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TAKE IT EASY, PAL ...
big Paul Salmon, measuring 206cm from top to toe, found the bath the best place to relax after Essendon's victory over Carlton in the AFL grand final. The Fish weighed in with five goals and was a key performer in the Bombers march to glory. WA's Darren Bewick (inset) was another Bomber who blitzed the Blues and wearing the premiership cup was really a case of 'if the cap fits, wear it!'
— Photographs by GREG WOOD



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DL 1171

Footy Rumours



PRESENTS ...



GOSSIP FROM AROUND THE TRAPS

It's a fact

THE rivalry between Mal Brown and Ted Whitten is legendary — especially in their roles as chairmen of selectors for their states.

The good natured verbal jousting has continued this year, with Brown moving to Melbourne and taking up a role on the Channel Nine winner, "The Footy Show".

Whitten was doing some bragging about how great it was to have two Victorian sides in the grand final — but Brown cut him down when he said that two-thirds of the players came from interstate.

Surprising move

ESSENDON coach Kevin Sheedy's decision to leave Derek Kickett out of the team to play Carlton raised some eyebrows.

In the lead-up to the match, Blues coach David Parkin said he wouldn't be surprised if Sheedy was playing a trick and that the mercurial left-footer, who had played all of the side's 23 matches in 1993, would line-up.

Even former West Coast chairman of selectors Trevor Sprigg felt Kickett would play.

"I think Kickett will play and that the player to miss out will be young David Calthorpe," Sprigg said on Friday afternoon.

Sharing the joy

THERE were plenty of former team-mates in the Essendon rooms after the grand final to congratulate the 20 Bombers who had bucked the odds to beat Carlton.

Champion ruckman Simon Madden, who is the club's games record holder with 378, was quick to embrace big man Paul Salmon, while Michael Werner, now with Sydney and Brad Fox (Richmond) were involved in plenty of handshakes.

Claremont half-back Dale Kickett and East Perth's Michael Prior, both aiming to join Essendon in 1994, soaked up the winning atmosphere in the rooms.

Hawthorn rumours

HAWTHORN, plagued by a coach sacking and strong rumours of financial worries, have appointed a new president in Geoff Lord, a club director for the past seven years.

He replaces Trevor Coote after a seven-year stint and adds to the appointment of former Hawthorn great Peter Hudson as marketing manager.

Lord's first official task will be to announce Hawthorn's new coach to replace the departed Alan Joyce.

Most of the 15 applicants are former Hawthorn players, with WA pair Ken Judge and Gary Buckenara having interviews last week.

The hot tip is still Peter Schwab, with Rodney Eade and Terry Wallace strong contenders.

Edmonds top Swan

SWAN Districts big man Travis Edmonds completed a top season when he won back-to-back Swan Medals as the club's fairest-and-best.

Edmonds, who played State football in May, finished with 147 votes, well clear of runner-up Mike Richardson (101), also second for consecutive seasons.

Richardson claimed the President's trophy, while third place and the N. Innes memorial trophy went to 20-year-old Jason Ball.

The reserves F.A. Sweetapple memorial award went to Troy Foote, with 79 votes, six clear of Stewart Kestel.

Winner of the colts E.J. McManus memorial award went to Michael Scarfone, with 128 votes.

On the spot



EAGLES star Karl Langdon wasn't missing out on any of the grand final glory — even if the West Coasters were back home in Perth watching. The flamboyant star only managed one game in an injury-plagued season, but his debut as a television interviewer with Channel 9 has been stunning. Here he gets into the grand final parade mood as he chats to Bombers pair Paul Hills (left) and Michael Symons

Huge audience

THE 97th grand final was watched by millions of people around the world.

The Channel Seven cameras — with 25 of them in action at the MCG — replayed the game to some 40 stations around Australia, with an estimated eight million viewers.

The Foster's grand final was also telecast in 60 countries around the world, going to an estimated 47 million homes.

The game was seen live in the United States, via the Prime Network and live in Canada on the TSN Network.

In addition, the Trans World Sports programme carried segments in their weekly show going to 89 countries and 250 million homes.

Players awards

THE AFL Players Association has gained considerable profile this year, especially with support from the new Channel Nine production, The Footy Show.

The grand final post-mortem show saw the Association present two of their support awards — the rookie of the year and the AFL's most courageous.

Association president Justin Madden had the job of handing over the trophies — and, ironically, the big Blues ruckman had to congratulate two Essendon opponents.

The rookie award was claimed by 18-year-old full-back Dustin Fletcher, who played 17 games in his debut season, including the victorious grand final.

The most courageous player was Bombers rubberman Gavin Wanganeen, who added the Association's trophy to his Brownlow and premiership medallions.

Versatile Jako

MELBOURNE goal-kicking freak Allen Jakovich unveiled a new side to his talents off the field last week.

Jacko Mark I (the older brother of Eagles star Glen) revealed his musical talents on Channel Nine's "The Footy Show" special on the eve of the grand final.

He was the lead singer in a group tagged "Trial by Video" as they performed two impressive numbers.

Joining him on the microphone was guitarist Simon Madden, with band members Sam Newman on drums and James Manson on lead guitar, with Michael Gale and Brett Allison adding support.

The two songs were professionally done and Jakovich's vocals might easily have attracted the attention of a few talent scouts in a non-sporting field.

Final challenge

SURELY, at the end of the football season, players would be looking to let their bodies recover from the punishment of the season.

But not so — this year's Town and Country Bank Port-to-Court relay event on Sunday, October 10 will see quite a few players front up in their joggers.

West Coast's Chris Mainwaring is involved in a celebrity side; the Mt Lawley amateurs have again made up a four-man team and the challenge has also been put to the umpiring fraternity.

The 26km relay has four stages — Victoria Quay to Pt Walter; on to Tomkins Park, in Melville; then Comer Reserve, in Como and finishing at Langley Park.

With a prize pool of more than \$7000 and the winning teams in each category sharing some Adidas sportswear, maybe it's a good incentive for early pre-season training.

Nervous times

FOOTBALL firebrand Peter "Crackers" Keenan gave the ABC's 7.30 Report a touch of sporting humour on grand final eve.

Keenan, a premiership player with North Melbourne, gave a brief insight into how players prepared for the big game.

"It's a very tense moment in your life," he said. "Players try to stay home on the Friday and relax, take the phone off the hook and hope to sleep okay. You are very nervous."

Ignoring history

HISTORY repeats itself, so they say. But that's not always the case as last week's AFL grand final proves.

Back in 1968, when Carlton and Essendon last clashed to determine the premiership club, Ken Fletcher and Sergio Silvagni were on opposite teams.

Fletcher, a classy wingman, was in the Bombers line-up, while Silvagni was a Blue — and he was in the winning side by a bare three points.

Last Saturday, Dustin Fletcher — son of Ken — was in the winning Essendon side, while the Silvagni Mark II version, Stephen, was in the Blues line-up.

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THE football action never stops in the West — and Westside Football will keep its readers in touch with the game right throughout summer.

There is plenty happening over summer — and Westside Football will produce eight editions between October and February — so mark these dates in your diary. The newspaper will be in your newsagency on those Thursdays highlighted on our calendar.

There will be plenty to amuse our readers — events such as the many end-of-season trips, trophy presentations, fairest and best awards, the AFL draft and all the associated player-trimming; pre-season training and the early-season build-up with the Foster's Cup.

In addition, Westside will focus on a number of other areas that don't normally receive media attention during the busy football season.

Our summer editions will include features such as our historical segment, where we will publish up-to-date data on a range of football records; flashback articles about former champion players; we'll cover the annual general meetings, with all their financial reports and we will find plenty of behind-the-scenes gossip.

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1993 — 1994



presents

New mission for

BOMBERS boss Kevin Sheedy has made his bravest coaching gamble by promising successive premierships.

The champagne was still flowing at Windy Hill after last Saturday's premiership win when he threw down the gauntlet to his young team.

None of this "we're taking it one season at a time".

Essendon and Sheedy made it clear they will not be satisfied with anything less than a repeat.

Sheedy has an exceptionally talented group of players and he plans to get the best out of their abilities.

You might expect a recently crowned premiership coach to tell his players not to get carried away with success and explain what was expected next season.

EXPECTATIONS

The Bombers players are now under enormous pressure after Sheedy said publicly: "We have to make decisions so that nobody drops off the edge. If they do they won't be around".

His bold statements carry a degree of risk, but he should know better than most how to maintain the desire in his players. He took the original

baby Bombers to premierships in 1984-85 and has similar plans for the 1990s.

Sheedy is also aware of the pitfalls that premiership sides can strike. Premiership clubs have tended to fail the year after their triumphs.

Collingwood celebrated long and hard after their drought-breaking 1990 win to finish seventh; Hawthorn won in 1991 and dropped to fifth, while the Eagles struggled this year in a bid to keep the AFL cup this side of the country.

Complacency and a lack of hunger are the reasons offered for the difficulty of winning consecutive flags, but they are not the only ones.

The length of the season automatically puts the grand finalists about a month behind the other clubs in their preparation for the following season.

Losing grand finalists also have a poor record, with the

exception of the Eagles, who lost to Hawthorn in 1991 and went on to beat Geelong next season.

Geelong have failed to make the finals the season after their most recent grand final appearances in 1989 and '92. Essendon finished sixth in 1991, after being walloped by Collingwood.

If you complete a hectic finals series, then it's tough to launch into pre-season training much before November.

Most of the team has played more football than anyone else in the competition and the risk of fatigue injuries is higher.

Then there is the fact that nothing focuses your mind on the task at hand like failure. Unsuccessful clubs tend to look more closely at where they went wrong and work harder to put things right during the off-season.

Premiership sides should be able to bask in the glory for a while.

Except Essendon, that is.

Sheedy has called a meeting this week to look at, among other things, where the Bombers went wrong this season.

Sheedy's comments also say plenty about the man himself. Despite heading into his 14th year at the helm of the Bombers, he seems to be enjoying even more the demands of the position.

This year's win over Carlton secures the three-time premiership coach his place in the list of Bombers

Bombers

MARTIN ON YOUR MIND



with Steve Martin

James Hird, Gavin Wanganen, Joe Misiti, Ricky Olarenshaw, Dustin Fletcher, Mark Mecuri, David Calthorpe and Paul Hills.

And capped off with the experience and ability of Mark Harvey, Mark Thompson, Paul Salmon, Tim Watson, Michael Long and Gary O'Donnell, who would bet against Sheeds keeping his word.

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Grand final fever

Bewick makes up for 1990 loss

EVEN after Essendon's win in the Foster's Cup grand final in March this year, critics felt the Bombers would struggle to make the top six of the regular season.

Their youthful line-up and an extremely tough draw were the so-called 'contributing factors' against their success.

The draw, which saw them play reigning premiers West Coast, 1992 runner's-up Geelong, preliminary finalist Footscray and power sides, Carlton and Collingwood twice, was as tough as you could imagine.

But after a slow start, master Bombers mentor Kevin Sheedy was able to lift his charges into the finals, from where they bucked the odds to record a memorable premiership.

When they lost to Carlton by two points in the qualifying final, Essendon rebounded superbly, beating 1992 premiers West Coast, coming from 42 points down at half-time to topple Adelaide and then crushed the Blues by 44 points in the grand final re-match.

Bombers goalsneak Darren Bewick was jubilant after the victory — and he said that the fact they were written off so early was a major reason for their inspired performance.

By DIGBY BEACHAM

"We were 12th after four rounds and it's just sensational what the boys have done," Bewick said, clutching a cherished premiership medallion.

"It's an unbelievable feeling because no-one really expected us to make the final six and we've shown a few people what we are about in the best possible way."

The former West Perth star, who was instrumental in Essendon advancing to the grand final after kicking five second-half goals against Adelaide, admitted he was below his best in the grand final.

TIGHT-CHECKING

He collected just 14 possessions opposed to the tight-checking tactics of Matthew Hogg and kicked one goal — a magnificent left-foot snap in the second quarter.

"He plays a pretty tight game and it was hard to get kicks," admitted Bewick. "But to get the medallion and

be among all this celebration is what it's all about.

"In 1990, it was pretty disappointing when we lost to Collingwood and we can't get that back, but this makes up for it."

Many people thought the Bombers played their grand final a week early when they came from behind against the Crows.

However, Bewick dispels that theory, saying that once Essendon got there, they were on the same terms as Carlton.

"We were fine and we always thought we were a good chance, because it's not every day you get to play in a grand final," Bewick said.

Such is Essendon's exciting group of youngsters, many feel the 'Baby Bombers' can dominate proceedings for years to come.

However, Bewick was wary of labelling Essendon as untouchable in 1994 and beyond.

"It's a bit hard to say," he stated.

"It's another year next year and we have to start all over again — we are equal with 15 other sides."



TOUGH CHALLENGE ... Darren Bewick tackles one of the biggest hurdles in football — curbing the influence of Carlton giant Justin Madden — Photograph by GREG WOOD

Contrasting recruits

THE contrast in player recruiting was interesting in the grand final teams.

Both coaches have come from other clubs, where they tasted premiership glory as players and they have triumphed in their current jobs — David Parkin has two Blues premierships after a playing career at Hawthorn and Kevin Sheedy now has three Bombers flags after more than 250 games with Richmond.

But that parallel stops when it comes to the players.

Essendon's victorious team was almost pure home-grown talent, with only Sean Denham tasting AFL ranks at another club, having switched from Geelong.

Interstate influence came in the form of WA's Darren Bewick, South Australians Gavin Wanganeen and David Grenvold and Darwin's Michael Long, with James Hird, from Canberra. But they all debuted with the Bombers.

However, Carlton's team had a mixed bag of recruits — Mark Athorn from Footscray, Fitzroy and Sydney; Brent Heaver from Melbourne; Matthew Hogg from Footscray; Justin Madden from Essendon; Tim Powell from Richmond; Brett Sholl from North Melbourne; WA's Earl Spalding from Melbourne and Greg Williams back home after stints at Geelong and Sydney.

In addition, the Blues had South Aussies in skipper Stephen Kernahan, Craig Bradley and Andrew McKay.

In this day and age of footballers moving around, the effort of Essendon in having nine players graduate from their local junior breeding ground — especially the Keilor district — was amazing.

Bombers reap a recruiting harvest

ESSENDON recruiting manager Noel Judkins is undoubtedly one of the finest spotters of talent in the AFL.

His selection of a multi-talented, but scrawny 16-year-old by the name of Gavin Wanganeen in the 1989 November draft has become legendary.

After winning All-Australian selection in the 1990 Teal Cup, Wanganeen went on to play in Port Adelaide's premiership side later that year in a team that contained current West Coast forward David Hynes and Adelaide players Simon Tregenza and Scott Hodges.

Wanganeen then joined the Bombers to develop into a superstar, capping off a remarkable 1993 by winning the Brownlow Medal and playing in the premiership side.

Also vital in Essendon's triumph was another member of the 'Baby Bomber' outfit in James Hird.

Chosen No. 79 in the 1990 November draft, from Ainslie in the ACT, the promising 20-year-old played four games at the end of last season, before emerging as a regular this year.

After missing matches late in the season with a torn hamstring, Hird was in doubt for the finals.

But he managed to come back and was delighted to be among the celebrations in the Bombers changerooms on Saturday night.

"This is just like a dream come true for me," Hird said.

Hird caused the Blues defenders plenty of problems, with his mobility and strong marking and finished with 16 possessions, seven marks and two goals.

That Cup feels just great

THE honour of getting first hands on the premiership cup has gone to a select few players, with Bombers skipper Mark Thompson now joining the list.

His troublesome calf injury forgotten, 'Bomber' leapt onto the victory dais to put his prints on the gleaming prize before his team-mates claimed it for the night.

A young 20-year-old when he played in the 1984 premiership and a year older in the 1985 triumph, Thompson was happy completing the arduous round of interviews required from the premiership skipper.

In his second year of captaincy, there was no prouder person in the Essendon rooms. Asked how it felt to hold the cup aloft, Thompson could not hold back his elation.

"It was the greatest moment of my life I think — sensational!"

Playing on his customary half-back-flank, the dual club champion cut Fraser Brown out of the match and saw him removed just after half-time with eight touches to his name.

Thompson continued his attacking game, which saw him collect 25 possessions and beat anyone who came his way.

Inevitably asked how the win compared to the previous pair, Thompson was reluctant to label any better than the other.

"It's been a long time since I've had this feeling," he said.

"You do a lot of work in your life — you work hard and the success just makes it all worthwhile."

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That premiership feeling



Q: Was the week's break significant from Carlton's point of view?

A: Possibly the week's break worked for us. You lose a qualifying final and you play an extra game because and try to win your way through. It's so important that you handle it well. We played four finals matches and that will hold our club in good stead for, hopefully, the next year or two.

Q: Is that the most satisfying of all the premierships?

A: I don't know about the most satisfying. Possibly it is when you're coming through with a side that nobody considered was going to make it, which would be a fair enough point of view. I think most had us ninth, 10th or 11th, but we put in some young local kids, well educated in the art of football by guys like Ray Jordan, Merv Keane, Denis Pagan, David Wheadon and Neale Daniher. It's similar to when I came to the club in 1981 when Barry Davis was the previous coach, along with Bruce Stephenson and we just had to make that mixture again.

Q: At the start of the season, how high did you expect to finish?

A: I thought that we may have got to the finals. I'm very positive and would have thought that even more so after winning the Foster's Cup. It was terrific to give an indication of what we were capable of in a match watched by 75,000 people, nearly equivalent to an elimination final crowd. So we probably played another final, which gave us an indication we would have a good year. I suppose the only question mark was over how good the other sides were going to be and whether we could maintain that form. We lost guys in the last match of the year and were fortunate to get them back by keeping on winning in the finals. Even our losses weren't terrible. Over the past couple of years, we might have been belted every so often and that's a concern for your percentage. We've won 20 and a half matches this year out of 28 and that's a good achievement for a couple of kids who have got together with a group of senior men.

Q: How much improvement is there in the side?

A: I think we have a lot of improvement. Getting back Tim Watson was a recruiting coup of the year, especially when you think of the good players on our list, but not at the club yet. Dale Kickett was drafted mid-season and we've got talent around the side, hopefully who can be there next year.

Westside's TANIA ARMSTRONG reports from the after-match press conference when Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy revealed why the Bombers won the 1993 premiership

Q: Will Watson play next year?

A: I don't know, that's Tim's decision. We'll sit down with him in a month or so after he's had time to think about it. It's been a terrific effort by him and a great effort by Mark Thompson to captain a premiership side when probably everybody would look at Simon Madden, Terry Daniher and Watson and never consider Mark Thompson as a great captain. I do and I'm pleased for the man because he's a leader and a great captain for his men.

Q: What is it about these kids that made them show no fear throughout the finals?

A: Our older, more experienced players have performed very well this season, too. I think the youngsters have learnt a hell of a lot from that group of players. While the younger players have had an enormous amount of pressure on them, I think that our senior, experienced players will all figure strongly in the best-and-fairest and I think that they've been left a little behind in the praise that's gone on around the club. Michael Long's a 100-game player, but he's a great player now isn't he? Gavin Wanganeen's a 60-game player and I think we make a mistake when we consider the birthdates. I think the Olympic Games show you that.

Q: You seem happy for the young blokes and the older blokes, what about yourself?

A: I'm happy because I've stayed at the club probably quite a long period, when history tells you that coaches probably shouldn't. We've been to two of the past four grand finals, won one and lost one. The last time, a drawn match gave us two weeks off which didn't help us. Probably this week and the bye in the last round were good for us. Maybe the game just gives it to you every now and then and takes it off you.

Q: How difficult was it to leave out Derek Kickett?

A: Derek is the one who's going to feel very hurt. We had a problem and none of them were Derek, but also David Flood and Michael Symons. We had a deficiency in height on our backline and forward line that most of you have written about. Derek's place was taken



SATISFIED... Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy is entitled to a smug look of satisfaction as he talks to the media after the grand final victory

more by Tim Watson or James Hird; a forward line player who could kick us a goal or two, at a pinch, off the bench and that became Watson. We needed Dean Wallis for backline play, more so than forward line, but at least he could give us both. Derek was in a similar circumstance to Tony Buhagiar in 1984. He lacked a yard in pace and had played every match which had really taken it out of him. We couldn't see where we would get the three or four goals we were hoping for from him. It's a difficult decision to make. I've phoned him a couple of times, but he hasn't been home and I know he'd be very disappointed. I rang David Flood and Michael Symons and that's just the toughness of footy. I have a decision to make for the club and not for the individual. That and the Buhagiar decision are my hardest in 13 years of coaching. They're parallel.

Q: At what stage of the year did you realise you had a side that could go all the way?

A: Possibly when we had those four tough matches in a row. The Collingwood game — my 300th — then West Coast, which was probably a telling game because it meant we would possibly get a double chance and them not. Then Carlton and North Melbourne beat us well and we had to learn from that. Really, we had a final series before the final series.

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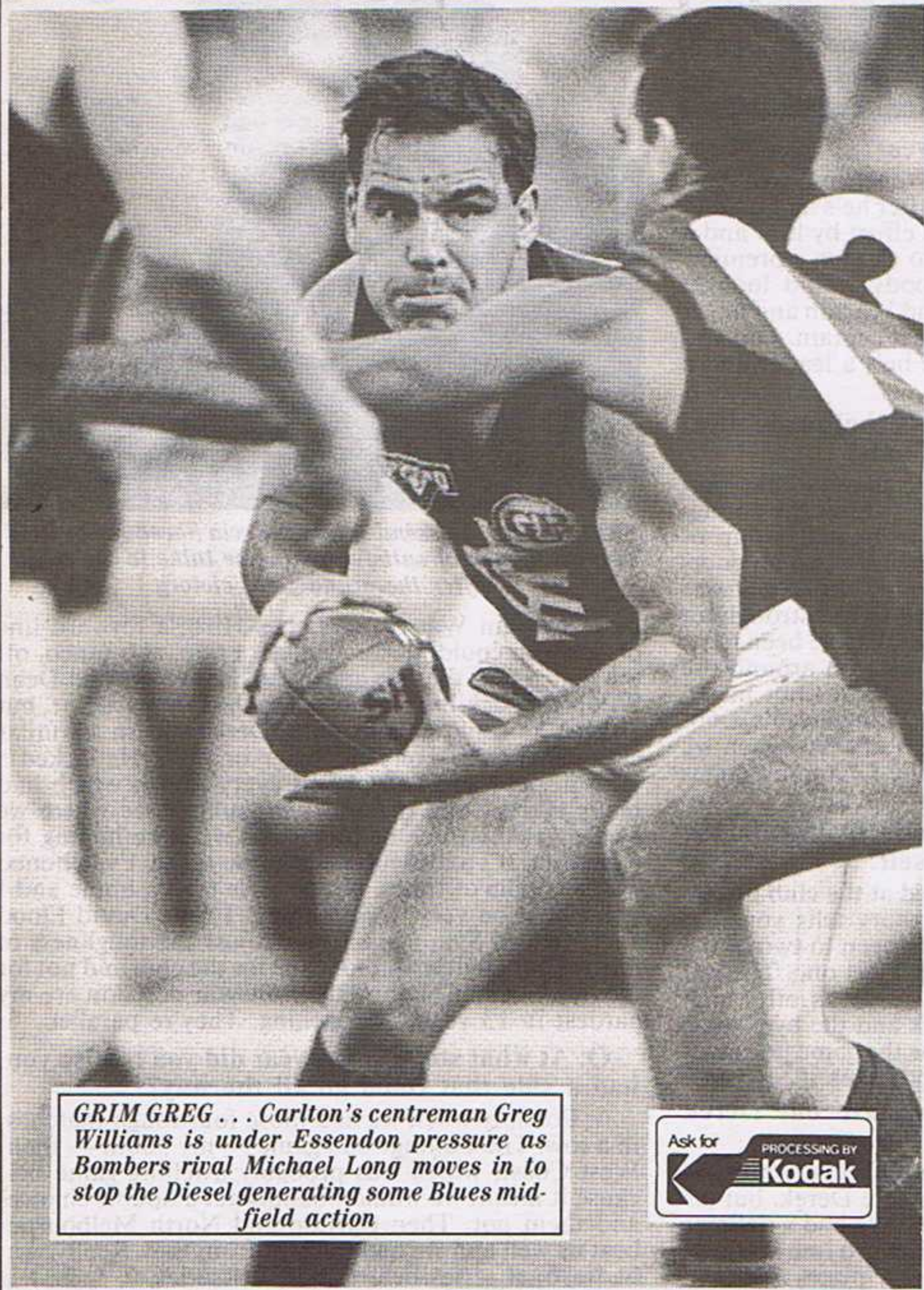
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Picture of the week



GRIM GREG ... Carlton's centreman Greg Williams is under Essendon pressure as Bombers rival Michael Long moves in to stop the Diesel generating some Blues mid-field action

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Skipper only winner for Blues

WHILE pandemonium was breaking out in the Essendon changerooms, less than 30 metres away the vanquished Carlton players were silent.

Officials discussed what could have been, while despondent Blues sat with heads bowed in an atmosphere similar to that at a funeral.



EARLY SMILES ... Carlton skipper Stephen Kernahan was in a jovial mood before the grand final

By **DIGBY BEACHAM**

Understandably, the gathering of media trod carefully.

After all, this was the high-profile team favoured to grab the premiership spoils, with a week's break giving them the advantage compared to Essendon's hard-fought win over Adelaide seven days earlier.

And, as expected, Blues captain and star forward Stephen Kernahan was the target for interviews.

His lone-hand effort of 10 marks and 7.4 had kept Carlton in touch when they should not have been.

Kernahan said the explanation for the Blues finishing second was simple.

"We just couldn't get the ball down to the forward line early enough and when you are seven or eight goals down before half-time in a grand final, you are always going to be in trouble," he said.

The skipper said he felt the Blues could still win the game late in the third term, when he kicked two quick goals, followed seconds later by another from Tom Alvin to leave them just 30 points behind.

Misiti's feet on ground

KEVIN Sheedy is the ideal person to come to terms with the mystery affliction "premiership ego".

When Essendon unexpectedly claimed this season's flag, the prospect of the premiership going to the heads of a few youngsters became a reality.

Geelong, in 1989 and Collingwood, the next year both suffered badly from "grand final hangovers" — but Sheedy won flags with the Bombers in 1984 and '85.

One youngster the Bombers veteran mentor is unlikely to have too many problems with is defender Joe Misiti, who is determined to fight on after reaching the ultimate at only age 18.

"I hope it doesn't affect my footy," he said. "I just hope it makes me more successful."

"I think it will make me hungrier. We've won it once and we'll always want to win it again."

Playing in only his 25th AFL game on Saturday, after two appearances on debut last season, there were few more ecstatic Bombers than the teenager Sheedy calls Misty.

Proudly wearing a red and black Bombers cap and sharing his medalion with his family, the boy from nearby Keilor Park, who is an outgoing character at the best of times, was basking in the limelight.

ACHIEVEMENT

After winning a grand final, there was no stopping him and he was on a high after the greatest achievement in his short life.

"The atmosphere was just sensational. How many people were there — 100,000? Oh, 96,000. Well that's enough," he said.

"The pressure ... the atmosphere ... it's all what I expected it would be in a grand final."

The fact that the suburb of Keilor, not far from Windy Hill, had produced four premiership players in Misiti,

By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**

Mark Mercuri, Ricky Olarensaw and David Calthorpe made the win all the more satisfying for Sheedy.

"We've come through from the start of the year with a side nobody had considered was going to make it," Sheedy said.

"And we've put in some local kids ... they are quite young, but well educated in the art of footy."

"I think it's similar to when I came to the club in 1981."

Misiti, starting on Carlton's Tom Alvin, was part of a dominant Bombers half-back line that included the experienced Mark Harvey and captain Mark Thompson.

Alvin, a 197-game veteran who may have played his last game at age 31, was the first player interchanged 13 minutes into the match and his replacements fared no better as Carlton coach David Parkin juggled his forward structure.

Misiti was one of many trump cards in an afternoon to remember and he topped off his game with the Bombers 16th goal, which signalled the death of the Blues at the 31-minute mark of the third term.

But Misiti still was not ready to celebrate until well into the final term.

"About halfway through the last quarter, we were six or seven goals up and I knew we couldn't let a lead like that go," he said.

Bad start a worry for Long

ESSENDON'S Norm Smith Medallist Michael Long admitted he was concerned about what lay ahead after receiving two bouts of suspension early this season.

Long copped a two-week holiday for striking West Coast captain John Worsfold at Subiaco Oval in round one and then was banned for three weeks for a similar offence on his return against Sydney at the SCG in round four.

"It wasn't such a good start to the year," Long said with a smile after Saturday's grand final victory.

"But I had a chat to Kevin (Sheedy) and he helped me out."

Long turned in arguably the finest performance of his career against the Blues, with 20 kicks and 13 handpasses and notching two vital — and sensational — goals.

It was fitting that Long was voted best-afield in the International Year of the Indigenous People and received his Medal from former champion Aboriginal centreman Maurice Rioli.

Quietly spoken, Long was delighted with the win, which eased the pain suffered in the 1990 loss to Collingwood.

"All the boys didn't give up and we kept persisting even with a six-goal break — we kept working hard and didn't let them back in."

Experience is said to paramount in grand finals, but Essendon proved otherwise, much to the delight of Long.

"The young guys in our side were great today and I think we were the quicker side as well," Long said.

Long also revealed after the match that the International Year of the Indigenous people was a big incentive.

"It was great, especially having supporters in the Aboriginal community there."

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Bombers grow up in a hurry

KEVIN Sheedy promised pre-season that whatever Essendon did this year, they would do better in 1994.

Dismayed by what he saw as an uneven draw, Sheedy conceded that other teams were likely to finish ahead of Essendon. A final six berth would be a bonus.

With his team having won the grand final, Sheedy's challenge is to maintain the Bombers improvement, which was to jump from eighth to first with a succession of stunning late-season performances, including three consecutive finals wins.

Only the greatest teams win successive premierships and few are willing to bet against the Bombers achieving a similar double as in 1984-85, when Sheedy's boys were feted as being among the best.

STORMING FINISH

Eleven of Sheedy's premiership 20 are yet to reach the age of 25, while seven are not yet 21.

"Unknowns" at the start of the season such as Mark Mercuri, Joe Misiti, Ricky Olarenshaw, David Calthorpe, James Hird and Dustin Fletcher, finished the season as heroes after playing important roles in Essendon's storming finish.

Sheedy conceded that his team had "stolen" the flag, considering how even the season had been.

He said even he had been surprised by his young team's advancement and compared Michael Long's outstanding finals series with Peter Matera's barn-

On the East Coast from KEN PIESSE



storming finale which helped the Eagles win last season's flag.

Long's Norm Smith Medal win was well-deserved after his 33-possession effort in the grand final, following on from his match-winning performance in the preliminary final.

Essendon players paid tribute to Sheedy, saying the midweek strategy of working on the centre square clearances had paid dividends.

"Sheeds has been fantastic throughout," said forward-follower Paul Salmon. "We trained lightly through the week and we were fresh when it counted."

EARLY INACCURACY

If not for inaccuracy early, Essendon could have led by eight goals at quarter-time and 10 by half-time. The Bombers had 13 scoring shots to three by the first change and 19 to seven by the main interval.

Only one Carlton player, captain Stephen Kernahan, offered any worth-

while opposition, kicking seven goals in the first three quarters.

By the final quarter, Essendon players appeared exhausted and after an initial flurry of goals, played for the siren.

Salmon, with five goals, was his team's leading goalkicker, with Mercuri, three, Hird and Long two, also excellent contributors.

While it was yet another one-sided grand final — only one play-off, in 1989, has finished in a six-point or less margin since 1980 — it was a gripping game, played at a high standard.

Several behind-the-play incidents are likely to be the subject of trial-by-video, including one involving Brownlow Medallist Greg Williams.

The playing future of Essendon veteran Tim Watson is unclear, despite his third premiership appearance on Saturday.

Watson (32) was quiet in his 298th senior game and said he would debate his future with the Essendon hierarchy after spending much of the match on the interchange bench.

In his comeback season, having spent last year on the sidelines, Watson played 16 of Essendon's 24 matches.

Sheedy said after Saturday's game that the selectors had preferred to play Watson and Hird up forward, instead of Derek Kickett and Michael Symons.

PLACES IN DOUBT

Kickett, who had played every match leading into the grand final, was considered unlucky and was a notable absentee at the Essendon celebrations.

Several of Carlton's side, including veteran Tom Alvin, are under pressure to hold their places.

Alvin was one of a group of Carlton players who had very quiet afternoons.

At 31, his best days are behind him, but after 197 matches, he is keen to continue for at least one more year.

Others, such as Mark Athorn and Tim Powell, were also disappointing in the season's most important match.



BABY BOMBERS ... some of the Essendon stars for the future are (from left) Michael Symons, Paul Hills, Gavin Wanganeen and Michael Long

Mitre 10 PRESENTS ...

Best players in last Saturday's AFL grand final were ...

Men of the match



Michael Long

AFTER a superb finals series, Michael Long's midfield dominance continued in the biggest match of the season.

With two blinders in the lead-up to the premiership decider, Long continued on his merry way and was so confident, he appeared to be toying with his Carlton opponents at times.

After seeing off Mark Athorn early in the first quarter, Long went on to Greg Williams at half-time and his inspirational work out of the centre helped seal the Norm Smith Medal.

Long's spins out of trouble and two superb goals on the run were among the highlights of a 33-possession performance.



Gary O'Donnell

A QUIET achiever in a champion team, Gary O'Donnell's nonsense style won the day when he was a key contributor to Essendon's grand final win.

With 137 games and 28 years behind him, O'Donnell continually pumped the ball out of the centre in a supreme display of skills, both by hand and foot.

Opposed to Adrian Gleeson, O'Donnell completely outclassed the Blues runner and finished well ahead in possessions, 33 to 19.

Brent Heaver was a victim when given stints on the ball and with 19 touches before half-time, O'Donnell was a strong contender for the Norm Smith Medal.



Stephen Kernahan

CARLTON skipper Stephen Kernahan went into the match as the Blues most important ingredient and he kept their dim hopes alive throughout.

Unlucky not to be paid some marks early in the match, Kernahan had at one stage kicked seven out of nine goals in a fine performance.

His young opponent Dustin Fletcher started well before Kernahan unleashed his fury with four goals out of five before half-time.

Three consecutive goals in the third term gave his side a glimmer of hope, but unfortunately for Carlton and Kernahan, too few of his team-mates followed the leader.

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Bennett's Burst



With ROBERT BENNETT
of the Sunday Times

Few sides lived up to their hopes

FEW teams could extract a full dose of satisfaction out of this year's AFL season other than Essendon.

Not even Adelaide, who produced a remarkable improvement.

So now that the celebrations have just about finished for the Bombers, this is how I saw the 1993 season.

Carlton did a good job to make the finals, but would not have been happy with their insipid performance in the grand final.

They seemed to feel the premiership was all wrapped up and the way they were brushed aside will be a bitter pill for them to digest over the summer months.

The Crows would draw little consolation from the fact that they made the finals for the first time — they will reflect on the premiership that got away.

Adelaide should never have lost to Essendon and on their preliminary final form, no doubt believe they would have taken the flag if they had made the grand final.

Hawthorn are another side facing problems. They have a team that has gradually aged and they will have to follow a similar path to Essendon and try to infuse the side with youth and legs.

North Melbourne's season is hard to gauge. Most felt they played above themselves and that their true potential was revealed against the Eagles in the finals.

Who would want to be a Geelong supporter? They are up and down like a see-saw. They gave the impression that they were the best side in the competition at the end of the qualifying rounds and will be one of the pre-season premiership favourites next year. But you might as well toss a coin when trying to predict whether they will have a good or bad season.

They need a coach who can teach them not only how to play defensive football, but toughen them up psychologically.

Since winning the AFL premiership in 1990, some claim that Collingwood have suffered post-premiership blues. I reckon they jagged the flag in 1990 and there was nothing in their play this season to suggest that another premiership is around the corner.

Footscray were not far below their 1992 form, but they lack a couple of players who can take them to the next plateau and become a premiership threat.

St Kilda played above themselves when they made the finals in successive years in 1991 and 1992. They need Tony Lockett in top form, but they lack pace to be a premiership contender next season.

Melbourne were left in the starting blocks when the season kicked off and, at times, looked finals material, which means they could be the big improvers next year.

Fitzroy played on grit early on and reproduced that form on other occasions, but like St Kilda they lack something. They will probably give a lot of cheek next season, but lack the manpower to make the finals.

Richmond turned out to be the real lemons of the competition this year. They looked capable of moving up the premiership ladder, but instead were anchored near the bottom.

Brisbane are starting to develop a "lions at home lambs away" tag. Despite making it difficult for teams at the Gabba, I don't see much future for them.

As far as the Sydney Swans — they have become an embarrassment to the competition.

And the West Coast Eagles?

They had an indifferent season and finishing fourth probably flattered them. Some are saying they will bounce back next year. I think they have the job ahead of them.



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FINELY TUNED . . . Essendon veteran Tim Watson tunes in to an after-match radio interview following his grand final victory

Melbourne Calling

BEN ALLAN, a premiership player with Claremont and Hawthorn, writes from Melbourne exclusively for Westside Football.



Old-time TV hero defies the critics

GROWING up with three brothers meant that Sundays at the Allan household were usually very hectic.

The day began early due to each brother having to be in entirely different locations for their scheduled football match.

By 6pm that night, the dust had settled and we all sat together and listened to Drew Morphett introduce another episode of The Winners, on ABC television.

The power of television allowed me to get up-to-date details of how my heroes were performing on the east coast.

Maurice Rioli's magic always featured; Gary Buckenara more often than not was a candidate for goal-of-the-day and a young Tim Watson electrified the crowded lounge room with his brilliant dashes.

Looking back on those days, I've been lucky enough to share the same guernsey with the two WA stars — a State game with Maurice in 1988 and with Bucky at Hawthorn in 1990 — and I've played against Tim as recently as this season.

Sometimes heroes don't turn out to be what you expect, however, in my case they all exceeded my lofty expectations.

Maurice and Bucky have, of course, both retired and left a lasting impression on the game.

Tim's comeback this year is what fairy tales are made of, but even I, his most ardent supporter, had to question his return.

My heart wanted to think he could once again play AFL footy, but my head was saying that Father Time had caught up with him.

I should have known better to question the ability of a champion.

GOOD VALUE


Even though the stats men didn't use as much ink as they used to when recording Watson's kicks, his value to the Bombers this season is immeasurable.

The younger Essendon players, who have been remarkable in the way they performed this year, will attribute much of their success to the wise old man in guernsey No. 32.


His reassuring words to a young team full of inexperience no doubt assisted the Bombers snare their 15th premiership.

Essendon supporters would have been happy with his announcement that he has not ruled out the idea of playing again next year.

My only hope is that Tim decides to play one more year — so I can finally play in a winning side against him.



Presents...



Suma Magic

YOU can't help but admire Essendon for the way they thrashed Carlton in the grand final.

Many felt Carlton's bye and their experience would prove the difference, but on the day, those 'Baby Bombers' showed their class.

I always felt they could win, not only because they had beaten us twice, but because of their rest the week before the finals started.

They might have had three tough games leading up to the grand final, but they were only a young side and having a Saturday off to watch the action in round 22, topped them off beautifully.

We went really well against North Melbourne in our first elimination final, but couldn't repeat that at the MCG against the Bombers in a match where it was felt the eventual premier could come from — they were right.

GRAND finals are always full of emotion and it came as no surprise to see some dust-ups throughout the game.

Carlton's Mark Athorn made his intentions pretty clear from the outset when he hassled Michael Long on the edge of the centre square.

Athorn was reported twice and Long won the Norm Smith Medal for best afield, so there was no doubt who emerged the winner.

The tussle between champion Carlton centreman Greg Williams and Essendon's Sean Denham has been the talking point everywhere you go since their initial clash in the first quarter.

Williams is extremely tough and when he went down in the first quarter from a Denham blow, he quickly got up and 'squared the ledger' in the second term.

While Denham had to finish the game on the bench with concussion, he still received a premiership medallion — a memento Williams is yet to capture.

STEPHEN Kernahan proved how good a player he really is by producing another stunning performance in the pressure-cooker atmosphere of a grand final.

'Sticks' is arguably the finest player in the Carlton side and his effort of 7.4 and 10 marks from full-forward was eye-catching.

Young Bombers full-back Dustin Fletcher is a hard opponent to play on, but Kernahan showed his class, kicking some great goals to keep his side in contact.

IT'S not long now before we meet up again and prepare for season 1994.

Our pre-season starts on November 1, but it will be put on hold for a little while when about 20 of us travel to the Gold Coast for a short holiday.

Then, after the break, we get back into the rigours of training in the aim of bringing the premiership cup back to Western Australia.



*John Sumich 4**

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- 48 Steve Malaxos (East Frem)
- 47 Clinton Wolf (Claremont)*
- 47 Greg Turner (South Frem)
- 47 Michael Sidebottom (S. Dist)
- 46 Warren Mahoney (Perth)

* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Clinton Wolf 28 Claremont, 19 East Fremantle

100 GAMES

- 99 John Zaikos (Perth)
- 97 Peter Wilson (East Frem)
- 97 Trent Nichols (East Frem)*
- 96 Mark Amaranti (East Frem)
- 96 Ned Fimmano (South Frem)
- 97 Darren O'Brien (West Perth)
- 93 Karl Langdon (Eagles)
- 93 Greg Walker (Swan Dist)
- 93 Chris Waterman (Eagles)

* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Trent Nichols 56 Richmond, 37 East Fremantle, 4 Eagles

150 GAMES

- 146 Dwayne Lamb (Eagles)

200 GAMES

- 198 Craig Nelson (West Perth)*

* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Craig Nelson 175 West Perth, 23 West Torrens

250 GAMES

- 248 Darrell Panizza (Claremont)
- 244 Phil Narkle (Swans)*

* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Phil Narkle 178 Swans, 18 Eagles, 48 St Kilda.

300 GAMES

- 297 Mike Richardson (Swans)*

* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Mike Richardson 141 Swans, 59 Collingwood, 16 Essendon, 81 Brisbane.

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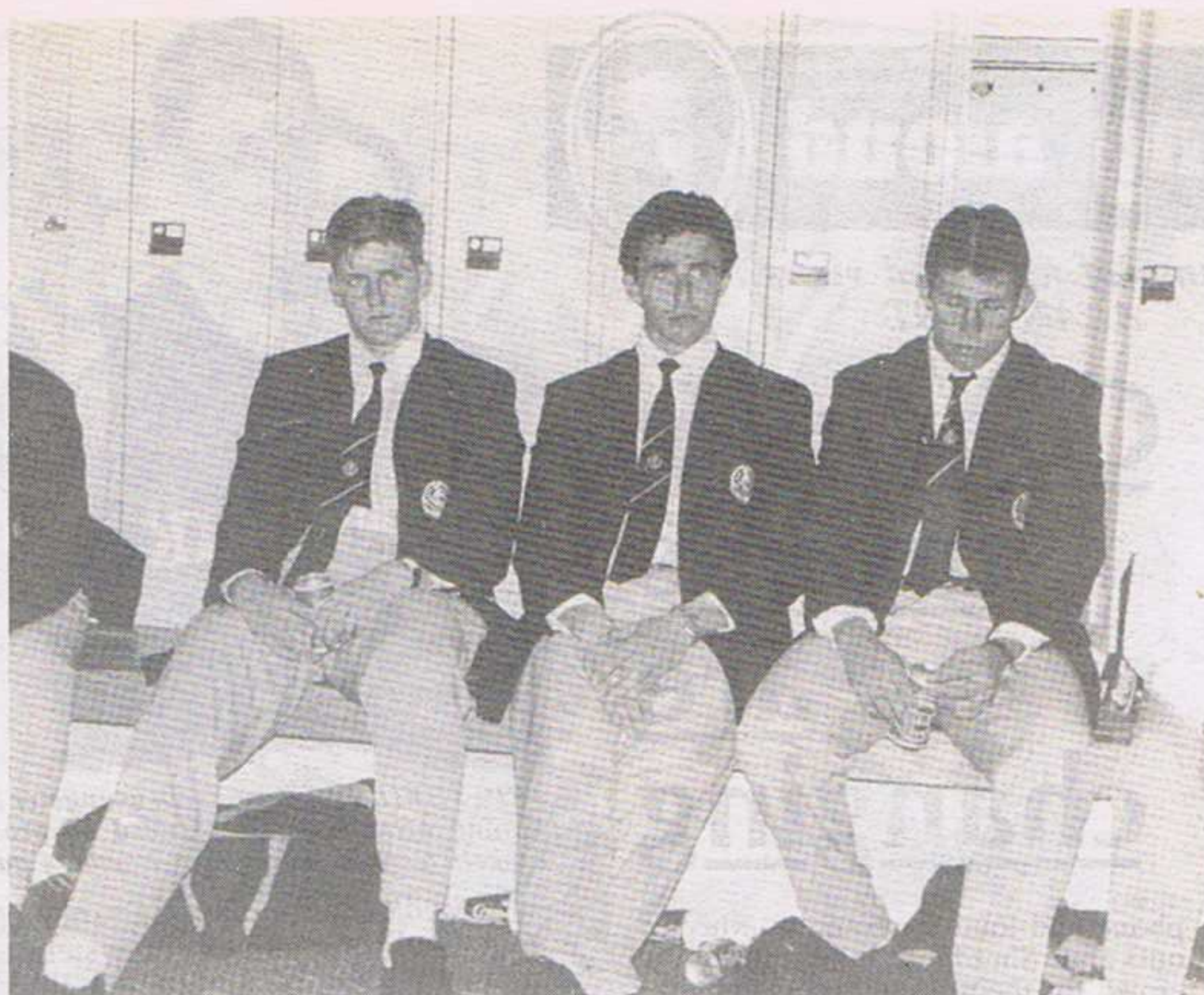


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BLUE FEELING . . . Carlton's Rohan Welsh (left), Ang Christou and Brett Ratten sum up the feeling in the rooms after Saturday's grand final loss

Blues face a tough road

CARLTON reached heights last Saturday which were too dizzy for 13 other clubs — but they could learn quickly that missing their big opportunity will haunt them for an eternity.

Just earning a play-off berth is a big achievement, but the stark reality is that it could have been a one-off opportunity for the Blues.

In contrast to the Bombers, who had an even blend of youth and experience, the Blues line-up contained many players who could have been staring at their last chance for premiership glory.

Essendon's much-publicised Baby Bombers will improve through experience.

You can expect Ricky Olarensaw, Joe Misiti, Mark Mercuri, James Hird, Dustin Fletcher and even-Brownlow Medallist Gavin Wanganeen to get better over the next couple of years.

That being the case, the Bombers should be a part of the September action for many years.

Just as the pundits were predicting a long and fruitful haul for West Coast a year ago, so too are the Bombers looking to a bright future.

For the conquered, however, it does not look nearly as optimistic.

The Blues had seven players in their line-up who had joined them from other clubs and that doesn't augur well for the future.

It means there is a dearth of exciting young players within the club's top ranks, which is entirely the opposite to Essendon's position.

On top of the seven picked up from other clubs, there were also three South Australians in their team, which adds weight to the argument that it's going to be a long, hard road for the Blues.

Greg Williams (Geelong, Sydney), Tim Powell (Richmond), Brent Heaver (Melbourne), Justin Madden (Essendon), Earl Spalding (Melbourne), Mark Athorn (Essendon, Footscray, Fitzroy, Sydney) and Matthew Hogg (Footscray) all had chances elsewhere before joining the Blues.

Perhaps it was significant that of those seven, only Hogg won his individual battle, although Williams, Spalding and Madden were handy, if not outstanding.

The others were big-game flops.

Heaver at least has youth on his side and showed with four qualifying final goals opposed to Wanganeen that he still could have something to offer.

While there was little difference in the average ages of the two teams, sev-



Stats AND Facts

with Richard Camm

Flag double for Bombers

ESSENDON'S win in Saturday's grand final completed the Bombers second night/day premiership double in 10 years.

The Bombers and the Hawks have dominated both competitions in that time — winning eight night and seven day flags between them.

ESSENDON'S "Baby Bombers" are the youngest premiership team in the past decade, with an average age of 24 years and three months.

The combination is about two months younger, on average, than last season's West Coast premiership team and three months younger than Carlton's 1987 line-up.

Both the Bombers and Eagles teams contained three players aged less than 20. Only two other players in their teens were part of premiership teams in the past 10 years — Greg Madigan, for Hawthorn in 1989 and Mark Harvey, for Essendon in 1984.

The oldest premiership team in that time was Hawthorn's 1991 team, with an average age of 26 years and five months.

Tim Watson — at 32 years, two months — was the only Essendon player older than 30. Every premiership team for the past nine years has included at least one player aged 30 or more.

ESSENDON became the fourth team to win the premiership after finishing eighth the previous year.

The other teams to have risen from such depths to win the flag are Richmond in 1980, Hawthorn (1971) and the Bombers in 1946.

FOR the first time since 1962, the top three places at the end of an AFL season have been filled by teams which failed to play in the finals the previous year.

Essendon, Carlton and Adelaide finished eighth, seventh and ninth, respectively, last season.

ESSENDON'S Kevin Sheedy became only the 13th coach to be at the helm for three or more flags.

Only eight men have coached more premiership teams — Jock McHale, eight, Norm Smith and Jack Worrall, six, "Checker" Hughes, five, and Tom Hafey, Dick Reynolds, Allan Jeans and Ron Barassi, four.

TAKING STOCK

with GARY STOCKS of The West Australian



eral Carlton players said before the game they realised that this might be their last chance to win a flag.

Players like Madden, Williams, Stephen Kernahan, Craig Bradley, Tom Alvin and Spalding are getting to the end of their football lives.

A week ago, Carlton were hailed as one of the great achievers in the AFL, a club which had the chance to win its first flag since 1987.

But how quickly things turn. Everything fell their way during the final series and still they could not capture the big prize.

They tackled Essendon in the qualifying final when the Bombers had a half-a-dozen players unavailable; they played Adelaide in the second semi-final for the right to be first team into the grand final and had a week off to prepare for the biggest game of the year.

David Parkin and his players performed brilliantly to get to the grand final, but winning is all that matters and they failed in their objective.

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Thinking aloud



A column of news and views by
ALAN EAST

THINGS are a-changing in the football coaching world — grand final build-ups were never like this!

Gone is the knife-edge tension; the behind-closed-doors build-up; the media ban on players; the foxing around and fibbing that so often accompanies grand final week.

The traditional Thursday Show Day holiday training sessions in Melbourne were something of a contrast — and both different than anything the fans have tasted before.

While the crowd estimates varied considerably, it was obvious that around 10,000 fans were at each ground, with Windy Hill packed around the Members Club wing and behind the goals, while Princes Park overflowed at the Blues Social Club end.

But the hype and buzz at the two grounds was in stark contrast.

SERIOUS SESSION

Carlton's 75-minute workout was slick and serious, fairly hard and loudly cheered by the fans, especially when a player goaled and even louder when the injury-plagued Peter Dean — training with the help of a pain-killing injection in a bid to win a late call-up after a foot injury — strutted his stuff.

Essendon's training session was low-key and relaxed, 45-minutes of nothing much more than kick-to-kick with hardly a sweaty brow being raised.

The PA system crackled as a Bombers official told the crowd to stay cool and don't go onto the arena, telling the fans that coach Kevin Sheedy would talk to them all before the session finished.

Sure to his word, a portable micro-

Coaching moods are changing

phone and loud speaker was wheeled out and Sheedy thanked the huge crowd for their attendance, admitting that he had never seen anything like this at training before. He lined up his grand final squad — and then introduced two new players ... WA pair Michael Prior and Dale Kickett.

Prior, the 20-year-old from East Perth, had just trained in front of a crowd twice as big as any Royals game this year, while Kickett, the Simpson Medallist in Claremont's premiership team, wore his fourth AFL guernsey and said he hoped to be with the Bombers next year.

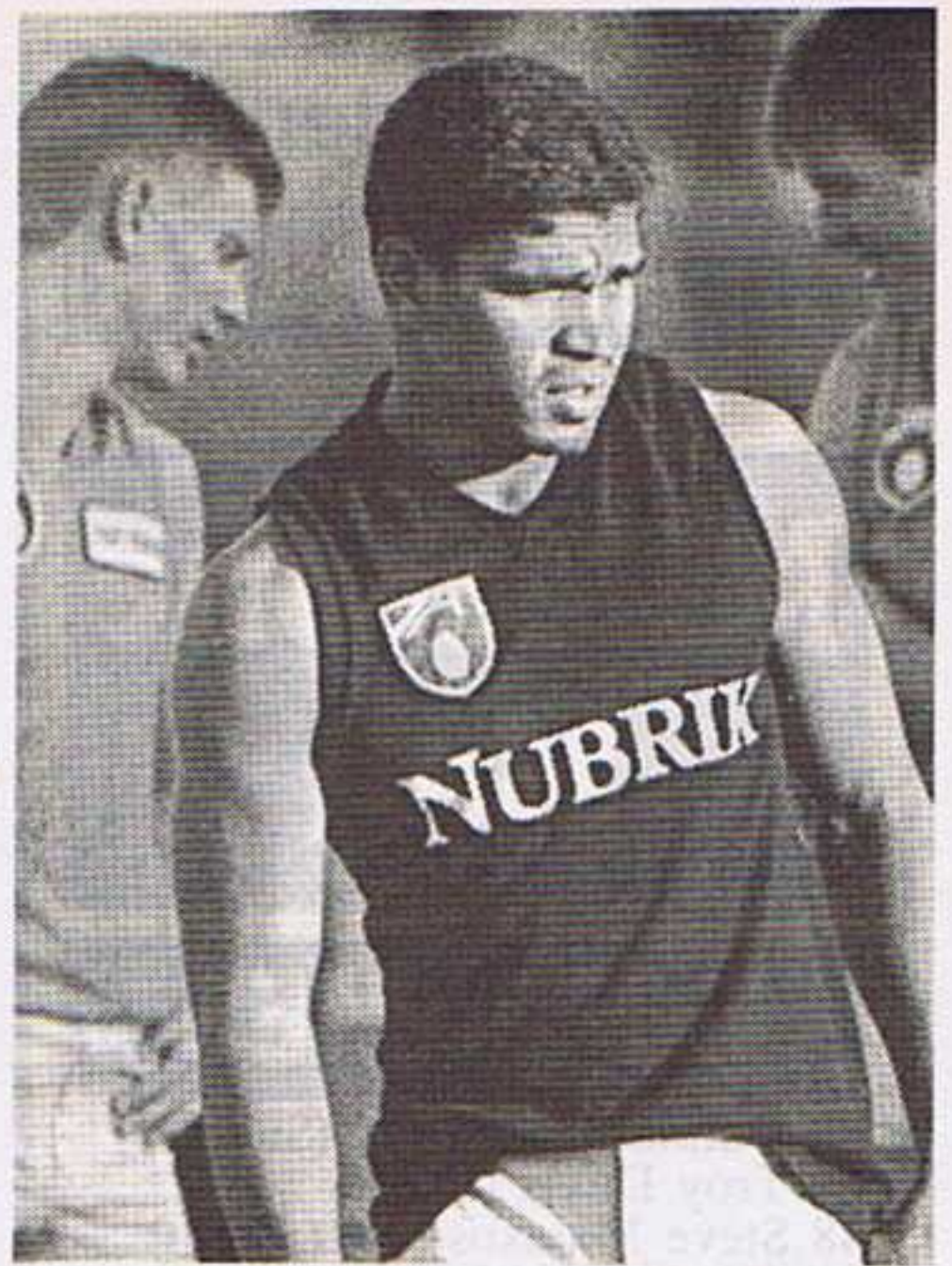
The mere fact that a top-line coach allowed two "outsiders" to actually train with the team on the eve of the grand final shows how much Sheedy has changed — a far cry from 1985 when he locked fans out of the ground so they could train in secret.

LATEST HERO

Sheedy also introduced the club's latest champion, Brownlow Medallist Gavin Wanganeen, to the crowd, who hung onto his every word and then rushed to the souvenir stall to grab a



BIG THRILL ... East Perth youngster Michael Prior talks to the Essendon fans at training after being introduced by prospective coach Kevin Sheedy, while Dale Kickett looks at home in a Bombers guernsey during their last training session



special Medal Man poster at \$5 a time.

Over at Princes Park, the once-stern and secretive David Parkin was the genial host — opening the rooms after training to fans and media alike and even allowing them all to hear his warm-down words.

Smiling and joking, Parkin allowed the press a rare insight behind-the-

scenes and discussed how difficult and sensitive job it was to leave nearly-fit players out of the side.

"They are very delicate things," he said, referring to a group of players out of the side with injury.

"To get it right (the selection decision) is not an easy thing to do. It can decide a lifetime in football."

It's a funny game

CHANNEL Nine's "The Footy Show" has given new meaning to The Great Australian Game — and it has put some fun back into the sport, after all!

A special 120-minute grand final eve show in Melbourne (and replayed in a shortened version in Perth) saw some incredible happenings — and all of it live, or that's how it seemed.

Hosted by Max Walker and featuring footy greats like Ted Whitten, Lou Richards, Sam Newman, Dermie Brereton, Simon Madden and Mal Brown, the team has been joined by Eagles star Karl Langdon, who is proving to be an absolute star in the electronic media.

But it was a non-footballer who stole the show — Nine reporter Anne-Marie Sparkman, who ventured out into the Melbourne night to grab a couple of sensational interviews.

First she knocked on the door of lanky dinosaur Justin (Harry) Madden and even though he was in bed (just after 9pm) the intrepid lady ventured in and indulged in some pillow-talk, particularly about his bedside reading, such as "Tactics".

But after a few probing questions, Madden pulled his beanie (an Essendon one!) over his ears and tucked his doona around his head and Anne-Marie was sent packing.

Back in the studio, Simon Madden was concerned at the Friday night intrusion into the grand final preparation by his younger brother.

"Mum will be upset if she sees this," he said. "Justin's normally tucked up in bed by 8.30pm."

Less than an hour later Anne-Marie reported in again, knocking on the door of Essendon veteran Tim Watson, who was sitting at his dining room table, puzzling over some notes — which he claimed was Kevin Sheedy's half-time speech.

Both players obviously took part in the intrusion in good humour and it really shows that there's some characters left in the game after all.

However, the big secret is whether the two co-operatives in question actually did the interviews "live" or whether they were recorded.

Channel Nine producer Harvey Silver wouldn't be drawn on the issue. "We're not saying," he said. "If we say it was live, the coaches might get annoyed. If we say it was recorded earlier, the viewers might complain."

"It's up to you to make your own decision."

Either way, it was entertaining stuff ... as were the live crosses to Langdon cavorting around a Melbourne night spot with a mixture of footy fans.

Norwood set to tackle SA Eagles

NORWOOD have earned the right to clash with the Eagles in the SANFL grand final at Football Park this Saturday.

The Redlegs set up the showdown with a fine performance in the preliminary final against reigning premiers Port Adelaide.

They trailed by 14 points at the first change, but kicked away to win by 27 points, 20.17 (137) to 16.14 (110).

Experienced Norwood rover Stephen Rowe, whose appearances with the Adelaide Crows have been spasmodic due to the strained relations between the two clubs, was best-afield.

He gathered numerous possessions and kicked three goals, well-supported by rugged centreman Garry McIntosh.

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RUNNING FREE . . . Mark Harvey, showing no sign of a foot injury, sprints on to the MCG on Saturday

MARK HARVEY, in only his first game in three weeks, played a commanding role in steering Essendon to a 44-point grand final win — but many times he thought he would not make it.

Troubled by a torn muscle in the arch of his left foot, an injury which kept him out of the first semi and preliminary finals, Harvey struggled at training during the week.

Bomber hero Harvey didn't feel the pain

By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**



As late as Thursday evening at Windy Hill, he looked far from fully fit just 40 hours before his fourth grand final appearance.

After completing most of the exercises at full pace, he left the main group to speak with trainers before rejoining team-mates for a final handball drill and warm-down.

WOULDN'T PLAY

"It's been a long two weeks. I can tell you," he said, clutching the premiership cup.

"If you'd asked me last week, I probably would have said I wouldn't play because the foot has been so sore.

"I had three fitness tests during the week and I was pulling up sore each time, but I was just gritting my teeth and making out it wasn't sore."

So was Harvey trying to pull the wool over the eyes of coach Kevin Sheedy, the selectors and club medical staff?

"In a way, but you can't bluff because they put you through so much," he said.

"You've just got to make out as if there's no pain. Today, there was a bit

of pain in the first five minutes, but after that it was OK."

Despite the pain, Harvey played well from the outset and had Carlton opponent Earl Spalding moved in the first half. He then saw off Stephen Silvagni and Michael Sexton.

Harvey was showing no ill-effects after the match as he basked in the limelight with wife Donna by his side. At age 28, he was more than happy for his 18 and 20-year-old team-mates to jump headfirst into a long night of celebrations.

"It was terrific, our young blokes have worked so hard I'm more happy for them," he said.

Like them, Harvey had been there and done that as a teenager.

Recruited from nearby suburban Keilor, he burst on to the scene in 1984 at 18 as a classy goalkicking half-forward.

Voted the club's best first-year player, he was a member of the line-up that conquered Hawthorn in the grand final after starting on the interchange bench alongside his skipper on Saturday, Mark Thompson.

The next season was even better for Harvey. He gained All-Australian selection, another premiership medalion, topped the Bombers goalkicking with 48 and was runner-up to Tim Watson in the club championship.

DOGGED BY INJURY

Then injury struck and dogged his career for five years, before he fought back to claim his first fairest-and-best award last season.

Having been through so much, Harvey was savouring the moment and trying to compare Saturday's success to that of the early 1980s.

"I probably didn't appreciate it as much when I was 18 or 19," he said.

"It's nine years between flags, that's why I would say this one is probably the best.

"I might have a hangover tomorrow, but it'll be worth it."

Any thoughts of retirement were far from Harvey's mind amid the celebrations.

Offered a three-year contract after winning the club champion award last year, Harvey is secure with the Bombers — the club he has followed since childhood — until the end of 1995.

"I'm 28 and have another two years of my contract to run," he said.

"If I'm going all right, I'd like to play perhaps one more season and then that would be it."

One of the veterans of the side after 157 games, Harvey is convinced the future is bright for the Bombers.

"When you have eight or nine guys who are 19 or 20-year-old kids, the future has to be good," he said.

"But you don't want to have the hangover of winning the premiership in 1993 and going downhill in 1994."

"It's a tough competition out there."

Bad day for biggest Blue

THERE were few more heart-rending sights than Carlton ruckman Justin Madden standing with his head bowed after the final siren ended the Blues on-field misery.

With his head in his hands, there were no hiding the tears that flowed down the big man's cheeks.

At age 32, Madden knew the grand final was his best — and perhaps his last — shot at glory.

"The chasm between winning and losing is just enormous," he said.

"I don't know how I feel. I guess I'll know more tomorrow."

With Carlton widely tipped to win their 16th flag, Madden would surely have ended his career on 262 games knowing he had achieved almost all there is in football.

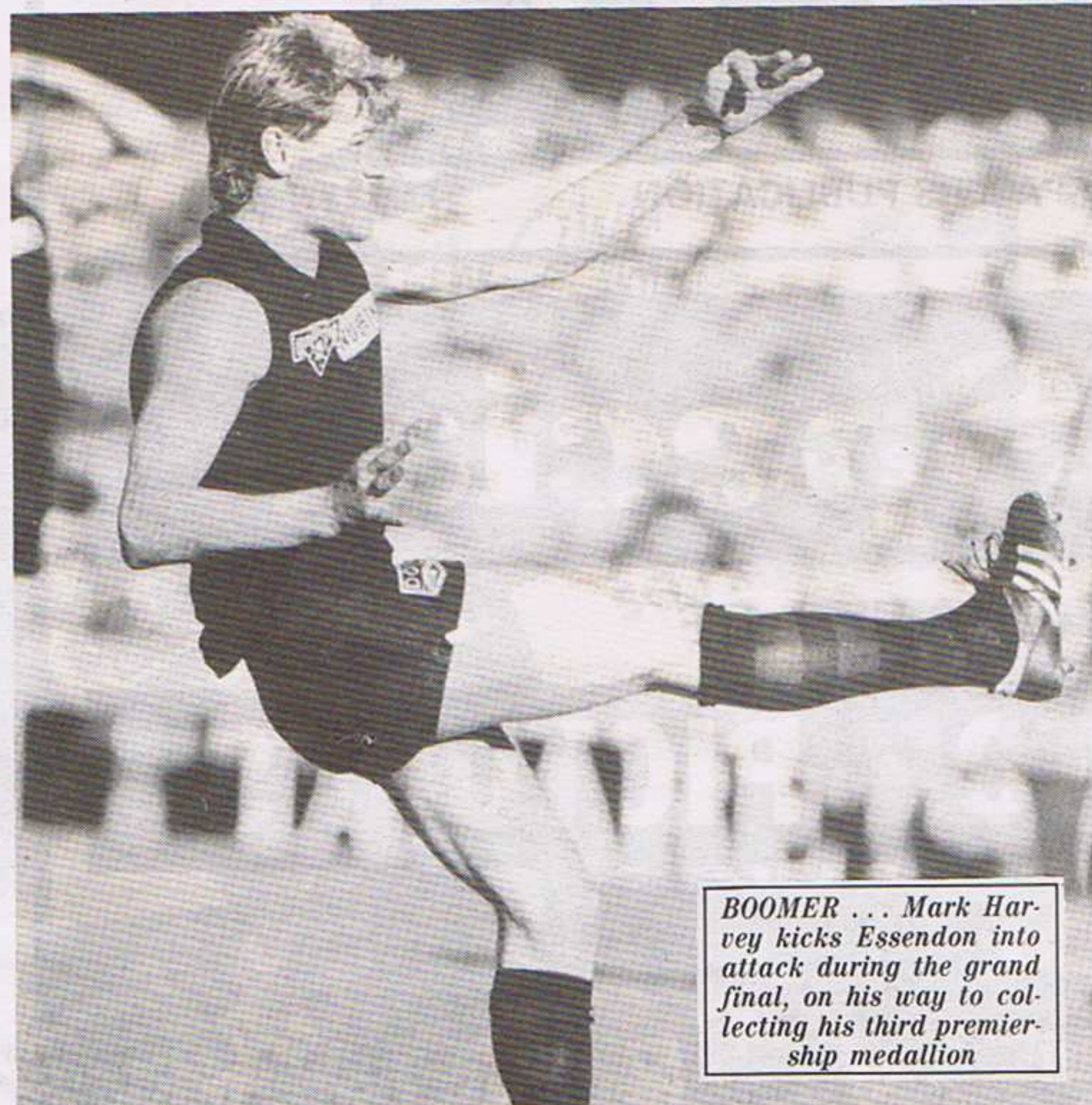
Two fairest-and-best awards for the Blues in 1985 and '91 and four State-of-Origin games for Victoria were obvious highs, but a premiership is the ultimate.

He has been labelled "Jurassic Justin" by critics who feel the end of immobile ruckmen is near.

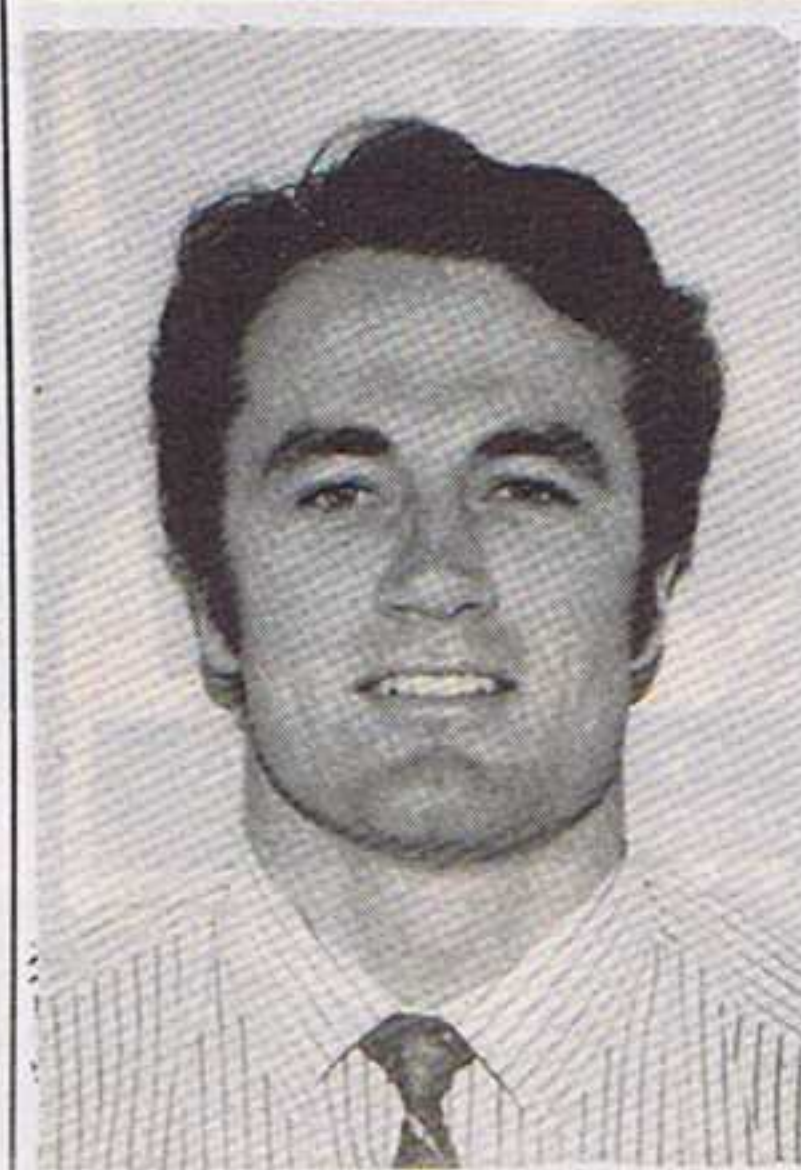
After leaving Essendon with 45 games and limited opportunities behind, leading ruckmen Roger Merrett and brother Simon, the loss to the Bombers hurt even more.

Madden was by no means disgraced in the grand final when he finished with 16 touches and 13 hit-outs opposed to Peter Somerville and Paul Salmon.

Well-known for his sense of humour around Princes Park, "Harry" Madden found it hard to crack a smile in the Blues changerooms, aptly named after the 44-point drubbing.



BOOMER . . . Mark Harvey kicks Essendon into attack during the grand final, on his way to collecting his third premiership medalion



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BLUES DAY . . . Justin Madden's smile during the grand final parade on the Friday turned to a tear after the grand final loss the following day

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That premiership feeling



TOUGH TIMES ... little Bombers tagger Sean Denham tangles with Carlton's Greg Williams

WATCHING 83kgs of an angry Greg Williams barging at you on the football field would be daunting enough ... but seeing two of them would be frightening.

That faced Essendon tagger Sean Denham when he went back onto the field in a courageous attempt to finish the grand final after being KO'd in the second term.

After downing Williams at the nine-minute mark of the first term, Denham was on the end of a vicious equaliser six minutes into the next quarter.

He left the field, but returned to finish the quarter before making another exit just after half-time.

"I just had a bit of blurred vision," said Denham, managing a painful smile after the victory.

"The nose isn't the greatest, but I've had a few broken noses."

The Denham versus Williams show was perhaps the most entertaining aspect of the first half — before the Michael Long encore hit full swing.

Many critics suggested that the only mistake Denham made was not putting Williams out of action at his first attempt — give Diesel a second chance and he will cut you up one way or another, they said.

When Williams went down for the count and Carlton trainers signalled

for the stretcher, it looked like the 1986 Brownlow Medallist was going to make an early exit from his first grand final — but he got up like a raging bull.

Both were effective players early on, with Denham kicking a crucial goal before he departed with blood streaming from his right nostril.

"I was expecting the rough stuff; it goes with a grand final doesn't it?" he said, with a wry grin.

"No-one's going to go down without a fight, it's all part of the game.

"I'm not complaining. I've got the medal now and the premiership — no grudges here, it's great."

Describing the pace early on as "hectic" the 24-year-old, who left Geelong when he was no longer required for season 1992, said the worst part of the day was having to wait for the final siren sitting on the bench.

"The fact that I was on the bench at the end was actually disappointing," he said, amid the celebrations.

"In the last quarter when I knew we were going to win it, I said to a couple of blokes 'you've got to get me onto the ground', but I never got there. It was still great to win though."

— By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**



GOOD TIMES ... grand final rewards as Sean Denham enjoys the feel of the premiership cup

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Epis plays vital role off the field

A WEST Australian who played an important behind-the-scenes role in Essendon's grand final win was Alec Epis, the Kalgoorlie Kid who slipped through the Perth football net.

The former Bombers star — he was in the team's 1962 premiership side which blasted Carlton with a six-goals-to-one opening quarter — was delighted to see history repeat itself at the MCG on Saturday.

Epis has been a skills coach with Essendon this season, taking on a role that enabled him to work privately with about six key players, easing the overall burden on coach Kevin Sheedy.

His role was to work with the players on and off the track, talk them through their weekly match performances and make sure that their football training was up to the mark.

Epis worked independently of Sheedy, but the control he exerted over players like the much-improved ruckman Peter Somerville was always done with the coach's approval.

PROGRAM

The involvement of Epis was part of Essendon's expanded coaching programme which included former player Neale Daniher's video tapes.

Every Monday night when the players arrived at Windy Hill for training, they could watch a video tape showing their particular activities in the previous week's game.

"Part of my job would be to talk five or six players through those tapes each week," Epis said.

"We've seen some enormous improvement in players like Michael Long and Gavin Wanganeen, so the programme is considered a success."

And of Saturday's comfortable grand final win — set up with a 38-points-to-eight first quarter — Epis admitted to being surprised.

"Carlton had no legs," he said.

SURPRISED

"We were certainly surprised by that because we thought they would make a running game of it until half-time and we were prepared for that. But they ran out of legs; that fortnight's break did nothing for them."

"Long set it up for us early; Gary O'Donnell and Sean Denham were terrific in the midfield and the Fish (Paul Salmon) played well; it was important that he did well for us."

"But we had many blokes coming and going all day, no real stand-outs. We had a big team effort. At some stage when it was needed, someone got the hard goal or laid the strong tackle."

Epis is convinced that this Essendon side can go on, even if successive premierships has become a tough task.

"We are a young side, we have the potential and next year is another year. We have the youth and if you haven't got youth, you're in trouble," he said.

Epis, who left Kalgoorlie as a teenager for Windy Hill — after standing out of football for two years waiting for a clearance from the WANFL — played 180 games with Essendon, including four grand finals, for two wins.

Grand final fever



STIRRING STUFF... Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in action at half-time of the grand final — including one didgeridoo performer (right) playing from on top of the scoreboard



AFL raises cultural profile

By BRUCE BUTLER

HATS off to the AFL for their unique grand final tribute to Aboriginal Australians in the International Year of Indigenous People.

In a season when the game's highest two individual honours went to Aboriginal champions, the AFL chose to celebrate a great Australian ritual with a moving display of their culture.

Their timing was perfect.

As Australia struggles to erase the bloody memories of a racist past, Gavin Wanganeen became the first Aboriginal to win the Brownlow Medal.

Then — as if to a well-planned script — the sublimely gifted Michael Long turned on a display of pace and football wizardry that left Essendon fans in awe and hardened Carlton fans shaking their heads in disbelief.

SMILE SAID ALL

At the end of the day, he proudly wore a premiership medallion and the Norm Smith Medal — and a smile that said it all.

And spare a thought for Essendon's 21st man, Derek Kickett, who played every game this year, only to be told



YOU BEAUTY... two WA men with a strong Essendon bias enjoy the grand final win, Alec Epis (left) and Colin Hebbard

before the game he had missed a place in the final 20.

That would be a bitter pill for anybody to swallow and could end the nomadic, unpredictable Kickett's stint at Windy Hill.

But before the real action began, one of Australia's rising Aboriginal opera singers, Maroochy Barambah — no doubt feeling the nerves of performing in Australia's most awesome sporting cauldron in front of 96,000 fans — led the crowd through Waltzing Matilda and Advance Australia Fair.

At half-time Aboriginal singer-songwriter Archie Roach and Yothu Yindi, the rock band which has single-handedly put Aboriginal music on the map, revved up the crowd with several of their stirring rhythms.

Aboriginal and traditionally-dressed Torres Strait Island dancers also strutted their stuff at half-time — one of them even performed from atop the electronic scoreboard many metres above the playing arena.



WE'RE HERE... cycling marathon man Barry Cable (right) savours the atmosphere at the MCG with one of his Nullarbor companions, former West Perth star Peter Panegyres

It may not be the tradition that staunch football fans are used to, but to see Yothu Yindi — led by Darwin-based former headmaster and Australian of the Year, Mandawuy Yunungu — beating out the band's international hits from the centre of a sun-bathed MCG was heady stuff.

Who would have thought — even five years ago — that an Aboriginal rock singer would be standing in the middle of the MCG on grand final day entertaining Australia's most passionate sporting crowd?

And some heroes of the past were there, too.

Barry Cable, a WA legend and VFL star of the 1970s, rode 3600km across Australia to be there and to toss the coin.

FOOTBALL GENIUS

The part-Aboriginal football genius and two-time North Melbourne premiership player had cycled across the country to raise money for brain disease research.

As Cable, nearly killed in a tractor accident which ended his football career, was driven around the oval in an open sports car, the reception was deafening.

WA and Geelong great, Graham Farmer — recognised as the man who introduced creative handball to the modern game — hung the premiership medals around the Bomber players' necks.

And to cap it off, Maurice Rioli, the Norm Smith Medallist in Richmond's 1982 loss, handed over the medal to family friend and former Darwinian, Long.

The result — an emotional mix of Aboriginal culture and football tradition — was a fitting salute to the magnificent contribution black footballers have made to our great Australian game.

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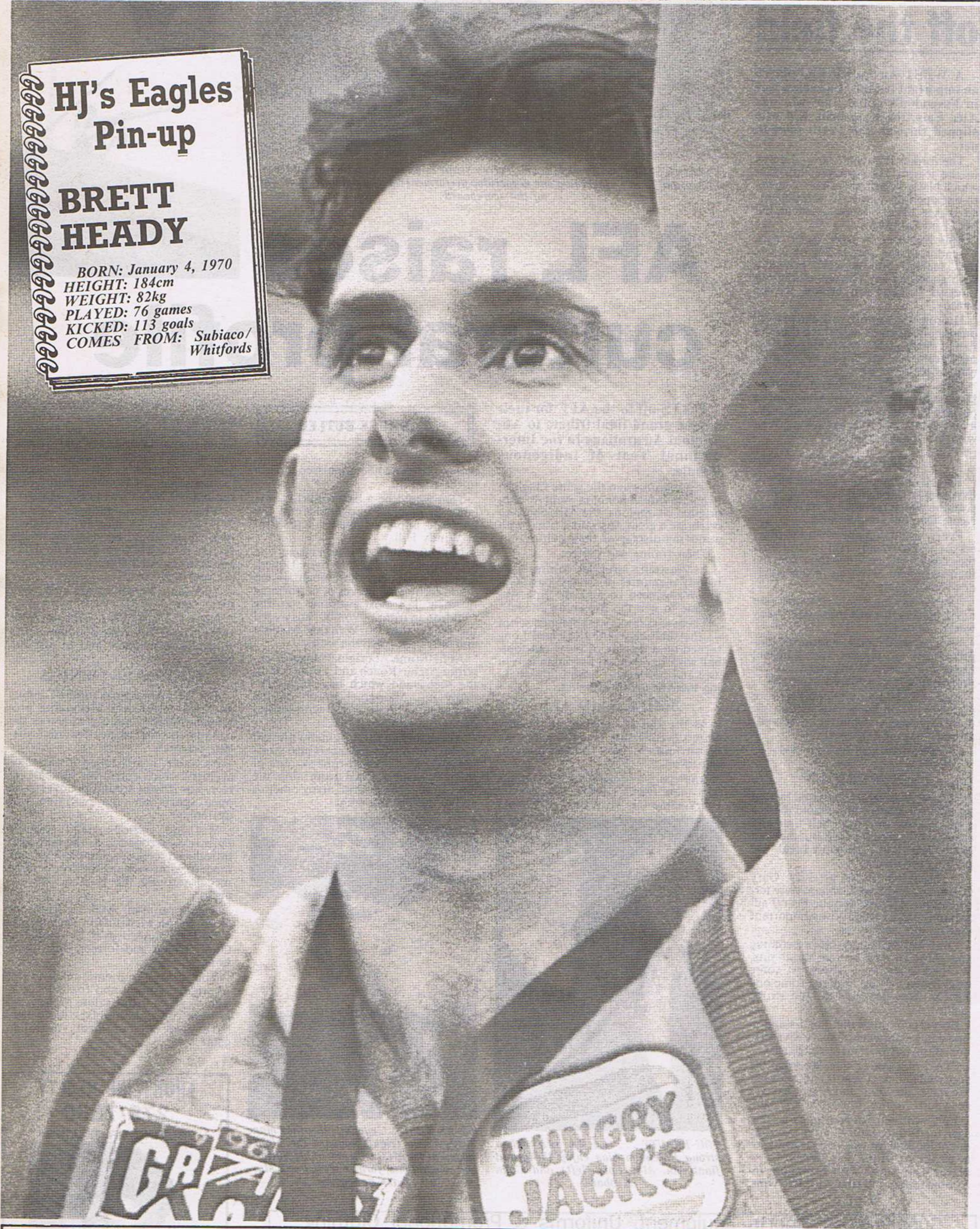


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Demons claim a flag at last

MELBOURNE made up for two years of disappointment when they beat North Melbourne in the VSFL grand final on Saturday.

The Demons, who lost to Brisbane and Essendon in 1991 and 1992 respectively, set up their 13.12 (90) to 7.14 (56) win with a seven goal first quarter.

Former West Coast forward Darren Bennett and Darren Cuthbertson troubled the Roos defence with their strong marking and accurate kicking.

In the final three terms, North Melbourne outscored the Demons, but the damage had been done.

Midfielder Kevin Dyson was in great touch for Melbourne, well supported by Gardiner Medallist Rod Keogh and nippy rover Chris Sullivan, who kicked two goals.

Former Footscray defender Greg Eppelstun, playing possibly his final

game of AFL football, was the Kangaroos best performer in the backline, while Peter Mann took some strong marks in attack and defence.

COLTS RESULT

THE VSFL under-18s grand final saw the Northern Knights thrash the Western Jets by 83 points, 32.10 (202) to 18.11 (119).

Full-forward Shannon Gibson was unstoppable for the Knights, kicking 10 goals, while dashing half-forward Chris Johnson posted seven second-half majors.

Also prominent for the Knights were ruckman Jarrod Molloy and on-baller Matthew Blagrove.

For Western, David Innella proved a successful focal point, kicking five goals.

Bennett aims to kick-on in America

INJURY-prone Melbourne forward Darren Bennett has not ruled out a chance of playing American grid-iron.

The 28-year-old, who was a member of the Demons VSFL premiership side last Saturday, did admit, however, it was long shot.

"I'm going to America for my honeymoon and I'll go to a few matches because I love the game," Bennett said.

"Our fitness guy here at Melbourne knows a couple of people over there so I will probably be speaking to them."

If Bennett was to make a roster in one of the NFL's 28 teams, he would assume the role as a kick-off specialist or punter.

A kick-off specialist is used to kick the ball over long distances, while a punter's main aim is to pump the ball high into the air — referred to in grid-iron terms as 'hang-time'.

Bennett has carved out a reputation as one of the longest kicks in the AFL.

If he doesn't make the NFL grade, Bennett said he would probably retire from the AFL.

He has struggled to cement a place in the Demons senior side since the arrival of Allen Jakovich in 1991 and could manage just two games in 1993, taking his tally with Melbourne to 74.

He played four matches with the West Coast Eagles in 1987.

Bennett said he would look at any prospective coaching appointments, but indicated he was eager to return to East Fremantle.

"I am keen to go home — I would probably need to persuade my wife, although I don't think she'd need much convincing because she likes Perth," Bennett said.

"I've already spoken to Ken Judge, although he isn't too sure about his future at the moment."

Judge said East Fremantle would love to have Bennett back.

"I think at this level he has the potential to be a very good player," Judge said.

by DIGBY BEACHAM



CONTRASTS... former WA players Jason Norrish (left) and Peter Mann (right) have contrasting expressions after the VSFL grand final. Norrish was in Melbourne's winning team, while Mann (shaking hands with Michael Pickering) was in the losing North Melbourne side

Royals award to Turnbull

EAST Perth big man Ryan Turnbull topped off a tremendous season when he won the club's fairest and best award.

Turnbull polled 152 votes to win the F. D. Book Medal and the Michael Kailis Patron Award by 26 from Paul Barnard, who received the Janice Tobin Memorial Perpetual Trophy as runner-up.

Outstanding Victorian recruit Lyle Johnstone was in third place.

The best first-year award went to Steve Pendleton, while Aaron Gale

won the Ken Hatfield Memorial Trophy; the education award.

The Eric Smith Shield for best and fairest in the reserves side went to Mark Faithful, by one vote from Spiro Mallis, with Rob Fitzgerald third.

Daniel Davidson won the Hec Srempe trophy for fairest and best in the colts, well ahead of Tom Klaricich.

The education award was won by Greg Miceli, while Dean Fancote won an outstanding player award, as did Jason Rowe and Ryan Faulkner was presented with an encouragement award.



THE HUNGRY JACK'S WHOPPER CLUB

with BRETT HEADY



Rovers are in abundance

THERE are plenty of good rovers in the AFL and this week we look at several Hungry Jack's All-Stars contenders.

Arguably the best rover in the competition is Hawthorn veteran John Platten.

The former Central District star, who has already won a Brownlow Medal (and a Magarey Medal) and played in four premierships at Hawthorn, is always at the bottom of the packs winning the hard ball and setting up the Hawks forward moves.

Also a star small man is Adelaide Crows player Tony McGuinness.

He began his AFL career at Footscray under West Coast coach Mick Malhouse and moved back to South Australia when the Crows were formed in 1991.

Another Croweater, who is always hard to stop is Tony Francis.

The tenacious Collingwood rover has an explosive turn of speed and can worry opposition sides with his high number of possessions.

The Eagles also have good small men in the form of Don Pyke and Tony Evans, both from Claremont and proven ball-getters — and taggers when needed.

WELL, how good are Essendon?

The 'Baby Bombers' showed all the class of seasoned campaigners in their brilliant 44-point win over Carlton.

Young players like Brownlow Medalist Gavin Wanganeen, Joe Misiti, Mark Mercuri, James Hird, David Calthorpe, Dustin Fletcher and Ricky O'larenschaw were in great form, as was Michael Long.



VICTORIAN recruit Jason Heatley became only the fifth Subiaco player to top the goal-kicking when he finished with 90 goals from the home-and-away season.

When he added 21 goals in three finals matches, he became the first Lion to kick 100 goals since Todd Breman's 111-goal effort in 1987.

Breman was the second Lion to top the table more than once, when he achieved that feat in 1988, before being converted to a half-back and recruited by Richmond.

Subiaco's goal-kicking achievements still belong to legendary goalsneak Austin Robertson, who finished on top eight times, with his biggest haul in 1962 snaring him 162 goals, including five in the finals series.

Asked by the panel whether he deliberately set out to practice the check-side kick, Matera — with a touch of tongue in cheek — said he worked on the kick every time he went out on the park.

"Now I'll practice getting the ball to go the other way," he said.

Matera admitted that it had been disappointing watching on at grand final time, but said the club would be setting out on November 1 to start training for next year and "hopefully we will do a lot better."

Other table-toppers from Subiaco were Pat Rodriguez in 1920 (36) and Don Glass in 1957 (83).

Heatley will receive a \$500 cheque from GIO Australia and a Westside Football trophy — the only official acknowledgement of the WAFL's leading goalscorer — at a special end-of-season Westside Football function next month.

GIO TOP SCORERS

	Finals goals	Total goals
Jason Heatley (S)	21.6	111.42
Scott Cummings (SD)	7.2	84.43
Brad Hardie (SF)	4.2	73.47
Paul Morgan (C)	8.7	61.34
Paul Barnard (EP)	-	53.32
Andrew Lockyer (EF)	-	40.28
Andrew Macnish (S)	2.2	39.32
Todd Curley (WP)	7.2	38.27
Jeff Davidson (EF)	-	38.25
Chris Gerrey (C)	5.1	38.22
Kane O'Brien (S)	2.5	37.24
Rod Willet (S)	5.4	36.28
Jason Ball (S)	1.2	33.33
Derek Hall (WP)	5.3	31.28
Wally Matera (SF)	2.2	31.25

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Clockwise, from the left: West Perth's Basil Zempilas makes a point to former Carlton star Peter Bosustow at the Westside Football luncheon, with Melbourne journalist Ken Piesse listening on

A Blues fan with her life-size cardboard cut-out of Carlton's Stephen Kernahan A jubilant Bombers veteran Tim Watson with that premiership cup feeling Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy tells the media how the Bombers achieved the near-impossible

The huge Australian flag descends onto the MCG arena, complete with parachutist and balloons



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LEFT: Two Bombers fans get into the colourful grand final mood

From the top: West Coast's cheer squad leader Pam Hynson flies the Eagles flag in the grand final parade

Rival captains and coaches Mark Thompson, Kevin Sheedy, David Parkin and Stephen Kernahan at the Melbourne Central press conference after the grand final parade
Essendon captain Mark Thompson with a handful of Baby Bombers Mark III — children Michael (2) and Lauren (4)



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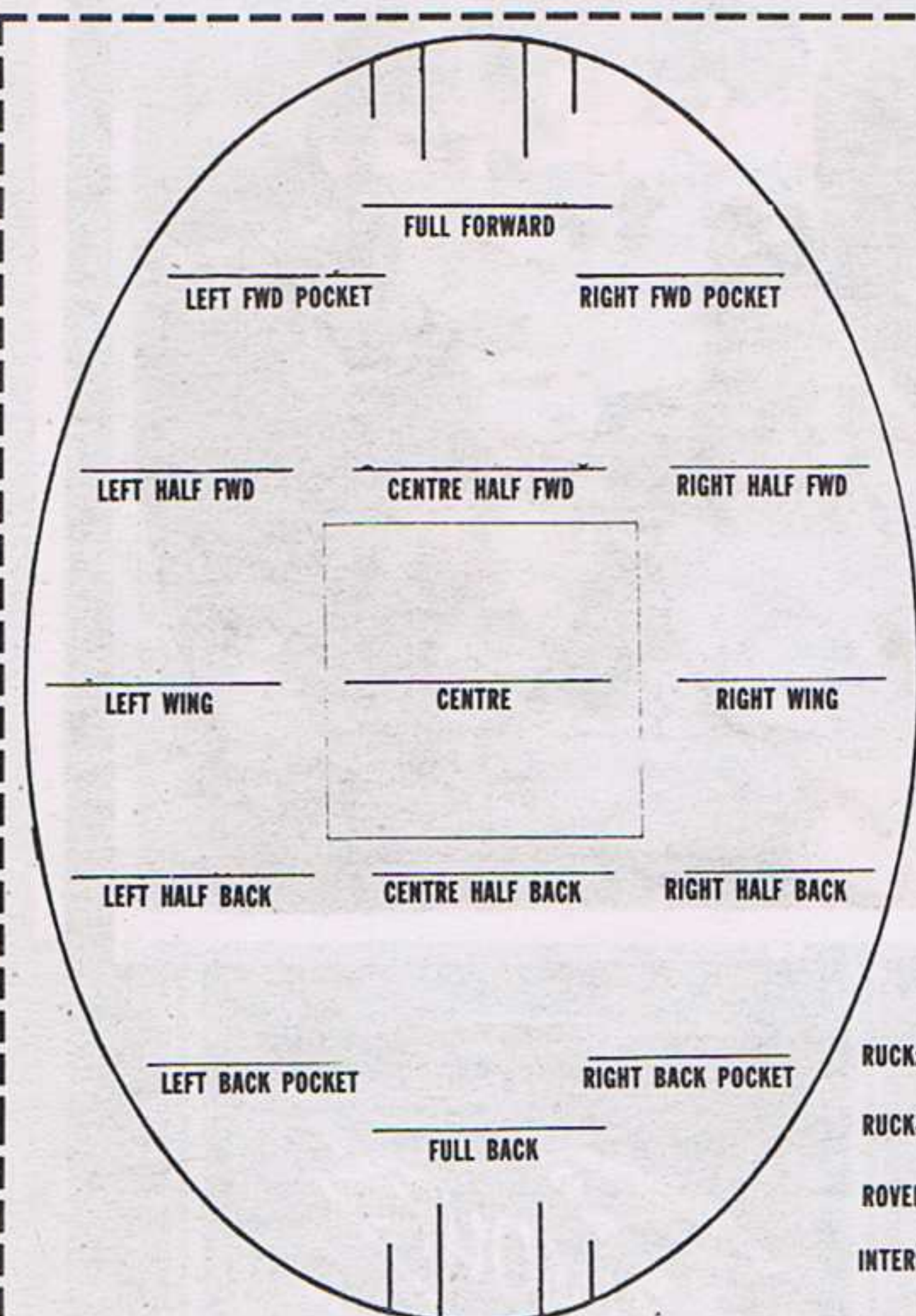
That premiership feeling



Claremont celebrated yet another Pepsi Cup premiership after downing sentimental favourites West Perth by 30 points ABOVE: The Tigers take their new pennant on a lap of honour while Claremont veterans Darrell Panizza (top) and Mark Brayshaw (bottom) hold the trophy aloft



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Entries close last post on Tuesday, October 5.

THE WAFL was blessed with some outstanding midfielders in 1993 — the final category Westside Football previews in the lead-up to next week's selection of the GIO Pepsi All-Stars side.

South Fremantle rover Wally Matora was in sparkling touch and looms as a candidate for the No.1 position in the prestigious team.

However, the Bulldogs captain is certain to receive some tough opposition from East Perth's Peter Miller, East Fremantle pair Trent Nichols and Stephen Bilcich, Swan Districts duo Greg Walker and Craig Callaghan, exciting Subiaco small men Matt Connell and Jarrad Schofield, Claremont's Brendan Green and Darren Klemm and West Perth's Wodonga connection, Darren Harris and Robbie West.

West played just 11 games with the Falcons in between his Eagles games, but was devastating in several matches.

His Leederville team-mate, Sandover Medallist Neil Mildenhall, was a stand-out performer on the wing throughout 1993.

Other wing hopes include Scott Edwards, Nathan O'Connor, Michael Sidebottom, Brad Collard, Greg Turner, Chris Pobjoy, Shaun McManus, Stephen Lester, Lloyd Haskett and Shane Cable.

O'Connor made a delayed entry to league ranks with Subiaco, but impressed with his pace, as did McManus, who debuted for the Sharks

after winning the Larke Medal for the fairest and best player in the 1993 Commonwealth Bank Cup.

There were excellent showings in the centre also, with Perth captain Adrian Barich enjoying a solid season and Claremont's Rob Malone, who finished off in fine form.

Other centremen include Rick Toovey, Damian Hampson, who earned selection in the Eagles line-up after some brilliant games, Troy Ugle, Simon Taylor and the Royals Victorian recruit, Lyle Johnstone.

Ruck-rovers also starred, especially in the finals, with the Tigers Garry Edwards and Errol Bourn (Subiaco) in great touch.

They, along with Darren O'Brien, Mark Lambourn, Brendon Retzlaff, Russell Williams, Willie Dick, Lucio Baroni and Scott Annandale will come under the microscope.

Westside Football will name the GIO Pepsi All-Star side in next week's edition.

YOU can be part of Westside's search for the stars.

To be a winner in the GIO Australia Pepsi Cup All Stars, simply fill out this team placings map and send it to:

Westside's All-Stars
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Grand final fever



East Fremantle and Claremont reigned supreme in the Pepsi Cup minor grades, with the Sharks beating Claremont in the reserves and the Tigers downing Perth in the colts

Pictured clockwise from below: The Sharks victors complete a lap of honour; one of Claremont's colts best players, Peter Constantino, receives the match ball as his trophy; the colts winners with their cherished pennant; East Fremantle ruckman Justin Sanders with the match football and Sharks coach Tony Micale with his victorious reserves



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That premiership feeling



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The league side, under second year coach Neil Taylor, celebrated their first win
in 21 years when they beat traditional rivals Pinjarra by 10 points.

Taylor is pictured above holding the premiership cup aloft with captain Barry
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Grand final fever



NORTH Beach celebrated in fine style after their 17-point win over University in the Emu Export A-grade competition

The team is pictured (top right) with their two rewards — the premiership shield and the pennant for their club room walls. That's playing-coach Brian Taylor second from the right in the rear row

ABOVE: Paul Bistrup, proudly showing off the 1993 flag, was one of the stars of the finals series

RIGHT: Enjoying the victory after a hard season's work are North Beach players (from left) Mark McAlister, Brad Gwilliam, Bill Duckworth, Stephen Munro and Glen Bewick



AFTER advancing into the final series under controversial circumstances, North Fremantle won the B-grade amateurs premiership from sixth position — downing arch-rivals CBC

LEFT: Scott Wilcox and Peter Dann can't contain their joy in the changerooms after winning the flag

BELOW LEFT: Staunch supporter Ralph Shea is obviously proud of son Jeff's performance in North Fremantle's win

BELOW: Matt Morris says it will be two in a row when North Fremantle advance to A-grade next season



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Grand final fever



WEMBLEY, one of the power clubs in amateur football, claimed the C-grade premiership this season

The team pictured on the left is:
BACK ROW: (left to right): Jarrod Craven, Anthony Dowd, Bernie Parsons, Tony Greenham, Neil Lantzke, Paul Fisher, Rod Taylor, Brad Hunt
MIDDLE ROW: Roger Barns (team manager) Michael Rowney, Brad O'Donnell, Eddie Osborne, Michael Kotsanis, Aaron Woodall, Brett Islip, Shane Properjohn, Russell Kane (runner)
FRONT ROW: Miriam Yusof (physiotherapist), Greg Fraser, Laurie Pettigrove (vice-president), Shane Paddon (captain), Graham Kipps (triple premiership coach), Simon Proud (president), Shane Hogarth, Bob Tanner (head trainer)
 Absent: Randall Hoft (vice-captain), Ross McQueen, Dan O'Regan

BRENTWOOD took out the E-grade amateurs premiership and the team is pictured on the right.

BACK ROW: (left to right): Marcus Benbow, Neil Smith, Al Ganfrini, Damien Eves, Geoff Sherriff, Jeff Richards, Ryan Wilson, Darren Wilson

MIDDLE ROW: Leigh Burns, Jason King, Steven Mayne, Rod Goodin (team manager), Gino Matera, Brad Wenn, Mark Sinden

FRONT ROW: Chris Bolton, Chris Watson, Sean Cobbald, Brad Thompson (captain-coach), Peter Mannion, Jason Thompson, Mark Butler



REDCLIFFE'S D-grade premiership players were pretty pleased when they beat North Beach by 68-points to claim the premiership. Congratulating each other (from the left) are Brad De Lacy, Ray Wilkinson, Paul Nieuwkerk and Jason Caine

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Grand final fever



THE York Football Club (left) celebrated a premiership with a stunning win over Railways in the Avon Football League grand final

The premiership favourites set up the victory with a six-goal first quarter and went on with things to record a 31-point win against the inaccurate Railways

★★★★★★★★



In the North Midlands League, Coorow-Latham player Ricky West (left) received the East Fremantle Football Club award from Bob Fairclough after his team won the league premiership

Coorow-Latham were unbeaten all season and downed Morawa by 51-points in the grand final

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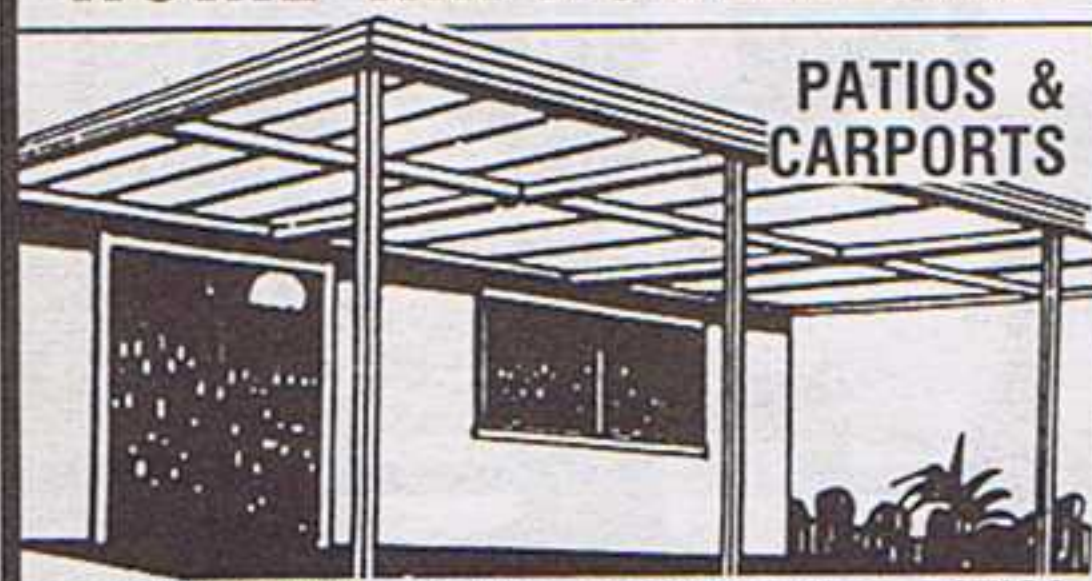
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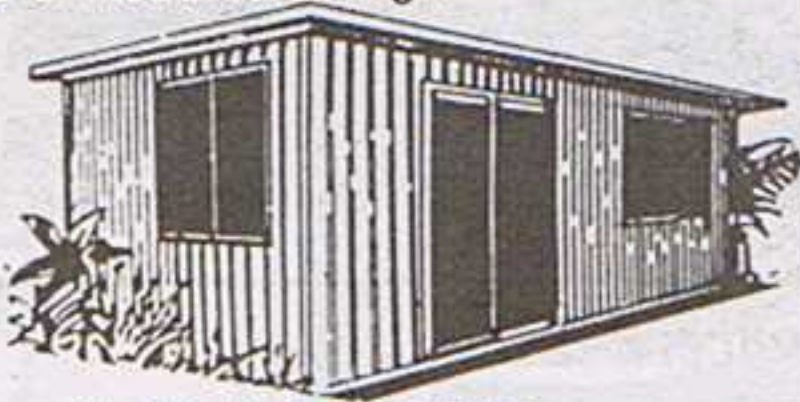
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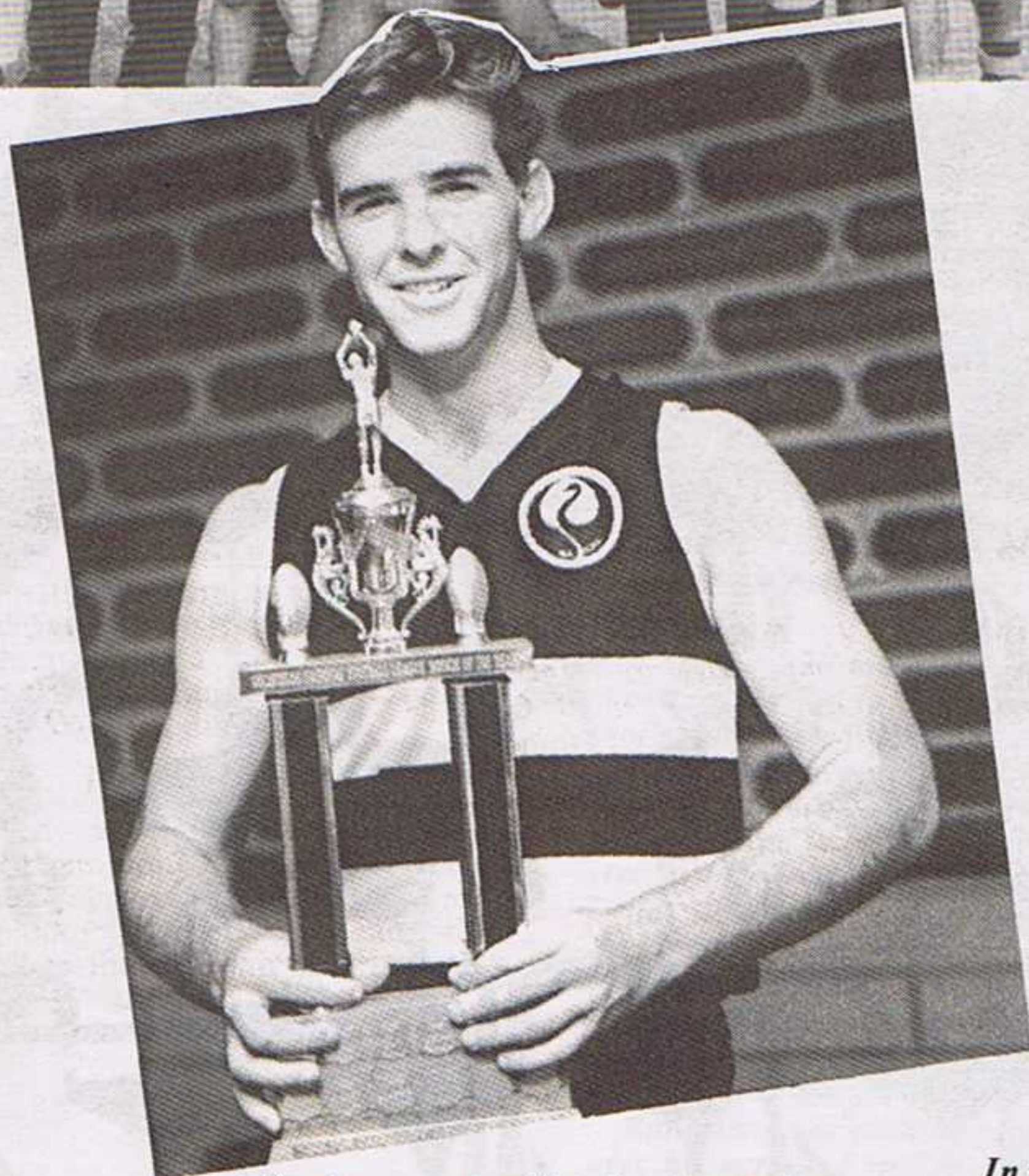
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Winning premierships is a team-glory achievement, but individual awards are also meritorious efforts

On the Goldfields, Eric Tieffenbacher (above), of Mines Rovers, capped off a premiership season by claiming the League's Rookie-of-the-Year award



MINES Rovers claimed the 1993 premiership in the Goldfields League, beating Kambalda by 67 points

The victory was a triumph for coach Colin McIntyre, who is pictured fifth from the left in the front row, with captain Terry Gordin on his right

Former WAFL player Mick Garbin — fourth from the right — was a star in the premiership play-off, kicking 10 goals and club president Ian Clark (centre) was a proud man on grand final day

Brent Turner (second from the right, front row) was Mines fairest and best for the season

That premiership feeling

TIGERS FOOTBALL CLUB



TIGERS claimed the premiership in the Newman Football League, beating Saints by 118 points in the grand final. The victorious side is pictured outside their clubrooms.

BACK ROW: (from left): T. Cooper (vice-president), P. Clancy (captain), S. Grogan, G. Allen, B. Cake, M. Zanetti, R. Butler, C. Copa, G. Haines (vice-captain), N. Grogan (president)

MIDDLE ROW: R. Studham, V. Grogan, R. Brack, S. Park, J. Noack, P. Foster, S. Tipping
FRONT ROW: J. Wood, K. Jensen, A. Reynolds, L. Sammut, G. Hewitt



TOWNS won their 20th premiership when they beat Saints by 20-points in the West Kimberley League's grand final.

Captain Robert Wilson (left) and coach Brent Hanson show off the inaugural CRA premiership cup.



Sharing the end-of-season spoils at the Lakes Football Club, in the Ravensthorpe League, are (from left), Cameron Henry (most consistent), Paul Taylor (fairest and best), Ashley Hooper (18s fairest and best for the association and the club), Andrew Bridges (most improved) and Brad Sinclair (fairest and best runner-up).

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Grand final fever



THE 1993 Sunday League season saw Thornlie, Osborne Park and Willetton claim the flags after a tight season of competition.

Thornlie broke a 31-year premiership drought when they downed Canning in the seniors, while the Saints beat Applecross in the reserves.

In an exciting colts grand final, Willetton waited until the last kick of the match to claim the flag by three points over Osborne Park.

The Blues took a one-point lead into the final term and refused to give in, despite the fact that the Saints were coming home with the wind.

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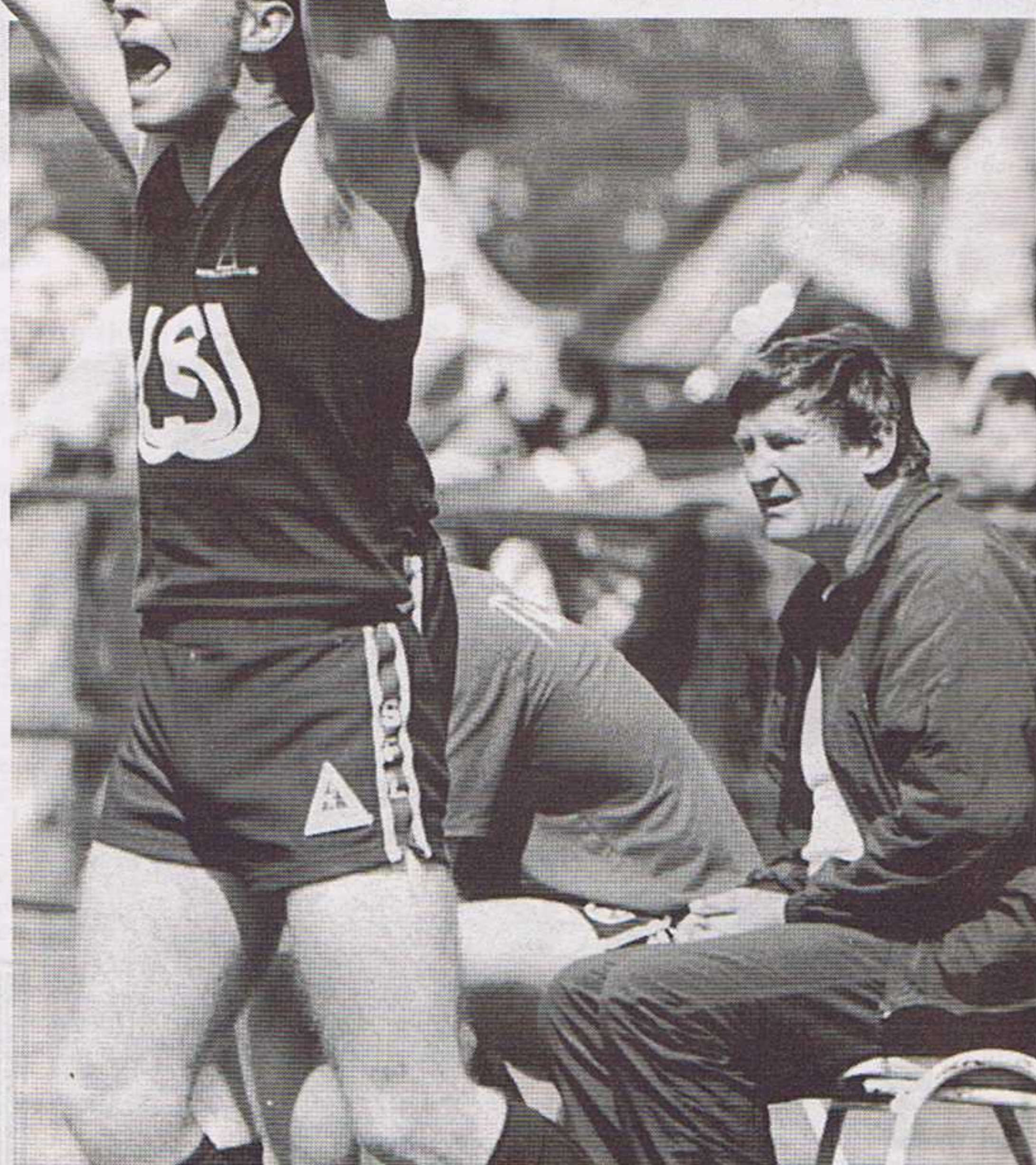
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TOP: The Thornlie victors complete a lap of honour (from left) Mark Scott, Arthur Maskos, coach Dennis Evans, Shane Evans, Daryl Holmes and skipper Randall Prowse

ABOVE: Willetton players and officials show their elation at hitting the front, while coach Rob Hayward (seated) seems unmoved

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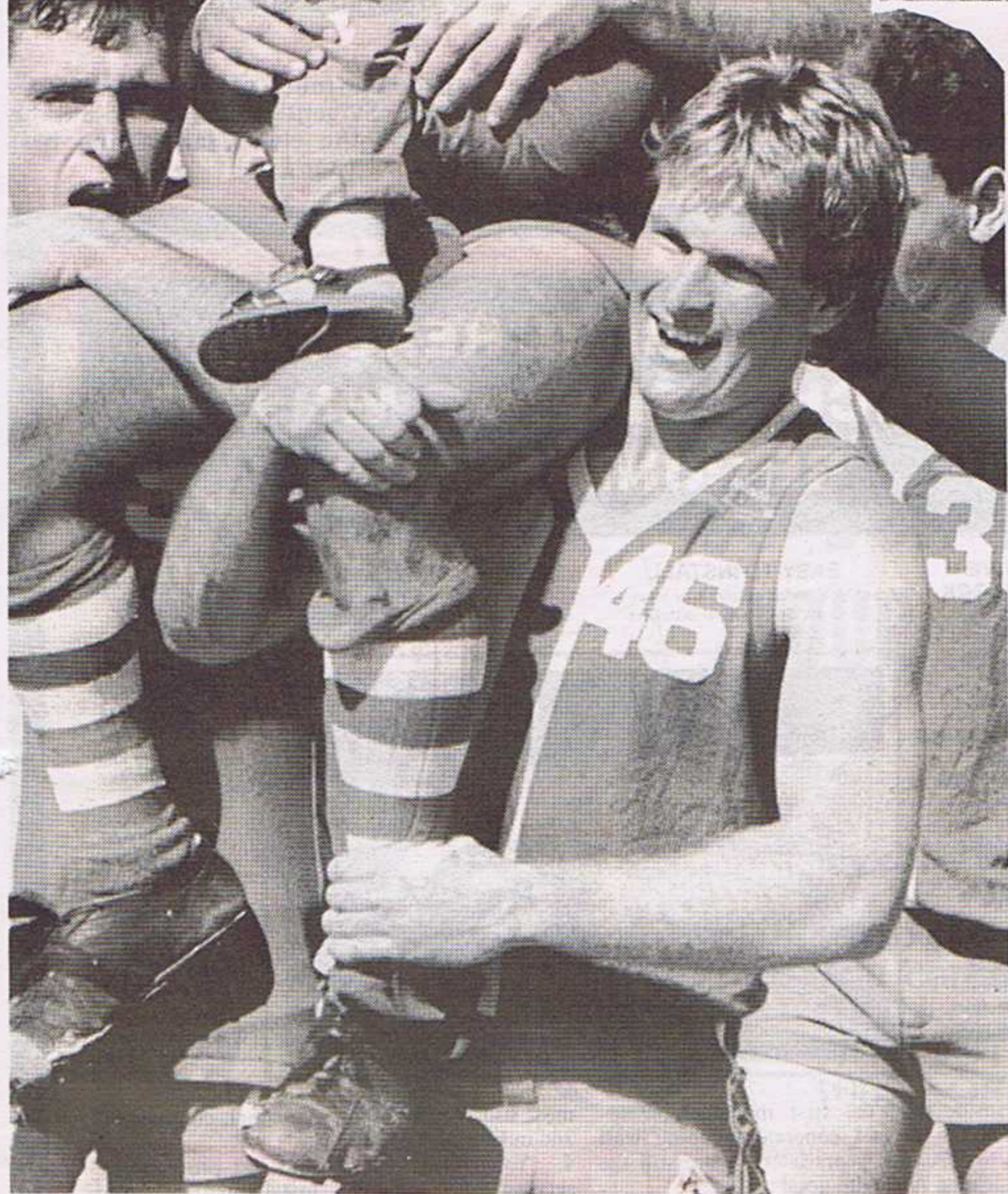
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That premiership feeling



Sunday
FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NFL) INC.

THORNIE fans had waited a long time — 31 years — to celebrate a premiership and the players started early after securing a 59-point win over Canning.

The win was also a triumph for second year coach Dennis Evans, who took them to sixth spot last year and to the No. 1 position this season.

Evans is pictured above, holding the prized premiership cup, while his players show their joy at the win.

In the reserves grade grand final, Osborne Park ran out 26-point winners over Applecross.

LEFT: Osborne Park captain Tony Mirco and son are chaired from the field after their victory

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Veterans inspire Kukerin

KUKERIN-Dumbleyung took out back-to-back premierships when they whipped a lethargic Boddington by 75 points in the Upper Great Southern grand final.

Led by veterans Tom Pearce and John Ditchburn, Kukerin-Dumbleyung blitzed Boddington in the first term, slamming on 6.9 to 1.2.

They totally dominated a one-sided final and recorded an emphatic 19.22 (136) to 8.13 (61) victory.

Ditchburn, a former South Fremantle player and Pearce, a member of Claremont's 1981 premiership side, capped off superb finals series with match-winning displays.

Kukerin now have a 2-1 grand final record over Boddington since joining the Upper Great Southern League three years ago.

SIX GOALS

Veteran full-forward Ross Ditchburn — fresh from 16 straight in his last outing — kicked three of the first four goals and had six at half-time before leaving the field injured when his side had an unassailable lead.

Rover-forward Ray Joy (four goals), ruckman Gavin Cook (two) and wingmen Shaun Leo and Craig Doney, who completed a magnificent midfield, were also instrumental in Kukerin's total domination.

Tim Adams was superb across half-back and rover Darryl Hart, though not as destructive as in the second

victory

By **BRUCE BUTLER**

semi-final, played his part, while Graham Taylor chipped in with two goals.

Kukerin-Dumbleyung, far too tough and disciplined for Boddington, who had several key players down on form, were never really troubled after quarter time and had virtually wrapped the game up by half-time, when they led by 39 points, 8.13 to 3.4.

They sealed the win with another six-goal effort in the third term, holding Boddington to a miserable 0.4.

Boddington wingman Adam Bloomer did everything he could to inspire a revival, along with Rodney Williams, in the centre, but they lacked support.

Back-pocket Glen Roberts also worked overtime to repel the continuous Kukerin-Dumbleyung attacks and the fiery Michael Farmer did well on Ross Ditchburn when he shifted to full-back.

Boddington coach Bruce Williamson was well-held at centre-half-forward and Neil Whatmore and Graham Sims were both quiet.

Michael Sherry kicked three goals



FAMILY TRAIT ... John Ditchburn flew the flag when he played a leading role in Kukerin's grand final victory

from a forward pocket, but key forward Craig Sherry was held to a solitary goal by Kukerin full-back John Adams.

Mead's Medal

WICKEPIN midfielder Brendan Mead has won the Leo Graham Medal for fairest and best in the Upper Great Southern League.

Mead, brilliant all season for Wickepin, won a close count by one vote.

He finished with 19 votes, ahead of Wagin ruck-rover Peter Copeland (18), West Arthur captain-coach Paul Moyses and Narrogin Eagles centreman Les Denholm (17 each).

TWO North Albany players achieved their 200th senior games this season, after starting out as juniors in the same year.

Russell Williams and Ray Mountford joined North Albany as juniors in 1974 and progressed through the ranks together, making their league debuts in the early 1980s.

Another Great Southern player to reach a milestone was Keith Punch, who celebrated his 100th game with South Mt Barker — playing against his old club, Tambellup.

Double to Wickepin

WICKEPIN celebrated with a double in the Upper Great Southern grand finals, beating Wagin in the reserves and the colts.

The colts kicked off with a 9.10 (64) to 4.2 (26) victory and the Wickepin reserves came from behind to snatch an unlikely six-point win, 11.10 (76) to 10.10 (70).

The reserves game was a case of Wagin snatching defeat from the jaws of victory after leading 6.3 to 1.3 at quarter-time.

But Wagin could only manage another four goals as Wickepin surged home.

Kicking around the country

WANDERERS defender Matthew Rigg has won the club's fairest and best award after a consistent season in the Great Southern League. He polled 73 votes to be four ahead of midfielder Paul Evans.

ONGERUP veteran Neville Harris has become the first player with the Kent Districts Football Club to reach the 300-game mark.

After starting his career with the Hawks in 1973 — the year the side won 22 consecutive matches including the grand final — Harris has gone on to be one of the outstanding players in the Ongerup Association.

A dual winner of the association's George Sargent Medal (1976-80) he has won the club's fairest and best award 12 times.

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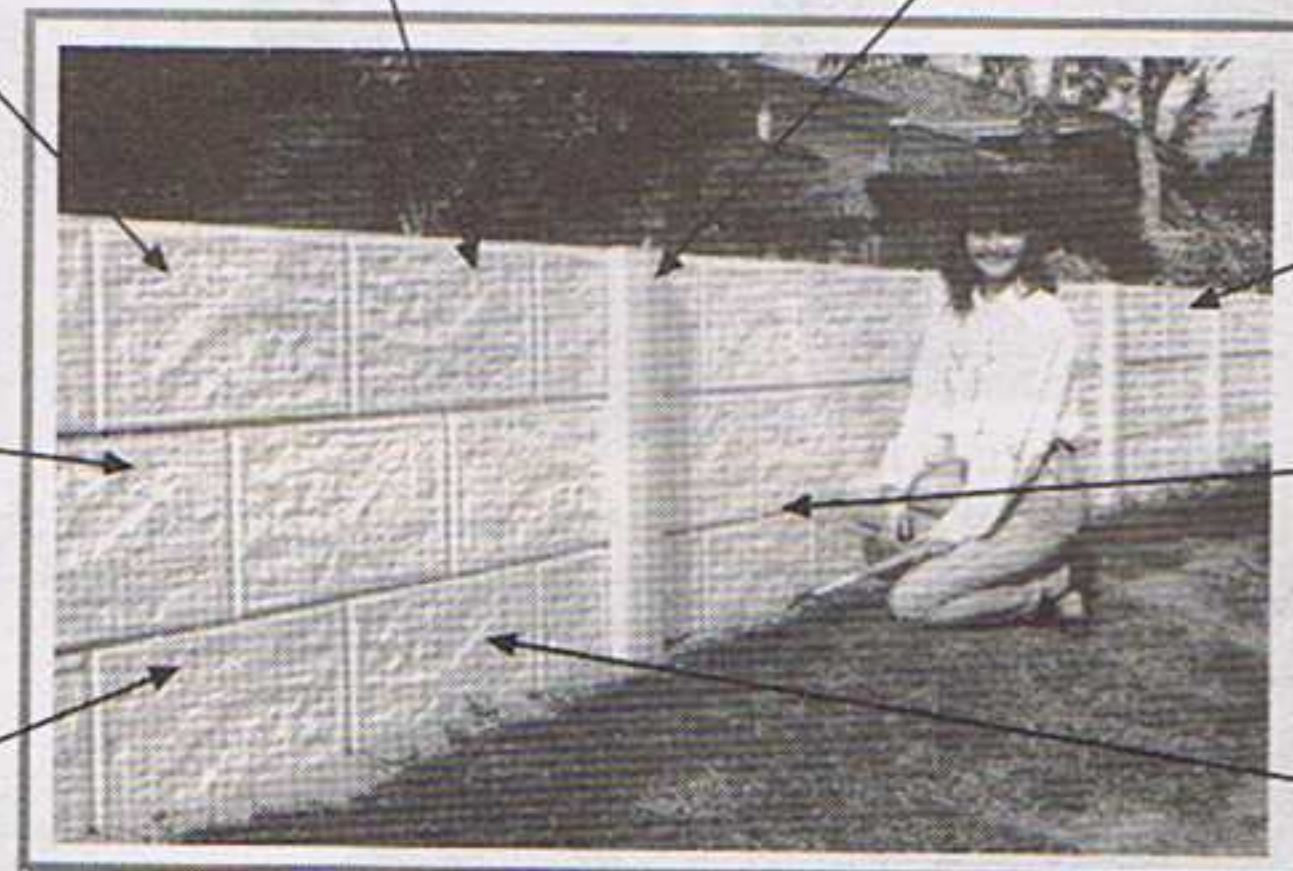
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Towns finally win the flag

PERENNIAL Great Northern League grand finalists Towns won their first premiership since 1976 — and the second in club history — when they held out Rovers to win by 28 points.

Towns led at every change, producing a special effort when Rovers kicked the first goal of the final term and threatened to snatch a come-from-behind win.

That goal, from centre-half-forward Robert Gulberti, put Rovers within five points before Towns pulled away to win by, 19.12 (126) to 15.8 (98).

Andrew Drennan, continuing his brilliant finals form, kicked two last-quarter goals, when rover Ricky Marianna bagged three majors.

SWEET REWARD

For Towns, who came from fourth spot, the win was sweet after a series of grand finals losses.

They opened with the wind, kicking 6.4 to Rovers 3.0, with wingman Marcus Harrold in outstanding touch and ruckman Roger Morris doing well.

Rovers, with little men Darren Ryan and Kevin Osborne leading the way, slammed on five goals to three to trail by 11 points at half-time.

The third term saw goal-for-goal as each side fought to establish a break, but Towns turned for home 11 points up.

By **BRUCE BUTLER**

When Gulberti, moved from a wing to half-forward, goaled in the opening minutes, Rovers were poised to launch a challenge.

But Drennan, a star since he has taken on a key forward role and Marianna both lifted to kick match-winning goals.

Drennan capped off a superb finals series with six goals.

Harrold dominated on a wing, Russell Gregory, playing his first game back from a hamstring strain, was strong across half-forward with two vital goals and ruck-rover Ossie Dikolli was in top form.

OVER-POWERED

For Rovers, who put up a superb effort, but were simply over-powered by a more desperate side, Darren Ryan (four goals), Osborne, Gulberti (four), ruckman Steve Matthews and defenders David Nazaroff and Neil Condon battled manfully.

Greg Ferguson chipped in with four goals and Michael Gill battled hard on his wing, but lowered his colours to Guardian Medal winner Harrold.

Sth Bunbury turn on finals power

SOUTH Bunbury repeated their second semi-final display when they completely outplayed arch-rivals Bunbury to claim the South West League grand final.

The Tigers stamped their authority on the game with a match-winning five-goal burst into the wind in the second quarter.

They opened up a 26-point break and went on to win by 28-points, 17.12 (114) to 12.14 (86).

Former East Perth and Subiaco utility player Alex Rattray, operating as a defensive centreman, turned in another polished performance to win the Pike Medal as best-afield.

SANDOVER STAR

Not far behind was 1990 Sandover Medallist Mick Grasso, who kicked six goals off a half-forward flank and was far too classy for Bunbury's defence.

Mark Cummins, the Tigers 19-year-old tagger who has earned a reputation as the league's most disciplined player, blanketed Bunbury's Hayward Medal winner, Grant Hawkes.

Cummins, who has only played two years of football and is now being hotly pursued by Swan Districts coach John Todd, kept his opponent out of the game and picked up numerous possessions himself.

South Bunbury slammed on 5.3 to 2.4 in the opening term, with Grasso and Rattray on top and young ruckman Todd Wallrodt doing well on Bulldogs big man, Ted Picks.

QUICK GOALS

Bunbury slammed on three goals in nine minutes with the wind in the second term, before Souths steadied and posted the next five goals.

At the final change, Souths led by 23 points, with Bunbury coming home with the wind, but the Tigers had too much class and determination.

Ben Bott, used as a rover off the bench, did a great job for South Bun-

bury; Troy Hynam was busy and centre-half-forward Jamie O'Donohue (three goals) and forward pocket Jason Ninnette (three) did well.

For Bunbury, ruck-rovers Brett Lee and Scott Hough were best, while former South Fremantle player Steven Grant kicked three of the Bulldogs first five goals from full-forward.

Another former WAFL player in Darren Williams bagged three goals from centre-half-forward and Brad Warwick chipped in with two.

Bunbury's key forward, Russell Waterman, was restricted to just 1.4 from a forward pocket before having a run in the middle.

Double victory

SOUTH Bunbury added to Bunbury's misery when they routed them in the reserves grand final, 24.12 (156) to 8.10 (58).

The Tigers were inspired by Michael Buswell, winner of the Barry House trophy, who turned on a polished best-afield performance.

In the colts, Bunbury had their only success of the day when they beat Carey Park, 20.16 (136) to 5.7 (37), with Bunbury's Wade Bennett taking out the Bernie Cunningham Medal.

Record-breaker

COLLIE veteran Greg O'Brien has passed the club games-played record of 276 after 17 years with the club.

The tough little 33-year-old rover notched his 277th game for the Saints, passing the previous record held by fellow-rover John Shepherd.

O'Brien debuted with the Saints as a 15-year-old in 1976 and was a member of their 1987 premiership side. He is a cousin of West Perth's Darren O'Brien.

Munglinup win thriller

MUNGLINUP finished off a superb year when they snatched a thrilling six-point win over Lakes in the Ravensthorpe League grand final.

After thrashing Lakes in the qualifying final, the sides turned on a classic grand final, with Munglinup taking the

premiership, 15.14 (104) to 14.14 (98).

Scott Ingliss, Gavin Gibson and Ross Gibson (following his five goal haul in the earlier final) were instrumental in Munglinup's win.

For Lakes, whose gallant effort was a vast improvement on the previous clash which Munglinup won by 51 points, Laurie Bagnall, Brad Watson and Brad Sinclair were outstanding.

MEDAL WINNER

Lakes star Paul Taylor took some personal glory from the season when he was named fairest and best in the Ravensthorpe League.

He had an outstanding season and added the trophy to his club fairest and best honour.

Brad Harding, of Munglinup, was runner-up and Ashley Hooper won the fairest and best in the under-18s.

FIVE Geraldton players reached milestones on the eve of the Great Northern finals.

Towns trio Peter Stone (150 games) and Marcus Harrold and Paul Drennan, both 100 games, added a premiership to their achievements.

Veteran Geraldton defender Neville Ridge has notched up his 200th league game with Railways, at the age of 29 and his tally included 118 games in a row.

Andrew Criddle celebrated his 100th game with Rovers.



DOUBLE HONOUR... Lakes star Paul Taylor claimed a couple of top trophies

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Swan Districts

Bingo at the Big Bingo Centre, Ashfield, every Tuesday, 8pm.

WEST PERTH

Breckler Medal presentation, Friday, October 15, \$25, 5.30pm at the club. Call Tracy or Georgina on 444 9511. Annual General Meeting early December

East Fremantle

Lynn Medal Dinner, Saturday, October 16, \$25, doors open 7pm, at the club. Annual General Meeting, Tuesday, December 7, 8pm, at the club.

South Fremantle

Banquet Auction, Saturday, October 9, 6pm, West End Convention Centre, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle.

Medal Presentation, Friday, October 22, 7pm, at the club. \$7 includes meal.

Annual General Meeting, Monday, December 13.

CLAREMONT

Fairest and best presentations, Friday, October 15, Members Lounge, buffet meals for \$10.

SUBIACO

Trophy presentation night, Saturday, October 16, 6.30pm, at the club, tickets \$20 includes dinner. Phone club on 381 1266.

EAST PERTH

Annual General Meeting, Monday, December 6, 8pm, at the club.

MASTERS  PRESENTS

What's happening in sport

CYCLING

October 4 — Junior world road championships at Roleystone.

Equestrian

October 10 — World Cup show-jumping, State Equestrian Centre, Bridgton, 3pm.

Police Games

October 16-24 — Australian and New Zealand multi-sport games, Perth.

Surfriders

October 1-3 — Masters event, Geraldton.

October 9-10 — Quicksilver WA Open, Margaret River.

October 3 — State titles, Geraldton.

Golf

October 1-4 — West Coast Open, Busselton.

Power Boats

October 2-4 — Blackwood Classic, Bridgetown.

Marathon

October 30 — Blackwood marathon relay, Bridgetown.

Boxing

October 2 — State championships, Richard Rushton Centre, Gosnells.

Tennis

October 2-3 — State Hardcourt championships.

Athletics

October 10 — Port to Court relay.

WESTSIDE Football

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JACK DANIEL'S

MAN OF THE WEEK

COURAGE is a hallmark of every fine footballer and Eagles youngster Tony Godden has plenty.

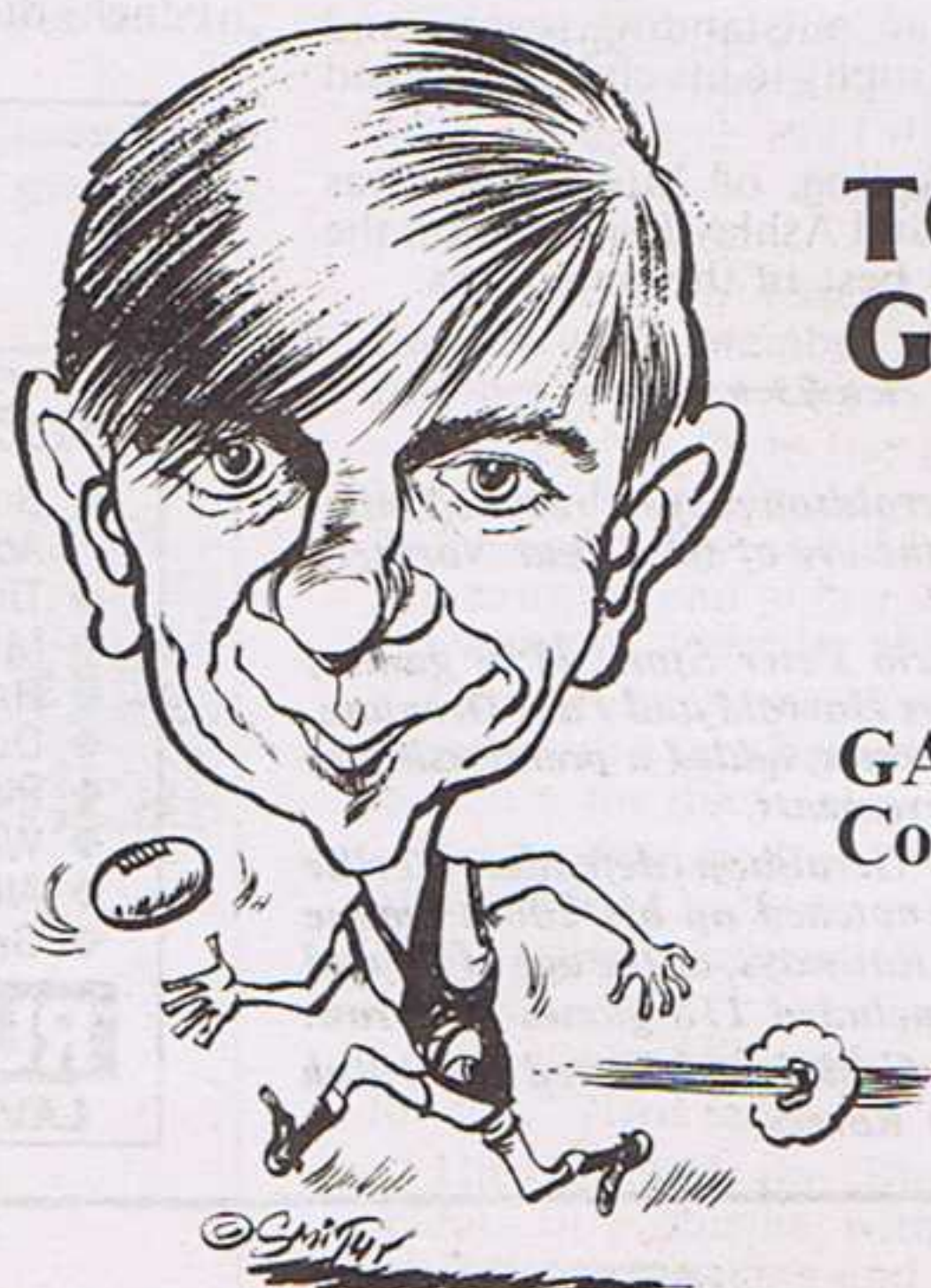
The lithe midfielder is only 21, but has been plagued by hamstring problems, which have restricted his appearances with Subiaco.

After stringing together seven games with the Lions midway through the season on his return from another hamstring tear, Godden was selected to make his AFL debut against power side Hawthorn.

He turned in a memorable game in atrocious conditions at Subiaco Oval and the Eagles match committee stayed with him for the elimination final against North Melbourne.

Godden repaid their faith when Mick Malthouse gave him an opportunity in the final term — something he grasped with both hands on the way to amassing 12 possessions and one goal in just 30 minutes.

An injury-free pre-season should see Godden become a regular member of the Eagles line-up.



TONY GODDEN

AGE: 21yrs

HEIGHT: 183cm

WEIGHT: 75kg

GAMES PLAYED: 5 West Coast, 32 Subiaco

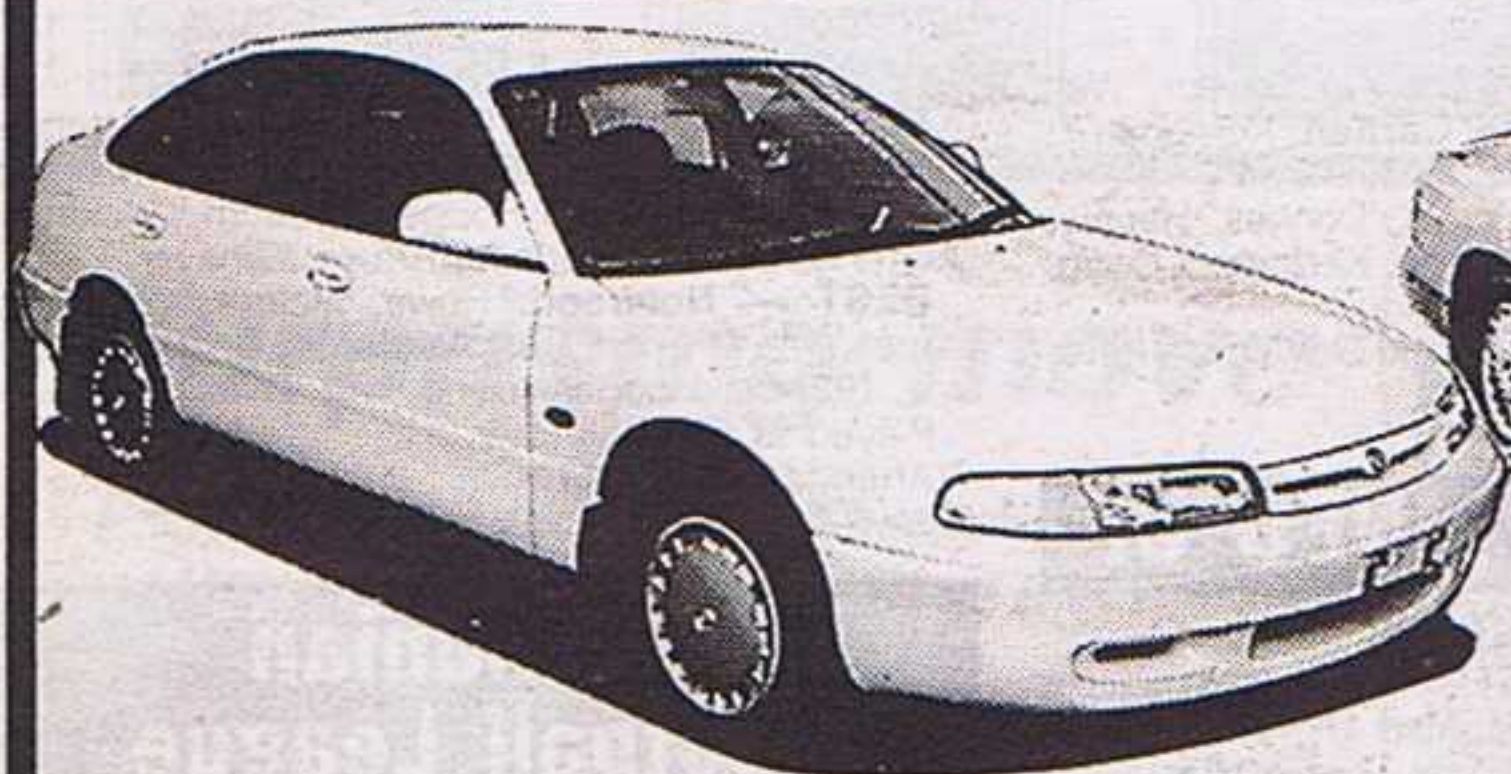


JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

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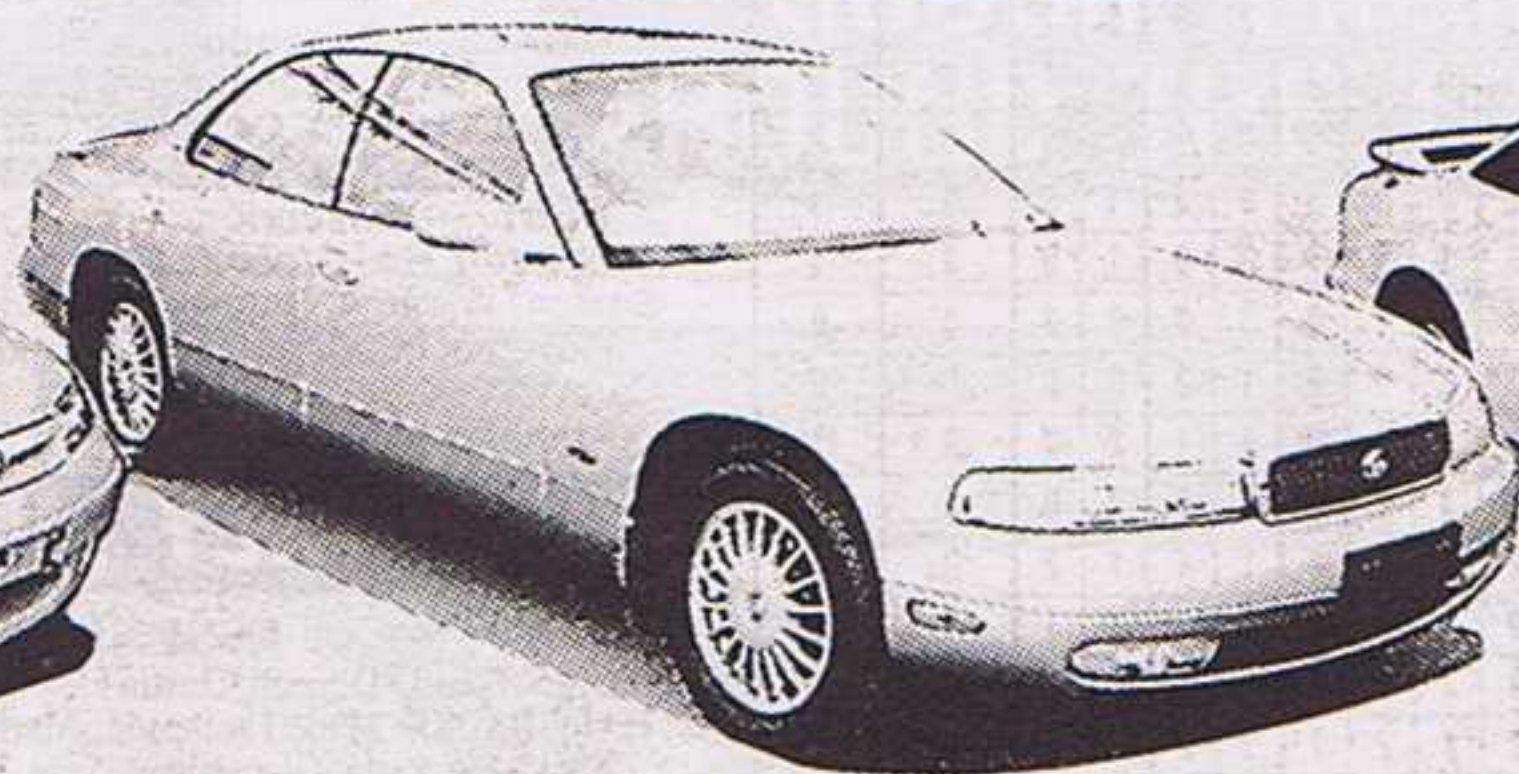
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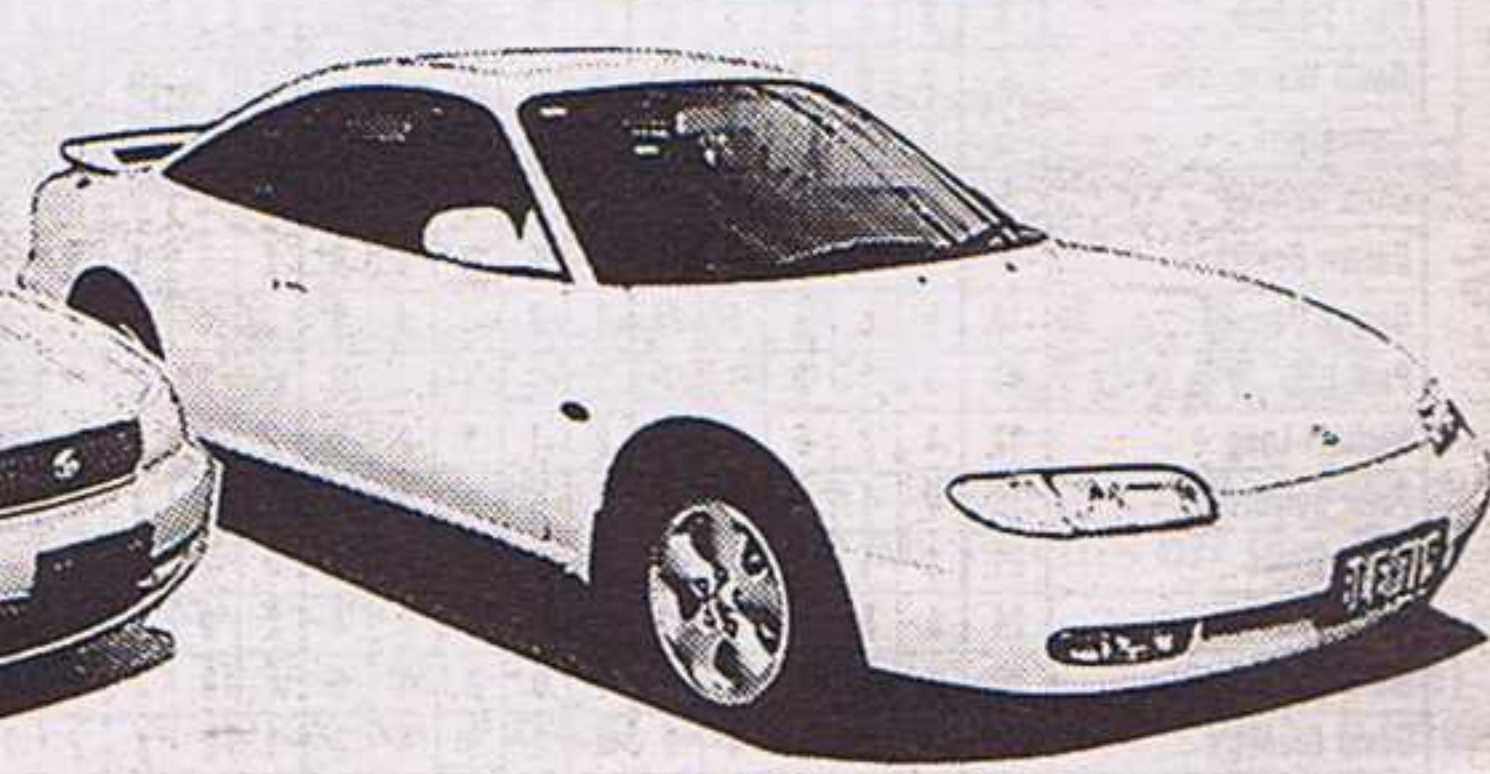
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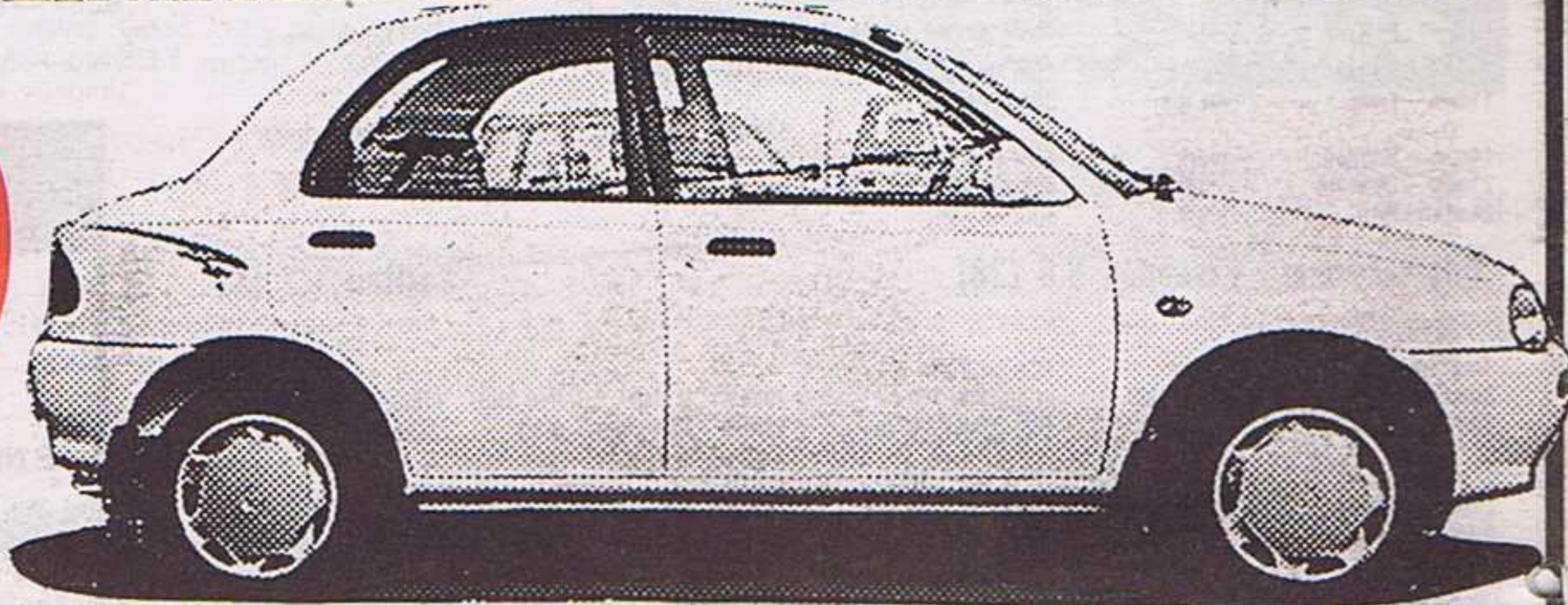
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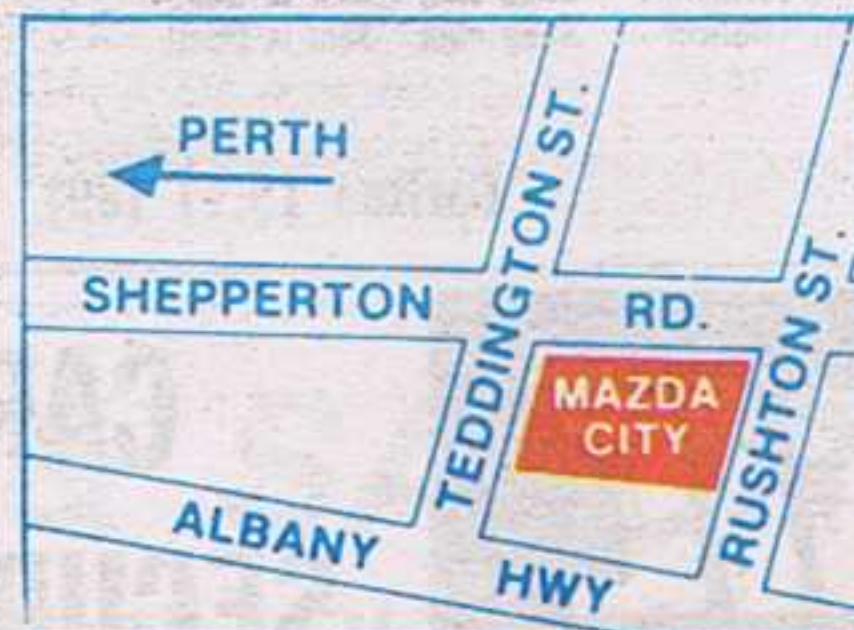
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