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WESTSIDE FOOTBALL'S
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WESTSIDE Football

SPECIAL DELIVERY ... Eagles teenage pin-up Glen Jakovich now works with Australia Post, so it was only natural that he delivered his special Postpak parcel to Father Christmas in the Myer Perth store, right across the road from his Forrest Place headquarters
— Photograph by GREG WOOD



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PRESENTS . . .

Summertime Gossip

Around the traps with **KIM HAGDORN** and **ALAN EAST**

SA looks ahead

THE South Australian National Football League — who are determined not to let WA get another jump on them in the national league stakes — are already investigating the need for a second side.

A special SANFL sub-committee is conducting a study into the feasibility of a second side operating out of Adelaide by 1996.

Port Adelaide, whose go-it-alone proposal two years ago forced the slow-moving SANFL officials to react rather quickly, are still keen to earn a berth in the AFL.

The new committee is headed by SANFL chiefs Max Basheer and Leigh Whicker, but prominent among its small group is Port Adelaide's powerful chief executive Brian Cunningham.

Hopeful Bombers

WHILE South Fremantle draftee Russell Williams might be keen to stay with the Bulldogs for another year, Essendon aren't letting up in the persuasion department.

The Bombers recently hosted the 18-year-old Tambellup rover in Melbourne for a look-see visit — with a brother going along for company, especially as it was Williams' first venture on an aircraft.

Essendon seem capable of helping young Aborigines settle into the Melbourne environment and they have successfully assimilated Derek Kickett, Gavin Wanganeen and Michael Long into their Windy Hill camp.

Williams, with just 11 senior games with the Bulldogs behind him, thinks that it's good advice to stay in Perth for another year — but Essendon (with Mal Brown's good mate Kevin Sheedy in charge) won't be far away.

Chasing another chance



WARMING UP . . . solidly-built **Brendon Braithwaite** limbers up at his new football home, Perth Oval, with Royals 1992 rookie, **Michael Prior**

MUCH-travelled utility player **Brendon Braithwaite** has arrived at Perth Oval in search of a regular league game.

The solidly-built Braithwaite has tried himself out at Perth and with Glenelg, in South Australia, but hasn't been able to consolidate a league spot.

He's just spent the summer in Darwin, playing with Maurice Rioli's Waratahs and is looking fit, fresh and certainly sun-tanned among the early-season trainers at Perth Oval.

"I just want the chance to play footy at the higher level," he says, hopeful that clearance negotiations with the Demons will see him released for Royals action next season.

Slow-moving Subi

THE wheels of bureaucracy are moving ever so slowly when it comes to the question of the Subiaco Oval redevelopment.

A story in the local press a year ago suggested that work would be under way by 1993 — and, in fact, the headquarters of football would be lost to the Eagles for almost all of next season.

Obviously, that's not going to happen. But the latest move in the saga — the release of a social impact report by the Department of Planning and Urban Development — suggests that even more delays are ahead.

While the WA Football Commission welcomes the State Government's report, it does suggest that further inquiries on social impact — that is, how and why the residents will be upset — are on the cards.

And that means more reports, more meetings, more investigations, more lobbying . . . and so it goes on.

Marks on the mark

VOLATILE Perth City Councillor and East Perth Football Club vice-president **Jack Marks** has never been known to pull punches in the verbal jousting.

And he certainly wasn't mincing words when he gave his thoughts on the Perth Oval versus Subiaco Oval battle for redevelopment.

"The facilities at Subiaco are outdated," he said in response to WAFC claims that there was a \$30-million infrastructure in place at Subiaco that couldn't be walked away from.

"The old members stand is in a dangerous condition and should be pulled down and the three-tier stand isn't much better."

Marks suggested that the PCC could sell Leederville Oval once West Perth departed and also Lathlain Park (providing Perth are persuaded to move) and channel that money into the Perth Oval development.

"The maintenance costs with old buildings like those at Subiaco need to be looked at especially in such comparisons," he said.

Third umpire experiment

NEXT year's pre-season Foster's Cup competition could see the introduction of three field umpires as an experiment.

The third umpire will be more concerned with off-the-play infringements, particularly the controversial issues of 'scragging' forwards.

Star forwards like Eagle Peter Sumich and Hawk Jason Dunstall were the centre of constant harassment from defenders last season, drawing continual criticism from keen observers.

The quickening pace of AFL matches is also a factor in the thinking for another whistle-blower to remain in touch with the play around the goal-front as the ball rushes forward.

Retirement's fine

DID you read the piece in *The West* recently about how former **Claremont** general manager **Gerry Atherden** is enjoying life after football?

After almost a decade in the Tigers den — during some pretty successful times in the late 1970s and early '80s — Atherden opted for retirement down Dunsborough way, planting a few grape vines and so forth.

Well, he's a winner there too. His 1992 Yungarra Estate cabernet sauvignon won a silver medal at this year's Sheraton Perth wine awards; a fine reward for their first commercial vintage from a 7.6-hectare planting.

Larkin on the move

REMEMBER **Leon Larkin**, the man who gave us *State-of-Origin* football?

Well, the former promotions man and one-time Subiaco director is on the move again.

He's recently been appointed regional director of sales and marketing in North Asia for the Shangri-La hotel chain.

After spending the last couple of years in Beijing, the one-time Sheraton and Burswood man is now based in Hong Kong, with a vast region of Asia under his roving eye.



WELL DONE . . . former Subiaco man **Leon Larkin** has a new role in Asia

Falcons grab a Swan

WEST PERTH officials have completed a recruiting coup by signing former Swan Districts utility player **Greg Jones**.

The 190cm 22-year-old key position player has signed an agreement to join the Falcons after holding talks with several WAFL clubs.

Jones was drafted by St Kilda at the end of 1990 and then collected by Footscray in the 1992 March draft. He failed to win a berth in the Bulldogs much-improved AFL line-up and opted to return home.

Swans officials were confident that Jones would resume his career at Bassendean Oval, but he signed with West Perth last week and the Falcons have opened negotiations on a clearance for the skilful big man.

Despite having played just 11 league games with the black and whites in 1990, Swans are expected to ask around \$10,000 for Jones — or the trade of a player of similar ability.

The Falcons have also been busy attracting dashing half-back **Denis Repacholi** back to the club, along with another Footscray player in **Troy West**.

Repacholi was drafted by Footscray two years ago, but played last season in country Victoria. He is expected back with his former WAFL club early in January.

West, delisted by Footscray before the November draft, is a talented 185cm wingman or follower.

No rest for champs

IT SEEMS as though the Eagles management is not entirely happy with the training of West Coast players.

The reigning premiers have been ordered to continue training throughout the Christmas and New Year holiday.

In the past, Eagles players have been given a three-week break from training during the festive season.

But with attendance irregularities and an unacceptable work-load from some players, there will be no rest for the AFL champions.

Fancy meeting you . . .

TALENTED Eagles trio **Ashley McIntosh**, **Tony Evans** and **Daniel Metropolis** can't take a trick when it comes to timing their get-away holiday.

The three exciting youngsters headed to Bali last week, taking a break from training, only to bump into coach **Mick Malthouse** at the same venue.

These Eagles can run, but they can't hide!



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SIGNING ON ... the official agreement between the AFL and the WAFC is signed by (from left) Commissioners Jeff Ovens, Peter Tannock, AFL's Alan Schwab and National Football Council president Vincent Yovich

WEST Australian football seems to have emerged from some tough negotiating with the Victorian power-brokers with a few things swinging their way.

The recent signing of a five-year agreement between the WA Football Commission and the Australian Football League seems to have granted some much-needed concessions to the West.

The change of payments to WAFL clubs for drafted players will result in a quicker cash flow and more emphasis placed on junior development by an AFL gradually seeing the need to bolster the sport nation-wide — not just in Melbourne.

And the promise of better things to come — such as lifting the draft age from 17 to 19 and a lowering of AFL lists from 52 to 40 — will all benefit WA football.

The agreement puts in place firm guidelines about restricting the telecast of AFL matches into WA on Saturdays — apart from Eagles games — and promises to "use its best endeavours" to minimise occasions where the Eagles (or a second WA-based AFL side) play on Saturdays, the Foundation Day or Easter Monday holidays before 5pm.

WAFC chairman Dr Peter Tannock describes the agreement as a most satisfactory arrangement for WA football and provides long-term stability in the relationships with the AFL.

"It's a major step forward and an excellent platform to plan ahead on," he says.

WA wheels and deals well

AFL Executive Commissioner Alan Schwab — who came to Perth for the drum-beating and document-signing — put a slightly different perception on the outcome:-

"It wasn't quite a war of attrition," he said. "But there certainly has been some long, hard negotiating. We had expected more opposition from AFL clubs to some of the agreements, but everything went through and they had plenty of opportunity to express opinions."

The new player payments will see WAFL clubs receive \$12,500 up front as soon as the drafted player is registered — which must be before they play a practice game — followed by a similar payment on their first AFL game.

A payment of \$10,000 follows on their 10th AFL game and if they are retained on a club list for the second year, a final payment of \$10,000 is made.

The new agreement means that a WAFL club can still receive \$22,500 even if the drafted player doesn't play league football, but is retained on a club list for a second year.

But the clubs don't get all of that money — 35-percent (or \$15,750 of the full payment) goes to the WAFC for coaching and management assistance to the WAFL clubs.

The AFL will guarantee the WAFC \$130,000 under this scheme for 1993, rising to \$160,000 for the next four years.

The AFL will also pay \$40,000 a year to support a State Director of Umpiring and provide funds to enable the WA Teal Cup team to compete in the national championships — \$65,000 next year for the Adelaide series.

Schwab conceded that the draft age of 17 wasn't desirable and he would like to see it higher. But he pointed out that very few, if any, of the 17-year-olds drafted this year would probably make the move east.

"It would be a concern if they all left, but I think clubs are really looking ahead to the future," he said.

What the WAFC-AFL agreement does do is give the Victorians strong visible support from one of their feeder zones in the case of a legal challenge to the draft.

The growing concerns of a legal threat have bothered the AFL, so much so that Schwab admitted they were continually seeking the best legal advice and constantly reviewing their situation.

"We have retained legal people who have previously won cases against us, so we're using the best in the business," he laughed.

"But it's good to know that in these times of legal challenges, we now have the support of one of our major leagues."

Commission relents on power

THE WA Football Commission could undergo a major overhaul in moves designed to hand back much of the control of local football to the eight WAFL clubs.

Current proposals indicate that the WAFC is willing to hand over the day-to-day decision-making on local football.

Such a change would be an important step towards achieving objectives outlined in the Football 2000 report announced last year.

The Commission has asked WAFL club presidents to consider the formation of a new board to control local football.

If adopted, the board would remain answerable to the WAFC, currently headed by Dr Peter Tannock.

EXCEPTIONS

The WAFL board would govern almost every aspect of local football, with notable exceptions being major issues such as dealings with the West Coast Eagles or the WA Government; contentious issues like the redevelopment of Subiaco Oval or a new stadium and other major long-term decisions.

However, more amicable relations would exist between the Commission and local clubs in the handling of many important issues affecting the football industry.

Club presidents have argued since the formation of the WAFC that the power-broking of the game has been stolen from the people who really own the assets — the players and the eight clubs.

Presidents and club directors have considered the proposals for the past week and their findings were to be

By **KIM HAGDORN**

aired at a Commission meeting this week.

The proposal calls for the new board to be made up of a designated Commissioner, the WAFL general manager, the eight club presidents and the Commission's new Executive Officer; a post advertised last weekend.

The new Executive Officer will replace Commission secretary Jeff Ovens, who steps down next season.

The WAFC overhaul is seen as a major step towards settling the on-going rift between WAFL administrators and the Commission.

Club presidents have been at loggerheads with the Commission for almost two years over a wide variety of issues, including the direction of profits generated by the West Coast Eagles.

Other issues that have stirred the club hierarchy include the entry of country teams into the WAFL; fixturing; relocation plans for several WA clubs and ground rationalisation.

If the proposal is accepted by the eight league clubs — as expected — it could spell the end of moves to bring country teams into the WAFL.

While the WAFC will retain overall control of football's directions, the new WAFL board would have the right to veto moves such as the admission of new teams and the relocation of existing clubs.

WAFL clubs have been unanimous in their objection to country teams and the proposed board would need a 75 percent majority for any change.

It certainly appears unlikely that six WAFL clubs would do a turn-around on the issue of admitting teams from Bunbury or Kalgoorlie.

WAFL clubs have expressed grave concern at the financial projections by the country groups.

Despite all WAFL clubs declaring profits for the 1992 season, officials

constantly point to difficulties in surviving on a day-to-day basis.

Local club authorities don't believe that enough financial study has been done on the costs of running a new club based in the country.



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The class of '92



Alan Walker (left) and Bryan Cousins . . . both in support roles

WEST Australian football has just experienced its most successful season in terms of the quality of the nine league coaches operating in this State — but what of the future?

While experienced coaches made up the majority of the eight WAFL clubs — plus Mick Malthouse with West Coast — there are also a talented group of appren-

tices learning their craft in the wings.

In recent years the group of former players going through their coaching education, either around the State or within the WAFL system, has grown considerably and it will not be too many years before the new generation takes over.

So what is it that attracts these young men to a career in coaching — and what are their plans?

Nearly all say that just being involved with the game they love is good enough, but others are keenly awaiting the day when they can move onto the next level.

Westside Football recently put a series of questions to some of those aspiring coaches and these are the thoughts of men who may well become the next generation of WAFL mentors.

WHAT IS THE ATTRACTION OF COACHING?

JOHN DIMMER: I've always been an educator, coming from a teaching background. I get a great buzz out of seeing people improve. Watching them start off in the reserves and move through to the league in the one season and then onto the AFL. It happens at Claremont a lot an it's a great reward.

BRYAN COUSINS: After a long-term involvement as a player, I aspired to be actively involved and coaching was a natural way to do it.

PAUL VASOLI: It's a way to be involved with people. After playing for so long, coaching seemed like the next thing to do.

LES FONG: It's the challenge of seeing if you can be a success. I enjoy seeing if the ideas I've got can be put into use on the football field.

TONY MICALE: The reward of seeing the young guys come through the ranks. It's good to think that you helped mould a career by educating and preparing them for the next level.

ALAN WALKER: I get enjoyment out of helping younger guys play to the highest level possible.

ALLEN DANIELS: I just enjoy passing on what I learned as a player, really.

MARK WATSON: The development of players, the satisfaction of seeing them come in at a raw stage and end up as a polished product.

DO YOU THINK THE CURRENT CROP OF EXPERIENCED COACHES IN THE WAFL IS GOOD, OR IS IT TIME FOR THE YOUNGER GUYS TO GET A GO?

DIMMER: It's up to the club, really. A lot of clubs are after experienced coaches because they've got a group of relatively inexperienced players and they need to balance things up. If you hang around long enough, your chance will come though.

COUSINS: The quality of the coaches in the WAFL is staggering. It is the greatest shining light of the competition and it would be a tragedy to lose it. Todd, Armstrong, Bunton, Neesham and Brown are as good as any AFL coach and the other three have shown great ability also. They couldn't be replaced, but it will happen as time goes on and some step aside.

VASOLI: I think the current coaches are tremendous and it's very important for clubs to have coaches with good credentials in order to attract players. A recognised and respected coach will always attract more interest from prospective players.

FONG: They are guys with a lot of experience, which is good, as the

By
**TANIA
ARMSTRONG**



WAFL is really a young man's competition; a stepping stone to the AFL. Maybe the WAFL could do with an injection of fresh enthusiasm, though.

MICALE: If the younger guys are good enough, they'll get a go. If you've got the best available, then you should use them regardless of age or experience. If another one is good enough to knock someone off their perch, like a Ken Judge, then so be it. The mistake of bringing a young player up for the sake of an older one, is often made and sometimes the young players just aren't good enough or ready. I think that applies to coaching also.

WALKER: I think it's important the best coaches available should coach, because the players coming through probably aren't at as high a level as before. Coaches really have to know what they're doing to get the best out of them. But it's not just up to one coach, clubs have to have three good coaches to create a good club structure.

DANIELS: In a lot of respects, the people coaching in the WAFL are the right people. They've been around for ages and know the tricks of the trade. On the other hand, in order to continue that line, others need to gain experience, so it works both ways.

WATSON: I think the current crop is good, but they are helping new blood and it's time to move new coaches through; they can certainly help.

POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

THE eight prospective senior coaches under the Westside Football microscope are:

John Dimmer:-

Former Subiaco and East Perth player; assistant coach at Claremont for the last five seasons.

Bryan Cousins:-

Former Perth and Geelong veteran; assistant coach of Subiaco for three seasons.

Paul Vasoli:-

A league player at Perth, Swan Districts and South Fremantle and now reserves coach at South Fremantle after coaching Sunday League side Kelmscott for four seasons.

Les Fong:-

Veteran West Perth player and coach of Sunday League champions Wanneroo for two seasons. Previously coached Trinity Aquinas (amateurs) for three years.

Tony Micale:-

Assistant coach of East Fremantle for two seasons. Previously assistant coach of South Fremantle for two years; colts coach at Swan Districts (three seasons) and assistant coach for one year under Ed Blackaby. Also coached Rockingham (Sunday League) for one season after playing with East Fremantle.

Alan Walker:-

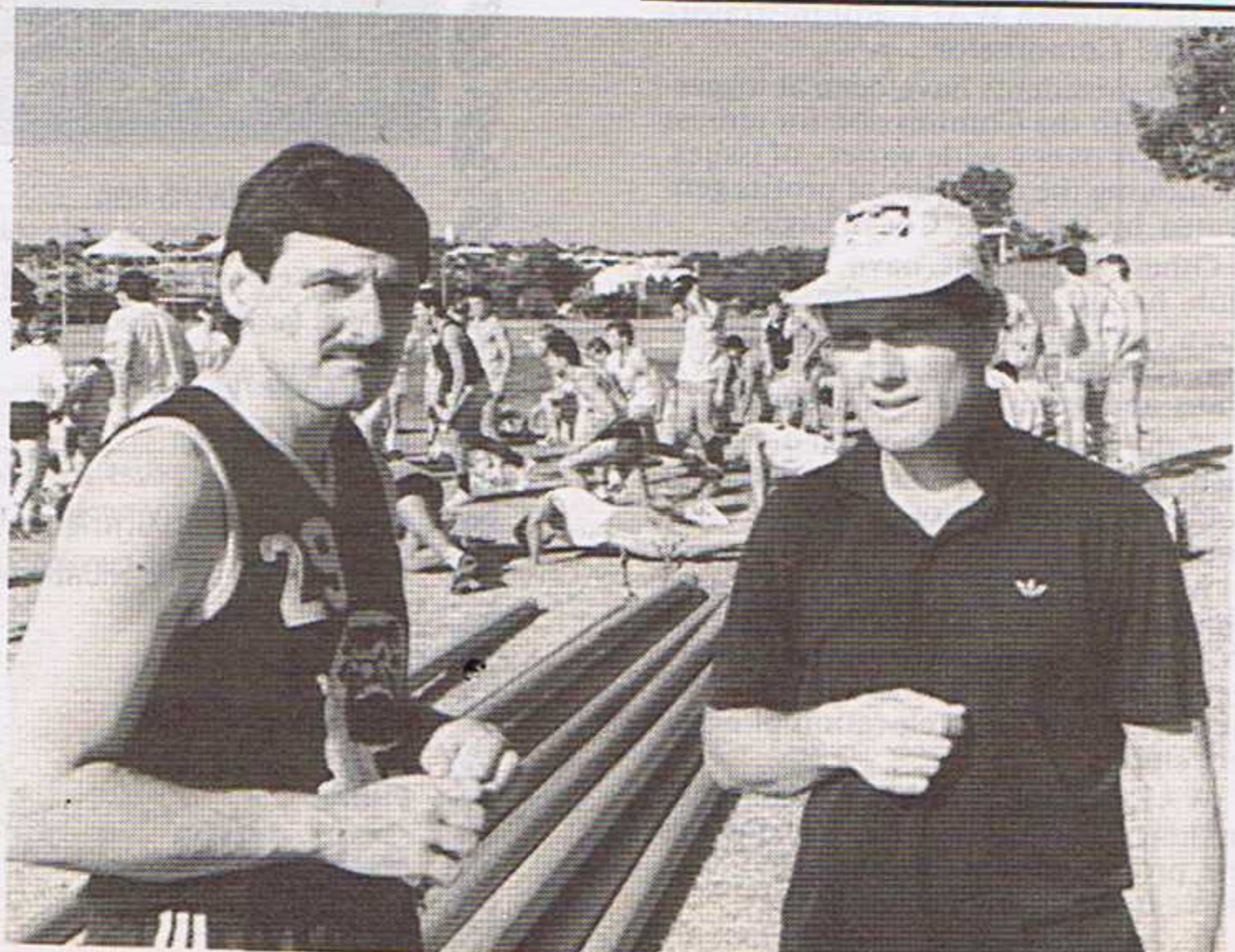
Assistant coach of Swan Districts for four seasons. Previously coached Scarborough (amateurs) for four seasons and Floreat Marist colts (amateurs) for one season. Played at Claremont and Subiaco.

Allen Daniels:-

A former Claremont and Footscray player, he coached Mines Rovers, in Kalgoorlie, to a premiership and then took the Goldfields side to victory in this year's Wesfarmers country championships. Previously coached colts and juniors with Collie, in the South-West League and returns to coach that club's league side next season.

Mark Watson:-

Sandover Medal winner with Perth, after starting with Claremont. Filled in at short notice to coach the North Fremantle amateurs for half-a-season and then accepted the South Fremantle assistant coach role and is now the full-time football manager with the Bulldogs.



DOUBLE UP . . . Paul Vasoli (left) and Mark Watson have different coaching duties with South Fremantle

WHAT COACHES HAVE INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST WHILE PLAYING OR COACHING?

DIMMER: Gerard Neesham particularly, but since I've been coaching and as a player I would have to say all of them, especially Ross Smith at Subiaco more than the others as he was my first senior coach.

COUSINS: Every coach I played under. I was privileged to play under some of the best around in Mal Atwell, Barry Cable, Ken Armstrong, Graham Farmer, Mal Brown, Ian Miller and Alan Joyce. I've recently had a long association with Haydn Bunton at Subiaco and I enjoyed my time alongside John Todd at a State level.

VASOLI: Mal Brown.

FONG: For enthusiasm, Graham Campbell; as an orator it would have to be Dennis Cometti and in training, John Wynne. I would say I learned something off all of my coaches, including Percy Johnson in that group.

Continued next page

Are they coaches of the future?

Continued from previous page

MICALE: John Todd gave me the opportunity to coach and I played under him for the majority of my career. Through Ken Judge, I've been fortunate to meet people like Allan Jeans and get an idea of what coaching is like on the east coast. Stan Magro also taught me a lot while at Souths.

WALKER: John Todd while I've been at Swans and Ken Armstrong when I was playing at Subiaco.

DANIELS: All of them. They all had different ideas which I picked up.

WATSON: Graham Moss in my early days at Claremont and Mal Brown at Perth, mainly because of their strong emphasis on concentration and the message that you had to think like the players.



RIGHT PLACE ... Tony Micale makes sure the players are in position

WHAT SORT OF GOALS OR TIME-FRAME HAVE YOU SET IN MOVING ON TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF COACHING?

DIMMER: There's no time limit, but when the chance arises, I will put in a submission, as I did with a couple of clubs last year. I didn't get them and it was a learning experience for me to find out what they were after. I'll continue to keep an eye out for opportunities which may present themselves.

COUSINS: I haven't set any goals; it's always been strictly a year by year thing and I don't have any set ambitions.

VASOLI: No, it's purely year by year.

FONG: No time frame on it. I'm not even sure I want to go down that track, I did once, but we'll just wait and see.

MICALE: I had a crack at it at the start of last season before Ken Judge was appointed, so that gave me a taste. I'd be lying if I didn't say if the opportunity was there I would take it, but I'm quite happy in my development role at present.

WALKER: I did have some goals, but no, I'm quite happy at the moment. If an opportunity presents itself, I would consider it. I'm quite happy to go along like I am at present.

DANIELS: I haven't set any. I'm really only interested in what happens with my current team, wherever that is.

WATSON: My goals are certainly to get to WAFL level and I'm looking at the next one or two years to upgrade.



TROPHY TIME ... Les Fong with another Sunday League premiership



UP HERE ... Allen Daniels shows his Goldfields team what thinking can achieve

The latest graduate

NEWLY-appointed Subiaco coach Tony Solin steps into the WAFL arena next year in a full-time role, having done a long apprenticeship on his way to league level.

A successful player at Swan Districts and East Fremantle — where he tasted premiership success under John Todd and Ron Alexander — he then moved into country coaching, sharing the duties with a playing role initially and then concentrating off-field.

He has taken Boddington to the last four premiership flags in the Upper Great Southern League and shared his 1992 duties with an assistant-coach role at East Perth, as under-study to Stan Magro.

So what are his thoughts as he steps up to that next level?

"I just like coaching — I don't have any great philosophies on it," he says.

"Gerard Neesham and John Todd were men who impressed me and I learned that they were coaches with a totally different style. I discovered that all coaches have their own style and I have mine.

"I realised that I should move into coaching the last year I played at Swan Districts, in 1988. I had been at East Fremantle, who were a successful club, playing finals football. But I returned to Swans when they needed a few experienced players; they had been very good to me earlier. But we finished on the bottom of the ladder and I thought there had to be better things in life.

"Since then I've just tried to improve my coaching each year, both practically and theoretically by attending coaching courses."



WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THOSE PEOPLE?

DIMMER: I was never happy with the training drills I was required to do as a player, as I didn't think they changed much since I was 12. Coming from a water polo background, Gerard has many different training ideas which all relate to the game.

COUSINS: Different coaches put different emphasis on different areas, but the skill you are quick to learn is communication. All players respond to different ways of communication.

VASOLI: The biggest thing I've learned from Brownie is the way he handles people. He can be very emotional during a game, but when the match is over, he holds no grudges and can be very rational.

FONG: To ask players to always do their best possible on a day. That was always a strong philosophy of mine as a player and consistency is the biggest thing I look for in a player.

MICALE: Todd was a character-building coach, Magro was a good teacher in the skills, strategies and development area, while Judge's philosophy is based on discipline. The main thing I learned from them all is that you set your rules and don't deviate from them.

WALKER: From Todd, I improved my practical skills, while from Armstrong I learned about a coach's relationship with players. We crossed swords once, but ever since then we've been good friends.

DANIELS: The basic rudiments of how to prepare people for a football match.

WATSON: Moss taught me how to be intense and concentrate, while Brownie teaches you to have wider horizons, make sure everything else is running smoothly; to be good enough to lift other people, but stay on course yourself; a lot of independence on the field.



GOOD TEAM ... Claremont's John Dimmer has been part of a top Tigers team

WHEN DID YOU REALISE YOU WANTED TO TRY COACHING?

DIMMER: Probably while I was still playing. I first started coaching in the junior ranks and I felt that the kids responded well to me and I have progressed from there.

COUSINS: I started thinking about a coaching career towards the end of my playing career and I had the chance to coach a few junior teams while still playing. Then the opportunity arose for me to take up a position and learn more about it.

VASOLI: When I finished playing.

FONG: In the early 1980s while still playing. I applied for a position as playing coach at West Perth, but Bruce Monteath got it and it was all good experience.

MICALE: I was probably a frustrated footballer as I didn't achieve everything I wanted to as a player. Once I

got involved with Rockingham, I enjoyed the role and I was hooked. I thought I had the ability to move to the next level and that opportunity arose at Swans.

WALKER: Probably mid-way through my playing career I had the view that I would be a better coach than a player. I had a lot of injuries and operations which hampered my career.

DANIELS: I had a go while still in high school when I was 17 and I helped another guy coach some under-15s to a premiership. That was my first interest and the rest came while playing my last two or three seasons of football in Perth.

WATSON: When I finished playing in 1990, I didn't go straight into it, but there was certainly a void in my life. I'd thought about it before, trying to listen and develop my own ideas. Once I had a taste at North Fremantle, I wanted to go with it.

WAFL back in the black

PLAYER payment sacrifices, strong sponsorship support and tighter administration have been hailed as major factors to turn football's financial position around.

That's the thumbs-up approval for the eight WAFL this week after they all revealed profits at their annual general meetings.

It is the first time in decades that all eight clubs have operated in the black — and a sure sign that clubs have started to live within football's 1990 means test.

WAFL general-manager Trevor Howard said it was a credit to WAFL clubs to return profits in difficult economic times and in spite of a decline in WAFL attendances.

WAFL crowds were down four per cent on 1991 figures and that includes the outstanding success of the Foundation Day fixtures, when more than 30,000 fans went to Fremantle and Bassendean Ovals.

BONUSES

Howard said that taking those two unexpected bonuses out of the attendance figures, crowds were down almost 12 per cent.

"Despite the tough economic times, fans still seem willing to support the WAFL and that's promising," he said.

"In times of recession, people are still anxious to retain a recreational outlet.

"Thankfully, football remains an institution Australians support.

"Our local football industry is a lot more buoyant than many people seem to give credit for.

Eight clubs post a profit

fairs, from which Souths receive part of the gate and healthy bar profits.

By

KIM HAGDORN

"The clubs have received terrific support from sponsors and the player payment cuts and trimming of administrative costs have all contributed enormously to the healthy financial positions of the clubs."

South Fremantle + \$190,000

South Fremantle, runners-up to arch rivals East Fremantle for this year's premiership, were the biggest winners off the field in 1992.

The Bulldogs, some \$650,000 in the red just three years ago, showed enterprising marketing and promotional skills to attract healthy crowds and produce exciting on-field football.

First-year president Ric Gloede declared a handsome \$190,000 profit — boosted by several sell-out functions.

The Bulldogs received enormous value from the recall of colourful local football legend Malcolm Brown back as coach.

Part of the rejuvenation package at the club has been the increased sports and cultural activities at Fremantle Oval, including international soccer, rock concerts and cash-and-treasure

East Perth + \$138,000

East Perth have also produced an outstanding success story.

The Royals survived a crisis meeting in February, when massive debts were announced and folding up was an option.

Members refused to allow the club to fold — and resisted a salvage deal that would have handed control over to the WA Football Commission — and finished the year with a healthy \$138,000 profit, after a depressing \$160,000 loss in 1991.

Royals players accepted pay cuts up to 30 per cent and are still to receive full payment for the 1991 season.

Swan Districts + \$62,455

Outspoken Swan Districts president Bill Walker was admirably open when he declared that his club's \$62,455 profit was due to an ambitious membership drive that yielded \$105,000.

The former champion rover said the profit resulted simply from "begging" and the club was surviving on special fund-raising schemes.

Perth + \$50,000

Perth survived crisis meetings of members and declared a \$49,573 profit in a year when they failed to make the finals in any grade.

Subiaco + \$49,372

Subiaco, the most financially stable club in the WAFL with more than \$1-million in the bank, finished on budget.

The Lions announced a \$49,372 profit after planning for an excess of \$50,000.

Claremont + \$42,000

Claremont, still facing long-term debts that continue to trouble the club's financial stability, declared a \$42,000 profit.

The Tigers have set their sights on attracting an extra \$70,000 next year to assist their debt reduction plan.

West Perth + \$33,000

West Perth, headed for luxurious new premises at Joondalup in 1994, declared a \$33,000 profit.

Disappointing gate receipts of \$49,000 — an average of just over \$5000 a game from nine home matches — was a reflection of the club's last position on the WAFL ladder for the third successive season.

East Fremantle + \$21,000

East Fremantle, Pepsi Cup premiers and one of the league's most viable clubs, posted a modest \$21,000 profit.

Delay in summer series

A HICCUP in the registration of West Coast Eagles players has forced a delay in the announcement of an exciting new WAFL pre-season competition.

WA Football Commission officials had hoped to officially launch the nine-team round-robin competition — and reveal its sponsor — before Christmas.

However, under AFL rules, players cannot take part in officially-sanctioned matches unless they are registered with their clubs.

Eagles officials have not yet given the WAFL clubs a firm decision on whether they will register all of their 11 new draftees, who have been recruited as part of a developmental group with a view to the future.

With senior West Coast players engaged in the national league pre-season competition, the Foster's Cup, officials are keen to have an Eagles second team play in the local series.

But with general injury problems and the uncertainty surrounding the registration of draftees, the Eagles playing squad of 52 would struggle to field two full teams for separate pre-season competitions.

WAFC officials have held talks with AFL executive commissioner Alan Schwab in an attempt to clear the way for Eagles players to take part in the local pre-season series.

The new competition will carry hefty prizemoney and all profits from the five-week series will be shared equally among the eight WAFL clubs.

The concept is in its final planning stages and has received the seal of approval from WAFL clubs and the Eagles and is tipped to kick off on February 20, with a round-robin series with finals and a grand final.

Matches will be televised by the ABC and some games will be played in country centres.

There is also the prospect of at least one triple-header being staged at Fremantle Oval as a local football bonanza. Matches could be scheduled for a Saturday late in February, kicking off at 4pm, 6pm and 8pm.

COACHES WANTED

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Applications in writing stating experience
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Applications to Ray Gasmire
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What's on
at your
club



Swan Districts

SUNDAY JANUARY 17 —
Players' Fund car park garage sale, at
Bassendean Oval, 10am

WEST PERTH

SATURDAY JANUARY 23 The
Troupadors live, book now

East Fremantle

THURSDAY DECEMBER 31 —
New Year's Eve cabaret at the club \$8,
8pm till late with live band Flashback



Two one-eyed views on Port Power

Fremantle remains the focal point

THE continuing speculation about a likely Fremantle AFL team is going to be the talking point for the next few months, maybe right throughout the 1993 season.

The bright spotlight that shone on the Fremantle scene this last season — mainly through that lock-out Foundation Day Derby — indicates there is plenty more propaganda to come from the Port.

Not only did the Port clubs finish one-two in the 1992 Pepsi Cup season, but they boast some of the most exciting football talent around at present.

East Fremantle's efforts to survive some big hurdles and claim the premiership ranks among the

With LES EVERETT, Fremantle man-about-town and football devotee



better achievements in football folklore.

It was a firm sign that Ken Judge has moulded the type of team he wants — hard, disciplined and persistent.

South Fremantle are great to watch and they have come up with some young players of real quality.

Their controversial coach Malcolm Brown is never away from the

headlines, but he does know how to produce young players and prepare competitive teams.

Jason Spinks is being compared to all sorts of former greats; Frank Morellini, Ashley Clementi, Warren Campbell and Russell Williams are confident and spectacular.

The Derby grand final was a dream come true for the WAFL heirarchy — not so much the rival clubs, just the number-counters at Subiaco Oval — and the fans of other clubs can only shudder when they reflect on the influence Port Power has on local football.

Maybe we can all remember the words of James Joyce . . .

"History is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake."

View Point



With Bill Mather-Brown

Surely Sumich's often-erratic kicking would get worse; Worsfold's full-on shirt-fronts would soften up; Matera's blistering boots would turn to lead; Jakovich's high-flying would be scuttled . . .

The old belief that home is where the heart is would be evident and the cheque books would not be able to overcome home-grown loyalty.

East Fremantle's Chris Mainwaring may not feel the same as the others, because he was recruited from Geraldton; Andrew Lockyer also joined the Sharks from up that way.

But for the dyed-in-the-wool Port fanatic, the heartbreak of seeing home-grown heroes playing against the city of their heritage would be too much to take.

South Perth; Gosnells v Wanneroo; Morley v Perth. Wednesday, December 23; Wembley v Victoria Park; Wanneroo v South Perth. Sunday, December 27; Victoria Park v Gosnells; Wembley v Melville Braves; South Perth v West Stirling; Swan Districts v Perth; Wanneroo v Morley. Wednesday, December 30; Morley v Swan Districts; Gosnells v West Stirling.

HORSE RACING

Ascot summer carnival — Saturday, December 19; C.B. Cox Stakes; Saturday December 26; BMW Australian Derby; Monday, December 28; Emu Export Railway Stakes; Friday, January 1; Healthway Perth Cup.

SPEEDWAY

Quit Claremont Speedway — Saturday December 26; Boxing Day Bonanza including Demolition Derby; Friday January 1 and 8; 1993 Tooheys Blue WA Speedweek, featuring top American sprint car drivers.

TROTTING

Gloucester Park — Be Active WA Pacing Cup; Heats — Friday, December 18; Tuesday December 22; Sunday December 27. Final: Saturday, January 2.

TENNIS

January 2-8: Hopman Cup by Pepsi, Burswood Superdome.
December 21-24: City of Perth Championships, Corinthian Park.
December 26-30: Junior Hopman Cup, Hensman Park, Burswood.

Loyalty would come to the forefront

AS A genuine Fremantle-type cynic, I can't help smiling at speculation over the formation of a second AFL side out of the Port.



TOGETHERNESS . . . Eagles squad members (from left) Glen Jakovich, Andrew Lockyer and John Worsfold might represent different WAFL clubs, but would they come together in a Port team?

The words that stirred me into smirking the most came from Brian Cook, West Coast's general manager, who suggested that none of the present Port-produced Eagles would be released to join a new side.

Anyone who believes that the likes of John Worsfold, Peter Sumich, Chris Waterman, Peter Matera, Glen Jakovich, Michael Brennan and a few others would put their allegiance to the Eagles ahead of their love for Fremantle, doesn't quite understand Fremantle football logic.

Football at the Port, as proven by the Foundation Day Derby, is very deep-seated.

By fair means or foul, there would be a sudden rush on clearance applications if Fremantle got granted an AFL side.

There would be a general lack of enthusiasm if players such as those mentioned were asked to take the field to try and murder their Port rivals.

MASTERS CHOC PRESENTS

What's happening in sport

CRICKET

Sheffield Shield: WACA Ground — December 18-21: WA v Tasmania; January 8-11: WA v Victoria.

Australia v West Indies Test series: Melbourne Cricket Ground — December 26-30 Second Test; Sydney Cricket Ground — January 2-6 Third Test.

World Series: Sydney — Thursday December 17: West Indies v Pakistan; Brisbane — Saturday January 9: West

Indies v Pakistan; Sunday January 10: Australia v West Indies.

BASEBALL

Thursday, December 17: Perth Heat v Daikyo Dolphins, Parry Field. December 29-30, Adelaide Giants v Perth Heat, in Adelaide; January 2-3: Perth Heat v Adelaide Giants, Parry Field.

State League: Sunday, December 20: Melville Braves v Victoria Park; West Stirling v Wembley; Swan Districts v

MASTERS CHOC



You'd think that Masters Choc comes from chocolate cows.

Reflections from an Eagle

BOLLE, the world's best sunglasses, present a special column on West Coast memories



DWAYNE LAMB

BEING the senior competitor in the West Coast squad has often put extra pressures on durable Dwayne Lamb . . . but the burdens rest on broad shoulders.

The former North Innaloo junior, who graduated to the top via Subiaco, revelled in the AFL premiership glory as much as anyone.

There was seldom any doubts around the West Coast selection table that Lamb was a vital ingredient, especially when it came to the sheer discipline needed to win a grand final.

And it was that gritty approach to his football that helped the Eagles claim the 1992 premiership.

"It was certainly a day to remember and cherish," says Lamb, a sales representative with football sponsors Commonwealth Industrial Gases.

"The part I remember best was in the last quarter, when it was something of a countdown to the siren. At the 15-minute mark, we were five goals ahead and Geelong had to kick a goal every three minutes.

"With 10 minutes to go, it was a goal every two minutes and with five minutes left, I knew we had it won. I was in the backline and we were all looking at each other and laughing like little kids.

"The victory lap of honour was sensational."

Lamb, who celebrates his 30th birthday this Sunday, finished the season as the West Coast's most-senior player, with 131 AFL games behind him. Add that to the 134 with Subiaco and it's easy to see the strong left-footer kicking on for another two years to reach 300-games.

While Lamb is employed full-time with CIG — a job that sees him calling on hotels and restaurants — much of his day involves football talk.

Wherever he goes, people now want to offer congratulations and talk about the Eagles achievement.

"Things have certainly changed since the grand final," he says.

"People are more aware of us as individuals now and they go out of their way to talk to us.

"It is like a dream come true. Every young player thinks about kicking the winning goal in a grand final; doing that lap of honour at the MCG and being part of a premiership team."

One of the highlights for Lamb was having all his family in Melbourne for the grand final and getting together in the changerooms with the premiership cup for a host of scrap-book memories.

As the super-fit Lamb shapes up for another season, he has no qualms about being the only player aged over 30, with the retirements of Phil Scott and Laurie Keene.

"There was a time when I wondered whether I'd ever get to be part of an Eagles premiership team," he laughs. "But I'm certainly proud of the achievement and I'm keen to do it again."

bolle
Put 'em on your face



PRESENTS



Thinking aloud



A column of news and views by ALAN EAST

Dedicated Eagles fans

YOU have to admire the dedication of West Coast fans.

As if spending several thousand dollars to fly to Melbourne for a grand final encounter wasn't enough, you should have seen the queues for reserved seats for next season.

With some 22,000 members chasing about 12,000 seats, then you can expect something of a traffic jam — and that's what happened at places like Subiaco Oval and the Mt Claremont Superdrome when tickets went on sale.

Letters to the editor of various papers complained of waits up to 12 hours — one fan said she arrived in the queue at 7.30am and left at 7.15pm — but that didn't stop their determination to get reserved seats.

Ironically, when seats went on sale to the general public last week, the queues were short and the wait was brief — and there was still a few thousand seats left over!

Sighs of relief in Royals camp

WORD has it that there were some audible sighs of relief in the East Perth office when the votes were counted in the presidential election.

With club director and sponsor Ken Burnett getting the verdict over Frank Hayes, a number of full-time roles within the club were guaranteed some future security.

Burnett, a popular fund-raiser and man-about-the-bar in the Royals camp for the last five years or so, had made it clear that he supported the retention of people

like coach Stan Magro, general manager Alex (Marbles) Wilson, football manager Cam Robbins and office manager Cheryl Sachse.

While Hayes, a sales executive in the motor car industry, didn't quite say that he would evict a few of those regulars, the inference was around the place that changes could be made.

Burnett won 645 votes to 313, which was a pretty good response for a club election. He now faces the task of continuing the financial revival that has seen the Royals turn a \$160,000 loss into a \$138,000 profit.



HOT SEAT . . . Ken Burnett settles into his new role as president of East Perth

Team-mates again

THERE IS a famous story about the time South Fremantle's living legend, Maurice Rioli, made football funnyman Mark Jackson hopping mad with a red nose.

It goes back to the early 1980s when they were briefly together at South Fremantle with Jacko — a refugee from the VFL at the time — making good with the Bulldogs and strutting his stuff in fine fashion.

He fancied himself a bit as a puncher and with Souths producing a few handy pugilists under the direction of well-know boxing coach Laurie Flanders, Jacko threw out a challenge to reigning club champion, the one-time Golden Gloves candidate in Rioli.

History-makers report that Souths coach Mal Brown set them up in the ring with gloves and all — and Rioli jabbed at Jacko's big nose till it was red raw!

That little altercation hasn't stopped Jacko from being a fan of Rioli's — and the one-time Melbourne, St Kilda and Geelong player recently came out of retirement to line up with Rioli in his Darwin team, Waratahs.

Seems as though the 33-year-old former goalkicker is up in the Northern Territory to make a movie and while he's making a killing in the publicity and promotional stakes, he's also still capable of kicking a few goals.

He posted four goals for Waratahs in one recent game and his crowd-pulling antics paid off with more than 2000 fans turning up to see him play at Marrara football park.

As the modest Jacko says, he's the sort of publicity machine football needs.

"I could save the Sydney Swans simply by turning up each week," he said, not without a bit of truthfulness.

THE wunderlust that has always been in Allen Daniels' football life — on and off the field — has taken him back to the South West League, where he will coach Collie next season.

Always on the lookout for a challenge or a change of scenery, the former Claremont premiership player has also worn guernseys at Footscray, Perth and in Kalgoorlie, apart from his early playing days in North Albany.

'Shorty', as everyone knows him, was one of the many successful graduates from the Albany development zone that Claremont cultivated so well in the late-1970s.

ALLEGIANCES

But his early allegiances were with East Perth — and, in fact, his idol as a youngster was none other than Royals coach Mal Brown, now the man in charge of South Fremantle.

"So I'm back barracking for East Perth nowadays," admitted Daniels recently when asked where his WAFL loyalties might be.

"After playing with two clubs in the WAFL, I've found it hard to decide who to follow, so I've gone back to my roots, back to East Perth."

Daniels has played under an interesting blend of coaches, starting with Graham Moss and then Mick Malthouse in Victoria, before brief stints under Gerard Neesham, Mal Brown and Robbie Wiley.

"Malthouse is obviously a very good coach," says Daniels. "I was reasonably happy with the way things went

Shorty now loyal Royal

the first year under him at Footscray. He was thorough and very single-minded, which a coach has to be.

"I learnt a lot in Melbourne, but my growing up period has probably been on my return to country football — at Collie and Kalgoorlie."

Daniels now returns to the town of his birth — shifting to Albany at a young age — and one wonders if he can be as prominent as he was in Kalgoorlie, where he coached Mines Rovers to a premiership and then led the Goldfields to victory in this year's Wesfarmers country championships.

Journos in verbal duel

TALKING about the WAFC's public relations image — or lack thereof — it's interesting to see the roles being played out by a couple of former football journalists.

One-time newspaper writer Colin Hopkins is now on the South Fremantle board and has also been co-opted to the newly-formed Australian Rules League Clubs of WA group, which aims at being a lobby machine for WAFL clubs.

Hopkins — who runs his own public relations company — has done some clever PR work in recent times with well-placed press releases and good behind-the-scenes lobbying, as is the mode of an astute PR man.

In fact, his lobbying has created some unrest at the WAFC offices in downtown Subiaco — so much so that they recruited their own PR advice in one-time writer Robbie Burns.

While we haven't yet seen a war of faxed words from the two sides of football, the speculation is already rife that the journos will be matching wits on a whole range of controversial topics.

Under fire

FOOTBALL officialdom on several fronts came under fire on radio 6PR recently in an interview with compere Gary Carvolth and entrepreneur Michael Flanagan.

Talking about proposals to bring country teams into the WAFL, Flanagan — the former general manager at Subiaco — suggested that some of today's officials were like dinosaurs with their out-of-date thinking.

As the promotional man employed by the Goldfields people in their push towards the WAFL, Flanagan has a vested interest, naturally enough.

Carvolth had a snide shot at the WA Football Commission when he suggested that they had lacked public relations expertise for quite a while.

Maybe he's after yet another job!



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HUNGRY JACK'S

PRESENTS



Talking Footy

With **KIM HAGDORN**



Hynes keen to tackle footy's tough role

'I want to have a real crack at playing centre-half-forward'



Eagles trouble spots — he wants to play at centre-half-forward.

The wiry 188cm, 25-year-old has discussed his penchant for the key attacking role with coach Malthouse.

Hynes knows he has earmarked one of the toughest assignments in football.

"I've been a bit disappointed that I haven't had a decent crack at making a go of it at centre-half-forward," Hynes said bluntly.

"But I've had a good chat about it with Mick and he knows my ambition to settle there.

"It's such a difficult spot to play and it's no secret it has been a floating position since the Eagles joined the national competition.

"I reckon it takes time for both an individual to settle there and for the team to get used to the guy at centre-half-forward.

"Realistically, I'm grateful to get a game anywhere with the Eagles. But you have to set your goals."

Hynes has all but taken out West Australian citizenship since joining West Coast in the summer of 1990-91, after being drafted by the Eagles in 1988, but staying on in Adelaide to celebrate his third premiership with Port.

He has recently become engaged to Geraldton girl Sharryn McGuire and has opted to spend Christmas in his adopted State for the first time, rather than return to the City of Churches.

SPORTS BUSINESS

Sharryn has just recently established her own sports massage therapy business at the couple's City Beach home.

A staunch Eagles fan and close supporter of most sports, Sharryn is a fully qualified masseur and sports trainer and for that reason, the couple want to establish themselves in Perth.

"I'm really settled here," says Hynes. "I enjoy going back to Adelaide to catch up with the family and friends, but I have a lot of things going for me in Perth.

"It certainly hasn't been hard to settle into Perth and with the Eagles, but it does take time to settle anywhere new.

"You'd probably never hit your straps immediately.

"That's why I'm setting my sights on further improvement next year.

"My second season was better than my first and I'm looking forward to further advancement.

"But one of the strengths of the Eagles, is our depth.

"I was one of the unlucky ones to miss last season's grand final, but depth of talent in a club is a good thing.

"I don't want to be the one to miss out again, though."

FOR West Coast Eagles big man David Hynes, the 1993 football season can't come around quick enough.

While the former Port Adelaide premiership star has recently taken on a job that helps prevent car thefts, Hynes was left with an empty feeling as if he was robbed of something special when West Coast lifted the AFL premiership last September.

Hynes, voted the Eagles best clubman in 1992, was the unlucky 21st man for the historic grand final victory over Geelong at the MCG.

The bitter disappointment of missing selection by the narrowest margin is the spur for Hynes to prepare for the new season and make sure he wins a permanent spot in the Eagles 1993 line-up.

PREMIERSHIP DEFENCE

He doesn't want to miss any further shots at glory in the club's first premiership defence.

A positive thinker, Hynes says his time in Perth since arriving for the 1991 season has been progressively better each year.

He was 23rd man for the Eagles first grand final appearance, at Waverley against Hawthorn, in 1991 and last season the versatile Hynes almost doubled his league appearances, playing 17 matches compared to nine in his debut year.

"Naturally, missing selection for a grand final, particularly a piece of history like this year, is a big disappointment," he said this week as he settled into his new desk at Fortron, the automotive firm in Osborne Park, where he sells electronic car security alarms.

"But I'm a believer that you live in the present with an eye to the future.

"Missing the occasion of the first time the AFL premiership cup left Victoria, was hard to cop. But I'm using it as a motivation for 1993.

"I have to look at where I can improve my game and best serve the side — and make sure I complete all the training schedules and leave nothing to chance in my endeavours to get a regular game.

"I'll talk with Mick (Malthouse) and the coaching staff and weigh up all the options available to me."



TUNED IN . . . big man David Hynes has settled into a new job with Fortron — and is aiming at a new challenge in the Eagles line-up. INSET: a proud moment as he accepts the 1992 best clubman award — Picture by MURRAY ARMENTI

Hynes, winner of the Fos Williams Medal for best-afield in South Australia's epic State-of-Origin win over Victoria at Football Park on July 7, has set his sights on one of the



HUNGRY JACK'S

RESISTANCE IS USELESS





GOOD START... new West Perth coach Jeff Gieschen had a good start — but had to wait till the end of the season for further joy

Claremont opened the year in the traditional grand final replay and repeated their success over Subiaco — but that was to be their only win against traditional western suburbs rivals. The Lions won the next two encounters in tough, close games, with the Tigers slipping down the ladder.

West Perth gave their new coach Jeff Gieschen a great pipe-opener to WA football when they beat arch-rivals East Perth in a thriller at Leederville. But that was to be their only win over the Royals — and they didn't win for another six weeks.

South Fremantle set the scene for three tremendous

A year to remember

THERE were plenty of Pepsi Cup highlights in the year of 1992, when a host of new players were brooded in the WAFL — and some of the old ones were quite outstanding.

It was a year that boasted a magnificent line-up of experienced coaches, probably the best collection of eight men-in-charge that the local football industry has experienced for a long time.



just one more time for their Perth Oval fans and losing their last six matches at home.

Almost all of the neutral games resulted in surprise results.

Swan Districts beat Subiaco in the first WACA Ground match, on Anzac Day; Perth were too strong for West Perth in their Friday night game at the WACA in the first series, but the Falcons atoned by toppling Claremont there two weeks later.

The Falcons repeated that good form to beat South Fremantle under lights on June 12, but then lost their Kingsway Reserve game at Wanneroo to East Perth. The Demons responded to their suburban fans by beating Subiaco at Kelmscott, while Swan Districts upset South Fremantle's night-time celebrations by winning the first under-lights game at Fremantle Oval.

The summary of those special games saw West Perth play away from Leederville Oval four times for two wins and two losses; Perth went away from Lathlain Park twice for two wins; South Fremantle had one trip away for a loss; East Perth one win away from home; Subiaco two losses; Swan Districts one win and Claremont one loss.

While the battle for WAFL finals places went right down to the last set of fixtures, the end result confirmed that the 84 home-and-away games produced a variety of upset results, amazing turn-arounds and impressive displays.

With just 15 Saturdays before the 1993 Pepsi Cup bounced down, this reflective journey through the 21 weeks of last season's competition recalls some of the highlights — and a few lowlights.

The biggest win of the season was claimed by East Fremantle, with an 89-point margin over Swan Districts at East Fremantle Oval in round eight, while Subiaco notched an 86-point victory over Swans at Subiaco Oval in round 18.

The best winning sequence went to East Fremantle, win six victories in a row from round three to round eight.

Subiaco and Swan Districts each managed four wins in a row, while the best Perth, East Perth, South Fremantle and West Perth could do was three straight. Claremont failed to win back-to-back games and the Falcons had nightmares as they lost five in a row from round two to round six.

Claremont lost the most close games, twice by a goal or less and three times by under two goals. Swan Districts had two one-goal or less margins; East Fremantle, East Perth and West Perth had one of each; South Fremantle one under six points, while Subiaco and Perth one loss each between six and 12 points.

In the narrow-victory department, East Perth led the way with six wins by 12 points or less; East Fremantle and Subiaco won two games by a goal or less; Perth and Swan Districts had one win each by that margin. South Fremantle won two games by between six and 12 points, while Claremont had one win by that margin and West Perth had one win in each points bracket.

There were a couple of amazing turn-arounds in the space of a week.

Subiaco achieved the best, a 168-point reversal, from losing by 82 points to Perth in round 17, to beating Swan Districts by 86 points the next week.

Swans had a big reversal of their own in rounds eight and nine, losing by 89 points to East Fremantle and then beating East Perth by 70 points.

Not far behind that achievement was Perth's 153-point turn-around in rounds 16 and 17, losing to Claremont by 71 points, but beating Subiaco by 82 points a week later.

Home ground advantages certainly helped Swan Districts, Subiaco and East Fremantle, who all won seven matches on familiar turf. South Fremantle won six at home, Perth and West Perth four and East Perth and Claremont three.

South Fremantle had the best away record with seven wins, just ahead of East Perth, with six and Subiaco and East Fremantle five each.



GOOD MATES... South Fremantle coach Malcolm Brown is pretty happy with his Bulldogs, especially Brad Collard and Mark Collins



ROYAL REVIVAL... East Perth were back in finals form with some stirring victories — but not always at their home ground



GOOD TIMES... there's nothing like a premiership win to cap off a year and that's what East Fremantle coach Ken Judge had



New challenge for trio

THREE new presidents will step into WA Football League hot seats for season 1993.

Long-serving East Perth director Ken Burnett, leading Perth race horse owner and hotelier Barry McGrath and Brian Warren have won elections for the top WAFL posts at East Perth, Perth and Subiaco.

Burnett won a comfortable election battle against businessman Frank Hayes — 645 votes to 313 — to succeed Bob Pearson as head of the Royals; McGrath replaces Ted O'Connor at Perth after beating director Peter Pope, 335 to 84, while Warren, a plastics company manager, won a spirited election at Subiaco, beating fellow director, Gerry Stokes 398 to 230.

Retiring Lions president David Williams had written to Subiaco members calling on them to support vice-president Warren.

The contest for seats on the board saw former players Neil Randall and Reg Hampson successful, along with retiring members Peter Wright and Basil Fuller.

Jack Marks and Bruce McLean were re-elected to the East Perth board of directors, with long-serving volunteer Trevor Gibson winning the vacant seat.

Claremont's five-way election battle for three seats saw veteran Arthur Smith and former player Wayne Reynolds returned, along with newcomer Justin Chapman.

Sharks join night battle

THE controversial issue of night football in Western Australia is set to escalate with the approval of a \$50,000 Federal Government grant to reigning premiers East Fremantle.

The Sharks are expected to upgrade the current lighting at East Fremantle Oval, with plans of staging official WAFL matches, as arch-rivals South Fremantle did to conclude the 1992 home-and-away season against Swan Districts at Fremantle Oval.

That match was an outstanding success, with a crowd of around 10,000 proving a financial bonanza for the Bulldogs.

Discussions have already taken place on the prospect of a night derby at either Fremantle or East Fremantle Oval in 1993.

A night grand final replay grudge match between the Port rivals would be a big success in Fremantle.

AGREEMENT

However, the binding agreement between the WA Cricket Association and football authorities will be a barrier to the Fremantle clubs staging such an event.

Under a 10-year agreement, drawn up in 1986, the WAFL is prevented from staging any official night match anywhere but at the WACA Ground — and it took Government influence to get permission for last season's one-off game to herald the debut of the Fremantle Oval lights.

The WAFC has scheduled four WAFL matches for the WACA in

1993, but no financial benefit is gained by the clubs in those neutral games.

With WAFL clubs responsible for the promotion and running of their own home matches, football authorities are constantly searching for ways to cash in on attendances.

Night and twilight matches, at the right time of the year, proved to be successful last season and remain a constant hope for increased revenue to WAFL clubs.

Coates takes Sharks role

EAST Fremantle, reigning premiers in the Pepsi under-19 competition, have appointed a new colts coach.

Former premiership defender Kerry Coates has replaced Ross Keegan with the Sharks youth team.

Coates, a durable half-back who was a member of East Fremantle's 1974 premiership side, has vast experience with colts footballers and at Sunday league level.

He coached East Fremantle's colts for four seasons, from 1987 to 1990 and has led South Perth, Applecross, Canning and Willetton in the Sunday League at various times over the past 14 years.

Kickett steps down at Claremont

LARRY Kickett has stepped down as Claremont colts coach after six years at the helm.

Kickett, a former East Perth premiership player, has opted to concentrate on his emerging role in the football media and his commitments with Homeswest.

The popular Kickett, who took the under-19 combination to two premierships, will also coach Guildford Grammar, where he was a student from 1970 to 1972.

The departure of Kickett from Claremont breaks one of the most successful three-way coaching connections in WAFL history.

In six years working with league coach Gerard Neesham and reserves mentor John Dimmer, the Tigers won five

Rodriguez Shields as WAFL club champions.

NEGOTIATIONS

Some careful negotiations have enabled Claremont to persuade Dimmer to continue, after he was tempted to retire because of the enormous time commitment to the job.

Dimmer, a member of Subiaco's 1973 premiership combination and a former East Perth and State player, has given the club an undertaking to continue for the 1993.

Neesham's former Kellerberrin coach Mark Riley has been appointed to the colts role.



President BILL WALKER and the Board of Directors at the SWAN DISTRICTS FOOTBALL CLUB

Wish all supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy Festive Season

And we wish our coaching staff and players a prosperous 1993 football season

PERTH FOOTBALL CLUB (INC)

The Directors and Staff of the Perth Football Club would like to take this opportunity and thank all our Sponsors for their support during 1992.

We wish the Sponsors, Players and Members of our Club a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

From the home of the "BULLDOGS" South Fremantle Football Club

We wish to thank all our sponsors & members for their support through 1992 & hope that 1993 is a victorious year

THE EAST FREMANTLE FOOTBALL CLUB

Wish all members, supporters, players and officials a Happy Christmas, a Prosperous New Year and plenty of enjoyable football in season 1993

Bob Uittenbrook General Manager Len Hitchen President

CLAREMONT FOOTBALL CLUB (INC)

The president & directors have pleasure in wishing all it's sponsors, members & supporters a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. We look forward to your continued support in 1993.

Don't forget memberships are now due!

east perth football club (inc)

WISH ALL THEIR LOYAL MEMBERS, COACHES, PLAYERS, SUPPORT STAFF AND SUPPORTERS

A Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Successful New Year

to all WAFL supporters

The president, directors and staff of the **SUBIACO FOOTBALL CLUB**

Wish members and supporters all the best for the Festive Season and advise that the office will be closed from **FRIDAY DECEMBER 18 to WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13**

WEST PERTH GOLDEN FALCONS Present

Fifties and Sixties Night with the **TROUPADORES** on Saturday 23rd January, 1993 at the VASTO CLUB Vasto Place, Balcatta

Reminder for all Members that Membership Fees are now due

CENTRE FORD — MAJOR SPONSOR — CENTRE OF A GREAT FORD DEAL





Footy around the nation

Fitzpatrick in the field

CHAMPION West Australian footballer Mike Fitzpatrick is among the possible candidates to take up the vacant seat on the board of the AFL Commission.

Melbourne sports writer Mike Sheahan has suggested in the Sunday Age that the former WA Rhodes scholar and Subiaco and Carlton premiership player would be a leading candidate for the job.

The Commission is currently made up of chairman Ross Oakley, Executive Commissioner Alan Schwab, former Subiaco president Michael Carlike, Albert Mantello and Graeme Samuel.

The impending departure of Peter Scanlon leaves the way open for a new appointment to what is the most powerful sporting administration in the country.

The part-time role with an honorarium of \$7500 is a prestige position — and current Melbourne feeling is that

another former player is needed to balance the structure between corporate business people and grass-roots players.

Sheahan suggests that Fitzpatrick and recent retirees Gerard Healy, Simon Madden or Tim Watson would be among the former players in contention.

He lists such corporate giants as Philip Brass (Pacific Dunlop); Peter Bartels (Coles Myer); Herb Elliott (Puma); Lindsay Fox (Linfox Group) and Craig Kimberley (Just Jeans) as possible contenders.

Highly-respected Carlton executive director Ian Collins is included among the possibilities, with former legendary coach (and player) John Kennedy also rated a chance.



BLUE BOY... Jon Dorotich hopes to spend the next two years at Carlton

Dorotich stays a Blue

WEST Australian big man Jon Dorotich is confident of sealing a deal that will see him stay at Carlton for the next two years.

The 30-year-old former South Fremantle star is keen to see out his AFL career with the Blues, who he joined in 1986 and enjoyed a premiership the next season.

The strong key-position player has enjoyed his best season in the AFL this year, emerging as a key player for Carlton, either in defence or attack.

"I know what my value is to the club and I think they know what I'm worth to them," says Dorotich. "At the end of the next two years, I'll sit down and work out where I'm going."

Honour for Cats trio

THREE Geelong players have been honoured with life membership after passing the 150-game mark this season.

Superstar Gary Ablett, 1989 Brownlow Medallist Paul Couch and defender Steve Hocking have all earned the life membership honour.

The Cats also awarded life memberships to part-time staffer Bill Harris, who has worked for Geelong for 30 years and former general manager Ken Gannon.

Skipper wants to be replaced

MOST football club captains cherish their honour of leadership — but Collingwood skipper Tony Shaw would love to hand the job over to someone else.

The tough-as-nails little rover is set to lead the Magpies into a seventh season next year, but he would like to see a team-mate emerge as a candidate for the job.

"If someone came along and said they wanted the job, I'd be rapt," he said recently.

Shaw, now 32 and needing one more full season to pass the 300-game mark and maybe break Gordon Coventry's 306-games club record, says he is feeling enthusiastic about next season.

"It's going to be a challenge," he says. "I've never had any pace, so I can't lose it and as long as my stamina holds up, I should be okay."

Tigers snare Hernaman

SOME persuasive talking by Richmond's new coach John Northey has helped clinch the services next year of top South Fremantle rookie Wayne Hernaman.

The 20-year-old strongly-built defender was reluctant to move to Richmond after his early draft call-up in November.

But a visit to Richmond's home ground at Punt Road — within kicking distance almost of the MCG — helped change his mind.

He goes to the Tigers next season with the full blessing of his South Fremantle coach Mal Brown, whose one-year stint with Richmond in 1974 is still talked about.

Hernaman, who played 18 games in his debut season with the Bulldogs, was influenced to go next season mainly because of the number of young players at Richmond.

Plea for subsidy

THE WA Football Commission has asked the AFL to fund next year's interstate clash.

West Australia is scheduled to play South Australia in both State-of-Origin and local league levels on Wednesday, June 2 next year. The venue is yet to be announced by the AFL.

HISTORIC

The historic occasion, when WA and SA meet for the first time on the State-of-Origin basis, will be part of the AFL's revised format for interstate football mid-way through the season.

The winner of the WA-SA clash will meet the winner of the Victoria-New South Wales encounter in the same week, with the final being played at the MCG on Saturday, June 5.

The WAFC wants the cost of the curtain-raiser between the WAFL and SANFL-based players to be incorporated in the overall costs of staging the full bonanza.

SA lost \$50,000 on last season's exciting interstate clash in Adelaide, on

By **KIM HAGDORN**

top of the \$34,000 loss by WAFC staging the fixture at Subiaco Oval in 1991.

The big losses by state bodies, the feeder leagues to the national competition, is threatening the future of interstate matches not of the State-of-Origin basis.

RESPONSIBILITY

The WAFC will plead with the AFL to accept the responsibility of costing these events as part of the national competition's development of future AFL players.

WAFC officials are also understood to be considering whether to revert to the policy of appointing the WAFL coach from the previous season's premiership club.

Last season playing legend Barry Cable was the official WA coach.

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Come watch the Eagles do it all again in 1993 when they make it two in a row.

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Or pick your membership forms from any Hungry Jack's, SGIO or Australia Post outlet.

For membership enquiries call 381 4244



WCEA 0022

Books for your Christmas library

The Eagles in review

West Coast Eagles Official Yearbook 1992. Published by Australian Sports Publications. Available in newsagencies or by postal order. Price \$9.95

THERE have been many fine summaries of how the West Coast Eagles changed football history — and now we have the official version.

To commemorate a fantastic year of football, the West Coast Eagles Official Yearbook 1992 is a massive collection of everything that happened in the year that saw Victoria hand over its prized premiership cup to WA.

The 124-page glossy publication has more than 200 coloured photographs depicting every moment of the year — and including virtually every West Coast player.

Special articles by local writers Kim Hagdorn, Tania Armstrong, Alan East and Basil Zempilas cover the momentous events of the year, with Melbourne journalist Ken Piesse looking at the West Coasters from a Victorian point of view and Channel 7 commentator Dennis Cometti naming his team-of-the-year — which does include a few more Eagles than the AFL's team!

The Yearbook also contains official reports from all the departments of the West Coast Eagles Football Club, ranging from a tribute by chairman Terry O'Connor to an assessment of how the club has performed in the annual draft from recruitment manager Mick Moylan.

The comprehensive Records Section covers all aspects of the West Coast's history from day one, with facts and figures relating to players, records, achievements and other statistics.

The pictorial coverage of events such as the grand final and its after-match celebrations, the champion awards night, the grand final parades — in Perth and Melbourne — and behind-the-scenes photographs never published before adorn the pages.

If you're an Eagles fan, then this record of their inaugural premiership year is a must.



IN MEMORY... the Eagles Yearbook cover (above) and a photograph (below) that will last forever — captain John Worsfold and coach Mick Malthouse



You're never too young

FOOTBALL is a game for all ages, with freeball catering for the youngsters and Superules for those supposedly 'over the hill.'

But everyone can learn — whether you are a junior just starting out, an advanced player with years of experience or a coach taking up the role of teaching.

There are some excellent coaching and instruction manuals on the market, but one that is suited for the beginners is still a popular gift.

Aussie Rules — Learn to play the Freddie Footballer Way, is published by Westside Football and provides easy-to-follow hints on all aspects of football, from kicking, marking and

handball to tackling, dodging and shepherding.

Drawings of that larger-than-life-sized character Freddie Footballer help explain how to do all the basic things in Aussie Rules.

The book is available by post from Sportshow, PO Box 442, Morley WA 6062 for \$3, including postage and handling.

Lockett aims to keep plugging on

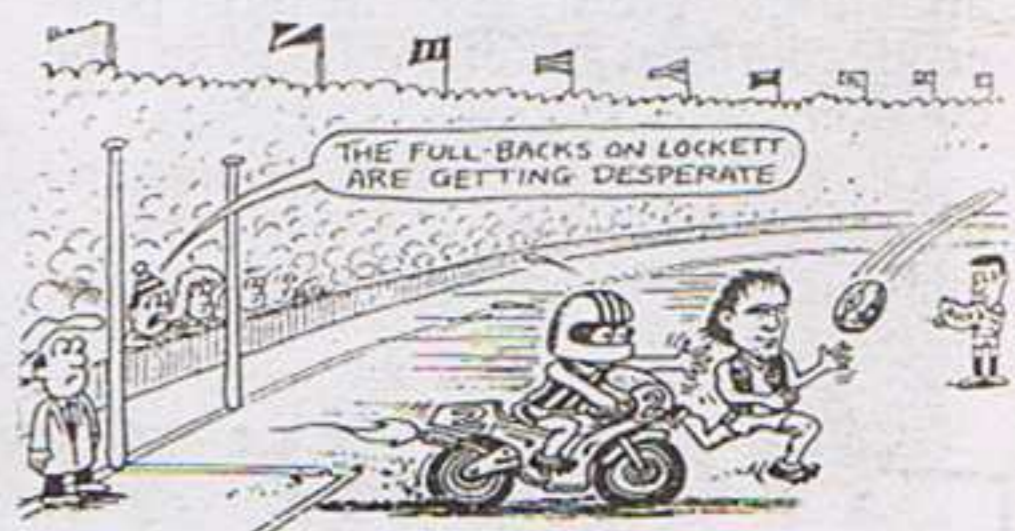
"Plugger." *The Tony Lockett Story*, by Tony Lockett, with Ken Piesse. Published by Sun Australia and available at major newsagencies and from Melbourne Sports Books. Price \$12.95.

TONY Lockett, St Kilda's champion goal-kicker, says he wants to play for at least another five years and amass more than 1000 goals.

In his autobiography, "Plugger", Lockett says a premiership would be the crowning point of his career.

"This is my 10th season. If I can play another five, there's not going to be too many blokes who have played 15 years of league football," he says.

"Hopefully, I can play until I'm 30 and achieve something like 200 games plus... if things work to plan.



"However, if I can play 230 or 240 games, I couldn't stop there. I'd have to keep going to make the 250. The closer I got to a target such as that, the more I'd want it. Right from the time I started, I said I'd be rapt if I could get to 250. It remains one of my key goals.

"After all my injuries and missed matches, realistically I may have to look at just 200 games."

AVERAGE

Lockett had averaged 12 games a year from 1988-1991, but played 23 of St Kilda's 25 matches last season to put his career-tally at 164.

"My fantasy is to finish football as successfully as possible," he says.

"I'd like to be able to say that I've worked hard for 15 years and done as much as I could. I want to be in a position to be able to enjoy the rest of my life."

If only they could have played...

The Coodabeen Champions Big Bumper Footy Book. Published by Viking O'Neil. Available from major newsagents. Price \$16.95

IF YOU like to mix a laugh or two with your football, the Coodabeen Champions are the people for you.

The Coodabeens are legendary in Victoria... and heading that way in the West, courtesy of their weekly ABC radio football show.

A collection of dedicated footy fans, the multi-talented Coodabeens are stars of many mediums of entertainment — radio, screen and stage, grand finals and any pub!

GOOD-NATURED

The five-man team of Greg Champion — singer and song-writer — Jeff Richardson, Ian Cover, Simon Whelan and Footscray expert Tony Leonard take a good-natured swipe at the game they love in their Big Bumper Footy Book.

It's a collection of footy facts, fables and fiction; it contains anecdotes and memorabilia; funny photos and footy songs; recipes and revelations of the most intimate nature!

All in all, it's an amusing addition to your your football library.

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Picture Puzzle



Nothing stopped Rev. Jack

THERE have been plenty of classic photographs taken on the football field over the years — and this is one of them.

In case you can't recognise the face — or the cheeks — then you'll certainly remember the name of Jack Sheedy.

The Rev. Jack — so named because of his willingness to swear on a bible as to his innocence at one of his many tribunal appearances — was one of the game's all-time greats.

The son of a former star, he was a controversial rover who played in a premiers side with East Fremantle and then coached East Perth to three grand final victories.

Sheedy is among the elite who have played 300-games and is a member of WA's Hall of Champions, based at the Mt Claremont Superdrome.

To win this week's prize of two rolls of Kodak colour film, send in a funny caption for this picture. Entries to be no more than 20 words and can be submitted on the back of an envelope, along with your name and address.

All entries will go into our end-of-summer barrel for a weekend at Albany's Travel Inn Motel, so don't miss any of our summer editions early next year to give you more chances of being a winner.

Send your entry to:-
*** Westside Pic Quiz
*** PO Box 119
*** Northbridge, WA 6865.

We will award two rolls of Kodak colour film to what we consider the funniest entry — and the judge's decision will be final! Entries close on the Monday before our next edition, which will be Thursday, January 14.



WIN A WEEKEND IN ALBANY

Thanks for your help

WELL, no wonder we need the help of our readers at times!

The Kodak Picture Puzzle in our last edition was quickly identified by a heap of readers — most of whom pointed out that the 'hint' we gave was wrong!

As explained in our last issue, the lack of careful identification of pictures before they are filed away has been a problem and thanks to our read-

ers, the picture we published has now been correctly titled.

It wasn't a Swan Districts group, as we suggested, but six specialist defenders training for the State game in 1961.

They were all West Australian champions and (from left) were Ken Bagley, Denis Marshall, Neville Beard, Norm Rogers, Tom Grljusich and Brian France.

Or two rolls of Kodak colour film

The first correct entry out of our competition barrel came from Bill Trevenen, of Lake Grace and he wins two rolls of Kodak colour film — and all entrants go into our end-of-summer barrel for a weekend at the fabulous Travel Inn Motel, in Albany.

Disappointing

IT WAS good to see your news and views from the WAFL clubs during the season.

There are still a lot of people who like to read snippets of information about their local clubs, not only the Eagles or other AFL clubs.

It was disappointing that The West Australian newspaper decided not to print the colts and reserves team lists this year.

That was a backward step for the WAFL competition and the 352 players who took part in those games; the club officials and supporters, the families of the footballers; their friends and followers throughout the State.

I hope pressure from people like yourself and other media personnel, with letters and telephone calls from football supporters, will see our morning newspaper change their mind.

Ron Tester
Karrinyup

Dumbfounded

Congratulations to Robbie West, of West Perth, who was a most worthy winner of the 1992 Sandover Medal.

While in no way wishing to detract from his win, I raise the question as to the need for sideline judges to cast votes in addition to the men in white.

Being a Swan Districts supporter, I was dumbfounded at the poor Medal tallies of Stephen O'Reilly and Phil Narkle, with just five votes each.

The Westside Football ratings show that O'Reilly polled one eight vote, six



Have your say

A selection of readers letters on football matters

7s and eight 6s in 19 games, while Narkle polled seven 7s and two 6s in his 12 games.

Not that either was a Medal-winning effort, but it shows some inadequacies of the present system.

T. Davies
Bassendean

AFL swansong?

IS THE Australian Football League serious about wanting a truly national football competition?

The truth will be forthcoming in the handling of the Sydney Swans issue by the predominantly Melbourne-based football committee.

The AFL has made some important draft concessions to Sydney (and Brisbane) and now its future decisions will demonstrate very clearly if they are truly serious or just paying lip-service to their ideals.

The Sydney Swans (formerly South Melbourne) were trail-blazers in the formation of a national competition.

Some of the blame must sit very heavily on the shoulders of the league's development officers, who did far too little to ensure that this bold venture was a success.

There should have been much more attention to the financial state, administrative assistance and the expertise as

well as the competitiveness of the Swans, instead of just relocating the team and letting it sink or swim.

A good administration and a financially sound club would have provided the opportunity to achieve the necessary competitiveness and maintain the public interest.

It is a known fact that to obtain and maintain public interest is difficult if the team is being beaten week after week.

The Sydney Swans are, like the Eagles, an equal member of the league and their problems are the problems of the league.

Decisions taken on Sydney's plight — both in the playing department and financial — may well determine the future of an expanded league.

Other sports have gone national successfully, so the AFL should be able to do likewise, but not by casting aside a team at the first sign of trouble.

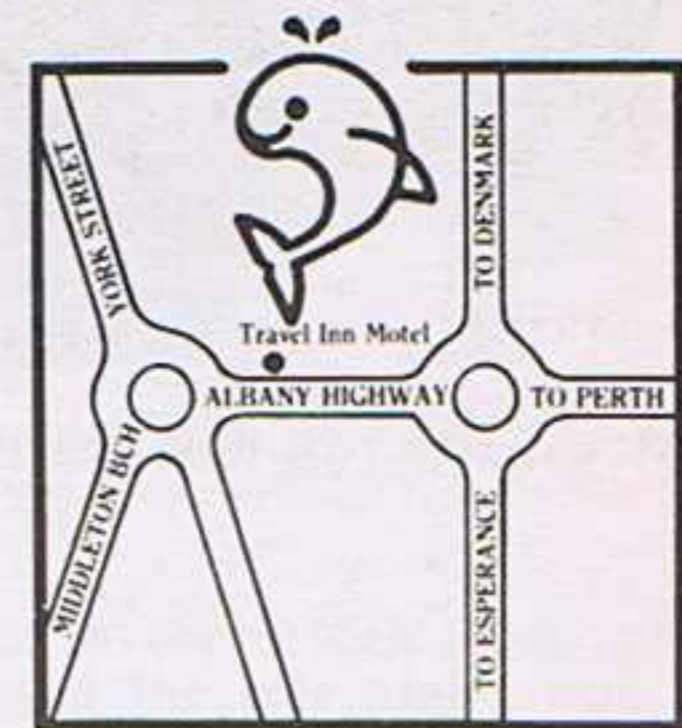
Those at the discussion table on this matter have the opportunity to control the real future in Australian rules.

It would obviously have been easier to cast the Sydney Swans aside, than to bow to pressure for various concessions. But a positive approach for the sake of the game's future was the right option.

Ross Parkinson,
Cloverdale,
Westside Football

Travel Inn Motel

ALBANY

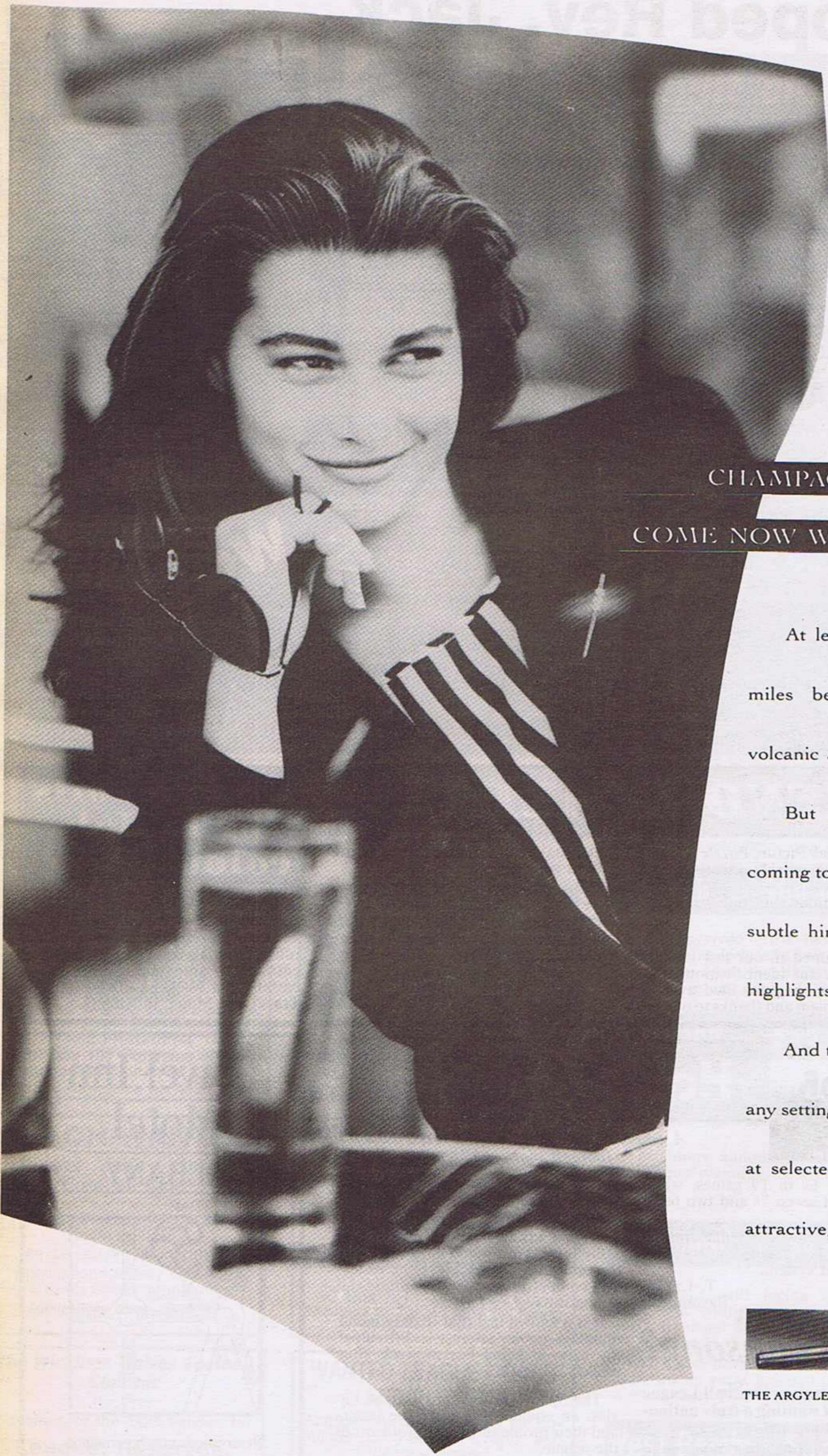


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Saatchi ARG 206

Sports Spotlight feature on tennis



NEW CHOICE . . . Pepsi's Australian chief Arvid Petersen (left) is welcomed to the Hopman Cup camp by chairman Paul McNamee and Kevin Wealand, of the Swan Brewery, who were the previous major sponsors with the Swan Gold product and will continue as associate sponsors

BEING of country origin, football and cricket were the two sports which dominated my childhood.

There was an early realisation that I wasn't overly gifted in either sport, so I decided the only way to become involved in a high level of competition was to write about it.

I was 12. And immediately sent off a letter to The West Australian asking how to get a start in the journalistic game.

As it transpired, that was a masterstroke. Five years later, when a cadetship came up at the Albany Advertiser, students with better marks were overlooked as management thought I would look on the job as a career move, rather than pinch-hit until I made a decision.

At that stage, tennis was a game I had always followed closely — for at least a fortnight every year. There were vivid memories of Evonne Cawley and Margaret Court, John Newcombe and Rod Laver doing us proud on the hallowed courts of Wimbledon.

FAMOUS GROUND

At that stage, I had no idea that one day I would get to the famous grounds of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet on Church Road, just outside London.

My dreams centred more around being at Subiaco Oval on grand final day, getting wrapped up in the atmosphere as my beloved East Perth strode to yet another premiership.

Yes, those were days when Mal Brown, Flea Gillespie, Kenny Deards, Noddy McAullay and Phil Tierney were running around making my Saturday afternoons most enjoyable.

And in the summer, we had the dulcet tones of Peter Loader and Jim Fitz-

Tennis serves

up a sporting treat

Leading football writer **GARY STOCKS** looks at the tennis influence on his sporting life

maurice giving us ball-by-ball descriptions of how Tony Lock, John Inverarity, Derek Chadwick and Wally Edwards stitched up the opposition in Sheffield Shield matches.

Those were the days when people actually flocked to the WACA Ground to watch the best players in the country battle it out in the searing heat.

After a few years in Albany and one in Katanning, the move to the city to join The Western Mail was the first step towards living out my dreams.

And the football didn't disappoint. It was great to get an insight into the inner workings of the WAFL clubs.

In a bigger city than Albany, one broadens horizons and in the early 1980s, after working a few years with Westside Football and then joining The West Australian, the opportunity to write tennis came up.

Even then I had no idea what was in store.

Initially, the local round involved compiling results of weekend A-grade matches, but since then it has taken on a much higher profile.

Luxury — and more

THE Hopman Cup by Pepsi offers the international tennis stars more than just a week of magnificent luxury at Perth's Burswood Resort.

While the event comes just after Christmas, a time many stars like to take off from their tennis duties, it is an ideal build-up for the start of the new year.

With the rich Australian Open launching the new year — and the first of the Grand Slam tournaments — the week or more build-up in Perth, on a similar Rebound Ace synthetic surface, makes the Hopman Cup a must.

But there are plenty of other attractions as far as the Hopman Cup is concerned — and some unique aspects of the event make the visit to Perth a pleasant change from the normal routine of tennis tournaments.

SOCIAL EVENT

The New Year's Eve Ball has become one of the social events on Perth's calendar — and provides a rare chance for superstars like Boris Becker, Steffi Graf, Arantxa Sanchez, John McEnroe and Monica Seles to dress up in their finest and rage the night away.

The Swan Gold Celebrity Pro-Am event is unique in tennis; it is virtually unheard of for players of the ilk of Graf, Seles, Sanchez, Petr Korda and Co. to mix it on the tennis court with amateurs from the ranks of sponsors, officials and media.

The inaugural Pro-Am attracted the star of the Ball, English pop legend Cliff Richards and he shared the tennis honours with the help of a handy partner in Graf, the Wimbledon Queen.

The players live in luxury at the Burswood Resort while they mix good tennis fun with their serious build-up to the Australian circuit — and with an 18-hole golf course on their doorstep, they have plenty of other sporting options as well.

The players can fit in a little casino gambling and there is time for sun bathing and relaxing to make Perth a magnificent stop-over.

Chris Mainwaring, Karl Langdon and Norm Smith Medallist Peter Matera are all keen on tennis.

In fact, Matera has been included in this year's Hopman Cup Swan Gold celebrity pro-am as one of the star attractions in a special competition open to the public.

Looking good

IF you've ever wondered why you enjoy watching women's tennis so much, then it's probably because of the attractive gear they wear.

Some of the best legs in the tennis business are topped by skirts such as those made by WA company Netball Mania, who specialise in the Perm-A-Pleat products.

Pleated skirts in all styles and colours — the name of the game these days — come out of the family-run company in Osborne Park. The para-silk material used is a very light fabric and ideally-suited for WA's summer conditions.

City and country tennis clubs have taken advantage of the skirts offered by Netball Mania and the Osborne Park firm has a wide range on display at their premises at 47 McDonald Street.

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THE world tennis circuit is a rolling ball of super-star talent, big dollars and huge television audiences.

And the star-studded entertainment troupe comes to Perth early in January for the Hopman Cup by Pepsi, an international extravaganza that features many of the world's biggest names in sport.

And for the fifth successive year, the event organisers — former Australian players Paul McNamee and Charlie Fancutt — have scooped the world pool and come up with an impressive line-up to represent the 12 countries.

This year's Hopman Cup by Pepsi at the Burswood Superdome from January 2-8 sees a new sponsor; an increase in prizemoney to \$700,000; a number of new world-class stars and the promise of every session being a tough, hard-fought affair.

The Hopman Cup organisers target

Top class troupe invades Perth

**HOPMAN
CUP
PEPSI**



TOP BREEDING ... Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere is a top-10 player who comes from a family of tennis stars

the No. 1 players, male and female, from high-profile tennis countries and while they deviate from that ranking at times — such as inviting Spain's Sanchez brother-sister combination, Emilio and Arantxa — 10 of the 24 players hold that much-sought-after ranking.

The line-up looks hotter than ever.

Six of the teams have at least one player ranked in the top 10; five of the teams have both their players ranked inside the top 20.

There are five of the world's top 10 women in the field and four of the men are in the top 12 on the circuit.

The countries — and their players

AUSTRALIA

THE Hopman Cup might be an Australian initiative, but finding a winning home-town pair to claim the title is a tough assignment.

That's not to say this year's pairing of the two players currently holding the No. 1 ranking spots won't give it a real shake.

Wally Masur is a fierce competitor when playing for his country — as his Davis Cup victories in Perth a few years back confirm — while Nicole Provis has made a stunning impact in Federation Cup circles.

Masur (29) has been as high as 25 in his career and no player takes him

lightly, while the 23-year-old Provis notched her first tour title at Brisbane early this year and led Australia's Federation Cup team to the semi-finals.

She has beaten players like Hopman Cup rivals Jana Novotna and Arantxa Sanchez and her impressive record in mixed doubles gives Australia hope for this year's event.

GERMANY

WIMBLEDON is the ultimate in tennis and the German team knows just what success at the hallowed London tournament means.

The 1991 men's champion Michael Stich — winner of this week's \$4-mil-

lion Grand Slam Cup — will team up with the four-times Queen of Wimbledon, Steffi Graf... a combination that makes them hot favourites.

Stich, a powerful 21-year-old, beat his German compatriot Boris Becker to claim his Wimbledon crown, while Graf, still just 23, showed this year that she is still the lady to beat in the Grand Slam event.

Stich has one of the most stinging services in tennis and holds the record of seven consecutive aces — served up to one of his Hopman Cup opponents, Frenchman Guy Forget.

Graf is making her third Hopman Cup visit and after being affected by a virus last year, she will be determined to atone.

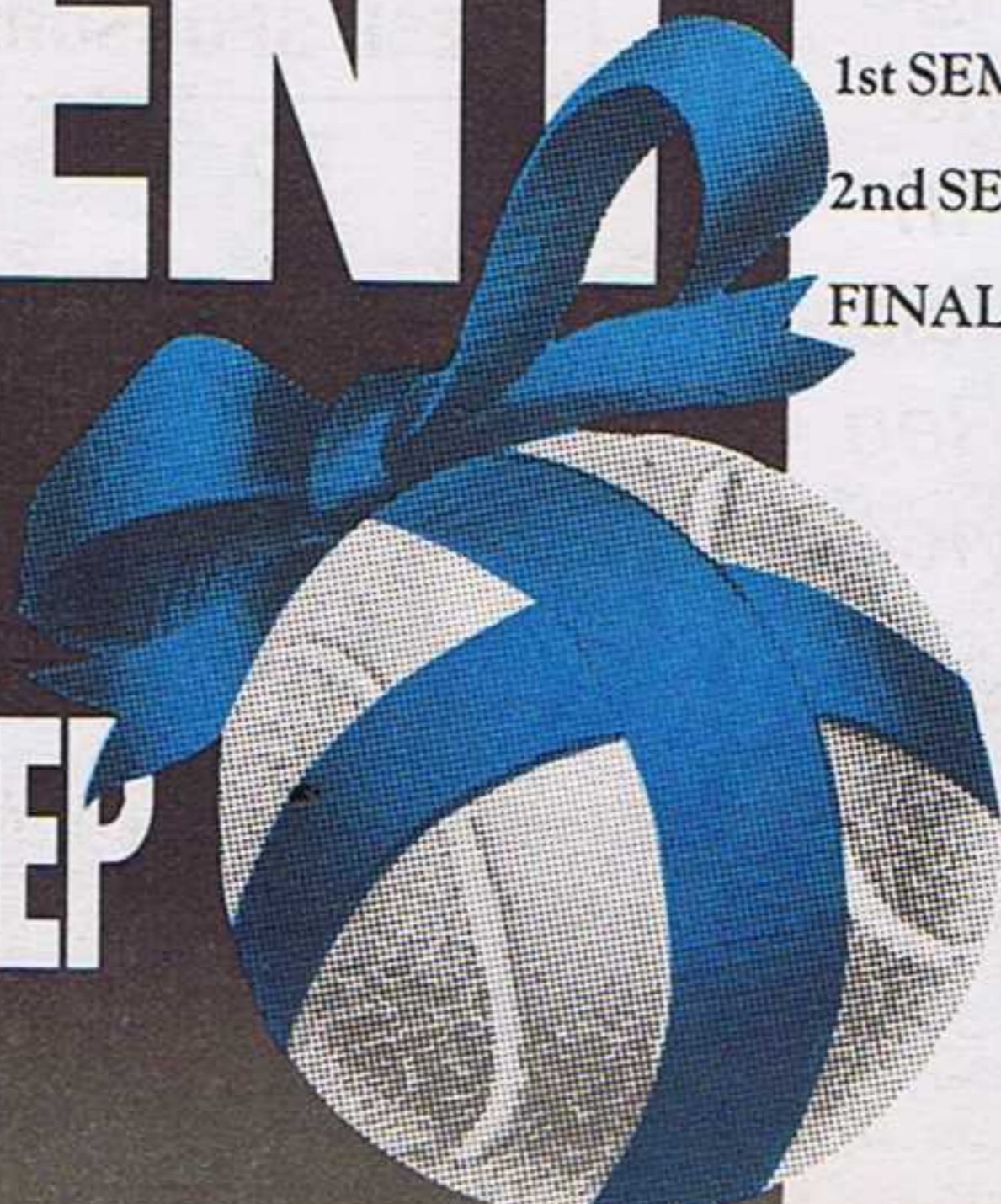
ISRAEL

ISRAEL will be making their Hopman Cup debut and their two team members present contrasting records on the world circuit.

At 27 years of age, Amos Mansdorf is one of the circuit veterans, touring since 1983 and a winner of five tournaments — all in different countries, including his own at Tel Aviv.

His 16-year-old partner Anna Smashnova has graduated to senior ranks in fine style after winning the French Open juniors at 15. Born in Russia, but a product of Israel, she looms as an exciting prospect.

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SESSION TIMES.

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SESSION 2	Sat 2/1/93	5.30pm	Switzerland v Japan
SESSION 3	Sun 3/1/93	10.00am	Unified Team v Austria
SESSION 4	Sun 3/1/93	5.30pm	France v Israel
SESSION 5	Mon 4/1/93	10.00am	Spain v Winner Session 2
SESSION 6	Mon 4/1/93	5.30pm	USA v Winner Session 4
SESSION 7	Tue 5/1/93	10.00am	Czechoslovakia v Winner Session 1
SESSION 8	Tue 5/1/93	5.30pm	Germany v Winner Session 3
1st SEMI-	Wed 6/1/93	5.30pm	Winner Session 5 v Winner Session 7
2nd SEMI-	Thu 7/1/93	5.30pm	Winner Session 6 v Winner Session 8
FINAL	Fri 8/1/93	4.30pm	Winner Session 9 v Winner Session 10

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Sports Spotlight Hopman Cup feature



AUSTRIA

THE Austrian challenge flying into town for the Hopman Cup features two of the world's most aggressive players — Thomas Muster and Judith Wiesner.

Muster has won ATP events in such wide-spread places as Adelaide, Boston, Rome and Prague. But a motor accident kept him out of the biggest final of his career — the 1989 Lipton International, when he was knocked down by a hit-run driver soon after earning a place against Ivan Lendl.

Now 25, the super-fit Muster has made a great comeback and as he pairs with Wiesner (25), his desperation will add to the superb consistency of one of the most striking women players on the tour.

JAPAN

THE Japanese duo of Yasufumi Yamamoto and Kimiko Date were one of the early headline-grabbers in last year's Hopman Cup — overshadowing some of the bigger names from higher-rated countries.

Date showed why she was one of the most-improved players on the circuit when she upset former champion Helena Sukova and the ever-smiling Yamamoto pushed world No. 8 Karel Novacek all the way in three sets, just failing to snatch a shock victory.

The diminutive Date is a powerful ground-stroke player and her gritty approach, especially from the baseline, makes her a fierce opponent.

While Yamamoto has carved his ranking in half in the last year, he is still in the 400s and that's simply because he opts to stay at home in Japan, waiting till he is ready for a full assault on the men's tour.

UNITED STATES

AMERICA have generally set the pace as far as tennis stars go — with Europe now challenging that supremacy — but this year's United States team is an exciting one that will take some beating.

Mary Joe Fernandez is an experienced campaigner who has held her place in the top 10 women for the last four years — and she's still just 21 years of age — while her partner, Mali-Vai Washington, is a recent gate-crasher to the upper echelon.

The 23-year-old black star has rocketed up to be just outside the top 10, with three tournament wins this last year — and a host of near-misses against top-seeded performers.

SWITZERLAND

THE sweet success that the Swiss team enjoyed last year gives them the honour of coming into the Hopman Cup as defending champions — but they have lost their No. 1 player and that's a big blow.



PRETTY CLASSY... American Mary Joe Fernandez is a survivor in the women's top bracket

Jakob Hlasek was the man who spearheaded the campaign last summer, but he has been forced out of the event and Claudio Mezzadri will partner the talented Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere.

Last year Hlasek and Maleeva combined beautifully to beat the strong Czechs in the final and they would have been well-fancied to repeat that effort.

Manuela, one of three sisters ranked high on the women's tour, has been up to No. 3 in her career, holding a spot in the top 10 for almost a decade.

Mezzadri (27) comes Downunder for the first time after an impressive career on slow courts in Europe. He was a former junior star with a senior career-high ranking of 26.

SPAIN

MAKING their fourth appearance at the Hopman Cup will be the exciting Spanish pair of Emilio Sanchez and his sister Arantxa.

The fun-loving couple were winners in 1990 and have both tasted success at other venues immediately after leaving Perth — a sure sign that the Hopman Cup is great preparation for subsequent events.

The 21-year-old Arantxa has won more than \$2 million in career prize-money, with a Grand Slam victory at the French Open as a 17-year-old.

Emilio (27) — one of two tennis-playing brothers with Javier also on the circuit — loves coming Downunder and has won tournaments at Wellington in 1990 and Sydney last year after his Perth sojourn.

FRANCE

THE French line-up for this Hopman Cup gives Perth fans the chance to see the third of that country's modern-day musketeers — Guy Forget.

France has a host of entertaining players — a flow-on from the 1920s when the legendary Three Musketeers figured in some great Davis Cup duels with Australia — and recent visitors in Henri Leconte and Yannick Noah have been no exception.

Forget, who celebrates his 28th birthday on what should be France's second appearance in this year's Cup — an anticipated quarter-final clash with the USA on the third day — has crashed his way into the men's top 10.

He will be paired with Nathalie Tauziat, a stunning 25-year-old African-born star who has pushed her way up to be just outside the women's top dozen.

UNIFIED TEAM

FRESH-faced newcomers are common-place on the world circuit these days — and the ruins of Russia have produced two exciting youngsters playing under the Unified Team banner.

Andrei Medvedev and his sister Natalia Medvedeva will represent their old country, the Ukraine — and they have certainly put the Russian revolution behind them as far as tennis is concerned.

Medvedev is still 18, but is one of the world's most outstanding prospects, bursting onto the senior tour this year with three victories, including the \$1-million Mercedes Cup when he beat Stefan Edberg and Wayne Ferreira.

At 21 years of age, Natalia is ready to go on with things after a top-class junior career, where she was ranked the No. 1 junior in the world.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

THE Czechoslovakian tennis challenge has spread its wings right around the world in recent years — and this year's Hopman Cup event will be no exception.

Petr Korda and Jana Novotna boast all the credentials needed for victory in such an event — they are tough singles competitors and outstanding doubles players.

Korda, just 21 and his 22-year-old partner are both top-10 players — and



FAMILY AFFAIR... the Spanish brother-sister pair of Emilio and Arantxa Sanchez are previous winners of the Hopman Cup

when consider Novotna's amazing doubles record, then this Czech team has a great chance.

She has been the world's No. 1 doubles player in recent years, with five Grand Slam doubles titles — generally paired with different opponents.

Korda will be making his third Hopman Cup appearance and with the knowledge that compatriots Miloslav Mecir and Helena Sukova won the inaugural title in Perth in 1989, victory will be a high priority.

SOUTH AFRICA

THE return of South Africa to the official sporting arena sets up a emotional clash with Australia to launch this summer's Hopman Cup by Pepsi.

Two players relatively unknown, but boasting high rankings, will represent South Africa — and Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer will be out to claim the Hopman Cup.

No country South-of-the-Equator has won the Hopman Cup and that's the challenge for the two 21-year-olds, who have worked their way to the top of the tennis tree.

Ferreira has taken just four years to claim a spot inside the top 10 with some stunning singles efforts — and he was the man everyone was watching at this year's Wimbledon when he had Boris Becker on the ropes, only to fall in the fifth set after bad light stopped play and forced an overnight rest.

Coetzer's ranking has gone to 18 with wins over players like Gabriela Sabatini and Judith Wiesner and she will be no easy opponent on this indoor surface.

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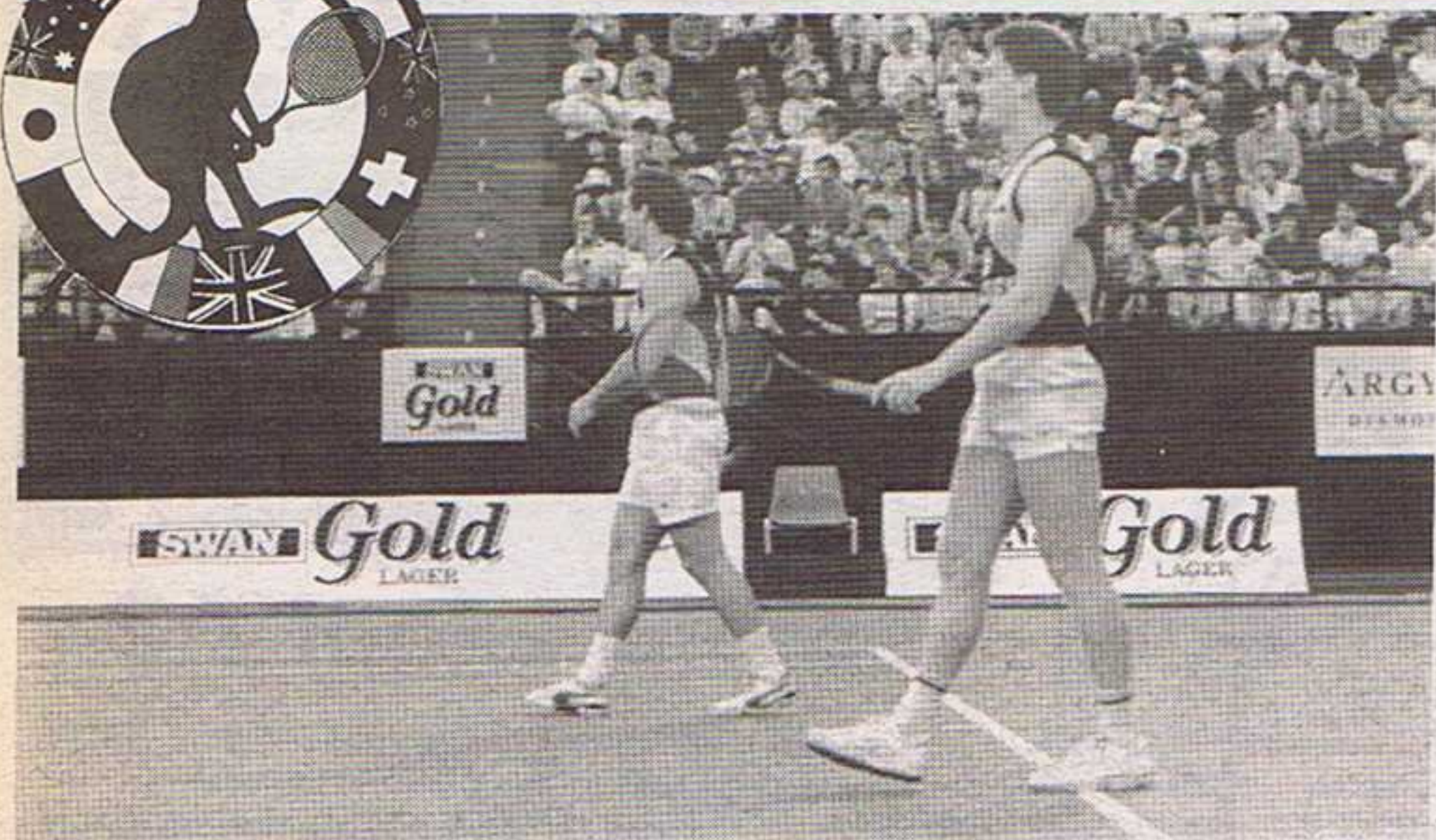
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DIFFERENT ARENA . . . Dwayne Lamb and Guy McKenna are two West Coast footballers who love their tennis and enjoy special Hopman Cup celebrity pro-am events — and the chance to play on the centre court at the Burswood Superdome

A UNIQUE and somewhat innovative tennis experiment dreamed up by three of Australia's touring professionals almost a decade ago has led to Western Australia's most prestigious international sporting event.

The Hopman Cup by Pepsi will offer \$700,000 in prizemoney when it is staged at the Burswood Superdome from January 2 to 8 — attracting 12 of the world's leading tennis countries to Perth.

The whole thing started back in a Melbourne living room when Wimbledon champion Pat Cash and his Victorian Davis Cup team-mate Paul McNamee were chatting with Queensland's Charlie Fancutt — a touring professional from a top tennis family — about life after tennis.

Among the Fancutt dreams was the promotion of a mixed tennis event; an idea that gave McNamee the thought of finding something in between the Davis Cup (for men) and the women's Federation Cup — and a way to honour one of the game's legends, Harry Hopman.

Perth won the right to host the inaugural event — helped by some aggressive marketing from Eventscorp, a promotional arm of the WA Government — and Fancutt and McNamee headed West to set up

By

ALAN EAST

their base . . . with Cash one of their star performers in that first year of 1989.

Strong sponsorship support from WA's Swan Brewery — under the Swan Gold label — gave the event important status and that has been further enhanced this year with the arrival of international drink Pepsi in a multi-million dollar deal.

The fabulous Burswood Resort was the venue and the Superdome has gradually been converted into one of the most glamorous tennis venues anywhere in the world.

Perth certainly backs up the event with more than 73,000 fans attending last year's Hopman Cup and early ticket sales indicating a similar response this summer.

The rub-off on tennis in WA — not forgetting the State's economy — has been enormous. The sponsorship from Pepsi alone has guaranteed that the Hopman Cup will stay in WA for at least another four years and the prestige of the event is boosting WA's image.

Cup is a big boost for Perth



OVERSIZED . . . Eagles star defender Guy McKenna has mastered some big assignments on the football field — and playing tennis with this racquet was also a tough challenge

As Terry Penn, the general manager of Eventscorp, says:

- "The success of the Hopman Cup helps us sell Western Australia to many other people and boosts our chances of hosting major events."
- "People, such as International Management Group (IMG) not only control star players, but also major events and they are impressed when they see top tennis names enjoy Perth and the Hopman Cup."
- "The international television exposure is enormous and people all around the globe can see what a beautiful clean and pollution-free city Perth is."

The event has led to McNamee and Fancutt adopting Perth as their home town and the introduction of the Junior Hopman Cup this year is just one benefit.

The best 15-year-old boys and girls from each Australian State are heading to Perth on December 28, 29 and 30 for the round-robin tournament based on the singles and mixed doubles format of the senior event.

WA recently won the Wilson Cup, an inter-state event for girls and the team included some of the young players that McNamee works with in special training squads.

CELEBRATE WITH PEPSI



PEPSI — the major sponsor of the Hopman Cup