



WESTSIDE Football

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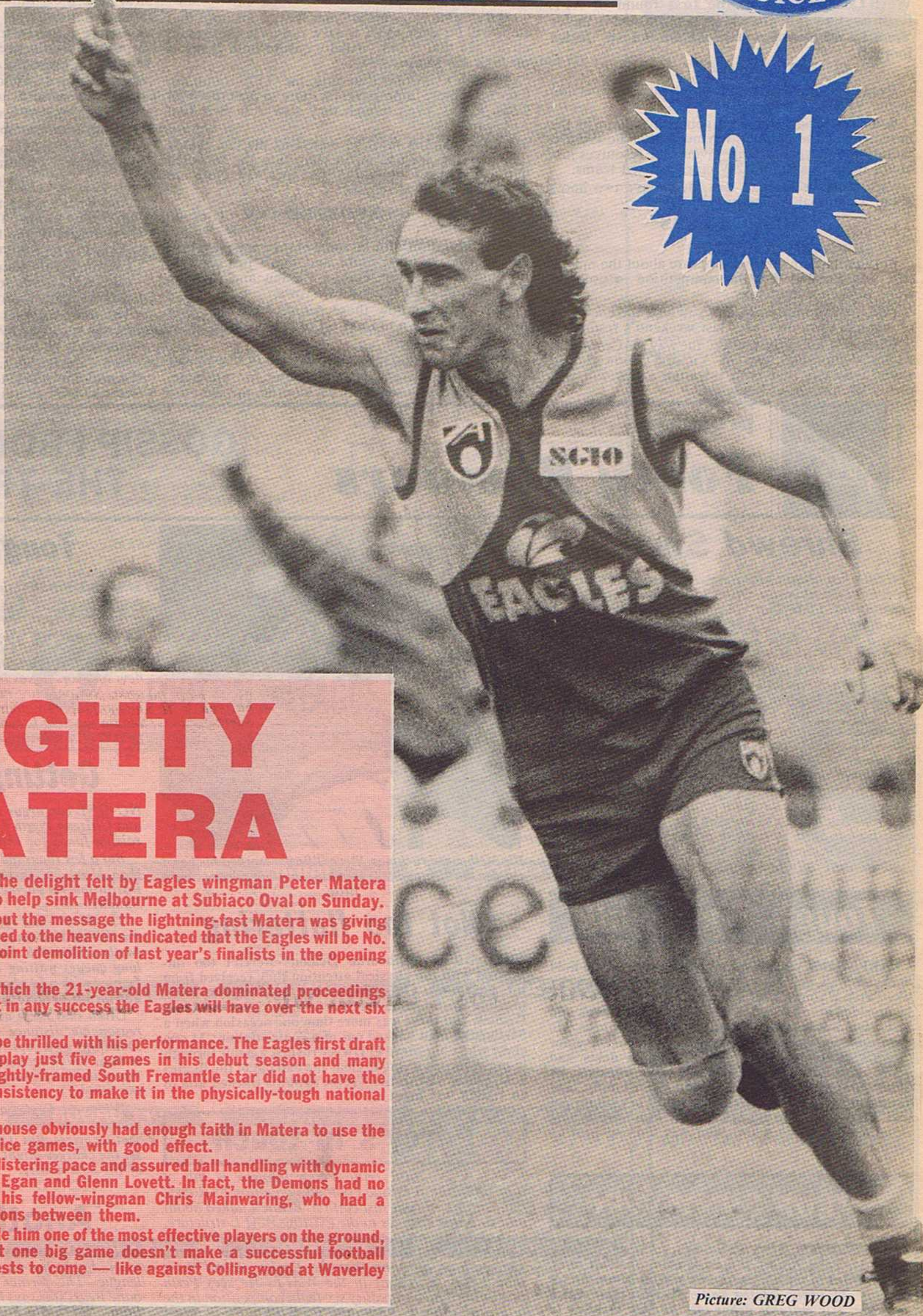
A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION

It's WAFL time next week

IT'S bouncedown No. 2 next weekend when the WA Football League season kicks off for the 106th time on Saturday, April 6. The eight WAFL clubs will be bolstered by the inclusion of many West Coast Eagles, with the WA side having a bye in the AFL.

Next week's edition of Westside Football will be a WAFL special, with a club-by-club run-down on Who's Who, with biographical information on more than 400 players. Westside will present an eight-page lift-out on the WAFL clubs, with facts, figures and photographs.

So kick the local competition off in fine style with Westside's special WAFL edition...plus all your AFL information; the latest from the Eagles camp and a complete round-up of the national scene.



Picture: GREG WOOD

MIGHTY MATERA

THERE was no doubting the delight felt by Eagles wingman Peter Matera after he had kicked a goal to help sink Melbourne at Subiaco Oval on Sunday.

Nor was there any doubt about the message the lightning-fast Matera was giving to the world — the finger pointed to the heavens indicated that the Eagles will be No. 1 in 1991 following their 79-point demolition of last year's finalists in the opening AFL round of the season.

And judging by the way in which the 21-year-old Matera dominated proceedings in midfield, he will play a big part in any success the Eagles will have over the next six months.

Matera had every reason to be thrilled with his performance. The Eagles first draft choice last year managed to play just five games in his debut season and many football critics felt that the lightly-framed South Fremantle star did not have the physical presence, nor the consistency to make it in the physically-tough national league.

But Eagles coach Mick Malthouse obviously had enough faith in Matera to use the State rover in the early practice games, with good effect.

Matera was able to use his blistering pace and assured ball handling with dynamic effect to beat Rod Owen, Phil Egan and Glenn Lovett. In fact, the Demons had no answer to either Matera or his fellow-wingman Chris Mainwaring, who had a combined tally of 57 possessions between them.

While Matera's 21 kicks made him one of the most effective players on the ground, he will be only too aware that one big game doesn't make a successful football season and there are bigger tests to come — like against Collingwood at Waverley this Saturday.

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THE VFL is dead. Long may it remain so.

The crushing wins by the Adelaide Crows and West Coast Eagles in the first round of AFL fixtures show that the skids are inexorably under Victoria as the power-home of Aussie Rules football.

Even now, the AFL is really only a tarted-up version of the VFL.

Some Victorian clubs are going to remain in the basement of the competition no matter how much money and players they are given. The resources just aren't there to sustain 12 Victorian-based teams.

Victorians, as football fans, don't give two hoots about a national competition.

AILING CLUBS

But their administrators sure care about the money that was pumped into the competition to prop up some of their ailing clubs.

And their supporters? Can't you hear their screams of anguish from here over last weekend's results?

While it is still early days yet, the way the Crows and Eagles demolished two of Victoria's powerhouse teams indicates that both interstate clubs will win plenty of matches at home.

presents

Skids are under Victorian power

In time, but maybe not this season, those wins will be sufficient to give them a launching pad to leap into the top six on a regular basis.

And in time, you can bet your footy boot stops that steps will be taken to try to take away a home ground advantage that could virtually ensure both teams a place in the finals.

Adelaide's introduction into the AFL could not have been more impressive; far more so than the West Coast Eagles, even though they also won their first AFL game.

South Australia must be regretting the fact that it took them so long to put a team into the so-called national competition — but the other AFL clubs are breathing a sigh of relief!

EXPORTED

SA's vacillation allowed some of their top players to be exported to other clubs and that's just as well; imagine their power if John Platten and Stephen Kernahan and Co. were now Crows.

And I wonder how those people who used Port Adelaide as a pawn to force SA to enter a team in the AFL are now feeling.

Could they be having a distinct case of heartburn?

While the big test is yet to come for Adelaide, performing over a season in Melbourne, the signs are



STRAIGHT SHOOTING

with ROBERT BENNETT of the Sunday Times

there — particularly as they will be protected for two years by a moratorium on their players — that they will have a big influence in the AFL.

So what will the AFL do to try and erode the influence of two interstate teams that look like having a profound influence on their football.

They plundered WA in the hope of dissipating their strength. But as Victorian-based teams nab one good player, so we seem to produce several more.

In time, the AFL will need to bite the bullet and rationalise the number of clubs in Melbourne.

All it has done so far is try to preserve its own competition by adding clubs from other states.

GRASS ROOTS

And what's going to happen to the Brisbane Bears and Sydney Swans? They will never match the success of the Eagles or the Crows; mainly because the grass roots just aren't there.

I've made this point before and I'll re-iterate it now — the AFL needs to be re-organised in a way that parochial interests are tossed out the window.

The thing the Vics fear most — that "their" grand final will be played by two interlopers from other states — may not be too far down the track.

And if the Eagles and Crows are successful, then the AFL will not be able to justify playing all their finals in Victoria. After all, it is a national competition, isn't it?

GOSSIP FROM AROUND THE TRAPS

CLUB



presents . . .

Footy Romours

Shrewd Swans

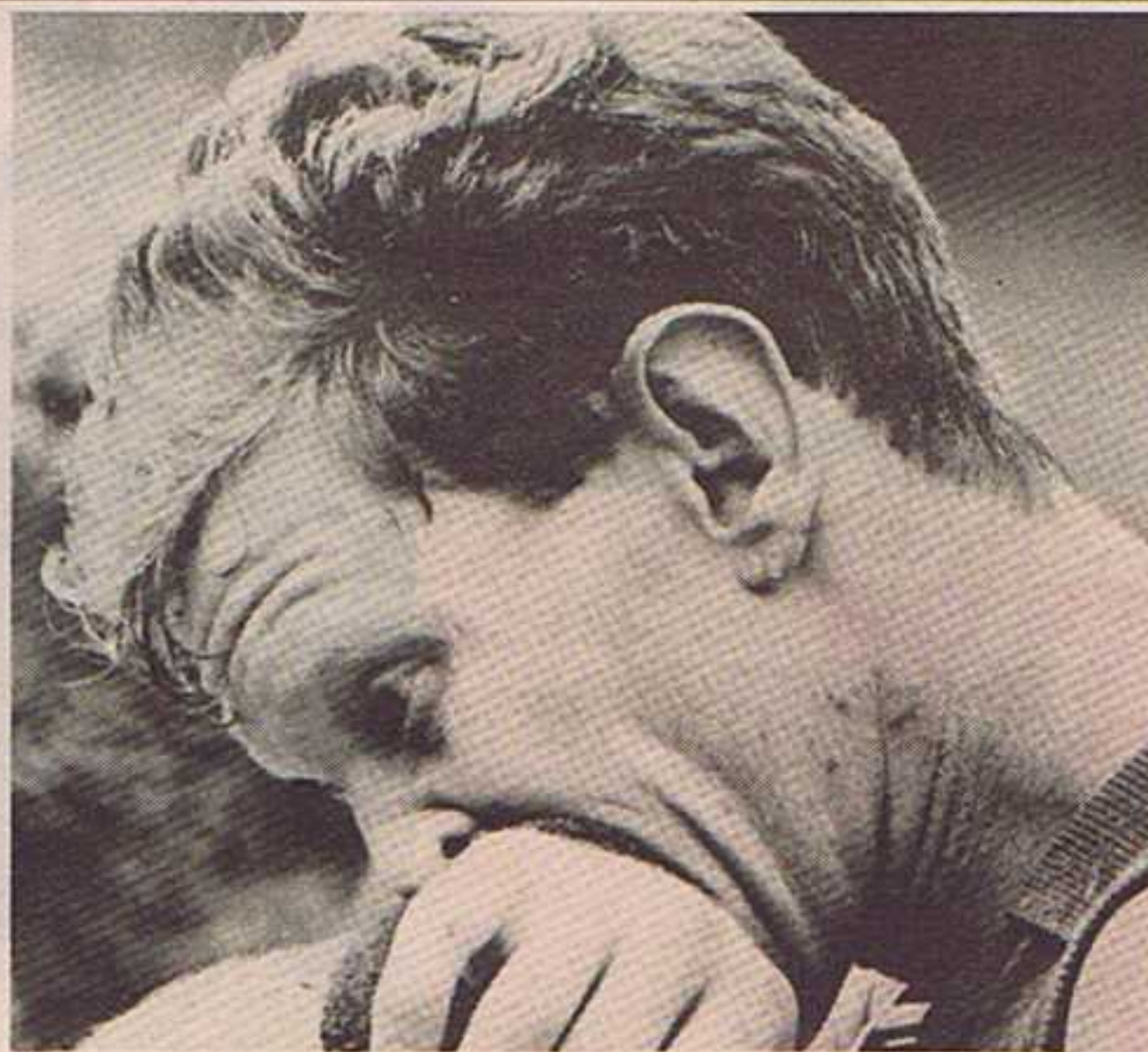
THERE has always been a hint of a suggestion that the people running Swan Districts are a shrewd bunch. There's no doubt that coach John Todd is a cagey customer; after all, 30 years in the business has taught him a trick or three about players. And hard-nosed president Bill Walker was always tough to beat on the ground and is equally determined off-field. So it's no surprise when you look at the Swans camp and realise that they will seldom be afflicted by the trouble Claremont had last year with Eagles players jumping backwards and forwards — a problem that Subiaco will have this year. Swans only have three Eagles players in their nest — former skipper Murray Rance, veteran Phil Narkle and strong-man Troy Ugle. It's good speculation to suggest that Ugle will be called up now and then and could win a regular spot, depending on Eagles injuries. But it's fair to say also that Rance and Narkle will find it hard to cement permanent Eagles spots, leaving their services with Swans for most of the year and creating very few juggling acts.

Tough Tiger talk

CLAREMONT president Lew Mutch isn't one to hold back; after all, you don't run the Toyota affairs in a city like Perth if you're a bit soft. Such was the case when he presided over a function at Claremont last week and had a few words to say about the Tigers finances. He gave one particular newspaper reporter a serve for "exaggerating" a report on Claremont's debts and while he wouldn't name the paper or the reporter, he indicated that the newspaper was delivered daily...and the writer had defected to Melbourne! "They simply got it all wrong," he said in a reference to Claremont's debt situation, which he maintained was looking healthy again.

Brown's new tone

THE megamouth is back...but he's got a new tone of voice! Malcolm Brown, a man of many football roles, has returned to the air waves as a special commentator on good old Aunty, joining Radio 6WF for their match coverage. His cultural debut last Sunday resulted in plenty of expert comments, with Brown's knowledge of the game second-to-none. But it was noticeable that he really got excited when the fights started!



Big Melbourne ruckman Steve O'Dwyer worked his heart out for the Demons last Sunday...but his rewards were little

Not too flattering

THE visiting Melbourne Demons weren't too impressed with the physical attention they received from the mean West Coast Eagles last Sunday. The fierce tackling by the home side led to some rather reluctant Demons and there was more than one occasion when a Melbourne man backed out of a confrontation. At one stage when big Steve O'Dwyer rushed a point through in preference to trying to clear the ball out of the Eagles goalsquare, ABC caller Trevor Jenkins likened him to an Italian war hero!

Percy's in touch

VOCAL radio 6PR critic Percy Johnson is full of support for the Westside Football suggestion by Robert Bennett on this page last edition. Bennett talked about much-needed changes to the existing WAFL structure, with clubs having to amalgamate and consolidate into a six-team competition. Percy was right behind the idea...even to agreeing that the Eagles second team should play as a unit in the WAFL. He sees Perth sustaining a higher-quality six-team competition in the future, with the two Fremantle teams as one side; Swan Districts joining with Perth or East Perth and maybe West Perth and Subiaco becoming a northern districts unit.

Tough at the top

SPONSORSHIP is the lifeblood of football, a fact most people recognise. But there were a few journalists and commentators in the media box at Subiaco Oval on Sunday who had reason to curse the trappings that go with sponsorship. A big portion of what was once the press box has been converted to a kitchen to service the new sponsors boxes immediately in front of the media area. Not only are the media people jammed into an unacceptably small area, their vision of what is happening on the field is constantly blocked by people serving food and drink to box-holders.

Getting expensive

NO-ONE can argue about the worthiness of the Police and Citizens Youth Club organisation when it comes to raising funds for charity.

But a few thousand football fans will probably be less than pleased with the amount they "donated" to the institution via payment for car parking at Subiaco last Sunday.

The PCYC had the contract for parking at Mueller Park at the Eastern end of Subiaco Oval, for the Eagles v Melbourne match. Footy patrons, after being locked into long queues waiting to get into the reserve, were confronted with a \$4 charge, a 25percent hike on last year's not-inconsiderable cost of \$3.

Given that there are few parking alternatives within reasonable distance of the ground, the PCYC have something of a captive market — but the huge increase in these tough economic times is a bit rough, coming on top of the steep charges associated with a family day at the footy.

While the Eagles are winning, people will still go to matches and pay excessive parking charges and steep seating prices. But if the Eagles start to falter, those who set the charges might find things as difficult as the rest of the community.

Another Richo

FOOTBALL whiz-kid Mike Richardson is back in town...but he has no plans of getting a kick in the local league. The former Swans Districts/Essendon/Brisbane Bears star says he has retired. A troublesome knee injury has caused him some concern over summer and after a 156-game AFL career, he has hung up his boots and that No. 8 guernsey. But with brother Steve at East Perth, there's always a hope....

CLUB



For post-match celebrations...

CLUB



Mainwaring's new mood....

FOCAL POINT



with
KIM HAGDORN

WEST Coast Eagles pin-up boy Chris Mainwaring didn't have time to gloat on his magnificent 32-possession performance against Melbourne last Sunday.

Within minutes of his stunning best-on-ground effort, Mainwaring turned his attention to this Saturday's grudge match with Collingwood at AFL Park Waverley.

Adopting a refreshing team-orientated approach, Mainwaring shunned accolades over his scintillating exhibition of class and pace across the centre, which helped humiliate the Demons into mediocrity.

Searching for a consistency in his performances in 1991 — something lacking last season — the dashing Eagle immediately set his sights on a repeat performance at Waverley.

Mainwaring, oblivious as to who

Coaching lessons pay off

his Magpie opponent will be this week, was even critical of certain aspects of his display against the Demons.

"I was disappointed with my kicking. It's too erratic and I'll have to work on it," Mainwaring admitted.

DEFICIENCIES

"It's one of the deficiencies I have to work on in my game.

"I've worked pretty hard on a few things over the summer and I felt there was some improvement in certain areas against Melbourne, but there is still a way to go.

"It's pretty tight for a game each week with the depth of talent in our squad. No player can afford to rest on his laurels and relax with one good performance.

"Now it is Collingwood.

"Anyone is a danger in their side.

"They are the reigning premiers, so any player who gets a run for them will be a worthy opponent."



Damaging Eagles Chris Mainwaring was in superb touch against Melbourne — and had every reason to smile after the victory

Mainwaring, one of the most exciting Eagles when in full flight, as he was in the 79-point drubbing of Melbourne, was carrying out new Mick Malthouse tactics for his centre-liners.

The fleet-footed Mainwaring and fellow racehorse winger Peter Matera, have been told by coach Malthouse to get possessions inside the 50-metre lines at both ends of the ground.

"We have been told to run harder and deeper at both ends of the ground," the star winger revealed, who capped his fine effort last Sunday with two of the West Coast 14 goals.

"Mick's the teacher and I'm the student and after a few ordinary performances last year, when I don't think I listened to his good advice, I'm keen for a consistent and good year this time around.

"I've worked on my fitness and after a full summer of training and extra weights, I feel stronger for the extra running rather than just getting kicks out on the wing.

TOP DEFENCE

"It sure does make life roving the packs easier though when our defence is as disciplined as it was in the first game.

"I take my hat off to Andrew Lockyer, in particular, who just thumped everything down the running players' throats."

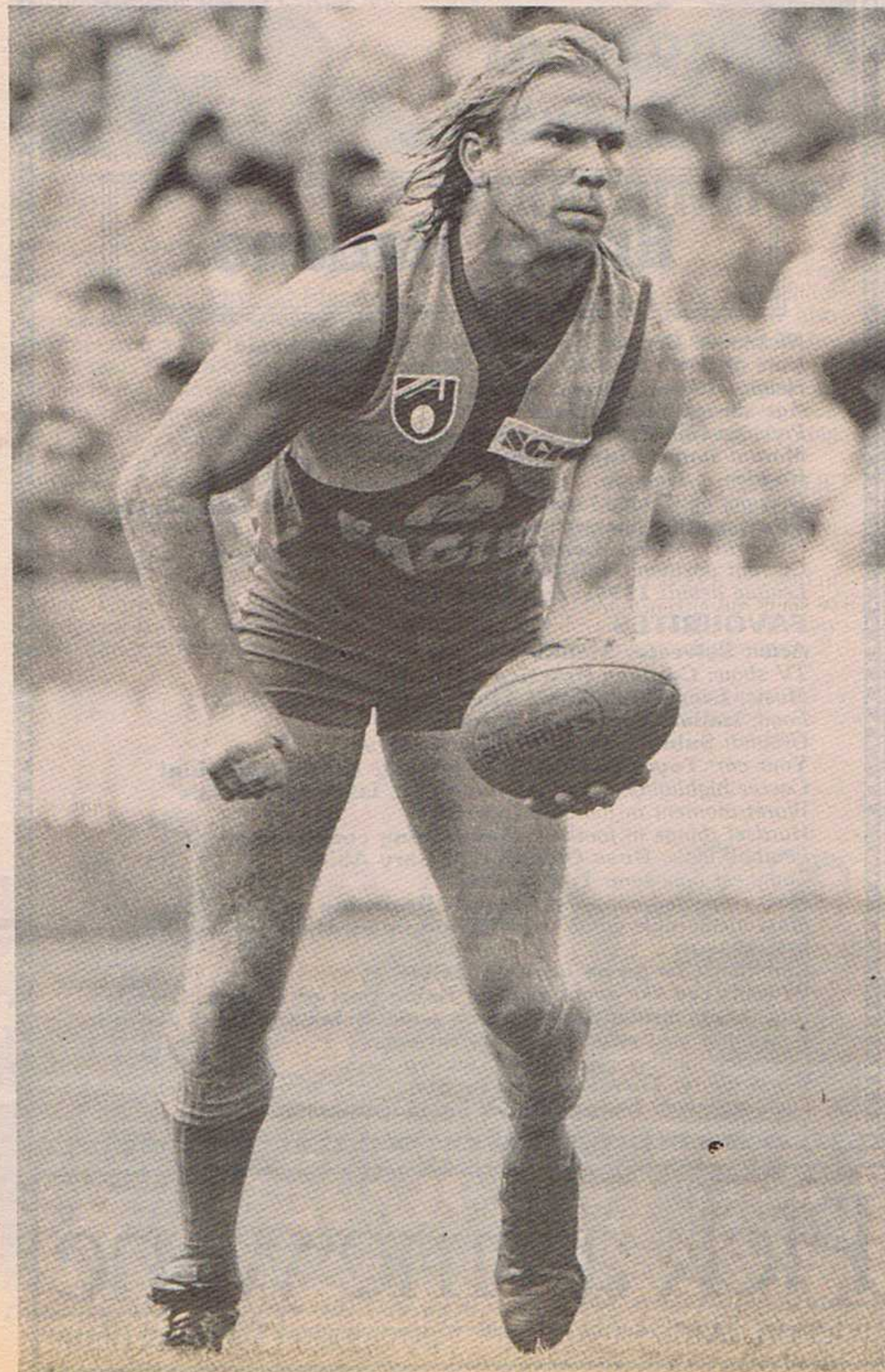
Mainwaring was one of the many Eagles stars last Sunday.

Matera, with 25 possessions on the opposite wing to Mainwaring and Guy McKenna, who accepted the arduous task of minding highly-rated Melbourne captain Garry Lyon in the centre, established complete control across the middle.

The entire Eagles defence reigned supreme, while in attack Peter Sumich at full-forward, Michael Brennan, at centre-half-forward and the elusive Brett Heady on a flank, were all clear winners.

A repeat dose from the entire cast will be just what the doctor ordered for this Saturday, if the West Coast is to humble the reigning AFL premiers Collingwood at the venue of that fateful finals series in September last year.

The Eagles can beat Collingwood this time around....and one suspects that the Magpies know that by now.



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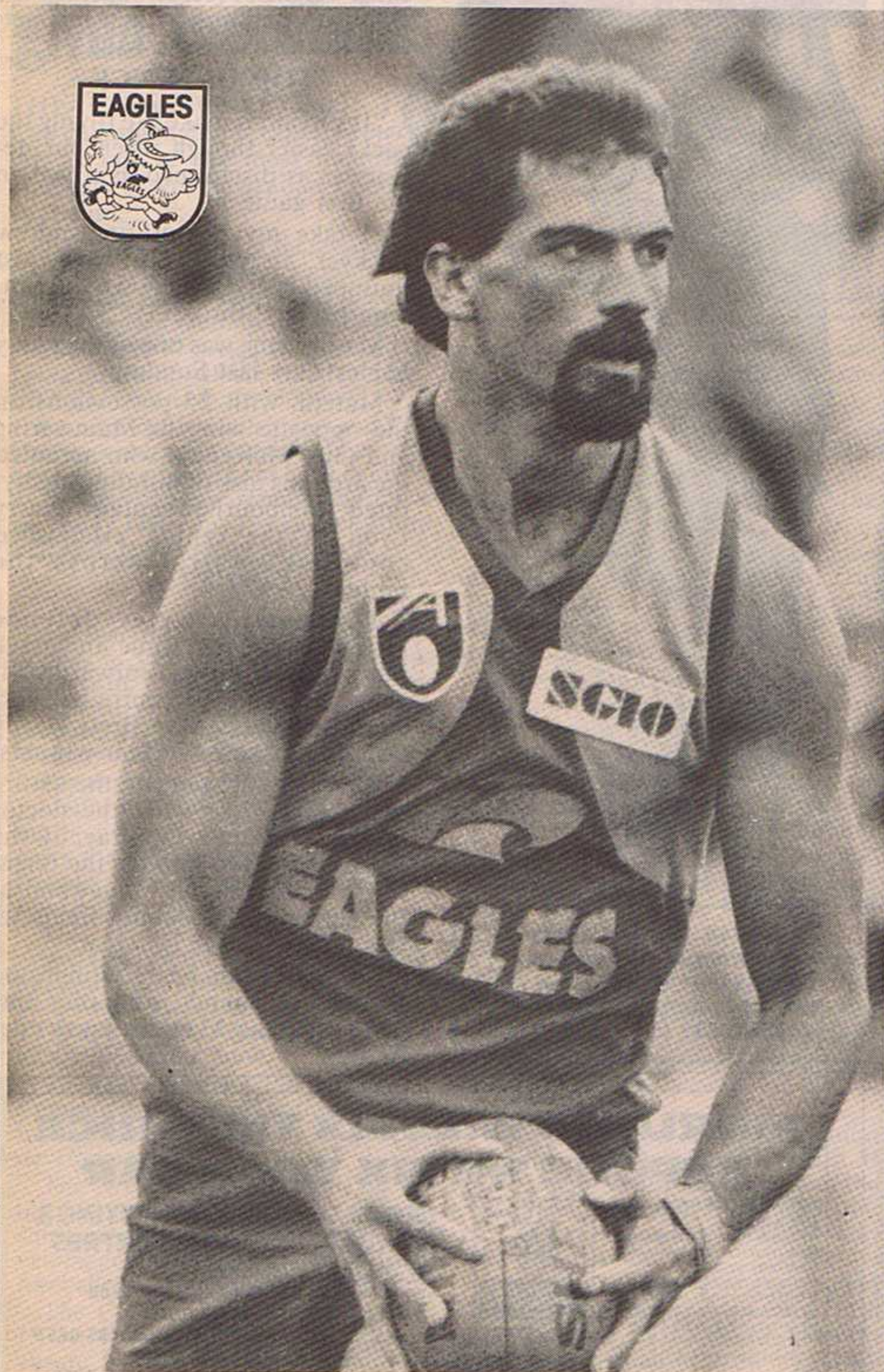
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Player Profile

David Hynes

NICK NAME: Beinz
FAVOURITE POSITION: Centre-half-back
CURRENT POSITION: Centre-half-back
FIRST POSITION: Centre-half-forward
No: 22 **HEIGHT:** 193cm **WEIGHT:** 90kg
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: March 31, 1967, Wudinna, South Australia
RECRUITED FROM: Port Adelaide
FIRST STARTED PLAYING: Aged 8yrs
JUNIOR CLUB: Rostrevor College
FIRST SENIOR GAME: 1985 Port Adelaide
GAMES PLAYED: 121 Port Adelaide, 1 Eagles
FOOTBALL HONOURS: 1988-89-90 Port Adelaide premierships in SANFL.
MARITAL STATUS: Single. **GIRLFRIEND'S NAME:** —
OCCUPATION: Sales agent, Claude Neon Signs
SCHOOLS ATTENDED: Wudinna High, Rostrevor College
YOUR CAR: Toyota Camry. **DREAM CAR:** Porsche
FAVOURITE PASTIMES/HOBBIES: Races, fishing, swimming.
FAVOURITE FOOD: Roast
FAVOURITE DRINK: Emu Export, Bundy, Orange juice.
FAVOURITE SINGER/GROUP: Beatles
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Col'n Carpenter.
FAVOURITE MOVIE: Once Upon a Time in America
OTHER SPORTS: Golf
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My parents and John Cahill
PLAYERS YOU ADMIRE: Russell Ebert
MATCH DAY ROUTINE: Nothing special
FOOTBALL INJURIES: Hamstring, ankle
BIGGEST THRILL: Three premierships with Port Adelaide
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The 1988 grand final.
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To be part of the first AFL premiership to be won by a club outside of Victoria.
PERSONAL MOTIVATION: To do well with the Eagles



Bruno Italiano

Nickname: Brutus **Why:** From my christian name
Date of Birth: 23.6.69 **Place of Birth:** Bunbury
Height: 183cm **Weight:** 82kgs
Age started playing: 9yrs
Previous club: Harvey-Brunswick Junior club: Harvey
Marital status: Single **Girlfriend's name:** Carmel
Residence: Harvey
Occupation: Dairy farmer **Place of work:** Harvey, self-employed
Other sporting interests: Cricket, basketball
Favourite position: Centre **First position:** Back pocket
Current position: Half-back
League debut: 1990 **Versus:** Subiaco

FAVOURITES

Actor: Sylvester Stallone, Charlton Heston
TV show: Country Practice **Movie:** Rocky IV
Music: Everything **Drink:** Tropical fruit juice
Food: Italian, especially lasagna
Ground: Subiaco Oval, Fremantle Oval
Your car: Toyota Camry **Your favourite car:** Lamborghini
Career highlights: First league game, last year's finals
Worst moment in football: Injuries
Hardest things in football: Maintaining consistency
Football idols: Ross Glendinning, Gary Ablett
Toughest opponent: Tony Evans
Most respected opponent: Clinton Browning
Most memorable game: 1990 Preliminary final against Swans last season
Ambitions: To go as far as possible
What do you like about football: Being part of a team, friends
How do you mentally prepare for a game: Relax and think about it
Who influenced your career: My father
Guernsey number: 48 **Any reason:** No
Worst injury: Torn knee ligaments
Luckiest break: League debut against Subiaco

ANGOVE'S.... Pick a fine wine

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Challenge ahead for Malaxos

with
Ron Alexander



Former State, Eagles and East Fremantle Coach

HAS former West Coast Eagles captain Steve Malaxos been put on the shelf?

This week's game against Collingwood will provide part of the answer.

The unfortunate injury to tough little rover Scott Watters, who started the game against Melbourne in the centre, opens the way for someone like Malaxos to return to top-level action.

Malaxos has been an outstanding player for the Eagles, Claremont, Western Australia and Australia (at Gaelic football) and even though he produced some strong games for the Eagles last season, he was dropped for the last two finals games.

THEORIES

A multitude of theories have been expressed over the move, with reasons including poor form; he was too slow; the tempo too quick; the opposition too slick....and so forth.

Whatever the official reason, the Ea-

gles selectors suddenly had a massive lack of confidence in their captain.

So what does the season hold for Steve? Will he be seriously considered a major part of the Eagles drive for the flag — or will he become a driving force at Claremont?

Putting together the scenarios in the finals and his lack of opportunities so far this year, it would appear as though the Eagles will prefer other players in front of Malaxos.

During the off-season, he was touted as a potential coach of South Fremantle, but he declared himself unavailable. Don't under-estimate his potential as a coach; he is a real football thinker and a hard worker and has tremendous character to go with his ability.

I do believe that as long as he is given some support and encouragement, he can still force his way back into the Eagles side.



Steve Malaxos...he can still be a viable Eagle

Crows were crowing...

THE Adelaide Crows certainly surprised the rest of Australia and, unfortunately, Hawthorn with their massive win at Football Park.

It is obvious that Adelaide's Football Park is going to be a bogey ground for travelling clubs.

The Crows seem to have organised their on and off-field activities a little better than the Eagles did in their first year.

At least they have a home ground and it appears they have involved seasoned football people and haven't sold out to the know-it-all big businessmen.

While the Crows have got off to a flying start and will win most of their home games, they haven't got the experienced players that the Eagles have after four years and so their form will be erratic, especially in Melbourne.

The Crows will find it difficult to win games in Melbourne, which will make them touch-and-go for the final six.

Waterman's challenge pays off

THE intensive pre-season put in by Eagles half-back Chris Waterman really paid off when the AFL season open last Sunday.

Waterman performed extremely well against Melbourne in the relatively new role for him of half-back flanker. His disposal and ability to read the ball was first rate.

Waterman typifies what is a requirement in today's game — versatility.

In the first semi-final against Melbourne last year, he kicked six goals at Waverley and, in contrast last Sunday, he moved to defence to eclipse dangerous forwards Rod Owen and Allen Jakovich.

It seems as though Waterman can enjoy a consistent season if he avoids injury.

Unlucky for Watters

INJURIES are part of our game, but you have to feel sorry for winged Eagle Scott Watters.

Like all players, Watters has worked hard over the summer and was in great practice-match form and therefore it was a devastating blow when he sustained medial ligament damage early in Sunday's game.

The skilled midfielder will be out for about six weeks, but with a history of

with
IAN MILLER



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

minor injuries behind him, he knows full well what is required in the rehabilitation programme.

Watters will work hard to get back as quickly as medically possible and he had a very positive approach to getting himself fit again.

The down side is that his injury provides the opportunity for someone else to stake a senior claim, proving that football is very much a week by week proposition.

Superstitions point to wins

HAPPY-go-lucky Eagles selector Tim Gepp is just a little superstitious.

Twelve months ago Gepp missed the first Eagles game against Collingwood because of a cricket grand final, playing with CBC Fremantle, which they lost — but the Eagles beat Collingwood.

Last week he was forced to miss the opening game against Melbourne because of another cricket final.

The result for the Eagles was the same, but this time CBC won the cricket grand final. Maybe this could be an early omen for the Eagles to go a couple of steps better this year.

Eagles turn this time

THE Easter Saturday game of the day is undoubtedly the clash between the Eagles and reigning premiers Collingwood at Waverley, in what will be a real challenge for the West Coasters.

Last September it was a draw and a loss to the Eagles and now, third time around at the same venue, the Coasters will be seeking to turn the result around.

Given fine conditions, the clash will provide a finals-type atmosphere with those parochial Collingwood supporters at their best.

You can just imagine the crowd now; getting into Peter Sumich for giving everyone that draw and messing up last season's finals fixtures.

Last week was a fine result for the Eagles, but every week a new challenge has to be met — you are only as good as your performance on the day.

But the mood of the Eagles is that the adrenalin will be pumping early for this game.

"I GUESS FAI MEANS GENUINE PEACE OF MIND DOUGIE!"



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Crows amazed at Hawks capitulation

SOUTH Australian football guru Neil Kerley was astonished at the ease of the Adelaide Crows victory over Foster's Cup premiers Hawthorn when the AFL season opened last Friday night.

"Given Hawthorn's effort in winning the Foster's Cup and their success in AFL football over the past decade, we expected a tough game," Kerley said from his Adelaide base this week.

"But somehow they just didn't fire up. We were surprised at just how easy the win was in view of their recent good form."

In front of 44,000 deliriously-happy Adelaide fans at Football Park, the Crows made a stunning entry into the national league with an 86-point win — 24.11 to 9.15 — over the high-profiled Hawks.

But Kerley, the Crows football manager, selector and right-hand man to coach Graham Cornes, said the new AFL club wasn't getting carried away with their first-up win, regardless of how easy it was and who it was against.



by
ROBBIE BURNS

TOUGHER

"It's going to get a lot tougher, we are fully aware of that," the former SA and All-Australian coach said.

"We expected to get a lift by playing our first AFL game in front of a parochial home crowd, but we didn't really have any idea of just how much advantage that would be and we certainly weren't relying on that to take us to victory.

"We are fully prepared to have a hard game against Carlton at Football Park on Sunday.

"We don't expect any more easy games, either home or away. Obviously, like the Eagles, we are going to find winning away from home more difficult than in Adelaide.



The Adelaide brains trust...football manager Neil Kerley (left) and coach Graham Cornes

"Just the same, the way in which we played against the Hawks has given us a huge confidence boost. It showed our players without any AFL experience that teams like Hawthorn are not invincible.

"Even though we copped a hiding from the Eagles in the practice game at Bunbury a few weeks ago, that trip West played a significant part in our good start to the season. It provided us with a valuable football lesson, but more importantly, it brought us together and helped develop team spirit."

But Kerley, considered one of the hardest task-masters in Australian football, was not completely happy with the form of all players, in particular former Geelong star Bruce Lindner, who was given a roving commission in the forward line.

"Despite kicking four goals, Bruce has to hold his marks and do a lot more hard work in attack," Kerley said.

Fans enjoyed the awards

A LARGE turn-out of Eagles supporters packed the Subiaco Football Club social hall after Sunday's game to watch the first post-match award presentations of the season.

It's amazing what a win, especially over a top side like Melbourne, can do for the spirits of the supporters and the room was simply bristling with atmosphere.

Chris Mainwaring was the star of the show, collecting the cheer squad and Vines Resort awards for his hard-running effort against the Demons, as well as picking up a 50-game trophy from last season.

Eagles general manager Brian Cook presented the Macca's catch-of-the-day award to Peter Matera, while Dean Irving took out the Hole in the Wall Theatre play-of-the-day award.

Guy McKenna, Chris Waterman and Andrew Lockyer also figured in the spoils, with Lockyer earning the coach's award for his negating tactics which held Melbourne full-forward Darren Bennett to one point.



Feeling well-satisfied with a first-up victory is Eagles coach Mick Malthouse

On the snip

THE word is out...Maurice Meade is looking for Chris Mainwaring and Adrian Barich!

While the speedy pair have never been fans of the short back-and-sides haircut, both are sporting shoulder length hairdos which Meade, the team's hair-dresser, would just love to get his scissors into.

Settling in

RICHMOND recruit Cory Young took no time at all warming to West Australian football when he lined up for his new club Subiaco in a practice match against Perth at Lathlain Park last Saturday.

Young starred for the Lions in the forward line, kicking three of their last four goals in the final term.

Watters' worry

WHILE tough little West Coast Eagle Scott Watters could smile at the team's thrashing of Melbourne last Sunday, his own injury troubles marred the day for him. Watters has displayed outstanding pre-season form this year and was an obvious choice for the AFL opener at Subiaco Oval. However, Watters was denied his share of the glory when, at the 15-minute mark of the first quarter, he damaged a medial ligament in his right knee. The skilful rover had to be content to watch the rest of the game from the sidelines. After the game, Watters was philosophical about his heavily-banded knee, a disappointing injury that will sideline him for six weeks.

TRADITIONAL RIVALRY

IT was almost an automatic move when former East Fremantle team-mates and one-time business partners Andrew Lockyer and Darren Bennett lined up on each other in last Sunday's AFL match at Subiaco.

Lockyer resurrected his AFL career by giving Bennett a proverbial bath, keeping him to just three kicks — one of which was a point.

Bennett had posted his six goals against the Eagles in Perth last season, helping set up the West Coaster's only home defeat. But last Sunday he was removed from the ground mid-way through the last quarter, with a black day behind him.

Lockyer, fitter and trimmer this season, played the custodian's role superbly without offering his mate a sniff of the football.

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IN THE EAGLES NEST

with Tania Armstrong

High-spirited coach

WEST Coast coach Mick Malthouse was in high spirits after his team came out well and truly on top in the season opener — and he showed his lighter side to an attentive audience at post-match presentations.

While announcing the coach's awards, Malthouse commented that the Eagles percentage was somewhere up around the 490 mark.

"It's up to the players to keep it there...without putting too much pressure on them, of course!," quipped Malthouse.

TIGHT EAGLES

THE opening clash between the West Coasters and Melbourne was always going to be a hard-fought affair...but no-one could envisage the pressure applied man-to-man by the entire Eagles team.

Melbourne were expected to be fired up after their humiliating first semi-final defeat at the hands of the Eagles last year, but they just didn't fire a shot.

The fierce pressure and instant tackling applied by the Eagles kept the Demons well out of their 50-metre scoring zone.

In fact, their first shot at goal came at the 23-minute mark of the second term when Rod Owen snapped a point over his shoulder from the boundary line.

Melbourne did not register their first goal till the opening minute of the third quarter...and that came from a free kick to Garry Lyon.

Melbourne coach John Northey admitted after the game that the Eagles were just too good. By contrast, Eagles coach Mick Malthouse played down the victory, saying there were 23 rounds to go.

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Chance for Eagles to even score

THE drawn AFL qualifying final of season 1990 seems such a long time ago, but for the West Coast Eagles, the memory will linger forever.

And it is likely to be a decisive motivating factor when the WA team travels to Melbourne this weekend to play Collingwood at Waverley....the scene of that historic clash.

The Eagles were swamped in the replay by the eventual premiers and they feel they owe the Magpies one for that defeat.

They have a perfect opportunity to score a pay-back victory, though nothing can ever replace the opportunity they lost last year.

Have you heard???

Hawthorn veteran Michael Tuck is only expected to miss a game or two with his damaged finger. The evergreen thimblestick damaged a cartilage, but he'll shrug it off like most of his other injuries in the past 20 years....

☆☆☆☆☆

Former South Fremantle star Willie Rioli, drafted to Hawthorn via his Darwin base, is impressing people at Glenferrie Road. Seems as though the little roly-poly from Perth is keen to follow brother Maurice's footsteps and succeed in the big-time....

☆☆☆☆☆

Last year's Brownlow Medallist Tony Liberatore might have surprised a few critics with his win — and that means more people will take notice of him this season. Already it's obvious that the little rover will come in for some heavy physical treatment, but he has bounced up brilliantly in recent outings.

☆☆☆☆☆

Former Claremont forward Todd Ridley, drafted to Essendon, is having some troubles with an ankle injury. While he impressed Bombers people with his early-season form on the track, he hasn't had a lot of opportunities to play out a full practice match as yet.

☆☆☆☆☆

Geelong haven't given up hope of enticing superstar Gary Ablett out of retirement. They have offered him a furnished house for the season, plus a big increase to his six-figure salary. And the inside word has it that the Cats are confident Ablett will accept their plea.

☆☆☆☆☆

Richmond coach Kevin Bartlett was pretty angry after his Tigers went down to St Kilda in their opening match on Saturday. The 25-point margin didn't flatter the Saints and Bartlett felt that it was a game Richmond should have won. "We made too many simple mistakes that gave the ball away," said Bartlett.

☆☆☆☆☆

The much-travelled Gilbert McAdam gave Victorians a glimpse of his real talent last Saturday. The three-game player for Claremont back in 1986 has finally graduated to the national league as a draft choice by St Kilda. The South Australian Magarey Medal winner of 1989 had an impressive 23 kicks and nine handballs against Richmond.

☆☆☆☆☆

Gary Shaw, the man who set record standards in clearance fees when he was cleared by Claremont to Collingwood, is still on the move. The mop-haired rover has been appointed captain-coach of Riverina club Coolamon. He has been coaching at Noosa Heads, on the Gold Coast, for the last two seasons.

The Eagles were in brilliant form in the lead-up to the season and they carried that excellence into last week's opener against Melbourne, at Subiaco Oval.

But now comes an even stiffer test. Apart from the first round Foster's Cup match against St Kilda, which they lost, the Eagles played all their pre-season games in WA, where conditions were heavily in their favour.

As the Eagles aim for another finals appearance, they are aware of the importance of winning games on the road, particularly at Waverley, which suits their method of play and especially against other top sides.

To win this Saturday, the Eagles will need to be every bit as fierce in their approach to the football as they were last Sunday, because Collingwood finished off superbly against Footscray last week when initially they were in some strife.

The Magpies were five goals down at quarter-time before storming home to win by 70 points. Coach Leigh Matthews had to make wholesale changes to get his team into top gear, but eventually he achieved the goal and the Magpies produced a scintillating finish.

Obviously Peter Daicos, who kicked five goals, remains the big danger-man as far as Collingwood are concerned. He is capable of — and more often than not produces — the inspirational goal which ignites his teammates.

BRILLIANT

Craig Starcevich, who played so well after coming off the interchange bench in the grand final, was also in brilliant form and was the main reason for Collingwood reversing the dangerous trend against Footscray.

Running players like Tony Francis and Scott Russell again represent danger and obviously they will be tagged.

Perhaps Don Pyke could be promoted for one of those roles and David Hart given the other.

The Eagles defensive football was



David Hart...could have a tagging role in Saturday's grudge match of the season

nothing short of sensational against Melbourne, highlighted by the fact that they kept an attacking division which boasts the skills of Darren Bennett, Allen Jakovich and Rod Owen, goalless in the first half.

The Eagles applied tremendous physical pressure and a couple of Melbourne players had a second look every time the ball headed their way.

Chris Waterman, Andrew Lockyer, Michael Brennan (whether in attack or defence) and John Worsfold will be expected to produce carbon copies of last week's performances.

TARGET

Guy McKenna, after a slow start against Garry Lyon, seemed to enjoy

the freedom of playing in the centre, though his was still a close-checking role; Chris Mainwaring and Peter Matera were brilliant on the wings and Peter Sumich provided them with a moving target at all times.

Brett Heady, Tony Evans and Peter Wilson will again carry a lot of responsibility for the team's attacking football and Dean Irving has a big task in the ruck.

It looms as an exciting contest, but one the Eagles must win.

With the competition blowing out to 15 teams this season, early victories are even more essential to relieve the inevitable pressure which comes at the end of the season as teams try to gate-crash the finals.

Emu Export present ... WESTSIDE'S EXPERT SELECTIONS

	Tally	Collingwood v W. C. Eagles	Fitzroy v Melbourne	Bris Bears v Nth Melbourne	Adelaide v Carlton	Hawthorn v Sydney Swans	Richmond v Essendon	Geelong v St Kilda
RON ALEXANDER	2	Eagles	Fitzroy	N. Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Essendon	Geelong
TANIA ARMSTRONG	3	Eagles	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Essendon	St Kilda
ROBERT BENNETT	2	Eagles	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Essendon	Geelong
PETER BOSUSTOW	3	Collingwood	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Carlton	Hawthorn	Essendon	St Kilda
ROBBIE BURNS	4	Collingwood	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Essendon	Geelong
GLENN CORDINGLEY	3	Collingwood	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Richmond	St Kilda
ALAN EAST	2	Eagles	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Essendon	Geelong
KIM HAGDORN	3	Eagles	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Essendon	St Kilda
IAN MILLER	2	Eagles	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Essendon	Geelong
KEN PIESSE	1	Collingwood	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Essendon	St Kilda
GARY STOCKS	2	Eagles	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Carlton	Hawthorn	Essendon	St Kilda
MOST FAVOURED	3	Eagles	Melbourne	Nth Melb	Adelaide	Hawthorn	Essendon	St Kilda

how about you?

Interstate Update with Richard Camm



Plenty of firsts in big win

THE West Coast Eagles clash with Melbourne last Sunday featured a number of firsts for games involving the Perth AFL side.

Apart from the Eagles 79-point win being their biggest over the Demons and the greatest margin in the 10 matches between the two clubs, several other records were set.

The second quarter, in which the teams managed to score only three points between them, was the first goal-less quarter in 94 matches involving the Eagles.

OPPOSITION

Melbourne's first half was the only time that the Eagles have kept their opposition goal-less for a half; while the opening quarter was the first time a team had failed to score in a quarter against the Eagles.

The second quarter was the Eagles 16th goal-less quarter since entering the competition in 1987. The game was the first time that the Eagles have won despite being kept goal-less in one quarter.

Melbourne's final score of 2.8 was the lowest score in an AFL game in Perth and the lowest score against the Eagles.

St Kilda kicked only 3.18 against the Eagles at the WACA Ground in Round 7 of 1988, while Footscray's 3.11 at the Western Oval in Round 22 of that year had been the previous lowest score against the Eagles.

THE Adelaide Crows 86-point win over Hawthorn last Friday night was easily the biggest win on debut by any of the AFL clubs.

Nine of the 15 clubs in the competition recorded victories in their first game.

Previously the largest victories on debut were by 33 points — by Fitzroy over Carlton in 1897 and by Brisbane over North Melbourne under lights at the MCG in the opening game of the 1987 season.

Of the 15 clubs, St Kilda had to wait the longest for their first win.

The Saints lost their first 48 games, then beat Melbourne by a point — but only after successfully protesting that a point kicked by the Demons in the third quarter came after the siren.

THE on-again, off-again retirement of David Cloke ended on Saturday, with an impressive performance for Richmond against St Kilda.

Playing in his 312th game in his 18th year of senior football, Cloke has joined Michael Tuck, Simon Madden, Robert DiPierdomenico and Terry Daniher as the current-day players to have made their debuts 15 years ago.

THE goal by rover Tony Evans three minutes into the final quarter of Sunday's game, broke a sequence of 10 successive Eagles goals kicked by players from one of the two Fremantle clubs.

It was Evans' first AFL goal and was followed by even more Fremantle contributions as Michael Brennan, Chris Mainwaring and Peter Wilson grabbed goals to leave Port players with 13 of the final tally of 14.



Presents

EAGLES FACT FILE

Name	Games		1991		1991		Score
	1991	Total	Kicks	Marks	H/B		
BRENNAN, Michael	1	81	7	2	2	3.0	
EVANS, Tony	1	1	9	3	5	2.4	
HART, David	1	75	14	3	7	0.0	
HEADY, Brett	1	21	15	6	5	0.1	
HEPBURN, Mark	1	57	5	1	2	0.0	
HYNES, David	1	1	7	3	11	0.0	
IRVING, Dean	1	17	10	1	3	0.0	
LAMB, Dwayne	1	86	11	2	6	0.1	
LEWIS, Chris	1	70	17	3	8	0.0	
LOCKYER, Andrew	1	57	9	4	7	0.0	

Name	Games		1991		1991		Score
	1991	Total	Kicks	Marks	H/B		
MAINWARING, Chris	1	81	29	3	3	2.1	
MATERA, Peter	1	6	21	7	4	1.3	
MCGRATH, Craig	1	70	2	0	0	0.0	
MCKENNA, Guy	1	65	14	3	10	0.0	
SUMICH, Peter	1	43	12	7	0	5.3	
TURLEY, Craig	1	33	9	0	5	0.0	
WATERMAN, Chris	1	24	11	3	8	0.0	
WATTERS, Scott	1	14	3	0	3	0.0	
WILSON, Peter	1	74	12	5	7	1.1	
WORSFOLD, John	1	76	10	2	10	0.0	



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FOOTY AROUND THE NATION

TOLD YOU SO....

THERE are some pretty smug football critics around Adelaide these days with the over-whelming support being given to the newly-formed Adelaide Crows. The South Australian weekly football newspaper, Football Times, had campaigned long and hard — and often under fierce official opposition — to get an Adelaide side into the AFL. One of the staunchest supporters of the AFL campaign was "The Legend" Dick Jones, a former great player and coach who once ran hotels in Perth and Kalgoorlie during his football days. His opening column on the newspaper's return was a thank-you to the Port Adelaide club who instigated the AFL move by seeking to go it alone. "The SANFL had obviously lost touch with what the public in SA wanted," he wrote with some satisfaction.

HIGH PRAISE INDEED

MICHAEL Sheahan is generally considered to be Australia's leading football writer and some of his in-depth articles in the Sunday Age is first-class. With that status — plus the credentials of a previous stint as Media Officer for the AFL — it's interesting to see who Sheahan favours in this year's premierships battle. Sheahan tips the Eagles to finish on top of the AFL ladder — and take out the premierships! He suggests that they are almost unbeatable in Perth and he sees them finishing ahead of Hawthorn, Melbourne, North Melbourne, Collingwood and Essendon.

IRONICAL TWIST

THE irony of the national draft was highlighted in the case of Sydney Swans champion Gerard Healy. The talented midfielder is out injured for this season — and there are some critics who feel that he might not ever come back after his wrist operation. But that didn't stop Collingwood from drafting him recently. Ironically, it was back in 1985 when the unheralded Healy wanted to leave Melbourne and join Collingwood, he was prevented from doing so. Instead, he was horse-traded off to Sydney. Now that Sydney have given him the flick-pass, it's great to see that he might still end up a Magpie.

WHO CARES, MATE?

WHILE the battle over TAB funds and all sorts of new betting ideas flourish in the West, spare a thought for the situation in Victoria. The TAB over there makes a nice little sum out of betting on football, with a host of different methods. But the State Government gives football nothing out of the proceeds. A caller to the ABC radio show Grandstand had every right to complain about a player not taking a kick at goal after the siren in a Foster's Cup match, just because the result of the game was clear-cut. It would have affected the winning margin, however and the punter was a little miffed. But he can't expect any support from the AFL.

FINALS DEFENCE

THE man who designed football's new-look finals system says that his scheme is the best available. Despite being in his 80s, football historian Ken McIntyre — who designed the final four and final five systems — says that the final six gives more clubs the chance to win the premiership. He says that it is better for football by giving the third and fourth teams a realistic chance to win the premiership. "One of the things the AFL asked me to do was reduce the advantages that the first and second teams had," he said. Mr McIntyre says that he hopes the football public give the final six a couple of years to be tested properly.

JOHNSON THE TARGET

FORMER Perth star Alan Johnson has retired.....or has he? The lightly-framed, but hugely-courageous former Lathlain Park lad has opted out of the tough national league arena after an outstanding 135-game career with Melbourne. The 34-year-old joined Melbourne in 1982 and no-one really gave him much chance of being a VFL star. But the former Perth Demon (who played 139 games in WA) proved the critics wrong and even though he has declared his intentions to tackle coaching, the Melbourne rumour mill still has him as a possible starter this year. He has taken on a role as coach of Victorian amateur club Old Trinity and is loving it....and denying comeback rumours.

Getting softer

THERE'S no doubt that the AFL umpires are going out of their way to crack down on tough players this season. Clear evidence of this is the five-week suspension handed out to Hawthorn forward Dermott Brereton for cleaning up Adelaide rover Chris McDermott last Friday night. The umps will also focus their attention of tough Eagles skipper John Worsfold, who was penalised for a vigorous (and courageous) tackle on Melbourne's Greg Healy last Sunday. It was a soft free kick as Worsfold's front-on tackle was a typical piece of gutsy Australian Rules football.

Whitten fired up

FIERY Victorian legend Ted Whitten was super-critical of field umpires Darren Goldspink and Greg Scoop over the injury received by St Kilda ruckman Paul Harding last Saturday. He called on the AFL to launch an inquiry into why the two whistle-blowers didn't stop play as Harding was carried off the ground on a stretcher. He said play went on for at least three minutes, despite pleas from trainers to stop the game. Victoria's proud chairman of selectors also had a barb for an umpiring mix-up that gave St Kilda a lucky goal. Saints little man Dean Rice was clearly out of bounds when he kicked the ball high into the goal square and though the boundary rider signalled out of bounds, the field umpire allowed the kick to stand and awarded a free kick to Stewart Loewe, who goaled from the square.



Presents

How the Eagles rated

Player	Mel	Player	Mel
BRENNAN, Michael	6	MAINWARING, Chris	8
EVANS, Tony	5	MATERA, Peter	8
HART, David	5	MCGRATH, Craig	4
HEADY, Brett	4	MCKENNA, Guy	7
HEPBURN, Mark	5	SUMICH, Peter	6
HYNES, David	5	TURLEY, Craig	6
IRVING, Dean	5	WATERMAN, Chris	7
LAMB, Dwayne	6	WATTERS, Scott	2
LEWIS, Chris	7	WILSON, Peter	5
LOCKYER, Andrew	7	WORSFOLD, John	6

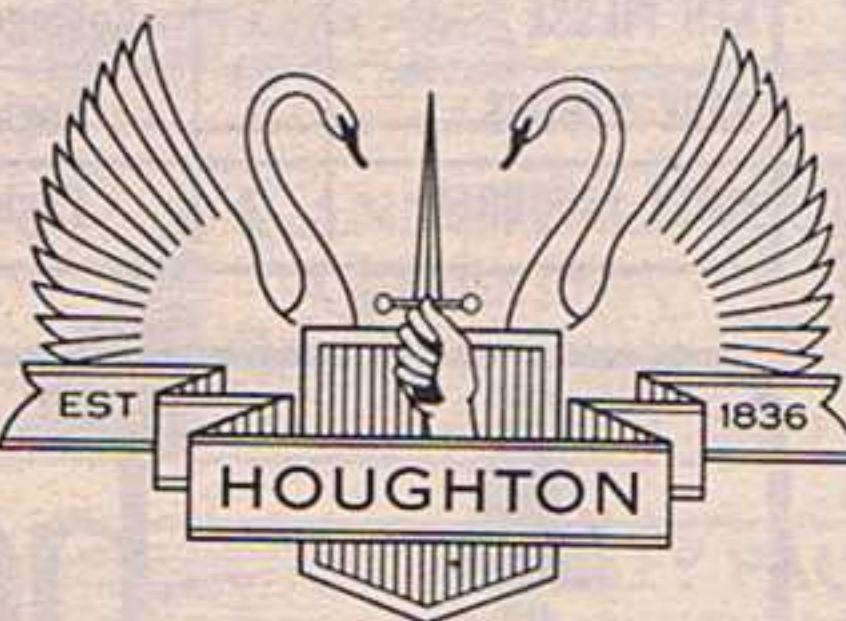


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AFL GOALKICKERS

	Goals Year	Bhnds Year
Peter Sumich (Eagles)	5	3
Dean Rice (St Kilda)	5	1
Ron McKeown (Collingwood)	5	3
Peter Daicos (Collingwood)	5	1
Peter McIntyre (Crows)	4	0
Bruce Lindner (Crows)	4	2
John Klug (Crows)	4	1
Stewart Loewe (St Kilda)	4	0
Chris Naish (Richmond)	4	1
Doug Hawkins (Footscray)	4	1
Tony McGuinness (Crows)	3	0
Rodney Maynard (Crows)	3	0
Michael Brennan (Eagles)	3	0
Jeff Hogg (Richmond)	3	3
Craig Starcevich (Collingwood)	3	2
Darren Smith (Crows)	2	1
David Marshall (Crows)	2	0
Chris Mainwaring (Eagles)	2	1
Tony Evans (Eagles)	2	4
Tim Pekin (St Kilda)	2	2

HOUGHTON'S TOP PERFORMER



This week's top performer with the West Coast Eagles was—

CHRIS MAINWARING with 29 kicks 3 marks and 3 handballs



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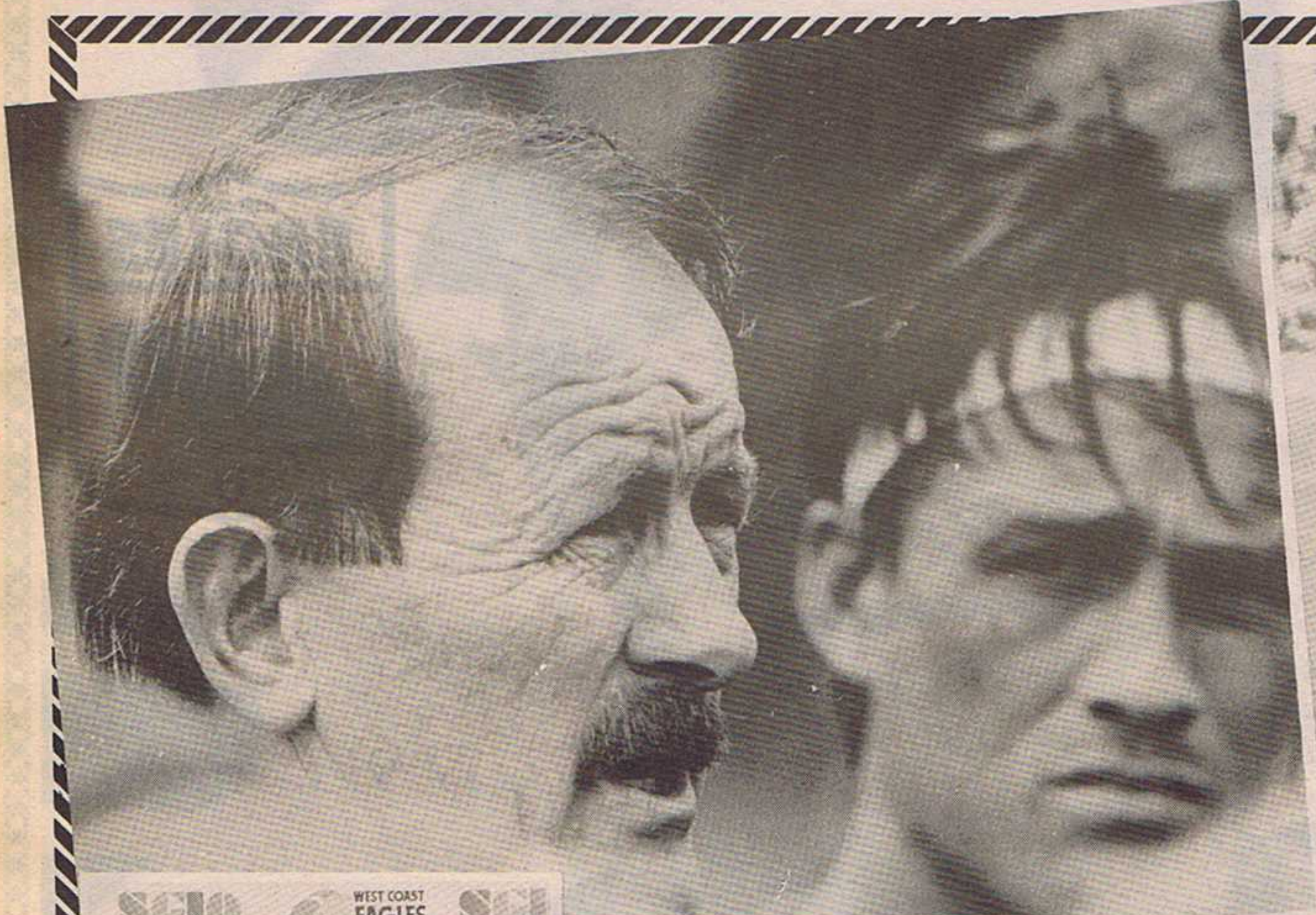
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1	...	3	4	1	F	9	6
CUP POINTS		22			CL	4	11

PEPSI

TOWN & COUNTRY

FIRST BLOOD TO EAGLES

Football fever and Eagle mania hit Subiaco Oval once again last Sunday as the home side drew first blood in the season-opener. A large crowd turned out, despite the wet weather, to see the Eagles go one-up over arch-rivals Melbourne. WESTSIDE FOOTBALL photographer GREG WOOD was there to capture all the action and atmosphere.



CLUB
FAMOUS

MEETING PLACE

for post match celebrations
for both players and
supporters . . .

CLUB



EAGLES

From left, clockwise:

Eagles vice-captain Michael Brennan and Guy McKenna voice their opinions; Eagles coach Mick Malthouse makes a point to his charges during a break; the half-time scoreline was a delight for Eagles fans; the strain is showing on the furrowed brow of Demons coach John Northey; the Town and Country Eaglettes in full flight; Brett Heady takes a safe mark in front of Rodney Grinter; the Eagles prepare to burst through their first banner of the season; Peter Wilson gives his fans the victory salute.

MEETING PLACE

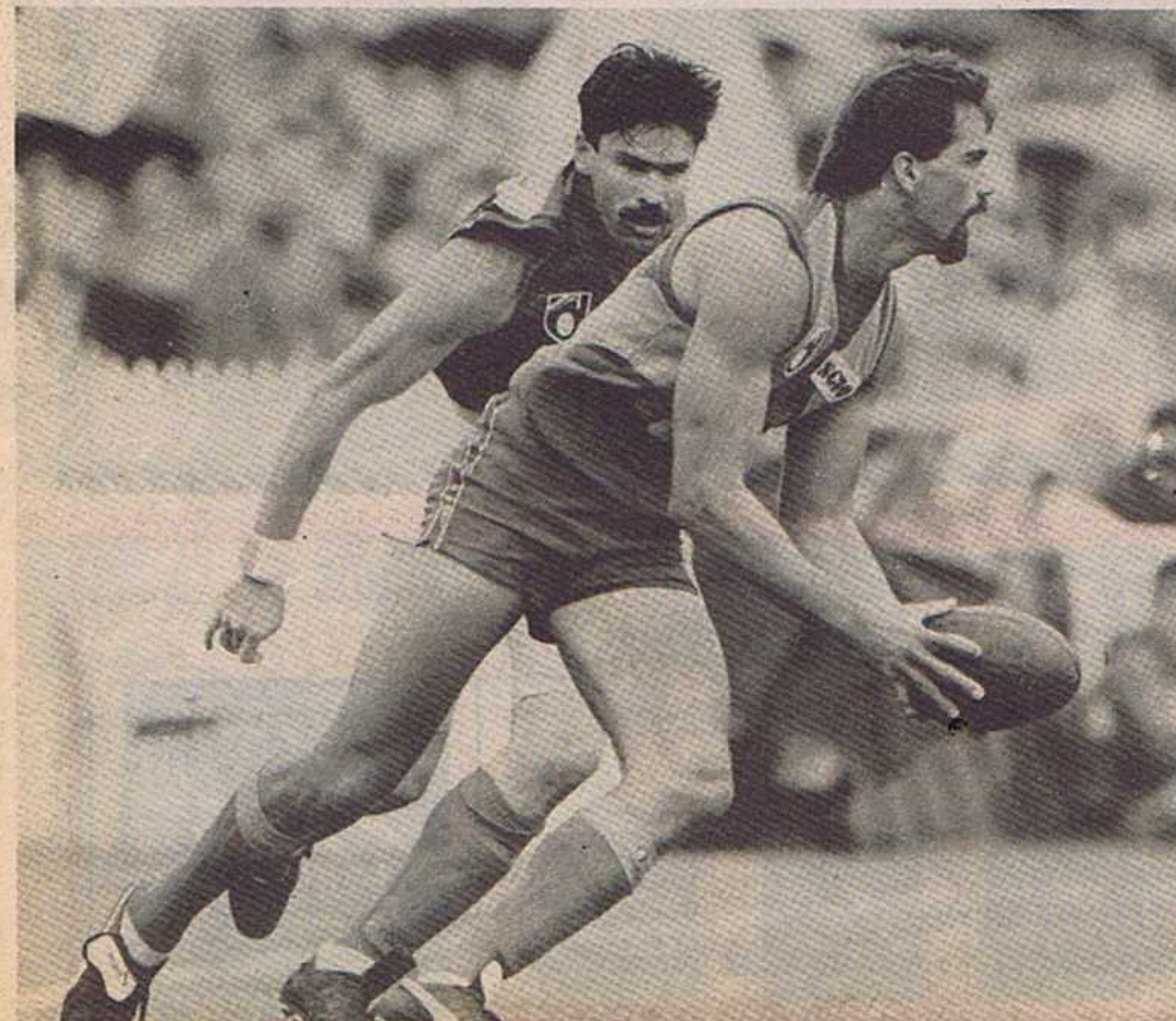
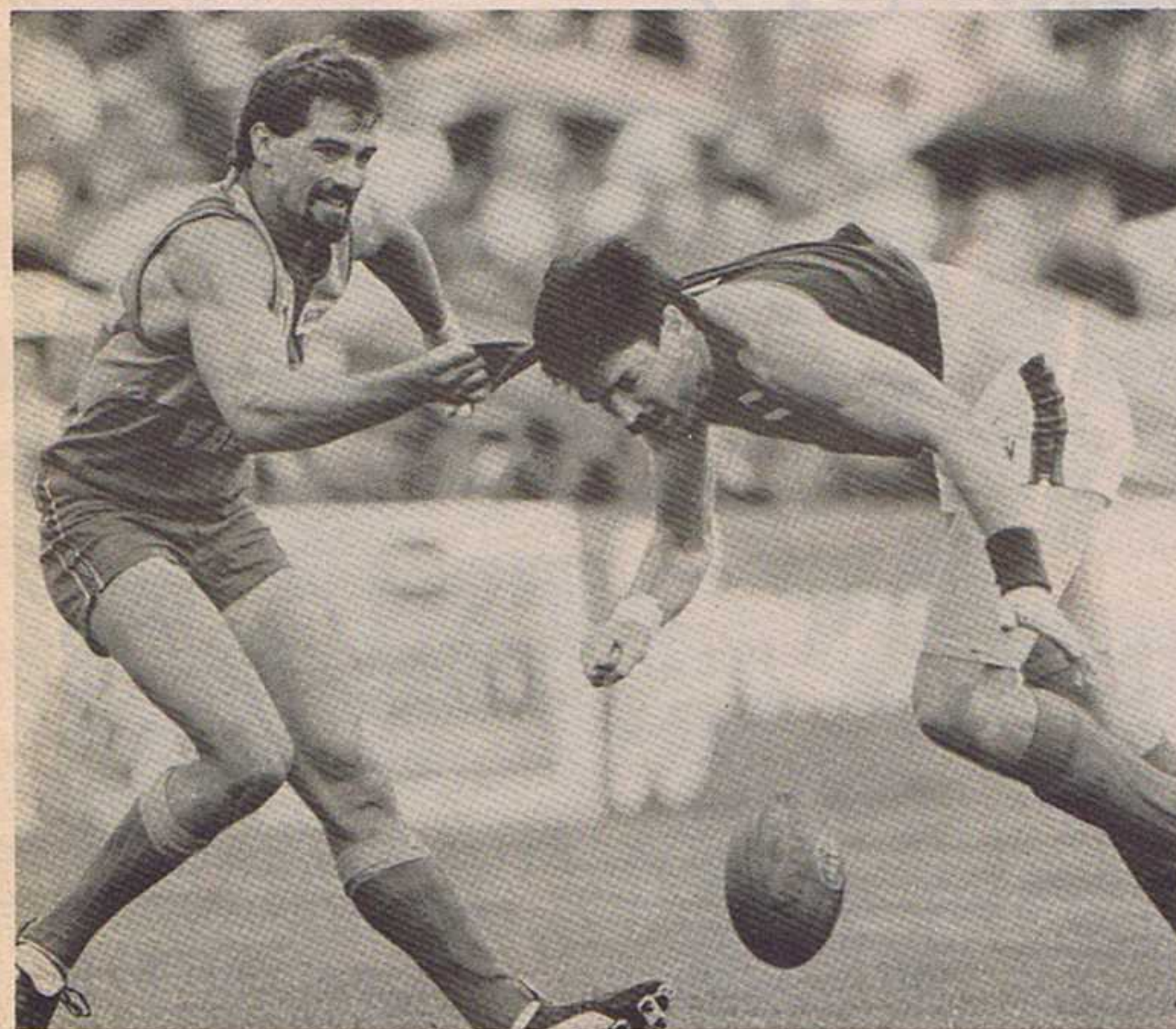
for post match celebrations
for both players and
supporters . . .

CLUB



HE MEANS BUSINESS

With a name like Hynes, a nickname of Beinz was a fairly natural association....and South Australian recruit David Hynes has shown that he really means business now that he has graduated to the AFL. The triple Port Adelaide premiership player has got better with every outing in Eagles colours and he produced one of the most desperate passages of play against Melbourne last Sunday. Photographer GREG WOOD caught the big man in full flight as he ran down Demon Jim Stynes, grabbed him desperately and rather unceremoniously dumped him out of the way. Hynes then coolly collected the football to put the Coasters into attack once again.



Starcevich looms as a danger

TALENTED Collingwood forward Craig Starcevich will be one of the most closely-watched footballers in the AFL competition this weekend.

The former East Perth centre-half-forward will line up against the West Coast Eagles in the second round match at Waverley on Easter Saturday.

And Starcevich knows from bitter experience the Eagles will pay him a lot closer attention than most other clubs.

While no-one in the Eagles camp would admit it openly, there is a perception that Starcevich doesn't play well when he is denied space to move.

The tall and athletic 23-year-old has yet to turn in a big game against the West Coast team — he's always had a backman wearing him like a second skin.

OUTSTANDING

Starcevich, who upset WA fans when he went to the Magpies in 1987 instead of joining the newly-formed Eagles, will be on the receiving end of even closer attention this week following his outstanding game against Footscray on Sunday.

Given a free rein in attack, Starcevich picked up 20 kicks, six hand-passes and took 11 marks. His three goals helped turn the game in the second half after a sluggish start by the Magpies against the Bulldogs.

While the Eagles regard Peter Daicos as their biggest threat in attack, Starcevich's top performance last week will not have been lost on coach Mick Malthouse and his match committee.

So the discussion around the selection table this week will centre on who to use as the minder for Starcevich. The end result could see Michael Bren-



Craig Starcevich...key Magpie set for extra attention on Saturday

nan given that negating role, despite the fact he posted three goals when he moved into attack against the Demons.

And following his top display against Garry Lyon, Guy McKenna could draw the short straw and tag Daicos.

Sniffin' around

Hardie feels confident about Bears

CHAMPION West Australian footballer Brad Hardie still has some strong ties to his home in the West even though life on the Gold Coast is obviously good for him.

The highly-decorated former South Fremantle player made a quick trip home last week to have some treatment to a back problem that has recurred.

The highly-paid Brisbane Bears recruit believes that the Gold Coasters can really improve this year, particularly now that the club is more stable off the field, with their administration woe seemingly behind them.

Hardie is being used in an attacking role again this season; a far cry from the back pocket position that saw him win two Tassie Medals as the best player in the 1984 and '86 Australian carnivals...not forgetting a Brownlow Medal.

He is confident that the Bears can lift off the bottom and finish in the top 10 and Hardie says the players are really responding to new coach Robert Walls.

"Our guys have worked together a lot better this year," he says. "It was obviously going to be easier to stay together over summer with everyone knowing exactly what was happening. The previous year no-one knew what was going on."

"We've also had our recruits in Bris-

bane much earlier and that has helped them all settle in quicker."

BACK IN BUSINESS

FORMER Perth player Brett Yorgey, one of the few Victorians to really succeed in WA, is still playing strongly across the border. Yorgey has stepped aside as playing-coach of VFA club Port Melbourne — allowing Doug Searl to take up the challenge — but he will continue as a player.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

WA duo in VFA

FORMER West Australians Grant Povey (Claremont) and Wally Matera (South Fremantle) have joined VFA club Prahran. Povey left the Tigers two years ago to try out with Carlton, while Matera joined Fitzroy from the West Coast Eagles, but then went on to Collingwood.

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BT stirs the Eagles nest

BRIAN Taylor, the burly Collingwood full-forward who quit the AFL to play with VFA club Prahran, has provided West Coast Eagles utility player Guy McKenna with an added incentive for this season.

The former Mandurah boy, who is not regarded as one of the most disciplined players in the AFL, made some derogatory remarks about the Eagles in the book he launched shortly after his retirement.

McKenna admitted this week that he hadn't read the book, but Eagles coach Mick Malthouse has — and was quick to use Taylor's comments to fire up his reliable defender.

"Guy has a lot to prove," was the Malthouse comment after McKenna had reduced the effectiveness of Melbourne's dangerous Garry Lyon at Subiaco Oval on Sunday. However, Malthouse declined to elaborate on his statement.

McKenna, a player most fans would regard as having very little to prove, was happy to discuss the matter further.

"Some of Taylor's comments in his book apparently were not very flattering to myself and a few of the other Eagles and Mick was quick to point them out," McKenna said.

CONCERNED

"Criticism from a bloke like him is not exactly something you lose a lot of sleep over, because he's never been the most dedicated footballer. If it had come from someone like Leigh Matthews, then I'd be concerned."

McKenna didn't need any motivation on Sunday when he was given the task of minding Lyon, a player the Eagles regarded as their biggest threat.

Despite a strong start to the game, Lyon found McKenna's close-checking tactics hard to overcome and though the star Demon finished with 19 possessions, he did not have his usual dynamic impact on the game.

McKenna was pleased with the results of his tagging tactics, but was quick to praise his opponent.

"Often it's easier to play well against a player of Lyon's calibre because he reads the ball so well, he actually takes you to where the action is," McKenna said.

The little things count

BEWARE the Eagles...

If rival AFL clubs were feeling apprehensive about the way the Eagles demolished the Adelaide Crows, Essendon, Geelong and the Sydney Swans in practice games, then their concern has increased after seeing the WA-based club humiliate last year's finalists, Melbourne, at Subiaco Oval last Sunday.

It wasn't just the fact the Eagles kicked 14 goals to the Demons two; it was the total commitment and discipline that made the West Coasters look such a formidable combination.

INGREDIENTS

Ingredients like the hard-running, the fierce-tackling, the knock-ons, the shepherding — all those small and unglamorous things about the game — are becoming just reflex actions to the Eagles.



Guy McKenna...a player with punch against the Demons

Swans find a dasher

SWAN Districts may have unearthed a new football strongman.

Donnybrook recruit Shane Atherton has shown in practice games that he has that stamp of fearlessness about him that makes opposition players take a peep over their shoulders from time to time.

Playing off the half-back flank, the strongly built 20-year-old has shown why he has been a regular choice in combined country teams over the past few years.

His tear-through tactics, combined with a fair amount of skill, make him look a certainty for the reigning premiers opening game of the Pepsi Cup competition Claremont on Saturday week.

And his younger brother Darren, who has been playing at full-back in the reserves, is tipped to be playing in the senior team before the season is too far gone.

While it's dangerous to place too much importance on one outstanding game, particularly at home, the aggressive and direct methods adopted by the Eagles suggest they could be the most complete team in the competition.

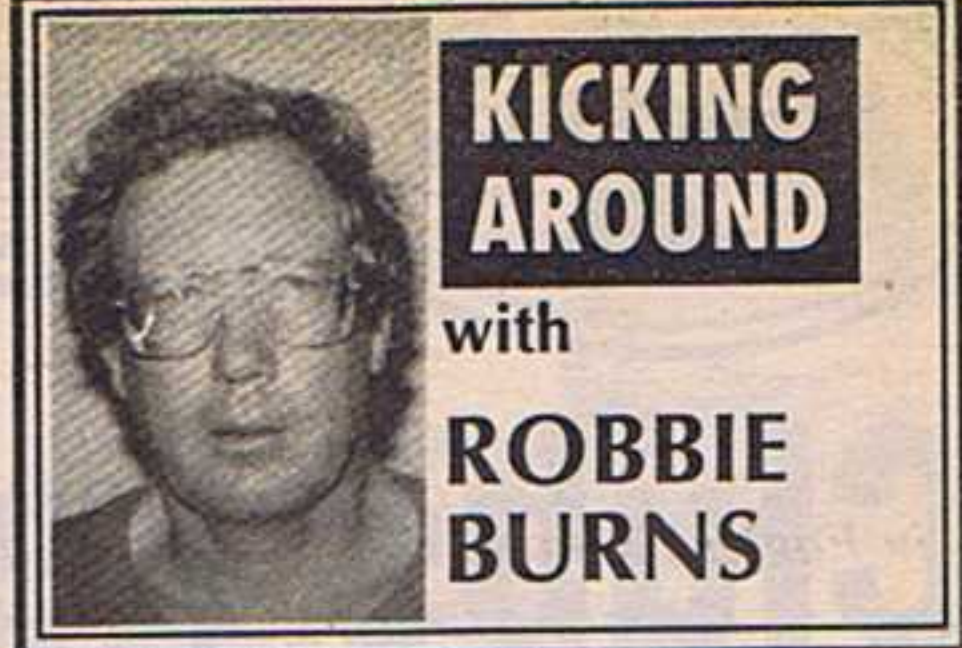
Little wonder Melbourne coach John Northey was still stunned an hour after the game, after giving his players a stern behind-closed-doors lecture.

"I'm bewildered by what they did to us out there," Northey said. "We were beaten by a far better side and it's hard to take because we thought we had recruited well to bolster our attack. But now we have to do some more thinking."

While Northey admitted that his true thoughts on his team's dismal display could not be printed in a respectable newspaper, his opposite number on the day, Mick Malthouse, almost had a smile on his face.

Media people who interview the taciturn Malthouse after each game, have come to expect a dour and unsmiling exterior from the former Victorian.

Perhaps come 5pm on September 28, Malthouse will break out into a genuine winning smile.



KICKING AROUND

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Mainwaring was tops

THE Farmer Medal, launched at the start of the 1987 season to find the champion Eagles footballer of each season, went into remission with the death of the Daily News last September.

The medal, named in honour of champion ruckman Graham Farmer, was won by Steve Malaxos (1987), John Annear (1988), Chris Mainwaring (1989) and Chris Lewis (1990) on the votes of Daily News football writers on a 5-4-3-2-1 basis.

While there will be no Farmer Medal in case the Daily News is re-born, votes in the Melbourne game, hypothetically of course, would have been Chris Mainwaring 5, Peter Matera 4, Chris Waterman 3, Peter Sumich 2, Guy McKenna 1.

☆☆☆☆☆

Magic Narkle still sparkles

THERE seems to be some confusion about the age of Eagles and Swans wingman Phil Narkle.

Swans have the 1982 Sandover Medallist listed as being aged 28, but the man they call "Magic" turned 30 last January.

But Swans fans — and his teammates — won't be quibbling over a couple of years, judging by the way in which Narkle has been approaching practice games with his WAFL club.

For a man who spent two years on the sidelines nursing what appeared to be career-ending injuries, Narkle has been in blistering form.

His Swans team-mate Len Gandini best summed up Narkle's talents: "Unless you have played with Phil, you can't really appreciate how good he is. Little things like the knock-ons and the lightning handballs that come out of packs to set up his team-mates. He's still magic."

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Setback for young star

SUBIACO fans who went to Lathlain Park last Saturday were hoping to get a good look at one of the club's most promising recruits, Nathan McIntosh.

The strongly-built half-forward, the son of former WA, Claremont and St Kilda champion ruckman John McIntosh, has transferred to the Lions after failing to get opportunities with the Tigers.

His form at centre-half-forward in practice games has excited Lions officials, but on Saturday he lasted only a few minutes before he left the ground with an injured foot.



Angelo Del Borrello

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Clubs keep tight grip on players

THE eight WAFL clubs had to finalise their official lists of senior players by last Friday — and there were some interesting inclusions on the various line-ups.

The clubs are now restricted to 52 senior players — aged over 19 years and not including their West Coast Eagles — and some clubs would obviously have trouble filling their quota.

So a number of names were kept on clubs lists while clearances are finalised or contracts determined — or as a precaution to another club snatching up a handy recruit.

Claremont have retained John Annear till they get a clearance cheque from South Fremantle; Peter Thorne is still a Tiger despite retirement suggestions; Shawn Colbung is listed as their No. 51 player even though East Perth have snared him from Albany and John Scott is still there even though he's coaching the Royals reserves.

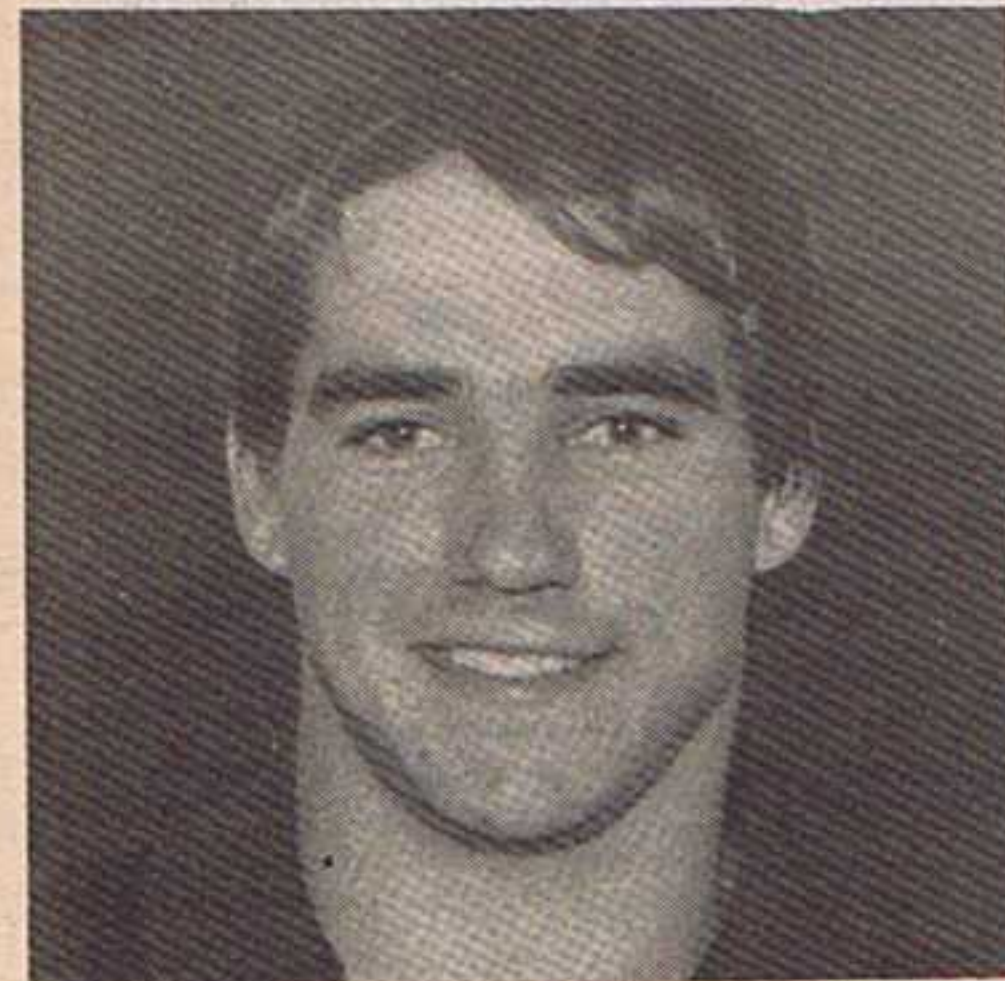
East Perth have listed Darren Best in the hope that they can entice him back from the country and forgotten teenage star Lee Walker is still registered even though he is recovering from a long-term knee injury.

RETIREMENTS

Perth have maintained their hold on John Clarkson, who is training with East Fremantle; Mark Watson, Gavin Whittington, Willie Dick and Wayne Ryder are all there in case they can be talked out of retirement and former South Fremantle duo Warren Mosconi and Dempsey Narkle are listed as Demons even though they have returned to Bulldog land.

Subiaco haven't released their hold on Graeme Garnaut or Damien Read despite their switch to East Perth and retired Brad McDougall is still there just in case.

East Fremantle have listed Collie recruit Jeff Davidson — as have West



John Clarkson...in Shark territory

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Perth, who claim they are entitled to his services via their country zone and the Sharks still have a hold on Lance Durack and Clinton Wolf, with both big men aiming to switch to Claremont.

West Perth aren't about to let Sean King get away easily to Perth Oval, while Paddy Madaffari and Paul Mifka are still listed as Falcons material, even though they are absent from the training track.

Obviously, some of these players will be released in the next few weeks as clearance talks get serious, but no club was about to hand over an unlisted player to a rival camp without a fight.



Warren Mosconi... comeback time



Shawn Colbung... a handy recruit



Darren Best... a comeback maybe

Tigers get a big-man boost

CLAREMONT, wallowing in the mass exodus of big men over the summer, have pulled off an 11th-hour recruiting coup.

The Tigers, grand finalists for the past four years, appear to have won the race to sign disgruntled East Fremantle ruckman Lance Durack.

After failing to come to contractual terms with East Perth last week, Durack was a conspicuous spectator at East Fremantle Oval last Saturday when his former club was mauled by the Tigers in a practice match.

Durack's presence at Claremont, along with another unhappy Shark Clinton Wolf, should off-set the loss of David O'Connell, Peter Mann, Ryan Turnbull and Peter Higgins, who have all moved to greener pastures.

SUSPENSION

Durack had been in dispute with the Sharks all summer, following an end-of-season suspension imposed by club management.

Negotiations for a move to East Perth broke down last week when Durack refused to accept the financial package offered by the Royals.

East Perth's big man duties now look certain to be carried by Wembley amateurs recruit Luke Wundke, who has been impressive in practice matches.



Lance Durack...a Tiger

Claremont, who cashed in on internal East Fremantle disputes in the past when they recruited veteran midfielder Scott Rowland, have further infuriated the Sharks management by attracting all-Australian country player Garry Edwards to Perth for the 1991 season.

Edwards, who won a place in the Wesfarmers WA country team last year with a shut-out tagging performance on Geelong star Mark Bairstow on the opening day of the Perth carnival, has joined the Tigers from Northampton, in the powerful Great Northern League.

He went to Claremont in preference to East Fremantle on the recommendation of Rowland, who has retired to his crayfishing activities again.

East Fremantle's summer woes continued into the closing stages of the pre-season campaign, with injury worries to key forward Clinton Browning and gutsy mid-fielder George Christie.

INJURIES

Browning is battling a knee complaint that has sidelined him for two weeks and Christie is battling an ankle injury almost certain to see him miss the opening fixture against Perth on April 6.

Higgins, who joined the Sharks via the historical inaugural West Coast Eagles player allocation last week, has also suffered a back injury, causing concern in the Sharks camp.

East Fremantle lost two pre-season practice matches against the Eagles second side and the Tigers, but did have a commendable draw against South Fremantle at Mandurah two weeks ago.

The Sharks will look for a confidence-boosting finish to their preparation in their final practice match against the much-improved East Perth at East Fremantle Oval on Easter Saturday.



RUSSELL Thompson is one of the youngsters who is expected to develop into a regular league player at Lathlain Park this season. The 18-year-old rover, a product of the Queens Park juniors, is the son of former Claremont and Perth wingman Brian Thompson. Thompson made his debut mid-way through last season and finished with five senior games, with a knee injury curtailing his season.

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Tigers set a new pace

CLAREMONT have stolen a march on their football club rivals with the huge success of their major sponsor drive.

Instead of seeking out just one major sponsor to inject something around the \$25,000 mark, the Tigers came up with a scheme that produced more than \$50,000.

The brainchild of Tigers marketing man and former player Mark Carlon culminated at the club last Friday when representatives of more than 200 firms — big and small — gathered for the draw to determine who would be Claremont's major sponsor in 1991.

Each of the 225 participants had chipped in just \$250 and the winning marble gave local liquor outlet Brackley's Cellars the right to be Claremont's major sponsor for this season.

BENEFITS

Brackley's will receive a host of benefits including logos on league and reserves guernseys; arena fence signs at

Claremont Oval; signs on the goal posts; naming rights for special awards; exposure on club literature; VIP facilities at the ground and promotional access to the players.

A jubilant Julie Moyle was present to accept the major sponsorship handshake and said that her Swanbourne liquor shop would become well and truly Claremont orientated this season.

"This is great; absolutely fantastic," she said.

Five co-sponsors were drawn out of the barrel, all earning signage rights and other benefits.

The lucky five were Hisco, a local catering firm; Apparition, a Shenton Park costume hire firm; Langdale Pty Ltd; Go Go Go, a local printing firm and K. & S. Suppliers, an office equipment firm run by former Tigers Kevin Worthington and Stephen Gillies.

The winning sponsorship had been sold to Brackley's by Tigers president Lew Mutch, whose tight approach to restructuring the club's debts seems certain to steer Claremont out of the red.

"This Corporate Classic exercise has proved to be a real winner," said Mutch at Friday's packed function.

"We gave 200 or so local business houses the chance to become our major sponsor for a minor outlay and the support was tremendous.

"There's no doubt that other clubs will now follow our example...and several of those clubs are here tonight in one role or another."

Mutch was referring to business people such as East Fremantle president Hans Beyer, who bought a ticket for his Mobi Tow business; Subiaco director Basil Fuller, who was hoping that Multivision Hire might come out on top; Perth president Ted O'Connor, who was seeking a similar debt-relieving miracle and Malcolm Brown, whose newly-acquired Black and White taxi firm would have enjoyed the exposure.

Mutch was emphatic in his comments about Claremont fighting their way out of debt and said that the club would be a force on the field as well as off the field this year.

"We have a very united board and we are working in a determined way to erase our debts," he said.

"By the end of 1991 we will be financially sound....and premiers!"



Brad Collard...will miss the start of the season with a knee injury

Setback for star Bulldog

OUTSTANDING South Fremantle midfielder Brad Collard may miss the opening six weeks of the Pepsi Cup competition because of a knee injury.

Collard, tipped to be appointed captain of the Bulldogs this season, injured his knee during pre-season training and looks certain to have surgery next week.

This means the Bulldogs may go into their opening WAFL match of the season against East Perth at Perth Oval without any of the three Collard brothers.

Younger brother Derek has only just resumed full training following a similar knee operation in January. While he has made a good recovery, it's doubtful if new coach Steve Hargraves will risk him in the opening game.

To compound the problem for Hargraves, the club's 1990 fairest and best winner Cliff Collard has been laid up for over a week with a viral infection, an illness that looks likely to keep him in bed till the middle of next week.

The loss of any one, let alone all three, of the dynamic trio will be a serious blow to the Bulldogs hopes of grabbing four premiership points against the Royals, a team being tipped to be big improvers this season.

STAB PARS

Tigers the big tip

SWAN Districts general manager Brian Close believes that Claremont, the super-team of the 1980s, will be the main competition for the reigning premiers this season.

"Our practice match form has been pleasing — we have only lost to Claremont, but so has everybody," said Close.

"They look like they will be the team to beat this season as they once again have a good nucleus of young players."

An indication that things are still bright at Bassendean came recently when the club opted to sit out of the reverse draft, which could have placed one of the West Coast Eagles in their lap.

"We didn't think we could do justice to the player chosen," he said.

"The Eagles squad member would have just been holding one of our own players out of football.

"The club had last pick and because of the ruling that Eagles have to play in the league side, we decided it would be better for the player if he went to a club

which would guarantee him a regular game.

"If there was still a player available we thought we could have used, sure, we would have snapped him up."

Demons uplifted

PERTH players are reaching for new heights at Lathlain Park this season...literally. The fact that the goal and behind posts were standing at the minimum height came to attention recently and all eight were extended this week. Three metres were added to the posts in the hope that more height would encourage players to kick longer when going for goal.

Big challenge

TWO promising young Swan Districts players have big guernseys to fill this season. Donnybrook recruit Shane Atherton and Stephen Eaton have been accorded the honour of wearing guernsey numbers 33 and 11 respectively — the jumpers made famous by two of Bassendean's favourite sons in Don Holmes and Don Langsford. The two veterans have hung up their boots after illustrious careers that culminated in a premiership last season.

Final tune-ups this weekend

WITH the start of this year's WAFL Pepsi Cup competition a little over a week away, the eight clubs are fine-tuning their teams for the bouncdown.

This weekend will see the last round of practice matches before the official start to the season on Saturday, April 6.

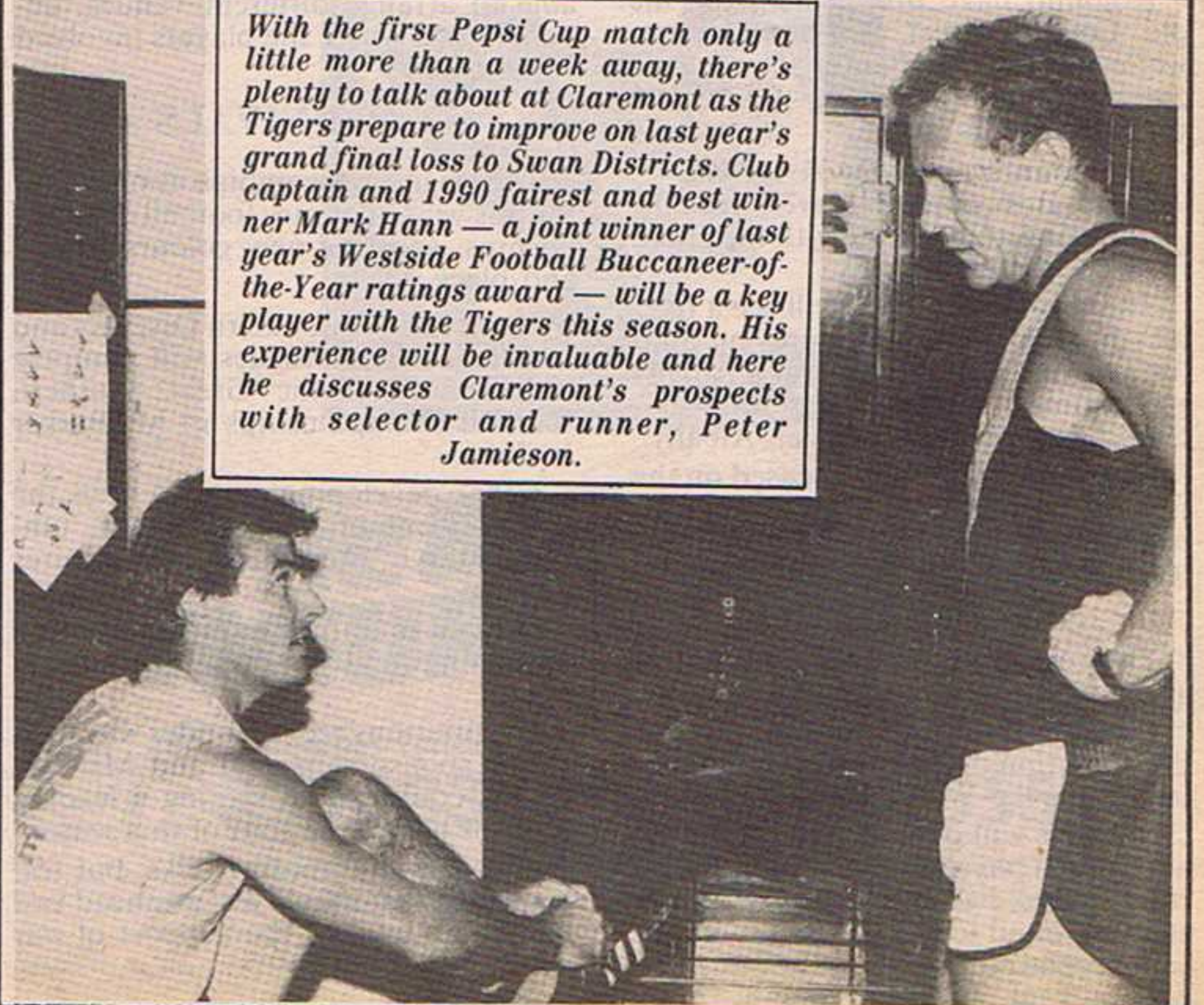
While pre-season clearance wrangles are still being sorted out by some clubs, the nucleus of each team has taken shape.

The remaining practice matches will take place this Saturday at the following venues:

West Perth v Perth (Lathlain Park); East Fremantle v East Perth (East Fremantle Oval) and Subiaco v Swan Districts (Subiaco Oval).

Claremont and South Fremantle will have Easter off.

With the first Pepsi Cup match only a little more than a week away, there's plenty to talk about at Claremont as the Tigers prepare to improve on last year's grand final loss to Swan Districts. Club captain and 1990 fairest and best winner Mark Hann — a joint winner of last year's Westside Football Buccaneer-of-the-Year ratings award — will be a key player with the Tigers this season. His experience will be invaluable and here he discusses Claremont's prospects with selector and runner, Peter Jamieson.



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Osborne Park have been SFL bonus

REIGNING Sunday League premiers Osborne Park have been the trendsetters of the competition since they joined the SFL in 1984.

In that time they have won three premierships — 1986, 1987 and 1990 — and have finished out of the five only twice; 1984 when they were 14th and eighth place in 1986.

The Osborne Park Football Club began in 1922 as an amateur side, but they were unsuccessful till they joined the West Australian Football Association in 1957 seeking a change of fortune, with premierships in 1965, '67, '76 and '77.

Their move into the revamped Sunday Football League came about when the WAFA competition stagnated, with four sides — Applecross, South Perth, Wanneroo and Osborne Park — dominating. All four clubs are now in the Sunday League.

RECRUITING

Osborne Park's president Ken McCabe says that the club's success in recent years has been due to selective recruiting.

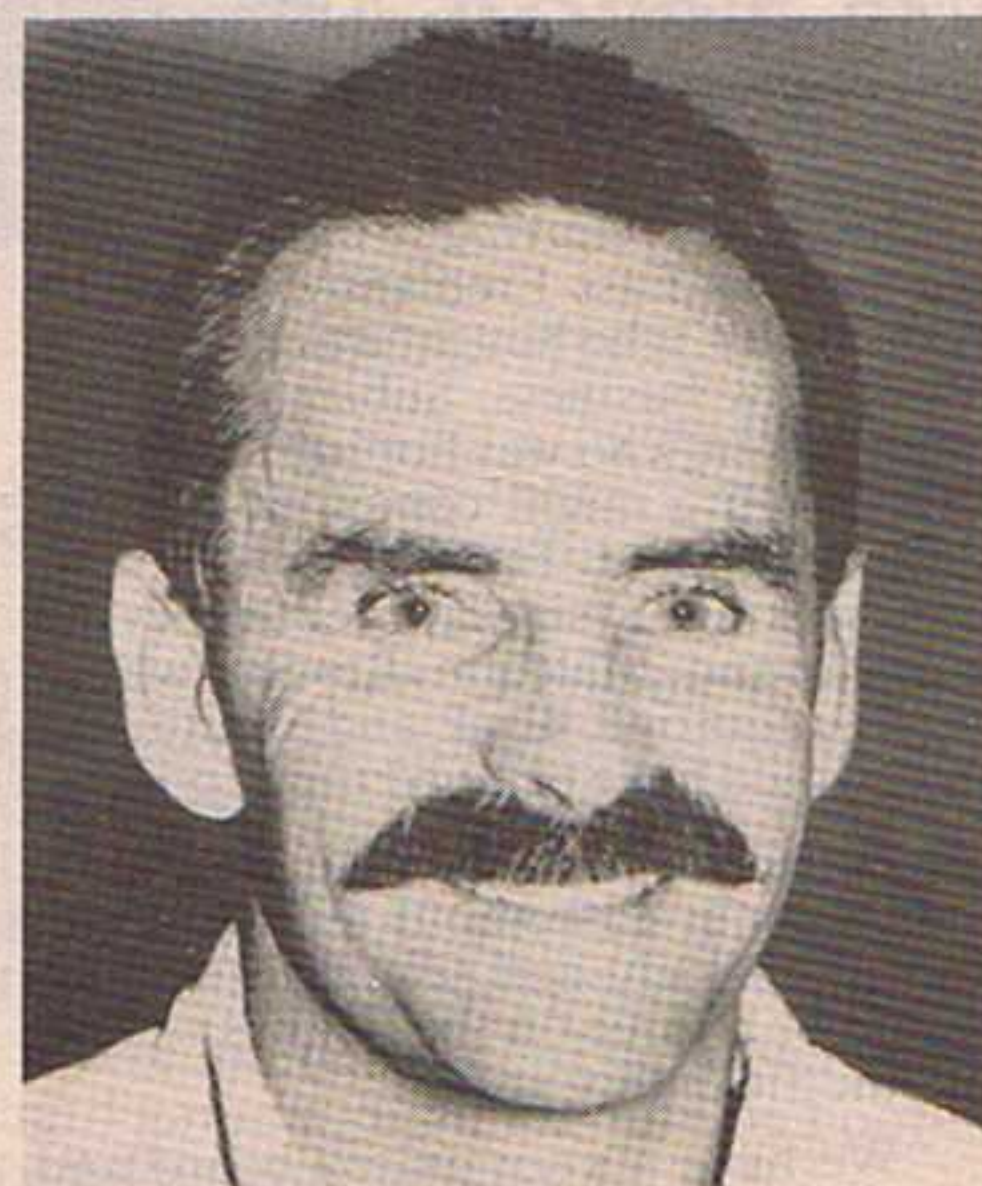
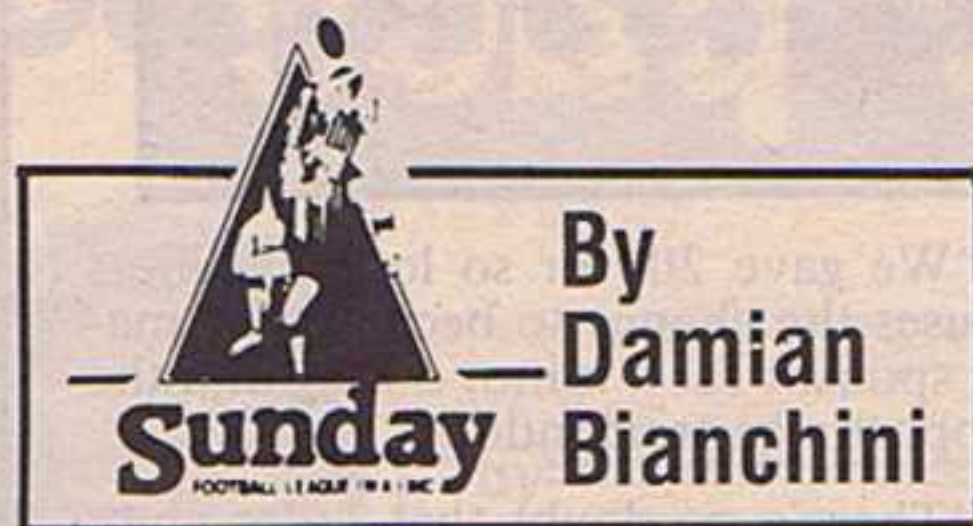
"Our recruiting policies are very important, as they determine how the club can perform during the season," says McCabe.

"We look for a particular player who can fill a certain position.

"We don't recruit a volume of players because it costs the club time and money."

Osborne Park have always had tremendous depth to work with and last year was no exception, with the reserves losing the grand final and the colts finishing fourth.

The club has lost a number of players from last year's premiership side, either through retirement, work trans-



Osborne Park coach Ed Blackaby has a talented group to work with again this season.

fers or hopefuls trying out with WAFL clubs, including Stuart Stephenson, Anthony Holub and Glen Rattray at Swan Districts and Barry Taylor and Billy Kickett at Perth.

Former East Perth defender Brett Fullarton has moved to America; Andrew Partington is continuing his career with amateur club West Coast and Brian Dawson has retired.

With so many players departing the scene, McCabe says the club will be concentrating on developing their youth.

"The depth allows us to promote the younger players and give them the opportunity of proving themselves," says McCabe.

"At this stage we lack a ruckman and a few key positional players.

"With our depth and a couple of recruits, those vacant positions will be filled in no time."

Former Swan Districts coach Ed Blackaby, who is in his second season as coach of Osborne Park, still has a number of key players from last year's side to assist the younger players coming into the team.

These key players all come from senior WAFL ranks, such as former Subiaco captain Greg Carpenter and fellow Lion Clint Roberts. Former East Perth midfielder Ray Ewen and Tigers rover Murray Gomm all form a valuable nucleus for Osborne Park.

EXPERIENCE

Osborne Park's success can be attributed to their links with top-line WAFL players such as Barry Beecroft, who coached their 1986 and 1987 premiership sides and current coach Blackaby, whose experience and contacts help attract good recruits.

Their success is not restricted to the playing arena, but also off-field, where the club's financial future is secure through years of thorough planning.

Osborne Park's yearly budget comes from sponsors from around the area, player subscriptions and club functions.

Teal Cup campaign is well under way

PREPARATIONS for WA's Teal Cup campaign in Darwin in July have been well under way since the start of the year.

The Teal Cup State youth development squad, which is sponsored by Town and Country, has about 45 players, 13 from the country.

The WAFL clubs nominate 15 and 16-year-old players from their under-19s and district sides and from their country areas to make up the squad.

The players have been training once a week, working on their fitness and weight training, with special emphasis on a well-balanced diet.

Former East Perth premiership player Eddie Pitter is in his second year as coach of the Teal Cup team. Pitter has an excellent coaching record with young footballers, having coached the Subiaco and East Perth under-19s sides with success.

Trials for the Teal Cup carnival, to be staged from July 6 to 14, will start in May, with sessions in the metropolitan area and various country venues.

Financing the WA Teal Cup team has been a problem in recent years, particularly last season when the side's participation was put in jeopardy through a lack of funds, but rescued when local radio personality John Burgess put up a personal donation.

This year former champion footballer Barry Cable will cycle from Albany to Perth to raise money to ensure that the Teal Cup side reaches Darwin. Cable's campaign starts on April 7 and he is hoping to raise at least \$25,000.

COUNTRY ROUND-UP

Southern leagues combine forces

TWO of Western Australia's oldest-established country football leagues have joined forces this season.

The Central Great Southern and Southern Districts leagues have amalgamated to form the Great Southern Football League for a trial period of two years.

The ambitious changes will make a huge difference to the strength of the competition, with 9 league and reserves sides and eight colts teams.

Kojonup have dropped out of the old Central Great Southern league, while the two Mt Barker teams have combined and Denmark was a late withdrawal this week.

The coming season will see the league teams compete over 18 rounds, introducing a final-five, with the grand final on September 15.

The revamped GSFL will see a five-match opening set of fixtures on Sunday, April 17, with last year's Albany grand finalists, Royals and Railways, clashing at Centennial Oval, Albany.

Attention will also be focused on the first inter-league battle, with North Albany meeting the powerful Katanning team at Collingwood Park, Albany.

SEND-OFF RULE

The controversial send-off rule will apply in the league this year.

League president Alan Barnett says the operation of the rule will be similar to that in the WAFL.

"Players will only be sent off for the over-use of physical approach or unduly rough play," he said. "They must stay off the ground for 15 minutes, without being replaced."

The league tribunal will be based at Cranbrook, but the tribunal will be able to arrange different venues, depending on where the players involved come from.

CARNIVALS

The league will combine as one team for this year's country football championships, sporting new colours of red and black.

However, the Southern Districts and Great Southern leagues will compete individually at the Great Southern football championships in Mt Barker in June.

Other developments have seen the appointment of former CGSFL umpire Daryl Carpenter as umpires adviser.

Official umpire training has started at Collingwood Park every Thursday night.

Negotiations are still under way for a major sponsorship deal and Mr Barnett is confident of signing a leading sponsor before the start of this season.

"We are still holding talks, but feel confident that things will go ahead and we are grateful of the support of our sponsors."

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Kicking football into the future



Junior zones change structure

THE junior football zone structure in the metropolitan area has undergone a complete transformation for the 1991 season.

A completely new system of zoning means that the metropolitan area will be split up into five individual regions, instead of the eight WAFL zones of previous years.

The changes will mean a much stronger junior competition, with many clubs amalgamating to overcome reduced numbers and playing depth.

The Trust plans to appoint a number of part-time people to help administer the different zones, with an emphasis on freeball, Aussie Footy, umpiring and youth football.

REGIONS

The new regions for 1991 will be:
Region One: North Suburban —

clubs from Subiaco and West Perth.

Region Two: Central Districts — clubs from Claremont, Subiaco and East Perth.

Region Three: Swan Districts — clubs from Swan Districts and East Perth.

Region Four: South Suburban — clubs from Perth and East Perth.

Region Five: Fremantle — clubs from East Fremantle and South Fremantle, with the areas still to be determined.

The Junior Council will be working under the same constitution, having adopted a common set of by-laws which will be consistent throughout the metropolitan regions.

June carnival for juniors

THE eight WAFL clubs will be responsible for staging a knockout competition for under-13 and under-14 players over the long weekend in June.

The idea is to bring together the elite juniors to represent their local clubs from each region.

The junior championships are generally looked upon as an opportunity to develop and monitor young hopefuls within their respective WAFL clubs. For more information contact region organiser Bill Forrest on 328 7900.

Smokers can help Cable

THE Quit Campaign, who are the main sponsors of Barry Cable's historic ride from Albany to Perth, have given smokers the incentive to kick the habit and support junior football at the same time.

Smokers are being asked to quit for six days while Cable embarks on his journey — and pledge the money saved on cigarettes to the Town and Country Teal Cup fund-raising appeal.

The donations will help raise the \$55,000 necessary to get the cream of Western Australia's young footballers to Darwin for the Commonwealth Bank Teal Cup carnival, starting on July 6.

Anyone interested in taking part in the sponsorship should get in touch with the Football Development Trust on 381 5599.

New role for junior coach

SUBIACO have long respected the coaching ability of their Lions Pride coach Geoff Lind, a man who has helped develop some of the finest talent in the State over the past three years.

The Lions have appointed Lind as assistant to colts coach Mick Fuller in an effort to get some continuity into the players on their way up to senior ranks.

Lind, who took over the coaching of the club's best 15-year-olds three years ago, has already produced four Teal Cup players and eight of last year's State schoolboys team.

He is the sort of coach who, by the end of this century, will probably have played a major part in the development of a score of AFL players.

Action aplenty

THE Football Development Trust, in conjunction with Milo, will provide a wide range of football activities for juniors during the half-time break at WAFL games this season.

There will be long-distance football kicking competitions, handball contests, mini-games and plenty of Milo give-aways.

The competitions proved popular last season when East Perth staged Milo handball activities at Perth Oval, with hundreds of youngsters trying their luck.

Juniors who want to take part in this year's half-time clinics should report on the oval at half-time.

Mighty Milo says ...



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THE Football Development Trust has drawn up an extensive junior coaching programme to extend into local and country schools.

The 1991 programme, under the sponsorship of Hungry Jack's, is divided into three main areas.

The emphasis will be on junior development, the promotion of high-profile players and coaching of young players.

The areas to be targeted by the Trust thrust are:

* **Development:** Physical education instructors will hold development programmes over a five to six weeks period, for years four to seven in about 20 schools that will be identified as priority areas for junior football.

* **Education:** Senior WAFL players or physical education instructors will hold up to 10 Whopper Clinics in each junior zone, to be run over half-days or full days for years four to seven.

* **Promotions:** Specially-appointed Trust officers in Eagles players Craig Turley, Chris Lewis, Guy McKenna and Dean Irving will hold Hungry Jack's Superclinics in every primary

Trust plans to expand coaching programmes

school in the metropolitan area, encouraging juniors to form a school football team. The clinics will also reach country areas which will be organised by FDT officers.

The Whopper Clinics started at schools on March 11 and have been successful in the development of young hopefuls.

"We have taken on a big responsibility and we are enjoying the challenge," says FDT general manager Gerard McNeill.

"Potentially, there is a lot of talent in our junior ranks and it's up to us to refine and develop the youth of today to produce the player of tomorrow."



Eagles players (at rear, from left) Chris Lewis, Craig Turley, Dean Irving and Guy McKenna, with a happy group of youngsters from the Subiaco Primary School.

Amateurs cater for

6000 players

By DAMIAN BIANCHINI

THE WA Amateur Football League is set for another big year with 120 senior sides, 34 colts teams and more than 6000 players registered for this season.

These statistics represent an increase on last year's figures, clearly showing that amateur ranks are still a popular drawcard for footballers who want to enjoy weekly competition in a semi-social atmosphere.

With the figures steadily increasing over the past few seasons, it is no wonder that the WAAFL is the biggest organised football body in the State.

Neil Judge, the executive officer of the WAAFL for the past five years, says that players are attracted to amateur ranks because of the casual atmo-

AMATEUR NEWS

A roundup of news from the West Australian Amateur Football League

sphere, compared to the professionalism of the WAFL and Sunday league scenes.

EXPECTATIONS

"Amateur clubs don't have the same pressures of training and club expectations that are associated with some senior leagues," says Judge.

"Players are not paid and there isn't the commitment required by players to train two or three times a week.

"With numbers in the competition increasing, the standard has improved dramatically."

One of the main reasons for the improving standard of play has been the number of former WAFL players taking up coaching positions in amateur ranks, particularly in the A-grade.

Their playing experience and contacts in the WAFL scene allows them to bring a number of handy recruits to the various clubs.

With the amateur scene taking on more importance every year, WAFL clubs continue to look in those ranks for new talent, paying particular atten-

tion to the under-19 State side and the A-colts competition.

During the off-season, the WAAFL administration has been extremely busy finalising clearances, player and club registrations, preparing fixtures, organising umpires for scheduled games, finalising sponsors and general administration work.

This arduous task is undertaken by three people who work full-time for the WAAFL — Judge as the executive officer, registrar Tom Naylor and secretary Avis Thirley, who has headed up the office staff since 1985.

The long-serving Naylor, a brother of former champion South Fremantle full-forward Bernie Naylor, has worked as the amateur's registrar for the past 35 years, after playing State amateurs in 1936 and 1938.

The Swan Brewery is entering its third year as the major sponsor of the amateurs, with MLC sponsoring the competition as well.

COMPETITION

This year's A-grade competition is shaping up as one of the closest for a number of years.

"Nollamara and West Coast are always strong and Wembley have been at the top for a number of years.

"Trinity Aquinas will be the big surprises of the season and though North Beach have lost a number of players, we can't count them out."



Amateurs chief executive Neil Judge

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Teal Cup series given top status

THE Commonwealth Bank Teal Cup championship is rapidly emerging as one of the most important elements of the Australian Football spectrum.

The series is afforded increasing status in the comprehensive National Development Plan recently compiled by the National Planning Committee.

The under-17 series is identified as being the prime vehicle for talent identification and skill development.

Past difficulties with States and Territories generating enough finance to attend the series will not be as evident, as the plan places extreme importance on funds being made available from national development sources.

AIRFARES

Another important decision which applies to this year's Championships in Darwin, is for all airfares to be rationalised, removing the undemocratic practice of the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland (in particular) facing additional costs.

Under the new system, all competing bodies will pay the same airfare costs for their official parties of 31 people, irrespective of distances travelled.

This rationalisation will be processed through the NAFC office. Obviously, this is particularly good news for WA, whose attendance in Brisbane in 1990 was in severe jeopardy right till virtual departure time.

Another important function of the Commonwealth Bank Teal Cup which is not generally known is umpire development.

The NAFC Junior Council, the coordinating body for the Championships, recognised in 1988 that the development of umpiring in tandem with footballers, was of prime concern.

The Council liaised with National Director of Umpiring, Bill Deller, to ensure that the vocation of umpiring

COMMONWEALTH BANK.

presents ...

The national

view  by JOHN WARREN

was given the same developmental status as the talent identification procedures for players.

This initiative was achieved in a practical sense with Teal Cup umpires now intensively coached, advised and assessed as an integral part of the Championship programme.

It is also gratifying to note that the umpiring hierarchy has identified Teal Cup selection as being the ultimate achievement and reward available for young elite umpires.

There has been considerable general discussion centred around the future venues for the Teal Cup.

Some favour staging all future Cups in Melbourne, to fully exploit the lesser airfares and the advantages of playing on AFL grounds steeped in tradition.

Others are equally adamant that, being a national championship, the series should continue to be rotated to all States and Territories.

There are also those who favour rotating between South Australia and Victoria and a fourth option, which is gaining popularity, involves potential hosts applying annually and citing special reasons why the series should be allocated to them.

This year is the end of a rotation which involves Darwin playing host. It also coincides with the opening of the magnificent new Marrara Sports Complex — reputedly one of the best of its type in Australia.

One thing is certain — every talent scout even remotely connected with recruiting will be in Darwin to assess Australian football's elite junior talent.

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1991 FOOTBALL FIXTURES

WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND
WEST COAST EAGLES

SERIES ONE

Saturday, 6 April 1991 (Round 1)
East Fremantle Vs Perth
East Perth Vs South Fremantle
Subiaco Vs West Perth
Swan Districts Vs Claremont

Saturday, 13 April 1991 (Round 2)
Claremont Vs Subiaco
Perth Vs Swan Districts
South Fremantle Vs East Fremantle
West Perth Vs East Perth

Friday, 19 April 1991 (Round 3)
West Perth Vs Claremont (WACA)

Saturday, 20 April 1991
East Fremantle Vs Subiaco
East Perth Vs Swan Districts
Perth Vs South Fremantle

Thursday, 25 April 1991 (Anzac Day) (Round 4)
East Fremantle Vs West Perth (WACA)
Subiaco Vs East Perth (WACA)

Saturday, 27 April 1991
Claremont Vs Perth
Swan Districts Vs South Fremantle

Friday, 3 May 1991 (Round 5)
East Perth Vs East Fremantle (WACA)

Saturday, 4 May 1991
South Fremantle Vs Claremont
Subiaco Vs Perth
West Perth Vs Swan Districts

Saturday, 11 May 1991 (Round 6)
Claremont Vs East Fremantle
Perth Vs East Perth
South Fremantle Vs West Perth
Swan Districts Vs Subiaco

Saturday, 18 May 1991 (Round 7)
East Fremantle Vs Swan Districts
East Perth Vs Claremont
Subiaco Vs South Fremantle
West Perth Vs Perth

SERIES TWO

Saturday, 25 May 1991 (Round 8)
Claremont Vs Swan Districts
Perth Vs East Fremantle
South Fremantle Vs East Perth
West Perth Vs Subiaco

Saturday, 1 June 1991 (Round 9)
East Perth Vs West Perth
Subiaco Vs Claremont

Monday, 3 June 1991
East Fremantle Vs South Fremantle
Swan Districts Vs Perth

Saturday, 8 June 1991 (Round 10)
Claremont Vs West Perth
South Fremantle Vs Perth
Subiaco Vs East Fremantle
Swan Districts Vs East Perth

STATE GAME: Tuesday, June 11 - Subiaco Oval.
Western Australia Vs South Australia

Saturday, 15 June 1991 (Round 11)
East Perth Vs Subiaco
Perth Vs Claremont
South Fremantle Vs Swan Districts
West Perth Vs East Fremantle

Saturday, 22 June 1991 (Round 12)
Claremont Vs South Fremantle
East Fremantle Vs East Perth
Perth Vs Subiaco
Swan Districts Vs West Perth

Saturday, 29 June 1991 (Round 13)
East Fremantle Vs Claremont
East Perth Vs Perth
Subiaco Vs Swan Districts
West Perth Vs South Fremantle

Saturday, 6 July 1991 (Round 14)
Perth Vs West Perth (John Dunn Oval, Kelmscott)
Claremont Vs East Perth
South Fremantle Vs Subiaco
Swan Districts Vs East Fremantle

STATE GAME: Tuesday, July 16 - WACA.
Western Australia Vs Victoria State of Origin

SERIES THREE

Saturday, 13 July 1991 (Round 15)
East Fremantle Vs Perth
East Perth Vs South Fremantle
Subiaco Vs West Perth
Swan Districts Vs Claremont

Saturday, 20 July 1991 (Round 16)
Claremont Vs Subiaco
Perth Vs Swan Districts
South Fremantle Vs East Fremantle
West Perth Vs East Perth

(Kingsway Res. Wanneroo)

Saturday, 27 July 1991 (Round 17)
East Fremantle Vs Subiaco
East Perth Vs Swan Districts
Perth Vs South Fremantle
West Perth Vs Claremont

Saturday, 3 August 1991 (Round 18)
Claremont Vs Perth
East Fremantle Vs West Perth
Subiaco Vs East Perth
Swan Districts Vs South Fremantle

Saturday, 10 August 1991 (Round 19)
East Perth Vs East Fremantle
South Fremantle Vs Claremont
Subiaco Vs Perth
West Perth Vs Swan Districts

Saturday, 17 August 1991 (Round 20)
Claremont Vs East Fremantle
Perth Vs East Perth
South Fremantle Vs West Perth
Swan Districts Vs Subiaco

Saturday, 24 August 1991 (Round 21)
East Fremantle Vs Swan Districts
East Perth Vs Claremont
Subiaco Vs South Fremantle
West Perth Vs Perth

FINALS

Sunday, 1 September 1991
Double Header
Elimination Final Qualifying Final

Saturday, 7 September 1991
Double Header
1st Semi Final 2nd Semi Final

Saturday, 14 September 1991
Preliminary Final

Saturday, 21 September 1991
Grand Final

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Team	P	W	L	For	Agst	%	Pts	Ratio
WEST COAST	1	1	0	99	20	495.00	4	100
ADELAIDE	1	1	0	155	69	224.64	4	100
COLLINGWOOD	1	1	0	146	76	192.11	4	100
ST. KILDA	1	1	0	107	82	130.49	4	100
RICHMOND	1	0	1	82	107	76.64	0	
FOOTSCRAY	1	0	1	76	146	52.05	0	
Hawthorn	1	0	1	69	155	44.52	0	
Melbourne	1	0	1	20	99	20.20	0	
Sydney Swans	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	
North Melbourne	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	
Geelong	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	
Fitzroy	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	
Essendon	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	
Carlton	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	
Brisbane Bears	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	

Aust Football League

FRIDAY MARCH 22

CROWS	6.2	11.6	17.10	24.11	155
HAWTHORN	2.1	3.3	6.8	9.15	69

GOALS - Adelaide Crows: McIntyre, Klug, Lindner, 4, McGuinness, Maynard, 3, Marshall, Smith, 2, Hart, A. Jarman.
Hawthorn: D. Jarman, Dunstall, Morrissey, 2, Anderson, Wittman, P. Dear.

BEST - Adelaide Crows: McGuinness, A. Jarman, Marshall, Maynard, Lee, Negri, McDermott, Tregenza, Klug, McIntyre.
Hawthorn: Collins, D. Jarman, Hudson, Condon.
Played at Football Park. Umpires Peter Cameron, Hayden Kennedy. Attendance 44,902.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

ST KILDA	2.4	7.5	10.8	16.11	107
RICHMOND	2.2	6.3	9.6	12.10	82

GOALS - St Kilda: Rice, 5, Loewe, 4, Harvey, Pekin, 2, Kitschke, Morris, Coghlan. **Richmond:** Naish, 4, Hogg, 3, Lambert, 2, Lee, Young, Knights.

BEST - St Kilda: Pekin, McAdam, Rice, Craven, Burke, Harvey.
Richmond: Lambert, Cloke, Nicholls, Naish, Keays, J. Pickering.
Played at AFL Park. Umpires Darren Goldspink, Greg Scroop. Attendance 33,192.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

EAGLES	3.2	3.4	10.6	14.15	99
MELBOURNE	0.0	0.1	1.5	2.8	20

GOALS - Eagles: Sumich, 5, Brennan, 3, Mainwaring, 2, Evans, 1, Matera, 1, Wilson, 1, Irving, 1, Heady, Lamb, 0.1, one point forced.
Melbourne: G. Lovett, 1.1, Lyon, 1, Owen, Bennett, Clark, Schwarz, 0.1, three points forced.

BEST - Eagles: Matera, Mainwaring, Waterman, McKenna, Brennan, Heady. **Melbourne:** Spalding, Lyon, Wight, Viney, Flintoff.
Played at Subiaco Oval. Umpires Gavin Dore, Shane McDonald. Attendance 26,500.

COLLINGWOOD	2.3	4.11	11.15	21.20	146
FOOTSCRAY	7.3	9.6	11.8	11.10	76

GOALS - Collingwood: McKeown, Daicos, 5, Starcevic, 3, Francis, 2, Monkhorst, Tuddenham, Banks, Kelly, Alexander, Williams. **Footscray:** Hawkins, 4, Del-Re, Liberatore, 2, Wigney, Atkins, Grant.

BEST - Collingwood: Starcevic, Francis, Banks, Russell, Millane, Turner. **Footscray:** Hawkins, Wallace, Cameron, Atkins, Liberatore.
Played at AFL Park. Attendance 38,861.

SANFL GAMES

This week's
South Australian
fixtures are:



ROUND 2

Saturday, March 30
Central v Sturt (F/Park d/h)
Port v North (F/Park d/h)
Norwood v South (Norwood)
West v Glenelg (Richmond)
Bye: Eagles

WESTSIDE

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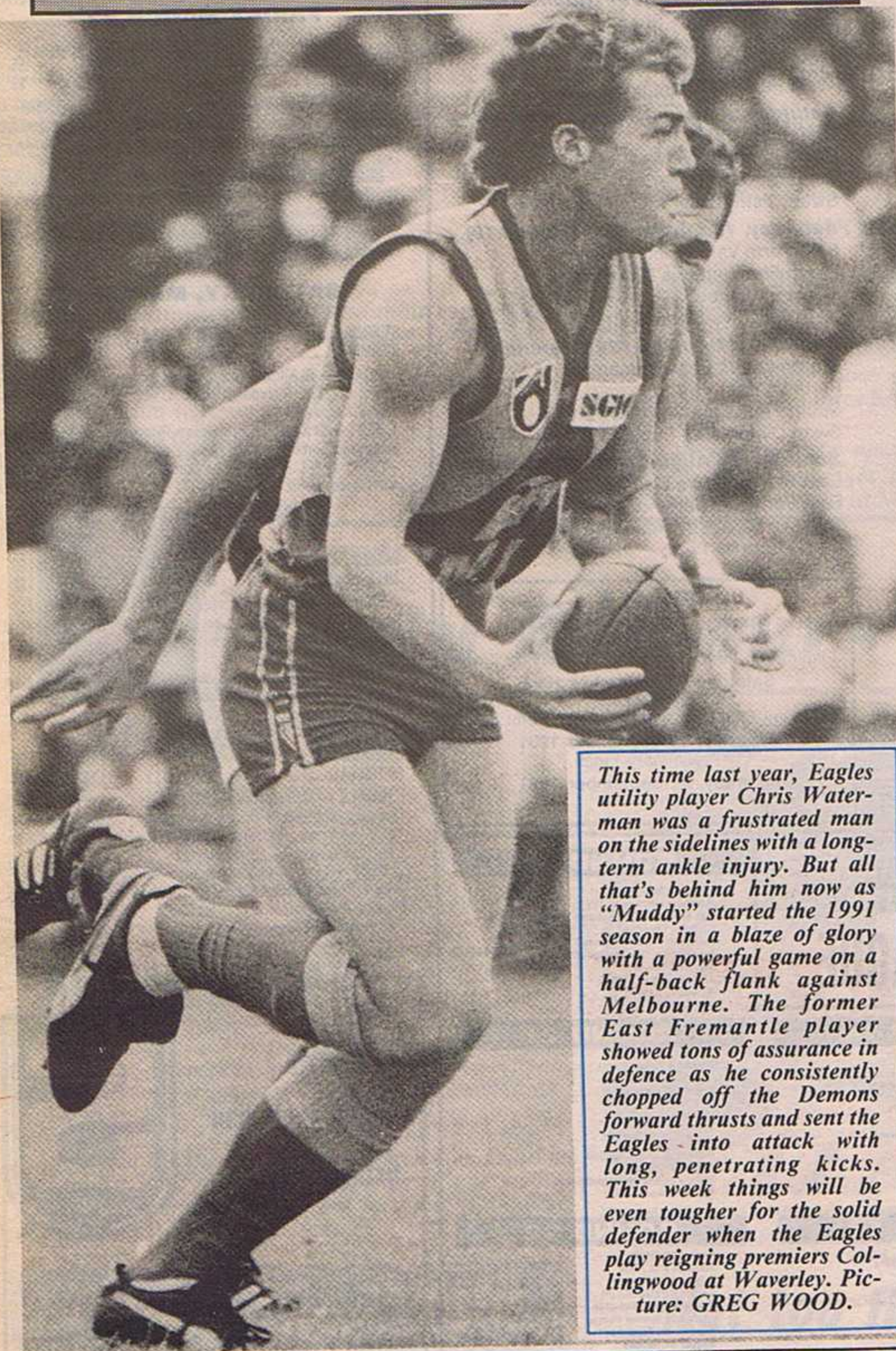
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Muddy's happy now



This time last year, Eagles utility player Chris Waterman was a frustrated man on the sidelines with a long-term ankle injury. But all that's behind him now as "Muddy" started the 1991 season in a blaze of glory with a powerful game on a half-back flank against Melbourne. The former East Fremantle player showed tons of assurance in defence as he consistently chopped off the Demons forward thrusts and sent the Eagles into attack with long, penetrating kicks. This week things will be even tougher for the solid defender when the Eagles play reigning premiers Collingwood at Waverley. Picture: GREG WOOD.

WAFL awaits Eagles boost

THE WA Football League has a golden opportunity to hitch a ride on the back of the West Coast Eagles to give their 1991 season a real boost.

All the pre-season indications are that local football will benefit greatly from the anticipated success of the Eagles.

And now a smart marketing campaign has the chance to win back fans who have deserted the domestic competition in recent years.

With places in the Eagles team so tough to find, a bigger number of quality players can be expected to filter back into their WAFL clubs on a regular basis this season.

Combine that quality and class with some emerging and exciting young talent ready to make their mark, then things look rosy for the WAFL.

Perhaps the biggest bonus is that the WAFL season will not open till next Saturday, when the Eagles have a bye in the expanded 15-team AFL competition.

That will give the WAFL a chance to kick off on a brilliant note, with the majority of Eagles players available for round one.

If the WAFL can get the public in for the opening round of matches, there is a strong chance they will return in big numbers to local football.

The football in the last four years has been worth watching. Unfortunately, some people try to compare the WAFL to the AFL and it will always fall short in that situation.

Taken for what it is — the secondary league to national football and the breeding ground for stars of the future

By
**Gary
Stocks**
of The West Australian



— the WAFL can once again become a vibrant and successful competition.

FINALISTS

It will be great to head to Bassen-dean Oval next Saturday to see a clash between last year's grand finalists, Claremont and Swan Districts.

On display and in a fierce mood should be the likes of Steve Malaxos, Don Pyke, Geoff Miles, Tony Begovich, Dale Kickett, Mark Hepburn, Tony Evans, Guy McKenna, Phil Narkle, Troy Ugle and Murray Rance...all keen to enhance their Eagles reputations.

The Eagles will naturally rest some of their front-line performers who are carrying niggling ailments. But, by the same token, they will be keen to make sure their players remain in good touch and not lose momentum with the fixtures scheduling giving them two games before their obligatory bye.

Getting people through the gates early in the season is a must. If you can convince the football public that the game is still of a high calibre, then you are on your way to building a solid season.

STABILITY

Some stability should be seen in local football this season, with a number of players returning to bolster domestic clubs on an almost full-time basis.

Just last week the Eagles distributed seven players to WAFL clubs and the likes of Shane Porter, Craig McNaughton, Robbie West and Cory Young have shown they have plenty to offer as they press for selection with the Eagles.

In addition, Craig Nelson, Ross Munns, Bill Duckworth, Warren Mosconi, Dempsey Narkle, John O'Sullivan, Mark Bayliss, Willie Dick, Sean King and Kevin Caton are among former top players who will return to the local competition to add some experience to the scene.

The WAFL has also structured its fixtures cleverly, with a handful of night games at the WACA Ground early in the season, including a double-header on Anzac Day to capitalise on the apparent liking for fixtures under lights.

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