

Sport Spotlight

On the eve of the fifth Test cricket match in Perth, KIM HAGDORN recalls some flannelled stars who formerly graced the football arena. ALAN EAST catches up with a former Cardinal who had a State match to forget ... and TANIA ARMSTRONG follows David Hart's life for a week

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KING OF THE KIDS ... that's Eagles star Chris Mainwaring as he gets among some of the young fans at Subiaco Oval watching the resumption of official training for 1992. The youngsters were from a camp organised by the dashing Eagles wingman



Eagles propertyman Hank Gloede presents Richmond rover Trent Nichols with his new colours



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PRESENTS



Summertime footy gossip

Around the clubs with **KIM HAGDORN**

New faces at East Perth

NEW East Perth coach Stan Magro has added two long-time football friends to the Royals off-field line-up — respected players Kevin Worthington and Tony Solin.

Worthington, a former Collingwood and State teammate of Magro, will be chairman of selectors.

Solin, a former Swan Districts premiership player and coach of Upper Great Southern premiership team Boddington for the past three years, will assist Magro in coaching and team selection.

The Royals have appointed injury-plagued forward Mark Blakely as coach of the colts side, replacing long-serving Greg Henderson, who is tipped to be involved elsewhere in the club.

SCOTT TO CONTINUE

Royals veteran John Scott has decided to curtail his coaching career in order to continue playing league football.

Scott was given the ultimatum to play or coach by Magro, who is convinced that you cannot mix the two activities.

Scott coached the Royals reserves last season, combining the task with his endeavours to maintain a consistency at league level.

Magro is delighted that Scott, a 200-game veteran and dual Claremont premiership player, had decided to continue playing.

"John still has something to offer East Perth as a player and there will be time in the future for him to resume coaching," Magro said.

"We can always do with a few experienced players."

Ellis retires

FORMER East Fremantle Lynn Medal winner Shane Ellis has told club officials he will not play this year.

Ellis retires as the 11th player to play more than 200 senior games for East Fremantle.

The 31-year-old graduated from Mt Pleasant to East Fremantle in 1980 and retires after 204 league games, plus 10 appearances with the West Coast Eagles and five State games.



Souths track star

SOUTH Fremantle expect big things from outstanding junior prospect Kurt Shepherd, pictured here after a training run at the Port. The long-striding, 190cm utility player has been one of the stars in the Bulldogs pre-season work and the All-Australian Teal Cup player is ready to graduate from the colts side to the seniors. Shepherd can slot in at centre-half-forward or take on a key defensive role, with the ability to back-up Sandover Medal-winning ruckman Craig Edwards if needed. Souths have an abundance of big-man strength as they prepare for the 1992 season under recycled coach Mal Brown.

Jakovich signs

FREMANTLE star Allen Jakovich has signed a three-year contract to stay with Melbourne. The exciting goalkicker has a history of moving around the country, but now he looks settled for a few years at least. The former South Fremantle youngster arrived at Melbourne via Darwin and Woodville (in South Australia) and caught the headlines with a 70-goal season from just 12 games.

Supercat change

SUPERCAT Gary Ablett has been given the opportunity by Geelong coach Malcolm Blight to make amends for his indifferent 1991 season. The forward-line star has been training well over summer and is likely to be cast the unaccustomed role of a defender.

Palm reconsiders

NEW West Perth coach Jeff Gieschen is trying to persuade 1991 club captain David Palm to continue his league career.

Palm announced his retirement decision after Round 20 last year, ending a long career stretching from Adelaide to Perth, to Melbourne and back to WA.

The former Richmond and Norwood veteran is seriously considering Gieschen's approach and could again wear the Falcons colours.

Demon back home

PERTH'S big-man stocks received a boost last week when Toby Jackson signed a registration form with the club.

Jackson had been linked with a move to West Perth after a training run at Leederville, but he returned to the familiar Lathlain Park turf last week.

Stick with it

THERE are many differing viewpoints about the viability of the WA Football League and its co-existence with the West Coast Eagles and their AFL affiliations.

ABC commentator Keith Slater, a long-time supporter of the domestic competition, believes that the WA Football Commission has a responsibility to prop up the eight WAFL clubs.

He doesn't think the WAFL can do better than its existing eight-team competition and sees a need to keep all those sides viable.

"We have to consolidate with the clubs we have now and get rid of that \$5-million debt," he told listeners to 6WF's Saturday morning sports show.

Fellow-commentator Geoff Christian agreed, saying: "We have come through the worst of the hard times as far as football finances are concerned."

Sharks suffer

FORMER West Coast Eagles and Claremont premiership ruckman Peter Higgins will coach Williams, in the Upper Great Southern League this year.

The departure of Higgins is another blow to the dwindling big-man department at East Fremantle. The Sharks have already lost 1991 fairest-and-best runner-up Lance Durack and big South Australian recruit Greg Hodson.

East Fremantle have also missed the chance to regain the services of 1991 Claremont premiership player Clinton Wolf, who joins Durack on a move to the North-West for a lucrative professional kangaroo shooting venture.

... but get a bonus

EAST Fremantle have scored a recruiting coup from under the noses of Swan Districts.

The Sharks have signed promising country star Craig Treleven, a 21-year-old from Esperance, deep in the heart of Swans' country zone.

The tall youngster has been in Swans' recruiting sights for some time — but has opted to play with East Fremantle.

Coalfields harvest



WEST Perth are starting to reap some recruiting rewards from their newly-acquired country zone around Collie, in the strong South West League. The Falcons have received good service from Collie's Darren O'Brien since his arrival at Leederville Oval in 1988... and they hope three summer additions might follow in his footsteps. O'Brien (second from right) was pleased to welcome the trio of home-town youngsters to training at Leederville Oval, (from left) Troy Edwards (21), Brad Barrett (19) and Jason Tate (19), all of whom hope to move to the city this season to pursue their careers.



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Sharks and Bulldogs join forces

MOVES are under way to prevent the WA Football Commission from obtaining the licence for Perth's second AFL club.

The Australian Football League is reluctant to issue a second licence to the WAFC, who now control the West Coast Eagles after it was initially launched as a public company football club.

Fremantle's traditional WA derby rivals, South Fremantle and East Fremantle, are united in efforts to prevent a second licence going to the WAFC.

The two clubs have also formed a united front against the WAFC's recently-announced proposal to relocate one, or both, teams away from the Port.

The WAFC's controversial WA Football 2000 report calls for Souths to relocate to Rockingham or East Fremantle to move to Willetton... with the possibility of both sides moving.

New Souths president Ric Gloede has wasted no time in exerting his in-

By **KIM HAGDORN**

fluence in the Port push for Fremantle to retain control of the city's football destiny.

The new Bulldogs boss, voted in by Souths board of directors after the shock decision by Bill Hughes to retire, has grave concern at the possibility that two Perth-based AFL teams could operate under the one Commission.

"It's a bit premature to be talking about the second team in Perth while there is still so much to be sorted out at the WAFL level," Gloede said.

"There is the question of how successfully two teams in the AFL could work under the control of the same Commission.

"The City of Fremantle certainly wants a say in its own football destiny."

Gloede is firmly committed to retaining both Fremantle clubs at the Port.

On the issue of Souths moving to Rockingham, Gloede pulls no punches



New South Fremantle president Ric Gloede points the way ahead to Bulldogs general manager, Brian Ciccotosto.

when he says: "I can't see South Fremantle moving out of Fremantle for a long, long time.

"A Fremantle AFL team will not play its home games at Fremantle Oval, or even East Fremantle Oval. It will play at Subiaco Oval, which means that Fremantle Oval would become just a training ground if the two WAFL clubs were moved out — and it deserves better than that.

"We have a sworn valuation of at least \$750,000 for the premises at Fremantle Oval and the club owns those buildings."

East Fremantle president Len Hitchen also has grave doubts about the Commission's ability to successfully handle two AFL club licences.

"It is important that the benefits of an AFL club from Fremantle would flow back into Fremantle football," Hitchen says.

"A Fremantle team must be run by

Fremantle people. Our kids are the footballers of the future and they must have heroes in their local areas to set their goals by.

"The issue of a second AFL licence needs a lot more discussion and consideration.

"But we support the concept of a Fremantle licence held independently to the WAFC and serviced by, say, four WAFL clubs."

Hitchen said the four south-of-Perth WAFL clubs in East Fremantle, South Fremantle, Claremont and Subiaco should feed into a Fremantle AFL side.

The rival Port teams intend using this year's Derby clashes as strong displays of football unity in Fremantle.

Gloede and Hitchen both believe that big attendances at the derbies will demonstrate to WA's football hierarchy that the people of Fremantle want the game to remain at Fremantle Oval and East Fremantle Oval.

Souths snare a Demon

FORMER Perth captain Joe Santostefano wants to switch to South Fremantle.

The talented midfielder, who enjoyed a healthy association with Bulldogs coach Mal Brown when the pair teamed up at Perth in the mid-1980s, trained with his new teammates for the first time last week.

Santostefano has notched 100 senior games with Perth in an injury-plagued career that started back in 1983.

He signed a Form 10 two weeks ago, clearing the way to hold talks with Souths and Perth officials granted permission for him to train at the Port.

Santostefano could be swapped for promising Sunday Football League star Damian Eves, a 193cm-tall goal-kicking ruckman who won Kelmscott's fairest and best last season.

Eves has been tipped to follow his Kelmscott coach Paul Vasoli to Souths, but a change of heart could give him

the chance to solve some of the big man problems at Lathlain.



Joe Santostefano... heading to South Fremantle

New man at WAFL

THE WA Football Commission has appointed Trevor Howard as the new general manager of the West Australian Football League.

He will take up his position in March, when John O'Connell retires.

Howard, currently president of the WA Amateur Football League, is a senior project manager with the Ministry of Sport and Recreation and has recently served as the part-time acting Executive Director of the Athletics Association.

Howard's football involvement began as a senior player in his home town of Dowerin and finished with amateur club Mt Lawley.

He served as a committee member for 16 years at

Mt Lawley, during which time the Hawks experienced their most successful period, playing in eight grand finals from 1983 to 1991, winning six.

Howard was elected to the State Management Committee of the WAFL in 1980 and became president in 1984.

He was also on the executive of the Australian Amateur Football Council,



New WAFL general manager Trevor Howard

serving as president from 1988 to 1991.

Howard has led WA amateur touring sides in 1985, '86 and '88, when they played in Melbourne, Adelaide and Launceston in the national carnival.

He capped his administrative career by watching the WA amateur side win its first national championship for 55 years, in Perth last year.

Howard's commitment to community football resulted in his appointment to the board of the Football Development Trust in 1990.

As general manager of the WAFL, Howard believes his major objective will be to identify the domestic competition as the elite development league in WA.

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Football's planners look ahead . . .

Commission looks to year 2000

THE WA Football Commission has drawn up a number of strategies to help bring the domestic football scene back to a viable situation.

The Commission has succeeded in putting into place three main strategies which it considers are working — encouraging clubs to reduce debt, to restrict player-payments and to employ top management and coaching staff.

WA Football 2000 outlines the Commission's plans for development of the local game over the next eight years.

The plan calls for:

* The development of the WAFL as the premium State League in Australia, with 10 clubs — eight metropolitan and two country, based in major centres of population.

* All clubs to be debt free, independent and self-supporting.

* Two AFL clubs based in WA, each playing their home games at Subiaco Oval.

* The Football Development Trust under-pinning the development of the game in schools and the community.

The Commission says that Football 2000 should be viewed as an overall plan to integrate football, from

the development stages under the FDT to the WAFL and AFL levels, with the development of Subiaco Oval as the major headquarters for the sport being a vital factor.

"It is possible to look at some aspects of the report, viewed in isolation and understand why there are queries and concern," says Commissioner Jeff Ovens.

"But the whole plan for football's long-term future must be examined overall. We believe that the Commission is trying to look further ahead than what some of the clubs might be doing.

"We must look at the inter-relationship between all levels of football."



Members of the WA Football Commission look reasonably pleased with the launch of their WA Football 2000 report. They are, from left, John Fuhrmann, Jeff Ovens, Kevin Edwards and Merv Cowan

New WAFL Board to ease tension

ANOTHER restructure of football's administration is likely in the near future.

The WA Football Commission plans to introduce a new body to be known as the WA Football Council, which will act as the forum for debate of major policy issues affecting the game and help integrate the sport's different levels.

The group will replace the existing Presidents' Council, which is made up of the presidents of the eight WAFL clubs and is the current method of communication between the clubs and the Commission.

The new council will comprise the chairman and general manager of each affiliated organisation — which would include Sunday, Amateur and country leagues and the Football Development Trust.

The introduction of a WAFL Board to run the domestic competition is designed to give the clubs more control over the game.

The WAFL Board will consist of club presidents (or delegates), together with a member of the WAFC.

The new Board will operate under the framework of the WAFC, with its own constitution and will be responsible for things such as:

- * Player rules and regulations.
- * Fixtures (including interstate matches), venues and admission charges.
- * Club and player discipline.
- * Sponsorship, public relations and promotion of the WAFL.

The Board will have its own chairman and a general manager accountable to the Board, which will operate within a budget approved by the WAFC.

It will be accountable to the WAFC and report annually, similar to the West Coast Eagles Board.

The report said: "The Commission believes that the development of the new structure would do much to solve some of the tensions that have emerged recently, without reverting to a model for leadership and control, which is outdated and unworkable for the WA football system of the future."

The Commission plans to have the new structure in place next season.



John Fuhrmann emphasises a point

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The Eagles view

THE West Coast Eagles have supported the Commission's preference to delay the introduction of a second AFL side in Perth for at least three years.

The Commission expects to see a new AFL club, based out of Fremantle, in operation by 1994-96 and the Eagles endorse that decision, claiming it gives the club greater opportunity to stabilise their long-term financial base.

The Eagles club, which operates under the overall umbrella of the Commission, but has its own board of management, also supports the WAFC's plan to relocate WAFL clubs.

The Eagles support the move to distribute the WAFL clubs on a more even geographic basis through the major population centres of Perth and agrees with the admission of two country clubs.

"The Eagles applaud the WAFC in attempting to describe the vision it has for football by the turn of the century," Eagles general manager Brian Cook says.

"It is now up to all of the components of football to respond to this position."

Draft dealings under review

THE Commission will continue to lobby the Australian Football League for changes to the national draft system.

They will urge the AFL to review the draft age and raise it to 20.

The WAFC also wants an alternative incentive scheme instead of the highly unsatisfactory drip system of transfer fees.

The Commission will seek a more significant up-front payment and is proposing a 1992 payment of \$20,000 on the registration of each WAFL drafted player.

The Commission also wants part of that payment to go to the club from where the WAFL player came from — either city or country.

The amount would depend on the number of years the player was at the WAFL club.



WESTSIDE COMMENT

Timing was off target

THE independent heirarchy of the WA Football Commission wants to change the direction of the game in the West.

But it has opened the battle kicking against the wind.

The Commission's much-awaited blueprint for the future, WA Football 2000, received a hostile reception when unveiled to the WAFL clubs and the public in general.

To suggest that seven of the existing eight WA Football League clubs should be relocated further out in the metropolitan area is simply asking for too much.

To tell the WAFL that it will be expanded to a 10-team competition next season is also too dogmatic.

The WAFC was stunned at the volatile reaction to its dream for the future.

It wanted front and back page treatment in *The West Australian* and blanket coverage on television and radio, both on the Friday evening and the Saturday morning sport shows.

It got all that — and it was all bad.

It could not believe the negative reaction from the clubs — and, in fact, blamed the media for that bad publicity.

What the Commissioners failed to take into account is that football is very much an emotional game; it has survived for more than a century because people bleed their hearts and souls for the football club of their

choice; their loyalty demands that.

And they don't like someone in authority telling them what to do.

The Commission makes the point that the report must be viewed as an overall proposal; not just highlighting one or two points and seeking individual reactions.

The Commission is over-optimistic if it expects clubs to agree easily to switch their home-base locations away from their traditional headquarters.

The WAFC report falls down in its lack of investigation in the feasibility of relocating clubs.

FIGURES NEEDED

For example, there are no figures to show what public and sponsor support a league side would draw in the Kelmscott area; other than population growth, which might not necessarily mean the residents will be football-converts.

Just because Wanneroo, Kelmscott and Rockingham have experienced population explosions doesn't mean they will flock to support an Australian Rules operation down their street.

Surely, a survey of the football likes (and dislikes) of all the students at the Wanneroo, Rockingham or Kelmscott high schools would provide some indication of whether a football club would get support from those players-of-the-future.

In the days since the report was released, there has been a definite change of face by some members of the Commission.

Merv Cowan, the only real 'club-man' on the WAFC, says the report is open for discussion; it's not a directive. However, chairman Peter Tannock, Commissioner Jeff Ovens and the report itself indicate that many of the proposals are definite plans.

The timing of the report's release was also unfortunate.

At a time when WAFL clubs are determinedly stitching up sponsorships and memberships, the governing body threw a spanner in their works by talking about impending changes. South Fremantle, particularly, were incensed at the timing, especially with the veiled suggestion that they could be moved out of their traditional Port home.

It was also unfortunate that the report was published without Tannock in town.

Tannock's influence over football has been quite enormous in the last two years and, with due respect to his fellow-Commissioners, the report should have been launched with his professional touch.

It was unfortunate that he was overseas, but maybe the report should have been delayed till mid-season, when the WAFL was up and running and such a look into the future would not jeopardise early-season activities.

There are obviously some very sound proposals in WA Football 2000; there are ideas that must be implemented for the future of the game.

But maybe there was a better way to go about telling everybody.

— ALAN EAST, editor



Deputy chairman Kevin Edwards summarises the report

More interstate games

THE interstate football arena could see a WAFL side playing a representative team from the proposed Victorian Premier's Cup competition.

The interstate match would be an extension to the current programme involving State-of-Origin matches between WA and Victoria and clashes between the WAFL and the SANFL.

The new Victorian competition is a pre-season series featuring premiership teams from the various metropolitan and country leagues, including the Victorian Football Association.

The WAFC also wants to see the re-introduction of State-of-Origin carnivals, perhaps on a five-year cycle, scheduled during the football season.

... and bigger crowds

THE development of Subiaco Oval as a major stadium is a top priority for the WAFC and is seen as an integral part of the overall development of the game in WA.

WA Football 2000 confirmed that Subiaco Oval would be developed as football's headquarters, rather than the WACA Ground and a \$40-million project is envisaged, taking the seating capacity of the ground up to 55,000 fans.

The Commission wants work to start on the ground in October this year and be completed by the start of the 1994 season. This would probably affect the number of Eagles games played at Subiaco Oval next year.

The Commission hopes that the cost will be equally shared between Commonwealth and State Governments and private sources.

Salary cap proposal

THE WAFC is keen to introduce a salary cap for players in leagues outside of the WAFL.

The report says that a salary cap would help ensure that financial and playing balance is restored to the total football system.

While acknowledging that it has no direct control over affiliated leagues, the Commission believes that such a salary cap would benefit football generally.

The WAFC will negotiate with the Sunday League, the Amateurs League and the controlling WA Country Football League to seek the introduction of a general salary cap.

The Commission believes that some clubs outside the WAFL are paying players more than is necessary.

"These higher salaries from country clubs or Sunday League teams are causing problems for WAFL clubs seeking to keep within the existing salary cap," says Commissioner Jeff Ovens.

Move for a new grade

THE Football Commission wants to see another level of football introduced under the WAFL club umbrella.

They plan to investigate the feasibility of a pre-colts competition for players in the 18 years and under bracket.

If this occurs, the existing colts competition would be restricted to players aged 19 and 20 years, with the reserves and league remaining as they are now.

The Commission plans to enter into immediate talks with the eight clubs to see how this four-team structure could be implemented, including the organisation, financial implications, training and coaching, playing venues and fixtures.

If the investigations produce positive results, the Commission would like to see the new competition start next year.

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Keith Miller puts some polish on his two premierships trophies

Two flags a bonus for rookie

PREMIERSHIPS and State football generally go together as highlights in the careers of successful players . . . but not so for Keith Miller.

Premierships with West Perth and Wickepin rank high among the highlights for the man born and bred to be a farmer.

But State football holds a memory that he would rather erase.

Despite having the name of one of Australia's greatest cricketers (and no relation) the young man from

Wickepin, in the central wheatbelt, graduated to the football arena with West Perth in fine style in 1969.

His debut-season premierships was copied in 1971 and another grand final appearance in 1973, albeit a loss to Subiaco in their 49-year drought-ending victory, are part of his achievements; added to several flags with home-town Wickepin.

But it's the 1973 State game against South Australia at Subiaco Oval that he would rather forget.

In a season where his experience and maturity was being reflected in his football across the half-forward line, Miller earned his State guernsey — even though it was No. 14 with his regular No. 15 being claimed by Simpson Medallist Peter Featherby — but he was never to wear it.

About 30 miles after leaving his family farm outside Wickepin, on his way to Perth for the big match, Miller suffered that sinking feeling when motors expire.

"The car was getting hot and suddenly it wasn't going any further," says a rueful Miller as he recalls a day that didn't make him happy. "I had blown a head gasket."

"It took me quite a while to get a ride. I rang Peter Bowler (at the league) from Williams and told him what had happened and though I got to Subiaco in time, it was about three quarters of an hour too late to be included in the team.

"Mal Brown was State coach and he filled in, he took my place in the 20 and sat on the bench, but he didn't play.

"I sat on the bench with him, but I didn't really enjoy the game even though we won."

"I wasn't very happy."

But despite that interstate disappointment, Miller can look back on his career with pride.

He was transformed from being a fairly raw and skinny country lad into a key member of a West Perth side that contested three grand finals in five seasons.

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Eagle talk

Eagles men in WAFL swap

TWO of the West Coast Eagles squad members could find themselves wearing different coloured guernseys in the WAFL this season.

Perth midfielder Adrian Barich and South Fremantle big man David Hynes are involved in negotiations between the two clubs that could result in a player-swap with the blessing of all concerned.

The Demons are short of big-man strength and while Barich is something of a favoured son at Lathlain, he would be equally welcomed at Fremantle Oval, where his former Demons coach Mal Brown admires his tenacity.

Souths are endowed with considerable big-man talent and a move to Lathlain, who are short of key-position people, would be in the best interests of Hynes.

The former Port Adelaide premierships player had an excellent start with the Eagles last season, but faded as the year progressed.

The deal is being done by the clubs involved, but the Eagles are quite happy about the negotiations. As football manager Trevor Nisbett says: "Any move that will benefit our squad members is okay by us."



A new-look David Hynes minus that fearsome beard of last season

Camp cricketers

DAVID Hynes and Karl Langdon were the cricket pitch stars when the annual Eagles battle was staged at Jurien Bay during last weekend's summer camp.

The duo both pulled off rare hat-tricks with the small leather projectile, rather than the inflated football.

Hynes had kept his cricketing prowess hidden, but Langdon, of course, was a promising State junior representative before opting for a football career.

Strong support

WHILE the players were heavily involved in activities over the two-day Jurien camp, the 15 support staff and football hierarchy were keen to get into the action.

General manager Brian Cook made the trek and along with selectors Tim Gepp, Robert Wiley and football manager Trevor Nisbett, joined in the epic cricket match, umpired by property manager Hank Gloede.

Gepp had a few of the players chasing leather, while Nisbett and Wiley both headed back to the pavilion without troubling the scorer.



Julie and Keith Miller with youngest son, Jared



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Off the beaten track

with ALAN EAST



'I guess I was a little silly turning my back on league football so soon'

Despite those heady three years, Miller turned his back on city football and took up a coaching role with Wickepin in 1972.

They were beaten in the Upper Great Southern grand final, by two points by Narrogin Railways, with Miller proving a star. He won the Leo Graham Medal for the fairest and best in the Association — and was quickly back in West Perth's sights.

"I look back now and realise I was a bit silly coming home," says Miller. "But I learnt a lot in that year, especially coaching and what is required of players.

"I was pretty green as a player and even as a coach and I went back to West Perth a much better footballer for the experience."

"West Perth came up and talked to me and they said I was stupid for turning my back on the WAFL and I probably agree now.

"Even though I went back onto the family farm, there wasn't any real pressure to return. My brother Ron was home with my parents."

So Miller was back at Leederville for 1973 and though it resulted in a State game disappointment and a losing grand final, he turned in some outstanding football. But that was the end of his city career. An operation at the start of 1974 put his fitness behind schedule and he decided to stay home, with 87 league games to his credit.

That final season was a family affair; Miller's last and Taylor's first.

Miller, who grew up on the family farm at Wickepin and did his schooling locally, considered himself just an average junior player. Going to West Perth was not planned; it was just something that happened.

"It came along unexpectedly," he says. "I never gave much thought to playing in the city till the opportunity arose.

"Two great premierships wins with West Perth were certainly a bonus result."

Miller is one of five children, with elder brother Trevor (who also played for Wickepin) now living at Bunbury, where their parents have retired and Ron (who played a season with South Fremantle) running the original family farm south-east of Wickepin. One married sister also lives in Bunbury and the other is single and living Newman.

Miller runs his own 3000-acre wheat farm east of Wickepin — with about the same number of sheep — with wife Julie, a Wagin-bred lass. The couple have three children — Jacque (18), who is working in Perth and sons Sheldon (11) and Jared (9).

After a difficult start to 1974, Miller settled back into football and farming life at Wickepin, where he played till 1983, with a car accident towards the end of that season forcing him to miss the finals. He returned for two games in 1984, but then decided it was time to give it away.

But even that was a retirement decision to be reversed — in 1986, he took up the coaching role with Wickepin and finished up playing half the season, to take his club tally past 260 games.

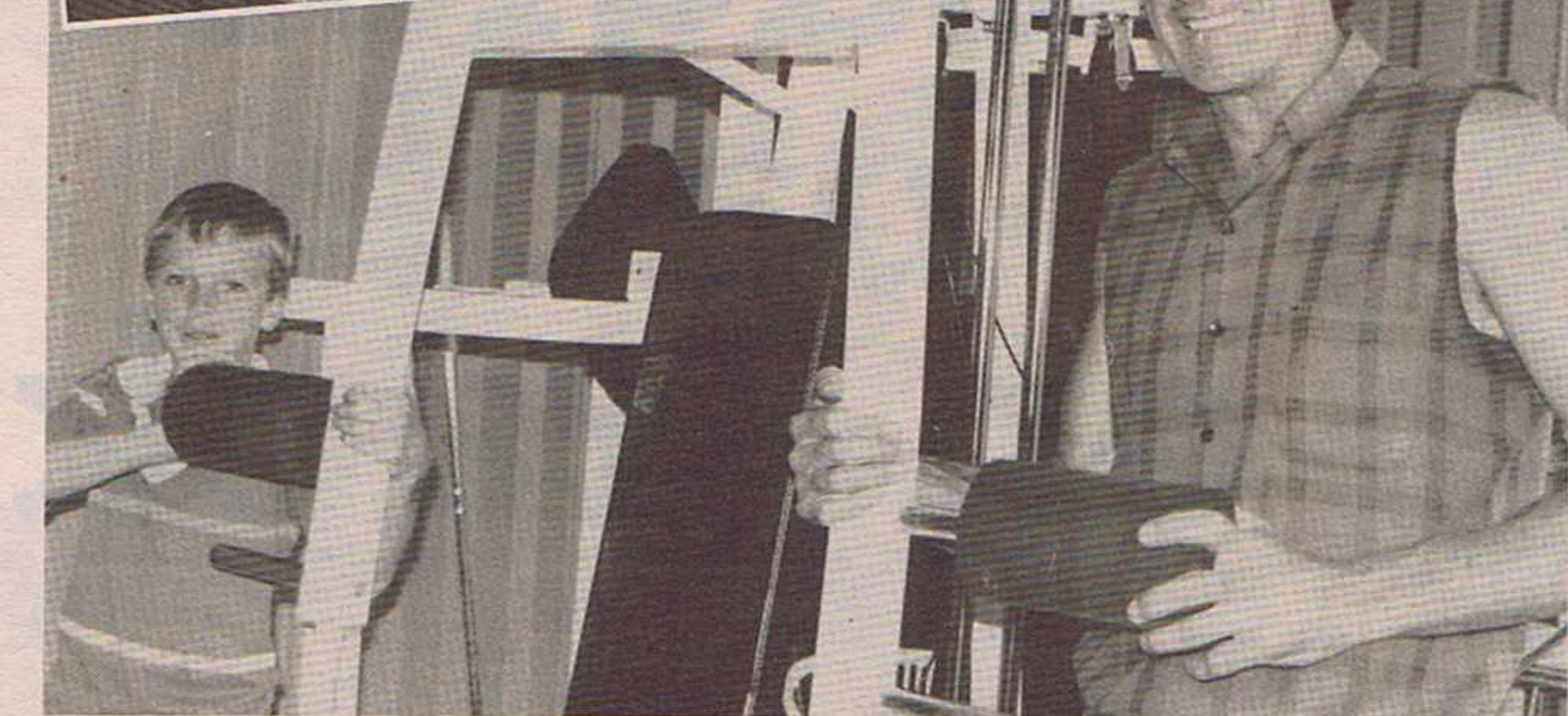
"But I certainly won't be playing this year," says the 43-year-old fit-looking Miller, who has accepted the challenge of coaching Wickepin again this season.

"I'm looking forward to getting back into coaching; there are a lot of young blokes around with ability and I'd like to think I've learnt something over the years, so it will be a new challenge."

Miller captain-coached Wickepin to a premiership in 1974 and the team repeated the feat a year later, this time with Astbury coaching and Miller playing.

"By 1971, I knew what league football was all about. It takes a while to adjust to city ranks. I lived in Perth for the 1971 season and that made it much easier; you could train with the blokes three or four times a week and there was no travelling.

"I think that was my best season, though '73 was pretty consistent. We lost the grand final to Subiaco, on a real emotional day for them, with their first flag for 49 years."



NO RAIN TODAY . . . Wickepin farmer Keith Miller checks the empty rain gauge — and gets to work on assembling a gymnasium in his garage, with some help from son Jared

The West Perth connection that saw Miller, his cousin Geoff Taylor and fellow-Wickepin product Greg Astbury all make a mark at Leederville Oval in the same era, actually started through two of the club's all-time greats — the late Ron Bewick and 'Golden Boot' rover Joe Fanchi.

After illustrious careers with West Perth, the former Cardinals each did a two-year coaching stint with Wickepin, one of the power clubs in the Upper Great Southern in the late 1960s. Bewick also played a third season, with Fanchi coaching, which was Miller's introduction to senior ranks, in 1966.

Miller played under the coaching of former East Perth star and local product Keith Doncon at Wickepin the year before he went down to Perth; a season that saw Doncon opt out of football for a year back on the farm.

"By the time I started playing with Wickepin, Ron was back at West Perth and he kept in touch, which resulted in me being invited down for pre-season in 1968," says Miller.

"I had a couple of scratch matches, but it wasn't for me. I was too young and green and I just wasn't ready for city life. In those days you would only go to the city two or three times a year. Maybe I wasn't even ready in 1969, but I gave it a second try and played the first two games in the seconds, at centre-half-forward.

"I then got into the league side and played the rest of the season at half-forward.

"Greg had gone down the previous season, so we travelled together on Tuesdays for training and then returned for the Saturday games.

"At 18 years of age it was some thrill getting into a grand final, playing in front of 51,000 people, which was a record crowd at that time."

"The atmosphere was tremendous."

Miller was captivated by the coaching of the legendary Graham Farmer, who had taken over at Leederville Oval the year previous, guiding the side to a preliminary final loss — by three points, to his old club East Perth; a rivalry that was to highlight Miller's next few years.

Every clash between the city rivals was like a grand final and Miller clearly remembers that 1969 game at Perth Oval where a WAFL record crowd of 26,760 jammed into the ground; it was just his seventh league appearance.

"Playing against East Perth was a big thrill; it was a finals atmosphere every time you went out on the ground. Playing with Farmer, Bill Dempsey and Mel Whinnen was also tremendous.

"When I was a kid, I barracked for East Perth, but it was pretty easy to switch to West Perth, especially with Farmer there. He was great to play under; really good to listen to.

"He was very high on football knowledge. While he could be critical and tear strips off you when you didn't measure up, his knowledge of the game was tremendous and he was always able to offer his players plenty of helpful advice."

The Cardinals faltered in 1970, missing the finals, but Farmer put them back on track the next year to claim another premiership — again, at the expense of East Perth.

"Maybe we just eased off a little in 1970," admits Miller. "For my part I didn't really realise what the premiership was all about till the next year when the grand final came around and we weren't there; we realised what we were missing."

"That must have helped Farmer get the team back on target the next season. We had a few new guys such as Bill Valli, Alan Watling and Tony Dragan in 1969 and maybe they felt the same way as I did.

"We were also joined by Peter Steward and Phil Smith, from Victoria and they made a big difference.

"When I look back, I think the 1971 premiership was probably more of a highlight than the first one. East Perth had downed us in the second semi-final, but we beat East Fremantle by three points.

"Then in the grand final, many of the blokes picked up a lot and it was an amazing turn-around.

"Farmer didn't do anything special, but we had our confidence back. He virtually put the onus on us to perform.

"I hurt my shoulder and came off at three-quarter time, but the game was over by then. We won by 32 points and that game sticks in my mind."



Keith Miller, third from the right in the back row, was a proud member of the West Perth 1971 premiership team that featured three of the game's legends, Mel Whinnen, Graham Farmer and Bill Dempsey, pictured at the left of the front row

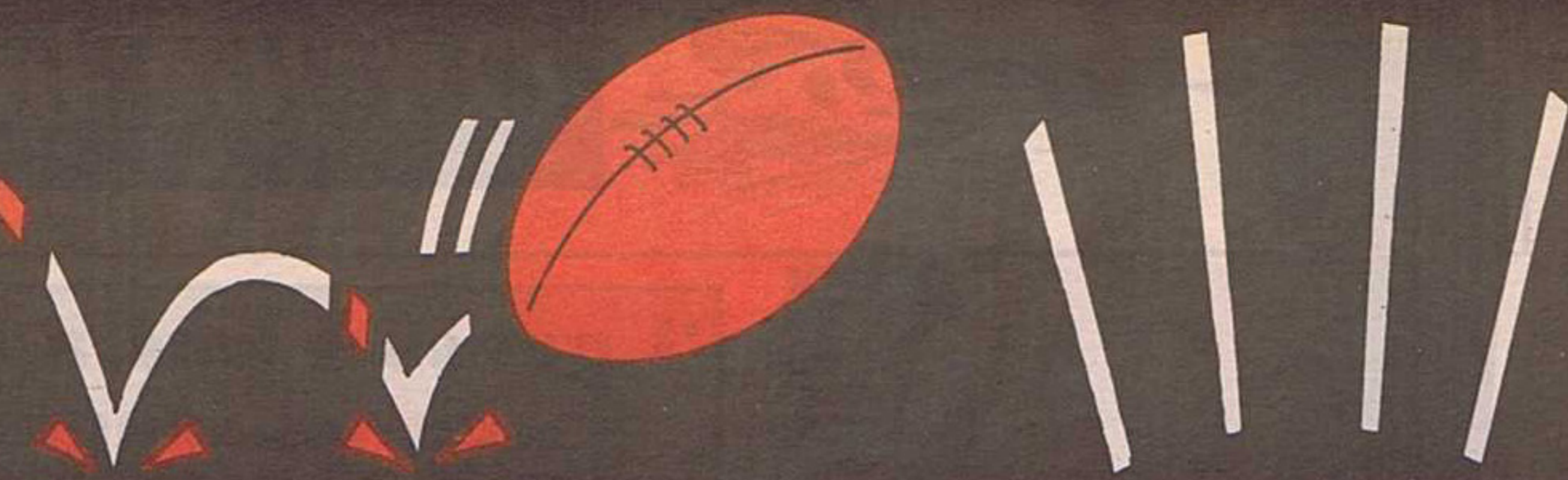


EMU EXPORT

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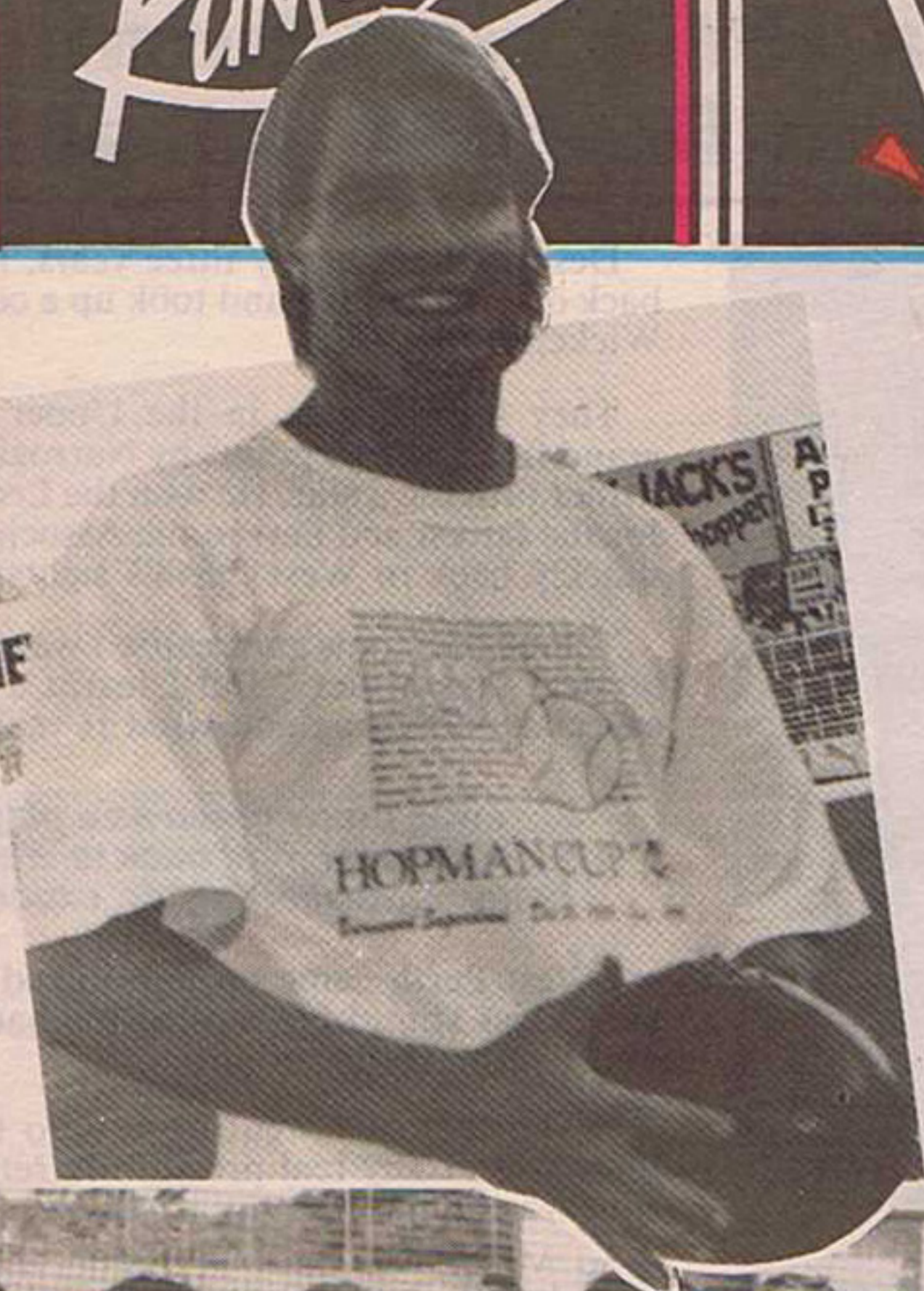


BOUNCE INTO

CLUB

RUMOURS

Eagles back on track



THE West Coast Eagles have officially launched their 1992 AFL premiership campaign . . . and training has started in earnest at Subiaco Oval for the ever-changing squad

A number of new faces are present — and most of the old ones are back again, with a few notable exceptions

WESTSIDE FOOTBALL was at Subiaco Oval for the recent resumption of full-scale training and captured these pictures

LEFT: The squad stretches out, in a variety of training gear. TOP LEFT: Subiaco rookie Matt Connell looks well-pleased about joining the Eagles nest
ABOVE: Paul Harding is finally in the Eagles camp — five years after his first attempt to join the WA club. TOP RIGHT: Assistant coach Rob Wiley (centre) is pictured with selectors Ian Miller (left) and Tim Gepp. RIGHT: A big crowd of fans greet the arrival on the track of newcomer Jason Ball, the Eagles pre-draft choice from Swan Districts



LEFT: The autograph hunters descend on Guy McKenna. RIGHT: East Fremantle's new addition, Kane Morphet and last year's star AFL rookie, Ashley McIntosh enter the arena



LEFT: The media was out in force awaiting the arrival of the players. RIGHT: Eagles property manager Hank Gloede hands over guernsey No. 47 to Subiaco recruit Steven Davies



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Foster's Cup pre-season action



THE pre-season Foster's Cup competition will see top-level football action spread around Australia.

From Darwin in the north to Hobart in the south; Albany in the east and Adelaide in the middle; the 15 AFL teams will come together seeking valuable early-season match

practice.

The importance of the Foster's Cup is quite enormous — as Hawthorn confirm, with two recent pre-season victories matched later in the year with an AFL premiership in September.

Carlton United Breweries, major spon-

sors of the AFL, support the pre-season series, which opens on the weekend of February 8 and 9.

Westside's Melbourne correspondent KEN PIESSE presents this preview as part of a regular Foster's Cup segment.

Jeans debut in his new colours

LIFE begins at 58. Just ask master coach Allan Jeans, Australian football's elder statesman.

It's just a fortnight before Jeans, league football's most successful modern-day coach, restarts his career at his third AFL club, Richmond.

The Tigers open the 1992 Foster's Cup summer competition against the Brisbane Bears at the newly-named Waverley Park (once VFL Park) on Saturday, February 8.

Confident of ending years of mediocrity, the young Richmond squad has trained harder than almost any side in the competition, with an honourable mention to Melbourne, who have been at it for five sessions a week since before Christmas — with one horror session including 100 100-metre sprints.

After just one season on the sidelines, when he co-ordinated Hawthorn's recruiting, Jeans — a four-time premiership coach — is set to revive the down-and-out Richmond.

The Jeans no-nonsense message has already had an effect on and off the field at Punt Road.

The players are revelling in his positive approach and professionalism. They are also dressing better outside the club, showing a new pride in being representatives of the Richmond Football Club, one of Australia's finest.

As full-forward Jeff Hogg said:

"Allan is so intense. He makes you listen. He's got this voice ... he's not the quiet man everyone thinks he is."

It's highly likely that Hogg, who was shuffled from end to end last year, will be allowed to settle at full-forward, his favoured position from where he kicked 68 goals in limited opportunities last season.

One of Richmond's great hopes is Melbourne recruit ruckman Steve O'Dwyer, who is likely to debut in the Foster's Cup match against Brisbane Bears newcomer, Matt Rendell, who has migrated north after a decade at Fitzroy.

Richmond are favoured to win first-up and the club is keen to play as many

official pre-season games as it can, to enter the day season as highly-tuned and confident as possible.

It's doubtful if Brisbane's Claremont recruit, full-forward John Hutton, will play. Coach Robert Walls says he will use only his fittest squad members and as Hutton has been training away from the club, it's not known how advanced his preparation is.

Eagles head to the north

THE West Coast Eagles open their Foster's Cup game on the first weekend, travelling to Darwin to tackle Collingwood on February 9.

The match, scheduled for Football Park, Marrara, Darwin's new football headquarters, could see former Lion Gary Pert represent the Magpies for the first time, after he missed all of season 1991 with a knee injury.

The Eagles will be using the match to blood some new faces and it will be a case of get in early and secure a league spot.

Geelong and St Kilda clash on February 12 in a replay of last year's cut-throat semi-final, which saw the Cats advance and the Saints drop out.

Many critics rated that game as the best of the '91 finals series — and this pre-season repeat will be a classical duel.

Saints full-forward Tony Lockett is fit and keen to do well from the opening bounce. He is capable of breaking the goalkicking record of 150 goals in a season, held jointly by South Melbourne's Bob Pratt and Hawthorn's Peter Hudson.

Footscray and Melbourne are drawn in the fourth match on February 14 — an Olympic Games fund-raiser — and Adelaide and Carlton clash in the fifth game on February 19 in Adelaide.

Matches have also been scheduled for Lavington (NSW) and Hobart (Tasmania), the latter seeing a return of Fitzroy to Tasmania, clashing with North Melbourne on February 23.

Fitzroy recently re-signed Ross Lyon and have bolstered their big man division with imports Peter Sartori (Carlton) and Paul Abbott (Hawthorn).

The round six Essendon-Sydney Swans game at Lavington on February 22 will see Gary Buckenara make his coaching debut.

One of the most gifted and popular players of the 1980s, Buckenara has a huge job to lift the Swans, who have lost their No. 1 player Greg Williams to Carlton.



Hawks coach Alan Joyce ... after another flag

Hawks out to defend flag

REIGNING Foster's Cup premiers Hawthorn, who have a bye in the first round, like winning the pre-season series.

Twice in recent years they have claimed the Foster's Cup — and repeated the premiership later in September.

This year the Hawks meet the winner of the Richmond-Bears game on February 22, when one certain absentee will be centre-half-forward Dermott Breerton, who had a knee operation after the 1991 grand final.

The Hawks are being led by Gary Ayres for the first time. Now 31, Ayres has been deputy to Michael Tuck since 1986.

The Hawks are hoping young South Australian Matthew Robran will reconsider his move back to Adelaide and be available for the first night match.

Coach Alan Joyce, a winner of four premierships in only two years in charge, is again committed to winning as many early games as possible.

YOUR 1992 FOSTER'S CUP FIXTURES GUIDE

ROUND 1

- 1. Bris. Bears v Richmond
Saturday, 8 February Waverley
- 2. Coll'wood v W.C. Eagles. Sunday,
9 February Marrara Oval (Darwin)
- 3. Geelong v St.Kilda. Wednesday,
12 February Waverley
- 4. Footscray v Melbourne. Saturday,
15 February Waverley
- 5. Adelaide v Carlton. Wednesday,
19 February Football Park (Adel.)
- 6. Essendon v Syd. Swans. Saturday,
22 February Lavington (Albury)
- 7. Fitzroy v Nth. Melb. Sunday,
23 February Nth Hobart Oval (Tas.)

ROUND 2

- 8. Hawthorn v.....
Saturday, 22 February Waverley
- 9..... v.....
Wednesday, 26 February Waverley
- 10..... v.....
Saturday, 29 February Waverley
- 11..... v.....
Sunday, 1 March Waverley

SEMI-FINALS

- 12..... v.....
Wednesday, 4 March Waverley
- 13..... v.....
Friday, 6 March Waverley

GRAND FINAL

- 14..... v.....
Saturday, 14 March Waverley

*The winners of the 1991 competition - Hawthorn - automatically qualify for the second round.



Talking footy



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KIM HAGDORN



Fighting fit . . .

FEW footballers anywhere in the nation are looking forward to the 1992 season more than popular Eagles defender Dean Laidley.

The spindle-thin, fearless tear-away is on the comeback trail and desperate to force his way back into AFL ranks.

Laidley spent the 1991 season on the sidelines after an horrific run of injury and misfortune.

Now he feels like a new player in the West Coast squad, rather than one of the privileged few who stepped into history on March 29, 1987, when the inaugural team went into battle.

Laidley had his AFL career cut short against Melbourne at the MCG in May, 1990.

After corrective surgery to reconstruct his left knee, the bubbly 24-year-old had several comeback attempts last year thwarted with further injury.

MORE SURGERY

His road back to wearing an Eagles guernsey started afresh just before last year's AFL when he underwent further surgery to his troublesome knee.

While Laidley now believes his football career is virtually starting all over again, he knows that his path back into the starting 20 won't be easy.

However, a few summer happenings have bolstered his enthusiasm, with an intense contest developing among Eagles players for a spot in the line-up.

Guy McKenna, who has carved a reputation as one of the AFL's most reliable ball-getters in defence, is

Laidley is on way back

tipped to move up the ground, while durable Eagles skipper John Worsfold is expected to miss the Foster's Cup pre-season matches while he recovers from a groin injury.

In addition, defensive rover Don Pyke has had an injury-interrupted summer, giving Laidley the chance to snare a vacant spot in defence early in the year.

"It's all a matter of making the most of whatever comes my way," a determined Laidley declares.

"I've set myself to train as well as possible and keep presenting my claims on the track to the selectors.

"There are so many variables; so many players pushing for selection.

"But for the moment, I'm as fit as I have ever been and I'm breaking my neck to play top level footy.

"The next few weeks will be crucial to everybody wanting to play in the opening AFL matches.

"The first practice match against Adelaide (February 1) and then the Foster's Cup clash with Collingwood in Darwin (February 9) will have a big bearing on how the team shapes up for the first official match.

"All I want and all I've set my sights on really are the February games.

"A slow start to the season by anybody can put you behind for the remainder of the year."

Laidley is held in high regard by the Eagles hierarchy — and opposition AFL clubs.

His no-nonsense, aggressive manner won high acclaim during an injury plagued 38-game four-year career.

His disciplined defensive qualities, gifted ball-getting capacity and tidy disposal are factors that impress Eagles coach Mick Malthouse.

"Mick has been very supportive of my recovery and often offers encouragement that has helped me through the down times," Laidley says.



The dashing tear-away tactics of Dean Laidley (above); the frustrations of yet another injury (left) and now the smile of a comeback man (below)



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Private lives

**A week
in the
life
of ...**



OFF TO WORK ... David Hart heads off for a day in the life of a Courier Australia driver

David Hart

WEDNESDAY

BEING a courier driver with Courier Australia, I started work bright and early at 8am. I'm what is known as a floater, a driver who works all areas, not just one limited region. I've worked from the depot in Herdsman for around seven months and I'm in the process of purchasing my own van.

After work, it was off to Subiaco Oval for one of many training nights ahead of us this season. Training was fair, as far as training nights go and then a weights circuit followed, so it was early to bed after dinner when I finally got home.

THURSDAY

I LEFT my home in Bassendean just after seven for a day of driving in the 40 degree heat.

After work, the beach was the only place to be, so I joined my wife Robyn and two-year-old daughter Jessica and headed to Scarborough for a swim. We had a bite of tea when we got home, but in that heat, no-one was too hungry.

FRIDAY

I was kindly given the day off work so I could make the trip to Jurien Bay for our annual pre-season training camp. I left my packing to the last minute and did it just before arriving

As told to TANIA ARMSTRONG

at Subiaco Oval at around 10am. We had to do our weights before we left, so an hour or so later we climbed on the bus and headed north.

We had a few sandwiches on the bus and arrived at the camp site at around 2.30pm. We had a meeting to discuss the outline of the camp and after an hour of getting to know the place, we had our first taste of football in Jurien with a training run on the nearby oval.

A shower and a meal followed before we had an evening session of speakers made up of Rob Wiley, Brian Cook, Mick Malthouse and John Worsfold. They all gave a bit of a run down on what they hoped the club would achieve in 1992.

An evening of movies and cards followed for some, while others chose to hit the sack early, anticipating a big day coming up.

SATURDAY

The day began with an athletics carnival at 8am and my team, The Rangers, turned out to be a group that could do with a bit of athletic training. It consisted of Mark Hepburn, Michael Brennan, Brett Heady, Ryan Turnbull, Peter Wilson, Chris Mainwaring and Tony Begovich.

Willo is still not back in full training, so he was an onlooker, along with Heady, who was crook for most of the weekend.

We came third out of five teams, which wasn't too flash — but then, a few of the squad were behind us! We tucked into our breakfast before another session with the footballs.

We made a few of the local kids happy by signing autographs and some team games were next on the agenda after lunch.

Cricket, basketball and volleyball were the go, so I padded up to open the batting alongside fellow opener and assistant coach Rob Wiley. What a shocking duo we turned out to be. He was out for a golden duck and I was out without scoring shortly after.

I did manage to have a win in the quiz night that evening, but only because my team was cheating off Wiley and Tim Gepp, who just happened to make up all the questions.

SUNDAY

A brisk 4km run around an island just off the coast got Sunday underway, while the injured players got off lightly with a walk on the reef. We then piled back onto the boats and headed to camp for breakfast.

Another football session was squeezed in before lunch and a clean-up before boarding the buses. We arrived back at Subiaco at around 5.30.

A few of us were discussing the state of our gardens on the trip back, so when I got home I did the right thing and mowed the lawn before a shower and an early night.

MONDAY

I was up for work at six o'clock and got a surprise when training was called off after our energetic weekend, so I headed straight home after work.

An extra night at home gave me the opportunity of bathing Jessica and then I sat down to watch Australia win the World Series Cup.

TUESDAY

Arrived at work just before eight as usual and worked through until 4.30.

The training postponed from the previous night was held over until tonight, so it was off to Subiaco Oval for the usual run and drills, with our first practice match just under a fortnight away. Football certainly comes around quickly after Christmas!

Our first match of the season isn't until the end of March officially, but a February 1 game against the Crows at Football Park, in Adelaide has everyone keen to impress on the training track.

Kicking around

Pay snooper

THE AFL's salary cap detective, Sandy Robertson, has targeted the new contracts of Steve O'Dwyer and Stuart Wigney, signed to play with Richmond and Sydney respectively.

Robertson has met the managers of the two recruits, seeking details of their payments under the strict salary cap regulations.

Wigney was released by Footscray as part of the deal where Bernard Toohey switched from the Swans, while O'Dwyer was swapped by Melbourne for Richmond's Michael Pickering.

Hefty fines, suspension and draft penalties will be implemented if players and clubs breach league rules.

Tough master

BRISBANE coach Robert Walls is leaving no stone unturned in his preparation for the 1992 season by putting the Bears through a gruelling pre-season.

Part of their schedule includes an athletics carnival against their rugby league counterparts, the Brisbane Broncos, which Walls hopes will toughen them up and improve on their disastrous 1991 season.

Full house

ESSENDON would rather forget their 1991 season, which was hampered by a long list of injuries to key players.

Pre-season has started on a positive note for the Bombers, with a full senior list of players training, except for Bradley Plain, who is still recovering from an Achilles tendon operation.

Abbott's hope

FORMER Hawthorn premiership player Paul Abbott is settling in well with his new club Fitzroy and still believes he has something to offer the inexperienced Lions. Abbott's departure from Glenferrie was not unexpected, only playing four senior games in 1991 after recovering from a badly broken leg in round 10 of 1989.

Crows alive

ADELAIDE Crows mania is alive and well in South Australia, with home match ticket sales already outstripping the 1991 total.

While Crows fans are confident about their 1992 prospects, Adelaide critics believe the emotion that carried the AFL's debut team to great heights last season might have burst.

Football is a great leveller, with many examples of teams performing well in their first season under a new coach, but falling away the next year — or even youngsters who star in their debut year, but struggle for kicks the next season.

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What's happening in sport

SUMMER sporting activities in Perth are many and varied — and football fans indulge in a host of alternative activities. Masters Dairy present this round-up of prominent events over coming weeks.

SPEEDWAY

Friday: Healthways Claremont Speedway — Laurie Matthews speed car Memorial Classic. January 31: Tom McQuade sidecar classic.

BASEBALL

Perth Heat return to Parry Field on Friday and Saturday to play Adelaide, with the Heat's last two home games of the season on February 5 and 6 against Daikyo. The State Super League All Stars clash with Perth Heat next Wednesday (6.30pm), with a return match on Friday, January 31 at 6.30pm.

CRICKET

Fifth Test: Australia v India, at the WACA Ground, from February 1 to 5. WACA fixtures (round 10) start this Saturday (home club first): Scarborough v University; Subiaco-Floreat v South Perth; Claremont-Nedlands v Midland-Guildford; Gosnells v Wanneroo; Mt Lawley v Melville; Bayswater-Morley v Perth; North Perth v Willetton; Fremantle bye.

SWIMMING

January 26: Aussie Australia Day Swim-Thru, Matilda Bay, 10am.

YACHTING

Australia Cup, Royal Perth Yacht Club, 9.30am daily, from Wednesday to February 2. Australia Day weekend regatta — Claremont Yacht Club.

GREYHOUNDS

Thursday, January 23: Heats of the Cannington Gold Cup, Cannington Raceway. Semi-finals February 1

TENNIS

City of Fremantle championships, Fremantle Tennis Club. Australia Day weekend country tournaments, January 25-27.

LAWN BOWLS

Friday — Ladies State open pairs final, Doubleview. Men's R & I State singles, various venues



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Summer diary

Did you miss this...

JANUARY 8: THE West Coast Eagles had their first official training session for the year, with former St Kilda, Hawthorn and East Fremantle ruckman Paul Harding looking fit and enthusiastic at joining his new teammates.

JANUARY 9: Swan Districts defender and Geelong's No. 1 draft choice, Stephen O'Reilly, has put his AFL career on hold for a season, to stay at Bassendean Oval.

JANUARY 10: THE WA Football Commission's long-awaited Football 2000 report was severely criticised by seven of the eight WAFL club presidents. The most controversial aspect covered the proposed relocation of seven clubs; suggestions that were rejected outright. The Commission says the clubs must relocate to where the population growth is occurring and confirmed the admission of two country teams by 1993 and a second WA team in the AFL between 1994 and 1996.

JANUARY 11: South Fremantle president Bill Hughes says any suggestion to relocate the Bulldogs to the Cockburn-Rockingham area was ludicrous and he could never see football moving away from Fremantle Oval. Triple Sandover Medallist and current Swan Districts president Bill Walker accused the Commission of exceeding their authority and their charter.

JANUARY 13: WAFL premiers Claremont, devastated by the AFL national draft, losing 11 players, were confident that the AFL would introduce an up-front payment of \$25,000 for drafted players next year. FORMER West Coast Eagles captain Steve Malaxos says he still wants to play AFL football and hopes to get his chance with another club in the March draft.

JANUARY 14: The AFL Commission denied claims it would provide WAFL clubs with an up-front payment of \$25,000 for drafted players. AN expected crowd of 40,000 Adelaide fans will greet the Eagles when they play their first official practice match against the Crows on February 1. SANDOVER Medallist Ian Dargie is considering a lucrative offer to play in South Australia. THE TWO Port clubs, East Fremantle and South Fremantle, issued a joint statement declaring their inten-

tions to stay at their current grounds — and expressing a desire to be involved in the licence of a second AFL team.

JANUARY 16: AFL Players' Association president Justin Madden wants increased player benefits from the AFL, similar to claims submitted by NSW rugby league players, which include claims such as \$100 fees for every hour spent training.

JANUARY 17: South Fremantle president Bill Hughes announced his



Veteran Phil Narkle... lopped off the Eagles list

shock resignation on the grounds that the fight to keep the club at Fremantle Oval needed the energies of a younger man. Real estate businessman Ric Gloede took over as president.

JANUARY 18: New Richmond recruits Todd Breman and Stevan Jackson have settled in well at Punt Road, vowing to mend their ways and make the most of the opportunities given to them by the Tigers.

JANUARY 19: The Eagles completed a gruelling two-day camp at the coastal town of Jurien Bay. CLAREMONT premiership player John Hutton confirmed his move to the Brisbane Bears this season.

JANUARY 20: Claremont coach Gerard Neesham suggested that the WAFL would become a third-rate competition if the open slather AFL draft continued. FORMER Claremont rover and 1981 premiership player Jim Krakouer is being lured back to the Tigers after being dropped off St Kilda's senior list.

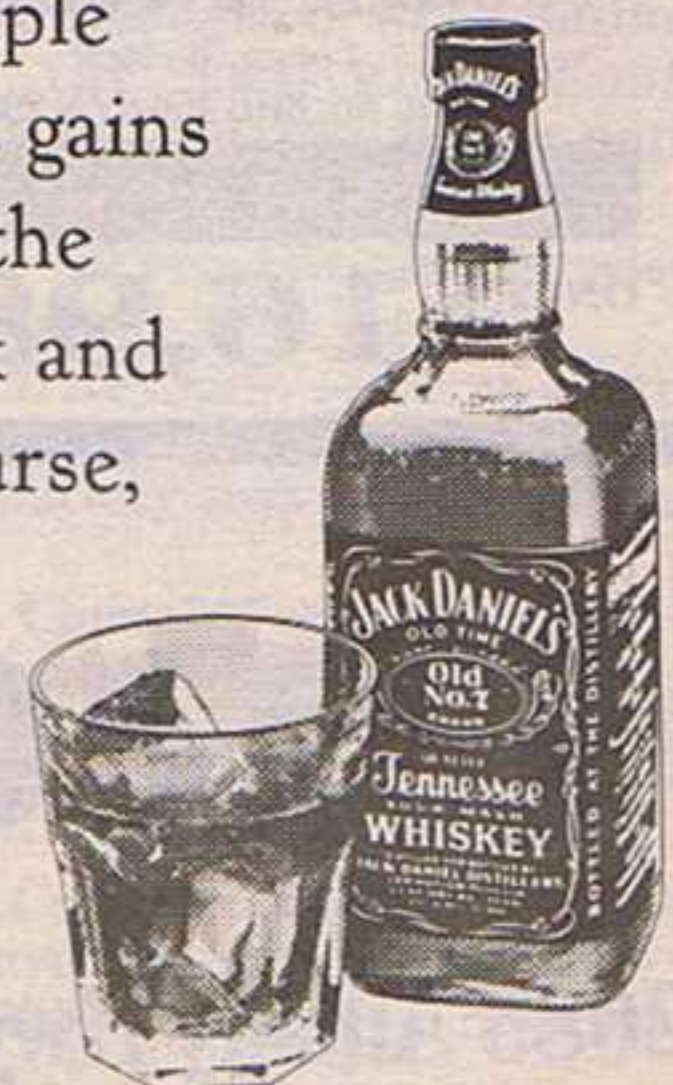
JANUARY 21: Eagles veteran Phil Narkle was dropped off the club's list, after 18 games in an injury-plagued five seasons.



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Football produces trio of

cricket stars



FOOTBALL has been kind to Australia's most popular summer sport, the gentleman's art of cricket.

Three of Western Australia's current cricket stars could have been regular league footballers — Australian vice-captain Geoff Marsh and former Test pair Graeme Wood and Tim Zoehrer.

The talented flannelled trio all tasted WA Football League ranks before their full-time cricket careers.

Terry Alderman, the master of swing bowling, also pounded the football fields as a teenager with amateur side Old Aquinians and was constantly hounded by East Perth.

Former WA and Test fast bowler Chris Matthews was a State amateur with Mt Lawley and big international Tom Moody was invited by Swan Districts coach John Todd to join the black and whites instead of seeking fame and fortune in creams.

PORT TRIO

It was in the sports-mad Fremantle district that Marsh, Wood and Zoehrer showed promise as Aussie Rules stars.

Marsh was a skilful, hard-working centreman; Wood a gutsy forward-line player and Zoehrer a cheeky rover, with plenty of ball-handling skills.

Marsh made five league appearances for South Fremantle in 1978, the same year the 20-year-old embarked on his illustrious first-class cricket career.

Now one of the most respected opening batsmen in world cricket, the WA captain has represented Australia in 49 Tests, with almost 3000 runs at an average of just under 34.

Marsh's tally of nine one-day international centuries is the Australian record, coming from 112 matches.

Marsh is also the highest scorer in Australia's limited-overs competition, with more than 1300 runs at an incredible average of almost 70.

Australian Test star Geoff Marsh on a gentle jog ... and as South Fremantle fans remember him in 1978. BELOW: WA's most prolific run-scorer, Graeme Wood

By

KIM HAGDORN

Wood played 14 senior games with East Fremantle, while Zoehrer made four league appearances with Old Easts.

Zoehrer also coached North Midlands club Three Springs into a drawn grand final in 1985, only to lose the replay.

Later that year, Zoehrer made his international cricket debut, going on to play 10 Tests for Australia and in 90 appearances for WA, he has more than 280 dismissals.

Marsh and Zoehrer both made their own decisions to terminate their developing football careers.

However, Wood's football started to wind up after a frank discussion with Old Easts coach John Todd late in 1976.

In March 1977, Wood had made his first-class debut for WA, against England at the WACA Ground as the Englishmen were on their way to the historic Centenary Test in Melbourne.

Todd vaguely recalls the chat he had to Wood, which led to the courageous left-handed batsman putting together 3374 runs at an average of 31.83, including nine centuries, in 59 Tests.

"I've had plenty of conversations with footballers about their careers over the years," says Todd. "So it's hard to recall exactly what was said between Woody and I then.

"But basically, it was up to him. He had the potential to play regular league football if he was willing to work at it.

"But he was finding it hard to consolidate a regular league spot at East Fremantle and was on the verge of something exciting as a cricketer.

"So he had a tough decision to make.

"It's easy to look back now that he has produced such an impressive crick-



Dashing Tim Zoehrer was once a nippy rover with East Fremantle

et record and say he made the right decision.

"The argument of just how successfully cricketers and footballers can combine two sports has been going on for as long as I've been in the game and that's 35 years.

"Alan Preen, in the 1950s and Tom Mullooly in the 1970s immediately spring to mind," Todd said, with names like Ken McAullay, Derek Chadwick and Todd Breman added to the list.

Todd's concerns were echoed by his East Fremantle successor Alan Joyce, who told a meeting of players in 1978 that anyone who couldn't commit themselves fully to the football season should reconsider their future.

That was Wood's cue to bow out and his decision has been more than justified ... and confirmed by cricket's history books.

He is one of the most decorated cricketers ever produced in WA.

Wood retired last month as WA's highest first-class and Sheffield Shield run-scorer and the batsman who has scored more centuries for his State than any other player.

He also captained WA to a record three successive Shield victories between 1986 and 1989.

A cricket ball.

Now you can have a ball at the cricket with our new WACA Corporate Package. During the WACA's Month of World Class Cricket we are offering reserved seating plus a superb three course restaurant meal from just \$70 per person. Bookings are now open for the Fifth Test (1st to 5th February), the historic WA versus South Africa day/nighter (9th February) and England versus India (22nd February).

So if you want to have a ball, now is the time to call.

325 9800.

PERTH matches have been among the most controversial in the 115-year history of Test cricket.

West Australian stars have figured prominently in some of the headline-grabbing incidents that have rocked Test cricket in recent decades.

Since the first Perth Test in December, 1970, when WA great Graham McKenzie was handed the honour of bowling the first ball, the WACA Ground has been the centre of many stormy and hostile cricket scenes.

Another former great West Aussie speedster in Dennis Lillee was the centre of two famous controversies of the Test arena.

It was Lillee's aluminium bat that stopped the First Test against England in December, 1979 — with England captain Mike Brearley com-

Perth hosts plenty of cricket drama

plaining that the tin bat was damaging the ball. When told he couldn't use his new weapon, the flamboyant Lillee hurled the bat away in disgust.

Lillee was the centre of the most controversial international confrontation since the incredible bodyline series of 1932-33, when he clashed physically with volatile Pakistan bats-

man Javed Miandad at the WACA in November, 1981.

With Pakistan battling to avoid defeat against the Lillee and Terry Alderman bombardment, Miandad pushed a ball to square-leg and set off for a run.

After a brief verbal conflict, Lillee directed a kick at the chirpy Paki-

Focus on
Test cricket
— Perth
February 1-5

stani, which contacted with the back of Miandad's leg.

With bat threateningly raised at Lillee, the Australian paceman prepared to defend himself with fists as the umpire intervened as if defusing a heated Aussie Rules or rugby confrontation.

Alderman featured in the headlines when he was involved in an amazing confrontation almost a year to the day after the Lillee-Miandad affair.

Playing in his second Perth Test, the big West Aussie chased and tackled an illegal on-ground intruder, only to dislocate his right shoulder in the contest.

Alderman jeopardised his career with that moment of fury at the invasion by hundreds of English fans celebrating the tourists' 400-run milestone.

Modern day national fast-bowling hero Merv Hughes provided plenty of hostilities in a heated Perth Test match in December, 1988.

HAT-TRICK

Hughes completed one of the most unique hat-tricks in Test cricket when he trapped Windies opener Gordon Greenidge leg-before-wicket with the first ball of the tourists' second innings after finishing the first innings off with successive wickets.

Hughes went on to complete a record-breaking 13-wicket haul for the match with his second innings haul of 8-87.

It was another West Australian in Tony Mann who grabbed the headlines when he scored his only Test century against India in 1977.



Geoff Marsh ... going into bat for Australia.

In March, 1979 when fast-bowler Allan Hurst ran out Pakistani tailender Sikander Bakht at the non-striker's end while in his bowling motion.

Pakistan paceman Safraz Nawaz responded when Australia batted by appealing for "handling the ball" against Andrew Hilditch as the Aussie vice-captain handed the ball back from the non-striker's end to the bowler.

WA's Kim Hughes became the State's first Test captain when he led the team in that match.

However, Hughes was restricted with an ankle injury and hardly took the field after stepping on a stray ball during training and his direction was restricted mainly to the change-rooms.

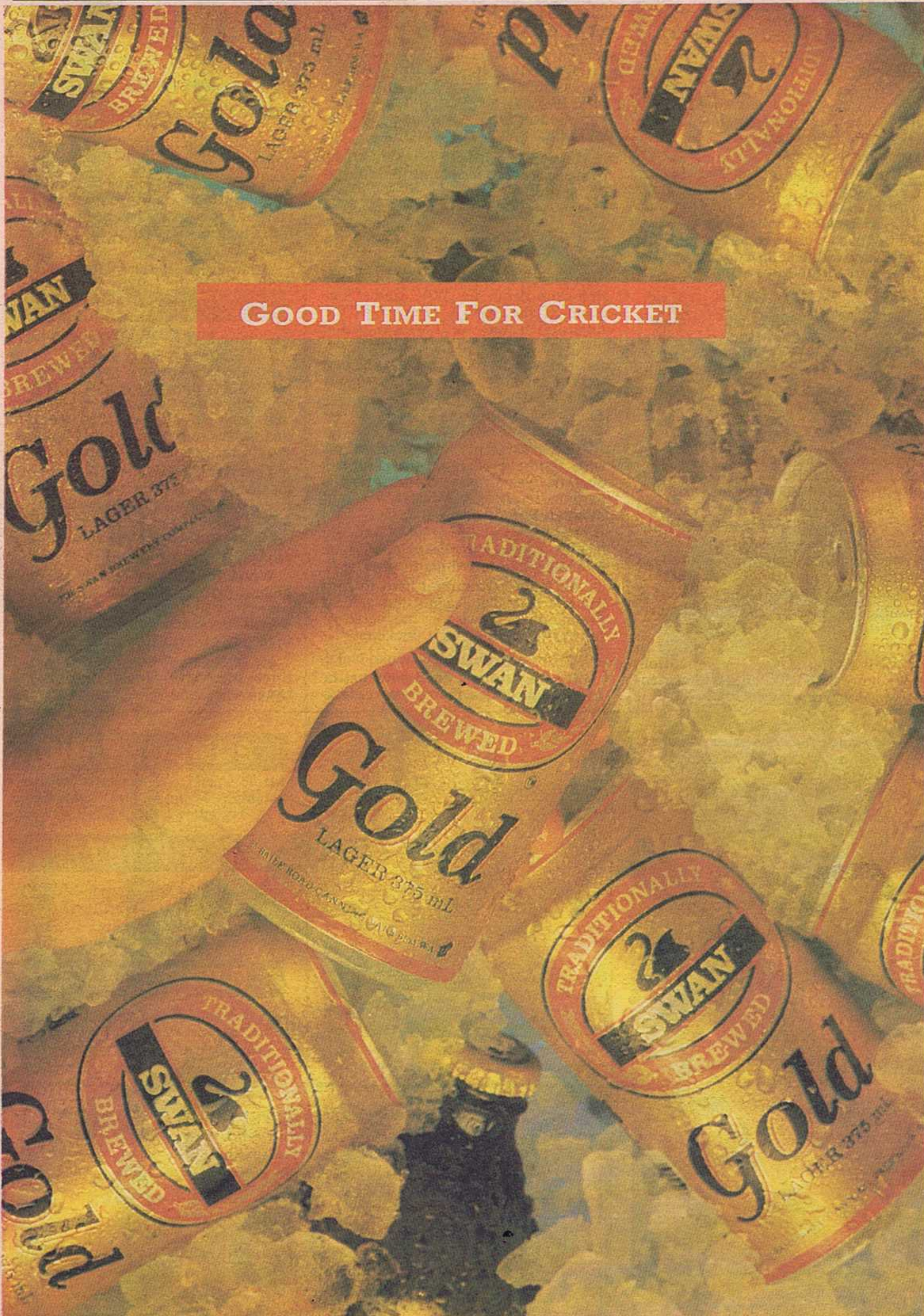
Perth Tests are also remembered for the highlights like:

* Doug Walters' sensational century in the final session of a day's play against England in 1974-75.

* Graeme Wood's courageous 111 against the West Indies in 1988.

* A powerful West Indies victory in 1975-76, their only success of a six Test series against the Aussies.

— KIM HAGDORN



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