Eagles v Hawthorn, Subiaco
- Sunday 25 August (Round 23) Eagles v Essendon, Subiaco
- Saturday 31 August (Round 24) Fitzroy v Eagles, Princes Park

OCTOBER

"I'm greedy: I think we can have another run at it next year." Swan Districts coach John Todd confirming that he will stay at Bassendean in 1991.

"We are looking to tap the talent that exists in our newly-acquired zone." Perth general manager Steve Woodhouse confirming positive plans for the club to examine prospects of eventually relocating in their southern corridor region.

"I see it as an enormous challenge and an ideal learning process." Gary Buckenara on being appointed assistant coach at Fitzroy.

"We are responsible people, but unless there is light at the end of the tunnel, we will close the doors." Claremont president Lew Mutch on the Tigers \$300,000 debt problem.

"Though we had a number of applications from people with more experience, we believe he was a credible alternative." South Fremantle general manager Brian Ciccosto on the appointment of Steve Hargrave as league coach for 1991.

"It was more for career reasons than football and I'm thankful to the Eagles for being so co-operative." Claremont and Eagles rookie Peter Mann, moving to North Melbourne to further his banking career in Victoria.

"We are extremely pleased to have Mark with us and his experience in the AFL will be invaluable." Eagles recruiting officer Mick Moylan on obtaining the services of 56-game North Melbourne forward Mark Hepburn in exchange for Peter Mann.

"He'll really have something to prove when he comes back." Sydney Swans general manager Barry Rogers on the return of former full-forward Warwick Capper from the Bears.

NOVEMBER

"I've got a few things to prove and hopefully everything will go well." West Perth utility player Paul Mifka on being selected by the Brisbane Bears to make a comeback in the AFL.

"I haven't had enough experience yet to throw my hat into the ring for a senior coaching position." Former Claremont and Carlton star Ken Hunter on being named Perth's assistant coach.

"I don't envy the people who have to make the decision and though I'm disappointed, it's part of being a league coach." Stan Magro deposed as coach of South Fremantle.

"Some things will be done differently: I have my own way of coaching and I don't intend to change." Steve Hargrave on being appointed coach of South Fremantle.

"It's going to be difficult because we play the other six top sides of this season in the first eight rounds. But we got a few other things we asked for." Eagles general manager Brian Cook on next season's fixtures.

"People have said that I would never succeed at top-level football and they are saying the same about Brisbane. This is my chance to prove them wrong on both counts." Shane Stempel on being drafted by the Brisbane Bears.

"We've had a tremendous run on the football field, but it's been a disastrous year off the field, with home games rained out and having to repay loans." Claremont president Lew Mutch launching a \$300,000 Save the Tigers appeal.

"It's not every day that an opportunity comes along like this and when it does, you have to grab it." East Perth ruckman Stephen Hooper on being drafted by Geelong.

"Should the study recommend that a second AFL team be introduced and is then endorsed by the AFL and the WAFC, it could not happen in less than two years." WAFC chairman Dr Peter Tannock on the appointment of a study group to investigate the feasibility of a second national-league team in WA.

"It was not an easy decision, but my work-load away from football is increasing and opportunities with the Eagles are going to be tough to come by." Eagles veteran Dean Turner announcing his retirement.

They said it over



John Todd ... another crack at flag.

"The Irish have caught up to us in their composite rules; they are more physical fitness has improved." Australian captain commenting on Ireland's 2-1 win in the series.

"I saw him fell a team-mate and it was instantaneous; he spun around and my contact with his chin." Essendon's Terry Diting he struck Collingwood's Gavin Brown final, resulting in seven weeks of an 11-week ban. "It was obvious that my style of play did Gerard Neesham's coaching plans." Claremont veteran John Annear on signing Fremantle.

"There was a fair bit of uncertainty in signed with the Eagles before it got messy." Claremont recruit David Hynes.

"I'm honoured and delighted. Once you put on the jumper, you become one of them." Eagles recruit Malthouse on being appointed coach of Origin team for next season.

"I'm over the moon. I'm not that keen on city life, but I guess I'll have to move up there now." West Perth's Harvey rookie Derek Hall on being drafted by the Eagles. "I was really shocked to be picked by Hawthorn." South Fremantle's Willie Rioli on the draft.

"I probably need another year in the State League, but you have to take the opportunity when it comes." South Fremantle's Mark Collins on being drafted by Sydney. "I'm very disappointed. It seems I can do the apprenticeship, but can't graduate." East Perth's George Giannakis, missing out on the draft.

"We don't care where they come from, as long as they can play a bit." Brisbane Bears assistant coach Norm Dare on the new West Australians added to the club's list.

"I would play with Essendon or retire on my laurels; there's no way I would enter a draft system." Veteran ruckman Simon Madden opposing the draft scheme in a Federal Court hearing involving rugby league.



Steve Hargrave...looking for young

"I still enjoy playing at league level and that puts another string to my bow." South Fremantle's Rob Solin, coaching the Bulldogs reserve team. "Crows pick the eyes out of most things, so they're the name." Neil Kerley, football manager of the Adelaide Crows.

"I've got to look at the overall picture and I'm actually up to it or if the opportunity comes." Eagles rover Don Pyke reviewing his AFL career. "Some of the strategies put into place this year to bear fruit and we can look to the future with East Perth president Bob Pearson on the \$5500 for 1990.

"I've always been a Richmond supporter, but it's changed now and I'm looking forward to playing for the Eagles draft choice Robbie West, a rover for the Ovens and Murray Football League.

"All Eagles players who have not previously played in a WA club will go into a draft." WA Football Commission chairman Dr Peter Tannock.

"It does no one any good to have the top footballers at the end of the second round." WAFC chairman Tannock on the introduction of a final round. "I have a love of the club and I feel that I have the necessary experience to get Perth back to its former prominence." Ken Armstrong on his appointment as Perth coach for 1991.



Stan Magro...opting out at Souths

MEETING PLACE

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for both players and
supporters . . .



over the summer

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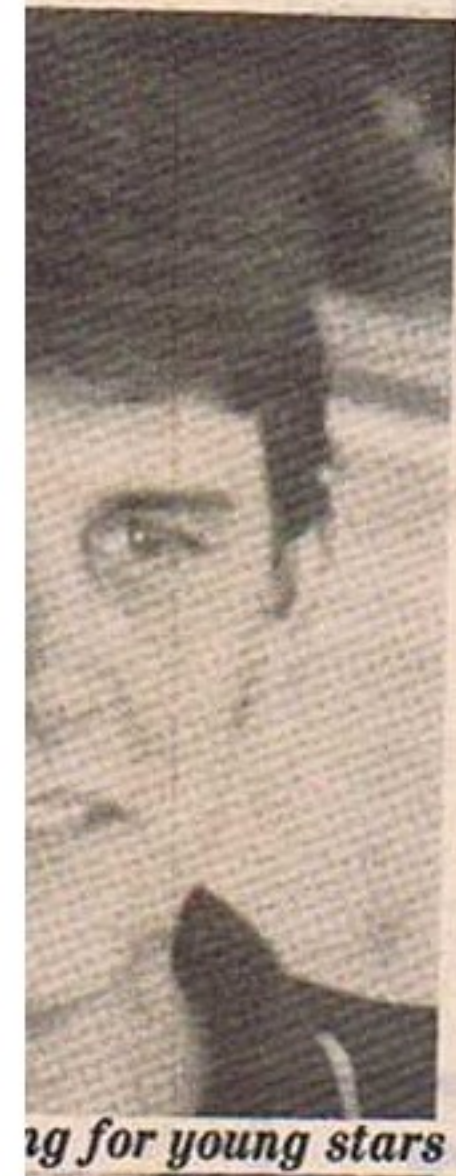
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Peter Melesso ... showing plenty of courage

"It's a funny thing about cancer. Everyone associates it with death, but you can beat it. I've just got to cop it sweet and get over it." Eagles defender Peter Melesso announcing his determination to beat cancer.
A bloke who king hits or punches someone deserves everything he gets." Retiring Essendon tough man Bill Duckworth, firing a critical parting shot at the AFL tribunal for the use of video tapes to capture late bumps and tackles delivered in the heat of the play.
"We rate Mick Malthouse as the best coach in Australia and we are delighted that he has made a commitment to stay with us for the next four years." Eagles chairman Terry O'Connor on the appointment of Mick Malthouse as coach till 1994.
"It gives me a lot of satisfaction to be appointed on a four-year basis." Mick Malthouse.
"I've never really been given a go and I would have gone through life wondering whether or not I was good enough." Paul Mifka on his decision to have a second AFL try-out with the Brisbane Bears.
"The job was to recognise the 22 best footballers over the year and some pretty good players missed out." AFL chairman of selectors Ted Whitten announcing the 1990 team-of-the-year which included Chris Lewis and John Worsfold from the Eagles.
"Peter has developed good spirits since being told the news and we are doing everything we can to help him beat this." Eagles general manager Brian Cook on the news of Peter Melesso's cancer illness.
"It's basically a matter of getting better use out of the ground." East Perth president Bob Pearson on moves to share Perth Oval with the WA Rugby League.
"There doesn't appear to be any problems, but because of merchandising agreements we have to wait till 1992 before the new name can be used." Eagles Melbourne manager Stephen Nash on plans to re-name the club Perth Eagles.
"We believe our case is reasonable and we expect the clubs to respond accordingly." Bill Atwell, president of Tasmanian club Clarence on demands for extra cash for players drafted to AFL clubs, including Eagles recruit Gavin Cooney.
"Most of what is in the letter shows an abysmal understanding of the real situation in football in WA." WAFC chairman Dr Peter Tannock on a call by former East Perth director Geoff Smith for all clubs to challenge the power held by the WAFC.
"The club was bitter when I first told them I wanted to go home." Eagles draft choice Mark Hepburn on his decision to quit North Melbourne.



ing for young stars

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dogs reserves side.
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Perth back to a position of
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DECEMBER

"I couldn't do the job justice and the players would have picked up my lack of oomph." Perth coach Tom Mullooly resigning after one year because of a lack of enthusiasm.
"Anyone who understands the Australian football system knows that a breakaway league is an unworkable situation." WAFC chairman Dr Peter Tannock on Claremont suggestions to break away from the WAFL.

JANUARY

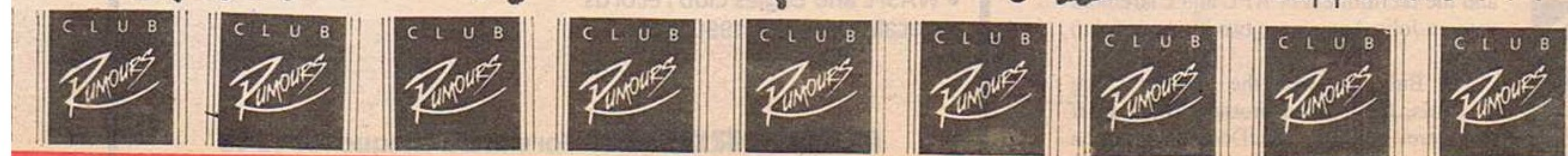
"I just wanted to clarify a few things with Mick and I feel a lot better now that we have had a talk." Eagles captain Steve Malaxos on concerns about his playing future.
"A lot of exciting talent has been recruited; new players bring excitement, enthusiasm and more depth to the club...and personally, I'd like to think we can improve." Eagles coach Mick Malthouse.
"I am aware that there have been problems with some Eagles players in the past, but we regard them as Claremont footballers and are keen to retain them." Tigers president Lew Mutch.
"Pyke has thought about his future and decided he wants to play AFL football." Eagles coach Mick Malthouse on Don Pyke's change of mind about quitting.
"I suppose it was just living in Melbourne — I didn't like it at all." Dale Kickett on his return to the Eagles.
"I don't want to be one of those players who tries to go on too long and ends up hobbling off the ground every week." Veteran Brian Peake announcing his retirement after 402 seniors games.

FEBRUARY

"I am starting to get towards the end of my AFL career and I needed to ensure that I give myself the best possible chance of gaining selection." Eagles Geoff Miles seeking a change of club from Claremont.
"I'll wait till my first meeting with the Commission before I discuss some of the strong views I've got on various issues." Former Subiaco president Michael Carlile being appointed to the AFL Commission.
"He didn't ask for changes to his contract or anything like that. He's just lost his motivation for the game." Geelong official explaining Gary Ablett's decision to retire.
"We have taken the action to improve the image of the game and encourage more juniors back to the sport." WAFC chairman Dr Peter Tannock on the introduction of the send-off rule.
"The kids will be crying in the streets." A Geelong supporter on Gary Ablett's retirement.
"Top footballers have a responsibility to present the best aspects of the game and there is no room for those who set poor examples." Sports Minister Gordon Hill on the send-off rule.
"I think it's time I learnt to control my aggression a little more." Newly-appointed Eagles captain John Worsfold.
"It just won't go away and I'm almost at the end of my tether." Eagles ruckman Laurie Keene struggling to recover from his heel problems.
"Eagles players were the meat in the sandwich between the two clubs and it was the players who suffered. I wasn't prepared to take that gamble again." Retired Eagles veteran John Anear on his move to South Fremantle.
"It has always been our position that a truly national competition should be formed on the basis of one club, one team." Eagles general manager Brian Cook on an AFL proposal to have feeder leagues as the second structure under a reduced AFL competition.
"We've got five weeks to get our skill level up to the required standard." Eagles coach Mick Malthouse after the team's first-round Foster's Cup loss to St Kilda.
"I saw him coming and I thought I had just one second to live." Eagles midfielder Steve Malaxos on a collision with St Kilda giant Tony Lockett.
"The club has written off a number of long-standing debts including \$30,000 worth of shares in the West Coast Eagles." Claremont president Lew Mutch on his club's growing financial debt heading towards \$600,000.

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Royals, Lions set to move up ladder

by KIM HAGDORN

EAST PERTH, a sleeping giant of WA football for the past six years and Subiaco, a power of the late 1980s, shape as the two biggest WAFL improvers for 1991.

Dropped up by a wealth of border-line West Coast Eagles squad members, Subiaco should make the biggest jump up the 1991 premiership ladder after finishing a disappointing seventh last year, avoiding the wooden spoon with a round 21 victory over West Perth — leaving the Falcons with the dreaded basement department title.

The Lions can anticipate regular service from former All-Australian winger Andrew MacNish, either Laurie Keene or Phil Scott in the ruck, rookie big man Matthew Burton, Ian Dargie, Mitchell White and Todd Breman, who should all have limited AFL commitments in 1991.

Indications too are that disgruntled Claremont big man Ryan Turnbull will be on Subiaco's books this season, adding further depth to their already talented big man strength.

FINALISTS

The Royals, with tough follower Lucio Baroni fuming at being over-looked for the AFL draft and having plenty to prove in 1991 and gutsy midfielder George Giannakis back to peak fitness, boast one of the most potent mid-field divisions in local football.

While the Royals will cross fingers that Victorian country recruit Darren Lunt can live up to expectations to replace AFL draftee Stephen Hooper, East Perth also have retired West Coast Eagles follower Dean Turner and a fit Steve Richardson back to bolster their on-ball division.

The Royals, who finished fifth last year with a powerful finale to the season, are also certain to bolster their goal-to-goal talent with the recruitment of Eagles squad member Geoff Miles or draftee David Hynes.

Miles has made clear his intentions to leave Claremont and will enter the WAFL draft for Eagles players.

Hynes is an option for the Royals and could solve the big-man vacancy left by Hooper's departure to Geelong.

East Perth are also sure to get spasmodic service from Eagles forward Craig McGrath as the West Coasters search for their best centre-half-forward.

So the Royals loom as definite finals contenders for the first time since 1984, when they were beaten by Claremont in the first semi final.

While East Perth and Subiaco prepare for a surge up the ladder, grand finalists Swan



Flashback time for Claremont's Darrell Panizza as he looks at an old poster of the Tigers in their early-1980s hey-day. "Dollar" is the veteran of the camp this year...but his pre-season form indicates that there is plenty of dash left in his legs yet.

Districts and Claremont could share diverse fates in 1991.

Swans look sure to remain a premiership threat.

However, the unsettling effect of the enormous financial stress on the Tigers could spill to the players during a long and tense winter.

The Tigers must also compensate the loss of former premiership players Peter Thorne, John Scott, Scott Rowland, Tony Beers and Cam Lewis, who have retired and Peter Mann, Tony Evans, Joe Cormack, David O'Connell and Todd Ridley, who have joined AFL clubs.

Claremont simply cannot continue to sufficiently replenish their senior team playing stocks with juniors. They have done so magnificently for a decade, but surely the talent barrel must soon run dry

This season shapes as a real test of Gerard Neesham's coaching ability.

Swans already loom as the combination to beat for the flag.

The black and whites remain confident they can offset the loss of premiership players Don Langford, Don Holmes and Kim Hetherington (all retired) and David Ogg, Paul Gow, Todd Menegola and Shane Stempel to AFL clubs through last November's draft.

DEVELOPMENT

Under a carefully planned junior development structure, Swans will pin faith in young local players and they will be blended in with exciting mid-fielders Brendon Retzlaff, Mick Grasso, Danny Penny, Geoff Passeri and Len Gandini.

Swans are another leading WAFL club which could see plenty of their Eagles squad members, Phil Narkle and Murray Rance.

South Fremantle, beaten by Swans in last year's preliminary final, should again prove a force, under new coach Steve Hargrave.

The return of robust forward Mark Bayliss and the recruitment of AFL and Claremont veteran John Annear are two big bonuses to South.

The Bulldogs, with the likes of Craig Edwards, the Collard brothers Brad, Cliff and Derek and John MacDonald all still on the books, should again prove serious finals contenders.

Up the road at East Fremantle, however, it could turn out a long year for the State's most traditional and premiership-laden club.

The Sharks welcome the return of former State player John O'Sullivan and will pin their faith on experienced forward Clinton Browning, rugged followers George Christie and David Rankin and the experienced Shane Ellis for their on-field drive.

Bill Krakouer has the capacity to continue with another good season after the enterprising consistency he showed last year.

However, the Sharks lack a classy ruckman to initiate their drive and could struggle in the big-man department with the pre-season walk-out of Rob Zupanovich, Lance Durack and Clinton Wolf.

East Fremantle could benefit from the Eagles draft if they secure the services of Peter Higgins, from Claremont.

Perth will commence the new season full of hope, but may have to settle for a learning year with a host of youngsters and untried Sunday League recruits to be blooded.

The Falcons will pin their faith in a crop of exciting young colts players, including defenders Craig Rinder and Justin Drifill, forward Chad Innes and mid-fielder Todd Curley.

The Falcons will pin their faith in a crop in top pre-season form and Matt Cullen a prospect to kick a bag of goals from full-forward, should improve dramatically on last season.

West Perth cannot be discounted for a spot in the top five, particularly with the presence and confidence around the packs that the return of ruckman Craig Nelson and rugged Bill Duckworth will offer.

LIKELY TABLE

So a glimpse into September might find a final premiership ladder something like this:

- 1 Swan Districts
- 2 Subiaco
- 3 East Perth
- 4 South Fremantle
- 5 West Perth
- 6 Claremont
- 7 East Fremantle
- 8 Perth

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Sharks win recruiting race

EAST Fremantle have scored a major recruiting coup by signing star Collie utility player Jeff Davidson.

Davidson opted to play with the Sharks after having talks with rival WAFL clubs Claremont (where brother Peter played before graduating to the Eagles and now the Brisbane Bears), Swan Districts and West Perth, in whose country zone he belonged.

Accompanied by his father, former Collie Football Club president John Davidson, the young forward examined all the propositions before signing with East Fremantle.

"East Fremantle have done everything right by me ever since they first approached me," said the robust 22-year-old, who has been found employment and accommodation close to East Fremantle Oval.

Davidson attracted the attention of Perth talent scouts with two outstanding performances for the South West combined side at the annual Country Championships in Perth last July.

NINE GOALS

He kicked nine goals from full-forward against Avon in the SWNFL's first

By **GLENN CORDINGLEY**

game, but injured ligaments in his chest forced him to miss the next game. He returned under some duress for the grand final against Great Northern and posted five goals to help South West to a 31-point victory.

His remarkable effort earned him selection in the WA Country Allstars team, which contested the Australian Country Championships at Shepparton in Victoria in late July.

Davidson also shone for his local SWNFL club Collie winning the Bussell Motor Hotel Player-of-the-Year award; the National Mutual goalkicking award with 62 goals in the minor round (mainly from centre-half-forward) and was joint winner of the Myles South West Fuels Supplies \$2500 Player-of-the-Year trophy.

CONSOLATION

He capped a memorable season by winning Collie's fairest and best award....some consolation for losing the grand final to Harvey-Brunswick Leschenault.

Davidson's older brother Peter is now currently playing for the Brisbane Bears in the AFL and the two Collie products have shared similar knee injury problems.

Jeff was forced out of the game for 1989 with a knee injury and opted to take a break overseas before resuming his career in fine style last year.

He is now keen to take another step forward in his football challenge and is likely to earn an early league spot in the Sharks colours.

SECOND CHANCE

SUBIACO recruit Glenn Coyle is hoping that he succeeds at league level second time around. The tough Kalgoorlie centre-half-back first tried out for South Fremantle in 1987, playing three reserves games before heading to the South West for a stint with Carey Park. He returned to Kalgoorlie in 1989 where he became a Goldfields star with Railways, winning the A-grade fairest and best at the annual Wesfarmers Country Championships in Perth. He has moved to the city this year and is one of the early track stars at Subiaco Oval.

PLAYER SWAPPING

WAFL coaches are licking their lips at the thought of obtaining a talented new face or two in the West Coast Eagles reverse draft at the end of the month. All imported interstate Eagles and those locals wanting to make a club switch will go into the draft, which sees wooden spooners West Perth taking first pick. Claremont and Swan Districts have opted to sit it out and surely Subiaco (second in line for a selection) have already had their first pick with the return to the club of Ian Dargie from St Kilda.

JUNIOR SURPRISE

THERE was a pleasant surprise in store for 100 young footballers when clubs in Claremont's western suburbs attended their annual registration day last Sunday.

As they signed on for the five clubs in the district, they received a free ice cream and a Pepsi, courtesy of Claremont and the WAFL's major sponsors. The joint registration day at Claremont Oval for juniors aged between six years and 17 saw a number of Eagles and Tigers league players in attendance and a coaching clinic was part of a successful day.

COALFIELDS SEES COACHING SWITCH

TRADITIONAL Coalfields football clubs Mines Rovers and Collie have produced an interesting twist to their intra-town rivalry this season.

The Miners have persuaded former Collie premiership coach Mick Murray to join them this year as senior coach. Some tireless persuasive work from Mines president John Brown finally paid off as Murray decided to come out of retirement and tackle a new challenge.

Murray, who played with Collie and coached them to the 1987 premiership, switched to Carey Park in controversial circumstances and took them to sixth position in 1989 and 1990. Mines have finished eighth in the last two seasons and seventh in 1988, with the Eagles last finals appearance back in 1987.

Brown, one of Mines long-serving stalwarts, says that the appointment of Murray will help resurrect the club. He sees Murray as the right man to instil new discipline into one of the South West's former power clubs.

Murray says that Brown proved a persuasive president.

"I don't know how many times they asked me," he said. "But they wore me down in the end."

COLLIE SAINTS SIGN NEW COACH

SOUTH West 1990 runner's-up Collie have opted for former player Neil McDonald to coach the seniors this season.

The Saints were taken to last year's grand final by Peter Slater, who later announced his retirement.

McDonald, who coached the Collie reserves last year, has played with the club from juniors and his senior career included stints under Slater and newly-appointed Mines Rovers coach Mick Murray, which may influence his coaching techniques.

Collie club president Jim Raper is confident the league team's new coach will play an important role in helping the Saints stay at the top of the SWNFL. Slater indicated after last year's grand final that he wanted a break from coaching after some tough years.

"I needed a month off to assess everything. I didn't want to sit down and say yes or no a few days after the grand final," said Slater.

BATTLE ROYAL

THE financially-troubled Royals Football Club in Albany is facing a battle to solve a debt problem with the Albany Town Council. The club has held an emergency meeting to discuss ways of clearing up a \$62,576 debt, accumulated over a number of years for loan repayments, power bills and rates. The Council had threatened to cancel the club's lease on Centennial Oval and its clubrooms, which could have spelt the end of the Royals. But a new club committee has reached a compromise with the Council to clear up the debt, with a choice of two options: one involving raising funds to remove the arrears, the other seeking loan guarantors to restructure the loan balance and pay the power and rates off monthly.



Subiaco recruit Glenn Coyle.

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THERE'S a new feeling of enthusiasm at Leederville Oval — and it's big in size and shape.

The recent summer has seen the hefty hunks of men — Bill Duckworth will add strength and aggression as a utility player; Craig Nelson will be a huge bonus for the ruck division and John Duckworth will add plenty of weight off the field.

The addition of Duckworth as assistant coach to George Michalczyk adds enormous off-field expertise and enthusiasm, while the inclusion of brother Bill and Nelson in the team will lift the spirits of the smaller players.

The Falcons have high hopes for two promising Sunday league recruits — Oscar

Moreno, from Kelmscott and Peter McDonald from Kenwick. Both are capable of holding down key forward-line position.

Michalczyk is also regarding former Claremont ruck-rover Brian Sutherland as a recruit this season. He joined the Falcons last year, but a knee operation prevented him from playing a senior game.

His pre-season form this year is excellent and he should add some handy skill to the on-ball brigade.

In addition, the Falcons are certain to promote a number of players from their successful under-19s side of last year.

Craig Rinder, Todd Curley, Justin Driffill, Dean Brunton and Chad Innes all have claims to league spots in the early stages of the season.

The double Ducky's ... Bill (right) and John back at Leederville



DUCKY'S CHALLENGE

A NEW-LOOK Bill Duckworth is seeking new challenges in his return to West Australian football after an eight-year absence. Duckworth has his sights set on playing as a ruck-rover with West Perth, despite most of his 126 games for Essendon being in a defensive role. The tough 32-year-old back pocket specialist believes an on-the-ball position this season would help him utilise his experience. The affable Duckworth, sporting a Mike Tyson-type haircut, is back at Leederville, where he played 33 games and rejoins brother John, who is the Falcons assistant coach. The two brothers played at West Perth in 1981 - John on his return from South Australia and Bill on his way to Essendon. Duckworth is pleased about his return home and especially enjoys getting back to the family farm at Kondinin, in the eastern wheatbelt.



Sharks looking hungry

The big pack of Sharks looked hungry for prey when they attended East Fremantle's pre-season camp at HMAS Leeuwin, under the watchful eye of coach Ron Wilcox.

East Fremantle's temporary training venue was a welcome change of scenery while their home oval was being used for baseball.

Wilcox, now in his second season as coach of the Sharks, is pleased with the club's selective recruiting programme, with the addition of over a dozen players.

Joining the Sharks from country regions are collie centre-half-forward Jeff Davidson, who was the leading goalkicker in the South-West competition last year, promising ruck-rover Darren Capewell, from Carnarvon, aggressive ruckman Jamie O'Donohue, from South Bunbury and utility player Richard Field, from Quairiding.

Other recruits are John Clarkson (Perth), Simon Moss (Swan Districts), Luke Dollimore (Canberra) and Damien Condon (Port Melbourne).

The Sharks also welcome back former league players John O'Sullivan and Gavin Miller.

East Fremantle have lost only two players from last year — Brad Reid (Hawthorn) and Mike Broadbridge (Swan Districts).

Perennial players Shane Ellis, David Rankin, George Christie and Clinton Browning will again be called to provide their invaluable experience to the younger band of team members.

"Our weaknesses from last year have been stamped out," says Wilcox. "What we now have is a solid nucleus of players and more flexibility."

"The advent of coaching co-ordinator Jim Hurst returning from South Fremantle and Tony Buhagiar in charge of special skills training is also good back-up on the track."

Wilcox is obviously keen to erase the bitter memory of last year's derby finals drubbing which saw the Sharks unceremoniously dumped by South Fremantle in the first semi-final.

BACK TO BASICS

CLAREMONT under-19s coach Larry Kickett is going back to school.

The former East Perth and Claremont rover is, on a year's study leave from his employment in the banking industry and is a full-time student, doing a special business course.

DEMONS REVIVAL

THE mood of revival at Perth was emphasised in their annual elections — with a battle for positions on the board for the first time in seven years.

The club's determination to achieve competition for places on the Board saw seven candidates contest the four vacancies with Graham Glasson, Shane Dillon, Ken Baxter and Gil Grant being elected.

The resignation of vice-presidents Michael Redenbach and Peter Gilkison and, late last

year, the decision of David Wright to also step down, has left a new-look line-up at Lathlain Park.

New president Ted O'Connor has relinquished the reins as general manager, with Graham Glasson stepping into the role. Former president Vince Pental stays on the Board with Peter Brophy moving up to vice-president and Peter Pope retaining his director's role as well as handling the duties of team manager.



New Demons coach Ken Armstrong with former champion Peter Bosustow ... both back at Lathlain Park

LADIES DAY

WITH the opening of the WAFL season still a few weekends away, there's a new twist on pre-season activities at Lathlain Park.

The ladies of the club are involved in a Sunday with a difference this week with a buffet lunch that includes some male

strippers ... and a swimwear parade.

Compete Peter Blewitt will have plenty of spot prizes and the Demons players will be waiting on the tables, serving the ladies with all they want!

For just \$12 a head, the fun starts at 11.30am and at 4pm the men can join in for a green-beer as the St Patrick's Day happy hour gets under way.

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Kicking football into the future



Cable tackles a cycling marathon

IT'S hard to dampen the football enthusiasm that runs through the veins of living legend Barry Cable.

Once again the lion-hearted champion is in the forefront of a physical challenge his biggest since his devastating tractor accident in 1979.

Cable (48) will cycle over 600-kilometres, from Albany to Perth, in a bid to raise enough funds to send WA's Teal Cup team to Darwin for the national championships later this season.

And thousands of young WA country footballers will benefit from the Cable challenge.

EXPENSES

The veteran of 405-senior games will set out from Albany on Sunday, April 7 and will conduct football coaching clinics at primary and high schools along the route.

The journey will be stretched out over six days, finishing at the WACA Ground the following Friday, in time for Cable to toss the coin before the West Coast Eagles-North Melbourne match.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge and involvement," says Cable.

"If I can help raise enough money to get the Teal Cup boys to Darwin, that means a lot to football."

Cable will be hoping to raise \$55,000 to cover accommodation, specialist medical and technical support, transport and to ensure a specialist training program leading up to the annual Commonwealth Bank national 17s championship.

Sponsorship has been gained from Gordonson Cycles and the Quit campaign and Cable is seeking donations from the public to help him push harder.

The tough little rover lives and breaths football.

He has done everything there is to do in the game playing, coaching, administration and now fund-raising. He has been training four or five hours a day in preparation for the marathon, which will take him through Mt. Barker, Rocky Gully, Manjimup, Bridgetown, Nannup, Busselton, Bunbury, Harvey, Pinjarra, Mandurah and Fremantle.

Cable is a full-time employee of the Town and Country Football Development Trust, where his role involves staging numerous coaching clinics something that he really enjoys.

CHAMPIONS

"I'm looking forward to helping young juniors in those country towns," said Cable. "A lot of our champions



Champion Barry Cable tackling a new challenge.

have come from country areas and many of our current Eagles stars have also graduated through the Teal Cup campaign.

"This year's Teal Cup players will all be involved in the sponsorship and fund raising and we've had great encouragement from Town and Country, who are magnificent supporters of junior football in particular."

As a former coach of North Melbourne, Cable will make sure he reaches the WACA Ground in time for the big clash with the Eagles and there should be a capacity crowd there to welcome him.

Aussie Rules does well in survey

PARENTS worried about their children taking up football because of the possibility of injury should take note of a comprehensive study by Sydney researcher Dr Hugh Seward.

According to Dr Seward's survey on injuries in five football codes, Australian Rules is a much safer game than the two rugby sports.

While 492,00 people play Aussie Rules compared to rugby league and union's combined total of 264,000 participants, serious injuries are more predominant in rugby.

Serious neck and head injuries account for nearly one third of rugby union's injuries (31 percent) while only 17 percent of Aussie Rule's injuries occur in these areas.

Research found that strains or sprains were the most common injuries in Aussie Rules, while haematoma (serious pooling of blood around bruising injuries) were the most numerous in rugby.

Only nine percent of Aussie Rules injuries are fractures or dislocations, compared with 24 percent in rugby union. Rugby also had the dubious honour of being the code most likely to suffer a serious spinal injury.

Between 1977 and '85, there were 48 spinal injuries in the two rugby codes, while Aussie Rules only reported nine incidents.

HUNGRY JACK'S THE HUNGRY JACK'S WHOPPER CLUB

with Guy McKenna



If you enjoy the taste of Hungry Jack's off the field, there is a smorgasboard of delights on-field this year as part of the Football Development Trust's activities.

There are a host of coaching clinics scheduled for the year as the Hungry Jack's promotional team -- which includes a number of star West Coast Eagles players -- ventures out to schools right around the State.

The special Whopper clinics are designed to introduce juniors from the age of seven to 12 to the basic fundamentals of

football, incorporating matches.

Some of our early clinics will be held as follows:

- Monday, March 18:
- * Neerigen Brook Primary School, Roleystone.
- * Westfield Park Primary School, Westfield.
- * St Joseph's, Queen's Park.
- * Middle Swan Primary School, Stratton.
- * Edney Primary School, High Wycombe.
- * Cannington Primary School, Cannington.

Westside Football has limited supplies of the Aussie Rules book "Learn to play the Freddie Football way" available at reduced rates for orders of 10 or more -- just \$1 a copy.

This easy-to-read and simply illustrated instructional book is ideal for juniors aged between eight and 14.

Order some TODAY for your club ...

Or post this coupon to Westside Football, PO Box 442, Morley WA 6062, for your own copy.

Please send me copies of "Aussie Rules Learn to play the Freddie Football way". I enclose \$2 for one copy or \$..... for 10 or more copies.

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Mighty Milo says ...



Remember these Golden Rules

Footy is a great game and it's meant to be enjoyed.

But be serious about the way you approach the sport.

Here's the first of our Golden Rules to remember.

Cut it out and paste it in your scrap book ... and collect the series each week.

LOOK AFTER YOUR FOOTY GEAR

Make sure your football boots are always in a good condition; polish them the day before the match and check that the laces are in good shape. You don't want a lace to break when you're in the middle of a big game. Give the laces a wash now and then. Check your sprigs if they are screws and make sure they are all tight.

Go out and meet the ball. Always approach the ball at top pace; don't wait for it to come to you.

There is nothing more embarrassing to see a player standing back waiting for the ball to come to him. Go forward and don't let your opponent chip in front of you and gain possession.

And don't worry about missing the ball if you're running hard at it; you should have a team-mate backing you up.

It's marvellous what a difference



makes



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JUNIORS -- have you got a milestone coming up in your football career?

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AND, if you send in a good photograph of yourself, then we'll do our best to publish it, along with your details.

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It's marvellous what a difference



makes

THE WA Amateur Football League, the biggest football organisation in the State, is set for another highly-competitive season in 1991.

The WAAFL's high-profile A-grade competition has attracted a number of former league players to the ranks of playing-coaches.

Former Subiaco and East Perth utility player Kevan Sparks makes his debut as coach of Trinity Aquinas, replacing former West Perth champion Les Fong, who moves to the powerful Sunday League club, Wanneroo.

Scarborough have appointed former Perth and Subiaco strongman Gary Armstrong to replace 1980 Richmond premiership player Daryl Freame, who this year has switched to Curtin Wesley, replacing 1990 caretaker coach, Steve Arnott.

The departure of Ken Hunter from University opened the way for former Claremont and Perth centreman Cam Shepherd to take over as senior coach of the club.

RESIGNATION

Injury-troubled former East Perth

half-forward Mark Blakely has taken up the challenge with the surprise resignation of North Beach coach Corry Bewick early this year.

After winning the B-grade premiership last season, North Fremantle have regained their A-grade status and appointed former Subiaco player Mike Fairclough as their coach.

West Coast, Nollamara, Mt Lawley and Wembley have retained the services of respective coaches Ken Judge, Mick Rea, Brian Perrin and Gavin Biffin.

The arrival of Sparks at Trinity Aquinas will inject some much-needed vigour into the side, something that has been lacking over the past few seasons. Sparks, who had a successful season as coach of Northam last season, has gathered a number of outstanding players to the club.

Paul Higgins has crossed to Trinity Aquinas after one year with North Beach and former Claremont and West Perth defender Colin Barns, who has come out of retirement, should give the club's forward line a formidable boost.

Trinity have also gained the services of East Perth ruckman John Hackett and University rover Jeremy Pell.

SO THE Adelaide Crows are up and flying...and what a contribution these much-maligned birds are destined to make on the Australian football scene.

Their arrival will make the national league look a little more national and we will wonder how we ever did without them.

Years of unrealistic pontification had the rest of Australia wondering if we would ever see Croweaters emerge from the siege mentality that has prospered in football circles.

While we can now applaud the reality of a situation which results in one of the country's strongest football States taking its rightful place in the national competition, I'm totally aware of -- and sympathetic to -- the reasons why South Australia were suspicious of becoming part of the AFL.

The way in which South Australia was pillaged by desperate and, at times, ill-informed VFL clubs was a disgrace and an indictment on the system that prevailed during those former troubled times. Remember, however, that it was the system -- created by desperation, greed and a total lack of appreciation for the feelings of South Australian football supporters and administrators -- that caused all the anger.

It was not, in personal terms, a vendetta against a beleaguered South Australia. All other States and Territories suffered to the same degree -- perhaps considering their status -- even more. For example, the contribution of the Riverina area of New South Wales to VFL football is quite extraordinary. And consider a Brisbane Bears side with Jason Dunstall and Stephen Lawrence as members.

All that has now changed. We are heading for an "open slather" national draft and the almost sure demise of the AFL under-19s and reserves grade.

Once club final lists have been nominated, the March draft will see players horse-traded all around the country. For example, Collingwood are currently taking a quite extraordinary interest, including financial, in country Western Australia!

This means, of course, that some good

COMMONWEALTH BANK.

presents ...

The national

view  **by JOHN WARREN**

South Australian players will continue to be coerced to teams in other parts of Australia. It also means that some excellent players (particularly Victorians) will be drafted by the Crows.

The judgement of the recruiting manager -- particularly of the Crows -- will be paramount.

Desperately important judgements will need to be made, not only on the sheer ability of local emerging players, but also for their necessity to contribute to team balance.

This requirement will be of even more importance in South Australia because of the State only fielding one team. It will be of little use having available six specialist rovers if only one ruckman of sufficient size and ability is available.

That is where the judgement and realistic assessment of interstate draft options becomes critical.

Providing the Crows manage to set up a totally professional and therefore, totally unbiased recruiting procedure, there is absolutely no reason why the South Australian football public will not be duly rewarded with a highly-successful team. After all, the Crows should be allowed a settling-in period bwdow they end up by being a virtual interstate side -- and with the possibility of judicious infusions from over its borders as well.

Go to it Crows! It has been a long wait for everybody. A Crows versus Eagles grand final on the MCG (and it will happen eventually) would be the ultimate proof of the success of the national competition.

A Swans versus Bears grand final? Now there's something else again!!

AMATEUR NEWS

A roundup of news from the West Australian Amateur Football League

League stars turn to coaching roles

By DAMIEN BIANCHINI



Mal Bennett ... back into amateur ranks.

COMPETITIVE

Scarborough will be competitive this year with the arrival of Armstrong and Dave Anderton, from Kalamunda. Swan Districts premiership player Ken Marshall will be a thorn in opposition sides and former East Perth and Subiaco rover Wayne Dawson will add some speed to the Scarborough side.

One of North Fremantle's main aims this season is to stay in A-grade after dropping out of the competition two seasons ago. The Magpies have not recruited any big-name players, but are concentrating on developing the youth of the club.

University have recruited well this year with the arrival of former Claremont and Carlton defender Mike Aitken, who will give the students stability in the backline. Shepherd's on-field experience should benefit the side immensely, something University lacked after Hunter had his jaw broken during the middle of last season.



Kevan Sparks ... tackling coaching.

Wembley should continue to be a major force in the competition with a number of their younger players gaining valuable experience in last season's finals. A fit Biffin is a necessity for the club as he is one of Wembley's prime movers.

Perrin, in his second year as coach of Mt Lawley, will continue to develop young players.

Perrin has recruited Ian Clarke, from Katanning and All Australian amateur player Bill Armstrong has started training with the seniors after a crippling knee injury. Mt Lawley's fairest and best for 1990, John Edmondson, is undecided whether to resume his WAFL career or stay in amateurs.

LOSSES

West Coast's second-year coach Judge has covered the losses of Mark Palmer, to Subiaco; Brendon Arundall, to West Perth and Dave Devondish, who has retired, with the recruitment of former East Fremantle, Footscray and West Perth ruckman Andrew Purser and Andrew Partington, from Osborne Park.

Nollamara's colourful playing-coach Rea has built a solid side over the past couple of seasons and they should stay near the top of the ladder.

Rea has enticed Clayton Lewis back to the club after missing most of last season and also training with Nollamara is former West Perth and East Perth ruckman Mal Bennett.

The only player-loss from Wesley Curtin is the retirement of WAAFL A-grade fairest and best winner Bryn Chute.

Freame has a relatively young side with no major recruits this year, but it will be a testing time for Curtin Wesley, who have had three coaches in the past year.



Cam Shepherd ... into the coaching arena.

Premiership side North Beach will struggle this year with the loss of nine key players from last season's side.

Some of the major losses have been Paul Higgins, Tony Tomizzi, Corry Bewick, Bruce Stewart and Dave Higgins. New coach Blakely will find it tough, even though he has recruited former East Perth ruckman Gary Bock.

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Guy McKenna



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BYE BYE BOMBER



By **GLENN CORDINGLY**

THE 1991 football season just won't seem the same without Brian Peake. The veteran of more than 400 senior games has finally hung up his boots after 19 seasons; a career spanning the highs and lows of football on both sides of Australia. Peake leaves the competitive arena as a member of the Perth Football Club, wearing the unfamiliar red and black guernsey in his last 10 games after establishing a seemingly-unbeatable club record of 304 games at East Fremantle. Now 37, but still fit and enthusiastic, Peake retires as only the second West Australian to reach 400 games joining Barry Cable towards the end of last season.

The decorated Peake won a Sandover Medal in 1977 and a Tassie Medal in 1979 and it was the sheer quality of his big-game performances that stamped him as a champion, particularly his 22 State games. A stint with Geelong saw him chalk up 66 VFL games between 1981 and 1984, after a highly-publicised switch to the Cats mid-season when East Fremantle released him as it became evident the WA club was not going to contest the finals.

VERSATILE

Versatility was a hallmark of Peake's career; playing in a variety of positions, including centre, wing, half-forward, half-back, ruck-rovng and even full-forward, where he produced one of his greatest-ever games for WA. The young Peake graduated from the Manning Junior Football Club to East Fremantle in 1972, following the footsteps of his father Laurie in preference to joining the Demons under the metropolitan zoning. While his Sandover Medal was obviously an individual highlight, his 1979 season was regarded by many critics as his best. He captained Western Australia to the inaugural State-of-Origin carnival and was rewarded with an All-Australian guernsey. That glory came just days after he had captained East Fremantle to a premiership. Peake has certainly left his mark on football over the years, with some stirring performances; proving to be one of the game's best all-round players, pound-for-pound. It was a sad day for Peake and East Fremantle fans when he was forced to switch to Lathlain Park, the venue where he could easily have started almost two decades earlier, to complete his much-cherished 400-game ambition. Peake will now take a well-deserved break from the sport that has occupied his time for so long...but time heals all wounds and it will not be long before he is back at his true home, Moss Street, East Fremantle, to continue his contribution to the game.

A pictorial flashback to a great champion



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Ground Entry Component
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CONCESSION \$28
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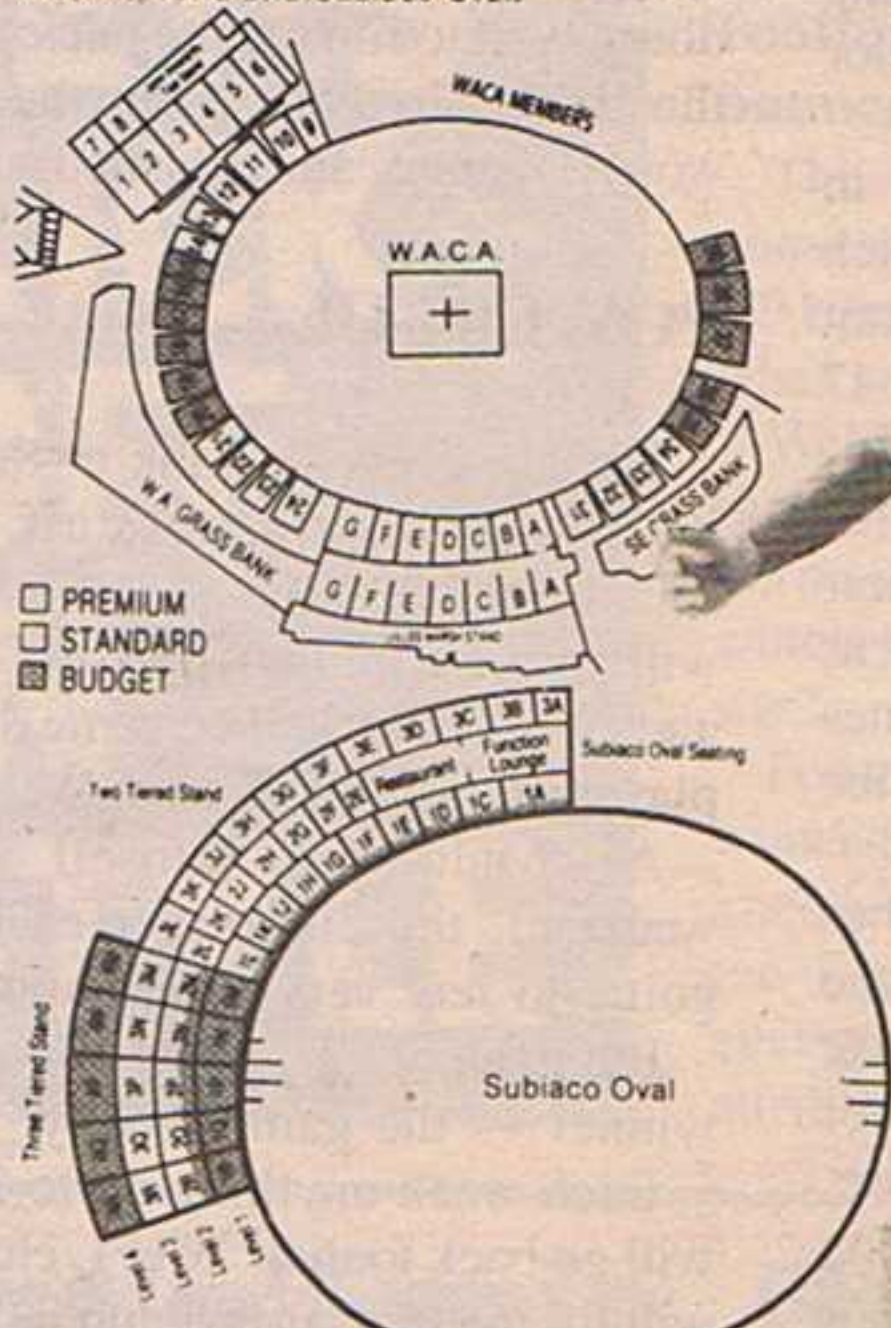
WHERE TO GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP TICKET

If you're an Eagles fan a Membership Ticket makes a lot of sense. You can get one quickly by taking this form along to any Red Ticket outlet listed below, or send it with your payment to the West Coast Eagles, PO Box 508 Subiaco WA 6008. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope. If you'd like to know more about the excellent value a Membership Ticket offers call the West Coast Eagles on 381 1111.

RED TICKET OFFICES: Mt Claremont (Superdrome), Fremantle (Queensgate), Perth (Perth Entertainment Centre) and Subiaco (Gate 1, Subiaco Oval).

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO SIT?

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REGISTRATION

Please note that all applicants for Eagles membership must register by completing the form in full and, most importantly, the name and address of each applicant.

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Concession	P/code		Seat No.:	
Under 15				

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Did you hold a Season Pass in 1987 1988 1989 1990 (Please tick appropriate box/es)

GROUND ENTRY COMPONENT	West Coast Eagles	Category	Cost	Number	
Must be purchased to obtain a reserved seat	MEMBERSHIP TICKET	ADULT	\$63	X	= \$
		CONCESSION	\$28	X	= \$
		UNDER 15	\$9	X	= \$
		FAMILY	\$126	X	= \$
Number of children in family				TOTAL	= \$

OPTIONAL RESERVED SEATING COMPONENT	Class of Seat	Venue	Cost	Number		
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	STANDARD	SUBIACO	\$60	X	= \$	
		WACA	\$35	X	= \$	
			SUBI & WACA	\$22	X	= \$

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To obtain a reserved seat you must still purchase a ground entry component. To assist processing please give a work-hours contact number.

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Subiaco Oval
11am — 2pm

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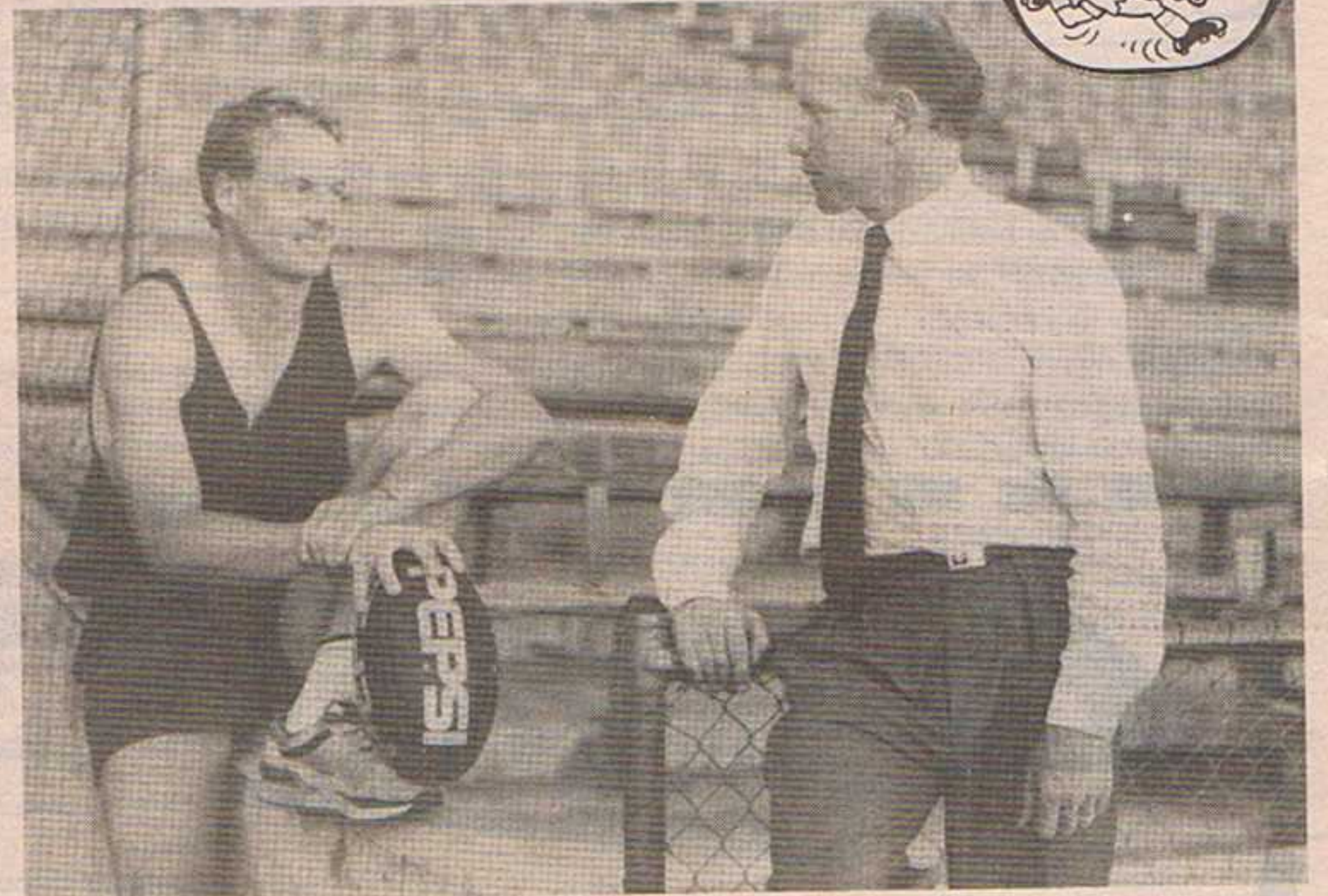
FILL OUT AND SAVE

FILL OUT AND SAVE

THE YEAR OF THE EAGLE



by
Gary Stocks
 of The West Australian



Subiaco Oval is the venue ... but which team will Todd Breman play with — the Eagles or Subiaco? He chats here with Lions football manager Wayne Loxley.

DESPITE obvious attempts by the West Coast Eagles to publicly play down their 1991 aspirations, they loom as strong chances to become the first interstate club to win an AFL premiership.

I'm tipping the Eagles to create history and win this year's flag.

To achieve that goal would see them fulfil a commitment made when the club was launched in November, 1986.

They set themselves a five-year plan as they strived for the ultimate success the sport has to offer — and the timing could well be perfect.

Each year, other than the disappointment of 1989, the club has steadily improved and they have the capacity to

improve further on their third rating of 1990.

After steadily building up their playing strength, the club now has arguably the deepest talent well in the league. They have recruited wisely, stabilised their administrative posts and have learned from the experiences through four seasons of regularly flying across country to display their wares.

When Eagles chairman Terry O'Connor announced the team's new on-field leaders, he warned that it would be a tough assignment for the club to match last season's achievements, perhaps a warning for the local public and media not to place unrealistic pressure on the Eagles.

It is only natural that in this parochial

town, with just one AFL club, that the Eagles would like to keep some semblance of sanity within its ranks among all the back-slapping.

The bold predication that the Eagles will win the premiership is not based merely on their pre-season form or on a parochial whim, but simply on the class of talent Mick Malthouse has at his disposal.

With a slice of luck the Eagles could have been in last year's grand final and once there, anything is possible.

Without harping too much on THAT kick which Peter Sumich missed in the dying stages of the qualifying final against Collingwood, it is doubtful the Magpies would have recovered from defeat to win their first flag since 1958.

ADMIRABLY

From the moment Sumich kicked a behind to force a replay of the qualifying final, everything fell neatly into place for the Magpies.

The Eagles performed admirably in reaching the preliminary final, which they lost to Essendon. Before bowing out of the premiership race, they won 17 matches, drew one and lost eight.

The Eagles will be even stronger this season through the addition to their squad of the likes of Mark Hepburn, Tony Evans, Dale Kickett, David Hynes and youngsters Mitchell White and Glen Jakovich.

As we have seen in practice matches — and little notice should be taken of the pre-season form of teams; simply take note of the players — competition for places within the side has been intense, with some outstanding players featuring in early games.

That puts the Eagles in the enviable position of being able to cover losses

when the inevitable injuries flare.

Collingwood must again rate as fine premiership prospects, though they have the task of pushing the memory of last season's glory to the backs of their minds and to shrug of the effects of the hangover.

Essendon are always capable of brilliance and also loom as a big threat, as do Hawthorn.

Melbourne could slip out of the top five as self-doubts start to emerge. For several years now they have been about the place without converting opportunities.

The big improvers could be North Melbourne and St Kilda, who have sound prospects of working their way into the top six.

North boast some exciting young talent and they will prove the Foster's Cup performances were no fluke.

While the Adelaide Crows performed well in the night series, they will be doing well to mirror the performance of the Eagles in 1987 when the WA club won 11 games and finished eighth.

POWERFUL

But however you look at the season, it's going to be powerful stuff. The huge squad at the disposal of coach Malthouse will ensure continual pressure for places and there could well be some disgruntled players missing out each week.

As Malthouse himself said last weekend, the 21st player each week is going to feel very disappointed.

But in all of this, there's an even bigger winner — the game locally.

Each week anything up to 25 players will go back to their WAFL clubs, which will lift the standard of club football quite considerably; particularly as they will be playing for their national lives.

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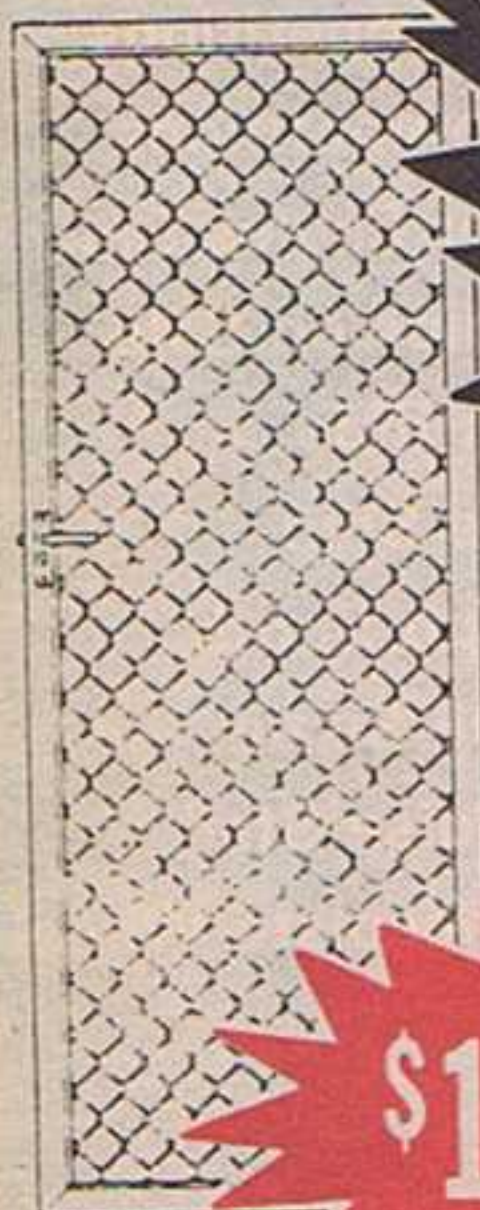


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