

THE COUNTDOWN CONTINUES

THE West Coast Eagles have almost finalised their 1992 squad and this week Westside Football introduces you to the team ... new boys and all. KIM HAGDORN reveals a unique move towards unity by the arch-enemies at Fremantle and ALAN EAST catches up with a West Perth veteran who helped change the shape of the game

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A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION



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The West Coast's on-field leadership line-up is an impressive one for season 1992 with John Worsfold retaining his captaincy, backed up by Michael Brennan, with Chris Mainwaring being promoted to deputy vice-captain. The three stars are pictured wishing each other the best of luck for this season

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PRESENTS



Pre-season footy gossip

with KIM HAGDORN and DAMIAN BIANCHINI

Hepburn looks for new home

WEST Coast Eagles big man Mark Hepburn has become the hottest property on the WAFL scene.

Hepburn decided earlier this week to leave Claremont after discussions with Eagles coach Mick Malthouse and Tigers boss Gerard Neesham.

His fate is now in the hands of the Eagles player-allocation process.

The placement of Hepburn and 1992 draftees Trent Nichols, David Regan, Peter Freeman — and any other disgruntled Eagles squad members — will take place next week.

Hepburn and the Eagles match committee were told that Neesham could not guarantee the big man a full-time on-field role in the Claremont side.

After deliberating for almost two weeks, Hepburn opted to try his luck at another WAFL club.

As a vital back-up ruckman or forward in the Eagles squad, the strongly-built Hepburn needs the maximum game exposure either leading a ruck division or playing in a key forward position to press his claims for an AFL recall.

West Perth, as WAFL wooden spooners for the past two seasons, appear in the front-running to gain Hepburn's services.

However, the Falcons have WAFL 1991 star Craig Nelson to lead the ruck, while promising Eagles squad member Derek Hall competently held down centre-half-forward last year.

Perth, with the retirement of veteran ruckman John Gavranich and East Fremantle, with the departure of ruck trio Greg Hodson, Peter Higgins and Lance Durack, seem more logical destinations for Hepburn.

Tiger sidelined

PROMISING Claremont utility player David Muir looks set to miss the first half of the season.

Muir (20) has had an ankle operation and will need three months to recuperate.

Tigers boost

CLAREMONT'S 1992 premiership campaign received a boost early this week with Essendon's decision to drop skilful forward Kevin Mitchell.

Tigers coach Gerard Neesham wasted no time in inviting his dual premiership forward back to the club.

The WAFL could receive a further healthy influx of talent on the eve of the new season with AFL club decisions to de-list youngsters Jamie Billington, Todd Hawes, and Denis Repacholli.

Billington, a surprise draft choice by Essendon after he played just two league games with Subiaco last year, is expected to resume with the Lions.

Hawes spent two months with Richmond after his draft invitation last November, before being de-listed on Tuesday, while Repacholli is expected to return to West Perth after a year with Footscray.

Bruno Italiano and Greg Jones have also been dropped off senior lists at Collingwood and St Kilda.

Safety-first



A weary looking Trent Nichols after last week's impressive hit-out

NEW AFL rules in the battle against AIDS were invoked at Subiaco Oval for the first time when the Eagles played Footscray in a practice match last Saturday.

Roving recruit Trent Nichols won the courageous player award when he returned to the game after having six stitches inserted in a head wound.

However, the hard-working left-footer had to resume with a fresh No. 56 guernsey, instead of his listed No. 8.

Under AFL rules, any blood-splattered player must leave the field for the gash to be stitched and the playing garments replaced.

Nichols was particularly impressive after half-time when his roving and clever ball disposal skills were on full display.

Royals pay-out

FINANCIALLY stricken East Perth raised the eyebrows of a few football officials last week when they paid South Fremantle for a clearance for ruckman Richard Graham.

Royals officials, not surprisingly, opted not to disclose the fee — reportedly around \$5000.

Understandably, it's a touchy subject at Perth Oval at a time when players have been told to take a 20percent pay cut and creditors around the city await payment of outstanding bills.

Club president Bob Pearson said the decision to pay for Graham was based on the potential of the talented big man to improve East Perth's on-field viability and, subsequently, help the club attract greater financial support.

Pearson said Graham was the only player the club would pay for in the immediate future.

Kickett's hope

DISCARDED Eagles forward Dale Kickett could be headed back into the AFL.

Since being de-listed by West Coast two weeks ago, Kickett has attracted enormous interest from Eastern States clubs — with at least four clubs indicating a desire to draft the exciting Aboriginal.

The former Fitzroy and Eagles half-forward, however, has told Claremont coach Gerard Neesham that he will not move back into the AFL unless the deal is financially worthwhile.

If Kickett accepts an AFL draft call-up, he will want better senior game opportunities than he received with the Eagles last season, when he played just two league matches.

Swans recruit

AN IMPRESSIVE practice match display from Queensland follower Shaun Stevens seems to have provided Swan Districts with a handy new recruit.

Stevens, attracted to the club by former big man Steven Handley and current forward Kevin Caton, has decided to stay in WA.

He hails from Southport, in the QAFL in Brisbane and came to Perth on a trial basis.

However, after joining other youngsters in Ron Skender, Peter Kelly, Scott Cummings and Troy Foote as top performers against South Fremantle last Saturday, Stevens has sent for his belongings from Brisbane.

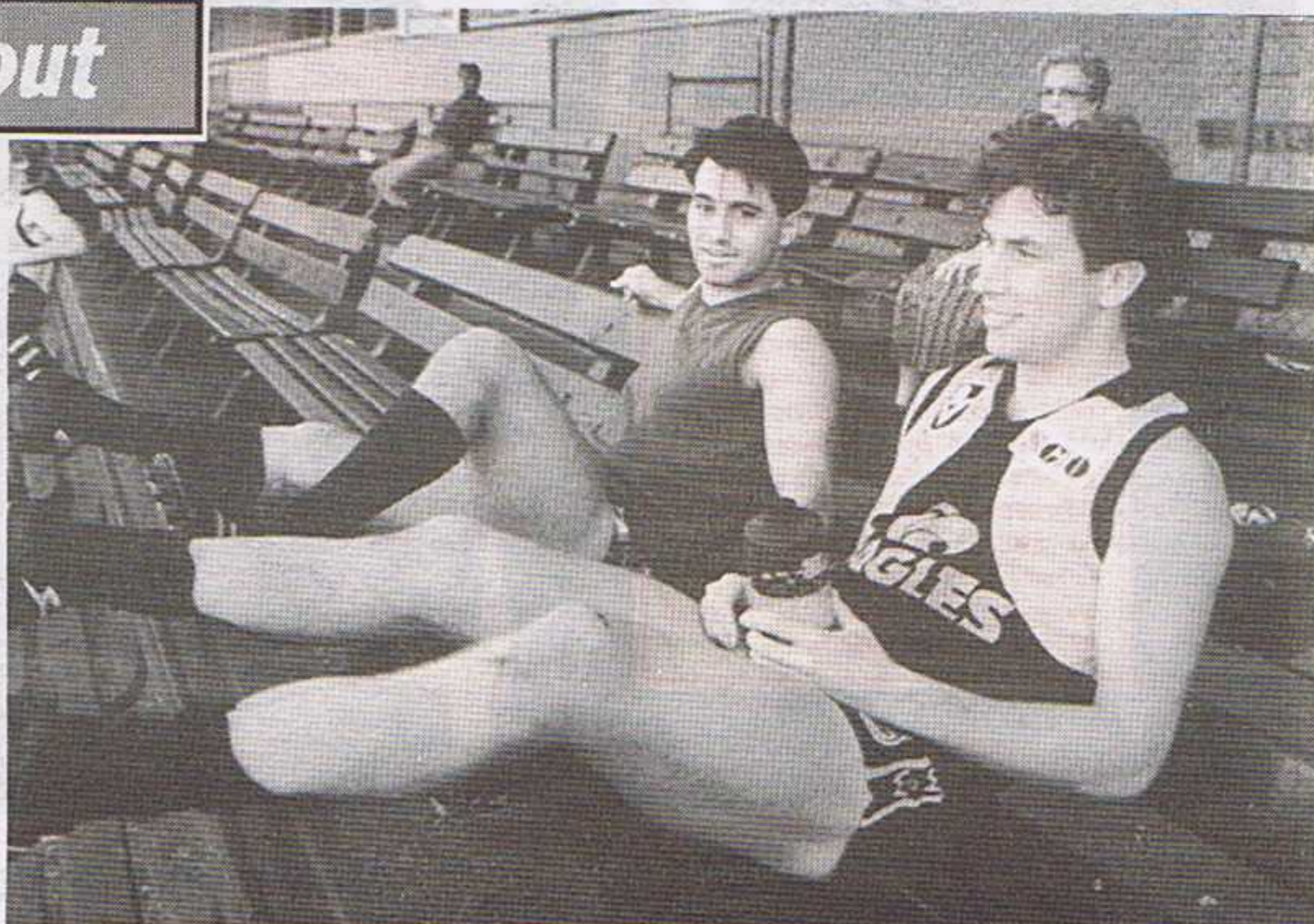
Richo setback

MIKE Richardson, the 33-year-old teenager look-a-like, has suffered a setback in his heavy pre-season campaign.

Richardson, a former Collingwood and Brisbane Bears star, had surgery three weeks ago to remove four wisdom teeth and a slow recovery has prevented him from training.

The creative follower missed Swans practice match against the Eagles seconds side two weeks ago and last Saturday's hit-out against South Fremantle.

Richardson, considered an integral part of Swans 1992 premiership quest, is a fitness fanatic and the alteration to his intense training schedule leaves him in a race against time to be ready for the WAFL season opener on April 4.



Two of East Perth's rising young stars in Lino Brolese (left) and Gary French take a break during training.



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PETER SUMICH
...the Eagles star goalkicker joins the Westside team thanks to Tip Top, who will present a weekly dose of Suma Magic



RON ALEXANDER
...the former coach and player will be back with his penetrating look at football across Australia



ROB BENNETT
...the hard-hitting columnist will focus on all the controversial actions

... and coming up in the next few weeks will be complete statistical details of all the Eagles and WAFL players shaping up for season 1992

Port rivals unite in push for AFL status

RIVAL coaches Mal Brown and Ken Judge have joined forces in a bid to hasten Fremantle's inevitable entry into the AFL.

Their pledge of allegiance is a bold bid to unite one of Australia's most traditionally divided sporting communities.

Brown and Judge, in conjunction with club presidents Ric Gloede (Bulldogs) and Len Hitchen (Sharks), have joined forces to raise the overall standard of football in Fremantle and their affiliated districts.

Monthly meetings between the two clubs have formulated a firm directional policy with a specific goal of Fremantle joining the AFL as soon as possible.

It shapes as one of the most ambitious plans ever undertaken in this State.

Brown, a coaching and football legend in WA for three decades and the rookie Judge, in his second year of coaching, will relinquish their newly-pledged unity on just three occasions this year.

COMMITMENT

The traditional Fremantle Derby days will remain contests of ferocious division of loyalties in the Port.

It is the firm commitment of the two Port clubs to make all three Derby clashes big events, as part of the push toward AFL entry.

The Fremantle plan of a rejuvenated football industry in the district began at the end of last season, when both

By **KIM HAGDORN**

East and South Fremantle failed to make the finals.

It was only the fifth time in the 106-year history of the WAFL that a Fremantle team had failed to play in the finals.

Both clubs embarked on nationwide recruiting campaigns and restructuring their clubs goals and objectives to include, as a top priority, the united front for Fremantle's admission to the AFL.

FLAMBOYANT

Brown declared this week that his return to coaching for 1992 is definitely not a step towards being the first coach of a Fremantle AFL team.

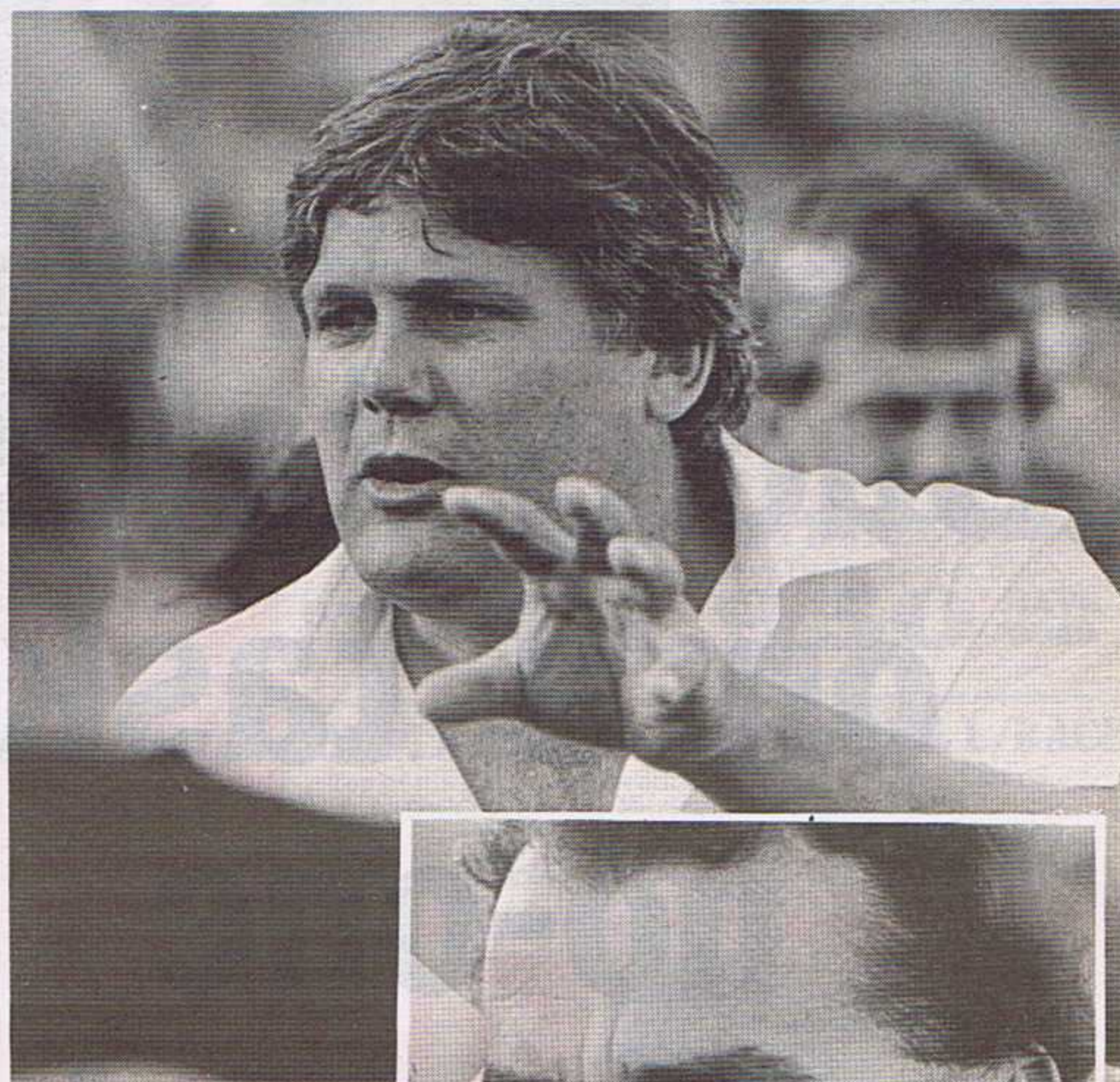
But the flamboyant, fast-talking dual WAFL premiership coach declared his intention to be up-front in the formation and ultimate management structure of the Fremantle team.

"It makes sense with my experience with the WA Football Commission, in business and in football, that I could play a role in putting the Fremantle team together," Brown said.

"But I certainly have no intention of making myself available to coach.

"Ken Judge and Claremont's Gerard Neesham are two certain candidates for that job. They are younger and have burning ambitions as coaches."

Brown tempered his enthusiasm for a Fremantle AFL team with a word of caution.



FRIENDLY FOES . . . rival Port coaches Mal Brown (above) and Ken Judge have joined forces for a Fremantle push towards the AFL. Judge will have a trial run this Friday when he coaches a combined Fremantle team against an Eagles seconds team at East Fremantle Oval



He says that before the second AFL from Western Australia enters the national competition, Fremantle needs two strong and vibrant teams operating in the WAFL competition.

"The stronger the teams are from Fremantle and the more active their supporter and membership base, the healthier is our case for a team from here," Brown said.

"It makes sense that Fremantle would operate from Fremantle Oval and we have got to create interest among our own people in this push for a team from this city.

"You only had to look at the buzz of activity in Fremantle after the game against the Eagles here a couple of weeks ago.

"That night the restaurants, cafes and pubs were alive with activity.

"I reckon it was because there had been an exciting footy event at Fremantle Oval to kick the evening off," Brown said.

The Fremantle push towards the AFL gathers further momentum this week when traditional arch-enemies East Fremantle and South Fremantle join forces against the Eagles.

The Port clubs have selected a combined league team to meet the Eagles second side at East Fremantle on Friday night in an innovative marketing strategy.

Brown and Judge will cash in on the confrontation as a chance to hasten the introduction of a team into the AFL from Fremantle.

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| West Coast Eagles Yearbook | \$20 | \$5 | Glenorchy Football Club 1948-1990 | \$25 | \$5 |
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Bucky takes on a task no-one really wanted



FAVOURITE SON ... Gary Buckenara has always been a proud West Aussie

GARY Buckenara, a favourite sporting son from Western Australia, returns to Perth this week carrying the burden of one of football's toughest assignments.

After just one season in retirement from an outstanding playing career — filling his winter as assistant-coach with the struggling Fitzroy — Buckenara has accepted the task few reputed AFL coaches wanted.

He is now the coach of the Sydney Swans — no mean challenge and a task that goes hand-in-hand with a rather cosmopolitan existence.

A proud product of the Subiaco Football Club; a legend as far as WA State-of-Origin performances are concerned and a brilliant Hawthorn premiership player, Buckenara has three years to make the Sydney Swans an AFL power.

A successful Sydney side, in the rugby-dominated harbour city, is paramount to the ambitious national spread of Aussie Rules.

A Sydney coach must be tactically astute; he needs to be a real diplomat and also an entertainer. Amidst all this, the Swans coach must always be promoting the game and the team in what many people see as the most hostile Aussie Rules environment in the country.

Sydney, under the flamboyant leadership and exaggerated razzamatazz of former president, Dr Geoff Eddeleston in the mid-1980s, made two fleeting appearances in the finals in 1986.

Since then the Swans have looked anything but finals contenders, with financial problems, player disputes and constant speculation on the club's future jeopardising any plans the coaching staff might implement.

But Buckenara is Hawthorn-trained and typical of that club's low-key professionalism, the WA man is quietly determined to be a winner.

He shrugs aside scepticism that he is too raw and inexperienced to be an early success in the cut-throat AFL coaching arena, where experience often is seen as the basis for survival.

In fact, Buckenara believes his very recent involvement in the game as a player will be an advantage to a still-emerging Sydney club.

The four-times Hawks premiership player is adamant that his young Swans will grow with him, as his own coaching career evolves.

"Being recently retired from the game at this level, helps me to better understand exactly what the players want and need," Buckenara said candidly.

LEARN BY MISTAKES

"Sure, I haven't had a lot of experience in coaching.

"I expect I'll make a few mistakes. But I'll learn and improve from them, just as the players will.

"We have a very young group, with the exception of a few experienced players — all of whom have stuck with the club and have a few points to prove.

"But I don't hide the fact that I'll model myself on Allan Jeans and the way things have been so successfully done at Hawthorn throughout the 1980s.

"I think a lot of coaches and clubs will be searching for the secret that has made Hawthorn so successful.

"Even the Eagles, with the success they had in 1991, must realise that other clubs are hitting them harder and perhaps playing a bit more like them."

Buckenara hasn't pulled any punches since his arrival in Sydney.

He knows that Sydney's AFL team must be winners if they are to earn the following of the Sydney fans and Buckenara is convinced that his new club has enough potential AFL stars to shine brightly.

He sees no reason why the Swans youngsters can't break out of the enormous shadows cast in the recent years by highly-paid imports such as Greg Williams, Gerard Healy, Bernard Toohey, Warwick Capper and David Bolton.

Buckenara confidently predicts big things from veteran skipper Dennis Carroll, skilful winger David Murphy and ever-reliable trio Neil Cordy, Terry Thrupp and Mark Bayes.

"In the past there seems to have been two sets of rules at Sydney," Buckenara said. "All that's about to change.

"Sydney have been a team that when the crunch time came, with a game there to be won in the final quarter, with comradeship and team work needed to achieve victory, they went under.

"Certainly that was what I understood of them as a player when I was at Hawthorn.

"The closeness and club attitude is what we're working on at the moment and I believe we are achieving it.

"Just the other day Dennis Carroll told me he thought it was the best feeling he had ever experienced at the club."

Buckenara goes into his first coaching season at AFL level with a host of untried talent.

On his senior player list of 60, he has 39 players with less than 10 AFL matches and the average age of the squad is only 22.

Two of those youngsters are 1991 Claremont premiership midfielder Andrew McGovern and East Perth utility player Gavin Rose, with Buckenara feeling that they will both make the grade this season.

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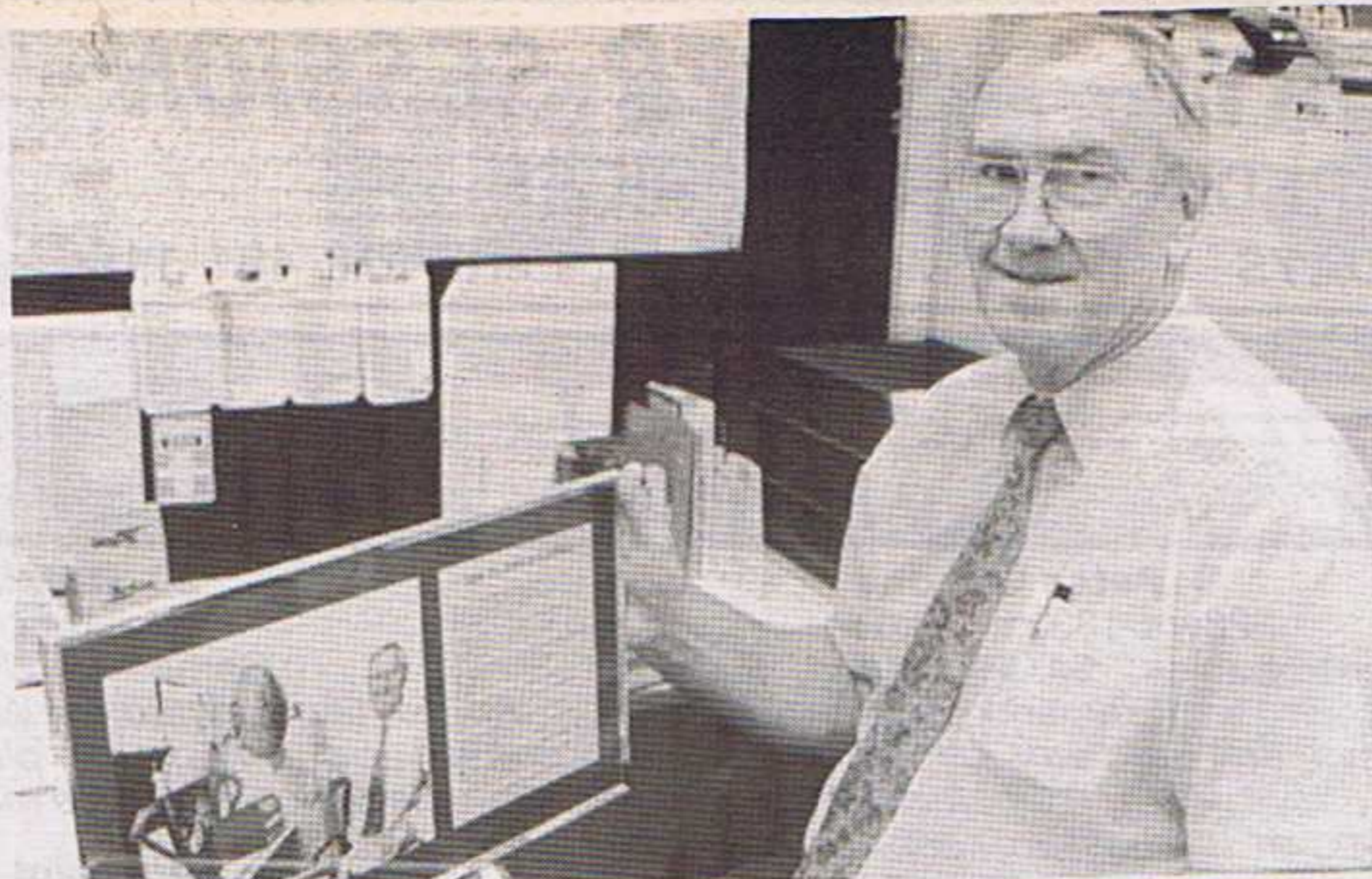
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Out of the frying pan . . . into the fire!



PARTING WORDS . . . John O'Connell with a farewell moment featuring a tribute from Brian Ciccotosto

JOHN O'Connell, one of football's ever-lasting personalities, stepped from one job directly into another last weekend.

After five years as the WA Football League's general manager, O'Connell celebrated his 60th birthday by retiring — and then took on the onerous challenge of president of the Claremont Football Club.

The WA Football Commission delved deep into past records when they held an official farewell on Thursday for the former champion Claremont and Geelong player.

W AFC chairman, Peter Tannock, paid tribute to

the long association that O'Connell has had with football, starting as a player and finishing as an administrator, with coaching, parental influence and media roles all mixed in between.

It was O'Connell's second 'retirement' in recent times, having joined the WAFL after many years in the State Public Service.

Many WAFL staff members — old and new — were present at the farewell function and O'Connell walked away with an armful of gifts suitable for his retirement — including a fishing rod and a home handyman tool kit.

HANDING OVER . . . retiring general manager John O'Connell hands over to his successor, Trevor Howard, the former president of the WA Amateur Football League



SOUTH Fremantle general manager Brian Ciccotosto, a handy man when it comes to words, presented this special tribute to John O'Connell on his retirement.

Ode to John O'Connell

Oke was blessed from the very first bounce
Cos he was born in the heart of old Freo
Where he grew to respect the best from the west
With Marshy and Naylor his heroes.

Through no fault of his own he was not Freo grown
So he attended a school in the city.
As a decathlete of note and head boy to pay tote
He was debonair, charming and good looking.

When he first met young Pam, he was an outstanding sportsman,
Who enjoyed the odd game of Oz footy;
And while still in his teens and full of big beans
He played League for the local town pussies!

Not content with his lot to Sleepy Hollow he shot
To play with Victoria's own Kittens.
Where he played with great zest to become one of the best
But his team was constantly beaten...

So without any bother, he made Pam a proud mother
Of six kids in true Catholic tradition.
And they're proud of dear dad cos he ain't been half bad
As a man's man and a man on a mission!

Now Oke's hung his boots up and he's called it a day
And we're here to bid his final farewell.
It's been nice knowing you Oke, you're not a bad bloke
So charge your glasses to a man whose a swell.

Interesting mix, are those Eagles

THE variations of likes and dislikes of the West Coast Eagles players make for an interesting cocktail.

From the cars they drive to the food they eat, the official player profiles for 1992 highlight the private and public lifestyles of WA's football celebrities, with a mixture of responses to the club's annual questionnaire.

Relaxation is an important part of any footballer's routine, with Michael Brennan enjoying horse racing, Matthew Clape happy to eat; Derek Hall loves to watch TV; David Hynes prefers to sleep and Chris Lewis tries his luck at darts.

Naturally, many highlighted the 1991 grand final loss to Hawthorn — and personal injuries — as their biggest disappointment. But, by contrast, many players rate that losing 1991 grand final as their most memorable match.

The choice of transport also has a wide range — fiery Karl Langdon has moved to a Toyota GT4 Turbo Coupe, while Jason Ball prefers his EA Falcon.

Craig Turley has just joined Phil Scott in a Pajero, Dale Kickett and Brendon Krummel opt for Ford Telstars, Brad Gwilliam prefers his older 1978 Torana and a number have gone for the basic Holden Commodore.

Big man Mark Hepburn is content with a 12-speed Gordonson bicycle.

The lighter side of the players home life was revealed with their choice of television programmes.

Guy McKenna prefers Family Feud; Daniel Metropolis sits down when he can in front of Growing Pains; Peter Sumich can be found watching The Simpsons, while Craig Turley loves nothing better than the old Thunderbird series and Dr Who.

Sporting programmes rate highly with Mitchell White, Robbie West and John Worsfold, while Karl Langdon keeps up to date with the news.

Cartoons are hot favourites with many players, plus Cheers and a range of comedys.

The 'Most Admired Footballer' question brought a variety of personal choices including Dermott Brereton for Jason Ball, Derek Hall, Glen Jakovich and Brendon Krummel, while Ross Glendinning topped the list for Adrian Barich, Michael Brennan, Dean Laidley and Guy McKenna.

Not surprisingly, Michael Tuck, Barry Cable and even coach Mick Malthouse were popular memories as far as players go.

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7MJ886. One owner, log books, 5 speed manual. Top of the range.



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Meet this year's Eagles . . .

1 Brett Heady

22yrs 183cm 82kg

Games 46 Eagles, 34 Subiaco

One of the real stars of the Eagles last season; a classy forward who has the ability to kick exciting goals.

2 Dean Kemp

23yrs 183cm 74kg

Games 46 Eagles, 24 Subiaco

Livewire wingman who is an important part of the Eagles midfield. Has had an interrupted pre-season.

3 Chris Mainwaring

26yrs 180cm 82kg

Games 101, 48 East Frem

One of the team veterans; a strong attacking wingman whose consistency saw him named deputy vice-captain to reward his outstanding service to the team since 1987.

4 Peter Sumich

24yrs 192cm 91kg

Games 67 Eagles, 58 South Frem

Has been nursed through the pre-season with a knee injury, but the century goal-kicking full-forward is a vital cog in attack. A two-match suspension makes him unavailable for the start of the season.

5 Dwayne Lamb

30yrs 180cm 90kg

Games 108 Eagles, 134 Subiaco

One of the Eagles most consistent performers in recent seasons, but will need to continue this form as competition for places in the side is fierce.

6 Paul Peos

24yrs 182cm 86kg

Games 42 Eagles, 52 East Perth

Now injury-free, he is out to cement a regular position in the team, probably in defence, where he has shown strong attacking skills. Loves to run into the forward line.

7 Craig Turley

26yrs 185cm 80kg

Games 58 Eagles, 72 West Perth

Finished off last year sensationally, winning the Eagles club champion award and being runner up to Jim Stynes in the Brownlow Medal. The talented utility player is a key midfielder, but will come in for some close-checking this season.

8 Trent Nichols

22yrs 173cm 76kg

Games 56 Richmond

A speedy rover drafted from Richmond, who should add some running power to the Eagles following division.



Matt Connell



Jason Ball

9 Peter Wilson

28yrs 183cm 90kg

Games 41 Eagles, 54 Richmond, 94 East Fremantle

A flamboyant forward who offers the side dash and skill. Plays with fierce determination, but will need to be at his best to keep his place in a young and emerging side.

10 Don Pyke

23yrs 180cm 76kg

Games 44 Eagles, 51 Claremont

A negating rover who returned to his best last season and proved that he has the ability to cut players out of the game, but also pick up plenty of possessions.

11 Ashley McIntosh

19yrs 194cm 90kg

Games 17 Eagles, 5 Claremont

An exciting key-position prospect, with an excellent debut in the AFL last year, showing maturity beyond his years. Plays well in defence.

12 Phil Scott

31yrs 194cm 97kg

Games 66 Eagles, 90 Subiaco

Failed to play a game last season due to injury and poor form, but has the determination to force his way into the side as a back-up ruckman.

13 Scott Watters

23yrs 178cm 79kg

Games 28 Eagles, 65 South Frem

A knee injury hampered his start last year, but when he returned he was one of the Eagles most creative players. A clever midfielder with uncanny ball skills.

14 Michael Brennan

26yrs 187cm 90kg

Games 104 Eagles, 76 East Frem

A strong, reliable defender, who showed that extra responsibility helped him to develop a sounder game. Always dependable in the last line.

15 Dean Laidley

24yrs 180cm 74kg

Games 38 Eagles, 67 West Perth

Has made a remarkable comeback from a serious knee injury. His good form in the pre-season Foster's Cup matches give him a real chance of regaining his spot on a half-back flank.

16 Mark Hepburn

23yrs 196cm 95kg

Games 5 Eagles, 58 North Melbourne, 15 Claremont

Struggled with injury last season after moving back home from North Melbourne, but should have a more consistent year with his solid summer campaign and his fitness looks good in practice matches.

17 Guy McKenna

22yrs 185cm 85kg

Games 90 Eagles, 48 Claremont

A sturdy defender whose versatile skills provide numerous options. Rarely puts in a bad game and is a classic half-back rebounder.

18 Tony Evans

22yrs 178cm 75kg

Games 2 Eagles, 55 Claremont

Only played two games last season due to injury, but has the skills to break into the side if he can find early-season touch.

19 Karl Langdon

23yrs 191cm 90kg

Games 69 Eagles, 32 Subiaco

An important key to the Eagles forward-line, adds vitality and enthusiasm, which was badly missed in the grand final loss to Hawthorn.

20 Derek Hall

20yrs 188cm 84kg

Games 41 West Perth

An exciting forward for West Perth last season and has shown he can play AFL football with a couple of good practice match hit-outs this year.

22 David Hynes

24yrs 193cm 90kg

Games 9 Eagles, 11 South Frem, 121 Port Adelaide

Played nine games mainly in defence and in the ruck last season after coming over from South Australia. Has been used successfully in attack this season, looking fitter and more determined and provides another forward-line option.

23 Paul Harding

27yrs 193cm 95kg

Games 6 Hawthorn, 67 St Kilda, 96 East Frem
A physically strong ruckman who will give the Eagles big-man division plenty of mobility and marking power around the ground. Returns west after five years in Victoria.

24 John Worsfold

23yrs 182cm 85kg

Games 96 Eagles, 25 South Frem

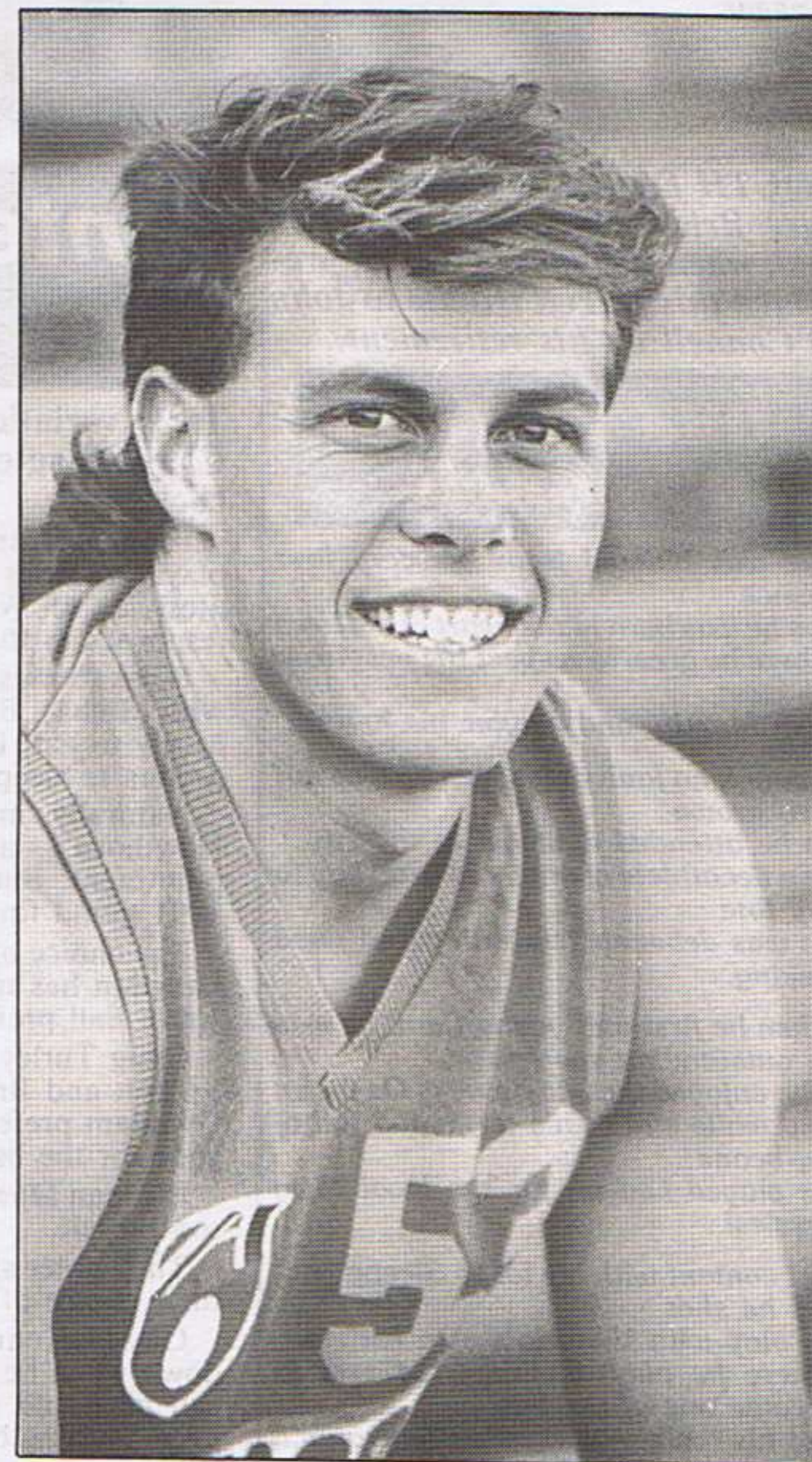
Is gradually recovering from serious groin problems and plans to be fully fit and determined to show his best form. Plays well off a half-back flank, but is keen to move upfield.

25 Laurie Keene

30yrs 203cm 100kg

Games 36 Eagles, 137 Subiaco

One of the AFL's most potent ruckman if he can overcome his crippling Achilles tendon and heel problems. Has been retained on the list despite lingering injury doubts.



Brendan Krummel

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a winning combination

... the squad of 1992



Steve Davies



Daniel Metropolis

26 Paul Gow

22yrs 188cm 89kg

Games 45 Swan Districts, 7 Footscray
Recruited back to WA after an unsuccessful stint with Footscray. A capable defender who will wait in the wings for his chances.

27 Glen Jakovich

18yrs 192cm 91kg

Games 16 Eagles, 51 South Frem
An impressive debut last season and his pre-season form indicates that he will be an important part of the Eagles success this year. Can play in any key position.

28 Chris Lewis

22yrs 186cm 84kg

Games 90 Eagles, 7 Claremont
One of the most skilful players in the AFL; offers the Eagles plenty of drive out of the centre and is an exciting forward with a touch of magic.

29 Jason Ball

19yrs 196cm 93kg

Games 10 Swan Dist
The Eagles priority pre-draft choice ahead of a host of quality youngsters. A brilliant ruckman-forward who has shown great potential pre-season.

30 Peter Matera

22yrs 180cm 81kg

Games 31 Eagles, 59 South Frem
A scintillating wingman who took the AFL by storm last season, finishing high up in the Brownlow Medal and looms as key centreliner.

31 Mitchell White

18yrs 191cm 86kg

Games 2 Eagles, 35 Subiaco
Made his debut with a promising performance against Essendon early last season, but received limited opportunities. Earmarked as a key defensive player and has done well at full-back practice games.

32 Matt Clape

22yrs 185cm 81kg

Games 67 East Perth
A dashing half-back who was on the brink of selection during last season's finals series. Skilful and creative, but must wait his turn in a long list of capable back-up players.

34 Dean Irving

25yrs 200cm 102kg

Games 41 Eagles, 38 South Frem
Carried the Eagles ruck work for most of 1991, but with Paul Harding sharing the load, coach Mick Malthouse can use him more in attack, where his aerial skills will be put to use.

35 Troy Ugle

23yrs 178cm 82kg

Games 33 Eagles, 60 Swan Dist
Had a disappointing 1991 season, but has trained hard over the summer to force his way back into the team; has excelled in practice games.

36 David Hart

28yrs 177cm 79kg

Games 95 Eagles, 69 South Frem
Enjoyed his best season in the AFL as a defensive rover. He also has the ability to pick up many possessions in an unobtrusive way.

37 Robbie West

23yrs 174cm 76kg

Games 1 Eagles, 17 West Perth
Made an impressive roving debut in the last qualifying match of the season against Fitzroy. Clever ball-handler and constructive around the goals.

38 Adrian Barich

28yrs 178cm 85kg

Games 46 Eagles, 102 Perth
Hard-running utility player who offers the Eagles added strength across the middle of the ground.

39 Chris Waterman

23yrs 183cm 83kg

Games 49 Eagles, 51 East Frem
Enjoyed his best AFL season and should continue to be an important key to the Eagles defence this year. His versatility makes him one of the first players picked.

40 Kane Morphett

19yrs 184cm 78kg

Games 14 East Frem
A strongly-built youngster, recruited as the club's second draft choice last November. Is a handy utility player, but will probably continue his apprenticeship with East Fremantle.

41 Daniel Metropolis

19yrs 186cm 82kg

Games 3 Subiaco
Snapped up as the Eagles first draft choice after an impressive WAFL finals series with Subiaco. A superb football brain and clever all-round skills and could surprise with some early opportunities.

42 Matthew Connell

19yrs 181cm 73kg

Games 9 Subiaco
An exciting and elusive forward-follower, who turned in some sparkling displays for Subiaco before winning his draft invitation. Another of the young recruits who will have to wait before breaking into the big time.

44 Anthony Begovich

24yrs 185cm 88kg

Games 9 Eagles, 83 Claremont
An elusive defender-centreliner, who had his 1991 season curtailed with injury. Faces a battle winning a spot in the Eagles defence with an abundance of talented flankers.

45 Andrew Lockyer

26yrs 192cm 88kg

Games 76 Eagles, 59 East Frem
Played strongly in the defence last year, but his pre-season has been hampered by injury. Is a versatile big man with great service behind him.

47 Steven Davies

19yrs 187cm 87kg

Games 15 Subiaco
A versatile player man with strong marking skills and handy disposal talents. Was the third player selected by the club in last November's draft, but might have to wait a year for his chance.

48 Peter Freeman

22yrs 187cm 89kg

Games 5 St Kilda
A surprise draft choice by West Coast last November from the Saints. A hard-working mobile player who could be used as a pinch-hitter if injuries take a toll.



Peter Freeman

49 David Regan

19yrs 189cm 88kg

Games —

An aggressive customer recruited from Essendon's reserves as part of the pre-national draft bargaining. Originally from WA, he could spend most of his time in the WAFL awaiting his shot at the big time.

50 Ryan Turnbull

20yrs 198cm 92kg

Games 5 Eagles, 17 East Perth, 25 Claremont
A very agile big man who suffered some highs and lows in his inaugural AFL season last year. Can be used in the ruck, a key position, on a wing or half-back flank.

52 Nathan McIntosh

23yrs 190cm 88kg

Games 4 Subiaco

An older brother of exciting teenager Ashley McIntosh. If injury-free, he could be a handy forward for the Eagles. A strong overhead mark and reliable goal-kicker, won his draft call with an impressive finals series with Subiaco last year.

53 Brendan Krummel

19yrs 188cm 90kg

Games 24 East Fremantle

A constructive midfielder who could surprise with his advancement this year. Is highly regarded by Eagles team management, with an excellent temperament.

60 Matthew Burton

21yrs 211cm 90kg

Games 26 Subiaco

The spindly ruckman is the tallest player on an AFL club list. He is continuing to develop into a fine player and will probably spend another year with Subiaco.



We'll stand by you





Lions ready for war . . .

FITZROY coach Robert Shaw faces psychological warfare in the Foster's Cup grand final against the Hawthorn machine at Waverley Park this Saturday night.

But the rookie Lions boss says his flirtation as a psychologist will be as much with his own charges, as with the mighty Hawks.

Shaw blatantly admits that his side's new-found success formula is based on the winning ways of Hawthorn and the West Coast Eagles last season.

Hawthorn, reigning AFL and Foster's Cup premiers, will be seeking a run-away record sixth night title since the inception of the series in 1977, which was won by the Hawks.

"Probably the biggest psychological barrier for our guys will be before the game even starts," Shaw said from Melbourne this week.

"Our guys have to line up opposite Hawthorn's big names for the national anthem, look them in the eye and honestly believe we can win.

"I'll be going into the game knowing we can beat Hawthorn.

"Nobody going into any grand final should ever consider running second.

"I know we have a lot to turn around on last year's results against Hawthorn. They did us by a combined 283 points in two games.

"But in all our games against last year's day finalists, at some stage, we were in touch with them. Hawthorn were a different matter.

By **KIM HAGDORN**

"There is definitely something about them."

Shaw, entering his second season as Lions senior coach, warns without reservation that this is a new-look Fitzroy team.

The former Essendon league player and Tasmanian premiership captain-coach, is pleasantly surprised at the early consistency of his troops.

He fingers a more settled atmosphere around the previously financially stricken Lions as a major factor in the improved dedication and attitude.

NEW SKILL

Despite continuing financial speculation; questions about the future locality of the club and a battle to convince prospective players to join the Roys, they have emerged from 1991 as serious improvers.

Shaw also praises the early settling of WAFL draftees Jeremy Guard and Marcus Seecamp.

"There's been a lot of talk about other recruits in Peter Sartori and Paul Abbott, but Marcus and Jeremy have settle superbly," said the Lions boss.

"I've been particularly pleased with all our young guys.

"We've had a good run in the Foster's Cup series, but I have to admit I can't find a single stand out player.

"Abbott, Richard Osborne, Ross Lyon and Brendan McCormack have all played well, but so have our younger players."

Shaw declares that Fitzroy's 90-point drubbing from the Eagles on May 19 last season (Round 9) was the turning point in the club's resurrection.

"From that point we decided to pick a team based on future directions and stick with it," Shaw recalled.

"We went for young players and made them aware that they were in the team to stay.

"The week after that lesson from West Coast, we beat Geelong.

"By the end of the season we were running every side we went up against and won three of our last five games, including that end-of-season win over the Eagles."

Shaw promoted little-known youngsters David Donato, Dean Harding, Stephen Paxman and Peter Caven and all have shown the benefit of the senior team experiences last season.

With slick team football and a hunger for victory, Fitzroy have won all pre-season matches.

The Lions have accounted for Melbourne and Richmond in practice matches before turning in quality Foster's Cup performances to beat the more fancied North Melbourne by just four points, Sydney (58) and Adelaide (31).



WAR-MONGER . . . Lions coach Robert Shaw is set to take on Hawthorn giants

Australian Football League

FOSTER'S CUP SEMI-FINALS

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|------|-------|-------|-----|
| HAWTHORN | 6.3 | 14.7 | 17.10 | 20.14 | 134 |
| GEELONG | 3.3 | 7.5 | 10.5 | 12.9 | 81 |

GOALS — Hawthorn: Dunstall 7, Brereton, Hall 3, P. Dear, Morrissey 2, Anderson, Hudson, Platten. Geelong: Brownless 4, Bairstow 3, Brown 2, Ablett, Couch, S. Malakellis.

BEST — Hawthorn: G. Dear, Gowers, Mew, Morrissey, Platten, Dunstall, Brereton. Geelong: Ablett, Handley, G. Hocking, S. Hocking, Couch, Brownless.

Played at Waverley. Umpires: Denis Rich, Darren Goldspink. Attendance: 20,103.

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|----|
| FITZROY | 4.0 | 8.2 | 9.4 | 15.5 | 95 |
| ADELAIDE | 1.3 | 4.5 | 7.7 | 9.10 | 64 |

GOALS — Fitzroy: Wheildong 3, Osborne 3, Dundas 2, Broderick 2, Blakey, Morrish, Caven, Abbott, McCormack. Adelaide: Hodges 4, Hart 3, Modra, Liptak.

BEST — Fitzroy: Lynch, Broderick, Dundas, Osborne, Caven, Abbott. Adelaide: Hart, Hodges, Ingerson, Liptak, Rowe.

Played at Waverley. Umpires: Peter Carey, Chris Mitchell. Attendance: 7,639.

Hawk power on display

HAWTHORN unleashed another classical display of power and skill to advance to the Foster's Cup grand final, beating Geelong by 53-points, 20.14 (134) to 12.9 (81).

The return of centre-half-forward Dermott Brereton was a key factor as he teamed with Jason Dunstall to produce 10 goals between them.

Brereton has been plagued by back injuries for the past three seasons and this year he has been hampered by a hip ailment.

But his return to the Hawks line-up gives them a two-pronged attack, which looms as the most dangerous in the AFL this year.

Dunstall was simply superb, taking 10 marks and posting seven goals, taking his tally to 16 from only two Foster's Cup outings.

Geelong, who promised so much after easily accounting for West Coast, were disappointing, as they were second to the ball and gave away too many free kicks.

Other good performers for Hawthorn were Ben Allan, who was creative in the midfield and Greg Dear, who was strong in the ruck. Better players for Geelong were Gary Ablett, Steve Hocking and Bill Brownless.

LIONS ON TOP

Lowly Fitzroy claimed the other grand final berth, beating highly-fancied Adelaide by 31 points, 15.5 (95) to 9.10 (64).

Fitzroy, who finished 14th in 1991, have started the year sensationally, giving their fans some hope for the approaching AFL season.

The Lions led all night and were only in trouble at three-quarter time when they were nine points in front, before they steadied in the final term to dispose of the Crows.

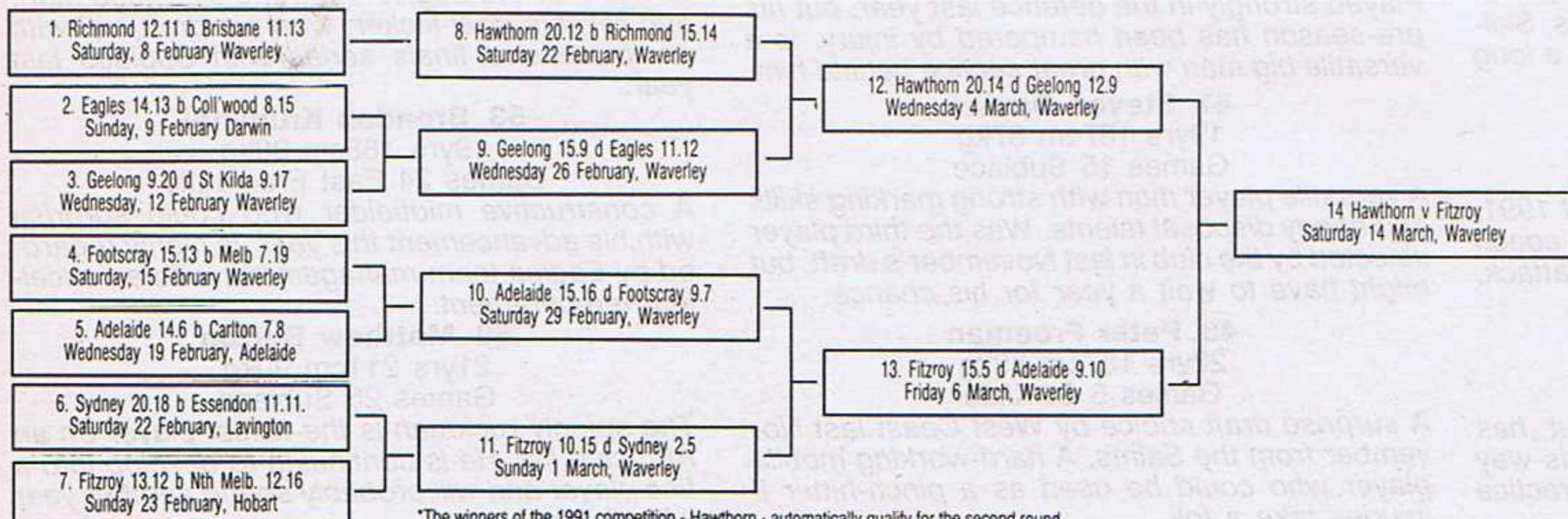
Darren Wheildon and Richard Osborne were in danderous form, kicking three goals each, while Matthew Dundas and Paul Broderick kicked two goals apiece.

Veteran Paul Roos was unbeatable at centre-half-back, where he repelled many of Adelaide's attacking moves. Brett Stephens, Alistair Lynch and John Blakey added good support.

Former Hawk Paul Abbott played a servicable game in the ruck, in the absence of Peter Sartori, who has a serious knee injury.

Adelaide were well-served by Scott Hodges, who kicked four goals from a half-forward flank and rover Darel Hart, who chipped in with three.

YOUR 1992 FOSTER'S CUP FIXTURES GUIDE



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



FOSTER'S





Foster's Cup pre-season action



... but Joyce is fired up

HAWTHORN coach Alan Joyce sounded an ominous warning for Foster's Cup grand final opponents Fitzroy this week.

Joyce, carrying a remarkable unbeaten four-game grand final record into his David and Goliath contest with the Roys, said his star-studded unit have lost none of their hunger for success.

"Our players have shown over summer and through this series that they have lost none of their willingness and desire to win," Joyce said.

"The Foster's Cup series is the best thing for that, because they are full-on games at full match pressure."

HISTORY

Joyce will be hoping for a repeat of history in Saturday's Foster's Cup grand final.

He led the Hawks to the 1988 night series title, followed by the AFL premiership six months later as he stood in for the ill Allan Jeans.

Joyce resumed his post at the Hawks' coaching helm for 1989 and '90, before Joyce repeated his dual premiership dose last year by winning both the pre-season and official AFL crowns on his resumption as league coach.

Joyce takes the Hawks into Saturday's clash as odds-on favourites to claim his fifth successive title.

But the Hawks coach, typical of the Hawthorn way, admits a degree of caution in his club's contest with Fitzroy,

expected to be AFL big-improvers this year.

Joyce is quick to point out that their unchallenged demolition of Fitzroy in both qualifying matches last year, to the tune of 283 points, is past history.

"We've always had a healthy respect for Fitzroy," said the reigning AFL premiership coach.

"This year's competition will be very even. There is no easy team to beat.

"The AFL draft and the off-season recruiting done by all clubs, will make sure that the competition is close.

"We're concerned with everyone and right now it is Fitzroy in this grand final."

Joyce is a strong advocate of the pre-season competition concept.

He set out to win both competitions last year and wants a repeat in 1992.

"The Hawthorn Football Club always aspires to play at the highest level. Finals and particularly grand finals is the highest our players can achieve," Joyce said.

"This pre-season competition is the best thing to be in right now. It provides us with the type of pressure and full match preparation required for the tough season ahead.

"It's a long way to go before anyone can make any plans about grand final day in September, but this is a great way to start the season," the Hawks coach said.



POWER KING . . . Hawks coach Alan Joyce is ready for anything Fitzroy serve up

Apart from brilliant young ruckman Steven Lawrence and clever on-ball player Anthony Condon, who are both serving suspensions, Hawthorn will be at full strength for Saturday's grand final.

The almost unstoppable forward line combination of Jason Dunstall, Dermott Brereton and Paul Hudson will be a major headache to Fitzroy coach Robert Shaw and his defenders.

Hawthorn's immense all-round talent, vast finals experience and sheer class should see them to a fourth premiership in 12 months.

A Hawthorn victory would stretch their remarkable record of the past decade to 10 flags since 1983.

The Hawks won official premierships in 1983, '86, '88, '89 and again last year, with pre-season titles in 1985, '86, '88 and '91 after winning the inaugural night series in 1977.

Quit kicks in to boost footy

PERTH'S Forrest Place came alive yesterday when hundreds of football fanatics transformed the popular lunch-time retreat into a mock football field.

The day marked the announcement that Healthway, the WA Health Promotion Foundation, would inject \$1 million into football sponsorship.

The major sponsorship announcement was combined with some pre-season promotions to give spectators a taste of the season to come, with the appearance of key Eagles and WAFL

players, as well as more than 100 junior stars-of-tomorrow.

The chairman of the WA Football Commission, Dr Peter Tannock, said the day provided the public with a taste of what was to come in 1992.

The big sponsorship injection at all levels of football was endorsed in a joint announcement by the chairman of Healthway's board, Harry Sorensen; the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Edwards and Dr Tannock.

The deal will link the Health Department's Quit message to all levels of football, from the West Coast Eagles to amateur and junior ranks.

The three-year agreement will see the Football Development Trust receive \$288,000; country football \$285,000; Superules and amateur ranks \$60,000, with an additional \$40,000 going to WAFL clubs.

The sponsorship deal includes \$300,000 for the Eagles under a two-year tobacco replacement programme.

"The Healthway deal will see football throughout the State linked with the non-smoking message," said Dr Tannock. "It will be an important factor in the expansion and consolidation of WA football in the future.

"People want to see sport linked with health and it is fitting that football, which is the most popular sport in WA should set an example at all levels.

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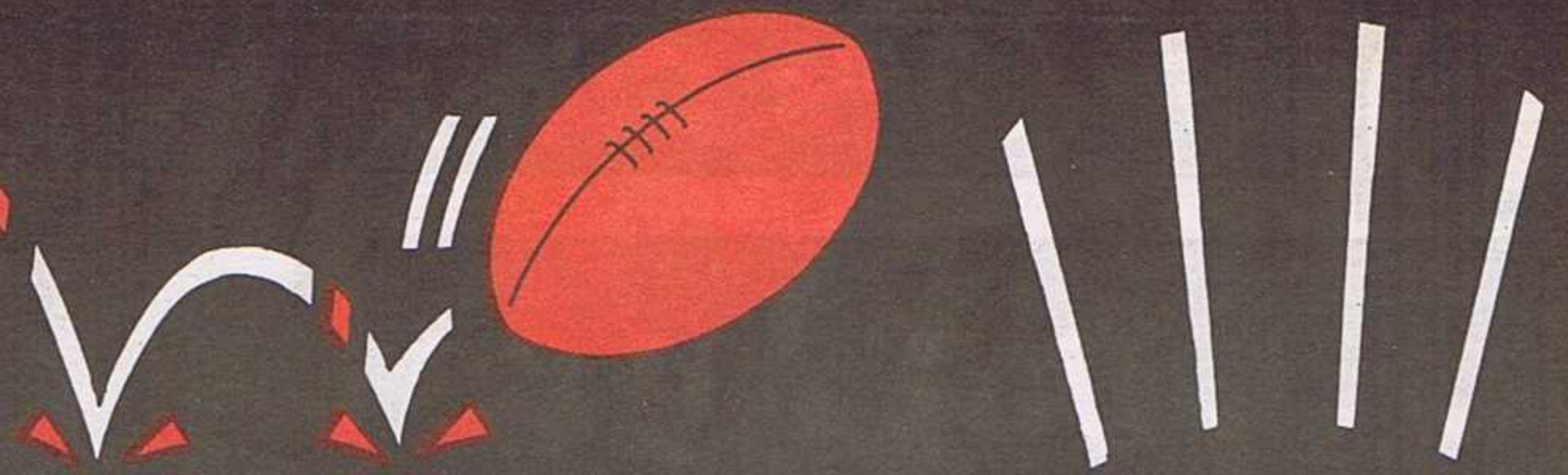
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CLUB

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LEFT: New deputy vice-captain Chris Mainwaring makes his acceptance speech. ABOVE: Pictured joining Peter Sumich for a chat are (from left) Bill Moyes, from Mitre 10; the new managing director of The West Australian, Dennis Thompson and Craig Orr, from the Swan Brewery. BELOW: Eagles captain John Worsfold is congratulated by SGIO chairman, Frank Michell



CLUB

RUMOURS

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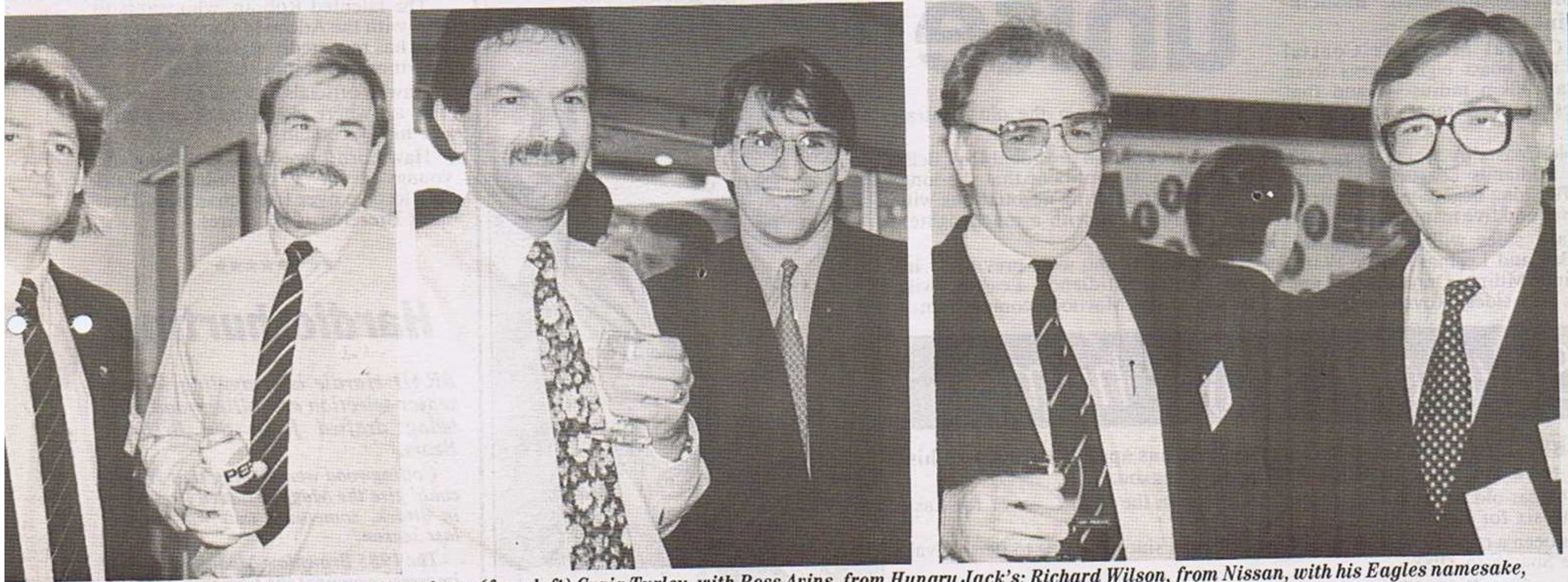
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BOUNCE INTO

CLUB

RUMOURS



Enjoying a drink at the Eagles sponsors launch are (from left) Craig Turley, with Ross Avins, from Hungry Jack's; Richard Wilson, from Nissan, with his Eagles namesake, Peter Wilson and Tony Turner, from Mitre 10, with Eagles chairman Terry O'Connor

TOASTING SUCCESS



THE West Coast Eagles unveiled their on-field leaders for season 1992 this week — and announced a record \$2 million in sponsorship support

John Worsfold and Michael Brennan were retained as captain and vice-captain respectively, with Chris Mainwaring replacing Phil Scott as deputy vice-captain.

Westside Football were at the function to capture the players toasting their 1992 success with representatives of the companies lending their sponsorship support.



ABOVE: Ampol's sales manager Ross Benzie chats with Eagles business development officer, Peter Wilson. LEFT: Craig Turley and Dwayne Lamb talk football boots with Puma's Glenn Lee, a former WAFL umpire

MEETING PLACE

CLUB

RUMOURS

Super Session 8-12pm Reduced Drink Prices

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Country leagues

A NEW country league has been established north of Perth, with two older-established associations linking up.

The Central Midlands Coastal League will boast eight teams from within a 100km radius — and that promises a much more competitive season.

The old Coastal Association and the Central Midlands League have combined after long negotiations, contributing three and five teams respectively.

Coastal's sides will be Cervantes, Jurien Bay and Leeman, while Watheroo, Bindi-Miling, Dandaragana and Moora's two sides, Rovers and War-

unite

riors, will join from the old Central Midlands League.

New association president Roy Bell, of Leeman, is confident that the long and often frustrating negotiations will pay off this year with a much tighter competition.

Dalwallinu, who were previously in the Central Midlands League, will switch to the Mortlock competition.

Seymour stays home

RELIABLE East Perth defender Ken Seymour has applied to return to his country town and play for Bindi-Miling this season.

The 26-year-old Seymour has played 83 games in the WAFL — 77 for East Perth and six for East Fremantle.

He has been a consistent performer for the Royals since crossing to Perth Oval from the Sharks in 1988.

A farmer from Bindi-Miling, Seymour wants to resume in the newly-formed Central Midlands Coastal League.

Another former WAFL player who will appear in the CMCL competition is Graeme Comerford.

The former Swan Districts and West Perth defender will play and coach the Moora Rovers and his experience and ability will be a bonus for the club.

Amateurs star to Geraldton

FORMER All-Australian amateur player and last year's State captain Bill Armstrong will play for Railways, in the Great Northern Football League, this season.

Armstrong, a premiership player with Mt Lawley last year, has transferred to Geraldton with work commitments and will give Railways added strength in defence.

Railways will be a strong unit if they can sign 1985 Sandover Medallist and former West Coast Eagles and Collingwood centreman Murray Wrensted.

The talented Wrensted is back in his home town of Geraldton and has declined invitations to rejoin his former WAFL club, East Fremantle. But he has had talks with Railways, where he started his senior career.

Railways are also hopeful of signing another of their original players in Scott Rowland, who finished his WAFL career as a premiership player with the Tigers in 1989.

Goldfields lure for two big men

FORMER WAFL players Lance Durack and Clinton Wolf are keen to play in the Goldfields Football League this season.

Durack and Wolf, who played with East Fremantle and Claremont respectively last season, have not signed with a club, but Kambalda are heading the race to sign the talented duo.

Both players would be handy recruits in the Goldfields League with a number of players leaving the competition to try their fortunes in the WA Football League.

PROMINENT

Three prominent players from the Goldfields have made their way to Lathlain Park, where they have impressed Perth's coaching staff.

Alan Garred and Graham Restid, both strongly-built ruckmen from the Kalgoorlie Football Club, should give Demons coach Ken Armstrong extra versatility around the ground.

The Demons have also sought the services of Brad George, a skilful wingman who enjoyed a successful season with Boulder City.

West Perth have secured Mines Rovers premiership player Shane Ste-



NEW LEAGUE . . . Roy Bell, president of the newly-formed Central Midlands Coastal League

vens and Troy Fullgrabe, from Railways.

Stevens suffered a setback in the practice match against East Fremantle in Collie when he rolled his ankle.

Night games in Pilbara

THE Wickham Football Club will introduce night football to the North Pilbara Football League this season.

The idea was conceived last season and has been officially adopted this year, with the project undertaken by Wickham, who have erected lights at their home ground.

The \$60,000 project is well underway and the first night game is scheduled for July.

Night football is also played in the Fortescue League, where Tom Price and Paraburdoo play matches under lights.

Staying home

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN youngster Matthew Robran, who struggled to play six games at Hawthorn last season, is adamant he won't return to Glenferrie for 1992.

The talented Robran, who wants to play with the Adelaide Crows next season, has repeatedly rejected calls from Hawthorn to resume training.

Hawks officials have said he won't play anywhere else if he doesn't honour his agreement.

Hawthorn have been grooming the youngster for a centre-half-forward role to take over from champion Dermott Brereton if he retires.

Hardie hurting

BRAD Hardie is struggling to gain senior selection at Collingwood after being drafted from the Brisbane Bears.

Collingwood were hoping that Hardie could give the Magpies added fire-power in attack, something that was lacking last season.

The 1985 Brownlow Medallist was not impressive against the Eagles in Collingwood's Foster's Cup clash in Darwin, but kicked three goals in a practice match against Footscray.

Last Saturday he played in the Magpies reserves team against Melbourne, grabbing five possessions before leaving the ground with an ankle strain.

Bombers fire

ESSENDON showed some much-needed practice match form when they ran out comfortable 30-point winners over Richmond, 19.20 (134) to 15.14 (104); a win achieved without established stars Paul Salmon, Greg Anderson, Alan Ezard and Anthony Daniher.

The Bombers finished strongly, with solid performances from Terry Daniher, Mark Thompson and Mark Harvey.

Shaw thing

COLLINGWOOD'S 118-point drubbing of Melbourne at Ballarat last Saturday was highlighted by captain Tony Shaw, who came through the game without any sign of the injury that has plagued his summer.

Shaw's pre-season has been hampered by back injuries and though he had little impact on the game, he enjoyed the run and the chance to gain some match fitness.

Collingwood's ace recruit, former Fitzroy defender Gary Pert, had his first hit-out for 18 months after a knee reconstruction and played strongly in defence. He kept Melbourne spearhead Darren Bennett down to one goal in the first half, before being rested for the remainder of the game.



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Thinking aloud

A column of news
and views by
ALAN EAST

Falcon fun

WEST Perth fans lived up to their 'garlic munchers' and 'spaghetti munchers' tag last weekend.

Falcons supporters, keen about a revival under new coach Jeff Gieschen, held their annual spaghetti night ... with the strands of pasta heavily laced with garlic.

The guest list was so large that Falcons social club officials were forced away from Leederville Oval, to the Vasto Club, in Balcatta.

More than 550 attended, making the night an outstanding success.

Apart from the kilos gained from truck-loads of pasta, the Falcons returned a handsome \$6000 profit.

Vocal versatility

THERE'S certainly no doubt that television's best football voice, Perth's Dennis Cometti, has the travelling bug. The man must spend more hours in planes than just about any other Australian as he commutes from his Yokine hacienda to all sporting points east of Ecula. And his prowess is not restricted to football, cricket and basketball, as we once thought. His voice featured on all three commercial TV stations last Saturday night, as he called the world record swim by Nicole Stevenson, from Melbourne's Aquatic Centre.

Honeymooner

WEST Perth 1991 club champion Craig Nelson was an absentee from last weekend's training camp at Woodman Point.

But Falcon supporters need not despair — the talented big man hasn't had a fall out with the club.

Nelson was married last Saturday and is honeymooning this week in Bali with his wife, Julia.



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Davey is in demand

SWAN Districts premiership player Shaun Davey has been in demand over the summer months.

Davey has been keenly sought by several WAFL clubs after rumours of his intention to look for greener pastures outside Bassendean Oval.

Claremont, East Fremantle and South Fremantle all showed an interest in attracting the talented utility player.

However, Davey's league career hangs in the balance.

The floppy-haired 24-year-old has suffered a setback with a knee injury and exploratory surgery has revealed that he may need a complete reconstruction and he could miss the whole season.

Super-booted

EAGLE-eyed West Coast coach Mick Malthouse doesn't miss a trick, even when he's in the full-on situation of addressing his players. The recent Eagles-Geelong match at Waverley saw Channel 7's boundary reporter Bernie Quinlan cop a brief, but very pointed, verbal message from Malthouse during the three-quarter time huddle. Malthouse, who shares one-time Footscray links with the Superboot, saw Quinlan eaves-dropping and asked was he still coaching the Bulldogs forwards. With an answer in the affirmative, Quinlan was quickly told to check the other team's huddle.

Suma magic

EAGLES scoring ace Peter Sumich is about to make a hit with the kids — and the mums — around town. He's the fresh-faced specimen that Tip Top bread have adopted for the launch of a fabulous and healthy footy bread. Suma features in a great TV commercial that also has his mother in the picture. After all, with a Tip Top slogan like Good on Yer, Mum, how could he have done the TV bit without her?

PS: Watch for a little touch of Suma Magic appearing in Westside Football every week.

'Insider' was half revealed

A RECENT revelation in that much-read page two column of The West Australian, Inside Cover, alleged that this columnist once posed under the non-deplume of The Stab in the now-defunct Western Mail newspaper. While admission of guilt is not a common trait among journalists, it is fair to say that the Inside Cover story created a little bit of gossip around the footy traps — especially those people who often threatened 'to get' the author back in the early 1980s! However, the genuine original stab was, in fact, an inside employee at the WAFL. The first column was so close to the mark with a couple of items that the author quickly quit his anonymous role — and yours truly, who was sports editor of the Mail at the time, inherited a role that he never really wanted. Former marketing man Terry O'Brien doesn't admit to the story very often ... but ask him next time you spot him in the VIP area at the footy!

PS: This columnist was NOT The Stab's counterpart, the infamous Hood of Westside fame, so don't write any more inquiring letters!

Rioli shows old form

FORMER WA champion Maurice Rioli is still leading from the front.

He was one of his team's best players as they easily beat North Darwin, 18.17 (125) to 10.14 (74) in the battle for Northern Territory Football League honours.

The Waratahs win has put them a step closer to grabbing the double chance in the finals, with coach Rioli among the best players for his side.

And watch out for Darryl Taylor; he's a player who continues to impress in Darwin.

He kicked 10 goals for Wanderers when they beat Nightcliff.

Footy tipping made easier

FOOTBALL is a game played on — and off — the field and the computer age has well and truly joined the sport.

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Youngsters will be targetted by the FDT

THOUSANDS of young footballers will be targetted in ambitious development and educational programmes to be undertaken right throughout the State this year.

Spurred on by the memorable 1991 performances of the West Coast Eagles, the Town and Country Bank Football Development Trust is set for a busy season.

The FDT has spent the summer months organising new development programmes and coaching clinics, setting fresh targets in all areas of their activities.

FDT general manager, Gerard McNeill, says success of the Eagles over the last two years has led to a gradual increase of junior players.

"Sometimes we are accused of being too Eagles-orientated," he says. "But people want to see the Eagles in action and the players are always popular

By **LISA VERSCHOOR**

drawcards when they go out into the community"

The many new programmes this season will emphasise the importance of WAFL teams, with camps and clinics involving key players from the eight clubs.

"The situation with the Eagles taking precedence over the WAFL teams is difficult to rationalise because the kids all identify with the Eagles," he said.

"But it really should make the kids eager to play WAFL, while aspiring to be an Eagles recruit eventually.

"It should be remembered that the WAFL has traditionally produced great players over many years, so there is no reason for their importance to be ignored."

The FDT is aiming to involve up to 250 schools with football this year, with more competitions planned within schools.

"Our ultimate aim is to have football incorporated as a unit into the syllabus of almost every school," McNeill says.

Among the new programmes planned for 1992 will be the Healthways Smokebuster football clinics, which will be held during the first and second term school holidays for boys and girls, aged from five to 12 years.

Both metropolitan and country venues will be used to spread a smoke-free message through high-profile characters such as Scooter and his gang, mixing it with real-life football celebrities.

Rural regions will be specially targetted this season in an effort to provide country youngsters with the same opportunities as those in metro zones.

COUNTRY AREAS

A new country programme, sponsored by Quit, will see seven regions assigned with a full-time officer to co-ordinate events, clinics and competitions.

The bread makers, Tip Top, will also be involved in this season's programmes with the Tip Top country football award, which uses legendary player and coach Barry Cable, boosted by various Eagles stars, to offer juniors encouragement.

Eagles players who will be involved in the clinics starting in April are Dean Irving, Brett Heady, Guy McKenna, Chris Mainwaring, Michael Brennan and John Worsfold.



HELPING OUT... FDT general manager Gerard McNeill (centre) talks with two of football's major sponsors, Malcolm Green, from Hungry Jack's (left) and Chris Tate, from SGIO

New faces on amateurs

A REVAMPED West Australian Amateur Football League administration sees Don Baker taking over as president, with five new members joining the management committee.

Baker was elected president in late February after Trevor Howard resigned to move to the West Australian Football League as the new general manager.

The former vice-president was voted in to complete Howard's term, which will finish at the end of this season.

The five new members are vice-president Max Hasson, Mike Daff, an umpires advisor to the Amateur League, Geoff Bevan, former president of the West Coast Football Club, Dave Perry, recently retired North beach player and former All-Australian captain and Doug Frame, a member of the Bayswater Amateur Football Club.

BIG YEAR

Baker, who has been involved with the amateurs for more than 20 years, says the 1992 year is shaping up as one of the best ever.

"The amateurs had a successful season last year, winning the Australian Amateur Carnival in Perth and we hope we can continue on with our successful programmes," says Baker.

"We are confident that the standard in amateurs will be maintained, as a number of WAFL clubs are now feeding off the top A-grade sides.

board

By **DAMIAN BIANCHINI**

"The number of former WAFL players coming back into amateurs as coaches is bringing considerable expertise to the competition, which is an enormous bonus and helps lift the level of play.

"We believe amateur football is taking on a greater importance in the development of players and it is our role to see that continued."



TOP MAN... Don Baker has taken over as president of the amateurs league

Coaches will be watched

THE West Australian Amateur Football League's management committee is currently putting in place a coach monitoring scheme for the A-colts competition.

The scheme will employ a co-ordinator and four monitors who will watch A-colts coaches in action.

Don Baker, president of the WAAFL, says such a move is essential, as colts footballers are the future of the game and need professional direction in their approach and development to football.

The scheme will be sponsored by the Quit Campaign and the co-ordinator, who will be appointed in the coming weeks, will meet regularly with the Football Development Trust, who will help set up the scheme.

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Off the beaten track

with ALAN EAST



Watling's new role helped change the game



HELPING HAND . . . Alan Watling watches on as sons (from left) Shane, Kim and Glenn get ready for another football season

FOOTBALL is a running game, but even long distance lover Alan Watling was shocked when he was given a new assignment for the 1975 season.

Despite an impressive career with West Perth, including two premierships and an All-Australian guernsey with WA, there were still some surprises in store for the skilful wingman.

Fast-talking Victorian Graham Campbell had arrived at Leederville Oval to take over coaching a side that finished last the previous year — no mean challenge, especially for an unknown coach from across the border.

One of Campbell's first tasks was to throw the gauntlet down to Watling, a medium-sized wingman with tons of stamina.

"He told me to think about a ruck-roving role," recalls Watling, now living in Bunbury, but still a keen follower of football and also still playing cricket at a senior level.

"I was a little shocked when he first told me.

"It was late in 1974 when Graham took over and I didn't think he was serious. It was always two big men sharing the ruck work, such as Graham Farmer and Bill Dempsey at West Perth.

"He came over with that plan from Melbourne, he had obviously watched a few video tapes from West Perth's previous season and he knew that I had natural stamina.

"So he gave me the role of operating off a half-forward flank, changing with Stephen Smeath and running all over the place and virtually freewheeling, which suited me fine."

So with that small challenge, Campbell not only turned Watling into a new-style ruck-rover, but changed the format of football, swapping a running player for a ruckman.

And the move laid the foundation for yet another premiership at Leederville Oval, a last-to-first coaching triumph built around such tactical ploys as the Watling-Smeath move.

"It was an instant success," says Watling.

"We were changing off a half-forward flank and probably caught a few teams off-guard. A lot of other teams seemed to think it wasn't worth counter-acting; maybe they left it too late.

"The role certainly suited me. I had always liked long-distance running, so it was quite easy to fit in with what Graham wanted. In those days I used to run around 5kms about six nights a week; Friday was about the only night I wouldn't go for a run."

That 1975 premiership was Watling's third in seven years and was yet another highlight in a long career that saw him achieve veteran status.

But he was ultimately to be denied the chance to reach 300 games.

"I was feeling pretty good when I got to the 200-game mark," says Watling. "And when I got to 250 games, I felt confident of making 300. I still had plenty of run in my legs and I was training particularly hard to get there.

"But I guess I was a bit unlucky with a change of coach. Dennis Cometti came along and in the first two years I played under him, I never got a full game, I was always off the interchange bench.

"He had made up his mind that I didn't fit into his

team plans and I guess he was hoping that I'd retire. I was 34 when I retired, so I suppose that was a fair assumption when he first arrived at the club.

"I had 16 games to go and I thought about switching clubs in a bid to reach 300. A few people tried to talk me into it, but I had made up my mind that it was going to be 300 with West Perth or not at all."

So Watling retired on 284 games, a proud third place on West Perth's all-time games played list behind Mel Whinnen and Bill Dempsey.

"It was magic just playing with Mel Whinnen and Bill Dempsey," says Watling. "Whinnen was always my hero when I was young and it was certainly one of my biggest thrills being named on the wing alongside him; I never thought I'd ever be in that situation."

Watling went to the country on his retirement, playing for another two years as captain-coach of Railways, in Albany. There was a brief suggestion of a WAFL comeback in 1985 when John Wynne took over as coach at Leederville and issued an invitation to try one more year in the city.

"But I had missed a season in Perth and had committed myself to country football, so I stayed in Albany," says Watling.

The premiership feeling that accompanied Watling at Leederville was transferred to Albany, where Railways won two flags in a row, in 1985 as captain-coach and the next year as the off-field leader.

"They had won their last premiership in 1961, so there were some mad celebrations," recalls Watling, whose decision to hang up his boots in 1985, after 36 games in the Southern Districts League, gave him that target of more than 300 games.

CERTAIN DESTINY

His final tally also included five State games and Watling was a member of the WA side that contested the 1972 Australian carnival in Perth, earning an All-Australian blazer playing on a wing under Haydn Bunton.

Watling was always destined to be a West Perth player.

His junior career started with the Cardinals club — the old nickname for West Perth — and his first kicks were obtained at Lake Monger, just along Vincent Street, from Leederville Oval.

"We didn't have a clubroom or anything," recalls Watling. "But we had pretty good liaison with West Perth and I was invited down there when I was 17 or 18. I went through all the minor grades — fourths, thirds and reserves.

"At the start of 1969 I was pretty confident of cracking the league side. I had played colts and reserves the previous season, so I felt I was getting close and then I played against North Melbourne in a pre-season game at Leederville Oval.

"The first game of the year looked like my chance, but on the Thursday night before the game, I cracked a bone in my hand at training, so I missed four weeks of football. I just went to pick the ball up and missed it and jarred my hand. It cost me a couple of months as I had to come back through the seconds.

"My first two league games were on the reserves bench, so I felt that I'd go back to the seconds the next week. But John Wynne was called over East to act as an emergency for the State side, which was being coached by West Perth's coach, Graham Farmer, so I was called into the league side.

"I'll always remember the game; it was against Swan Districts at Leederville. Keith Miller went to centre-half-forward and I came off the bench to a half-forward flank and kicked five goals. Mel Whinnen was standing in as league coach.

"That was the real starting point. Looking back, I guess I was surprised to play that many games. Like a lot of kids, I just wanted to play one league game to prove that I could get there. Every game from then on was just a bonus.

"But I did like setting targets. After my first game I aimed for 50 and then 100 and so forth."

While there was nothing flashy about Watling's football — he seldom polled high in Sandover Medals — he was a very consistent player; specialising in hard-running and handball.

"Consistency was something I aimed for all the time," he says. "I'd set myself a target of getting, say five kicks and maybe two or three handballs a quarter and I'd just keep running till I got them.

"Campbell was especially keen on handball. He built the 1975 team around handball and instilled into us that it didn't matter who kicked the goals as long as the team got them.

"We were taught to always handball to a player in a better position."

Watling, who was a good mark for his size and always handled the ball well, enjoyed playing under Campbell, who was an inspirational leader and a coach who was always encouraging his players.

"I remember one day when I was having a terrible game; I'd had about three kicks at half-time, but he kept encouraging me and I ended up kicking four goals. Campbell made you enjoy football."

Married to Donna, the family have three boys, Shane (16), Kim (14) and Glenn (10) and they moved to Bunbury just over a year ago, where he has a supervisor's role with Australia Post.

"Shane's into cricket, Glen's keen on footy and cricket, while Kim's into music," says Watling, whose shift work at the Post Office gives him plenty of time with his sons.

Now aged 42, Watling still has an avid interest in football, arranging for video tapes of every game that is televised to be sent to him by his brother in Perth.

"It's not unusual for me to have three or four games on tape at any one time," he says. "I don't care if I know the result, I still love watching the games, especially the Eagles."

He tackled boundary umpiring in Albany and Bunbury for a while after his retirement, but is now right back into cricket, reviving his links with the Metropolitan Cricket Association and travelling up to Perth every Saturday to play with Leederville.

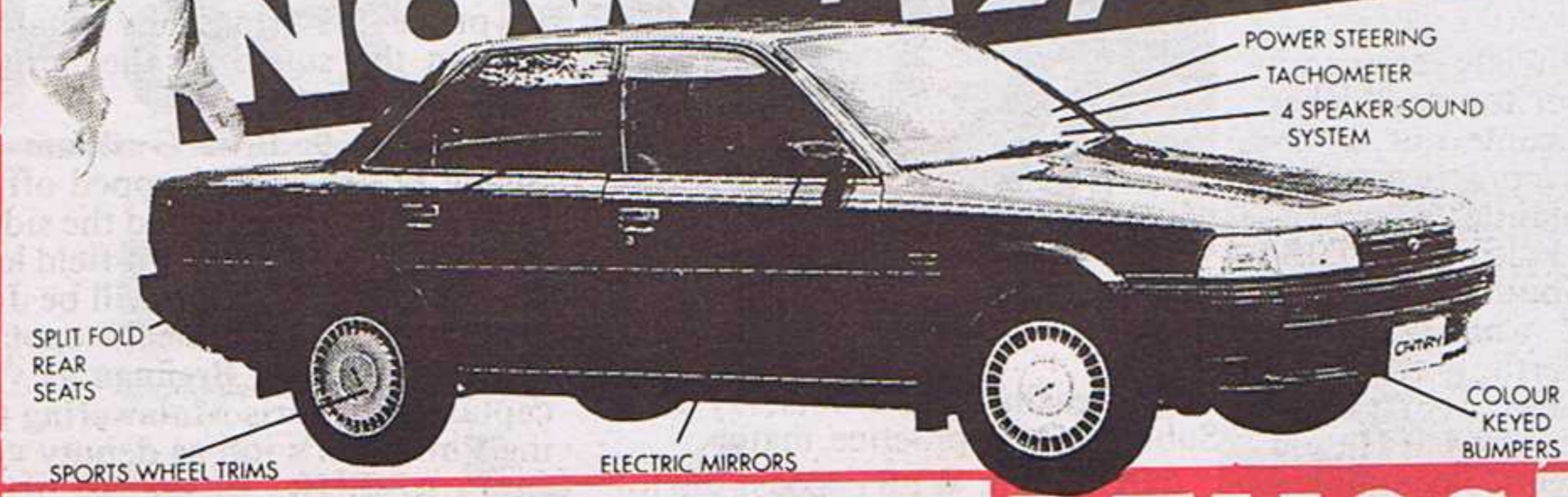
An all-rounder, Watling initially played cricket with Subiaco, but switched to Leederville when Farmer insisted that he play at a club closer to football training.

"It was common for a few of us to go to footy training and then have a hit of cricket afterwards," says Watling, who played senior level with the old WA Cricket Union, captaining the side for a number of years, including some Eastern States trips.

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What's
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Aust. Football League

SATURDAY: Foster's Cup grand final, Hawthorn v Fitzroy, Waverley Park (Televised by Channel 7, 8.30pm)

PRACTICE MATCH

Saturday, 3.30pm: West Coast v Sydney Swans, Subiaco Oval.

WA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRACTICE MATCHES

Friday, 5.15pm: Eagles second side v combined East Fremantle-South Fremantle, at East Fremantle Oval.
Saturday, 2.20pm: West Perth v East Perth, at Leederville Oval; Claremont v Subiaco, at Claremont Oval; Swan Districts v Perth, at Bassendean Oval.

Sunday League

PRACTICE MATCHES

Sunday: Colts 9am, reserves 11.45am, league 2.20pm: Armadale v Thornlie, at Gwynne Park; Wanneroo v Willetton, at Kingsway Reserve; Applecross v Canning, at East Fremantle Oval; Kalamunda v Kenwick, at Ray Owen Reserve.
Monday, 6pm: Gosnells v Kelmscott, at John Dunn Oval.

Amateur League

Saturday: All A-grade clubs playing intra-club practice matches.

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Summer diary

Did you miss this...

MARCH 3: WEST COAST officials were relieved when it was announced that Ashley McIntosh had not sustained any major damage to a knee in the Foster's Cup match against Geelong, but would miss three weeks.

WEST Perth officials received a bonus when former top goalkicker Paddy Madaffari came out of retirement to star in a practice match against East Fremantle, won convincingly by the Falcons. A DISPUTE involving South Fremantle's Richard Graham, who wants to transfer to East Perth, is set to go before the WAFL arbitrator. SWAN Districts stars Brent Hutton and Michael Sidebottom collided head-on in a practice match against the Eagles, resulting in both players being sidelined with head injuries.

MARCH 4: EAST Perth's football manager Cam Robbins has signed two All-Australian Teal Cup players in John Garnaut and Nick O'Connell. HAWTHORN pair Jason Dunstall and Dermott Brereton teamed up to kick the Hawks into their second successive Foster's Cup grand final, beating Geelong, 20.14 (134) to 12.9 (81) at Waverley. MELBOURNE ace Tony Lockett has recovered from a hamstring injury and will play against the Brisbane Bears this week. BRISBANE deputy chairman, Alan Piper, announced that the club was now debt-free.

MARCH 5: WEST Coast full-forward Peter Sumich was suspended for two matches by the AFL tribunal for striking Geelong's Mark Neeld.

MARCH 6: FITZROY earned a place in the Foster's Cup grand final by beating the Adelaide Crows by 31 points, 15.5 (95) to 9.10 (64). SOUTH Fremantle avoided a conflict with East Perth over Richard Graham, clearing him to the Royals for an undisclosed sum. EAST FREMANTLE and South Fremantle will combine to play an Eagles seconds side in a practice match. ST KILDA expressed interest in drafting former West Coast Eagle Andrew Macnish, who asked for payments of \$1600 a match, a \$20,000 retainer, \$350 weekly unemployment allowance and \$290 rent allowance, plus training gear allowance, in his draft nomination.

MARCH 7: FORMER Eagles skipper Steve Malaxos has been targeted by the Sydney Swans and could find his AFL career resurrected with the March draft. WEST Coast pair Craig Turley and Michael Brennan suffered ankle and thigh injuries respectively as the



Andrew Macnish ... keen to attract a draft call-up

Eagles easily beat Footscray in a Subiaco Oval practice match.

MARCH 8: WEST Coast doctor Rod Moore said the thigh injury experienced by defender Michael Brennan came from a long-standing back complaint likely to hinder him for the rest of his career. John O'Connell, who retired as WAFL

general manager on March 6, was named as Claremont's new president, replacing Lew Mutch. BRISBANE showed good form to beat St Kilda 18.19 (127) to 15.13 (103) in a practice match. THE West Coast selectors gave injury-prone ruckman Laurie Keene an extra chance to prove his fitness by retaining him in the squad as they pruned their 1992 list.

MARCH 9: Brad Gwilliam and Shane Porter were dropped off the Eagles list as they pruned the side to 49 players. THE 1992 on-field leaders in the Eagles camp will be John Worsfold, who retains the captaincy, with Michael Brennan as vice-captain and Chris Mainwaring taking Phil Scott's job as deputy vice-captain. THREE-times Carlton premiership winger David Glascott announced his retirement from the AFL ranks, nominating instead to serve as captain of the reserves in the Victorian State Football League.



If you're a friend of Jack Daniel's, we hope you'll visit us sometime soon.

WE CAN'T BLAME THE BOYS for having a water fight now and then. If you worked in Jack Daniel's rickyard, you'd start one too.

Looking after a burning hard maple rick is a hot job. But it's one we can't do without.

You see, we take the charcoal that results and use it to help smooth out our whiskey. That's done by seeping it down through huge vats packed tight with this charcoal.

Just a taste of Jack Daniel's, we think, and you'll agree it's worth a water fight or two.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

APB 13649/A

SJD 0272



Steve Malaxos ... hoping to resurrect his AFL career with the Sydney Swans.



Your 1992 AFL fixtures pin-up calendar

Saturday, 21st March (Round 1)

Hawthorn v Geelong
Brisbane v Carlton

Sunday, 22nd March

St. Kilda v Essendon
Adelaide v Footscray

Bye: Collingwood, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Nth Melbourne, Richmond, Sydney, West Coast.

Saturday, 28th March (Round 2)

Richmond v Nth Melbourne
Melbourne v Geelong
Carlton v Hawthorn

Collingwood v Brisbane

Sunday, 29th March

Essendon v Fitzroy
Footscray v St Kilda
Sydney v West Coast

Bye: Adelaide

Saturday, 4th April (Round 3)

Nth Melbourne v Hawthorn
Melbourne v Adelaide
Collingwood v Sydney

Sunday, 5th April
Geelong v Richmond
Footscray v Essendon
Brisbane v Fitzroy
West Coast v St Kilda

Bye: Carlton

Friday 10th April (Round 4)

Nth Melbourne v Carlton
Saturday, 11th April
Essendon v Collingwood
Richmond v Melbourne
Fitzroy v Adelaide
St Kilda v Hawthorn

Bye: Brisbane

Saturday, 18th April (Round 5)

Hawthorn v Essendon
Nth Melbourne v Footscray
Carlton v Sydney
Brisbane v West Coast

Sunday, 19th April
Adelaide v Richmond

Monday, 20th April
Melbourne v Collingwood
Fitzroy v St Kilda

Bye: Geelong

Friday, 24th April (Round 6)

Sydney v Nth Melbourne
Saturday, 25th April
Collingwood v Hawthorn
Essendon v Melbourne
Carlton v St Kilda

Sunday, 26th April
Richmond v West Coast
Geelong v Fitzroy
Adelaide v Brisbane

Bye: Footscray

Saturday, 2nd May (Round 7)

Hawthorn v Richmond
Melbourne v Sydney
Adelaide v St Kilda
Footscray v Carlton
Collingwood v Nth Melbourne

Sunday, 3rd May
Fitzroy v West Coast
Brisbane v Geelong

Bye: Essendon

Thursday, 7th May (Round 8)

Collingwood v Carlton
Friday, 8th May
Sydney v Brisbane

Saturday, 9th May
St Kilda v Melbourne
Richmond v Fitzroy
Nth Melbourne v Essendon

Sunday, 10th May
West Coast v Footscray

Bye: Hawthorn

Friday, 15th May, (Round 9)

Nth Melbourne v Fitzroy
Saturday, 16th May
Hawthorn v Melbourne
Essendon v Geelong
Carlton v West Coast

Sunday, 17th May
Richmond v Sydney
Brisbane v Footscray
Adelaide v Collingwood

Bye: St Kilda

Friday, 22nd May (Round 10)

West Coast v Adelaide
Saturday, 23rd May
Geelong v Collingwood
Melbourne v Nth Melbourne
Carlton v Essendon
St Kilda v Brisbane
Footscray v Richmond

Sunday, 24th May
Sydney v Hawthorn

Bye: Fitzroy

Saturday, 30th May (Round 11)

Melbourne v Carlton
Richmond v Brisbane
Fitzroy v Collingwood
Geelong v St Kilda

Sunday, 31st May
Essendon v Sydney
Footscray v Hawthorn
Adelaide v Nth Melbourne

Bye: West Coast

Friday, 5th June (Round 12)

Nth Melbourne v West Coast
Saturday, 6th June
Essendon v Richmond
Carlton v Geelong

Sunday, 7th June
Brisbane v Melbourne

Monday, 8th June
Hawthorn v Adelaide
Collingwood v St Kilda
Fitzroy v Footscray

Bye: Sydney

Saturday, 13th June (Round 13)

Hawthorn v Fitzroy
Nth Melbourne v Geelong
Carlton v Adelaide
St Kilda v Sydney

Sunday, 14th June
Footscray v Melbourne
Brisbane v Essendon
West Coast v Collingwood

Bye: Richmond

Friday, 19th June (Round 14)

Nth Melbourne v Brisbane
Saturday, 20th June
Hawthorn v West Coast
Richmond v St Kilda
Fitzroy v Carlton
Collingwood v Footscray

Sunday, 21st June
Sydney v Geelong
Adelaide v Essendon

Bye: Melbourne

Friday, 26th June (Round 15)

Adelaide v Sydney
Saturday, 27th June
Richmond v Carlton
Essendon v West Coast
St Kilda v Nth Melbourne

Sunday, 28th June
Melbourne v Fitzroy
Geelong v Footscray
Brisbane v Hawthorn

Bye: Collingwood

Friday, 3rd July (Round 16)

West Coast v Melbourne
Saturday, 4th July
Footscray v Adelaide
Essendon v St Kilda
Carlton v Brisbane
Collingwood v Richmond
Geelong v Hawthorn

Sunday, 5th July
Nth Melbourne

Saturday, 11th July (Round 17)

Hawthorn v Carlton
Geelong v Melbourne
Nth Melbourne v Richmond
St Kilda v Footscray
Brisbane v Collingwood

Sunday, 12th July
Fitzroy v Essendon
West Coast v Sydney

Bye: Adelaide

Friday, 17th July (Round 18)

Sydney v Collingwood
Saturday, 18th July
Hawthorn v Nth Melbourne
Essendon v Footscray
Fitzroy v Brisbane

Sunday, 19th July
St Kilda v West Coast
Richmond v Geelong
Adelaide v Melbourne

Bye: Carlton

Friday, 24th July (Round 19)

Collingwood v Essendon
Saturday, 25th July
Hawthorn v St Kilda
Melbourne v Richmond
Carlton v Nth Melbourne
Footscray v Sydney
Geelong v West Coast
Adelaide v Fitzroy

Bye: Brisbane

Friday, 31st July (Round 20)

West Coast v Brisbane
Saturday, 1st August
Footscray v Nth Melbourne
Essendon v Hawthorn
St Kilda v Fitzroy
Collingwood v Melbourne

Sunday, 2nd August
Richmond v Adelaide
Sydney v Carlton

Bye: Geelong

Friday, 7th August (Round 21)

Nth Melbourne v Sydney
Saturday, 8th August
Hawthorn v Collingwood
Melbourne v Essendon
Fitzroy v Geelong

Sunday, 9th August
St Kilda v Carlton
Brisbane v Adelaide
West Coast v Richmond

Bye: Footscray

Friday, 14th August (Round 22)

West Coast v Fitzroy
Saturday, 15th August
Richmond v Hawthorn
Carlton v Footscray
Geelong v Brisbane

Sunday, 16th August
Nth Melbourne v Collingwood
Sydney v Melbourne
Adelaide v St Kilda

Bye: Essendon

Saturday, 22nd August (Round 23)

Carlton v Collingwood
Essendon v Nth Melbourne
Fitzroy v Richmond
Brisbane v Sydney

Sunday, 23rd August
Melbourne v St Kilda
Footscray v West Coast
Adelaide v Geelong

Bye: Hawthorn

Friday, 28th August (Round 24)

Sydney v Richmond
Saturday, 29th August
Geelong v Essendon
Melbourne v Hawthorn
Fitzroy v Nth Melbourne
Collingwood v Adelaide
Footscray v Brisbane

Sunday, 30th August
West Coast v Carlton

Bye: St Kilda

THE FINALS

WEEK 1 (September 5/6)

Qualifying final: 1st v 2nd.

Second elimination final: 3rd v 6th

First elimination final: 4th v 5th

(The two lowest ranking losers are eliminated).

WEEK 2 (September 12/13)

Second semi-final: The two highest ranking winners from week 1 play each other.

First semi-final: The two remaining teams play each other.

WEEK 3 (September 19)

Preliminary final: Loser of the second semi-final plays the winner of the first semi-final.

WEEK 4 (September 26)

Grand final: Winner of the second semi-final plays the winner of the preliminary final.



EMU EXPORT

....how about you?

Kicking Football into the Future

Judge's historic day

EAST Fremantle coach Ken Judge will create a piece of history this Friday when he coaches a combined Fremantle side against an AFL team.

The second-year coach will guide a combined East Fremantle and South Fremantle side against the West Coast Eagles.

The match will be at East Fremantle Oval, starting at 5.15pm, with the experimental side wearing red, white and blue guernseys.

The clash against an Eagles reserves side might only be a practice match

By

KIM HAGDORN

hit-out, but it has important implications for Fremantle football.

The former Hawthorn and East Fremantle star says he will accept nothing but a win over the Eagles.

"This game is more than a practice match or a publicity stunt," Judge said candidly.

"We will be representing Fremantle and it is a great opportunity to beat the Eagles and make people realise how serious we are about a team from the Port joining the AFL."

Judge wasn't pulling punches when he declared his hand in the Fremantle coaching stakes.

"I want to coach at the highest level, so if the AFL job came along, naturally I'd be interested.

"My first intention though, as Mal Brown says about South Fremantle, is to make East Fremantle part of a strong and viable football industry.

"A strong East Fremantle, will further enhance our claims for a Fremantle AFL team."

Judge applauds the concept of a Fremantle team playing the Eagles, but he faces a tough time preparing his combination.

The squad of 28 players will train at East Fremantle Oval this Thursday.

"The real difficulty will be getting them to combine as a team," Judge said.

"But the game itself offers many young players from the Fremantle district the chance to impress AFL talent scouts.

"Wayne Hernaman, Kurt Shepherd, Stephen Bilcich, Josh Gallop and Tom Bottrell are youngsters who will be closely looked at.

"Fremantle is traditionally a very strong football community and we hope to use this as another example of the support the game has in the Port," Judge said.



WE'RE HAPPY TO GIVE THEM A HAND.

In our fifth year as a major sponsor of the West Coast Eagles, we wish them all the luck in the world as they storm into the finals. Premiership or not, they've done all West Australians proud this season.

And to keep the excitement and entertainment happening after the finals series, we'd like to extend this invitation to you to join us for a game or two at Burswood Casino.



Silent suffering



EVERY picture tells a story... That certainly is the case here as Eagles stars Craig Turley (left) and Michael Brennan have a grim look on their faces after suffering injuries in last Saturday's practice match against Footscray. Turley has a slight ankle injury, while Brennan has a thigh strain resulting from a back problem

\$2 million boost for the Eagles

AN impressive collection of 21 companies will inject \$2 million into West Coast Eagles sponsorship this season.

Heading the sponsorship list are major supporters, Hungry Jack's and SGIO, who will again share their company logos on the Eagles guernseys.

Town and Country Bank and the Swan Brewery, through their Emu Export brand name, are again elite sponsors.

The four companies provide half of the \$2 million, which, according to Eagles chairman Terry O'Connor, is much-needed.

"Football is an expensive business," says O'Connor. "In 1992, the operating costs of the club will be around \$4.5 million.

"We are fortunate that \$2 million of that is provided by our sponsorship group, with the many support companies providing a minimum of \$50,000 each."

West Coast have retained sponsorship support from Ampol, Australian Airlines, Australia Post, Burswood Resort Casino, Houghton Wines, Mitre 10, Pepsi, Peters, Puma and TVW7.

Six new companies joining the Eagles are Jeans West, Medibank Private, 96FM, Nissan Australia, Quit and The West Australian.