

BOUNCEDOWN BONANZA!

THE 1992 football action has kicked off with the West Coast Eagles beating Collingwood in Darwin to open their Foster's Cup campaign... and ALAN EAST has a full report, with exclusive pictures, on the Top End excursion.
 INSIDE ALSO: Kim Hagdorn reports on some player-squabbles in the WAFL and talks to a WA star facing his last chance in the AFL

WA's only football newspaper

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DARWIN MAGIC



There was a touch of magic around Darwin when AFL football went to the Top End to launch the start of the \$344,000 Foster's Cup competition... and one of the game's real magicians was part of it. Former South Fremantle and Richmond star Maurice Rioli is never far away from a football even though he is now back in his home town of Darwin — and don't the locals love him! Maurice the Magician is pictured with a couple of adoring students back at his old school in Darwin — so watch for a special report from ALAN EAST in our next edition. And there was plenty of magic on the playing field also, as the Eagles downed Collingwood. The TV crews and the fans were quick to zero in on David Hynes after his match-winning seven goals.



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PRESENTS



Summertime footy gossip

with KIM HAGDORN and DAMIAN BIANCHINI

Eagles take up the whistle

WEST Coast Eagles stars John Worsfold, Peter Sumich and Dean Irving will don umpiring whites this weekend as part of South Fremantle's pre-season preparation.

The Eagles trio will umpire a four-team round-robin competition at Fremantle Oval on Saturday and Sunday, as part of a big weekend of football at the Port.

The football feast kicks off at 5.30 on Friday evening, when Souths take on a West Coast Eagles team, with Sumich lining up for the Eagles against his old WAFL club.

Bulldogs coach Mal Brown will experiment with some of the club's most exciting recruits in Friday's clash, including Pingelly star Wayne Hernaman and Tambellup rover Russell Williams.

Brown will also test talented big man Grant Nalder at centre-half-back.

YOUNG PLAYERS

"We'll mix a combination of younger players with the established guys and it's an opportunity for everybody to show their early form," Brown said.

"We're probably a little under-done in the ball-work for a match like this.

"We haven't even kicked at goals yet. But it should be a good game in a great concept."

Brown has divided his training list into four teams for the round-robin series, with sides to be captained by Wally Matera, Brad Collard, Ned Fimmano and Mark Collins.

Two matches will be played on Saturday morning, followed by another two in the afternoon. The series concludes with the final two games on Sunday morning. All matches will be of 15-minute quarters.

Port switch

EXPERIENCED East Fremantle defender Jon Derecourt is set to move across the Port to join South Fremantle.

Derecourt's move to Souths could alter the football path of former Teal Cup ruckman Richard Graham, who has been training at East Perth, hoping to rejoin his former Bulldogs coach, Stan Magro.

However, East Fremantle's need for big men is certain to be a factor as the Sharks ponder how best to replace Derecourt and a host of other big-man departures.

Derecourt, who has put together 102 senior games with the Sharks, has been training with Souths for three weeks and the Bulldogs have lodged a clearance application with East Fremantle.

Derecourt, who turned 24 last week, follows a host of East Fremantle players who have departed this year — ruckmen Lance Durack, Greg Hodson and Clinton Wolf and 200-game veteran Shane Ellis.

The Sharks are not expected to stand in Derecourt's way, but are sure to seek a player-swap before granting a clearance.

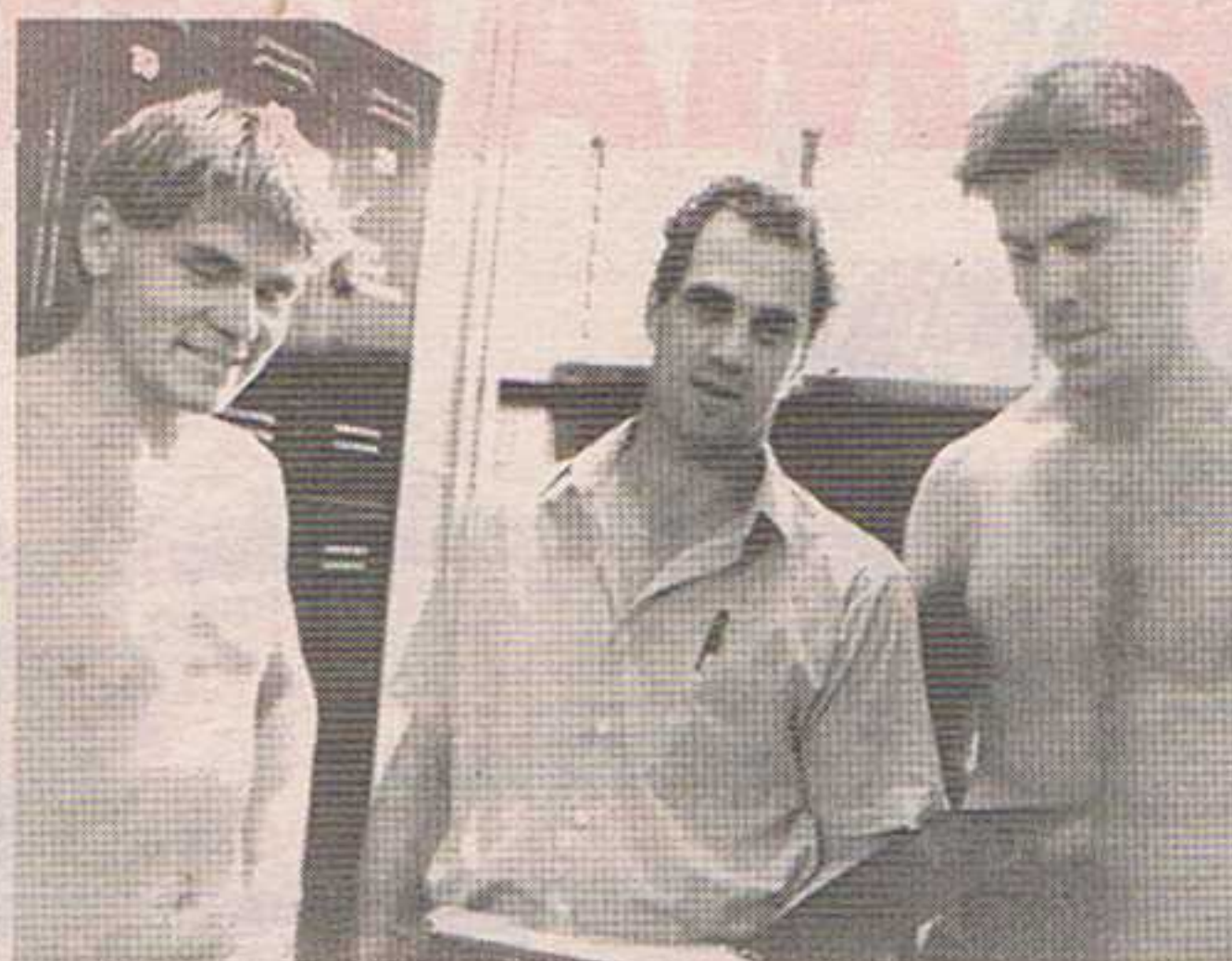
Ducky recovers

RUGGED West Perth and former Essendon dual premiership player Bill Duckworth is making a sound recovery from knee surgery before Christmas.

Duckworth, one of the toughest AFL competitors to make his mark from the West, suffered a disastrous return to his WAFL club in 1991.

A crippling run of injuries restricted the former Bombers star to just seven league games.

Royals impress



New Royals coach Stan Magro chats with emerging players in Mark Colthart (left) and Troy Starcevic

EAST Perth's new mentor Stan Magro is impressed with the young talent available at Perth Oval. Magro has put in plenty of hours over summer assessing the talent depth at the Royals and he is confident that the club can continue to be competitive on the field. Two youngsters who have impressed on the track are Rod Wheatley and Dean Fancote, who represented WA at the Teal Cup championships in Darwin last year and are keen to progress to senior ranks. Also back in training is 18-year-old Leigh Walker, one of WA's most exciting juniors and a former WA schoolboy representative. After two knee reconstructions, Royals coaching staff are pleased with Walker's progress during pre-season.

But he is making a determined bid to resume a full-time role in the Falcons quest to lift the club from the bottom of the WAFL ladder.

INTEGRAL PART

Club football manager Matt Tweedie says that Duckworth forms an integral part of the club's plans for 1992.

"Billy has done everything asked of him since he resumed training just after the New Year," Tweedie said.

The Falcons have received another boost with the return to full training of former goal-kicking ace Paddy Madaffari, who stood out of all football in 1991, but has been enticed back by new coach Jeff Gieschen.

The Falcons boss has also encouraged experienced defender Gary Holden to confine his league career after planning retirement.

However, Gieschen has failed in his attempt to talk 1991 club captain David Palm out of retiring.

"At this stage David is continuing with his plans to retire, but the door will remain open should he change his mind," Tweedie said.

Sharks gather

FORMER East Fremantle coach Ron Wilcox is gathering a powerful playing unit for his return to Sunday Football League ranks at Canning.

Wilcox, who accepted the Canning position late last year, has enticed former Sharks premiership players George Christie and Colin Waterson out of retirement into pre-season training.

Christie and another former Sharks star, David Rankin, have been assisting Wilcox in co-ordinating Canning's pre-season programme.

Waterson, Christie and Rankin join another East Fremantle team-mate in David Bushell, who has already declared an intention to play SFL with Canning this season.

Bulldogs unite

SOUTH Fremantle will kick off their social activities for 1992 with a Fremantle Oval reunion of the Bulldogs 1970 premiership side this Friday night. The club will honour Sir Thomas Wardle, the former Lord Mayor of Perth and long-serving Bulldogs patron, who offered a handy incentive for the players to win the 1970 flag. At least 40 players from that year are expected to attend. Captain-coach of the 1970 side, Hassa Mann and back-pocket player John Reilly cannot make the occasion due to work commitments in the Eastern States.

Lions influence

THE influence of Subiaco coaching veteran Haydn Bunton is spreading outside Subiaco Oval.

Recently-retired premiership players Mick Lee and Brian Taylor will take up WA Amateur Football League coaching roles this season, leading West Coast and North Beach respectively with 1988 premiership player Kevan Sparks in his second year with Trinity Aquinas.

West Coast have also secured the services of another Subiaco player in Bevan Warner, who will coach the colts side and play with the seniors.

Lee, a former State footballer and Simpson Medalist, says it would be hard not to adopt some of the techniques used successfully by Bunton over the past decade.

"Bunton stressed all the little, but important things in football and I'll be hoping to do that as well," says Lee.

Lee will pit his coaching talents in a practice match against former Lions teammate Neil Taylor, the newly-appointed coach of Sunday Football League side Mandurah, when West Coast take on the Mustangs on March 15.

Demons recruits



Matthew Congleton shapes up for a training session at Lathlain Park

PERTH have wasted no time in snapping up exciting young Kelmscott duo Damien Eves and Matthew Congleton. The two were key players for the Bulldogs, who were beaten by Armadale in last year's Sunday Football League preliminary final. Eves, a tall and agile ruckman, will give the Demons extra versatility, while Congleton, the SFL's leading goal-kicker and a former East Fremantle Teal Cup representative, will be a handy player in the forward line.



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Sharks keen to snare

REIGNING WAFL premiers Claremont are headed for an off-field showdown with East Fremantle over the services of former West Coast Eagles wingman Peter Davidson.

The rival clubs could also face a confrontation over former AFL star Jim Krakouer.

While Davidson has started training with East Fremantle, setting up a clearance squabble, the 33-year-old Krakouer is still considering his football options, which could involve either club.

Krakouer was dropped off St Kilda's senior list last year, despite his brilliant careers with Claremont and North Melbourne — but he seems more likely to accept a higher-paying offer in the Victorian Football Association.

Davidson started training with East Fremantle two weeks ago, but the Tigers maintain that he is still their player — despite not listing him at any

By **KIM HAGDORN**

time since he was deleted by the Brisbane Bears.

Local league clubs can retain up to 52 players on their senior lists and under WAFL rules, AFL players are considered "sleepers" pending their return.

East Fremantle are being tight-lipped about the situation, but Neesham says Davidson is a Claremont player and a clearance will have to be negotiated.

"He's back from his AFL club and if he wants to play football, he must be considered as a Claremont player," says Tigers coach Gerard Neesham.

"On his day and fully fit, he is a very good player."

Davidson's arrival at East Fremantle Oval is motivated by the presence of younger brother Jeff, who made an impressive debut into WAFL ranks last year and was widely regarded as one of the season's top rookies.

Peter (28) was dropped from the Bears list last May, after failing to add

Tigers duo

to the seven senior games he played with the Gold Coast club in 1990.

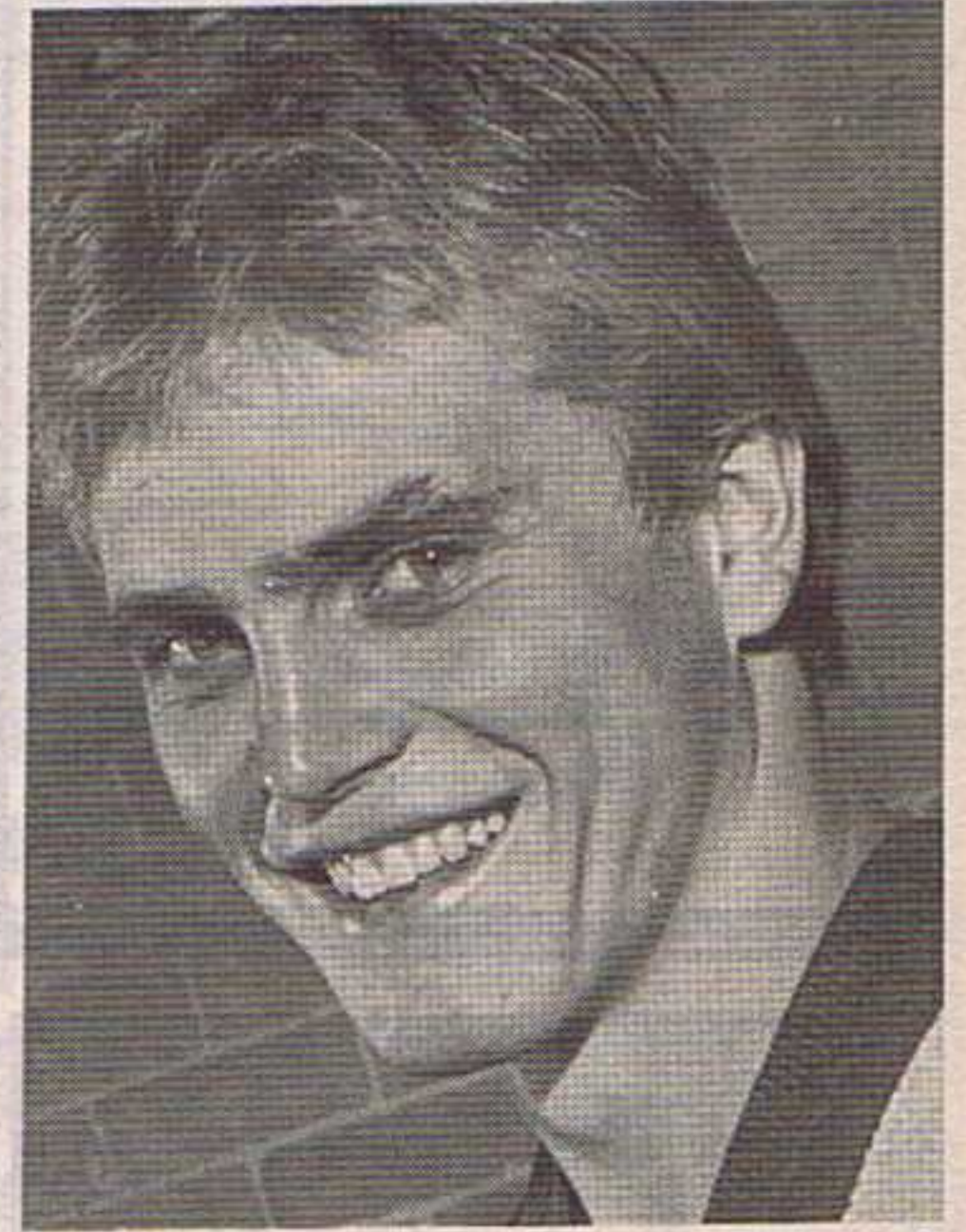
An exciting ball-gatherer with outstanding all-round disposal skills, Davidson had been a surprise draft choice by the Bears in March, 1990.

He was an original Eagle in 1987 before a crippling run of leg injuries curtailed his promising career.

Krakouer has held talks with Neesham about the prospect of returning to Claremont to finish his distinguished career.

However, the clever ball-gatherer has also indicated an interest in playing alongside young brother Billy, who joined East Fremantle mid-way through the 1989 season after battling to secure a regular league game with Claremont.

The younger Krakouer, a skilful on-ball player and handy around the goals, is now an integral part of the Sharks revival plans for 1992.



Peter Davidson ... keen to be a Shark?

Top stuff

TENNIS was on the agenda soon after the West Coast Eagles party touched down in Darwin for their Foster's Cup Top End experiment.

Despite the hot and humid conditions, Eagles coach Mick Malthouse called his traditional pre-match muster on the courts ... and attracted a few other support staff as well.

Malthouse looks pretty happy here after teaming successfully with his assistant Rob Wiley to chalk up an historical Northern Territory victory, beating selectors Tim Gepp and Ian Miller, 6-0, 6-3.

Eagles chairman of selectors Trevor Sprigg took the chance to catch up with an old Swan Brewery colleague in Brian Haley, a one-time team runner for Swan Districts coach John Todd, now based in Darwin successfully selling the Swan product.

Another court saw an official battle between Eagles chairman Terry O'Connor and statistician Jerry Linsten, up against deputy chairman, Dwane Buckland and director Murray McHenry.

While the serve-volley sweaters battled it out, Eagles general manager Brian Cook and football manager Trevor Nisbett made light of the humidity in a 30-minute jog through the surrounding parklands.



Melesso aims to be back

By **GEORGE TEMPLE**

EAST Perth fans can look forward to seeing big man Peter Melesso back on the comeback trail at Perth Oval sometime in March.

That is the confident prediction from Melesso, who will know this week if he has beaten the killer cancer disease.

If tests prove successful, Melesso is determined to rejoin the Royals in the WAFL this season, which is good news for new coach Stan Magro.

After dropping to 65kg when the lymphatic cancer was at its height, the former West Coast Eagle now weighs 90kg, just 5kg below his ideal playing weight.

"I'm pushing weights and jogging daily and feel better each time I run," he said this week from his Melbourne home.

HUMOUR

Melesso, who has not lost his sense of humour, is confident the tests will show the cancer is in remission.

"I was small enough to be a jockey," the 192cm utility player said.

"But I should be in good nick by the end of March, when I'll be back to my playing weight.

"My condition has improved significantly in recent months and I'm in weekly contact with Cam Robbins, the East Perth development officer.

"I also spoke with Stan Magro when I was in Perth last December.

"I don't care where I play, so long as I get on the field."

Magro says it would be a tremendous bonus to have a fully fit Melesso in the team.

"If his health is okay, we'd love to have him back," he said.

Melesso's world was turned upside down in 1990, just when it appeared he had resurrected his flagging national football career with the Eagles.

Then 29, he looked capable of solving the Eagles centre-half-back problems before a suspension cut short his AFL dream to play in the finals.

Breathing problems and a lack of stamina in training soon followed, but it wasn't till the team returned from an overseas trip in October that tests revealed lymphatic cancer.

Melesso, uncompromising on the field, is a genial character on the sidelines.

He was one of the most-liked men in WA football, both as an Eagle and with East Perth, whom he joined in 1990 after three seasons with Claremont.

Friends and footballers rallied to his aid as he fought the disease.

Hundreds of fans raised several thousand dollars at a benefit lunch at the Carlisle Hotel, where he worked as a bar manager, to help with his treatment costs.

Melesso said support from family, friends and people he never even knew, gave him the courage to keep fighting the cancer.

"My family, in particular, has been terrific," he said. "It would be a great birthday present for my mum if the tests are negative."

His mother, Jean, turns 65 on February 28 and the family is planning a huge party.

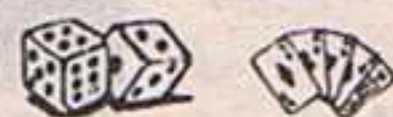
The footballer, who will need a job on his return to Perth, said international cricketer Simon O'Donnell was another source of inspiration.

O'Donnell was struck down with a similar cancer, but fought back to be the 1990-91 international Cricketer of the Year.

STUDIO 7's BEST KEPT SECRET

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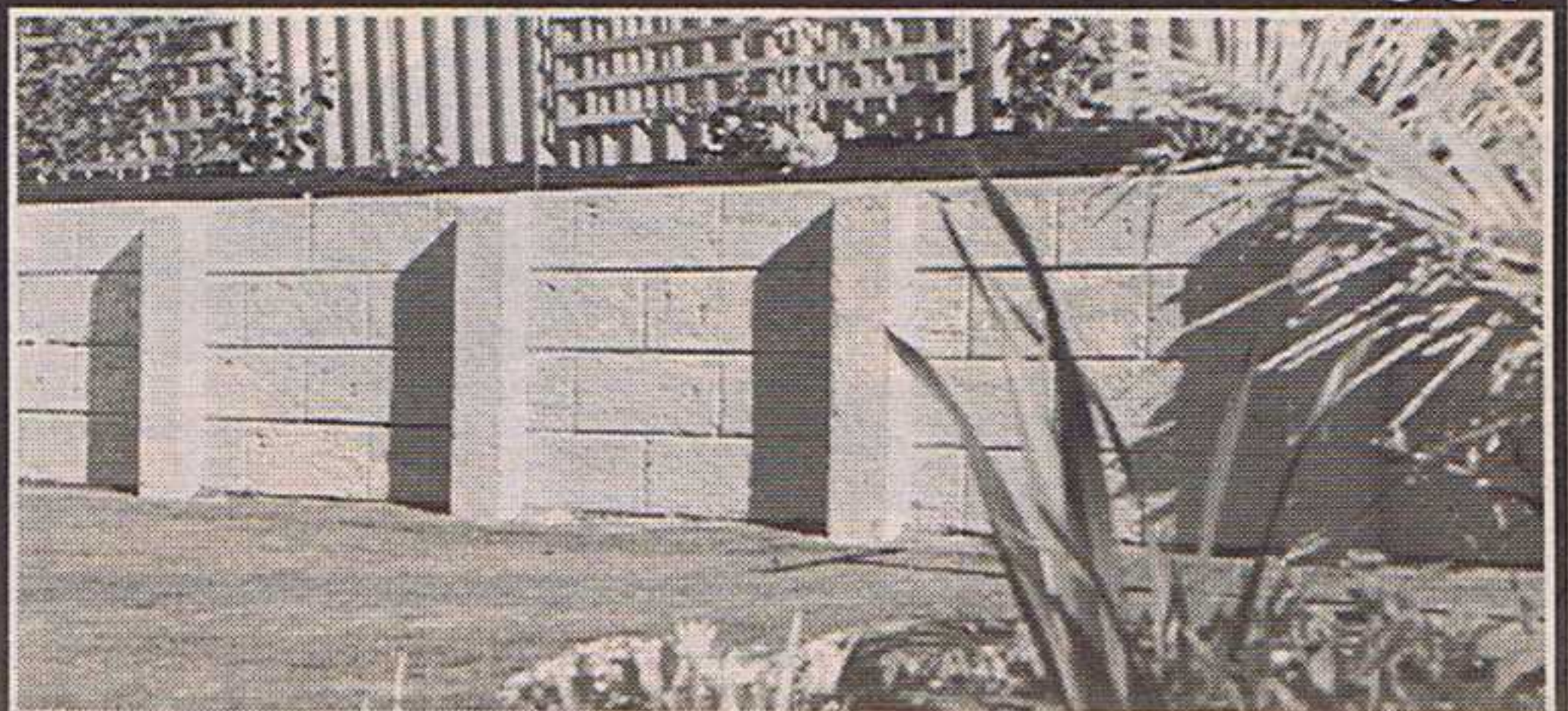
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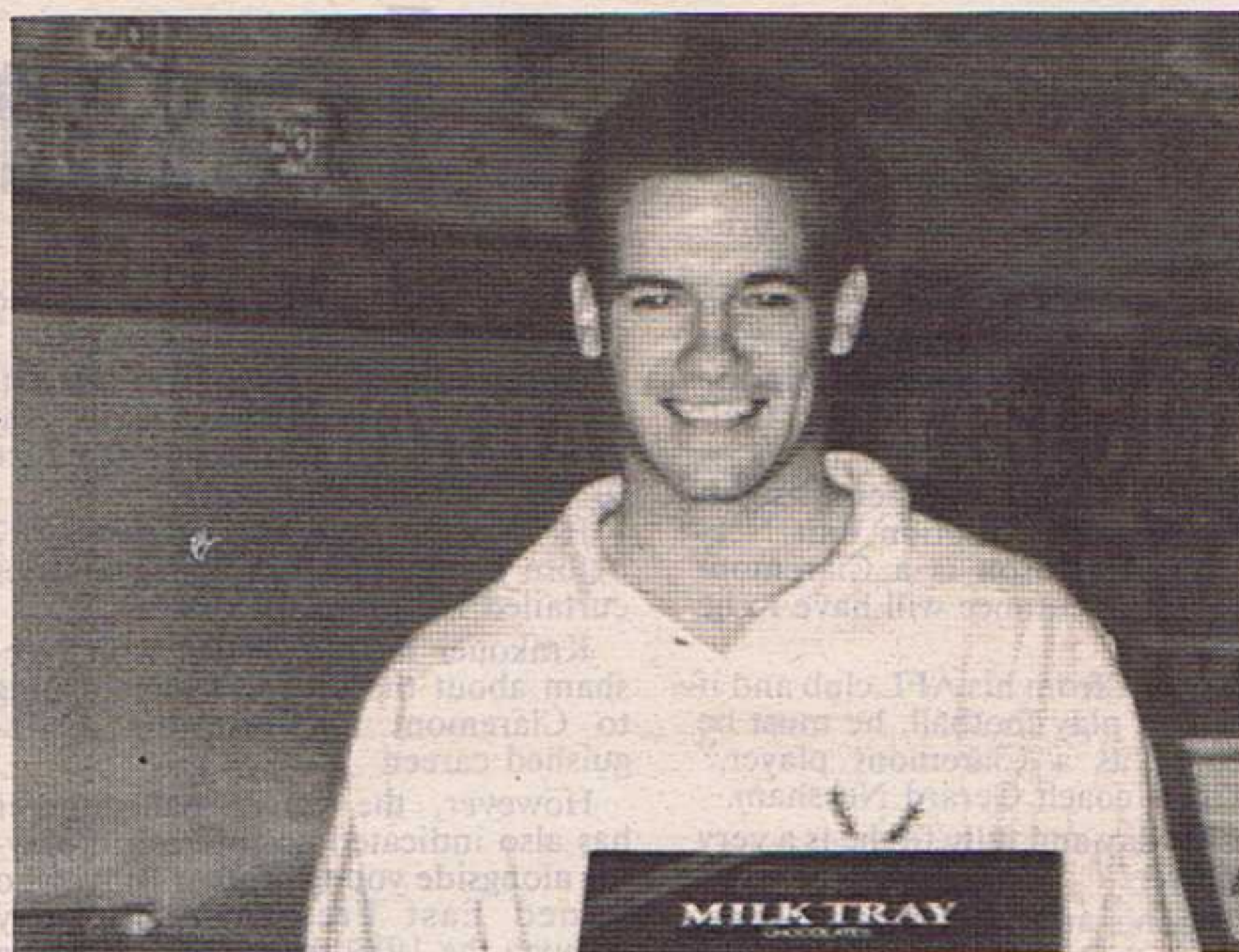
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A week in the life of ...



TRENT NICHOLS ... at work with his chocolates.

Trent Nichols

WEDNESDAY

THE day started off at work at 8am, with Cadbury Confectionery, in Carlisle, where I've been for just over a week as a sales representative, after a stint with Esanda Finance.

I spent most of the day at a shopping centre in Dog Swamp, along with Peter Freeman (another Victorian Eagles recruit from St Kilda, who also works with the company) and two other reps, who were showing the new boys the ropes. Knocked off work around 2.30 after finishing the display and headed home to Leederville.

I watched a bit of television before going to Subiaco Oval and having a chat with the coach before training.

We split into two groups, those who had played in the heat in Darwin and the ones who hadn't. Mick Malthouse went a bit easier on the squad members who had played against Collingwood, as it was a pretty exhausting day.

The usual weights session followed and when I got home, it was time to tune into the television to watch Geelong take on St Kilda in the Foster's Cup.

THURSDAY

I'm lucky enough to have Thursday and Friday off work, so I did the right thing by the wife and helped out around the home, doing my share of the housework.

I went into town later in the day and bought my wife, Cassie, a gold watch for Valentine's Day — our first as a married couple and naturally, our first in Perth.

FRIDAY

Another day off and I started by surprising Cassie with her new watch. In return, I got a pair of Phantom boxer shorts.

Then I drove over to McNerney Ford, in Morley, to change over my car, but it wasn't going to be ready till Tuesday. After another lazy day as Cassie and I ventured into Northbridge for a Thai dinner in James Street. We called in to the Racquet Club in East Perth on the way home for a bit of night-clubbing.

As told to **TANIA ARMSTRONG**

SATURDAY

After a pleasant sleep-in, we went into the city in the afternoon to do some shopping and also to get Cassie's watched band shortened.

After a late one on Friday night, I was quite happy to stay home and cook a barbecue tea, finishing off the evening with a couple of videos.

SUNDAY

Went to do some more shopping, for a change, this time at the Subiaco markets. I was supposed to find a birthday present for my sister, but I came away empty-handed.

After another quiet day of odd jobs around the house, we spent the night in front of the television and had a laugh at Good Morning Vietnam.

MONDAY

Back to work with Cadbury's at 8am and spent all day at Woolworths, in

Belmont, putting in the new lines of chocolate.

Went straight to training at five o'clock and spent most of the evening doing contest drills. Just when we thought it was safe to leave the track, a couple of the guys, including me, were called over to do a bit of extra work before heading down the race to the showers.

Chris Lewis and Tony Evans were two of the players and Evo obliged by giving me a blood nose with a sharp elbow.

TUESDAY

Started work at the usual time of 8 o'clock with the regular call at the Carlisle depo.

Spent another day in Woolworths and then headed out to McNerney Ford to pick up the new Ford Corsair.

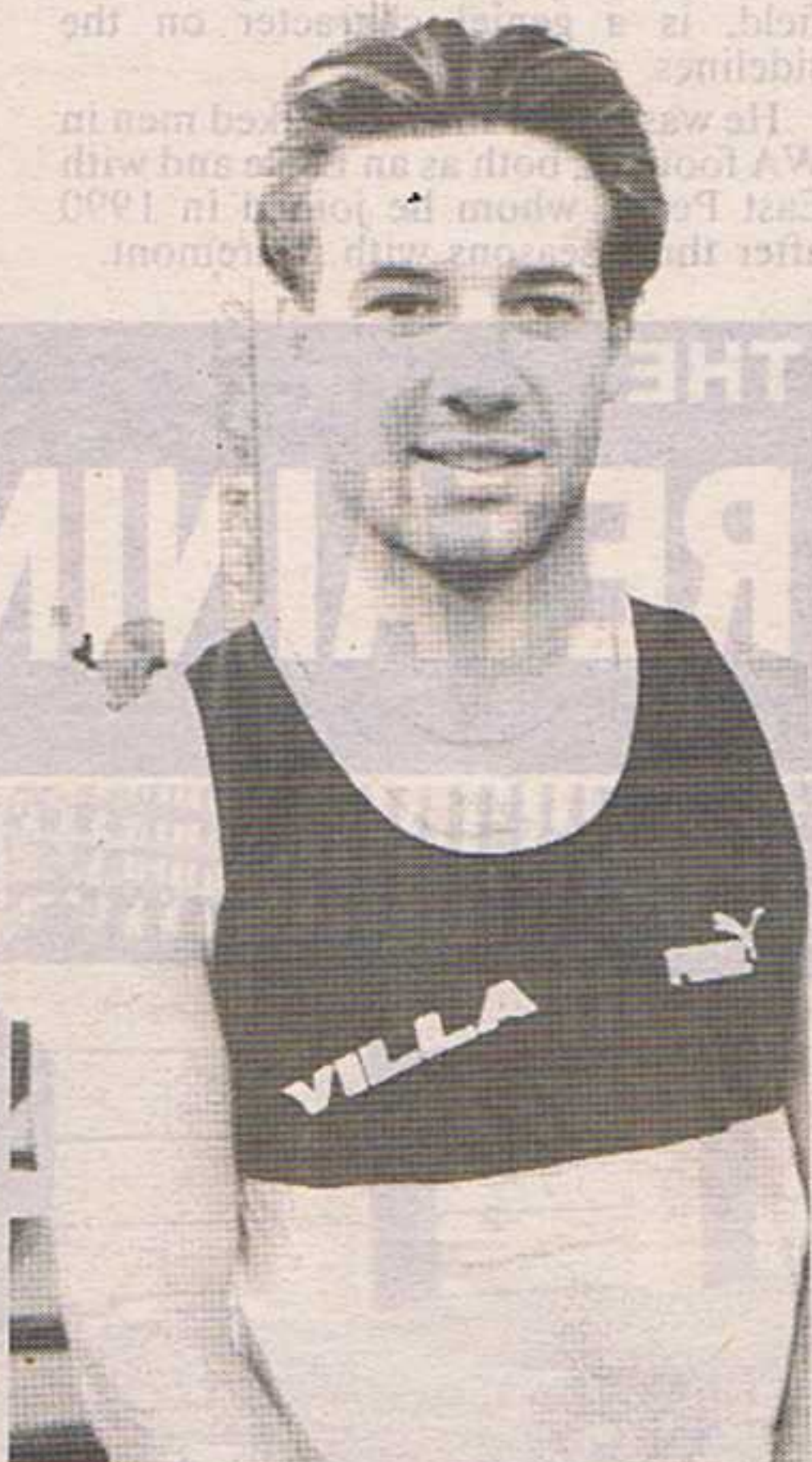
Went to Ogdens Restaurant, in South Perth, for dinner with Matt Clape and his girlfriend Kristen and then went across the river to town to take advantage of half-price night at the movies by watching Cape Fear.

Seecamp stars

EAST Perth's Marcus Seecamp has impressed with his early form for Fitzroy. The young defender, second choice in last year's draft, had 26 possessions in the Lions practice match against Richmond. Fellow West Aussie Darren Kowal also did well when he got a run in the second half of the Foster's Cup loss to Footscray.

Top team

MELBOURNE goalkicking sensation Allen Jakovich has been signed by football boot manufacturers, Puma, giving the white flash a talented quartet of full-forwards. The Puma boots will also be kicking goalwards on the feet of top sharp-shooter, Tony Lockett (St Kilda), West Coast ace Peter Sumich and Hawthorn's Jason Dunstall. However, things aren't going all that well for Jakovich off the field. Despite kicking 71 goals from 14 games last season, he was dropped from the Demons line-up to play Footscray in their recent Foster's Cup clash. He was left out because of indifferent pre-season form and failing to attend a training session.



... and ready for training

Mitchell lure

SYDNEY Swans rover Barry Mitchell will probably be offered the captaincy role this season in order to keep the talented little man in the harbour city. Mitchell rejected a long-term contract last season, opting for just the one-year agreement, raising speculation that he might follow his 1991 teammates Greg Williams and Bernard Toohey back to Victoria. Mitchell has been an outstanding contributor for the Swans during his 148-game career and the captaincy would be a just reward.

Owen's worry

BRISBANE recruit, former Melbourne and St Kilda player Rod Owen, was missing from the Bears line-up against Richmond in their Foster's Cup match. His absence fuelled speculation that he was again troubled by knee problems, something that has restricted him to 69 games in nine seasons. Brisbane's football manager, Shane O'Sullivan, says Owen will be nursed through the pre-season and be ready for their opening game against Carlton on March 21.

Shaw sidelined

TONY Shaw's nagging back problems are a concern for Collingwood. The injury will sideline the courageous captain for another two weeks, as doctors try to find out what is actually causing the trouble. The back ailment has reduced Shaw to a slow walk and leaves coach Leigh Matthews with an on-field problem. Shaw's leadership and ball-getting skills are invaluable, particularly with the loss of Doug Barwick through injury and the death of Darren Millane.

Blood-stained

GEELONG pair Mark Bairstow and Paul Brown have become the first two players forced to change their guernseys under new AFL rules governing the HIV virus. The umpires ordered both players to swap guernseys as they bled from facial cuts — but they later allowed Cats star Neville Bruns to play on despite a cut lip.

Career revival

GEELONG star Billy Brownless has admitted that he went close to being axed three years ago, when his career was on the skids as he fell victim to the social trappings associated with being a league footballer. Brownless says that there was a time in 1988 when he was languishing in the reserves, while he spent too much time in nightclubs and hotels.

Dashing Dennis

FORMER Carlton premiership player Richard Dennis believes he has overcome his persistent knee problems and is hoping for an injury-free year at his new club, North Melbourne. The talented forward, who slotted in well at Carlton after being drafted from East Perth, has struggled in the last four seasons, playing only 57 games, due to injury and poor form. Dennis is confident that a full pre-season and a change of environment will benefit his football — and he is also being experimented with in a defensive role.

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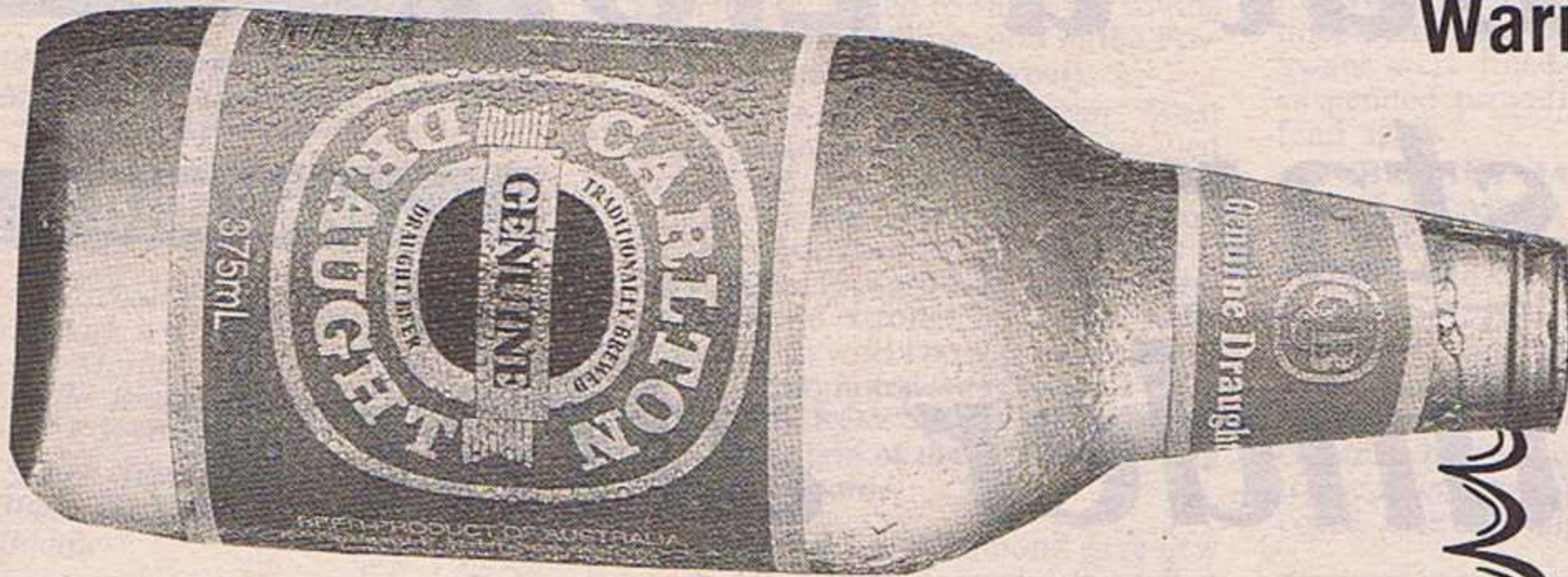
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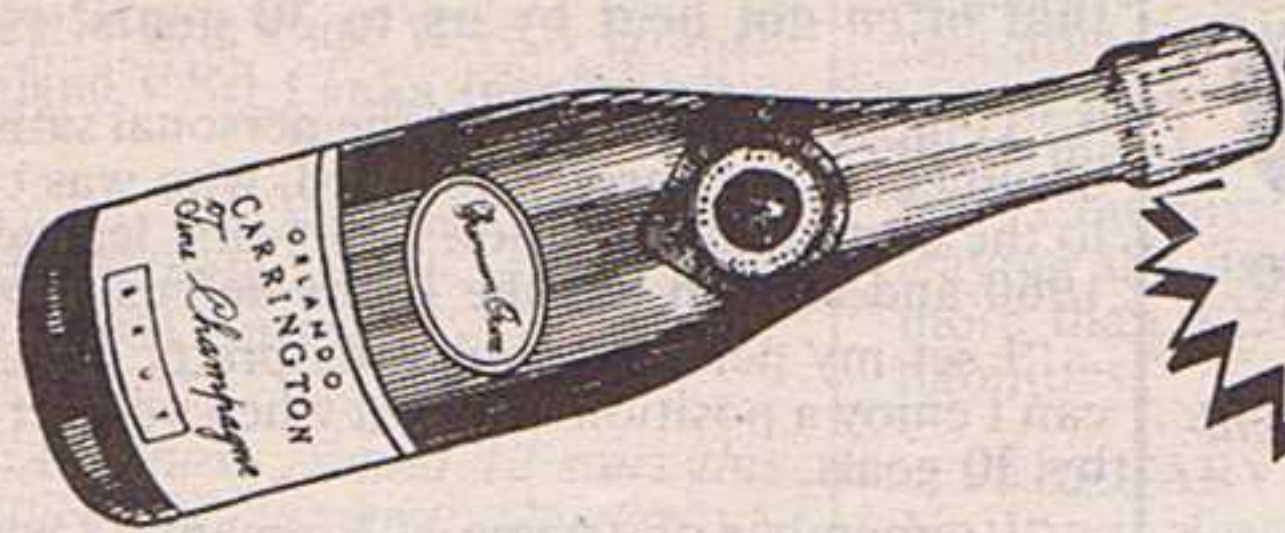
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Eagle talk

Harding settles in nicely

THE long-awaited recruiting of Paul Harding to the Eagles camp is going to put a new complexion on the big-man make-up of the side.

The veteran ruckman is settling into the West Coast style of play with remarkable ease and is obviously going to be well in favour with coach Mick Malthouse.

The former East Fremantle premiership player surprised Malthouse with his Simpson Medal winning effort in WA's State-of-Origin win over Victoria at the WACA Ground last year; with the Eagles coach giving Harding a tough role up against giants like Simon Madden and Paul Salmon.

On that historic night at the WACA Ground, Harding was out to prove a point — that he can ruck against the best big men in the business.

NOT ACCEPTED

That fact had never really been accepted by his previous coaches at Hawthorn and St Kilda and even though he has 73 AFL games behind him, he was keen to return home to Perth to really forge his reputation.

"I'm settling into the role well," says Harding, after an impressive Foster's Cup effort against Collingwood in Darwin, which was his second appearance in an Eagles guernsey.

"I like playing across the centre and I had no fears about tackling the Collingwood big men.

"I feel as though I'm getting better each hit-out. Mick's giving me the same role as I played in the State game and that will please me if I can maintain my form throughout the season."

EAGLES utility player Paul Peos has apparently decided to throw the monkey off his back.

The handy Peos has been plagued with a series of injuries in recent years, wearing guernsey No. 20, but never quite getting to don it regularly enough in the Eagles line-up.

With 42 games in five seasons, the East Perth player has switched to No. 6 in the West Coast line-up this year, grabbing the guernsey vacated by original team member, Geoff Miles, who has returned to Victoria.

"I decided a change of number might change my injury luck," said Peos after a solid effort in Darwin.

The first-aid officers weren't far away at Darwin, as the Eagles rested in the dug-out, with the six interchange players being rotated regularly in the heat. Having a break were (from left) Phil Scott, Ryan Turnbull, Troy Ugle, Derek Hall, David Hart and Paul Peos



GETTING kicks in a football match is what players strive for — being right in the thick of the action is the major desire of all competitors.

But tall, lanky Brian Sarre didn't always enjoy the role he played at Subiaco — full-back in a side that often got beat by up to 30 goals!

"I enjoyed full-back from the personal satisfaction I obtained," says Sarre, a forward, who was converted to the custodian's position in his first league game in 1960 and seldom left the Lions defensive zone.

"I set my personal standards pretty high, but you can't enjoy a position like that when you get whipped by 30 goals.

"I remember one game at Fremantle Oval when I kept John Gerovich to five goals and I got Sandover Medal votes. But we were whipped by 30 goals and I was spat on by supporters as I left the ground — there's nothing enjoyable about that."

The long-kicking Sarre graduated to Subiaco from Albany, coming to Perth after high school with his family and taking up studies at the Claremont Teachers' College.

He played 172 games, represented the State 12 times and produced a consistently high standard of football; renowned for his brilliant drop-kick.

"We had some good years," recalls Sarre, now happily settled back in the country, as headmaster of the picturesque 100-year-old Picton Primary School, just outside Bunbury.

"The year Swan Districts started their run in 1961 could easily have been a big season for us.

"They got to that first grand final by beating us, helped when a ball bounced off the fence in the preliminary final. The ball actually hit the fence and rebounded back into play and was snapped up by Billy Walker.

"Ross Gosden and I were chasing him, but the boundary umpire was so far behind he didn't see it. Billy ran into an open goal and it went back to the centre and the siren went soon after."

Kicking out from goal when the opposition registered a point was something that kept Sarre in the limelight most weeks.

He developed a magnificent drop-kick that could be pin-pointed up to 70 metres downfield — and even today, his drop-kick is mentioned first whenever people reminisce about the "good old times".

"Naturally I'm proud of my drop kick, I'd be silly if I didn't," he says. "But I get a little tired of all the reminiscing! I can't even go and have a quiet game of bowls without some-one bringing it up.

"But I certainly lament the passing of the drop-kick. It still has a place in football, especially kicking out from goal. It is direct, covers a lot more distance and passes from A to B quicker than those mongrel punts."

Sarre wasn't a natural kick when he first graduated to senior ranks. Tall and angular, but well co-ordinated for a big man, he worked hard on developing his drop-kick — but it ultimately forced his retirement from his other sporting love, basketball.



SCIO

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THE EAGLES NO 1 SUPPORTER



Off the beaten track

with ALAN EAST



"Playing at full-back, I was almost indoctrinated to kick out as far as I could," he says. "I was warned by Dr Ken Fitch in the early '60s that I was rotating my pelvis with my style of drop-kick and at the age of 44, I snapped an Achilles tendon as the result. I was playing basketball at Perry Lakes and I'd probably still be playing if that hadn't happened."

Sarre was always a fan of basketball, making the State squad when he was only 17, but the sport had to take a back seat to football, especially when some amateur basketball officials felt that he was associating with professional footballers.

It was some early acts of friendship at Subiaco Oval that gave the Lions one of their best country recruits.

A promising schoolboy footballer at Albany, Sarre was sought out by every WAFL club except the team he supported — Claremont.

With his father transferred in the bank, Sarre moved to Perth in 1960 to pursue his teaching career and was initially approached by East Perth and Perth; the latter establishing early contact during his Albany school days through legendary Demon, Hal Symons.

On his arrival in Perth, Sarre trained with quite a few clubs and while he can't remember how he actually got enticed down to Subiaco Oval, he does recall his first training run.

"Laurie Kettlewell literally took me under his wing when I first went there," says Sarre.

"It was the friendship of Kettlewell and Tom Robbins, in particular, that kept me there; I was an impressionable kid from the country."

Sarre played 17 games in the thirds, was promoted for two reserves matches and then found himself in the league side for the last two matches of the year.

"I had played all my previous football in the forward line or in the ruck and I made my debut at full-forward on Con Regan. It was at Subiaco Oval and we were being coached by Charlie Tyson, who decided at half-time not to change me around, even though I'd kicked three goals.

"It was just a whim of Charlie's, we were doing fairly well. But he left me at full-back, the first time I'd ever been there. I spent the rest of the game on Len Anderson and I stayed there from then on.

"It was almost like pulling teeth trying to get out of there," he recalls with a laugh.

"But I did get 17 games at centre-half-forward when Keith Slater coached about 1965 and I thoroughly enjoyed that. In nine years at Subiaco, the only position I didn't spend some time in was as a rover or a wingman. I actually played a half against Mel Whinnen in the centre once."

Sarre rates Victorian and Hawthorn legend Peter Hudson as the best full-forward he has stood toe-to-toe with, ranking South Fremantle's John Gerovich as absolutely mercurial.

"But unfortunately Gero wasn't always switched on," says Sarre. "Sometimes you could get Gero on a quiet day, but you always had to beat Hudson on your merits, he never made it easy for you.

"Full-backs didn't have too many easy days in those years — Eric Gorman at Swans, Gero at Souths, big Bob Johnson at East Fremantle, Ron Evans at West Perth, Bob Coleman at Perth, Neil Hawke at East Perth and Wayne Harvey at Claremont."

As a youngster, Sarre was always tall and thin, but he was mobile and agile and after representing Albany High in school carnivals, he played his first league game with Albany Railways at the age of 16.

"I played at full-forward, but it was a bit hit and miss," he says. "I'd kick eight goals one week and get knocked out the next."

While Sarre never entertained any thoughts of playing in defence, the writing might have been on the wall early on — he kicked 7.21 one day at Cranbrook.

The highlight of his league career was the 1966 carnival in Tasmania, earning All-Australian selection with some outstanding performances at full-back.

"We should have won that carnival," says Sarre, recalling the 15-point loss to Victoria. "We lost to the Vics in a match that we had in our grasp. But fate beat us. If Brian France hadn't got injured, they weren't in the hunt. Darrel Baldock hadn't had a kick on France, but when Brian went off, Baldock cut loose."

Sarre revelled in the interstate arena, earning a Simpson Medal for best-on-ground at Subiaco Oval in 1963 — in a one-point loss to Victoria.

While Sarre is still a dedicated Subiaco follower — particularly now that son Scott is in the camp — he still hurts at the disappointments the players endured in those 'bad old days'.

"We never realised our full potential as a side," he says. "We didn't have the killer instinct. We should have won more games with the quality players we had."



The classic drop-kicking style of Brian Sarre as pictured in a 1969 Daily News Football Year Book

'We never realised our full potential . . . we should have won a lot more games'

"It was extremely frustrating. We had some top players in defence, like Peter Eakins, Brian Sierakowski, Colin Williams and Ross Gosden. But we were just kicking the ball back all the time, never gaining anything.

"We had some of the best footballers around, Tom Robbins, Wally Martin, Peter Metropolis, Reg Hampson, Cam Blakemore, George Young and Austin Robertson. But we just couldn't put it together."

Sarre's retirement came in 1969, in Haydn Bunton's second year as he built the team up for a drought-breaking premiership that was to come for Ross Smith in 1973.

"I probably retired too early," the school teacher concedes. "He was starting to put the premiership team together and he brought a philosophy to Subiaco that we might have only paid lip service to at that time; we didn't really know the mechanics to bring it into fruition.

"Bunts was very much a team coach, he taught us the mechanics of running to the fall of the ball, all the little hard things that we probably knew, but didn't apply."

Sarre took to coaching when he moved to Bunbury to further his school teaching career. He picked up the reins at struggling Carey Park, in the South West NFL and was able to apply some of the Bunton philosophy.

"Being fresh from Subiaco, I was able to apply some of Bunton's ideas to Carey Park," he says.

"I got a lot of pleasure turning them into a team-oriented group. We went from bottom to top to win the 1973 premiership — which was Subiaco's big year as well."

Many critics rated Sarre's form in those years, his early 30s, as the best football of his career — and he could easily have been in that Lions premiership team.



Sarre's in . . . Brian Sarre outside the Picton Primary School

But he was always a country boy at heart and only went to the city to play football.

Once he finished his WAFL career, he was keen to get back into the country, mixing his school teaching with coaching stints at Carey Park, Northampton (Chapman Valley) and Bremer Bay (Boxwood Hill) and then five years with juniors at Walpole as son Scott graduated through the ranks.

Football runs strongly in the Sarre family, with brother John a ruckman, notching 81 games with Subiaco from 1962-69; both following in the footsteps of their father, who played 17 games with SANFL club Sturt before the War.

To add to the football picture, their sister Jenny, married Kim Williamson, who served Subiaco as a director in the 1970s.

Sarre met his wife Danny in Tasmania during that 1966 carnival and they now enjoy living in Bunbury, with daughter Fiona (20), while Scott (19) is in the city.

Sarre, who has just turned 50, is still very much a lean, fit-looking athlete, thriving on his lawn bowls career and equally enjoying his headmaster's role at Picton, where he has been for six years, with the satisfaction of seeing the little school actually grow in numbers because of its teaching reputation.

The family follow the Eagles; mixing their games with trips to Perth for Subiaco matches and Sarre sees the AFL as being the highest skill level and the upper echelon that all young players should aspire to.

"There are some bitter guys from my era who refuse to acknowledge the effect of the Eagles," he says. "But that's head-in-the-sand stuff. You cannot turn the clock back, we've had our good times. But they have to come to terms with the new breed."

"However, the sooner we get a second side the better."

Sarre still has a close interest in the SWNFL, but he feels that a WAFL side from Bunbury would almost decimate the local competition.

Sarre recalls an earlier time when a combined South West side was mooted as a possible WAFL member.

It was back in the 1960s, with a squad training twice under former Perth ruckman George Spalding, who was coach of Bunbury at the time.

The combined side push was led by Bunbury football identity Dr Ernie Manea and the squad included players of the calibre of Sarre and former top-line East Fremantle players, Alan Prosser and Sandover Medalist-to-be, David Hollins.

"Nobody can tell me that we wouldn't have been a force if we had been admitted then," Sarre says. "But it fell through, we weren't welcome at that stage."



EMU

EXPORT

.... how about you?

That's the way . . .

EAGLES coach Mick Malthouse was in a forceful mood as the West Coast tamed arch-rivals Collingwood in their Darwin Foster's Cup clash. Malthouse felt that the team came through the torrid conditions extremely well — and this Friday he will be looking for his 'second' side to do likewise in a twilight practice match against South Fremantle at Fremantle Oval



Sumich back at the Port

SENSATIONAL Eagles forward Peter Sumich will walk on familiar turf this week for what he hopes will be his final step before striding back into AFL ranks.

Last year's goal-kicking centurion has set his sights on forcing his way back into West Coast's starting line-up for next Wednesday's second-round Foster's Cup match against Geelong, at Waverley.



Peter Sumich . . . keen to return to action at Fremantle Oval

By **KIM HAGDORN**

Sumich will make his selection bid when he lines up in the West Coast seconds side for a twilight practice match against South Fremantle at Fremantle Oval on Friday, starting at 5.30pm.

The West Coast's record-breaking full-forward is on the comeback trail after minor knee surgery before Christmas, which halted his pre-season preparation.

In a bid to hasten the match conditioning of the crack goalsneak, Eagles coach Mick Malthouse could use Sumich at centre-half-forward.

DUAL OPTIONS

That move would serve a dual purpose in the West Coast premiership drive.

The key offensive position has continued to be a problem spot for the Eagles in recent seasons and Sumich's elusive leading up the ground and brilliant long-kicking disposal would offer another avenue into attack.

A move upfield by Sumich could also be on the cards if South Australian recruit David Hynes retains the form he displayed in his match-winning seven-goal effort in the Eagles win over Collingwood at Darwin last week.

Despite surgery to remove floating bone fragments in his right knee, Sumich declares he is fitter than at any other stage of his three-year AFL career.

"I think my skills and fitness are up on any other year I've played football," Sumich said.

"The knee feels fine and I'm really looking forward to getting back into playing. All I need now though, are some games under my belt.

"You can never really gauge how fit you are till you've played a few games."

ANXIOUS RETURN

Sumich is particularly anxious about returning to the venue of his early football development, Fremantle Oval.

Since his priority choice drafting in November, 1988, Sumich has main-

tained close ties with his former WAFL club.

"I'm really looking forward to the game for more reasons than just using it as a step back towards getting a game with the Eagles," Sumich said.

"I haven't played at Freo Oval since I got drafted to the Eagles and hopefully I can play well enough to clinch a game against Geelong.

"I haven't enjoyed watching the other guys playing the early couple of games against Adelaide and Collingwood.

"But there's nothing I can do about. The same goes for John Worsfold and Guy McKenna. They both would rather be playing than recovering from injuries.

"It's a long season though and once we get back, there's still plenty of footy to be played."

SUBIACO ruckman Shane Cocker has decided to retire.

Despite efforts from Lions officials to persuade the affable big man to continue, Cocker (30) becomes the third Subiaco stalwart to hang up his boots over summer, joining 1988 premiership teammates Brian Taylor and Mick Lee.

Cocker has pondered his football future since last year's grand final loss to Claremont — and has expressed his regret at making the decision so close to the new season.

"I would rather have gone out at the end of a season," he said. "But a few personal problems over summer convinced me that football wasn't a top priority.

"This is the hardest decision I've ever made in my life. I've tossed it around throughout the summer and I'll certainly miss league football.

"Since crossing from East Perth, Subiaco and Haydn Bunton particularly, have been extra good to me.

WONDERS

"Bunts did wonders for my career; not only in my football development, but in everyday life."

Cocker joined Subiaco in 1987 after 54 league games with East Perth in six years. He retires with 108 senior appearances at Subiaco to his credit, with the 1988 Lions premiership victory as his career highlight.

Cocker hangs up his boots



Shane Cocker into retirement

"Being recognised as the runner-up to the Sandover Medal in 1987 is a cherished memory, but the premiership win was the high point," Cocker said.

A back injury has troubled Cocker in recent years, but he might not be lost to football completely. He hinted that he could join 1988 premiership captain, Greg Carpenter, who coaches Osborne Park in Sunday League.

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Eagles get the money . . . and a hot reception

Westside Football editor ALAN EAST flew to Darwin for the history-making Eagles-Collingwood Foster's Cup clash. It was a colourful contest, in many ways

FIERCE football rivals Collingwood and West Coast received a hot welcome when they took the AFL's first official match to the Top End of Australia. Darwin, nestled rather dangerously at the northern-most tip of our island, is a typical Australian football-mad venue.

The Foster's Cup match gave them a first-hand taste of what southern sports fans take for granted every weekend for half the year — a real, live Aussie Rules match of the top order.

That's not to say football isn't strong and popular in Darwin; it certainly is, with the NT Football League and the rival Football Association producing strong competition each week.

The warm reception came in the form of 34-degree heat — and a humidity few southerners would have ever experienced.

The Foster's Cup had been officially launched at Waverley on the Saturday, with Richmond getting the verdict over the Brisbane Bears — and in Darwin on Sunday, the turnstiles were clicking early for the second match, with West Coast 3/1-on favourites to down Collingwood, but no-one really knowing how the two teams would handle the conditions.

The game had been slotted in for an 11am start to meet southern television commitments — a factor that was obviously unfair on the competitors — and the crowd were in place early.

A 9am curtain-raiser saw the NT's Teal Cup squad clash with an under-21 side from the Tiwi Islands, Melville and Bathurst, the home of many famous footballers including the Rioli clan.

The game represented the cosmopolitan nature of the Northern Territory with names like Tipungwifl (three of them), Purantatameri, Ah Mat, Dempsey, McLeod, Fitz, Timeapatua, Woneamirri and Allmankinni, just to name a few.

With the sponsor's amber fluid flowing freely around the ground, the Eagles and Magpies flew into the arena to a raucous roar from the locals.

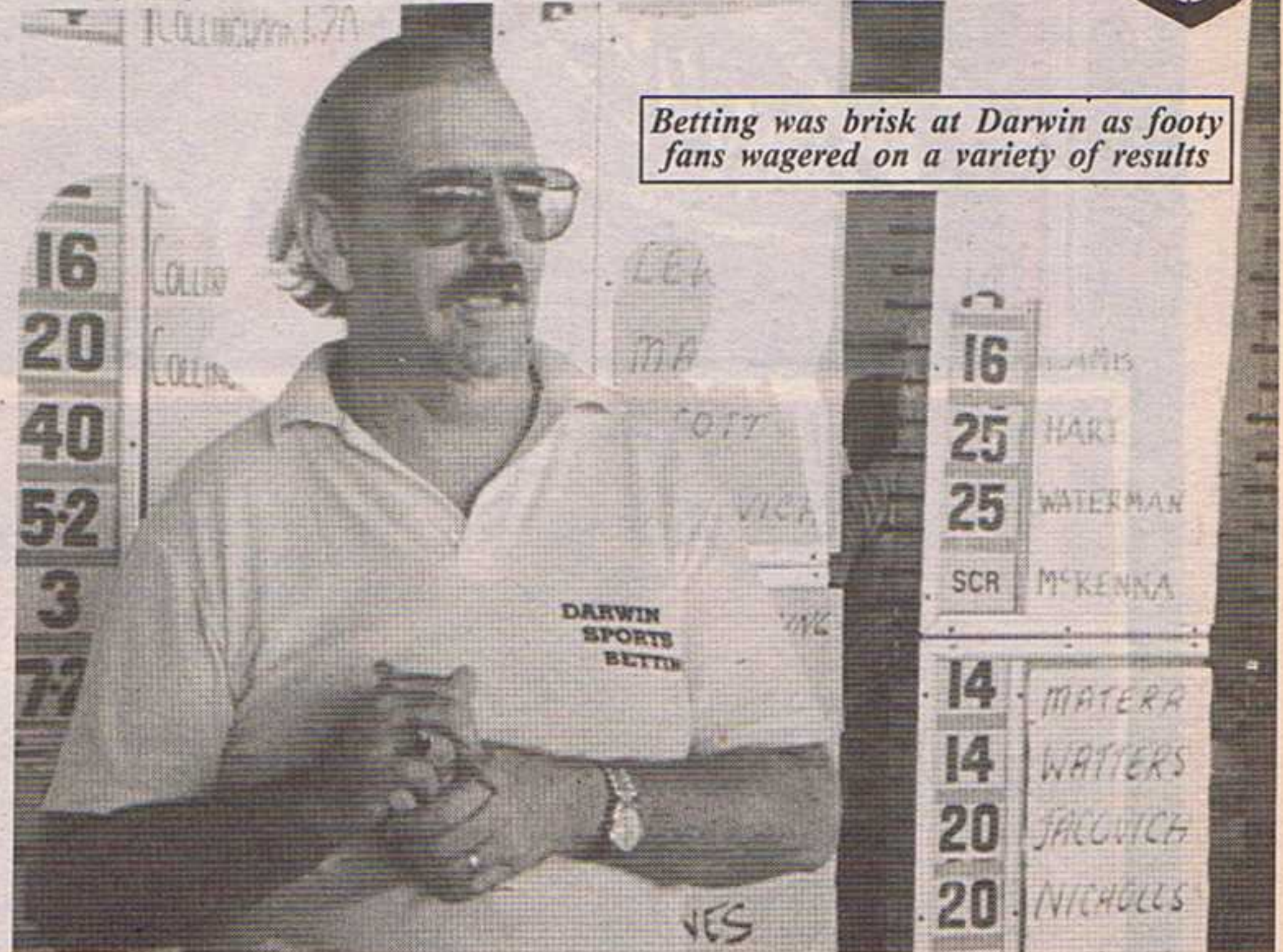
The crowd was initially evenly-divided — with the souvenir stalls doing a roaring trade in scarves, beanies, flags, caps and sweatbands — but the Eagles were the flavour of the day by half-time.

The Darwin wave, mixed with Eagles chants, kept the crowd fully involved, despite the energy-sapping sun.

LEGEND

Darwin's living legend Maurice Rioli joined the local ABC people for the radio commentary back south, while those travelling Channel Seven comedians, Drew Morphett and Dennis Cometti, called the kicks on TV.

The telecast was no cheap-skate affair.



Betting was brisk at Darwin as footy fans wagered on a variety of results

The Seven Network, who pay the AFL big dollars for the right to take the kicks into our lounge rooms, forked out \$85,000 just to send an outdoor telecast van from Melbourne to Darwin. They left straight after the game to drive non-stop back to Melbourne for Wednesday's St Kilda-Geelong clash.

The three betting stalls operated by Darwin Sports Betting — who will wager on anything sporting — did a brisk business, offering fans the chance to bet on the man-of-the-match, the leading goalkicker, or the final margin.

The surprise placing of David Hynes at full-forward earned a few astute Eagles onlookers some handy dollars, backing him in at 16/1 as the match's leading goalkicker.

Bookmakers at the football would be a financial salvation for the sport in the West, particularly the ailing WAFL.

Betting could be handled by official licensed bookmakers and the introduction of novel bets such as who kicks the first goal, the leading team at each quarter and so forth would add enormous interest to local football.

PROTECTED

The sun beat down strongly on the arena, with the fans sitting on the lush grass in the outer protected somewhat by metres of shade cloth stretched over aluminium poles.

Those who had paid up to \$20 for reserved seats in the grandstand were suffering as the noon-day sun caught them without cover. As the sun moved slowly over the ground, the shade finally gave some relief to the fans.

But there was no relief for the players.

Water boys were run off their feet as they quenched dry throats and ice packs were in abundance.

EXHAUSTING

There were obvious signs in the Magpies dressing rooms after the game that the Victoria Park boys had suffered considerably from the exhausting midday sun. Thirty minutes after the match, most of the Collingwood players were still lying prostrate on the dressing room floor.

In fact, a Collingwood official claimed that some players could take up to three weeks to recover from the debilitating conditions.

It's certainly unique for an AFL match to be given 'curtain-raiser' status, but the big game was followed by a NTFL clash between top side St Mary's and fourth-placed Darwin.

Even though the crowd exited in large numbers after the main bout, the locals displayed plenty of skills as the league leaders showed why they have only lost one game, with a 61-point victory.

Boundary exiles

THE experiment with three field umpires for the Foster's Cup clash certainly helped the whistle-blowers get through the humid match — but some-one forgot about the poor boundary runners!

The central umpires were a representation of the three major football States with WA's Trevor Garrett joining South Australian Laurie Argent and Victorian Hayden Kennedy.

The umps swapped around each quarter to cope with the heat — but the two local boundary umpires, Greg Ostler and Mike Simpson, had to run the whole ground for the entire game. At times they were more than 100 metres behind the play!

Kennedy and Argent are well-known in Darwin, both umpiring in the Northern Territory Football League in the 1980s, before going on to be senior umpires in the AFL and the SANFL respectively.

The NTFL goal umpires, Peter Hardy and Ross Cowles, showed that the ever-expanding world of football sponsorship still has room for improvement down south.

Their Telecom-sponsored white flags will surely give some of the money-smart southerners an idea to work on.



WA field umpire Trevor Garrett takes a break from whistle-blowing. The white flag-waver was there to let the central umpire know that it was okay by the TV boys to re-start the game after taking a commercial break following a goal

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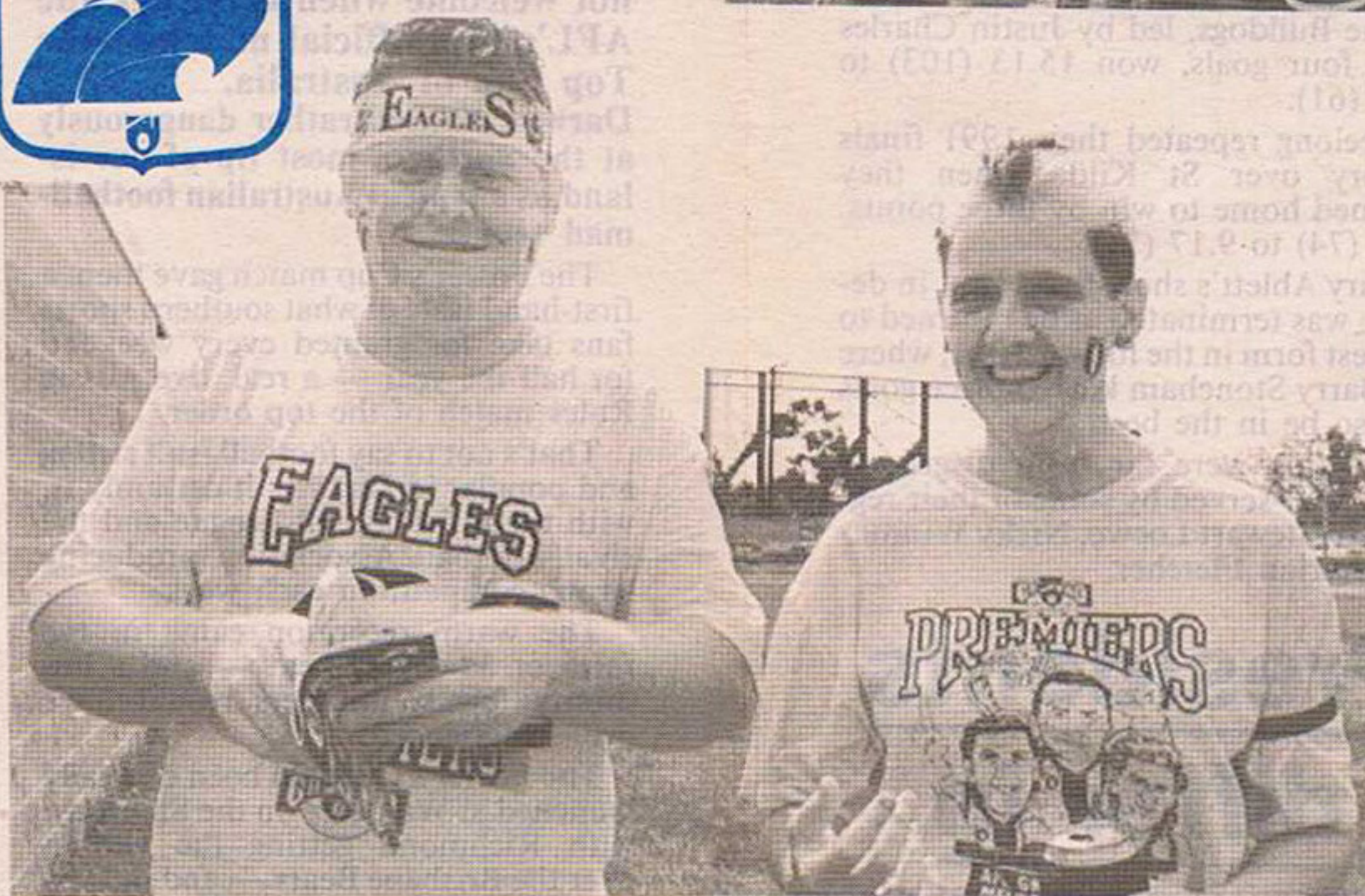


Eagles coach Mick Malthouse points the way to victory as he sits in the crowded grandstand with selectors Trevor Sprigg, Tim Gepp and Ian Miller ... and is wired up for instant communication with football manager Trevor Nisbett, down in the dugout

Darwin capers



The fans were out in their colourful best as the West Coast and Collingwood battled it out for prize-money in the Foster's Cup in Darwin. The new Football Park complex was filled with 13,000 vocal fans and ALAN EAST was there for Westside Football

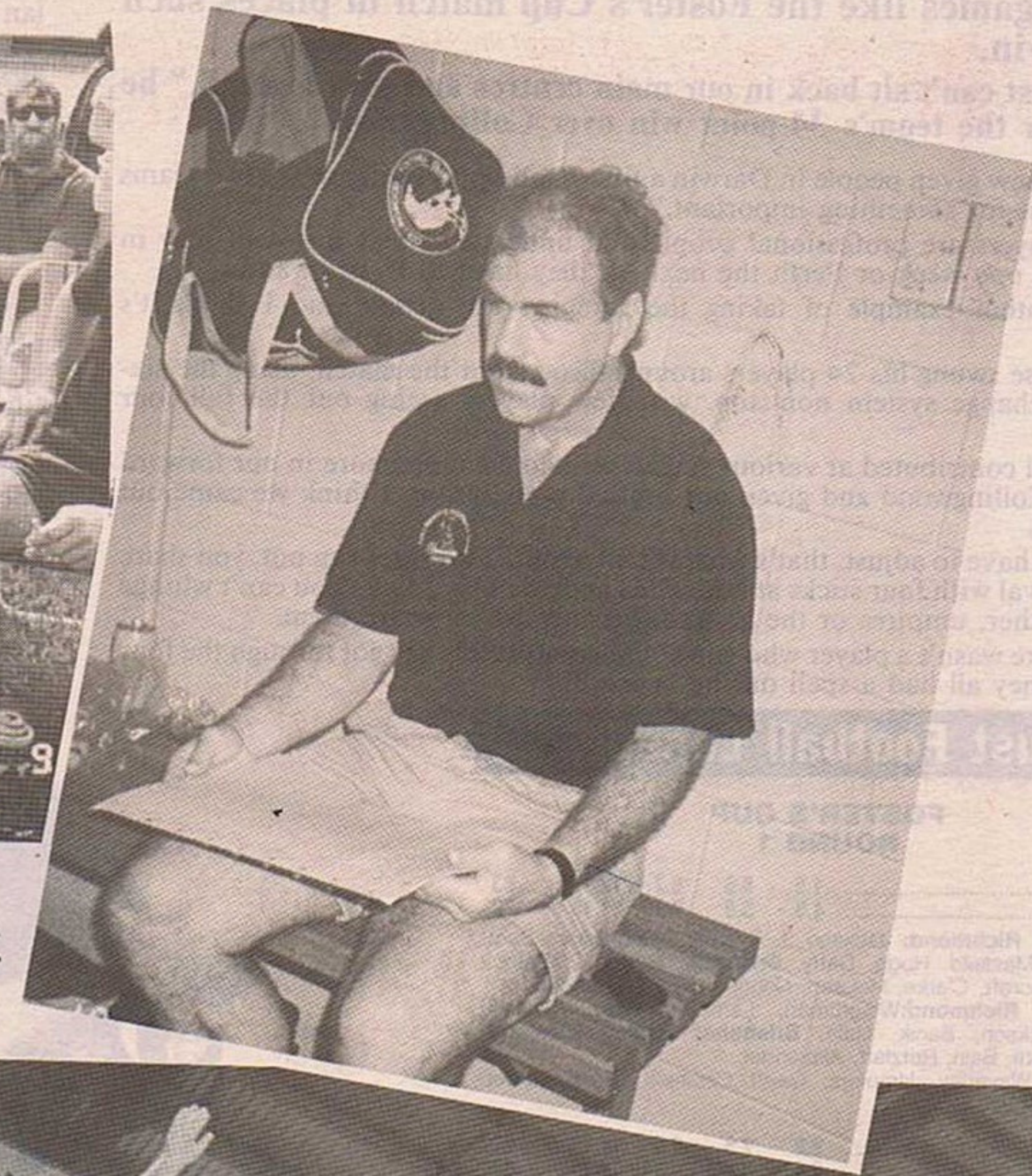


ABOVE: Divided opinions ... but these two To End fans were still there to enjoy the big game - and argue about it afterwards!

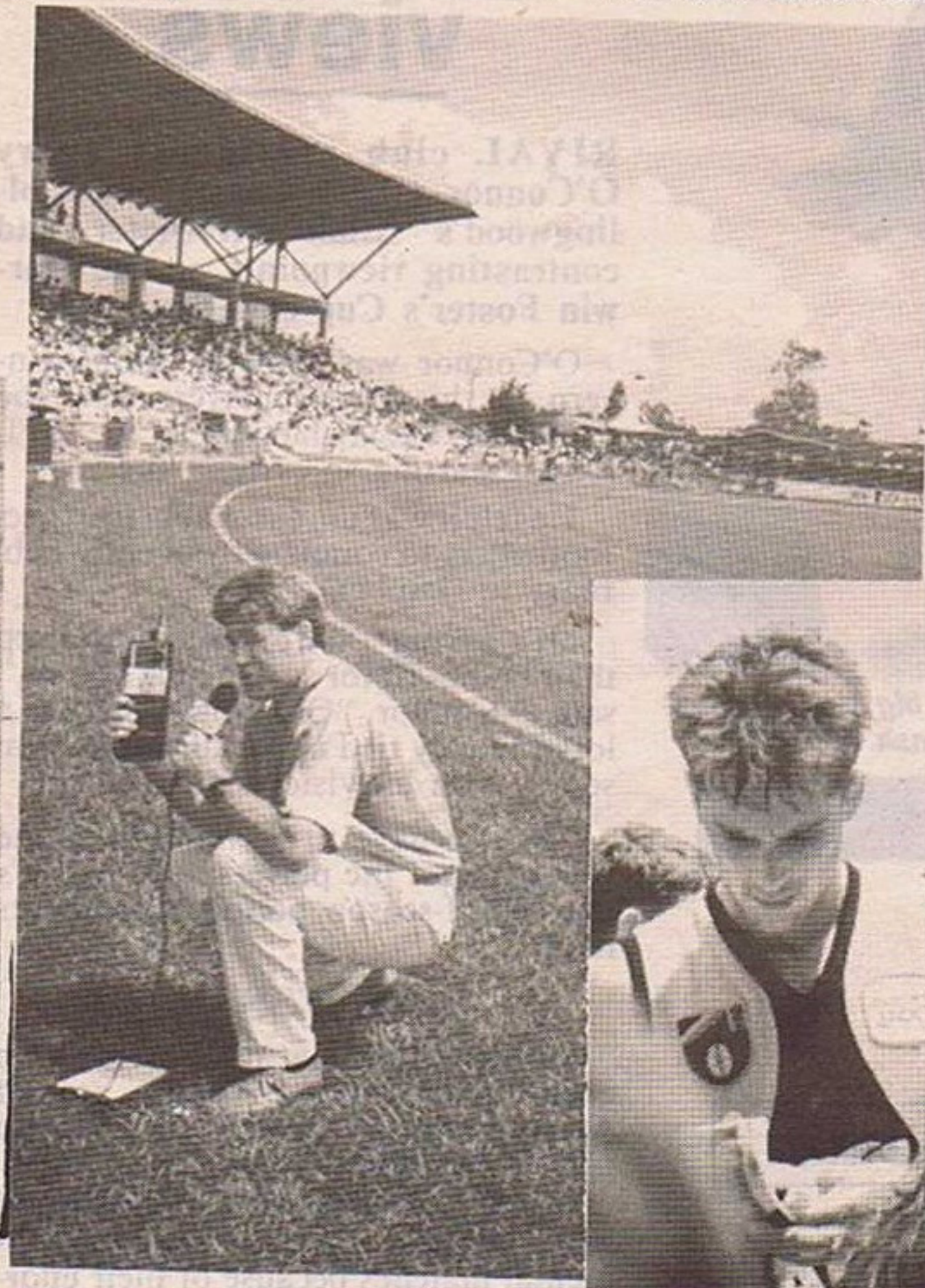
BELOW: The souvenir stall did a roaring trade as Territorians grabbed any type of Eagles or Agpies colour they could to add to their clothing for the day



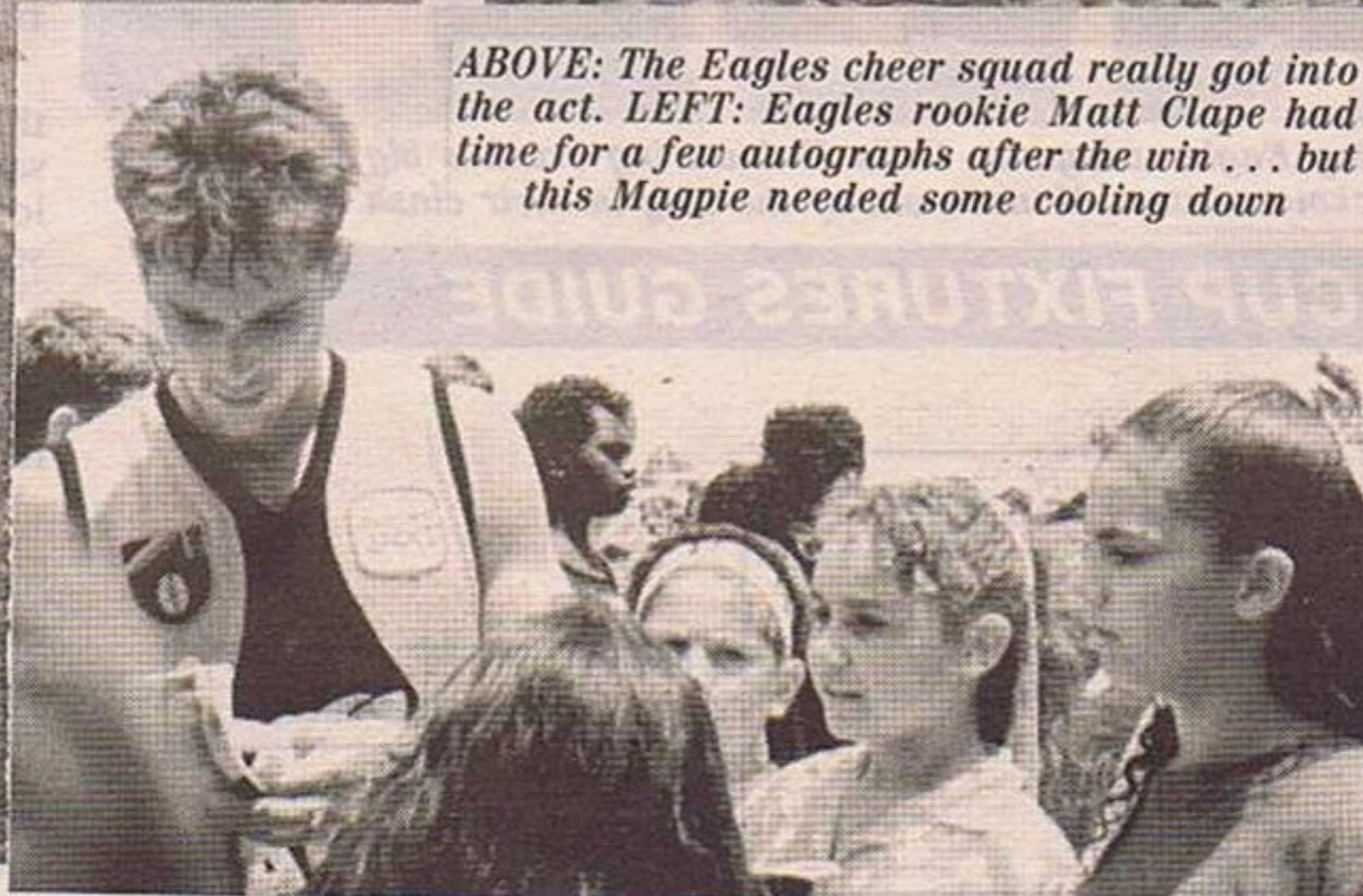
RIGHT: Collingwood coach Leigh Matthews glumly surveys the day's stats after going down to the Eagles



BELOW: Channel 7's boundary-rider Gerard Healy really knew what humid conditions were all about as he sweated it out with his weather-cam



ABOVE: The Eagles cheer squad really got into the act. LEFT: Eagles rookie Matt Clape had time for a few autographs after the win ... but this Maggie needed some cooling down



There was no shortage of colourful characters around Darwin's Football Park - and the Eagles were a favourite with this local



Malthouse impressed with Darwin hit-out

EAGLES coach Mick Malthouse is strongly in favour of playing games like the Foster's Cup match in places such as Darwin.

"We just can't sit back in our main centres and play football," he said, after the team's 34-point win over Collingwood.

"We've now given people in Darwin a first-hand opportunity to see two teams battle it out for something important."

"The players are professional people and understand that they can play in Melbourne one week or Perth the next, so they have to learn to adjust."

"It's another example of taking the game to the people and I think it's fantastic."

Malthouse swung his 24 players around throughout the match, using the six-man interchange system non-stop, with few players seeing out the full four quarters.

"They all contributed at various stages; we had a couple more in our forward line than Collingwood and given our limited preparation, I think we came out pretty well."

"Players have to adjust, that's what it's all about. Two sides run out, you share the same oval with four sticks at both ends and you play footy. You can't whinge about weather, umpires or the ground, because we all share them."

"But there wasn't a player who you could comfortably say got through the four quarters, they all had a spell on the bench."

Aust Football League

FOSTER'S CUP ROUND 1

RICHMOND	1.5	6.6	8.7	12.11	83
BRISBANE	4.5	5.9	7.10	11.13	79

GOALS — Richmond: Jackson 3, Ryan 2, Weightman, Scott, Smith, Leys, Maxfield, Hogg, Daffy. Brisbane: Hutton 2, Bain 2, Cameron, Ashcroft, Clarke, McLean, Noonan, Ryan, Aleander.

BEST — Richmond: Weightman, Lambert, Free, Maxfield, O'Dwyer, Jackson, Banik, Gale. Brisbane: Gastev, Campbell, Noonan, Zanotti, Bain, Retzlaff, Alexander.

Played at Waverley. Umpires: Geoff Caulfield, Greg Scoop. Attendance: 14,926.

EAGLES	2.2	7.6	9.9	14.13	97
COLLINGWOOD	3.4	3.8	4.11	8.15	63

GOALS — Eagles: Hynes 7, Lewis, Heady 2, Nichols, Pyke, Clape. Collingwood: Watson, Brown 2, Morwood, Kelly, Manson, Hardie.

BEST — Eagles: Turley, Hynes, Lamb, Harding, Heady. Collingwood: Manson, Williams, Francis, Russell, Rowe.

Played at Football Park, Marrara, Darwin. Umpires: Hayden Kennedy, Laurie Argent, Trevor Garrett. Attendance: 13,000.

GEELONG	1.5	3.7	6.13	9.20	74
ST KILDA	5.4	5.12	8.14	9.17	71

GOALS — Geelong: Stoneham 3, Ablett, Merriman, Brownless, Bruns, G. Hocking, Brown. St Kilda: Loewe 4, Newport, Winmar, Coghlan, Greig, Harvey.

BEST — Geelong: Ablett, Stoneham, G. Hocking, Bruns, S. Hocking, S. Malakellis. St Kilda: Fletcher, Loewe, Greig, Davenport, Burke, McAdam.

Played at Waverley. Umpires: Murray Bird, Brett Allen. Attendance: 20,916.

FOOTSCRAY	4.3	6.4	11.11	15.13	103
MELBOURNE	0.4	2.13	4.15	7.19	61

GOALS — Footscray: Charles 4, Ballentyne, A. Campbell 3, Baxter 2, Stanley, Grant, Del-Re. Melbourne: Tingay, Bennett 2, Beveridge, Obst, Williams.

BEST — Footscray: Atkins, Mansfield, Charles, T. Campbell, Macpherson, Grant. Melbourne: Stynes, Lovell, Beveridge, Obst, T. Viney, Lovett.

Played at Waverley. Umpires: Peter Repper, Graeme Fallett. Attendance: 14,956.



Dashing Eagles wingman Chris Mainwaring brushes big Collingwood ruckman James Manson out of the way in their clash at Darwin

Tigers show teeth in opener

RICHMOND opened the 1992 Foster's Cup competition with a thrilling four-point win over the Brisbane Bears.

Richmond's nail-biting win also highlighted the coaching return of Allan Jeans, who accepted the challenging role at Punt Road, after a year's absence from the AFL arena.

Though Jeans was disappointed with the Tigers fade-out, after leading by 28 points at the 15-minute mark of the last quarter, there were positive signs for the new coach.

WA RECRUIT

New WA recruit Stevan Jackson played well at centre-half-forward, kicking three goals and taking many fine marks.

Also playing well for Richmond were their running players, the experienced Dale Weightman, Matthew Knights and Craig Lambert, who steadied the side in the final minutes.

The game saw Brisbane's No. 1 draft choice, former Claremont goal-kicking machine John Hutton, make his first appearance in the AFL arena.

Hutton performed well, kicking two goals and providing the Bears with a spearhead in attack.

West Australians were prominent in the Bears best players, with aggressive rover John Gastev and his hard-running partner David Bain playing well, along with the experienced Mark Zanotti in defence and newcomer Brendan Retzlaff in a midfield role.

MEDAL MAN

Brownlow Medallist Jim Stynes showed that a long summer holiday in Ireland had not affected his form or fitness as he was Melbourne's best player even though they went down to Footscray by 42 points.

The Bulldogs, led by Justin Charles with four goals, won 15.13 (103) to 7.19 (61).

Geelong repeated their 1991 finals victory over St Kilda when they stormed home to win by three points, 9.20 (74) to 9.17 (71).

Gary Ablett's short-lived stint in defence was terminated as he returned to his best form in the forward line, where big Barry Stoneham kicked three goals to also be in the best.

St Kilda were far from disgraced, being well-served by some of their regulars in Stewart Loewe, Nicky Winmar and Adrian Fletcher.

Presidents differ in views

RIVAL club presidents Terry O'Connor (West Coast) and Collingwood's Allan McAlister had contrasting viewpoints on the Darwin Foster's Cup experiment.

O'Connor was showing some concern for his Eagles players when he expressed dissatisfaction at the AFL season starting so early in the year.

He felt it was unreasonable to expect footballers to compete from early February to October.

"It's asking a lot of players to keep their bodies fit for such a long season," said O'Connor. "Obviously, there is a lot of money tied up in this pre-season series, with television and so forth."

"But we have to be mindful of the well-being of the players; after all, it's the end-of-season period that counts most."

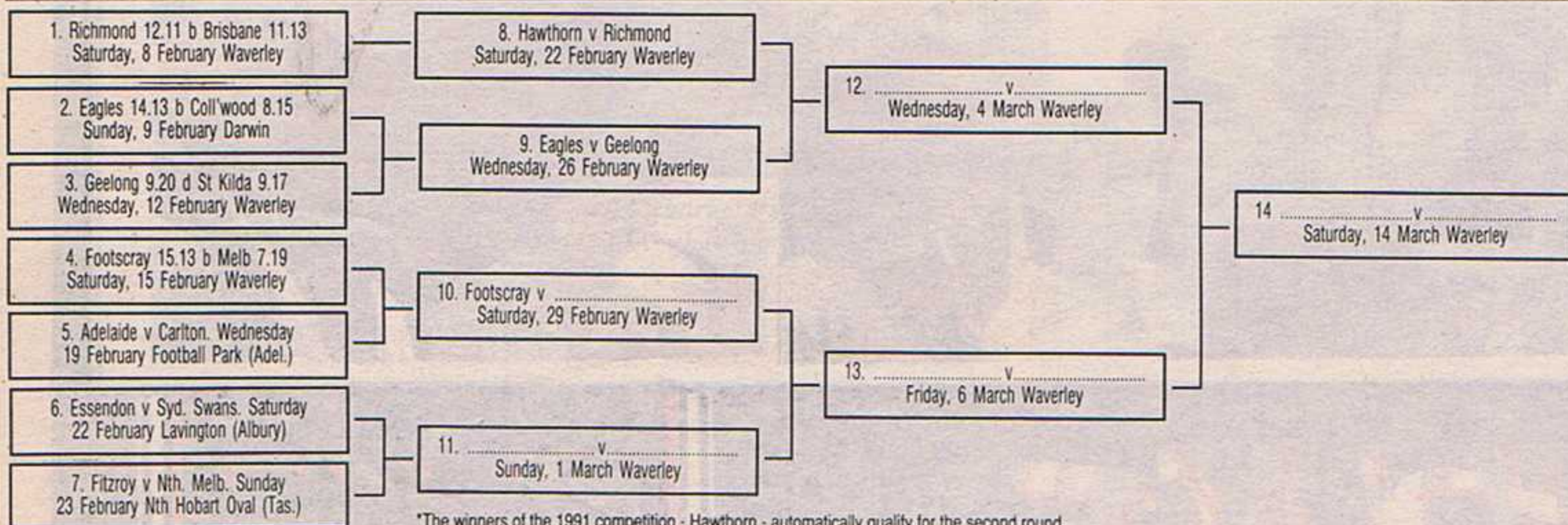
NECESSARY

McAlister felt that the Foster's Cup experiments in new venues around Australia was necessary in order to spread Australian Rules.

While conceding that Collingwood were generally used in these experimental matches because of their enormous crowd-pulling capacity, he said the Magpies accepted their role.

"Naturally, we'd like to see the games spread around with other clubs, but we accept our position as the nation's most popular team," he said.

YOUR 1992 FOSTER'S CUP FIXTURES GUIDE



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



FOSTER'S



Top Kalgoorlie names in Goldfields bid

THE Goldfields push towards inclusion in the WA Football League has seen some of the region's most prominent business identities come together to form the new club's board of directors.

Along with the appointment of former Subiaco general manager Michael Flanagan, the Goldfields now have their administration in place.

New chairman Alf Caputo has named the club's five directors as Brian Hinchcliffe, Neil Warburton, Peter Palmer, Bob Softley and Neville Brierly.

Goldfields bid

By
DAMIAN BIANCHINI

Caputo is pleased with the appointment of Flanagan, whose expertise in football administration will benefit the Kalgoorlie-based side enormously.

One of the conditions for entry of a country side into the WAFL was that it met four specific requirements — including the appropriate management structure.

Caputo says that with the board now in place, plus the appointment of Flanagan, they can address other problems the Commission has raised.

FINANCIAL

Flanagan worked alongside former Subiaco president Michael Carlile, coach Haydn Bunton and football manager Trevor Nisbett during the 1980s to lift Subiaco out of the doldrums and become one of WA's most financial clubs.

In his eight years at Subiaco, Flanagan developed a strong relationship with people on the Goldfields, which was an integral part of the Lions country zone.

As a consultant to the Goldfields club, he will be responsible for its initial development and to build a firm financial base.

Some of the key developments Flanagan will work on include staff recruitment, from administration through to coaching, securing players and signing up major sponsors.

Also on Flanagan's short list is the setting up of a constitution to allow the club to operate in the WAFL in 1993.

Flanagan says the introduction of a country team into the WAFL is an important step for the future development of football in WA.

EXCITING

"A Goldfields side will bring football to the country, which is very exciting for people in that area and football in general," says Flanagan.

"The WA Football Commission has been extremely happy with our progress and we've been overwhelmed with the support they have given us.

"People have to understand the Commission's reasons for entering a country team in the WAFL, as football is entering an exciting new phase.

"The reality is that we have to look to the future, the past is behind us and people have to start looking more at the positives than the negatives."



Russell Sparks... taking on a coaching role in Kalgoorlie

Sparks takes senior role

FORMER East Perth captain Russell Sparks gets his opportunity to coach at senior level when he leads Boulder into the 1992 Goldfields Football League season.

The rugged half-forward has played for Boulder for the last three seasons, coaching their reserves side last year. He has settled into Kalgoorlie, where he helps run the Exchange Hotel.

Sparks, the only former WAFL player at Boulder, says the club is looking to develop their younger players.

He has been impressed with youngsters George Ford, Natham Saunders and Darren Reynolds, who have all graduated from Boulder's 1991 colts side.

GSFL aim to improve

THE Great Southern Football League's major aim for this season is to consolidate on the progress made last year with the amalgamation of the Southern Districts and Central Great Southern leagues.

The standard of football has lifted with the new league, with officials setting themselves for an improved performance at the annual Wesfarmer's Country Championships in Perth in July.

The majority of GSFL clubs have appointed new coaches for this year and leading the way for the first time are: South Mt Barker — Russell Cooper; North Mt Barker — Robert Sutton; North Albany — Brian Stamp; Royals — John Baccamazzo; Railways — Ray Barker; Tambellup — Ian Maroni and Kojonup — Michael Cain.

Wanderers and Australs retain their respective coaches, Alan Campbell and Ross Nicholson.



Michael Flanagan... trail-blazing for the WAFL in the Goldfields

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Money was South-West barrier

THE lack of guaranteed financial backing stopped the South West NFL from getting the go-ahead by the clubs to nominate a team for next year's WAFL competition.

While more than 60 percent of people in the South West expressed support for a WAFL side, the 10 local clubs hesitated on the move, voting against the proposal 9-1, with only Donnybrook in favour.

Collie club president Jim Raper summed up the feelings of most clubs when he said that the need to have a guaranteed sponsor for the side was paramount.

SWNFL president John Silcock, disappointed at the rejection of the move to join the WAFL, said that the idea would not be shelved and the possibility of a combined South West team starting up in 1994 or 1995 was still strong.

Westside winners

The response to Westside's Eagles T-shirt competition in our last edition was overwhelming... with hundreds of readers wanting to win one of the six special give-away shirts

Everyone knew that Peter Sumich was the West Coast's top goalkicker last year and the first six entries out of the barrel were:

A. Stevenson, North Lake; Aaron McPhee, Swan View; Kelly Stewart, Kingsley; Merrilee Edgar, Gingin; Peter Linton, Tuart Hill; Ms C. Girogio, Riverton.

All the winners will soon receive a magnificent Eagles T-shirt, courtesy of Westside Football and B & G Sporting Agencies (227 9135).



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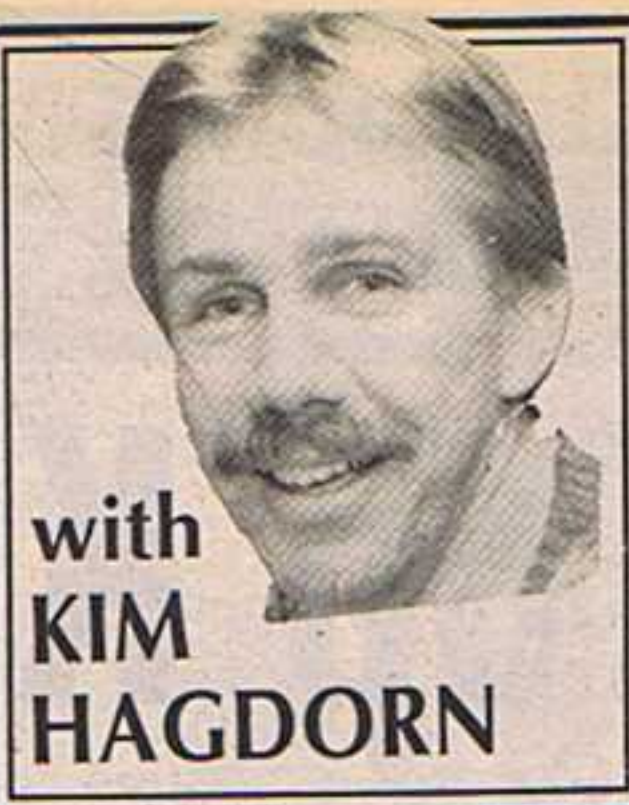
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Talking footy



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ONE LAST CHANCE

FORMER Swan Districts and WA forward Shane Stempel is the first to admit he faces a make-or-break year of football this season.

Stempel was drafted by Essendon in last year's November intake, making the Bombers his fourth football club in recent years.

The nomadic big man is a highly-skilled player, but has lacked in his personal discipline in recent football endeavours.

The former Bunbury player tried out unsuccessfully at East Perth; played a leading hand in Swan Districts' 1990 premiership win and then failed to settle at the Brisbane Bears last season.

"If I screw up here, there certainly won't be any more second chances," Stempel said from Melbourne.

"This is virtually make or break for me. Essendon have given me one last chance.

"I've had too many clubs over the past eight years to be content with the directions I took."

EXPLOITS

Stempel was one of the most-talked about AFL players last season, but not for his on-field exploits.

He failed to come to terms with the fast-lane lifestyle on the Gold Coast as one of the prized recruits with the Brisbane Bears — and he received several much-publicised club fines for misdemeanours.

He notched just three senior games after promising so much as one of the prime targets out of the WAFL the previous year.

Stempel, under the tough disciplinary coaching style of John Todd, had played a significant role in the ruck

It's make or break for Shane Stempel

and as a pinch-hitting key position player in Swans outstanding 1990 premiership victory.

It was Todd, in a lengthy telephone conversation with Bombers coach Kevin Sheedy, who revived Stempel's AFL career.

Todd is understood to have convinced Sheedy that the seemingly-wayward Stempel was worth one last shot at making the big time.

Stempel met with Sheedy in Perth last October, just before the November draft.

"I haven't had a lot to do with Sheeds in training," says Stempel.

"He tends to sit back and watch, leaving the training routines to the sprint and weights coaches.

"But I'm sure we'll start to hear from him more over the next few weeks and I'm due to discuss my role at the club with Kevin pretty soon.

~~~~~  
"At the moment I'm really just setting my sights at surviving the March list cut-back.

"It's no good making long-term plans in footy.

"Injury, or the opinions of the coach and selectors, have a big say in what might happen.

### LOT FITTER

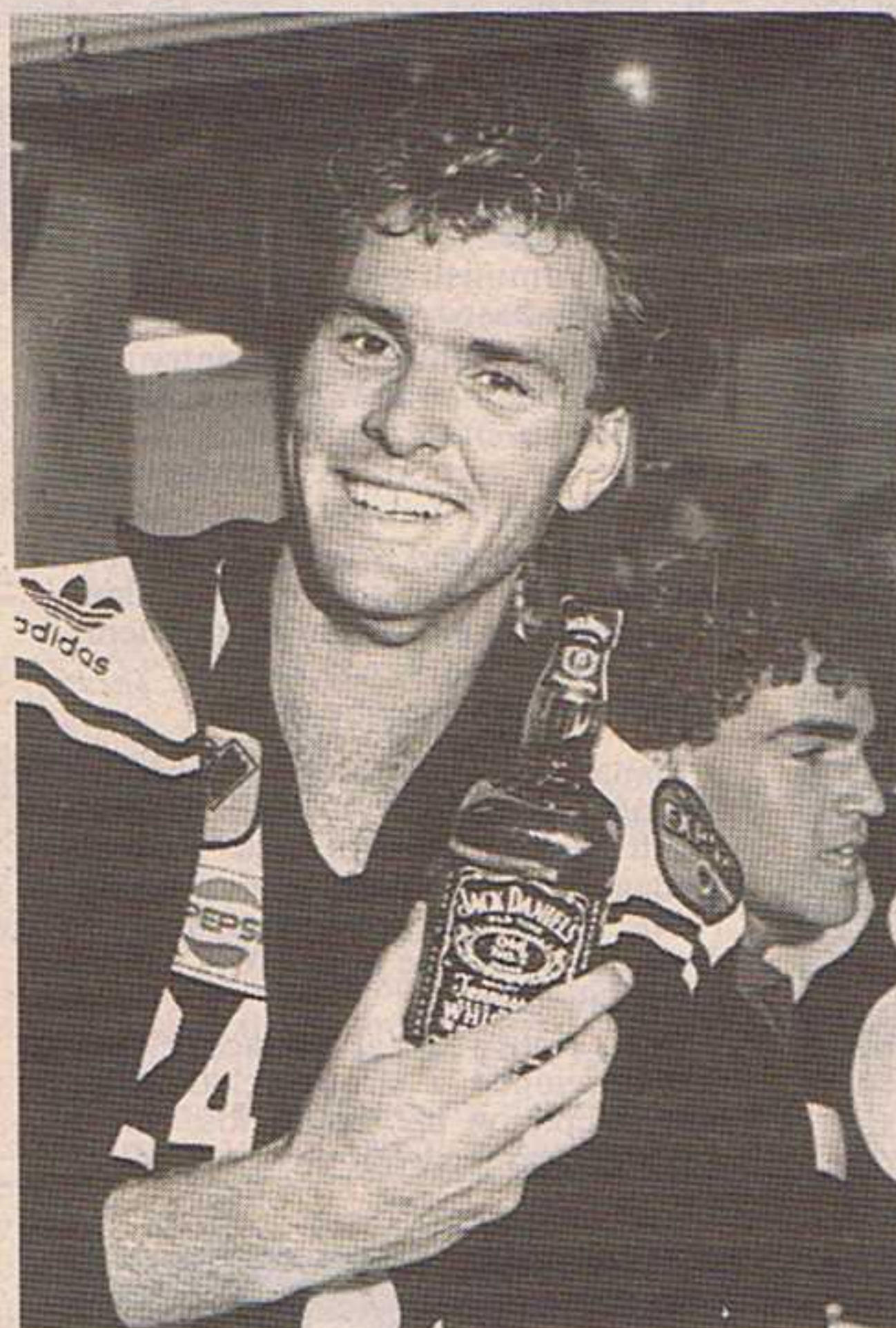
"I'm fitter now than at any stage of last season, when I had a lot of back trouble that contributed to some other injury problems as well.

"So for the moment, I'm just trying to impress as best I can in whatever I'm asked to do."

Stempel took his first steps toward surviving the March cut-off and making an AFL debut with the famous Bombers, with a tidy first-up practice match.

And Sheedy gave early indication that his draftee could be groomed to solve a 1991 problem spot at Essendon — centre-half-forward.

Stempel played in the key attacking role, opposed to former WAFL defender Brad Fox, before spending time at centre-half-back up against skilful forward Peter Somerville and veteran big man Simon Madden.



Football life has had its ups and downs for Bunbury player Shane Stempel ...  
LEFT: A Jack Daniels man-of-the-match in the 1990 finals, when he helped Swan Districts to a premiership.  
BELOW: An interstate debut in Adelaide against South Australia.  
BOTTOM: The kicking style that made Stempel a dangerous player in 1990



The presence of legendary AFL stars such as Madden and Terry Daniher doesn't daunt Stempel; in fact, he admits the star pair have helped him settle in at Windy Hill.

"They are just like anybody else, probably better really," says Stempel.

"Terry and Simon, like all the blokes at Essendon, have really helped me settle in well.

"I like it here and I like Melbourne. I honestly didn't think I would like Melbourne.

### TOP CLUB

"It's great being involved with such a top club. I'm sure it will help me play some good footy.

"The only regret I have is that Tim Watson has retired. I've always respected the way he plays his footy and went about things.

"But Essendon still have enough big-name players and tradition for me."



## Good judges in Darwin

**THERE** are some good football media judges in Darwin, apparently.

Despite little first-hand experience of AFL teams, two football writers with the Northern Territory's Sunday Territorian newspaper — Ted Geracitano and Rod del Nido — were pretty close in their match forecasts, picking 33 points and 36 points respectively as the winning margin for the Eagles.

With West Coast getting home by 34 points, the two tipsters would have picked up a handy dividend had they followed their predictions with Darwin Sports Betting, as that margin bracket was paying 5/2.

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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 — WA sprintcar championship.  
February 28: The Nuspars Solo Sizzler Championship

### BASEBALL

WA Baseball League — Sunday: Victoria Park v Gosnells; Swan Districts v Perth; Morley Eagles v West Stirling; Melville Braves v South Perth; Wanneroo v Wembley.

State Super League — Friday, 6.30pm: Aces v Scorpions; 9pm: Hornets v Boomers.

### SQUASH

WA Squash pennant fixtures start at various metropolitan venues.

### CRICKET

Saturday: World Cup, WACA Ground — England v Sri Lanka (day/night).

February 28-March 2. WACA Ground, Sheffield Shield — West Australia v South Australia.

WACA fixtures (round 12 start this Saturday, home club first): University v Wanneroo; Fremantle v North Perth; Perth v Scarborough; Mt Lawley v Claremont-Nedlands; Midland Guildford v Subiaco Floreat; Bayswater Morley v Gosnells; South Perth v Melville; Willetton bye.

### GREYHOUNDS

Friday: \$2500 Peter's Summer Gift final, Mandurah Greyhounds Racing Association. Saturday: \$5000 final of the Emu Export Gift, Cannington Raceway. February 29: \$1800 final of the BP Bentley Free to All Gift.

### TENNIS

Saturday: State closed championships, Nollamara Tennis Club.

### ATHLETICS

Saturday: Australian Athletics Grand Prix meet, Perry Lakes.



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# Summer diary

## Did you miss this...

**FEBRUARY 5:** Collingwood's 1990 premiership player **Doug Barwick** will miss this season, after tearing a cruciate ligament in his right knee in a practice match against Footscray.

**FEBRUARY 6:** Melbourne ruckman **Steve O'Dwyer** has been cleared to play with Richmond after being investigated under the AFL's salary-cap rules. ALL AFL clubs have welcomed new guidelines to protect footballers from catching AIDS on the field. NEW Eagles recruit **Trent Nichols** and **Tony Evans** were named to share the roving duties against Collingwood in the Foster's Cup match on February 9.

**FEBRUARY 7:** Forgotten West Coast ruckman **Phil Scott** was recalled to the side for the first time in 12 months, being named acting captain for the clash against Collingwood. FIERY Eagles forward **Karl Langdon** and Collingwood strongman **Craig Kelly** proved a hit with Darwin football fans as they promoted the Foster's Cup clash. FITZROY'S **Paul Roos** was appointed captain of the Lions, replacing **Richard Osborne**.

**FEBRUARY 8:** Richmond gave new coach **Allan Jeans** a dream start when the Tigers beat the Brisbane Bears by four points, 12.11 (83) to 11.13 (79) in the opening Foster's Cup clash at Waverley.

**FEBRUARY 9:** West Coast won their Foster's Cup match against Collingwood, by 34 points, 14.13 (97) to 8.15 (63). In oppressive conditions, the Eagles were too fit, with **Craig Turley** best-afield and **David Hynes** kicking seven goals at full-forward. EAST Perth members rejected the WA Football Commission's rescue package, leaving the debt-ridden club to raise more than \$250,000 to meet current liabilities.

**FEBRUARY 10:** The South West National Football League voted against joining the WAFL in 1993, rejecting the WA Football Commission's invitation to be one of two country teams.

**FEBRUARY 11:** East Fremantle veteran **Shane Ellis** announced his retirement, after 219 games. Ellis said he no longer had the dedication to continue playing at league level. WEST Perth key players, **Bill Duckworth** and **Darren O'Brien**, are making steady progress from ankle and knee operations. Elusive forward **Paddy Madaffari** is also back after returning to the country last season.

**FEBRUARY 12:** Brownlow Medalist **Jim Stynes** agreed to a lucrative three-year contract with Melbourne after returning from a holiday in Ireland. ST KILDA'S burly full-forward **Tony Lockett** was ruled out of the Foster's Cup clash against Geelong, after straining a hamstring at training. THE Goldfields ambition of entering a side in the WAFL for next season gained momentum with the appointment of former Subiaco general manager **Michael Flanagan** as a management consultant. GEELONG set up a second round Foster's Cup clash with the Eagles, with a thrilling three-point win over St Kilda at Waverley, 9.20 (74) to 9.17 (71).

**FEBRUARY 13:** The Carlton Football Club called an emergency board meeting after the AFL found their new star **Greg Williams** guilty of cheating the salary cap. The AFL fined Williams \$25,000 and suspended the former Brownlow Medallist for six games for giving incorrect information about his playing contract with Sydney. The Swans were fined \$50,000, with half suspended providing they do not offend again.

**FEBRUARY 14:** Claremont president **Lew Mutch** claimed that the WAFL would fall apart by 1993 if the WA Football Commission did not offer more support to the clubs.

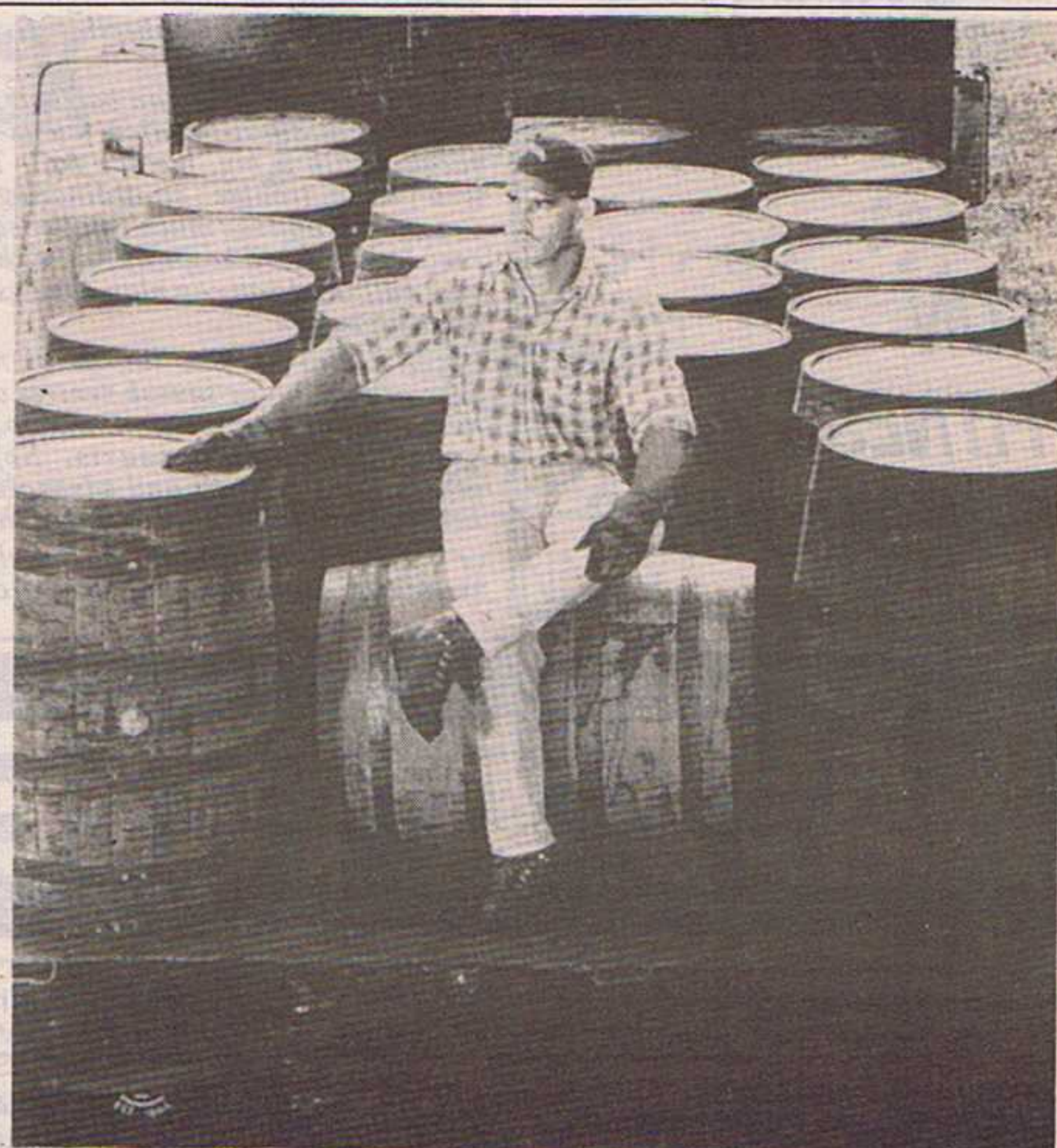
**FEBRUARY 15:** WAFC chairman **Peter Tannock** hit back at comments by Claremont president **Lew Mutch**, claiming his outburst was detrimental to the interests of WA football. **Mutch** could face disciplinary action under

WAFL rules for his criticism. ST KILDA will miss the services of key defender **Dean Rice** for the season, after he tore a cruciate ligament in their Foster's Cup clash against Geelong.

**FEBRUARY 16:** Footscray opened their Foster's Cup account when they easily brushed aside Melbourne by 42 points, 15.13 (103) to 7.19 (61).

**FEBRUARY 17:** The West Coast Eagles appointed **Garry Merrington** as their East coast recruiting manager. The former Footscray recruiting manager will look after Victoria, Tasmania, NSW and Queensland, while chief recruiting officer **Mick Moylan** will watch WA, SA and the Northern Territory. ESSENDON coach **Kevin Sheedy** and his North Melbourne counterpart, **Wayne Schimmelbusch**, praised the use of three field umpires after their practice-match experiment, saying it helped pick up more holding-the-man decisions.

**FEBRUARY 18:** East Perth reached agreement with their players over payments for 1991 and 1992, with fortnightly instalments aimed to cover all the money owing.



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## It's a whole new ball game

THERE'S more to a squash centre than meets the eye — especially if you are keen on general fitness.

Squash centres have become home for a whole host of new ball games in recent years — and more are to come.

Those high-walled buildings offer the sports fan a wide choice of activities, with an emphasis on enjoying your exercise without putting the body — or the bank balance — under too much stress.

In today's leisure-conscious world, many of Perth's leading squash centres have widened their activities to cater for a different range of sports for the health and fitness addicts.

The Select Squash Centres group, which comprises 15 major venues across the metropolitan area, has developed a wide range of alternative choices including: —

### ALTERNATIVES

\* *Fitness centres* — Fully-equipped gymnasiums, many using the popular Titan circuit, providing an inexpensive way to work out. The centres have fully-qualified staff on hand to organise sessions and no big membership fees are required.

\* *Racquetball* — A fun bat-ball game that uses a short-handled tennis-sized racquet with a big, bouncy ball. Those who have trouble co-ordinating the squash ball and the much smaller squash racquet can have heaps of fun with racquet ball. And you can play doubles on a squash court.

\* *Aerobics* — The sounds of music echo around many squash centres as the beat of the aerobics sessions thump away on carpet-covered courts. Special groups, for beginners and advanced, are held to fit in outside main squash hours.

\* *Indoor volleyball* — Simply by stretching a net across a squash court,

## Squash centres offer plenty for fitness fans

you can produce an instant volleyball court, with a lightweight ball that bounces all over the place. The rules are adapted to suit the court and it's a fun game for up to six people a side.

\* *Badminton* — By using the same net, badminton fans can enjoy a light-hearted hit at their local squash courts. It's an easy game for youngsters.

### SQUASH OPTIONS

The squash industry is gearing up for significant changes in coming years and a number of new options are now being offered to the public.

The traditional pennant squash competitions run by WA Squash hit off this week at more than 40 metropolitan centres, with some 5000 competitive players taking part in week night leagues.

But in addition to these team events — with most centres still having vacancies for late-comers — a series of new ideas are about to be launched.

These include:

# *Tuesday night* — Triples League, with three people in a team, each playing for a set time of 30 minutes, all international scoring (where every point counts). Teams are being formed for this league, which will start on March 10 and run from 7.30pm to 9.30pm each night.

# *Friday night* — Mixed teams, with 12 people in a side, but graded from B

down to E, either men or women. You will be graded in groups of three and only play people of equal ability. Each fixture uses four courts, with three games per court, providing a top atmosphere on the night.

# *Saturday afternoons* — Pairs League, with teams of two, each person playing for 45 minutes, with the two scores added together to provide the winning side. International scoring will be used.

These new competitions are designed to cater for people seeking to squeeze their squash competition into a smaller time frame — and not devote the whole night to a four-man pennant team.

### ACTIVITIES

WA's former top international player, Dean Williams, who runs the Oxford Select Squash Centre, in Leederville, says that new formats are a must if the industry is to adjust to changing leisure activities.

"It might take us a while to get them running smoothly, but we believe people want to try out new match formats," says Williams.

The Select Squash group has initiated a number of new competitive ideas and is now working in conjunction with WA Squash, the game's governing body, to pass these formats on to the players.

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#### MANNING...450 3421

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#### MARMION...401 6969

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(Near Maylands Hotel).

#### MORLEY...276 7462

(Your hosts Alan and Gwen East)  
15 Wellington Road, Morley  
(Just off Walter Road, behind Coventrys).

#### MULLALOO...401 6111

(Your hosts Mike Wheeler)  
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#### NORTH BEACH...447 2354

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#### OXFORD...444 4848, 444 4447

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#### STIRLING...349 8448

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253 Wanneroo Road, Nollamara  
(Corner Harrison Street, just past Morley Drive).

#### MOSMAN...384 6437

(Your host Lesley McWhirter)  
2 St Leonards Ave, Mosman Park  
(Behind Shell Service Station on Stirling Highway).

#### DIANELLA...276 8111

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(Just off Alexander Drive).

#### KENWICK...458 2104

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# Living legends still pack punch

THE classic HQ Holden may be a familiar, but fading, sight on our roadways — but out at Wanneroo Raceway, they are fast, furious and a whole lot of fun.

Sixteen HQs lined up for three events at Wanneroo's twilight meet last Saturday, with some newcomers to the track mixing with old faithfuls, many sporting a new coat of paint.

Tony James, secretary of the HQ Holden Racing Association, says that the popularity of the car has grown enormously in WA since it was first introduced in Tasmania in 1988.

WA staged its first HQ race in 1989, with five cars entered and last year more than 20 cars took to Wanneroo.

"The HQs are good starting cars with low costing," James said.

"The cars are restricted in what they can do, including the six cylinder motor, so the costs are kept down.

"Being a Holden, parts are cheap and available, which provides an ideal entry into racing."

### TYRE COSTS

The major cost with car racing, apart from the engine servicing, is the tyres.

The HQ Association's main sponsor, Goodyear Tyres, provide special Ducaro tyres, which are available at discount prices for the drivers.

James said every meet would see the cars front up with a new set of tyres,

By **LISA VERSCHOOR**

which is where Goodyear's sponsorship is really appreciated.

Top speed for these cars in the Eastern States has been 170km/ph, while at Wanneroo, plenty of drivers have touched 180km/ph down the straight.

Jons Auto Wreckers, Club Rumours, Phoenix Holden, Autoride Suspensions, Marlows, North City Holden and S & R Auto Wreckers sponsor the association, with some drivers adding their own individual sponsors.

Goodyear will put up \$20,000 this year for the National Championships in Bathurst, NSW, with five entrants nominated from the WA HQ Holden Association.

Peter Hansen, Mick Johnston, Paddy Roberts, Dennis Barbarich and Tony D'Alessio will be competing at Bathurst for the first time.

Another event for HQ drivers this year is the endurance race in October, sponsored by Marlows, with \$1000 and trophies up for grabs in the 25-lap race to culminate the 1992 season.

James says that the State champion-

ship will be decided on the points system instead of a final race, for the first time.

"This prevents an Eastern States driver coming over and grabbing the trophy and also means the leading driver throughout the year won't lose his title because of one off-day," James said.

Points are allocated at each race throughout the year — 20 for first, 18 for second, 16 for third and so on.

A Rookie of the Year trophy will also be presented at the end of the season for a first year driver with the most points.

This award was introduced in 1991, sponsored by Autoride and won by Dennis Barbarich, who was now aiming at the State championship crown after a top season.

### NEW AWARD

New to the 1992 HQ season of racing is the Hard Charger award sponsored by S & R Auto Wreckers.

A \$500 trophy is up for grabs for the driver who accumulates the most points.

Points are won for those who start well back on the grid and end close to the finish.

## 1992 CALENDAR

March 28/29  
Round One, WA Endurance Racing Series

Sunday May 10  
Race meeting

June 4-7  
Shell Australian Touring Car Championship — Round 8 Motocraft Driver To Europe Formula Ford Series.

July 11-12  
Round Two, WA Endurance Racing Series

August 8-9  
Torque Trophy for Division 2 Sports Sedans

September 5-6  
WASCC State Championship finals

October 17-18  
The Wanneroo 300, incorporating Round Three of the WA Endurance Racing Series.  
HQ Holden Endurance Race

Due to circumstances beyond our control some dates may change. Check newspapers for details. Admission Charges Adults: Club Meetings: Main Gate — \$10; Pits — \$5. Shell Australian Touring Car Championships: Main Gate — \$15; Pits — \$40.

For example, one race last Saturday saw Barbarich start at the end of the field, but finish fifth, which earned him five points.

At the end of the season, a barbecue will be held at the circuit in appreciation of the sponsors — and give them an opportunity to drive the cars.

VW's live again on the race track

THE famous Volkswagen has been one of the world's most popular motor vehicles — and it's engine is now forming part of a successful motor racing activity.

Formula Vee racing goes back to the 1960s, when the first model was built in the United States, where American Colonel George Smith put the machine together on the request of a VW dealer.

Three years later, with a new name and rules, Formula Vee racing began in earnest in the States and it

wasn't long before the car was being built around the world, including Australia.

The potential of the Vees was seen in Australia by Geoff Sykes, the secretary of the Australian Automobile Racing Club, who ordered three locally-built cars.

Gradually more and more people who could not previously afford the sport, were racing in the low-cost Vees.

By 1966, the first Formula Vee Association was operating in NSW, followed

by South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and then WA.

WA Formula Vee Association secretary Peter Burke says 20 cars are expected to race at Wanneroo Raceway.

The main feature of the cars is still the low cost and maintenance, making it an ideal entry into motor racing.

The cars use the basic VW Beetle 1200 40hp engine with the same running gear as the sedan and now use Bridgestone control racing tyres.

The open single-seater cars have a simple gearbox and a steel chassis with roll bars to protect the drivers.

Top speed is 180km/ph, with those daring enough taking the corners at 140km/ph.

In the two years the Vees have been racing at Wanneroo Raceway there have been no serious injuries or accidents.

"The cars are unforgiving, but are easy to drive," says Burke.

Like the HQs, modifications are kept to a minimum

to encourage driver mobility and keep costs down.

Sponsors include Zamels jewellers, who provide \$3000 in prizemoney throughout the year.

Local drivers will be concentrating on the State championships in September, with the the champion driver being the one to accumulate the most points on one day of racing.

The Zaneks Plate will be awarded to the driver with the highest points throughout the year.

THE FORMULA VEE ASSOCIATION OF WA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEIR REGULAR SPONSORS

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# Sport Spotlight advertising feature

## WA group continues to thrive

**THE WA Sporting Car Club is the oldest organisation of its type in Australia.**

It was formed back in 1927 and incorporated four years later with the objective of fostering, organising and promoting the sport in Western Australia.

The club now boasts more than 500 members and is co-ordinated by a full-time secretary-manager, Rob Ozanne, who is responsible to a club president and a management committee.

Despite the financial recession, the WA Sporting Car Club continues to expand its membership and its profile in the community.

### STILL GROWING

Club president John Hurney predicts that by the end of this year, membership could top 600.

"Our membership grows every year," Hurney said. "Even in these difficult times, we are continuing to thrive."

"The key factor is the enjoyment the sport offers participants and spectators alike."

"But also, it is relatively cheap for competitors."

"Once a member owns their car in the 'Vee' and 'HQ' classes in particular, the sport works out pretty cheap."

"One of the biggest expenses for drivers and members in 'V-8' category is their tyres, but drivers generally get through on one set for the year."

### BIG EVENT

Hurney and his committee and supporters are proud to stage one of the biggest events on the West Australian annual sporting calendar — the WA leg of the Australian Touring Car Championship, which will be staged at Wanneroo Raceway on June 7 this year.

"That is one of the State's biggest sporting events of the year," Hurney said.

"We'll have a crowd in excess of 20,000, paying \$15 each."

Hurney says that while the Australian Touring Car Championship is the biggest motor sport event of the year, most other Wanneroo events draw crowds of between 1500 to 2000 spectators.



**OUT OF THE WAY . . .** Dennis Barbarich powers his way through the centre in his HQ Holden, forcing rivals Coleman Truss and Ken Dewhurst out of the way

# Nightclub man is daylight speedster

**WHEN Dennis Barbarich isn't managing the popular nightclub, Club Rumours, he's busy with his prize possession — a blast from his motoring past.**

An avid supporter of all football clubs, especially South Fremantle, he has a real pride and joy — a flashy green, six cylinder 202, three speed manual shift HQ Holden sedan, lovingly restored, but sometimes recklessly driven — all in the name of safety.

Twenty years ago Barbarich took up his 'hobby' at a speedway track in the Pilbara.

Later, working as a long distance truck driver, Barbarich spent his spare hours working on cars and tractors on a farm.

From there on, Barbarich hasn't looked back when it comes to speed.

### AWARDS

Among the awards he has collected are a trophy for being the first HQ to roll during a race in the 1991 season.

"It was the last race of the final meet when I rolled it," Barbarich laughed. "And they gave me a trophy for it."

The 1991 season saw Barbarich named Rookie of the Year, with the fastest qualifying lap and claiming 10 out of 22 trophies.

"I began the season last on the grid and ended up in the pole position, which was great," he said.

Barbarich's sponsors include Total Performance, Wall to Wall Carpets, Meteor Signs, George Marinovich panel and paint and All Holden Wreckers.

Barbarich still rates his passion for speed — combined with his love of old Holdens — as just a hobby, despite his success.

"It's just good fun," he said.

"It's a good hobby. I've always been a motor-head, so it's great — and cheap."

### NATIONAL EVENT

Barbarich was one of five drivers selected by the HQ Association to race

at Bathurst this Easter, when a national convention of speed merchants invades the NSW track.

"I think the lap times should make it reasonably competitive," he said.

Barbarich's luck deserted him a little when Wanneroo kicked off last weekend, losing a fan belt early in his opening race.

But he atoned in the second event when he started last and charged through the pack to finish fifth.



**Ian Sharp's EH Holden and a Mini Cooper S driven by Phil Davenport do battle on the bend into the home straight**

## Family affair in Vees

**THE battle for honours in the Formula Vees is a tight affair — and also includes some family competition.**

The group's leading driver is Sean Phillips, just ahead of Luke Morton.

One new driver to the raceway is Simon Burke, a son of Formula Vee secretary, Peter Burke.

Simon has turned 16 this year, which means he can now step into the driver's seat of his Vee.

Simon's debut saw him start last on the grid and finish third, but in the second race he found himself stuck out in the sand.

Peter added to a good day when he picked up a third place from 12th on the grid.



**Simon and Peter Burke work on their nippy little Formula Vee**

**THE HQ HOLDEN RACING ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT  
AND ENCOURAGEMENT.**

● Formula Cars ● Jon's Auto Wreckers ● Club Rumours ● Phoenix Holden ● Autoride Suspensions  
● Marlow's Auto Parts ● North City Holden ● S & R Auto Wreckers.

**WANNEROO  
RACEWAY**





## OFF TO BATHURST

■ FRIENDLY, but fierce, competition at Wanneroo Raceway will have its reward at Easter when five drivers who tackle the sport as a hobby will go to Australia's mecca of motor racing.

■ The five men have been nominated by the WA HQ Holden Association to contest the \$20,000 Goodyear national championships at Bathurst, NSW — the home of motor racing in Australia.

■ The drivers are pictured above, from the left, Tony D'Alessio, Mick Johnston, Dennis Barbarich, Peter Hansen and Paddy Roberts. And they will all compete at Bathurst for the first time.

■ They have earned their WA representation after an outstanding year at Wanneroo Raceway in 1991, where their hobby cars — those lovingly-restored HQ Holdens — served them fast and furiously around the circuit.

■ The cars can touch 180km/hr down the Wanneroo straight and that type of speed will certainly make the WA contingent very competitive at Bathurst.

TWO MORE PAGES OF THE SPORT SPOTLIGHT MOTOR RACING FEATURE ON THE INSIDE BACK PAGES

# Wanneroo gets the adrenalin pumping

MOTOR CAR racing — three words synonymous with heavy horsepower, burning rubber, thrills, spills and pure adrenalin.

This was all evident at Wanneroo Raceway's first meeting for the year last Saturday.

The twilight meeting was the official start of an eight-meet season which will run to mid-October.

It was a day to test cars, drivers and organisers alike for the busy season ahead.

For the raceway's promoters, WA Sporting Car Club, it was a chance to test the track, try out new safety barriers and prepare for the nationally-televised money-earner — the 1992 Shell Australia Touring Car Championships in June.

### NO INJURIES

The Raceway will be attempting to uphold its 'no serious injury record' since the club opened in 1969, which is the reason for adding new barrier tyres in the pit lane entrance.

A good turn-out of new and old cars was evident on the day, with special spotlight on a fiery red Alfa Romeo Alfetta GTV entered by Basil Ricciardello and driven by Brian Smith.

All eyes were on this superbly built thoroughbred of the raceway, when it powered around the circuit in the practice laps.

As expected, it set the lap record for the day and won its classes in style.

By  
**LISA VERSCHOOR**

The meet was also the first to see Formula Vees and Formula Fords race together.

Twelve of these cars lined up in the first event on the programme, an eight lap race.

Grid positions for the first event in each category, including the Vees and Fords, Sports Sedans and touring cars, marque and sports cars, pre-1965 saloons and HQs, were based on last year's times.

WA Sporting Car Club president, John Hurney, was pleased with the turn-out and forecast more than 140 drivers to race this season.

"It's really a modest form of racing with stringent safety rules," he said.

"A lot of people don't realise that amateur racing is dead easy and quite cheap."

For those interested in tackling small-car racing at Wanneroo, Hurney outlines some basic ground rules.

### STARTING AGE

Sixteen is the official driving age to apply for a special licence and your driving style is assessed for competency by club officials.

Clubmans, Formula Vees and HQs are the ideal starting cars for handling and cost.

HQs can be purchased off the road and modified for the track for very little outlay, with the Vees consisting of a simple VW shell and fittings.

The 1992 calendar includes three rounds of the WA Endurance Racing Series, a Touring Car fixture, the Torque Trophy and the WASCA Championships.

## Abandoned airstrip is now a busy venue

WANNEROO Raceway opened for fast and furious action for the first time back in 1968 — with 10,000 fans enjoying the new venue, which had been converted from the old Caversham airstrip.

The WA Sporting Car Club now holds a 21-year lease on the Wanneroo circuit, an attractive arrangement negotiated just five years back.

The WA Sporting Car Club stages eight races a year, but the popular Wanneroo Raceway is used up to 300 times annually.

### POLICE WORK

The WA Police Department, Special Air Services, private driving academies, smaller car clubs and the WA Triathlon Club all utilise Wanneroo.

WA's Motor Cycle Racing Club use Wanneroo for seven meetings a year, with the major event being the Australian Road Racing Championships, televised around the nation.

A second nationally-televised event, the Sports Sedan Championships, is also on the cards for Wanneroo in 1992.

## W.A. SPORTING CAR CLUB\*

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# WANNEROO RACEWAY

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