



WESTSIDE Football

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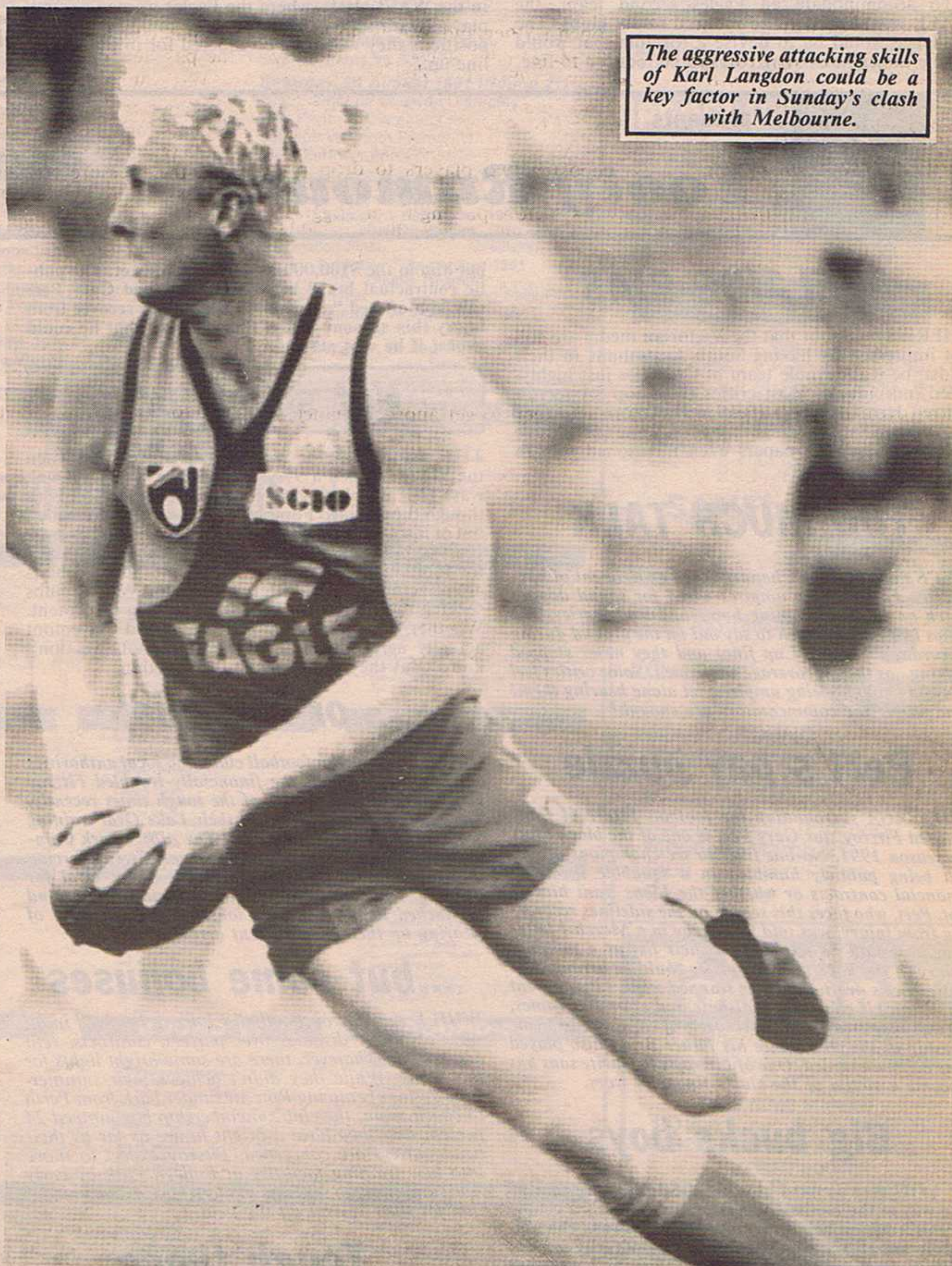
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LANGDON FIREPOWER



KIM HAGDORN sees Karl Langdon as the man to stir up Melbourne in Sunday's opening AFL game at Subiaco Oval



The aggressive attacking skills of Karl Langdon could be a key factor in Sunday's clash with Melbourne.

WEST Coast Eagles coach Mick Malthouse is set to take his first gamble of the 1991 season in Sunday's AFL opening clash against Melbourne at Subiaco Oval.

The Eagles seem certain to swing livewire forward Karl Langdon into action despite a limited preparation.

Langdon, with just one pre-season practice match behind him after missing most of summer training with a heel injury, could be the surprise selection to add firepower up forward for the West Coast.

Malthouse made no secret of his displeasure with a lack of aggression from a number of players in last Sunday's lethargic performance against the Sydney Swans in the final work-out of the pre-season campaign.

Langdon is renowned for his aggressive presence at the ball and that ferocious desire could slot neatly into a three-pronged goal-front battery of left-footer, joining Peter Sumich and rookie rover Tony Evans.

Evans will make his AFL debut and should share roving duties with the in-form Scott Watterson or the speedy Peter Matera.

Langdon, with his bombastic approach to football, has his critics.

Even the parochial WA football public has turned on the peroxide blond at times during his 53-game AFL career.

But he remains one of the Eagles most dangerous forwards and can chime in with inspirational passages of football to lift his teammates and ignite a home crowd.

His typically gutsy, no-nonsense display, topped with four handy goals and a part in three others last Saturday, will tempt Malthouse to include the effervescent forward in his final 20.

Malthouse, in his constant search for perfection, was far from pleased with the West Coasters 46-point victory over Sydney last Saturday; the club's fourth pre-season victory since losing to St Kilda in the Foster's Cup in February.

** Continued page 3*

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Let's change the format

WHATEVER happened to the WAFL?

Notice how hardly anyone even talks about it now?

The success of the West Coast Eagles and the interest shown in the AFL has virtually killed what was once a potent and dynamic competition.

In its current form, the WAFL is going to die a quick death.

For it to survive as a viable competition, it needs a blood transfusion.

Most WAFL clubs are already bleeding financially. And attendances are likely to keep on falling as the competition continues to be plundered by AFL clubs, compounding the situation.

The WAFL needs to be revamped.

EAGLES SIDE

For a start, a West Coast Eagles second team should be a part of it. If nothing else, it would help stimulate interest in the WAFL.

The major criticism against such a move is that the second-string Eagles would be too strong for other sides.

But not so if the competition was rationalised.

To accommodate an Eagles second team, the WAFL would need to be reduced to six clubs. The challenge would be to devise a formula that would enable the eight existing clubs to be reduced to five.

There are a number of ways that could be achieved. Whatever the case, it would need to be done in a way that would strengthen each of the remaining five clubs, so they would provide strong opposition to the Eagles second side.

The rationalisation of clubs could be determined on their geographic location.

With West Perth moving to Joondalup, Perth and East Perth would be two teams to amalgamate.

As their junior competitions are mainly based in the northern corridor, another two sides would be formed from Claremont, Subiaco and West Perth.

South Fremantle, East Fremantle and Swan Districts would also fuse into two clubs and would draw players from the southern suburbs stretching to the hills.

Whether we like it or not, the AFL is here to stay and will continue to get stronger. So WA football really has to revolve around the Eagles.

ADVANTAGE

The major advantage of having a composite second Eagles team is that it would allow team members to play together, rather than be splintered among other clubs.

It would alleviate the kind of problem that occurred in the WAFL draft, where the Eagles wanted certain players with specific clubs so they could be used in positions they would be considered for in the Eagles line-up.



STRAIGHT SHOOTING

with

ROBERT BENNETT
of the Sunday Times

The major problem with amalgamating clubs would be what to call them.

No doubt the staunch supporters would resist a name change for their particular club. But there doesn't have to be a real problem there.

For example, one of the northern corridor teams could be called Claremont-Subiaco, or vice versa. West Perth will soon be a misnomer, anyway. Their name will have no relevance once they move so far away from the city. The club will need a new name, for example Northern Districts or Joondalup Falcons.

East Perth and Perth could simply be called Perth.

Swan Districts could retain their name and the other team would just be Fremantle.

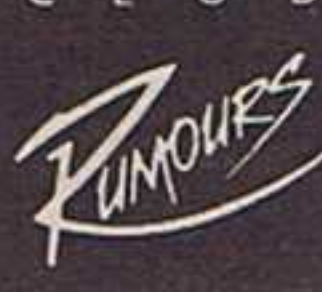
CHALLENGE

The big challenge would be deciding initially how to split up Subiaco, Claremont and West Perth and South Fremantle, East Fremantle and Swan Districts.

It would not be a problem in time, as boundaries would determine the composition of the respective clubs.

But something needs to be done...and done quickly if the WAFL is to remain a viable competition.

CLUB



presents . . .

Footy Rumours

GOSSIP FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

ADELAIDE BIAS

THERE'S no doubt that the Victorian media are still not impressed by having South Australians in their midst; be it the whole team of Crows or just highly-rated individuals. Most critics rated top SA recruit Darren Jarman as best-afraid in Hawthorn's Foster's Cup win on Saturday night...but only one of the three Melbourne Sunday papers even mentioned him in their match coverage.

TOO MUCH TALK

LET'S hope that the Channel Seven experiment of having the Foster's Cup umpires wired for sound doesn't catch on in the upcoming home-and-away series. The umps had far too much to say out on the ground during Saturday's Foster's Cup final and they never stopped talking...as the TV coverage confirmed. Some critics feel it's bad enough seeing umpires; let alone hearing them! And surely the commentators are enough!

Pert's pay puzzle

THE SAGA surrounding the football future of lion-hearted Fitzroy star Gary Pert is one of the black spots on season 1991. No-one likes to see champions of any era being publicly humbled in a squabble involving financial contracts or whether the Lions want him or not. Pert, who faces this season on the sidelines recovering from injury, was told by Fitzroy in a March 1 letter that he would be retained on their list at a nominal salary in the hope that a transfer could be arranged in November's draft. Pert was stunned when Fitzroy went public on his contractual dispute and after 163 games, he was shattered that his prospects of earning life membership at the club where his father Brian also played was being discarded. One of Fitzroy's favourite sons has become a victim of the club's financial woes.

Big bucks boys

IF YOU ever doubted how big the dollars are that go the way of the football superstars, well here's a couple of confirmation points. Former Sydney Swans champion Gerard Healy, who has retired (temporarily maybe) with a severe wrist injury, has taken to newspaper writing. In one article he admitted that a cup of coffee over breakfast with Sydney Swans president Michael Willesee saw him agree to a 10 percent pay cut — a drop in salary of "well over \$10,000" which certainly

put him in the \$100,000-a-year-plus bracket. The public contractual brawl between Fitzroy and Gary Pert saw him offered "a nominal" \$45,000 to recover from injury this season — less than half of what he could expect if he was playing.

Not so historic

THE historic day for West Australian football when the WAFC signed a 99-year-lease for Subiaco Oval, wasn't all that historical for some people. Seems as though the Subiaco Football Club — who were bailed out of insolvency by the rest of the League just over 10 years ago — regarded the big signing as "a black day" for football. Reports have it that the Subiaco hierarchy actually faxed a letter to other WAFL clubs seeking their boycott of the lease-signing agreement. Whether East Fremantle, East Perth and Claremont actually agreed with the boycott or not, we don't know. But they didn't make the function.

...or financial

DISPUTES between football clubs and local authorities are nothing new, but the financially-troubled Fitzroy Football Club had a taste of the tough times recently. The Lions were locked out of their Lake Oval training grounds for failing to pay rent! The Albert Park Committee of Management shut the doors on Fitzroy, forcing the club back to the old Brunswick Street Oval for training. The club's gymnasium equipment was behind the locked doors and the Lions are seeking ways of clearing up their \$60,000 rent arrears.

...but some bonuses

WHILE the Fitzroy Football Club are involved in all sorts of public disputes over players, contracts, rent arrears and whatever, there are some bright lights for the Lions. While they didn't achieve their summer-time desire of enticing Ron Alexander back from Perth to coach them, the club's membership has jumped 24 percent and they have a bright future as far as their headquarters are concerned. Fitzroy expect to move into new training facilities at Bulleen Park by early April and the club sees this modern base as the foundation for their revival off the field.

Tough times

TIMES are tough in tinsel-town, so it seems. Carlton, once the power-brokers of football with big bucks, bigger chequebooks and plenty of high-flying functions, are

experiencing some lack of interest in all things social apparently. The Blues planned a testimonial dinner for retiring veterans Jim Buckley and Wayne Johnston...but cancelled the show when they sold only 22 tickets!

Costly excuses

THERE will be little tolerance from the AFL tribunal this year of players making excuses to avoid hearings over match reports. After the shambles of last season, when the tribunal hearings from the grand final brawl stretched into February of this year, the AFL has introduced hefty fines for players who delay hearings. If a player fails to front for his first hearing, there will be a \$2000 fine, which doubles for a second offence.

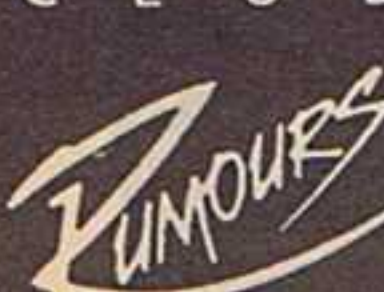
Cloked in mystery

THE heirarchy at the Richmond Football Club and the sporting department of Melbourne's Sunday Age newspaper are really at logger-heads at present. Seems as though the Age got a little upset when the Tigers announced the retirement of veteran David Cloke, with the story being reported on the front page of their sports section. However, Cloke retired only temporarily and after being dropped off the Tigers list one week, he was re-instated in the draft last week. The Age suggested it was a deliberate lie to enable the Tigers to do some wheeling and dealing with player salary caps etc. Richmond have denied all this, of course, but the facts were there — Cloke is back on their list after his official retirement. Things can only get better!

Draft drawbacks

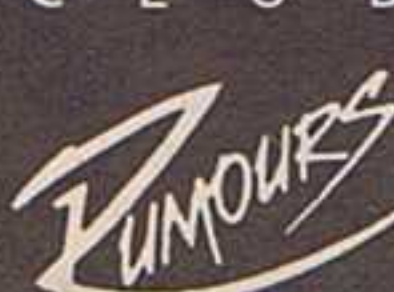
WHILE there are plenty of people who believe the national cattle muster — otherwise known as the AFL draft — is good for the game, there are some footy lovers who are hurting. Darren Morgan, a normal, healthy, fitness-loving 25-year-old from Geelong, is one such person. After seven years and 92 games with Geelong, he was axed off the list last year and put into the draft. The Sydney Swans picked him up, but the Geelong-loving Morgan has no desire to up-sticks and move to the Harbour City. He likes his family, his friends, his work, his lifestyle and everything else belonging to Geelong. He would obviously look at joining another Melbourne-based club if Geelong don't want him, but under the draft rules, he is tied to the Swans for 36 months. And the Swans are not giving him to anyone else, especially after the success John Longmire and Wayne Carey have enjoyed since being let go to North Melbourne. Is that restrictive trade practice or not?

CLUB



For post-match celebrations...

CLUB



Eagles face higher expectations

THE MAJOR problem facing the West Coast Eagles this season is the high expectations that the public of Western Australia will have of them.

That is the opinion of Eagles chairman Terry O'Connor — and it is a feeling shared by many people close to the home of WA's elite football team.

Mr O'Connor, a Queen's Counsel and one of WA's most-respected lawyers, was expressing words of caution at the pre-season Eagles sponsors launch when he highlighted the club's major concern.

While being well-pleased with the sponsorship input of more than \$1 million from the club's major supporters, Mr O'Connor was quick to emphasise that people should not get carried away with the achievements of the Eagles.

Finishing third on last year's AFL premiership ladder was a great achievement; as was their first semi-final victory over Melbourne. To reach the preliminary

"We will have the SGIO as our home-game major sponsors, while Hungry Jack's will have an away-game identity as major sponsors.

"We have got permission to have two different sets of guernseys and it is the first joint major sponsorship of a club in AFL history.

"The SGIO have been tremendous supporters of the Eagles in recent years and now they are joined by Hungry Jack's, who have been right behind football for a long time, in particular, the Football Development Trust and other junior activities."

ELITE SPONSORS

In addition, the Eagles have created a second level of sponsorship this year with Town and Country Building Society and the Swan Brewery being added as elite sponsors.

The two WA firms have been outstanding supporters of sport in the West — and football in particular — for many years and their association with the Eagles is a major step forward for the sport.



Eagles chairman Terry O'Connor

FOCAL POINT

by ALAN EAST



final, with only a sharper and more experienced Essendon preventing them from making the grand final, was a great finale to only their fourth year of national league football.

OPTIMISTIC

"Last season exceeded our most optimistic expectations; it was simply marvellous," said Mr O'Connor.

"But that leads everyone to expect a lot more this year.

"A new season is a new ball game, with more challenges and our biggest problem is to live up to those high expectations.

"We have got no unrealistic expectations; we're no certainties to win a flag. Just to finish third again would be extremely good; disappointing, yes, but still good.

"The task is huge. The competition will be tougher as the national draft takes its effect of evening up the clubs. The premiership is wide open and it is extremely important that we keep our feet on the ground."

Mr O'Connor expressed great satisfaction with the sponsorship arrangements for the Eagles this year, claiming that the WA club was setting an example most other AFL clubs would cherish.

"We had to seek special AFL permission to introduce two joint sponsors and their approval gives the Eagles a major break-through," he said.

"We are delighted to have such high-profile companies associated with the Eagles," said Mr O'Connor.

"The Eagles are the most televised football team in the AFL and we hope to give our sponsors more than their money back.

"We have become the pace-setters in the area of sponsorship and we expect to see other clubs following us now."

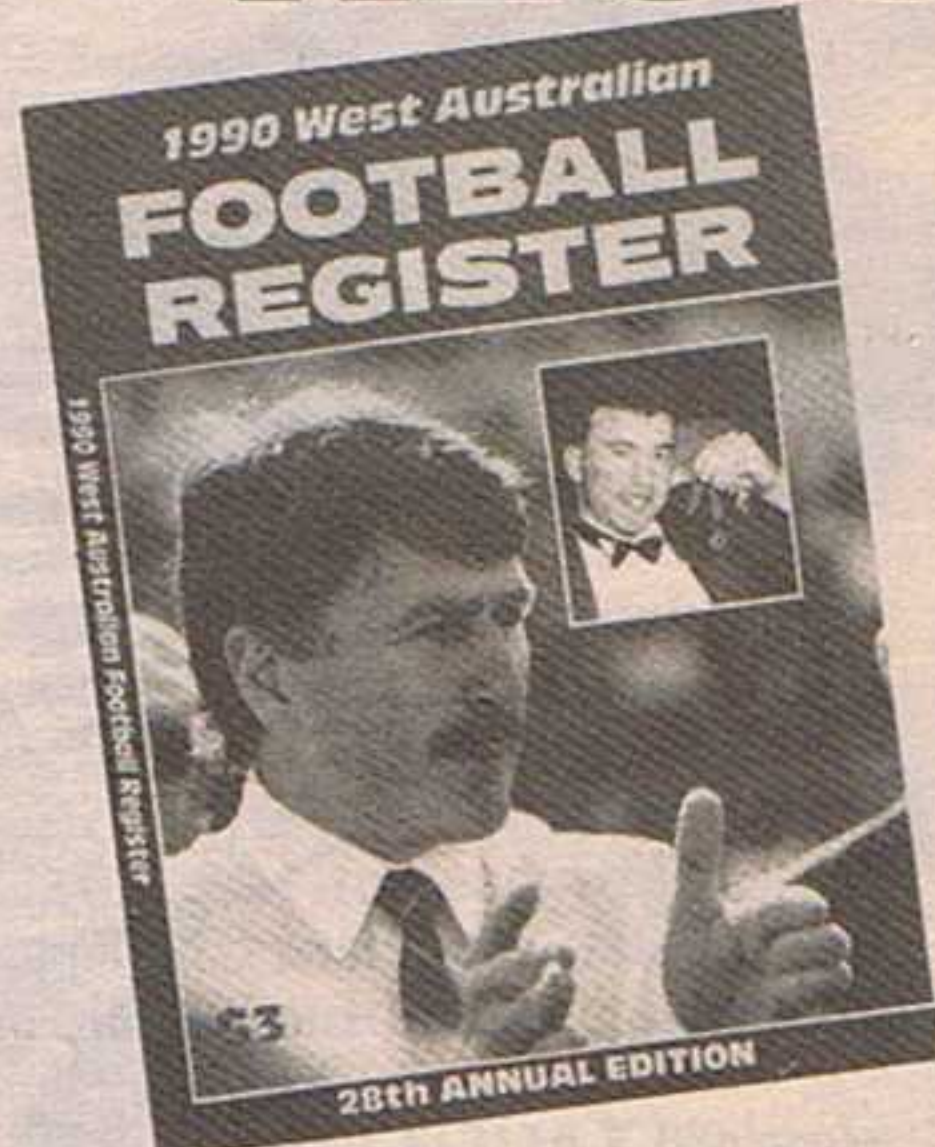
INVESTMENT

Mr Frank Michell, the chief executive of the SGIO, says that his firm was pleased to see the elevation of Hungry Jack's to a joint major sponsorship level.

"The SGIO doesn't have a national exposure need, so it's important that we maximise the Eagles sponsorship and the addition of Hungry Jack's helps do that," he said at the sponsorship launch.

"In these tough economical times, everyone has to look closely at sponsorship and we believe this joint effort is good for all concerned." snippets

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Langdon firepower

* From page 1

The Eagles should have been looking to fine-tune their skills before confronting Melbourne, who have developed as an arch rival with the West Coast after two tough finals appearances together and several close results in Perth in the four years of national football.

The West Coasters, particularly the big man division, left Malthouse with a selection headache that he can do without.

But with a wealth and depth of

talent to make any AFL coach green with envy, Malthouse has options.

The coach's biggest headache is who to leave out of the starting 18.

Draftees Mark Hepburn and David Hynes both have legitimate claims to start at centre-half-back, while Langdon's last minute quest for inclusion, will leave big Stevan Jackson, veteran Peter Wilson, Paul Peos and Steve Malaxos embroiled in a battle this week to fill the interchange bench.

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Player Profile



Mitchell White

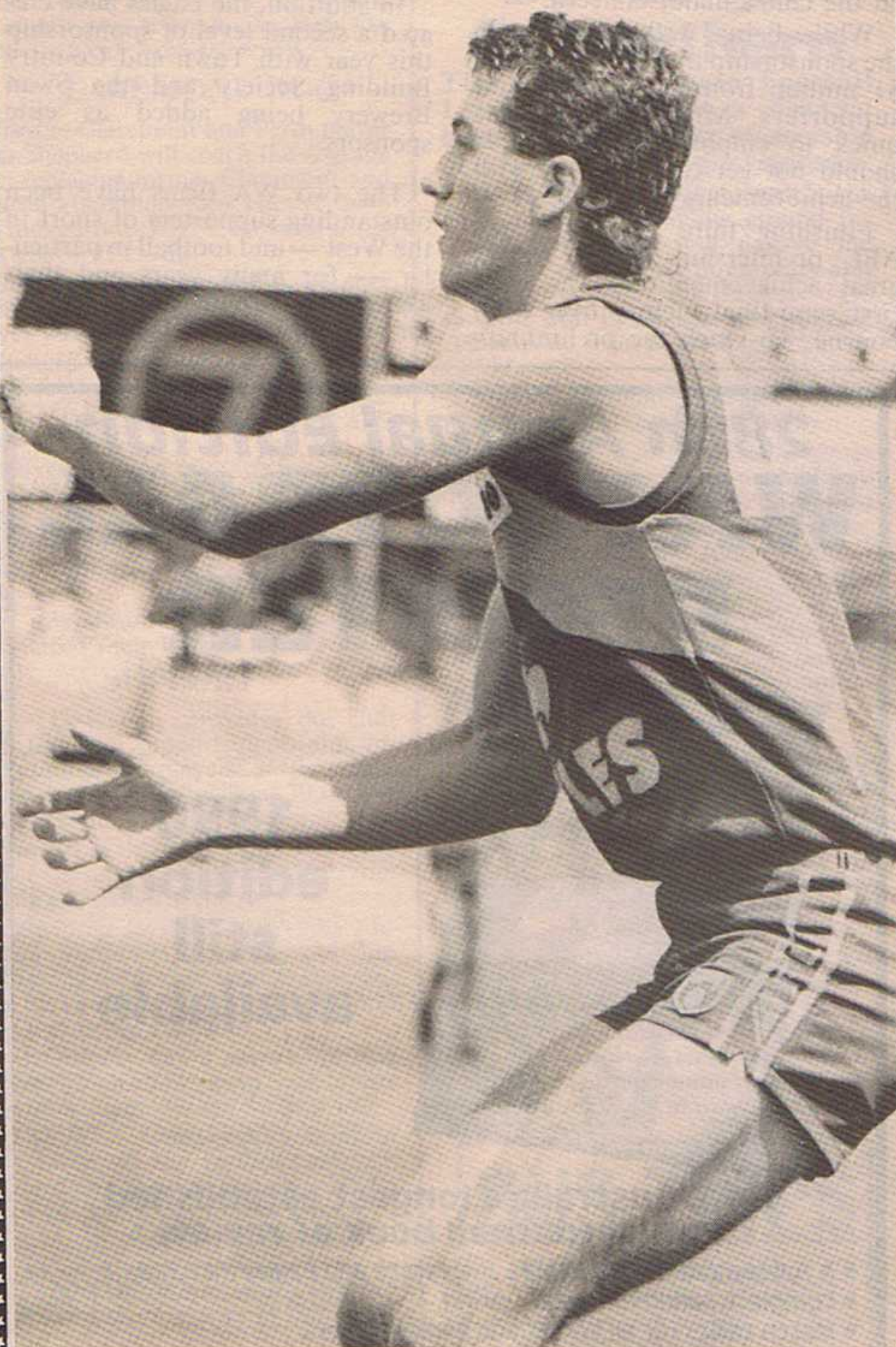


Mark Hepburn



NICK NAME: Heppers
FAVOURITE POSITION: Centre-half-back
CURRENT POSITION: Ruck/centre-half-forward
FIRST POSITION: Centre-half-forward
No.: 16. **HEIGHT:** 196cm **WEIGHT:** 95kg
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: August 29, 1968, Esperance
RECRUITED FROM: North Melbourne/Claremont.
FIRST STARTED PLAYING: Aged 8yrs
JUNIOR CLUB: Esperance
FIRST SENIOR GAME: 1987 North Melbourne; 1986 Claremont
GAMES PLAYED: 56 North Melbourne; 6 Claremont
FOOTBALL HONOURS: -
MARITAL STATUS: Engaged. **GIRLFRIEND'S NAME:** Mandy
OCCUPATION: Student — Economics Degree University of WA
SCHOOLS ATTENDED: Hale School
YOUR CAR: Mazda 929. **DREAM CAR:** Mitsubishi Pajero
FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES: Playing the guitar
FAVOURITE FOOD: Italian
FAVOURITE DRINK: Emu Export
FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP: John Cougar, Billy Joel
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Cheers.
FAVOURITE MOVIE: Dead Poets Society
OTHER SPORTS: Golf
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father and Ron Joseph
PLAYERS YOU ADMIRE: Trevor Musty
MATCH DAY ROUTINE: Try to get to the game on time
FOOTBALL INJURIES: Knee operation
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: None as yet
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play consistently
PERSONAL MOTIVATION: Winning

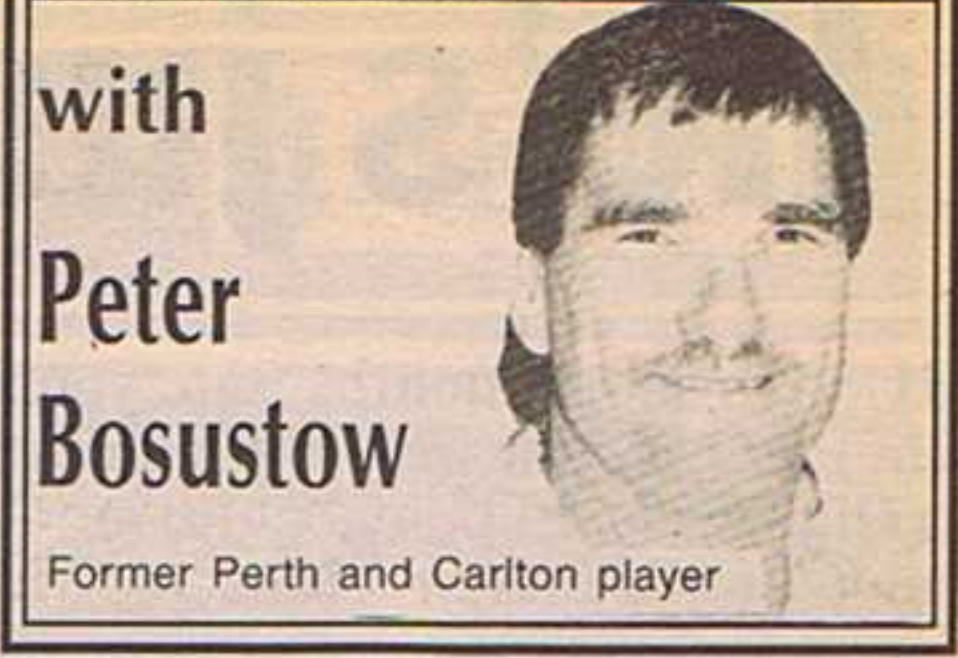
NICKNAME: Mitch
FAVOURITE POSITION: Half-forward flank
CURRENT POSITION: Half-forward flank
FIRST POSITION: Half-forward flank
No.: 47. **HEIGHT:** 191cm **WEIGHT:** 82kg
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: March 28, 1973; Perth
RECRUITED FROM: Subiaco/West Torrens. **JUNIOR CLUB:** Carine.
FIRST STARTED PLAYING: Aged 7yrs **FIRST SENIOR GAME:** 1990 Subiaco
GAMES PLAYED: 13 Subiaco
FOOTBALL HONOURS: 1990 Teal Cup, All Aust 1990 17s
MARITAL STATUS: Single
GIRLFRIEND'S NAME: -
OCCUPATION: Student, Bachelor of Business, Curtin University.
SCHOOLS ATTENDED: Carine High, Seaton High, Adelaide.
CURRENT CAR: Ford Laser. **DREAM CAR:** Honda Integra
FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES: Surfing
FAVOURITE FOOD: Seafood
FAVOURITE DRINK: Pepsi
FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP: U2, Midnight Oil, Hunters
FAVOURITE MOVIE: The Untouchables
OTHER SPORTS: Golf
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father, Ross
MOST ADMIRABLE FOOTBALLER: -
BEST PLAYER YOU HAVE SEEN: Gary Ablett
MATCH DAY ROUTINE: Late breakfast, watch TV
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: None
FOOTBALL INJURIES: None
BIGGEST THRILL: Playing league for Subiaco
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Debut for Subiaco 1990; under-19s grand final for West Torrens 1989
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play consistently well
YOUR PERSONAL MOTIVATION: Hard work



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Great to be home again



The almost-certain return of experienced players like Willie Dick, Wayne Ryder, Gavin Whittington and Roger Kerr will be a boost, while Eagles draftees Shane Porter and Craig McNaughton are handy types and should play with the Demons for most of the season.

And then we should get Brad Edwards back....and he'll be a bonus in the big-man department. After only playing 19 league games with the Demons before taking off for the big-time over East, only to return a little shattered at the experience, Edwards will have a fair bit to prove.

That's the type of determination the Demons will need this year.

No promises

THIS column isn't meant to be a special dispatch from the Perth Football Club; simply a good way to kick the season off!

While the Demons aren't making any rash promises about this year, you can be assured that we'll be a lot more competitive; more desperate and displaying higher skills.

After all, we've got one of the best teachers in the business at the helm. And don't forget, it was Ken Armstrong who took a bunch of young guys in 1974 and produced two premierships within four years.

See you at Lathlain!

Reaping a new harvest

PERTH might be every outsider's pick for the wooden spoon this year....but that's about to change.

The Demons realise that they have missed the boat when it comes to reaping the talent harvest that has flourished in the Sunday League in recent years — and that's one of my roles.

With my knowledge of both the Perth Football Club and Sunday League ranks, I'll be acting as a liaison officer between the two groups and trying to make sure that more players find their way to Lathlain.

Perth have seen top talent like Gary Smallridge, Mark Spilsbury and others drift off to rival clubs in recent years and that has to stop. The Sunday League is Perth's backyard growing area and the Demons have to cultivate the talent a lot more.

WHILE all the attention is focused on the opening of the AFL season this weekend, there's still plenty of excitement and anticipation in the WAFL clubs.

It has been a real pleasure for me to return to Lathlain Park this season and renew some old acquaintances — especially with newly-restored coach Ken Armstrong.

The "old" schoolteacher was my first coach back in 1975 and I had no hesitation in donning the boots and shorts and getting back onto familiar territory to give him a hand.

My role is to do some specialist coaching and sit on the selection panel and I'm more than impressed with Ken's approach to his coaching challenge. There's no suggestion that his methods are out-of-date...in fact, the respect these young guys have for him is enormous.

After pleasant careers at Perth and Carlton and then back at Perth before

a stint in Sunday League, I was more than happy to find myself back on my old stamping ground — and it was great to see some familiar faces.

Former team-mates like Gary Gibellini, Jeff Dickinson, Greg Brehaut and Mike McPhee are back at Lathlain to help the club out and Ken is making sure he revives a few other Demon memories as well.

Footies are the focus

FOOTBALL is the name of the game....and that's something Ken Armstrong has insisted on at Perth this year.

The players have had the balls on the track since early January and the emphasis has gone away a little from the run, run, run syndrome and the super-fit triathlon-type tests.

Sure, the players have worked hard. But it's fair to say that Perth were probably the least-skilled ball-handling team in the WAFL last year and we aim to change that this season.

The players seem desperate for the footy at present and with something like 72 seniors tried out in a recent intra-club practice match, there's no shortage of pressure going on for league places.

Melbourne will be tougher

THIS IS going to be a tough season for the West Coast Eagles, but they won't play many more tougher games than their opening clash against arch-rivals Melbourne this Sunday. The scoreline last year was 3-1 to Melbourne, if you count the exhibition clash in America! The only home-town loss inflicted on the West Coasters last year came courtesy of the Demons, so if you love pressure football, be there this Sunday.

DON'T LOOK NOW

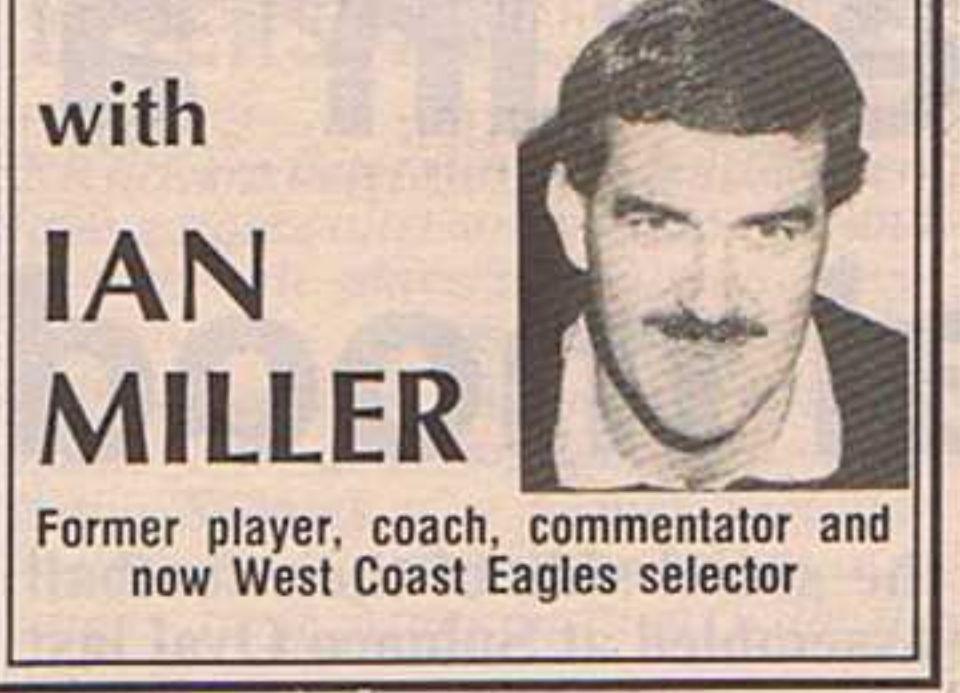
IT WAS a case of "don't look now" for Sydney Swans winger David Bolton during the second half of last week's practice game at Subiaco Oval. Eagles coach Mick Malthouse had shifted the 196cm Ryan Turnbull from defence to the wing — to oppose the 176cm Bolton. After rookie Ryan out-marked veteran Bolton, the Swan tried to outpace him...but wrong again, David! Turnbull showed great agility to chase and tackle Bolton, ending up with the football. The big man's pre-season has been very good and he is starting to show his football potential.

Mouth message

EAGLES strong-man Dwayne Lamb paid the penalty last Saturday for not wearing his mouthguard during the third term against the Swans. Fellow defender Andrew Lockyer came through strongly to tackle a Swans player and clashed with Lamb's head. Fortunately, Lamb escaped with just a minor repair. There will be no way he will take out his mouthguard again.

IN MEMORY

FOOTBALL fans will be hoping that Eagles big man Peter Melesso can overcome his illness over the next 12 months. It has been pretty tough for the affable Victorian and it was great to see the club hold over guernsey No. 26 in the hope that Melesso will be back next year.



The Dawson Diaries

LAST year's finals time saw controversial Collingwood forward Brian Taylor publish "The Brian Taylor Diaries" -- and he came in for some criticism, especially from Collingwood.

The Eagles post-season trip to Portland, Oregon, USA to play Melbourne in an exhibition game, has also been documented in the form of the "Dawson Diaries"

Compiled by Eagles fitness specialist Brian Dawson, the diaries are probably not as hard-hitting as Taylor's efforts, but they certainly contain plenty of laughs

Dawson has placed the diaries in the careful hands of Eagles Football Manager Trevor Nisbett...and we look forward to their publication.

Tradition is so important

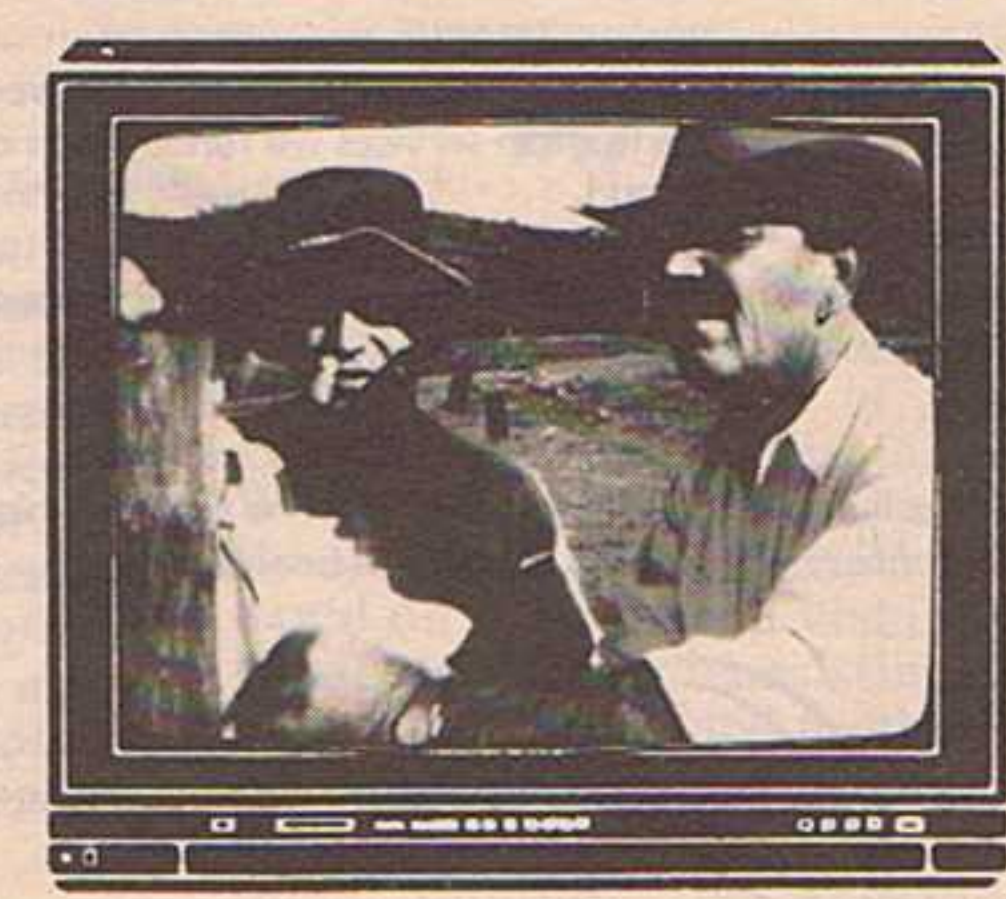
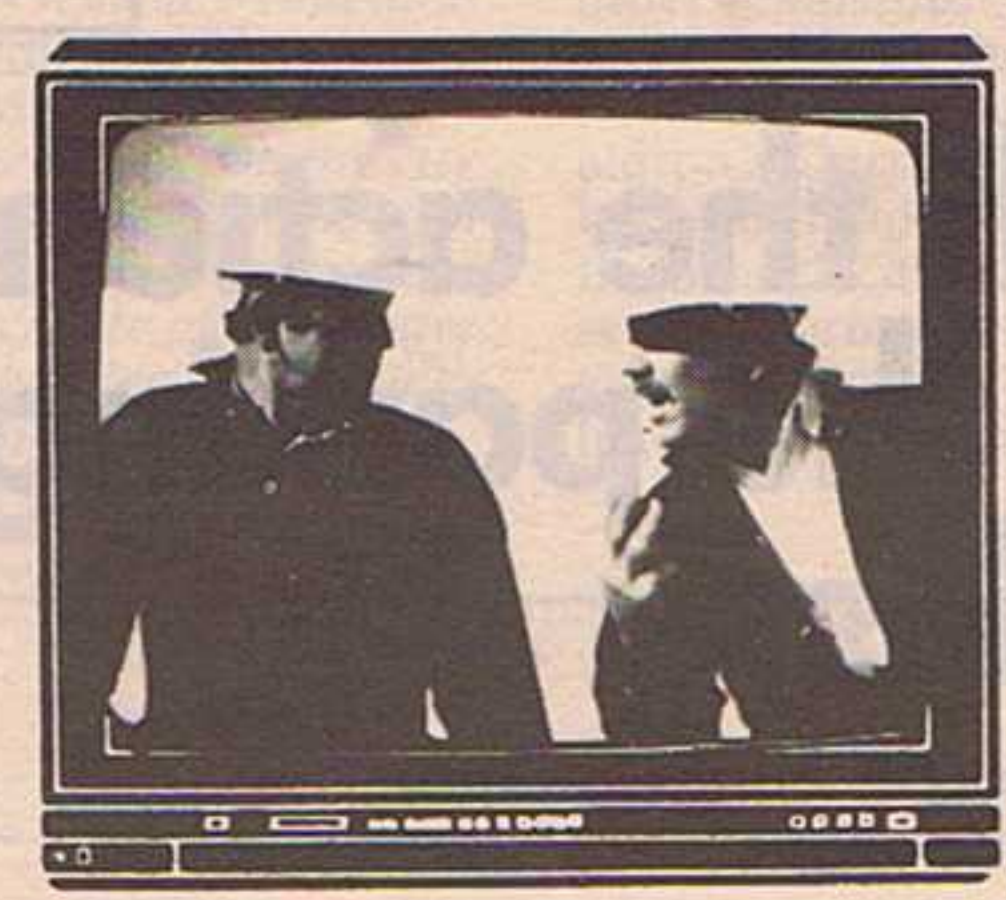
ONE of the strengths of any club is having tradition within its ranks . . . something a young club like the Eagles just cannot manufacture. It takes time.

The Eagles can expect to see players like John Annear and Dean Turner, who were original members of the squad, to still be around the club when time permits in 1991.

Another original Eagle in Rob Wiley is still our team runner, while original skipper Ross Glendinning loves to drop in when he's not involved in his television career.

It's always sad to see veterans like Turner and Annear depart from the scene, but Dean has a new challenge as an assistant coach and player at East Perth, while John has established his physiotherapy practice in Winthrop and is sure to help your body improve . . . and talk footy.

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He's just the Mann for the job

JUST over 12 months ago, young West Aussie Peter Mann was in the middle of an Australian-wide holiday, enjoying his first real look at the major cities of Melbourne and Sydney.

Now, he's right in the middle of the football big-time.

The 193cm youngster is sampling his first AFL pre-season as a key man in North Melbourne's hopes of crashing into the national league finals arena.

He has already achieved one notable first by being a participant in last Saturday's Foster's Cup grand final against Hawthorn; a losing effort, but still a memorable experience in front of 47,000 fans.

A member of Claremont's losing 1990 grand final side, the 20-year-old key position player has fully recovered from hamstring strains which limited his 1990 appearances.

His pace and agility has already won him favoured status at North, who hope that he can settle into a centre-half-back role once he learns to play closer and harass opposing forwards.

ENTHUSIASTIC

North are very enthusiastic about the advancement he has made in the last three weeks as the Roos came through the keenly-contested qualifying rounds of the pre-season competition.

Mann has been allocated one of the club's most famous guernsey numbers, No. 20, once worn by a favourite son in veteran Wayne Schimmelbusch, now club coach.

The No. 20 jumper had not been allocated in the last two seasons following Schimmelbusch's retirement after more than 300 games.

A proud Mann has been nicknamed "Hassa" after the famous former Melbourne (and WA) player, but a few Roos still use his WA nickname, "Hornett".

Mann feels confident about the way he has settled in at North and says: "I'm getting slotted around a lot ... it's just a matter of getting used to it."

Last year he was in Western Australia's initial State-of-Origin squad of 30 players for the game against Victoria, but had to withdraw after the first of his leg muscle tears.

"I tried to come back too early and had trouble for the rest of the year, missing eight or nine games," he said.

From
KEN PIESSE
in Melbourne



STRENGTHENED

"I got my back sorted out and did lots of stretching and strengthening work over summer."

Asked what he was missing most about Perth, he said: "The weather, friends and family."

"Melbourne is a lot faster. Perth is more laid-back; I haven't quite picked up the pace here yet."

Mann was originally tied to the Eagles, before being a pre-draft swap for North Melbourne's Mark Hepburn.

He said he preferred to be involved in a total club situation, like North Melbourne, rather than be just one of a 52-man list, not knowing whether he would be playing AFL or WA league football from one week to the next.

"I'd seen a lot of my friends go back and forth from the Eagles to Claremont. It's not a good situation to be in," he said.

"It disrupted the team. They didn't train with us all week, yet on the Saturday six guys turn up to play."



Peter Mann...new key man for the Kangaroos

Mann played at centre-half-forward, full-forward and the ruck in Claremont's grand final team.

North have more need for tall backmen and that's where he is likely to play most of his football — unless key forward pair Wayne Carey and John Longmire, the top two in last year's club champion voting, are injured.

"I'm not concerned where I play," says Mann. "Half-back, half-forward, anywhere will be great."

Mann, a son of former Claremont and St Kilda player Ken, plans to complete his economics degree in Melbourne this year, as well as cementing a senior place at Arden St.

Eagles in a social mood

THE Eagles unveiled the social side of their football preparation when they assembled at Subiaco Oval last Sunday morning for their annual photo session.

A big crowd of loyal fans were there to mix with their heroes and photographs of the team proved enormously popular.

It was almost a full house for the team photograph with the only players missing being Peter Higgins, Geoff Miles, Murray

Rance and Phil Narkle, who were all playing in a practice match between Claremont and Swan Districts in Bunbury.

Photos are scary business for some people, but some wisecracks by wingman Chris Mainwaring soon brought smiles to the faces of all of his teammates.

New Victorian recruit Cory Young, along with former Perth player Brad Edwards, were naturally the only other absentees as they were only picked in the internal draft on Thursday.

Young arrived in Perth and joined his new club at training on Monday evening, while Edwards is yet to make a final decision on whether he will return from Brisbane for season 1991.

Junior day

ALL 1991 Peters Junior Eagles Club members will be able to collect their posters at the season's first sausage sizzle at Subiaco Oval on Wednesday, April 10. Children under 15 years of age can join the club by telephoning 381 1111.

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IN THE EAGLES NEST

with Tania Armstrong

Boost for Demons

THE Perth Football Club, which was relatively untroubled by Eagles selection meetings last season, have suddenly found themselves with three more West Coasters after the March draft activities last week.

After the departure of Shane Cable early last season, Adrian Barich found himself the lone Demon on the Eagles list and he was troubled by injury and illness for most of the season.

However, the Demons picked up promising youngsters Shane Porter and Craig McNaughton in the reverse draft on Monday and former Perth player Brad Edwards was one of four chosen in the AFL March internal draft last week.

High-flier

WEST Coast Eagles dasher Peter Wilson became the highest flying Eagle this week when he took to the sky (and the air-waves) on board the 96FM Sky Cam.

Willo, the Eagles full-time business development officer, got a different view of Subiaco Oval when he relayed traffic progress to morning commuters as part of a new sponsorship deal with the station.

Catch the action, miss the parking hassles.

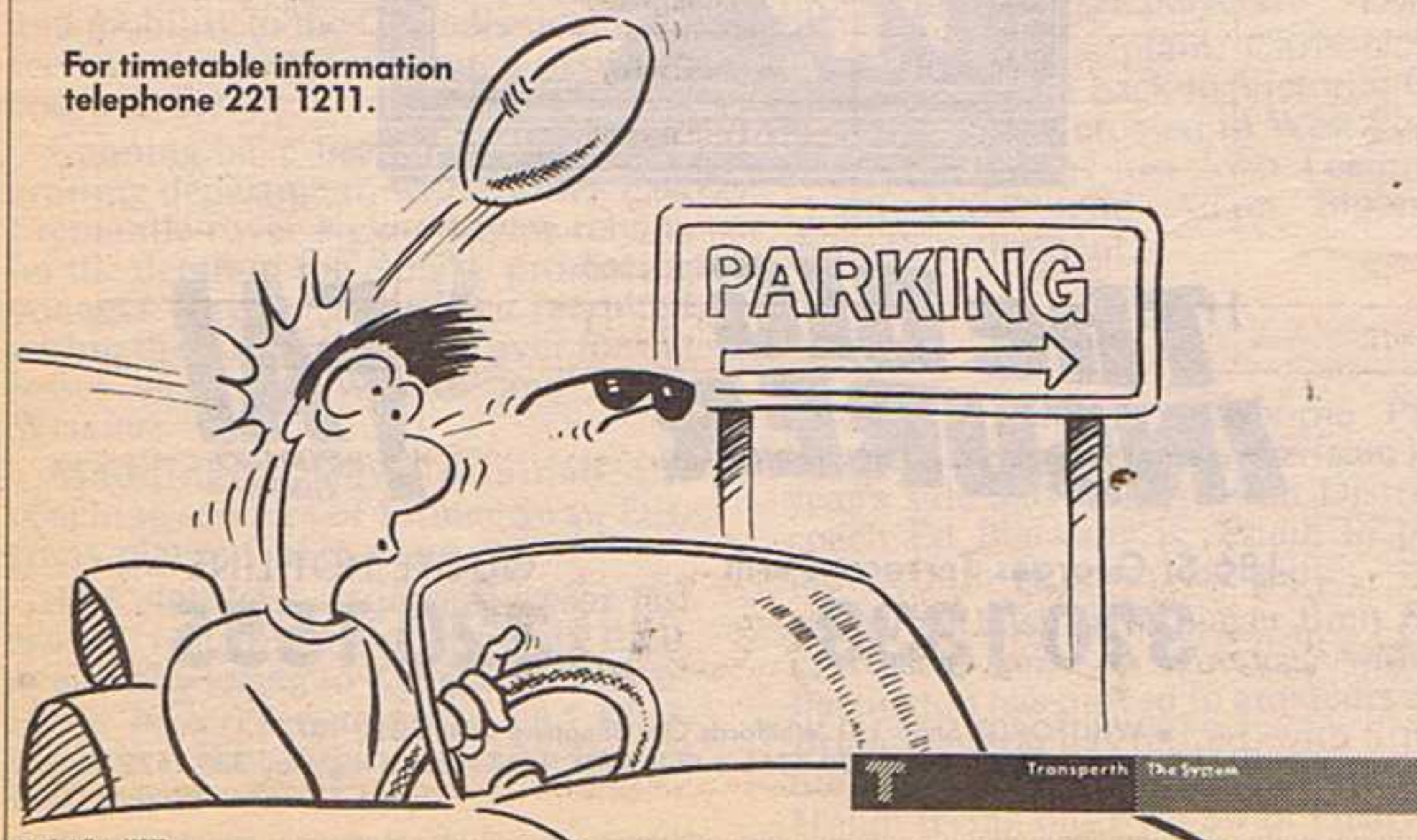
Sunday 24 March, Subiaco Oval.
Eagles vs Melbourne

Additional train services will operate to Subiaco Oval for the Round 1 between the Eagles and Melbourne. After the game extra train services will run to Perth and connect with trains to Armadale and Midland.

Buses displaying Route 999 will depart from the Wellington Street Bus Station, Stand 10 to Subiaco Oval from 10.30am and return from Roberts Road (north side) after the game.

Don't miss a minute of the action due to parking difficulties. The City of Subiaco advises that parking availabilities near Subiaco Oval have been restricted.

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Eagles have the motivation once again



MOTIVATION for football victories come in many ways...

When the West Coast Eagles clashed with Melbourne in last year's first semi-final, their motivation was the arrogant display by some Demons after winning in Perth a few weeks earlier.

When Melbourne became the only team to beat the Eagles in Perth during 1990, some of their players let the home-town crowd know all about it.

The Eagles turned it around in the finals to shock Melbourne — and Melbourne. But now that same Melbourne side comes back to Perth seeking revenge.

Both those performances will be fresh in the minds of Eagles coach Mick Malthouse and his players when the club opens its 1991 campaign against the Demons at Subiaco Oval this Sunday.

One of the main offenders was Brian Wilson, who has since switched clubs. But the Eagles will not forget the humiliation of that defeat.

Melbourne were more aggressive at the ball and played as if their very survival depended on the outcome.

This time around it should be the Eagles who play with the aggression and determination which marked their first semi-final performance.

The Eagles will have a difficult task settling on their starting line-up because so many players have staked a claim with solid pre-season performances.

As was the case last year, the Eagles midfield drive will centre around the performances of Chris Lewis — perhaps the outstanding player by season's end — Chris Mainwaring, Brett Heady, Dwayne Lamb and possibly Steve Malaxos.

DEFENCE

The defensive unit has been superb in the pre-season matches, with new captain John Worsfold edging towards his best form, Michael Brennan as reliable as ever and Andrew Lockyer retaining his zest for consistency.

In attack, Peter Sumich again looms as the key figure, while Karl Langdon staked a late claim for inclusion with a brilliant effort against the Sydney Swans last weekend.

Generally, the Eagles were below their best against Sydney, but that is not so bad.

They know that with four premiership points up for grabs this Sunday, they need to lift their rating and they have the capacity to do that.

The Eagles will probably introduce a couple of new faces to their line-up with Claremont rover Tony Evans, North Melbourne recruit Mark Hepburn and former Port Adelaide star David Hynes on the short-list for inclusion.

Hepburn and Hynes add flexibility and strength to the team's goal-to-goal line, while Evans, a clever rover who reads the ball superbly off hands, could add bite to their attacking football.



Chris Waterman...dangerman in the forward line

Melbourne have promised a great deal without capitalising on opportunities and they will be hungry to get their 1991 campaign off to a flying start.

It was bad luck for them that Andrew Obst, one of the outstanding newcomers in 1990, broke his collarbone in a rugged practice match against the Brisbane Bears last week.

But through players like Gary Lyon, Graeme Yeats, Brett Lovett, Steven Stretch and Greg Healy they have a touch of brilliance.

Much of their goal-kicking expertise rests on the shoulders of Darren Bennett, who is likely to be opposed by his former business partner in Andrew Lockyer.

AFL preview by

Gary Stocks

of The West Australian



Some of the pressure on Bennett to kick big tallies has been relieved

through the recruitment of former South Fremantle and WA Teal Cup star Allen Jakovich, who was best-afield when he kicked six goals against the Bears.



Scott Watters (left) and Peter Matera ...two boys from Fremantle who could play big parts in the outcome of Sunday's match

Sniffin' around

OVER AT LAST

PREMIERSHIP coach Leigh Matthews is glad that all this preliminary match-play stuff is over. Once again, Collingwood have failed to win a practice match, with a 50-point drubbing from Geelong last week being the final straw. The Magpies didn't win a practice match in 1990, but were the winners when the grand final came around in October...and that's the consoling thought for Matthews. However, his side were missing nine players from the premiership team when they went down to Geelong.

...AND B.T. TOO

BIG Brian Taylor, the boy from Mandurah who made good at Collingwood, hasn't hung up his boots after all. The burly full-forward who kicked 527 goals in 140 games for the Magpies, has been appointed captain-coach of Prahran, in the strong VFA competition in Melbourne. Taylor was mooted as a possible choice in the pre-season draft, but he rejected overtures, claiming his legs wouldn't stand up to another AFL season.

Darwin pipeline

THE player pipeline that once extended from Darwin down to Perth — South Fremantle in particular — seems to have been diverted to Brisbane. Hard-nosed Bears football manager Shane O'Sullivan is enticing some of the Northern Territory's most talented Aboriginal players over to the Gold Coast with the future well in mind. An unlikely-named star of the future could well be Darwin hero Gabby Weetra, a teenage giant with tons of potential.

Waiting Winmar

DASHING Saint Nicky Winmar is patiently serving out his tough 10-week suspension handed out last year for a variety of out-of-character offences. Winmar reached the half-way mark of his penalty when he watched St Kilda's recent loss to the Adelaide Crows in the Foster's Cup contest. Victory would have helped Winmar's cause, but that was not to be and he now seems set for a resumption in Round Six.



Emu Export present ...

WESTSIDE'S EXPERT SELECTIONS

	Tally	Adelaide v Hawthorn	St Kilda v Richmond	Footscray v Collingwood	Eagles v Melbourne
RON ALEXANDER	0	Hawthorn	Richmond	Collingwood	Eagles
TANIA ARMSTRONG	0	Hawthorn	St Kilda	Collingwood	Eagles
ROBERT BENNETT	0	Hawthorn	Richmond	Collingwood	Eagles
PETER BOSUSTOW	0	Hawthorn	St Kilda	Collingwood	Eagles
ROBBIE BURNS	0	Adelaide	St Kilda	Collingwood	Eagles
GLENN CORDINGLEY	0	Hawthorn	St Kilda	Collingwood	Eagles
ALAN EAST	0	Hawthorn	St Kilda	Footscray	Eagles
KIM HAGDORN	0	Hawthorn	St Kilda	Collingwood	Eagles
IAN MILLER	0	Hawthorn	Richmond	Collingwood	Eagles
KEN PIESSE	0	Hawthorn	Richmond	Collingwood	Melbourne
MOST FAVOURED	0	Hawthorn	St Kilda	Collingwood	Eagles



how about you?



Hawks power pointer

THE powerful Hawthorn team gave coach Alan Joyce plenty of reason to feel confident about this season when they stormed to victory in the grand final of the Foster's Cup pre-season series.

The victory last Saturday night before an impressive crowd of 46,629 at Waverley was a great pipe-opener for Joyce and his Hawks.

After all, the last time he coached the league side — in 1989 when regular mentor Allan Jeans had a year off with illness — Hawthorn won the pre-season night championship...and the September premierships spoils as well.

Joyce, who returns to coach the side this year with the retirement of Jeans, had most of his big guns firing strongly in their battle with night-time specialists, North Melbourne.



Hawthorn pair James Morrissey and Chris Wittman with the Foster's Cup

But the Hawks were in command after half-time under the bright lights and won by 49 points, 14.19 (103) to 7.12 (54).

BAD LOSS

The loss of key ruckman Greg Dear for the season, with cruciate ligament damage to his right knee, was a hefty price for Hawthorn to pay for the victory, but his emerging brother Paul is ready to accept the challenge of taking on the ruck burden.

The Hawks showed that their priority draft choice, elite South Australian Darren Jarman, was well worth the effort as he dominated midfield, with his excellent driving work capped off

by a creative Dermott Brereton or the strong-marking Jason Dunstall.

The Hawks had too many options for North Melbourne and the way that Joyce was successfully able to swing centre-half-back Paul Abbott onto the ball and give youngster Stephen Lawrence the chance to curb dangerman Wayne Carey was a master-stroke.

Norths can take plenty of solace from their defeat.

Not only did they set the early pace and drill holes through Hawthorn's reputed rock-line defence, but they had plenty of stars around the ground.

MOBILE MEN

Their mobile men, headed by Peter German, Jose Romero, Alistair Clarkson and Anthony Rock, carried more than their share of the ball, while key forwards Carey and John Longmire showed danger-signs.

WA draft choice Peter Mann earned his North Melbourne stripes as a member of the premierships-winning team, but he was used sparingly, having two marks and two kicks in his brief on-field activity.

Former Claremont premierships rover Ben Allan showed that he will be a much-improved AFL player this year with a creative display. In a solid four-quarter effort he had eight marks, 13 kicks and nine handballs.

rumours

BAKER THE COACH

FORMER Swan Districts premierships player Leon Baker has taken to the world of coaching. After completing his successful career at Essendon two years ago, he has opted for a playing-coach role with Maffra, in the Gippsland league. A publicity-shy star, Baker has an enormous inner strength when it comes to football, with the ability to focus on the task at hand and let nothing distract him. The much-travelled Baker was at an Essendon practice match recently to renew a few old friendships and he looked fit and was enthusiastic about his new job. The talented sportsman has also taken to jogging; having just completed his first marathon run.

Interstate Update

with
RICHARD
CAMM



Eagles face early hoodoo

THE West Coast Eagles, beaten preliminary finalists in 1990, face a hoodoo as they approach the 1991 season.

Of the teams finishing third in the previous nine seasons, only three — Essendon (1989), Melbourne (1987) and Hawthorn (1982) — played in the finals the following year.

Essendon and Melbourne both reached the grand final the year after losing the preliminary final, while Hawthorn won the premiership in 1983.

Current Eagles coach Mick Malthouse is one of the six coaches whose team slumped in the season after finishing third. Footscray, losers to Hawthorn in the 1985 preliminary final, dropped to eighth in 1986 under Malthouse.

North Melbourne, third in 1983 and Fitzroy, third in 1986, both suffered the biggest drop, tumbling to 11th in 1984 and 1987 respectively.

THE Adelaide Crows will attempt to emulate the West Coast Eagles and the Brisbane Bears by winning their opening AFL game this weekend.

The Eagles beat Richmond by 14 points first-up at Subiaco Oval in 1987, while Brisbane downed North Melbourne by 33 points under lights at the MCG the same weekend.

Adelaide have already matched the Eagles debut-year performance in the pre-season night competition. Both clubs won their opening two games in the competition, before suffering big losses in the semi-finals.

THE retirements of Rod Carter and David Cloke during the off-season, and Rodney Eade during last season, has reduced to four the number of players with more than 15 years experience behind them.

Hawthorn's Michael Tuck, who played his first game in 1972, has had a pre-season interrupted by injury, but is set for his 20th year of senior football.

Essendon's Simon Madden (1974) and Terry Daniher (1976) and Hawk Robert DiPierdomenico (1975) are the other survivors.

MELBOURNE, winners of their last two games against the West Coast Eagles in Perth, are out to become the first team to beat the Eagles three times on their home soil.

The Eagles have lost 12 games in Perth since entering the competition in 1987. Only Essendon, Hawthorn, North Melbourne and Melbourne have won twice in Perth. All four of those clubs play in Perth this season.

HAWTHORN	4.5	7.11	11.16	14.19	103
NORTH MELBOURNE	4.2	6.6	7.10	7.12	54

GOALS — Hawthorn: Dunstall, Anderson 3, Brereton, Pritchard 2, Condon, Hall, Jarman, McDonald. North Melbourne: Longmire, Romero 2, Rock, German, Allison.

BEST — Hawthorn: Pritchard, Anderson, Condon, Platten, Collins, Jarman. North Melbourne: German, Clarkson, Longmire, Carey, Romero. Played at Waverley. Umpires: Peter Carey, Bryan Sheahan.

Attendance: 46,625.

FIRST ROUND:- Carlton 27.9 (171) b Fitzroy 13.8 (86); Hawthorn 19.25 (139) b Footscray 9.6 (60); Brisbane Bears 20.20 (140) b Collingwood 11.17 (83); Adelaide 23.18 (156) b Geelong 11.13 (79); St Kilda 12.10 (82) b West Coast Eagles 9.11 (65); Melbourne 15.13 (103) b Richmond 12.10 (82); North Melbourne 19.20 (134) b Sydney Swans 13.17 (95).

SECOND ROUND:- Essendon 17.7 (109) b Carlton 14.15 (99); Hawthorn 17.15 (117) b Brisbane 10.8 (68); Adelaide 12.14 (86) b St Kilda 10.16 (76); North Melbourne 13.12 (90) b Melbourne 11.14 (80).

SEMI-FINALS:- Hawthorn 22.17 (149) b Essendon 6.11 (47); North Melbourne 15.13 (103) b Adelaide 6.9 (45).

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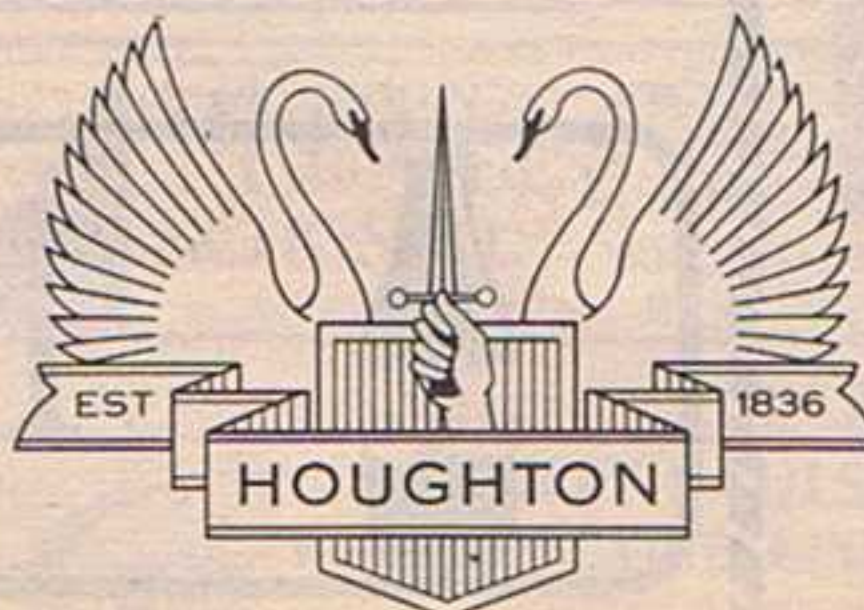


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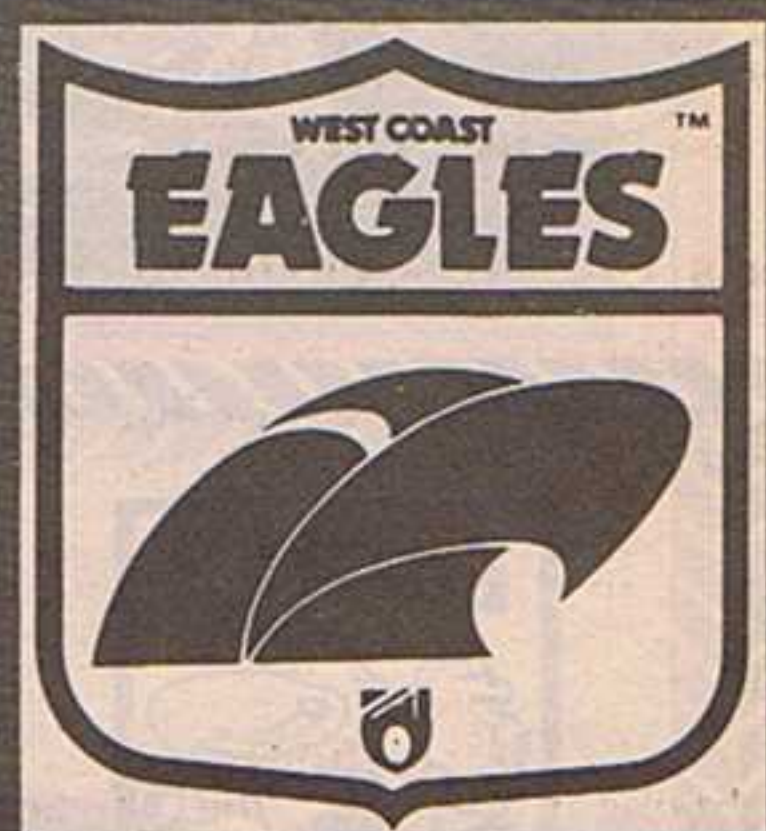


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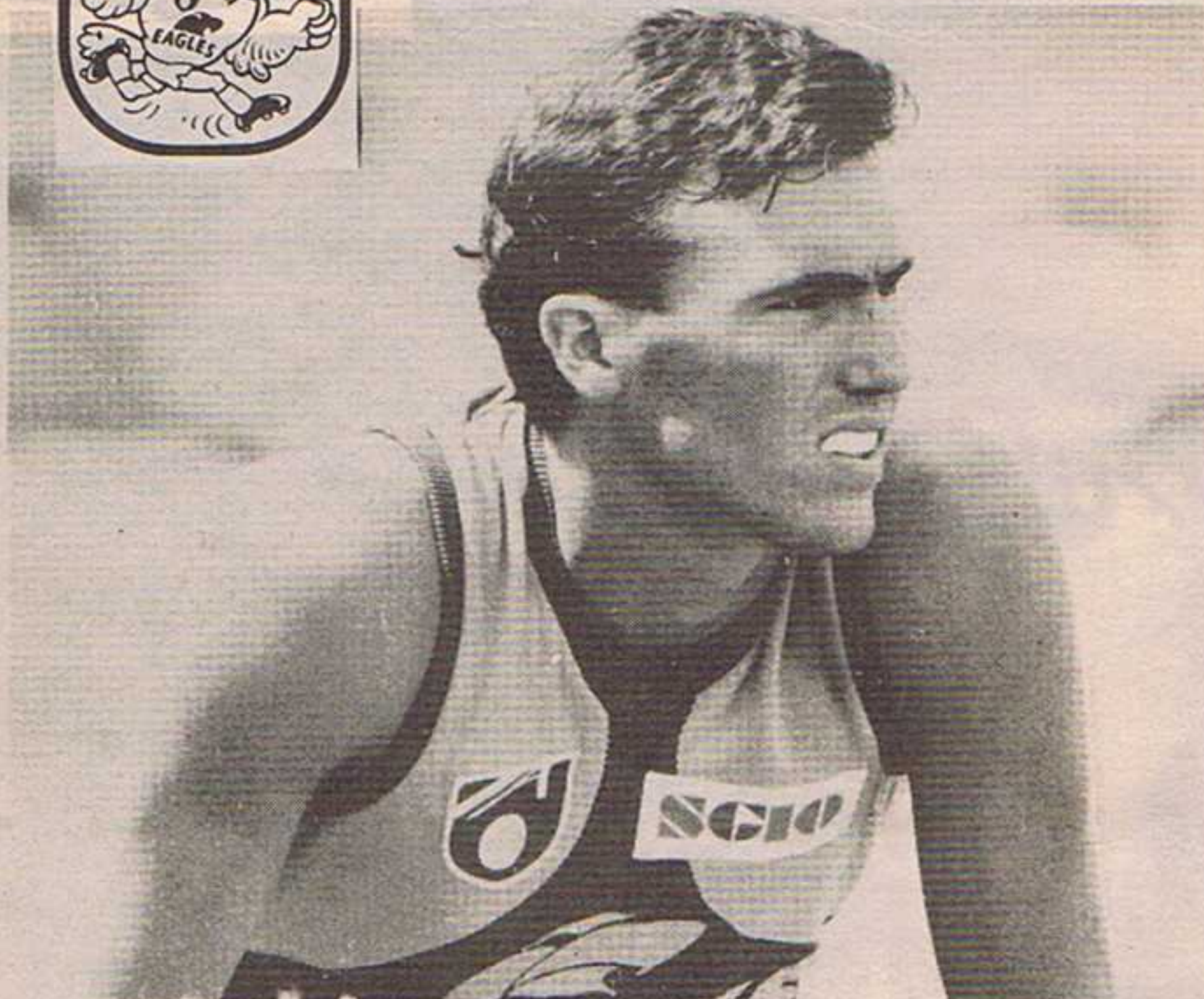
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Who's Who in



FAR LEFT: Ryan, a talented key-positioner eagerly awaiting taste of the big game.
LEFT: South Australian David Hynes, strength and versatility in the Eagles line.
RIGHT: Rookie rover Murray Ross keeps a watch on team-mate Trent.
FAR RIGHT: Veteran defender Murray Ross, some running repairs during training.

Player	D.O.B	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Came from	Games Debut	Goals played	State kicked	games	Occupation
BARICH, Adrian	5.12.63	178	85	Perth/Canberra	1987 WCE	39 WCE	19 WCE	1	Public Servant
BEGOVICH, Tony	7.8.67	183	88	Claremont/Newman College	1984 P 1990 WCE	89 P 9 WCE	45 P 2 WCE	-	Student
BREMAN, Todd	28.10.65	183	82	Subiaco/Churchlands	1985 CI 1989 WCE	77 CI 22 WCE	32 CI 15 WCE	-	Teacher
BRENNAN, Michael	29.6.65	185	90	East Fremantle/Karoonda	1983 Sub 1987 WCE	96 Sub 81 WCE	267 Sub 9 WCE	2 3	Bank Officer
BURTON, Matthew	19.15.70	210	90	Subiaco/Marist	1983 EF 1990 Sub	76 EF 6 Sub	3 EF 6 Sub	-	Student
CLAPE, Matthew	28.5.69	188	83	East Perth/Margaret Riv.	1988 EP 1989 SIK	46 EP 10 SIK	6 EP 1 SIK	-	Surveyor
DARGIE, Ian	15.11.63	177	80	St Kilda/Subiaco/Nth Beach	1989 SIK 1986 Sub	10 SIK 80 Sub	1 SIK 12 Sub	1	Public servant
EDWARDS, Brad	22.2.68	190	95	Brisbane/Fitzroy/Perth/Beverley	1989 Fitz 1990 Bris. 1987 Perth	6 Fitz 10 Bris. 19 Perth	1 Fitz - Bris. 9 Perth	-	Auctioneer
EVANS, Tony	14.6.69	178	75	Claremont/Muresk	1989 CI 1990 WCE	42 CI 4 WCE	66 CI - WCE	1 1	Student Clerk
GWILLIAM, Brad	8.9.66	190	75	West Perth/Mirrabooka	1987 WP 1990 WP	57 WP 21 WP	6 WP 38 WP	-	Labourer
HALL, Derek	29.11.70	188	84	West Perth/Harvey-Bruns	1987 WCE	74 WCE	63 WCE	3	Insurance consult.
HART, David	3.3.64	177	79	Sth Frem/West Perth/Bruce Rock	1984 SF 1983 WP	67 SF 7 WP	77 SF 9 WP	-	Student
HEADY, Brett	4.1.70	183	82	Subiaco/Whitfords	1990 WCE	20 WCE	23 WCE	-	Student
HEPBURN, Mark	29.8.68	196	95	North Melb/Claremont/Esperance	1988 Sub 1987 NMel	34 Sub 56 NMel	56 Sub 29 NMel	-	Student
HIGGINS, Peter	11.10.66	198	96	Claremont/Carlton	1986 CI 1989 WCE	6 CI 4 WCE	9 CI - WCE	-	Plumbing Estimator
HYNES, David	31.3.67	193	90	Pt Adelaide	1987 CI 1985 PAdel	47 CI 119 PA	21 CI 111 PA	1	Sales rep.
IRVING, Dean	1.9.66	200	102	South Frem/Kalgoorlie	1990 WCE	16 WCE	3 WCE	-	Student
JACKSON, Stevan	9.3.70	193	98	South Frem/Willagee	1985 SF 1989 WCE	38 SF 31 WCE	27 SF 58 WCE	-	Security guard
JAKOVICH, Glen	24.4.73	192	97	South Frem/Sth Coogee	1988 SF 1989 SF	21 SF 42 SF	50 SF 77 SF	1 2	Mechanic
KEENE, Laurie	2.1.62	203	100	Subiaco/Karrinyup	1987 WCE	36 WCE	38 WCE	4	Salesman
KEMP, Dean	17.2.69	183	74	Subiaco/Kalgoorlie	1981 Sub 1990 WCE	137 Sub 23 WCE	206 Sub 4 WCE	-	Electrician
KICKETT, Dale	4.5.68	177	75	Fitzroy/Claremont/Girrawheen	1989 Sub 1990 Fitz	21 Sub 15 Fitz	9 Sub 13 Fitz	-	Courier
LAIDLEY, Dean	27.3.67	185	74	West Perth/Westminster-Balga	1988 CI 1987 WCE	35 CI 38 WCE	61 CI 9 WCE	6	Sports store prop.
LAMB, Dwayne	20.12.61	180	90	Subiaco/Nth Innaloo	1984 WP 1987 WCE	53 WP 85 WCE	20 WP 28 WCE	8	Sales rep.
LANGDON, Karl	28.3.68	191	90	Subiaco/Guildford Grammar	1980 Sub 1988 WCE	134 Sub 53 WCE	32 Sub 64 WCE	-	Publican
LEWIS, Chris	17.3.69	186	84	Claremont/Mirrabooka	1986 Sub 1987 WCE	31 Sub 69 WCE	46 Sub 87 WCE	2	Football officer
LOCKYER, Andrew	7.7.65	190	88	East Fremantle/Northampton	1986 CI 1987 WCE	7 CI 56 WCE	6 CI 35 WCE	6	Sales consultant
					1984 EF	59 EF	128 EF		



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CLUB



in the Eagles



EFT: Ryan Turnbull, *ted key-position play-
rly awaiting his first
e of the ig-time*

**South Australian re-
avid Hynes will add
h and versatility to
e Eagles line-up**

**Rookie rover Tony
keeps a watchful eye
am-mate Troy Ugle**

IGHT: Veteran de-
Murray Rance has
unning repairs on the
training track



Player	D.O.B	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Came from	Games Debut	Goals played	State kicked	games	Occupation
MacNISH, Andrew	11.9.65	180	74	Subiaco/Wembley	1987 WCE 1985 Sub	20 WCE 80 Sub	29 WCE 118 Sub	2	Real estate consult.
MAINWARING, Chris	27.12.65	180	82	East Frem/Geraldton	1987 WCE 1985 EF	80 WCE 48 EF	28 WCE 36 EF	8	Insurance consultant
MALAXOS, Steve	19.6.61	177	83	Claremont/Dalkeith-Nedlands	1987 WCE 1985 Haw 1979 CI	66 WCE 9 Haw 145 CI	64 WCE 15 Haw 293 CI	10	Business prop.
MATERA, Peter	3.4.69	180	81	South Frem/Wagin	1990 WCE 1987 SF	5 WCE 59 SF	3 WCE 96 SF	1	Salesman
McGRATH, Craig	9.10.63	190	90	Fitzroy	1990 WCE 1984 Fitz 1990 EP	11 WCE 58 Fitz 10 EP	11 WCE 42 Fitz 7 EP	1	Accountant
McINTOSH, Ashley	20.10.72	193	90	Claremont/Scotch Coll.	1988 WCE	64 WCE	8 WCE	2	Student TV journalist
McKENNA, Guy	11.5.69	185	85	Claremont/Carine	1985 CI	48 CI	3 CI	-	Insurance consult. Sales manager
McNAUGHTON, Craig	27.11.70	185	84.5	Sandhurst, Vic.	1987 WCE	71 WCE	33 WCE	4	Courier
MILES, Geoff	10.1.62	183	85	Claremont/Collingwood	1985 CI 1983 Col 1987 WCE 1984 SIK 1978 SD	51 CI 31 Col 18 WCE 48 SIK 140 SD	9 CI 7 Col 18 WCE 36 SIK 146 SD	5	Insurance consult.
NARKLE, Phil	29.1.61	175	80	St Kilda/Swan Dist/Bunbury	1987 WCE 1985 CI 1983 Col 1987 WCE 1984 SIK 1978 SD	71 WCE 51 CI 31 Col 18 WCE 48 SIK 140 SD	33 WCE 9 CI 7 Col 18 WCE 36 SIK 146 SD	5	Insurance consult.
PEOS, Paul	28.1.68	182	86	East Perth/Deanmill	1987 WCE 1986 EP	35 WCE 41 EP	10 WCE 11 EP	-	Insurance consult.
PORTER, Shane	31.1.72	188	86	Nth Launceston	1989 WCE	20 WCE	17 WCE	3	Fitter machinist Accountant
PYKE, Don	5.12.68	180	76	Claremont/Canberra	1988 WCE 1986 Foot 1981 SD	51 CI 57 WCE 40 Foot 118 SD	80 CI 7 WCE 5 Foot 24 SD	7	Sales manager
RANCE, Murray	25.1.62	191	91	Footscray/Swan Dist/Esperance	1987 WCE 1981 Sub 1989 WCE 1986 SF 1989 WCE 1985 WP	66 WCE 79 Sub 42 WCE 58 SF 32 WCE 72 WP	41 WCE 52 Sub 135 WCE 99 SF 20 WCE 34 WP	6	Research officer
SCOTT, Phil	17.1.61	194	97	Subiaco/Scarborough	1981 Sub 1989 WCE 1986 SF 1989 WCE 1985 WP	79 Sub 42 WCE 58 SF 32 WCE 72 WP	52 Sub 135 WCE 99 SF 20 WCE 34 WP	3	Market buyer
SUMICH, Peter	11.1.68	191	91	South Frem/Cockburn	1989 WCE 1988 WCE 1987 SD	23 CI 32 WCE 46 SD	17 CI 28 WCE 46 SD	-	Student
TURLEY, Craig	24.8.65	185	80	West Perth/Nollamara	1988 WCE 1987 SD	23 WCE 46 SD	25 WCE 25 WCE	1	Student
TURNBULL, Ryan	23.9.71	198	92	Claremont/Scotch Coll.	1988 WCE 1987 SD	23 WCE 46 SD	25 WCE 25 WCE	1	Insurance consult.
UGLE, Troy	18.4.68	175	78	Swan Dist/Carey Park	1987 EF 1989 WCE 1985 SF	51 EF 13 WCE 59 SF	37 EF 4 WCE 19 SF	3	Insurance broker
WATERMAN, Chris	19.9.68	183	83	East Frem/Rossmoyne	1988 WCE 1987 EF 1989 WCE 1985 SF	51 EF 13 WCE 59 SF	37 EF 4 WCE 19 SF	3	Insurance broker
WATTERS, Scott	25.1.69	178	79	South Frem/Hamilton Hill	1989 WCE 1985 SF	13 WCE 59 SF	4 WCE 19 SF	3	Insurance broker
WEST, Robert	7.3.69	174	76	Wodonga, Vic.	1990 Sub	13 Sub	14 Sub	-	Groundsman
WHITE, Mitchell	28.3.73	191	82	Subiaco/West Torrens	1990 WCE	19 WCE	18 WCE	5	Student
WILSON, Peter	15.11.63	183	90	Richmond/East Frem/Lynwood	1987 Rich 1982 EF 1987 WCE 1986 SF	54 Rich 94 EF 75 WCE 25 SF	40 Rich 96 EF 12 WCE 5 SF	5	Marketing manager
WORSFOLD, John	25.9.68	182	85	South Fremantle	1987 WCE 1986 SF	75 WCE 25 SF	12 WCE 5 SF	5	Pharmacist
YOUNG, Cory	6.3.71	177	75	Richmond	1989 Rich	6 Rich	1 Rich	-	-

MEETING PLACE

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CLUB



The Eagles off-field line-up



THERE is a vast range of football experience in the off-field line-up of the West Coast Eagles, ranging from coach Mick Malthouse to the club's full-time staff and part-time support people. These photographs capture the Eagles other line-up

LEFT: Trevor Nisbett...the club's tireless football manager, who was Haydn Bunton's right-hand man in Subiaco's two premierships before moving to the Eagles. Played league with East Perth before his administrative career.

The other staff members are (clockwise, from the bottom left): Brian Dawson...a former Swan Districts player who is the club's fitness advisor; playing a major role on training nights and match days when he takes the team through crucial warm-up exercises.

Gary Greer...a veteran of more than 200 league games; works as a skills and fitness adviser and part-time runner.

Eagles head trainer Bill Sutherland (left) and club doctor Rod Moore are just two of the medical experts attached to the club.

Trevor Sprigg...a veteran player from East Fremantle who became chairman of selectors last season. He is also a popular personality on Radio 6PR and markets Emu Export, one of the club's sponsors. Robert Wiley...an inaugural Eagle and one-time Richmond teammate of the coach who spends match days relaying messages to the players.

Ian Miller...Sandover Medallist and experienced player who serves as a selector.

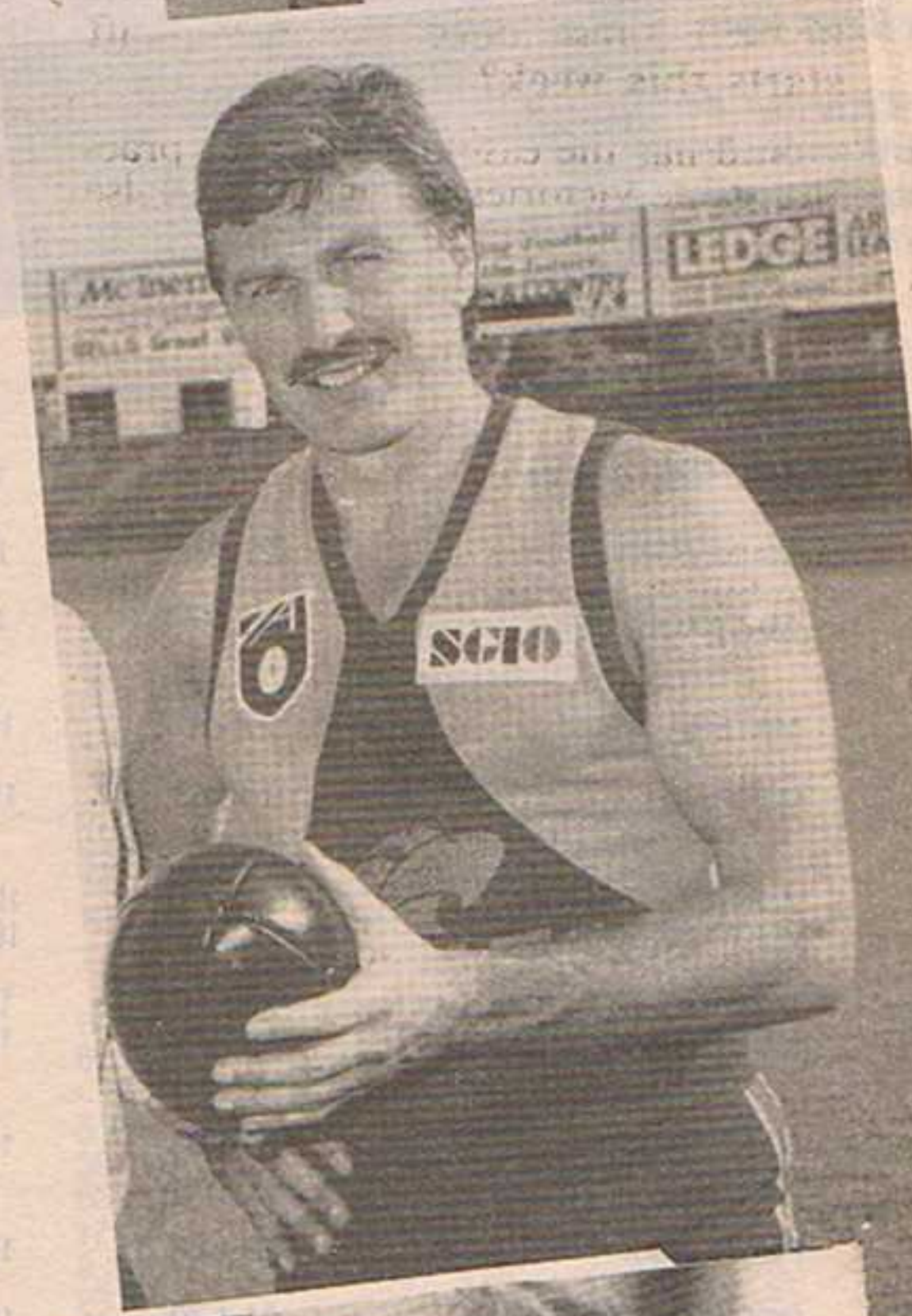
Mick Malthouse...in his second year at the helm after being recruited from Footscray. A former rugged Richmond defender.

Mick Moylan...the Eagles recruiting officer; a former WAFL player who spends the season travelling far and wide looking for untapped talent.

Tim Gepp...a former Geelong and Subiaco defender who serves as a selector and assists as a defensive skills coach.

Ross Nicholas...a former Perth journalist who has succeeded in the marketing world; joining the Eagles after successful stints with Melbourne and Fitzroy.

Hank Gloede...the Eagles property manager who is responsible for the players looking their best when they run out onto the ground.



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Lewis a medal hope

CHRIS Lewis to win the 1991 Brownlow Medal....

That might not be the sort of prediction that will make West Coast Eagles coach Mick Malthouse happy.

Coaches and club officials are usually reluctant to see their outstanding players tagged as possible medallists because of the added pressure it puts on them.

But there's little doubt that the Eagles' 1990 club champion is one of the most brilliant eye-catching players in the AFL. He has all the credentials to take out what is arguably Australian sport's most prestigious award.

Practice doesn't make perfect

WILL the Eagles decision to play all four practice games in WA work against them once the real stuff starts this week?

And has the ease of their four practice game victories given them a false sense of their ability? Or, dare we say it, has complacency snuck in the back door?

Because of the greater crowd pulling factor, it was financially advantageous to have AFL teams come West for practice games and the Eagles have demolished, in turn, the Crows (at Bunbury), Essendon, Geelong and the Sydney Swans at Subiaco Oval.

The four matches provided them with little of the pressure that they can expect from this Sunday on.

The only tough summer competition they have had was at Waverley when they faltered against St Kilda in the opening Foster's Cup round early last month.

As a result, the Eagles go into Sunday's game against a tough and relentless Melbourne with plenty of confidence, but no hard match strategy.

Little wonder coach Mick Malthouse was disturbed by the soft performance of his players against the Swans last Saturday.

Big comebacks by veterans

IT SEEMS as though old footballers don't retire and fade away; they make comebacks.

That appears to be the case in the Sunday Football League, where two former Swan Districts players have applied for clearances which would allow them to come out of retirement.

Former Swans premiership captain Stan Nowotny, a veteran of 277 league games, has applied for a clearance from country club Wyalkatchem to Mandurah, the club he coached last season. Nowotny, who turns 41 in September, last played football in 1986.

Not much younger than his former teammate is Ed Blackaby, who took Osborne Park to the SFL flag last year as a non-playing coach.

The diminutive rover, who hasn't played since he retired from Swans because of ill health in 1984, turns 40 this year. It's fair to assume that if they are seeking clearances, they are considering making comebacks...which is good news for the fans and the local physios.

... if he can resist the niggling

Lewis would enhance his chances of the medal if he played with similar skill and flair to what he displayed in the second half of last season, when he totally dominated just about every match.

But there is one hurdle that could trip him up.

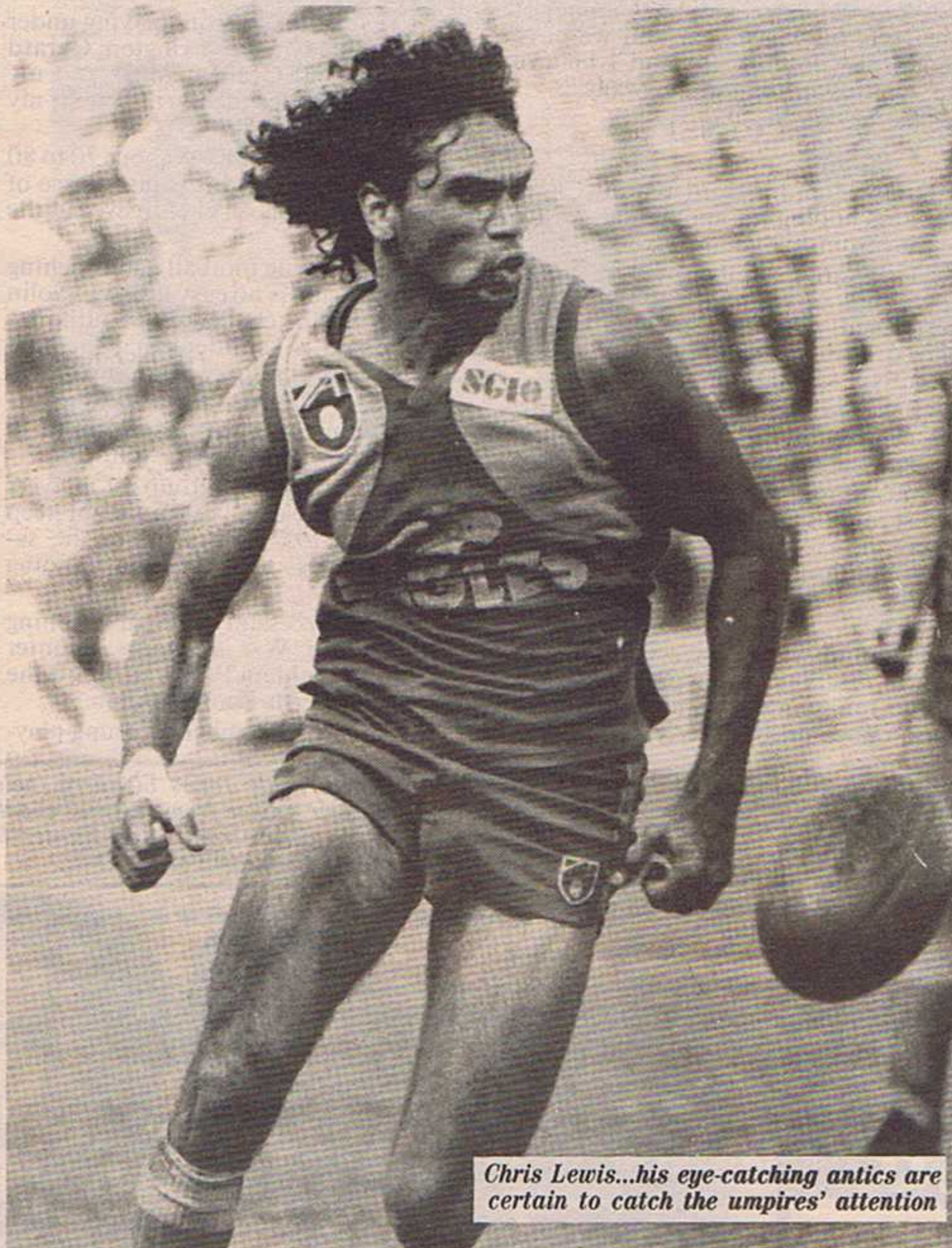
Because of his sheer brilliance — mixed with a volatile nature — he is

easily provoked and that means Lewis will be the target of plenty of niggling, both verbal and physical.

If he can add that special touch of discipline to his already vast array of skills, WA fans who have backed Lewis to win the medal could have a September windfall.

And while on pre-season predictions, mark down the name Mitchell White as a player who will challenge for AFL rookie-of-the-season status by the end of this year.

The 17-year-old half-forward has the capacity to emulate another Subiaco half-forward in Brett Heady, who was a star last year in his AFL debut season.



Chris Lewis...his eye-catching antics are certain to catch the umpires' attention

Tough challenge for Hodges

ONE South Australian who will find life a lot tougher in the big league is ace full-forward Scott Hodges, who kicked a SANFL record 153 goals for Port Adelaide last season on his way to winning the Magarey Medal.

Hodges' brilliant season may work against him in AFL ranks.

He comes into the national league with a big reputation and will receive plenty of close attention. The ball will not be delivered to him as quickly and directly, with his up-field teammates unable to enjoy the same freedom of his dominant Port midfielders.

But as the Eagles found in the practice game at Bunbury three weeks ago, Hodges is a deadly kick at goal. Despite being outplayed by Brad Gwilliam early, he still managed to post four goals.



Angelo Del Borrello

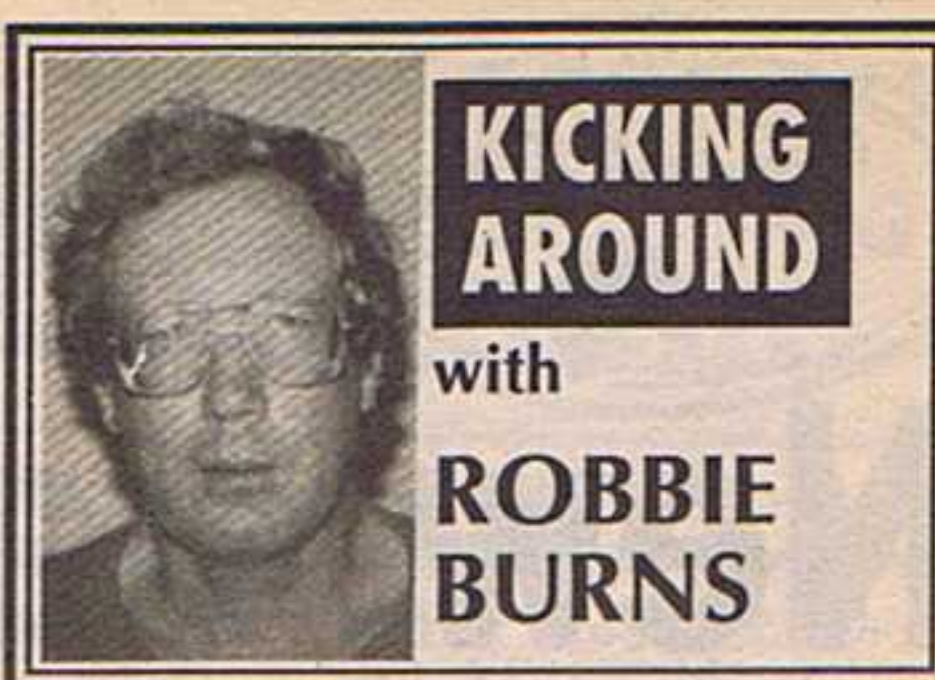
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KICKING AROUND

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Crows have plenty of advantages

THE Adelaide Crows are set to have a big impact on the AFL competition in their first season in the national league.

And the West Coast Eagles, indirectly at least, will provide the Crows with background knowledge that should enable the South Australians to give the final six a big shake.

Senior Crows officials and coach Graham Cornes will use the Eagles experiences over the past four seasons as a bench-mark for their own debut performances.

The South Australians have studied the progress the Eagles have made in relation to their style of play, tactics, travel arrangements, accommodation and club structure.

MISTAKES

They will have learned from the mistakes made by the Eagles in their formative years — and there were plenty.

In fact, Ron Alexander, the Eagles first coach back in 1987, has every reason to be envious of Cornes.

Alexander was given the responsibility of taking a squad of 32 raw and unsophisticated WA footballers who, with the exception of Ross Glendinning, John Annear, Rob Wiley and Dean Turner, had little experience in VFL football and no concept of what to expect in terms of the intensity of the competition or the different ground and climatic conditions.

As well, they had no idea of how to cope with the enormous amount of flying and associated problems such as diet, travel fatigue and work problems.

By contrast, Cornes has at his disposal a squad of 52 talented players who have the luxury of living only a 45-minute flight from Melbourne. Cornes still has the task of getting his Crows to adapt to the quicker and more intense pace of AFL football, something that both Alexander and John Todd found difficult to do.

From the early mistakes of the Eagles, the Crows will know they have to hit the ball hard and play with a lot more directness than they have been used to; a lesson that took the Eagles four years to learn.

Allan set for good season

HAWTHORN is a club not noted for giving interstate recruits a walk-up start into senior ranks, regardless of their status or reputation.

Former Claremont centreman Ben Allan managed six senior games in his opening season with the Hawks last year. But indications are that he will play a more important role this season.

Allan played in all four of the Hawks Foster's Cup matches and can now boast of being a member of an AFL night premiership team.

He has been playing out of a forward pocket, with occasional runs on the ball, changing with 1987 Brownlow Medallist John Platten.

Given the amount of time Platten spends on the ball, Allan will do well to hone up his goal kicking skills. He looks like spending a lot of time in the pocket.

New names take up reserves challenge

THE WAFL reserves competition will introduce four new coaches to the scene this season but they are all well-known names.

Experienced players John Duckworth and John Scott return to their original clubs, West Perth and East Perth respectively, to make their debut as local coaches.

Former Claremont and Carlton champion Ken Hunter takes on the position as Perth's assistant coach after a one-year stint with the University Amateur Football Club.

Much-travelled Robert Solin takes on a dual role at South Fremantle, where he will continue his playing career and coach the reserves side as well.

He replaces Tony Micale, who switches to East Fremantle, the club where he started his playing career.

EXPERIENCED

Experienced coaches John Dimmer, Alan Walker and Bryan Cousins all continue with their respective clubs, Claremont, Swan Districts and Subiaco. Ironically, none of those players ever played with those clubs -- Dimmer was at Subiaco and East Perth; Walker at Claremont and Cousins at Perth.

John Duckworth has joined his brother Bill, who has recently returned from Essendon after a 126-game career. It has been a long time since they have been together -- 1981, in fact, when they played in the Falcons senior side before Bill left for the Bombers.

The appointment as reserves coach is something Duckworth has aspired to for a long time. Last year he coached the Dampier Sharks, in the tough Pilbara competition and also came to Perth with the combined side as coach for the Wesfarmer's Country Championships.

CHALLENGE

"West Perth is a great club," says Duckworth. "It's the only Perth club I've been associated with and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

"It's a lot more intense down here, with a greater number of players to choose from."

"There's plenty of depth at West Perth, but it is still fairly early in the season to predict anything."

BACK HOME

The experienced Micale, who started his league playing career with East Fremantle in the mid-1960s, is more than happy to be back home at East Fremantle Oval as coach of the reserves.

"East Fremantle is a terrific club, they are well run and it's the club where I would like to finish my career," he said.

"The numbers at training are quite large, with plenty of players vying for

the same positions, which is a healthy sign.

"The club has recruited well, but we will just have to wait and see how the practice matches go."

Swan Districts, beaten by East Fremantle in last year's grand final, will field a much younger side, according to coach Walker.

"There has been a big loss of league players from last year, creating a number of opportunities for younger guys," says Walker.

"We will be developing a number of our colts from last year and we have some fresh local talent and I believe the depth will remain at Swans."

SUCCESSFUL

Dimmer, in his third year at Claremont, is hoping for another successful season from his young Tigers.

"There are a number of young players coming up from the colts who have performed well and most of them played against the Eagles No. 2 side recently," says Dimmer.

"But we need a few more hit-outs; it's a bit hard to judge their quality, though our depth will still be strong."

Cousins is keenly looking forward to his second season at Subiaco Oval, where the Lions face a transition year, after their league and reserves finished in the lower half of the ladder last season.

"A number of players from last year's reserves side progressed to league ranks in the latter half of the season and did well," says Cousins.

"There are plenty of exciting players down at the club this year and with the promotion of a few colts, it should be a competitive year."

Scott, who played 130 games with Claremont and captained them to the 1989 premiership, has returned to Perth Oval where he began his league career in 1980.

Scott says he is looking forward to working with Royals senior coach Ian McCulloch and is eager to pass on knowledge he has gained from his previous coaches.

"I've learnt a lot from playing under coaches like Grant Dorrington, Gerard Neesham and Graham Moss and my experience under them will benefit my coaching," he said.

"At this stage we have about 70 to 80 players training and it is just a case of looking at the players before we cut the squad."

Playing league football and coaching a reserves side is no easy task, but Solin is ready for the challenge at South Fremantle and is confident that the club will be a strong force this season.

"South Fremantle have tremendous depth, something they have lacked in the last few years," says Solin.

"We have a big group of players training and we will certainly not keep any under-19s players up in the seniors, unless they are outstanding prospects."

After a successful one-year coaching stint in the WA amateurs, Hunter crosses to Lathlain Park to help lift the struggling Perth Football Club.

"There are a number of young play-



John Scott...back at East Perth in a coaching role

ers at the club and we seem to have plenty of depth," says Hunter.

"But until the practice matches have been completed, we won't know accurately where our depth will be."

"Obviously working with Ken Armstrong will be a real benefit, especially with his knowledge of the game."



Subiaco rookie Jonas Lindberg (below left) gets some advice from reserves coach Bryan Cousins. Below right: Ken Hunter looks at home at Lathlain Park

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OLD-FASHION FEELING

THE return of veteran football identity Ken Armstrong to Lathlain Park is something like a blast from the past. The former star player of the 1950s and successful coach of the 1970s has come out of retirement to help put Perth back on track as a league football power. He makes no apology for returning to some of his old-fashioned traditional training methods and discipline and determination were two simple keynotes at the Demons pre-season camp at Sorrento. He used people like WAFL general manager Grant Dorrington and former Perth champion Barry Cable to talk about old-time values and the Wildcats basketball team's fitness adviser, James Bridle, was also a special guest.



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Sticking their necks out

THE Sunday Age newspaper in Melbourne has surveyed the 15 AFL clubs on their 1991 prospects...and asked the coaches how they thought they would go.

Fitzroy's Robert Shaw sees the Lions challenging for a place in the finals at one stage because of the even competition; Collingwood's Leigh Matthews is simply "optimistic"; new Bears man Robert Walls agrees they need to improve and veteran Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy says they will be a better side.

Adelaide's new boy on the block, Graham Cornes, declined to state his aims; Melbourne's John Northey says they should have learnt by their mistakes; Sydney's Col Kinnear promises improvement; Saints man Ken Sheldon is also optimistic; while Richmond's Kevin Bartlett declares a final-six objective.

North Melbourne's Wayne Schimmelbusch says they can match it with

BIG FAMILY INPUT

WHILE on the question of family tradition at Subiaco, it's fascinating to see yet another Burton arrive with his head in the clouds, so to speak. This time it's Jay Burton, who at 203cm (6ft 8in in the old scale) is keen to follow in the footsteps of father Peter and brother Matthew. Jay is regarded by many watchers of the big Burton family as possessing plenty of natural talent. While big brother Matthew builds on his late-season Subiaco debut of last year — and mixes that with West Coast Eagles tuition — Jay will be out to earn his own league stripes.

CAPITAL CHALLENGE

THE financially-troubled Perth Football Club have called on some of their legendary names of the past to help clean up their debts. One of the major targets of this year is to erase a debt of around \$150,000 owing the Perth City Council for improvements to Lathlain Park. Some big names of the past such as Pat Astone and Greg Brehaut have helped form a Capital Fund Committee, which has the debt reduction their major challenge.

most sides; Hawthorn's Alan Joyce says the players are keen; Malcolm Blight will be disappointed if Geelong aren't playing in September and Footscray's Terry Wheeler wants just one extra win to put them into the finals.

David Parkin is seeking a more consistent and competitive Carlton...and Eagles coach Mick Malthouse talks about a tough year.

Driving challenge

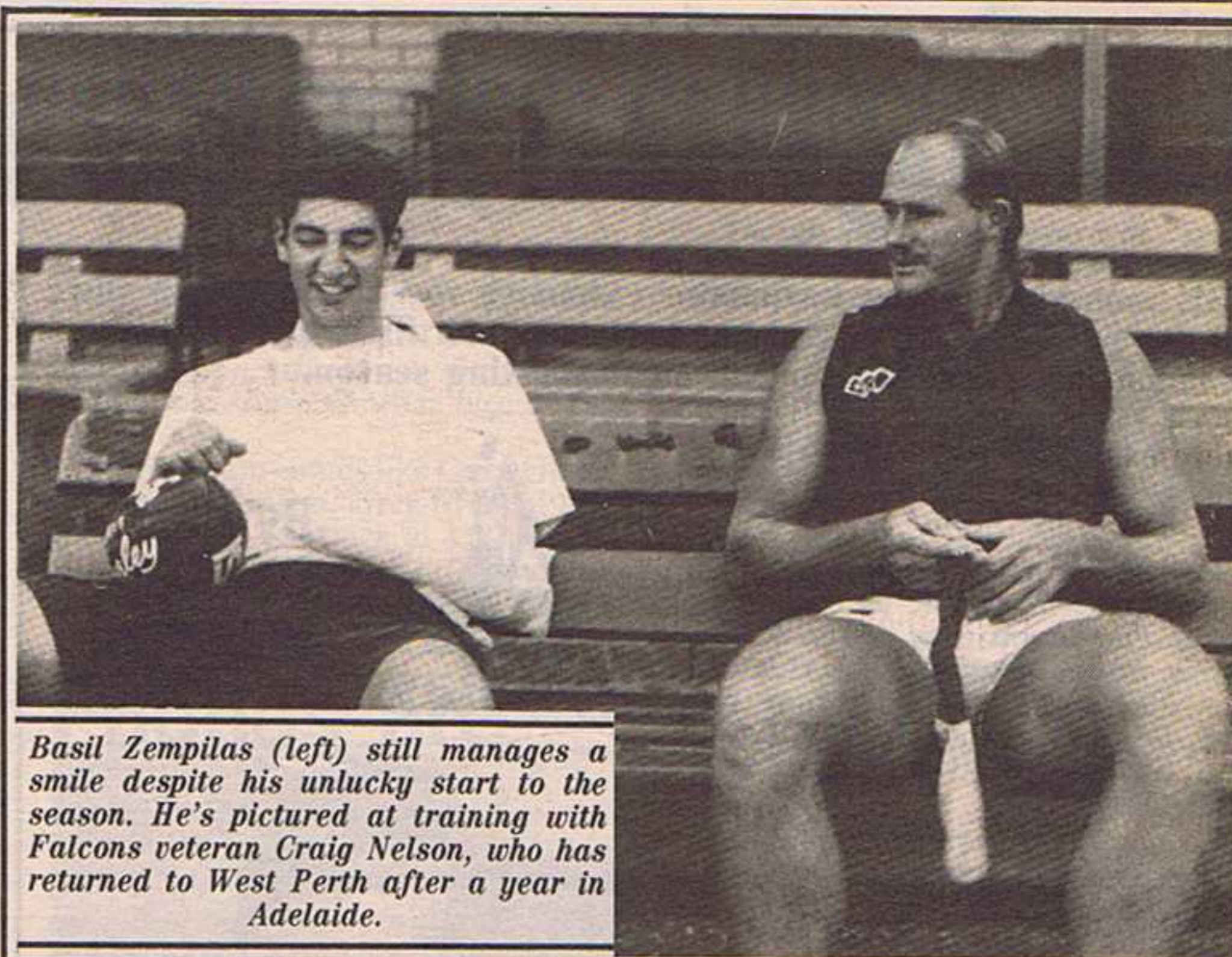
IT'S going to be a long, hard season for West Perth midfielder Graham Kerse. The 26-year-old farmer comes from the eastern wheatbelt town of Muntadgin, out of Burracoppin and faces the long drive to Leederville up to three times a week this season. An impressive debut season last year saw him notch 17 senior games and his hard-hitting ball-getting style is just what the Falcons need in the middle. Because his family farm is still a priority, Kerse has no thoughts of moving to the city, so it's the long drive for him this winter.

INTERSTATE HOPES

PERTH are determined to bolster their playing stocks after some lean years and two interstate players are among their 1991 hopefuls. Craig Reid is a solidly-built player from Queensland who has shown form at centre-half-back, while Shaun Spencer is a former Victorian Teal Cup squad member who has aspirations to a wing position with the Demons.

FAMILIAR NAME

THERE'S yet another familiar name at Subiaco Oval this year — Scott Sarre is carrying on a famous family tradition by donning the maroon-and-gold colours. The 19-year-old son of former champion Subiaco and WA full-back in Brian Sarre has come up from Carey Park, Bunbury and is shaping up for a year in the reserves as he finds his feet in the city. At 198cm tall, the promising youngster's progress will be monitored closely by Lions officials.



Basil Zempilas (left) still manages a smile despite his unlucky start to the season. He's pictured at training with Falcons veteran Craig Nelson, who has returned to West Perth after a year in Adelaide.

BACK IN STYLE

SWAN Districts have high hopes for an interstate import this year...but, in fact, big Steven Handley was bred almost in their own backyard. The solidly-built recruit from Southport, Queensland, played his junior football at Noranda, which is in East Perth territory. He has impressed as a key-position player and went close to earning a guernsey with the Brisbane Bears last year. While Swans hope he can solve a forward-line vacancy created by the departure of Shane Stempel to the Bears, Handley has the potential to play in defence as well.

FAMILIAR STYLE

IT'S ALWAYS great to see old champions back in their favourite football haunts. So it was with some pleasure that West Perth fans noticed the familiar style of one-time high-flier Laurie Richards in action as league runner last week. Richards, still fit and enthusiastic about football at the age of 43, will be the regular runner for reserves coach John Duckworth this season — but doubled up to carry the messages for George Michalczuk in last week's league match. Richards has returned to live in the city after working in Narrogin for several years, where he coached Railways...and was still getting a kick. He plans to have a regular run in the Perth Superules competition this year.

Tough start

THE 1991 season has started disastrously for young West Perth ruckman Basil Zempilas. A pre-season match injury that initially seemed like a minor one has ruled him out for the whole season. Zempilas damaged his middle finger on his left hand when the Falcons played at Collie and further examinations revealed that he had torn the tendons off the bone. After playing just six games in his debut year last season — a year marred by a punctured lung injury resulting from a controversial incident with East Perth ruckman Stephen Hooper — Zempilas was keenly looking forward to his second year of football.

TIGER TERRITORY

THE days are well gone when WAFL clubs seem to have exclusive rights to various country regions...as Claremont have discovered with some of their Albany-based players heading for other teams. But now the Tigers hope to get a bit of their own back as they negotiate to obtain the services of Geraldton's Garry Edwards. The strongly-built midfielder is tied to East Fremantle through country zoning, but his pre-season form at Claremont has been good enough for the Tigers to work hard to secure his clearance.

STAB PARS

SETTING STANDARDS

ONE WONDERS whether "Bustling" Billy Duckworth wants to be the first senior player in WA to receive his marching orders now that the send-off rule is in vogue. The tough Victorian-type tactics of Duckworth got under the skin of a few Royals people in last Saturday's practice match...and Billy got a little hot under the collar himself. Falcons coach George Michalczuk certainly hopes that Duckworth doesn't get "sucked in" to any intimidatory tactics this season; he's too valuable an acquisition for West Perth to have watching from the sidelines.

A FULL CIRCLE

THE WHEEL has certainly turned a full circle for Eagles big man Andrew Lockyer. After three years of fairly comfortable football in the West Coast camp, Lockyer was suddenly under the microscope at the start of last season when new coach Mick Malthouse arrived to assess the team's strength. Lockyer struggled through four games in the opening seven matches last year and then lamented with East Fremantle till he was recalled in an emergency for the finals. However, this year after a solid summer, a trimmer Lockyer has emerged as a key performer at full-back and he seems one player absolutely certain of his guernsey for this Sunday's league opener against Melbourne.

DIFFERING VIEWS

THERE was an interesting debate between panelists Geoff Christian and Keith Slater on ABC radio last Saturday morning. The 6WF sports show was discussing the general state of the Australian Football League, with Slater, the former Swan Districts and WA champion ruckman, adamant that Melbourne should only have five teams competing. His claim was based on the financial viability of the Victorian capital city to support its existing 11 teams. Christian, the State's most respected football writer and commentator, claimed that eight teams was the minimum to have in Melbourne. "If you had less than that you would diminish the supporter base," he claimed. "Melbourne is the home of football and that's where the biggest gate receipts are. If you've only got five teams, the fans will lose interest and the revenue would dry up."

ALL FIRED UP

FOR SHEER football exuberance surely there is no-one to match Eagles forward Karl Langdon. The colourful character made his first senior appearance in a practice match last Saturday...and he didn't waste any time letting coach Mick Malthouse know that he didn't want to stay in the "possibles" for too long. With places at a premium in the Eagles side, Langdon still appeals as the team's most dangerous half-forward and he especially showed his versatility with a four-goal effort at full-forward in the absence of the injured Peter Sumich. A couple of Langdon's goals were sheer gems as his enthusiastic play made him a focal point -- for the rival defenders, particularly.

DISAPPOINTING SWANS

THERE was hardly much for the Sydney Swans to get excited about in their practice-match hit-out with the Eagles. Despite opening up a six goals to one lead at quarter-time, the Swans wilted quickly under an Eagles onslaught -- albeit in bursts -- and went home somewhat shattered. There was a reasonable West Australian interest in the Swans line-up, but nothing to make the locals sit up and sigh with envy. Former South Fremantle big man Wayne Henwood did little to impress; East Perth's nine-game 1990 Darwin recruit Brian Stanislaus was very spasmodic, while big Gareth John -- a son of former Royals star Graeme John -- did show signs of determination in the ruck.

NOTHING'S CHANGED

THE summer break hasn't diminished the appetite for football of those typical one-eyed fans who love to exercise their vocal chords. Some parochialists at Perth Oval weren't too concerned that it was only a practice match and they gave the umpires heaps for any apparent mistake. Even former whistle-blower and now Umpires Coach Ron Buckley got his share of light-hearted cat calling when he walked out on the ground at three quarter time to have a chat to his charges. There's one thing for certain about footy followers...they will always love to hate the men-in-white.

Coaching changes in Sunday League ranks

THE summer months have seen extensive recruiting among the Sunday Football League clubs and the battle for finals places should be much more open, leading to an interesting season.

Four clubs will unveil new coaches, while many sides are still expecting some late recruits at the WAFL clubs trim their senior lists.

Kalamunda have appointed former player Mark Buscombe as coach, replacing Gary Armstrong, who is now in charge of the Scarborough Amateur Football Club. Kalamunda's most notable loss has been Dave Anderton, who has followed Armstrong to Scarborough.

Former West Perth champion Les Fong has been appointed coach of Wanneroo, after a stint with amateur club Trinity Aquinas.

Fong hasn't declared his playing intentions as yet, but has recruited former Swan Districts premiership player Peter Ware, Chris Davies and Greg Woodroffe.

Former East Fremantle colts coach Kerry Coates replaces South Fremantle's former premiership player and recent league coach, Don Haddow as coach of Willetton.

EXPERIENCE

Coates previously coached Applecross in the Sunday League and brings to Willetton considerable experience. Willetton have retained most of their players from last season and will be hoping to promote some young talent.

Mal Mason has been appointed coach of Applecross, with the retirement of former East Fremantle defender Brian Needle.

Applecross have restricted their recruiting to local players and will await the return of a number of key performers from WAFL clubs.

Armadale have retained the services of senior coach Craig Smith, who will be hoping for a big year from a number of the club's younger players.

Armadale have mainly recruited from the amateur ranks, with their only notable absentee from last year's side being captain John Watson, who has been transferred to Canberra with his work.

Former Swan Districts premiership captain Stan Nowotny is hoping for big things from Mandurah this year with the recruiting of South Fremantle duo Paul Wilson and Ian Lockhart, who should cover the losses of Greg Dellar, who has retired and Ken Walker, who has transferred to Kununurra.

BACK AGAIN

Gosnells coach Dennis Evans expects a top season with a number of former players returning to the club.

Dean Hayden, a 1989 premiership player, has returned after a year off and Cameron Knapton returns after a season of cricket in England.

Gosnells have produced a handy recruiting coup in former WAFL ruckman Guy Baxter, who will add strength and mobility to the Gosnells side. Baxter has also been appointed assistant coach to Evans.

Canning have been quiet in the recruiting department, with former East Fremantle rover Kevin Taylor relying on the depth of the club by promoting younger players. They have recruited within the competition to cover for the losses of Tony Watson and Steve Wiskins.

Maddington have retained the coaching services of former Swan Districts player Gavin Outridge.

The club had a successful year last season, reaching the preliminary final, eventually losing to Kelmscott. Player-losses have been minimal and Maddington will be hoping to go one better this season.

South Perth coach Brett Symons will



By
**Damian
Bianchini**



Guy Baxter...will bring strength to the Gosnells line-up

be trying to get a victory on the board this season after a win-less 1990 year that the club wants to forget.

They have recruited Michael Adams and Scott Robins, from Claremont and Alan Wheelock, from Canning, to help push the side up the ladder. They will also rely on some of their younger players to build their depth.

Kenwick will be pushing for a place in the top five after a solid season last year, when they just missed the finals.

FORMER EAGLE

They have recruited well, which should benefit Ray Masters in building a stronger side. Former West Perth player and inaugural West Coast Eagles member Dean Warwick will play a big role in Kenwick's assault on the top five.

One of Thornlie's main aims this season is to consolidate on last year's effort and push towards the final five.

Former South Fremantle player Geoff O'Brien will be looking for a few younger players from last year to develop.

Last year's runner's-up, Kelmscott, have lost a number of significant players, including 1990 Bowden Medal winner Mark Spilsbury, who is trying out with South Fremantle and coach Paul Vasoli will be re-building and promoting younger players.

Last season's captain, Chris Uchtman, has moved back to Victoria; Oscar Moreno has crossed to West Perth and the club has lost John Leeming, Grant Hatch and Adam Bloomer through retirement.

YOUTH

Reigning premiers Osborne Park have lost a number of players from last year's side and former Swan Districts coach Ed Blackaby is certain to promote youth to cover the gaps.

Former East Perth player Brett Fullarton has gone to America, Andrew Partington has moved to amateurs and Brian Dawson has retired, with Stuart Stephenson, Glen Ratray and Anthony Holub trying out with Swan Districts.

COUNTRY ROUND-UP

Veteran's comeback temporary

FORMER East Fremantle veteran Ron Bentley was forced to bring out his old boots recently when Geraldton side Rovers failed to field a full team in a pre-season carnival.

Rovers, last year's runner's-up in the Great Northern league, could only muster 17 players, forcing retired coach Bentley to pull on a guernsey.

However, Rovers president Barry Van Der Weide maintains that Rovers will still be competitive this season, despite the early lack of numbers.

"There are only three players missing from last year's side who are definite non-starters this season," he said.

John Gleghorn, one of the best players in last year's grand final, has decided to take a year off from football after playing water polo over the summer months.

Bentley is confident that the club will have enough players graduating to senior level through the colts and is happy with Albany recruit Geoff Simpson's form in the centre.

Bentley, a veteran of 130 games with East Fremantle that saw him play in a WAFL premiership, says there is absolutely no chance of a comeback, even though his first kick in the carnival was a goal from full-forward.

Brigades do well

A STRONG showing by a young Brigades team in the recent Geraldton pre-season carnival indicates that the balance of power could fluctuate in the Great Northern League this season.

The youthful band of Brigades players showed tremendous endeavour despite a tough draw, losing to eventual carnival winners Mullewa by eight points and Towns by 15 points.

Brigades new coach Kim Guppy was heartened by the form of Goldfields recruits Mark Reghazani and Mick Haynes and the determined team took the game right up to the highly-fancied Mullewa side, falling away in the last half with a lack of experience.

Strong hopes

A PROMISING blend of youth and experience should see Railways emerge as strong contenders in the GNFL this season.

Exciting youngster Clinton Patterson put in a strong ruck display in the recent pre-season carnival and will improve as the season progresses.

Despite a grand final loss to Mullewa last season, Railways should be pleased with the results at this stage of the year.

There were encouraging signs from players like Chris Giltrow and Neville Ridge, while recruit Grant Staunton, from Victoria's Sunraysia League, showed promise on the ball.

Talent in Towns camp

TOWNS, who just missed playing in the grand final of the pre-season carnival because of an inferior percentage, are shaping up as a team to beat for this season's flag.

After winning both games in the carnival, displaying an awesome variety

of new talent, coach Barry Kimberley utilised his team by rotating almost his full compliment of players in each half.

Heading the list of talent is former East Fremantle utility player Mick Little, who shared the carnival's best-player award with team-mate Marcus Harrold.

Other promising recruits are Brian Green, Dongara duo Colin Capewell and Daniel Ritchie, Goldfields player Andrew Foley and former South Mandurah ruck-rover Ossie Dikolli, who exerted a strong mid-field influence throughout the carnival.

Premiers look good again

MULLEWA are showing signs of last season's early good form, judged on their success in the pre-season carnival.

Mullewa started brilliantly in the opening rounds last season, winning their first 11 games, but faltered towards the end of the season.

The team again boasts a wealth of talent and with experienced players Graham Taylor, Mick Wall, Anthony Dann and ruckman Darren Tunbridge, they pose a serious challenge for this year's finals.

Tunbridge put in an inspirational best-on-ground performance in the pre-season carnival grand final to completely overpower a young Railways following division.

Exciting prospect Jason Simpson, who shared the junior player of the carnival honours, could benefit from Tunbridge's aerial strength.

Valley could be surprise

CHAPMAN Valley, who have been out of the finals race for some years, could be a surprise challenger in this year's Great Northern League.

They have recruited Leon Blurton, Charlie Collard and Dave Wallam from Mullewa; Aaron Thorne, from Toodyay and Paul Williamson, from Aquinas College, in Perth.

The strength of the side lies in the highly-talented midfield, with Collard, coach Graham Kickett and J.J. Clune Medallist Mick Farrell. Tough defender Steve Ross is also set for a more active season after completing studies at Muresk College.

Big names in Norths squad

EXPERIENCED Northampton coach Rob Houwen opted to rest some of his big-name players in the pre-season carnival and was heartened by his team's efforts.

Northampton toppled reigning premiers Rovers, but crumbled to a Mullewa onslaught in their second game.

However, Northampton had key big men like Alan Sidebottom, Mick Johns and Paul Arnold on the sidelines and their inclusion makes the northerners a formidable force.

Good form was shown by colts player Jamie Drage, who impressed the selectors after breaking his leg last year in his first senior game.

Dion Gould impressed at full-forward, along with Chris Sullivan, Paul Morgan and Brett Corbett, who all showed good form.



Kicking football into the future



Junior clubs ready to go

JUNIOR football within the eight WAFL club zones looks set for a solid start to 1991 with a feast of various coaching clinics and promotions coming up.

West Perth will hold a juniors night at Leederville Oval at 7pm on April for past and present presidents, coaches and secretaries from the club's six metropolitan zones.

A number of people will be presented with honorary membership. Falcons coach George Michalczyk will be the special guest, talking on

coaching philosophy and football development.

West Perth have a number of coaching positions vacant for teams in the under-13s, 14s and 15s in the Kingsley, Warwick, Northern Districts, Edgewater, Ocean Ridge and Wanneroo areas.

Anyone interested in tackling junior coaching should contact Matt Tweedie at West Perth on 444 9511.

Swans will hold coaching course

SWAN Districts will hold a Level 1 coaching accreditation course at Bas-sendean Oval next Tuesday.

The course is open to anyone interested in learning to coach junior football and concludes on Tuesday, April 9.

The junior season in Swans zone starts on Sunday, April 28 and organisers are holding a series of gala days and lightning carnivals with all junior clubs from the area taking part.

Wallington is re-appointed

SOUTH Fremantle have re-appointed Bill Wallington as president of the junior football council.

The Bulldogs will continue their policy of monitoring coaches, players, parents and officials in their weekly matches and emphasis will be placed on the various codes of behaviour in order to better promote junior football.

Talent identification programmes will continue in Souths area, with the formation of a junior development squad for promising young footballers.

The potential stars will be taught the finer points of the game, with expert coaching being provided.

South Fremantle will also hold a Level 1 coaching course in April at Fremantle Oval.

Schoolboys squad

THE State schoolboys team will be of prime importance in Perth's junior development plans this season.

A special Perth group will be coached by former Demons defender Ray Lawrence and will involve talented youngsters from city and country areas.

Newly-appointed Demons coach Ken Armstrong will be involved with the squad as well.

BULLDOG DAYS

HUNGRY Jack's will join with South Fremantle this season to stage 40 Superclinics and 15 Whopper Clinics to involve an estimated 10,000 children in the club's zone.

The clinics, which will incorporate a lightning carnival, will be supervised by South Fremantle's big Eagles ruckman Dean Irving, with support from Bulldogs staff.

Demon clinics

PERTH will hold full-day Hungry Jack's coaching clinics at local primary schools in the next few weeks.

Next Monday will see clinics at the Thornlie and Huntingdale schools, while Forest Crescent primary is the venue for Monday, April 8.

The clinics go from 9am to 3pm and give junior footballers the chance to learn more about the game, with expert assistance from senior Demons players.

Heading the list of coaches will be former Perth skipper Joe Santostefano, supported by Russell Clarke and Ian Wells.



THE HUNGRY JACK'S WHOPPER CLUB

with Guy McKenna



West Perth to stage HJ clinics

MAJOR football supporters Hungry Jack's will sponsor special Superclinics and Whopper Clinics at the following primary schools in the West Perth district:

Superclinics:- Wednesday, March 20: Heathridge (11am-noon); Poseidon (2-3pm); North Ocean Reef (9-10am). Wednesday, March 27: Eddystone (9-10am); East Wanneroo (10.30-noon); Beldon (2-3pm). Wednesday, April 10: Ocean Reef (9-10am). Wednesday, May 8 Dalmain (9-10am).

Whopper Clinics:- Thursday, March 21: Mullaloo Beach (9am-3pm). Tuesday, March 26: Dalmain (9am-2.30pm). Wednesday, March 27: Mullaloo Beach (9am-3pm); Thursday, April 11: Creancy (9am-3pm).

The Superclinics will be supervised by West Coast Eagle Craig Turley and the Whopper Clinics will be attended by senior West Perth players David Elliott, Basil Zempilas and former Teal Cup player, Shane Liddle.

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.

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SPECIAL OFFER TO JUNIOR CLUBS



YOUNG Eagles supporters under the age of 15 who want to be part of the team, should join the Peters Junior Eagles Club.

The juniors receive a special admission ticket to all Eagles home games, a supporters pack...and the chance to meet the players.

Membership also includes many other benefits, such as competitions, give-aways, a personal membership card signed by your favourite Eagles player and many more surprises.

Mighty Milo says ...



Remember these Golden Rules

HERE are some more golden rules to keep in mind:

Follow up seven paces:

After handpassing or kicking the football, you should always follow it up. Don't stop and watch the ball float away; follow on in the direction of delivery for at least seven paces.

By doing this you serve two purposes. Firstly, if an error occurs you are quickly on the scene to help your team-mate. Secondly, if your delivery is successful, you can support your team-mate receiving the ball by shepherding or even running past as a loose man.

Juniors should practice this running on at training so that the follow-up becomes automatic in a game.

The main thing to remember is that you don't leave your team-mate in trouble because your handball or kick is a little off target.

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University have a proud record at stake

By DAMIAN BIANCHINI

UNIVERSITY are the most successful amateur football club in the history of the WAAFL and WA's home of learning has a proud record of producing top-class players.

The Crawley scholars have won 48 premierships in all grades since 1929, with their nearest rival being Wembley, who have won 25 flags since being admitted in 1938.

Last season University continued their dominance by winning the F-grade and H-grade grand finals, with C-grade moving up into B-grade after being in the past two grand finals. The A-grade side had a disappointing year, finishing fourth.

The A-colts and C-colts won their grand finals, displaying the strength and depth that University can draw upon.

The success of any club starts with their colts sides and University have been successful in recent years, win-

AMATEUR NEWS

A roundup of news from the West Australian Amateur Football League

ning consecutive flags in the A-colts competition.

Most amateur clubs struggle for numbers in their colts sides and University are the envy of rivals when they attract 60 to 70 players down to the club for pre-season training.

Roger Steinepries, the president of the University Amateur Football Club, says that University's success is obviously bolstered by the volume of players who study at the University and have a football background.

"We have a huge influx of colts players from UWA and that is where our success starts from," says Steinepries, a former league player with Subiaco.

"The majority of these players are good footballers and our policy at the club is to promote colts players into A-grade as soon as possible.

"The club does not like to leave a good player in the colts competition for more than a year."

This season University will field



Cam Shepherd ... into the coaching arena.

sides in A-grade, B-grade, E-grade, G-grade, A-colts and B-colts, confirming the depth and strength the club has when they can field six teams.

CLAREMONT DUO

Former Claremont and Perth player Cam Shepherd will coach the A-grade side, replacing former Claremont and Carlton champion Ken Hunter, who has moved into WAFL ranks as assistant coach at Perth.

Shepherd's assistant will be another former Tiger in 1981 premiership player Mike Aitken.

Richard Atkins will be the playing coach for E-grade and University veteran Chris Foley will be in charge of G-grade.

University have retained the coaching services of John Taylor, who has taken the A-colts to the last two premierships, while Anthony Hayes has replaced John O'Cox as coach of the B-colts.

At this stage, University have not announced their B-grade coach.

SUPPORT

The University provides the club with financial support, depending on the number of players at the club. These grants make up about 20 percent of University's overall budget.

The rest of their income comes from player subscriptions, sponsors and the running of an efficient bar.

Steinepries says that University's financial burden is helped by the club not having to hire grounds to train on, with the excellent facilities at McGillvray Oval being available.

"McGillvray has a superb lighting system, which allows us to train longer on winter nights," says Steinepries.

"The West Coast Eagles used to train there, so the facilities are top standard and that has certainly played a part in the success of the club."

University should again be competitive in all grades, particularly in A-grade as the club has recruited well and maintained the majority of last year's side.

Talented rover Brad Mumme is doing pre-season work at Claremont in a bid to re-establish his WAFL career after badly breaking a leg, while former Subiaco player Richard Caldwell has followed Hunter to Perth.

The club will again be looking towards developing and promoting their colts players to ensure the continued success of University.

Veterans set for Albany comeback

ALBANY football will expand into a veterans' competition this year to cater for players aged 35 years or over.

After the recent success of the Albany-based Superules team at the State masters games in Albany, the enthusiasm is there to form a regular team to compete in an inter-town competition.

Albany's first challenge will be in a carnival at Wagin on July 14 and 15, but they hope to have a few practice hit-outs before then.

The team will use Collingwood Park as their home ground and organiser Ken Whittaker says there is an abundance of experienced players keen to pull on their old boots again.

NO TACKLING

Names such as former West Perth veteran Alan Watling and long-serving Southern Districts players Robyn Waugh and Ken Robinson will be among the players tackling Superules, which prohibits heavy body contact and places the emphasis on ball skills.

The player with the ball is protected and umpires can intervene if play becomes too rough.

Superules is well-established in Perth and several other South West towns such as Mandurah, Bunbury and Collie and the game appeals to former players who want to keep getting their kicks, without risking their body too much.

Bonus for Gt Northern

THE Great Northern Football League has received a financial boost with a \$30,000 sponsorship deal from Norwich Life Insurance.

The Mid West region, which has been a popular breeding ground for league footballers, will receive the money over the next three years and League president Ron Hayward says that the deal is the best news on the sponsorship front in the history of the GNFL.

"We are absolutely delighted; it is fantastic news," he said.

The GNFL has appointed former Brigades premiership coach Mick Thompson as coach of their combined side and he will be supported by selectors Mick Clarke and John Sims.

The experience of this trio will play an important part in Great Northern's hopes of regaining the title from the South-West, which they lost at last July's Wesfarmers Country Championships in Perth.

TOUGHENING TACTICS

SUBIACO are confident that an innovative approach to their summer training will help their ball-handling this season. The Lions devised a new game called Bolter Ball, where they played a mixture of football, rugby and netball — but using a fairly solid medicine ball. The club's senior players indulged in weekly matches, culminating in finals at the pre-season camp at Dwellingup. The game had plenty of tackling, which Lions coach Haydn Bunton believes was a deficiency in their play last season.

Draft changes the face of national game

EVENTS are certainly moving fast in Australian Football circles and the national draft is the most topical case.

What an enormous revolution in terms of club administration such a radical program entails.

The "horse trading" of footballers all around the country leads to considerable controversy...and could be a bonus for Australia's "legal eagles" with the possibility of challenges being made by disgruntled players.

What happens if a player in Victoria — a fairly good one capable of making it with a Melbourne club — is drafted by the Eagles, but doesn't want to move interstate?

What happens if he argues in court that his ability to play professional football in a stable environment at home has been denied him by being drafted against will?

COSTLY

Such a challenge could prove very interesting...and costly.

Of course, our game is not setting any precedents.

In soccer and gridiron, it is common for a player to be informed that he is required at training "next week", hundreds, sometimes thousands, of kilometres away — simply because his contract has been purchased by another club.

Obviously this can prove traumatic in terms of a drastic change in lifestyle, climate, schooling and access to relatives and friends.

An open slather national draft will also place more emphasis on the expertise of recruiting administrations — not the least of which will be the ability to ascertain if certain players can (and will) perform in environments totally alien to where they have always lived.

A good example is in the Northern Territory, where any judge of football-

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presents ...

The national

view  by JOHN WARREN

ers recognise there is a vast reservoir of natural talent; on a per-capita basis, probably more so than anywhere else in the country.

CONDITIONS

The astute judges also know that only a few of those talented players can reproduce their skill under southern conditions.

If a Northern Territory team ever joins the AFL (and that's possible in a 10 to 15-year time span), we will see a tremendously exciting new dimension added to the national competition.

The forthcoming "no zones" national draft will further contribute to the evolution of a very even competition.

However, I hope that the availability of good players from all areas will not induce recruiters to over-emphasise the more exotic backgrounds. In other words, why recruit a player from Wagga Wagga or Southern Cross, if one of virtually the same ability and potential is available in Sydney or Perth?

And metropolitan Melbourne still remains the wild card.

Mathematically, that big city still has by far the biggest and most talented reserves of Australian footballers.

They should not be by-passed; to do so means the relocation of many players who should be left to contribute to the development of Australian Football in their natural environments.

Of course, players of exceptional ability will be recruited irrespective of whether they are from Groote Eylandt or Burnie.

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New plan isn't so bad

THE initial reaction to proposed far-reaching changes by the AFL was that WA football was doomed.

But on closer inspection, things might not be as bad as first thought, with the AFL going to an open national draft and all players over the age of 17 becoming legal game.

It must be remembered that in November, when the draft becomes open slather and WA is no longer protected, all clubs will have to prune their squads back from 52 to an eventual starting base of 45 for the 1992 season.

The Eagles had some difficulty choosing two players to drop off their list for the internal draft last week, before putting Peter Higgins and Craig McNaughton on the market.

DAUNTING

To find seven players to drop off would be a far more daunting task.

When you consider that all other clubs will face the same process, there will be some classy AFL dis-cards keen to get another chance.

In addition, there will be about 300 players from the under-19 competition chasing a chance, with all clubs in that grade wiping their hands of the majority of those players.

All this means is that when the draft begins in November, there is likely to be a concentration by the recruiting talents on what is in their own backyards, rather than looking at WA as the No. 1 recruiting ground, which has been the case for the past few decades.

With an emphasis on development in each of the other states, using the successful WA Football Development Trust as the yardstick, the pressure could come off what is traditionally the most successful breeding ground in the country.

Obviously, the AFL is building towards a truly elite competition, trimming back the numbers of players involved at the highest level.

Perhaps the two most disappointing aspects of the AFL's blueprint for the future are that they

will reduce the Eagles to just one pre-draft selection this November and that the entire country, with the exception of South Australia, is open for all clubs.

Surely, now that SA has finally joined the competition, they should be opened up to other clubs as well.

It seems as though the Eagles, who took the bold step in November, 1986 to join an expanded VFL competition, are now being penalised for jumping at the opportunity, while the Adelaide Crows are being rewarded when they turned their backs on the expansion.

Had it not been for some courageous moves by Port Adelaide, the SANFL would have deferred indefinitely their entry.

The Eagles performances last year might have something to do with their pre-draft choices being halved!

ERADICATE

It would be fair to eradicate the advantage when SA is included in the draft for November, 1992. But till then, the WA club is heavily disadvantaged.

The Eagles have recruited wisely

By
Gary Stocks



of The West Australian

since being given the right to draft two players between 16 and 19.

That exercise netted them Stevan Jackson, Scott Watters, Peter Mann, Ryan Turnbull, Glen Jakovich and Mitchell White.

One can only hope that another development is the deletion of the March internal draft, which forces top clubs to put players on the line when they don't really want to.

When Higgins was listed last Tuesday, he fretted about being picked up by another club. His home is in Perth, he has steady employment and his girlfriend lives here.

BAD LUCK

While on the subject of the draft, it was disappointing to see Paul Mifka pruned from the Brisbane Bears list.

After being selected as a pre-draft choice by the Bears, he took 12 months leave of absence from his job in the police force and re-located himself on the Gold Coast.

Two months later Mifka is back in Perth after barely being given an opportunity.

Parkin says that 60 percent of teams who finish on top of the ladder go on to win the premiership and that's how it should be.

Under the final six scheme, the team finishing second has the same opportunity as the top team, with a first-up clash with the No. 1 side to see who goes into the second semi-final match.

The team that finishes third is disadvantaged, with no double chance any more; being eliminated if they lose to the fourth side in the opening match.

By contrast, the side finishing fourth can now make the grand final with just two wins, rather than the three they needed under the final-five system.

The fifth-placed side has the same programme as last year, having to win three matches to make the grand final, while the team finishing sixth gets the same opportunity instead of being September on-lookers.

This is how the 1991 finals are scheduled:

Final six seen as a drawback

VETERAN football coach and astute judge of the game, David Parkin, sees disadvantages arising with the introduction of the final six.

Parkin believes that the advantage has been reduced for the team finishing on top of the AFL ladder at the end of the home-and-away games.

Instead of just having to win one match (the second semi-final) to advance to the grand final, the top side now has to win two matches to get there. They still have a double chance, but no rest on the opening weekend of finals action, which was always considered a real bonus.

HOW THE FINAL SIX WORKS

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
QUALIFYING FINAL	2ND SEMI-FINAL	PRELIMINARY FINAL	GRAND FINAL
TEAM 1 V TEAM 2	TEAM 1 V TEAM 3	TEAM 3 V TEAM 2	TEAM 1 V TEAM 2
ELIMINATION FINALS	1ST SEMI-FINAL		
TEAM 3 V TEAM 4 TEAM 5 V TEAM 6 (Teams 4 & 6 eliminated)	TEAM 2 V TEAM 5 (Team 5 eliminated)	(Team 3 eliminated)	

*Table assumes results go according to ladder positions

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