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POPULAR PICK . . . West Coast wizard Dean Kemp is one of the team's most popular players, even when he ventures into another sporting arena. A promotions man with Pepsi, Kemp was at the final of last week's \$760,000 Pepsi Hopman Cup international tennis tournament at the Burswood Dome, where autograph signing among the team of ball boys and girls was all part of the game

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TALK TO THE WINNING TEAM — Dave Green (left) Dealer Principal and new car sales manager or Alf Bennett, General Sales Manager

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Education is a priority

THE opportunity to undertake a four-year business degree course at a Melbourne University was a deciding factor in young South Fremantle rookie Steven Jurica accepting Richmond's offer to move to Victoria this year.

The 17-year-old junior who is yet to play a league game with the Bulldogs, has signed a four-year contract with Richmond, aimed to tie in with his education.

Tigers recruiting officer Brian Waldron admitted that it was a long contract for an untried play-

er, but the club was keen to make sure that Jurica's education wouldn't be interrupted.

"We believe he has the potential to quickly develop into a league player," said Waldron when talking to 6PR's Gary Carvolth recently.

"But we also wanted to assure both Steven and his family that his future would be secure if he moved to Melbourne now."

Jurica will take up residence in Melbourne this month, staying with legendary Tigers defender Francis Bourke.

Richmond hope Jurica will be joined by another outstanding young WA player, West Perth's Mark Merenda, before the season gets under way.

The 18-year-old Osborne Park graduate played 13 league games in his debut season and has recently spent time looking over the Richmond camp.

"We hope to have him back early in the New Year for another training spell and we're confident he will stay," said Waldron. "We've arranged a good job for him as well."



Club Rumours

PRESENTS

Summertime Footy



GOSSIP

Derby not alone

THE WAFL has again scheduled the crowd-pulling Foundation Day Derby alongside another fixture despite repeated calls for it to stand alone.

South Fremantle play host to East Fremantle on Monday, June 6, while Subiaco clash with Perth at Subiaco Oval.

Traditionally the highest attended home-and-away fixture of the season, WAFL football manager Trevor Howard says it would be unfair to other clubs to let the derby go ahead uncontested.

"We must give all clubs an equal chance of the advantages associated with playing on a public holiday," said Howard.

"Two years ago 10,000 people went to Bassendean Oval the same day there was a huge crowd at Fremantle."

Beers to coach

CLAREMONT premiership player Tony Beers has accepted the coaching challenge with North Fremantle in this year's Emu Export A-grade competition.

The Magpies have earned promotion to A-grade after coming from fifth place to win the B-grade premiership with a grand final victory over top side, CBC.

Beers, who joined the Tigers in 1984 after seven games with Collingwood, was at centre-half-back in Claremont's 1987 and '89 premierships and retired with 106 senior games to his credit.

North Fremantle have had a yo-yo history in recent years, earning promotion to A-grade, only to finish last and slip back to B-grade.

However, there is renewed optimism in the camp this year as they help celebrate 100 years of WAFL activity in Fremantle, strengthening their ties with the Bulldogs, where Mark Watson graduated to league coach after a brief stint as coach of the Magpies.

New role for Hooper

FORMER East Perth ruckman Stephen Hooper will remain in Victoria despite being cut from Geelong's list last October.

The newly married 24-year-old begins an early start to his coaching career after accepting the playing coach role for Warrnambool, in country Victoria.

The No. 1 choice in the 1990 AFL draft, Hooper played 21 games in three injured-plagued seasons with the Cats.

Finger control



NO, Eagles ace Peter Wilson isn't on his knees seeking divine help to survive another year of AFL action!

He's simply trying out the fast-growing beach volleyball scene as he takes part in a celebrity challenge at Cottesloe Beach.

That's Channel 9's Natalie Fuhrmann keeping a watchful eye on Willo as he lunges for the ball from his rather difficult position. But then, Willo is renowned for doing things the hard way!

The Respect Yourself beach volleyball circuit takes in matches up and down the metropolitan coastline and the big event of the season is the State championships on January 22-23.

Hasler retires

PAUL Hasler is one Falcon who won't be making the move to Joondalup, having announced his retirement after 118 games.

Hasler (28), who debuted in 1987 and captained West Perth under coach George Michalczyk in 1990, will devote his weekends to work commitments.

Falcons test run

WEST Perth are hoping to test the surface of their new home ground at Joondalup with a training run this month.

While the Falcons aren't due to play on the ground until their Anzac Day (April 25) clash with East Perth, their first pre-season training run at the venue is scheduled for the end of this month.

No changerooms will be in place until March and the Falcons won't move from Leederville Oval until then.

"There's no delay at all with the construction, the WAFL has just given us a buffer in case there is one," said West Perth general manager Steve Woodhouse.

"In January, building will still be going on, but the guys can meet there to train and familiarise themselves with the surface."

Plans for a gala day on the Anzac Day Monday holiday are already underway with the hope of attracting a big crowd to celebrate the opening.

Aggression needed

FORMER champion Australian tennis player Paul McNamee has some pretty definite views on the emergence of WA's second AFL team.

The Wimbledon doubles champion of a bygone era — and a nephew of one of Australian football's all-time legends, Essendon's triple Brownlow Medallist Dick Reynolds — believes the team must adopt an aggressive name.

"It obviously has to be called Fremantle something," says McNamee, the man who brought the Pepsi Hopman Cup international tennis tournament to Perth. "But the something has to be carefully chosen; it needs to be aggressive right from the start."

A recent phone-call session on radio 6PR brought up dozens of names ranging from Fremantle United, Seagulls, Dolphins, Rams, Lambs and Pies to Port Pirates, Raiders and Renegades.

Prominent Fremantle-ite Robert Maumill — of radio, TV and talk-back fame — is a one-eyed Souths man and he's having nothing of the suggestion that they be called the Fremantle Sharks.

"Pinch East Fremantle's name and you'll immediately get 10,000 South Fremantle supporters off-side," said Maumill, who is tipped to return to the electronic media with a Friday night television show on Seven this footy season.

Demon to sign

PERTH defender Jeff Moore has decided to give his signature to the Demons after months of negotiations.

Moore, who went close to winning the Simpson Medal against South Australia in May, was keen to move to another club when he couldn't come to a contractual agreement with Perth. But the Demons set an exorbitant clearance fee.

And while Demons Willie Dick, Troy Davis, John Zaikos and Toby Jackson have retired, Perth football manager Russell Clark insists Mick Hastie has not left the club.

Clark says Hastie has not been seen at training because he has taken some time off to devote to his personal life.



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Footy never stops in Westside

FOOTBALL has turned the corner and the official bouncdown is now only weeks away, with the first practice matches scheduled for late this month.

The West Coast Eagles under-23 players will clash with a Brisbane Bears side at Subiaco Oval at 4pm on Saturday, January 29 to herald a tough pre-season campaign. Practice hit-outs follow against Essendon (February 5) and Adelaide (February 12) before meeting the Crows again in the opening Foster's Cup match on February 23.

Westside Football will be boundary-side in the lead-up to the 1994 season, with three more summer editions before we officially switch over to the weekly publications from March 10. Our pre-season build-up will again include calendar-style AFL and WAFL fixtures, plus our extensive who's who guide to all the players. So pencil in the dates highlighted on this calendar and make sure you get your copy in your local newsagency.

Or better still, why not subscribe to Westside and have it posted to your home or office. A 12 months subscription (January to December) is just \$62, while the winter weekly publications (March to October) are available at \$50 for 31 editions.

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S	30	2	9	16 23	S	—	6	13	20 27	S	—	6	13	20 27
M	31	3	10	17 24	M	—	7	14	21 28	M	—	7	14	21 28
Tu	—	4	11	18 25	Tu	1	8	15	22 —	Tu	1	8	15	22 29
W	—	5	12	19 26	W	2	9	16	23 —	W	2	9	16	23 30
Th	—	6	13	20 27	Th	3	10	17	24 —	Th	3	10	17	24 31
F	—	7	14	21 28	F	4	11	18	25 —	F	4	11	18	25 —
S	1	8	15	22 29	S	5	12	19	26 —	S	5	12	19	26 —

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Eagles want to use extra players

THE West Coast Eagles are negotiating with the WAFC and WAFL clubs to have players on their supplementary list available for the one-off January 29 practice match.

A unique under-23s clash with the Brisbane Bears at Subiaco Oval will give all young players a chance to impress and the Eagles believe it is only fair that their eight supplementary players be included.

Swan Districts ruckman Travis Edmonds, Subiaco trio David Snow, Nathan O'Connor and Scott Gooch, South Fremantle's Tom Bottrell and Greg Wootton and East Perth's Aaron Gale and Steve Pendleton were all placed on a supplementary list in November.

"It's not a problem with the AFL, we just need permission from the WAFC to play players not registered," said Eagles football manager Trevor Nisbett.

"We believe the players would be very keen to play, but it is up to their WAFL clubs."

REQUIREMENT

With only 22 of the 42-man Eagles squad fitting the age requirement and 16-year-old Ben Robbins remaining in Victoria, there is little margin for injury or illness.

Eligible players Jason Heatley (21) and Mitchell White (20) are already under an injury cloud, though it is hoped both will be fit to play.

The pair were included in a 21-man squad announced on Monday. Forward Brett Heady was also included despite turning 24 on January 4.

Expected to resume full training next week after a hernia operation, Heatley is a prime contender for full-forward in his first appearance with the Eagles.

White, already a seasoned campaigner with 44 AFL games and a premiership behind him, is taking things slowly in the hope of shrugging off a nagging groin injury.

As the eight supplementary players train with their WAFL clubs, determining their fitness and subsequent availability would be next on the agenda for the Eagles selectors if they are given the all-clear to play.

It is then hoped they could join the under-23 squad for training in the lead-up to the match.

Pulling on an Eagles guernsey would be a welcome relief for one of the eight, Travis Edmonds.

Drafted by Hawthorn in 1991 and then cut in 1992, he was picked up by the Eagles in the 1993 March draft, only to fall victim to the numbers' game last October.

Edmonds is still eligible for the 1994 March draft, or he could be one of two



CONTENDERS . . . four young Eagles who will use the Bears practice match to boost their West Coast claims are (from left) Travis Burton, Brett Spinks, Lee Walker and Jason Ball

By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**

choices from the eight who can replace players on existing lists at the end of the season.

Supplementary lists for each AFL club were introduced last year after squad numbers were trimmed from 52 to 42.

Originally designed to help Melbourne-based clubs field sides in the AFL and the VSFL, the Eagles were

granted the same concessions.

All are under 23 years of age as that was one of the selection criteria.

Eagles members named in the squad for the Brisbane game are:

Jason Ball, Drew Banfield, Shane Bond, Travis Burton, Matt Connell, Fraser Gehrig, Tony Godden, Damian Hampson, Brett Heady, Jason Heatley, Glen Jakovich, Brendan Krummel, Brayden Lyle, Ashley McIntosh, Daniel Metropolis, Jarrad Schofield, Brett Spinks, Paul Symmons, Ryan Turnbull, Lee Walker, Mitchell White.

Young Sharks on the move

EAST Fremantle look set to lose young players Kane Morphett and John Lawrence.

Sharks coach Ken Judge has confirmed that 21-year-old Morphett is on the lookout for another club.

"As far as we know only West Perth has spoken to him and we understand that he approached them."

Falcons football manager Jeff Dennis confirmed that West Perth were interested in Morphett and said it was now up to East Fremantle to set a clearance fee.

Morphett, a former All Australian Teal Cup player, has played 44 games, but has not progressed as rapidly as expected, playing 11 senior games last year.

Drafted by the West Coast Eagles in 1991 ahead of Steven Davies, Matt Connell, Peter Freeman and Brendan Krummel, he was de-listed in 1992.

Judge is still waiting on a decision from 72-gamer Lawrence, a member of their 1992 premiership side who played only eight games last year.

"We're hearing all sorts of stories around town that he's been sacked from the club, which isn't true," said Judge.

"He really doesn't know what he wants to do, with work commitments and so forth. My last conversation with him was four weeks ago and I would like to think that he'd get back to me."

One of the first references to Lawrence's absence at training came from 'the Masked Shark' in the club's annual report.

It read: "Where is John 'The Quid' Lawrence? — call the club if you know."

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EMBARKING on the biggest move of his life, Scott Cummings admitted to feeling "a little apprehensive" before he boarded a Monday morning flight to Melbourne.

Besides leaving the comfort of home for the first time, Cummings is faced with the tough assignment of breaking into the line-up of reigning premiers, Essendon.

Going by age — he turns 20 on January 18 — Cummings should feel right at home in the Windy Hill camp which boasts many talented youngsters, but he acknowledges many have a head start on him.

"There's blokes there my age who have been playing for a year or two," he said.

"They have got that much experience on me it's not funny."

Gavin Wanganeen is a prime example. When the Brownlow Medallist turned 20 last June, he was on the verge of the 50-game milestone.

MEDIA PRESSURE

"I've heard that there's been a couple of articles about me in papers over there, so that puts a bit more pressure on, but you've got to expect that," says Cummings.

The Mazenod College product leaves Swan Districts well-groomed after 28 WAFL games and is sure to be added to the now-cliched group of "Baby Bombers".

While some new team-mates have got the jump on him in terms of AFL experience and the feel of a premiership medallion, Cummings has no regrets about opting for another season in the WAFL in 1993.

Drafted as the Bombers third choice in 1992 after just six senior games, Cummings went on to cement his place in the Swans league side and top the club's goalscoring with 85 goals.

"It definitely helped my mental toughness — playing a finals match especially," said Cummings.

"I also got more consistency into my game."

Cummings is reluctant to set himself any goals until he settles into his new

Cummings flies into Bomber territory

By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**

environment and admits that playing well in practice matches is paramount, hopefully leading to Foster's Cup action.

If all goes according to plan, he will be back in Perth for a practice clash with the West Coast Eagles at Subiaco Oval on February 5.

"Obviously I'm hoping to play well in the early matches, but I'll reassess things as they go along," he said.

Averaging 3.3 goals a game in his senior career, there is a place for the athletic 195cm forward at Essendon.

They might have won the flag, but the Bombers relied on makeshift full-forward Paul Salmon to do the bulk of their scoring and he is more value when leading the ruck.

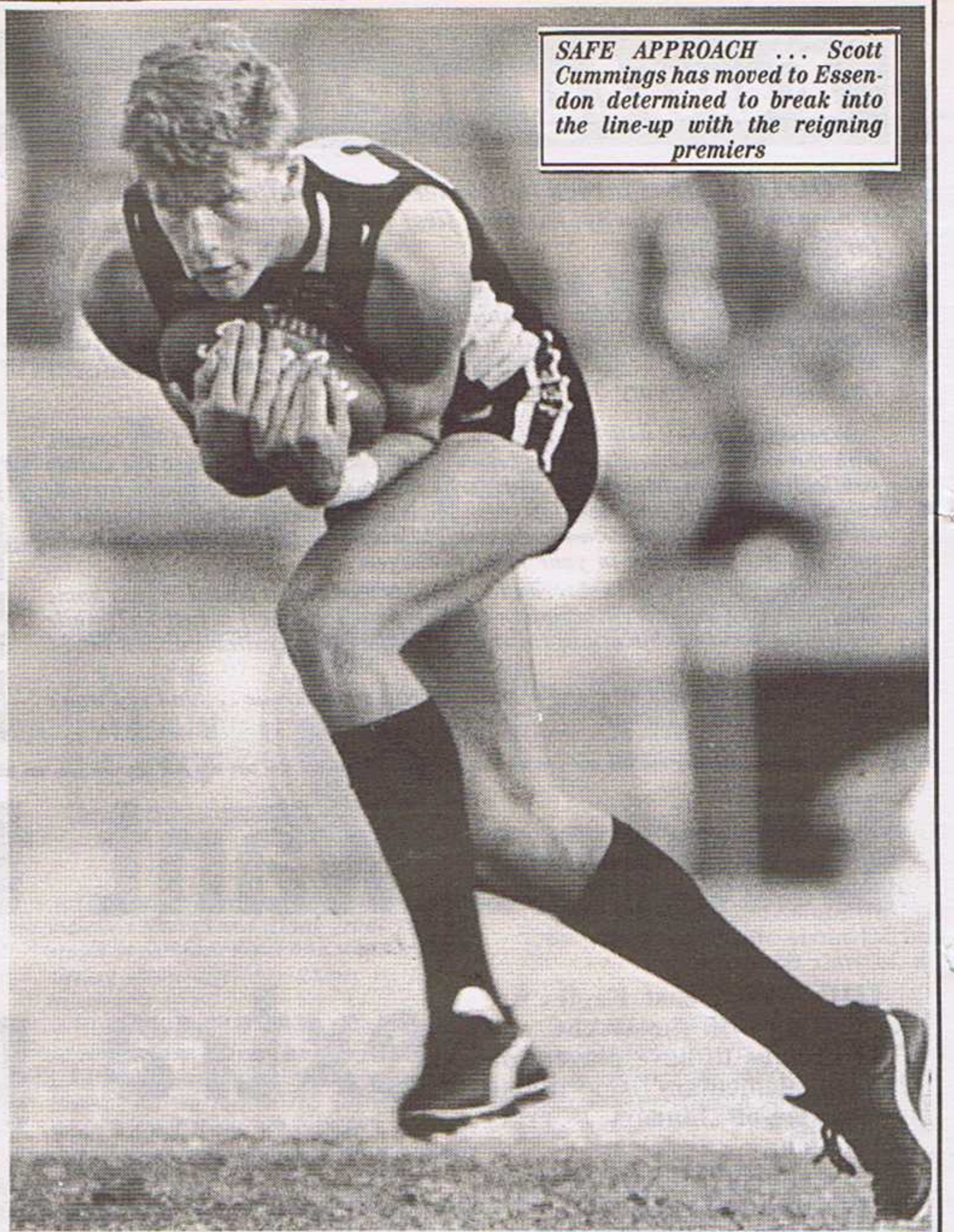
Salmon top-scored with 65 goals with Darren Bewick following up with 52.

TALENT SCOUTS

Bombers talent scouts were widely praised after Essendon's September triumph and those recruiters have been watching Cummings from an early age.

A dual Teal Cup representative, he was also a prolific under-19s goal-kicker when Swans won the flag in 1991.

Cummings began training with the Bombers on his arrival in Melbourne after completing the first part of his pre-season with his Swans team-mates.



SAFE APPROACH ... Scott Cummings has moved to Essendon determined to break into the line-up with the reigning premiers

"I trained with Essendon for a week this time last year, so hopefully I'm prepared for what's to come," he says.

Cummings is expecting to share a house with Chris Daniher and is hoping to gain a job in sales after attending interviews arranged by his new club.

Players honoured for 150 milestones

PERSISTENCE paid off for George Giannakis when he received his life membership at East Perth after passing the 150-game mark.

One of the Royals' favourite sons, Giannakis has had to endure more than most footballers in his distinguished career.

On the verge of a draft call-up on so many occasions and having to overcome more than his share of injuries, Giannakis now joins the illustrious list of Royals life members.

He is one of three WAFL players to be granted life membership after passing the 150-game milestone last season.

Giannakis finished the season on 153 games and was joined by Subiaco fairest-and-best winner Rod Willet (157) and South Fremantle's Cliff Collard (153).

Giannakis (27) joined the Royals from Manjimup in 1984, the same year he played Teal Cup, colts and reserves football.

He made his league debut the following season and won club championship awards in 1987 and '89.

Willet (28) claimed his first fairest-and-best award this season after joining the Lions from Morningside, Queensland in 1984.

He captained the Lions in 1992 and is a regular member of Queensland State-of-Origin sides.

Currently holidaying with wife Karen and their two children in the US, Willet will be back in action with the Lions this season.

When 26-year-old Collard reached the 150-game mark, he made Bulldogs history with brother Brad (170 games) as the only brothers to gain life membership through games played achievements.

Collard joined South Fremantle in 1986 from Quairading and has been an under-rated contributor in his eight seasons.

Bulldogs tap into Diamonds

SOUTH Fremantle have taken a leaf out of Subiaco's book by recruiting a forward from Victoria's Diamond Valley League.

Aidan Boyd (21) has started training with the Bulldogs and coach Mark Watson is hopeful the new recruit will have a big influence in front of goal.

"We missed a key forward last year, even though we had Brad Hardie kicking goals from a pocket," said Watson.

"We still needed a bit of a target to kick to and we believe we can help Aidan's development over here."

At 188cms, Boyd has represented Collingwood and the Victoria Metropolitan under-19s and should offset the loss of Hardie, who will concentrate on his off-field media career.

Heatley (21) took the Pepsi Cup League by storm last season when he joined Subiaco three games into the season and finished with 111 goals, including 21 in three finals matches.

Boyd's older brother, Brad, has played 14 matches with Fitzroy in two seasons.

All the facts and figures

THE West Coast coaching staff has the latest statistics at their fingertips thanks to a new computer system.

Widely used by other AFL clubs, the Eagles have introduced the system over the past four months and hope to have it completed by mid-season.

"We're probably the last club to introduce the updated analysis and statistical computer," said Eagles football manager Trevor Nisbett. "It's an expensive process; that's why we've been doing it in bits and pieces."

Statistics on each player, both Eagles and opposition, will be available at the touch of a button, along with video footage of their games.

Essendon's programme was widely praised after their grand final win and is obviously more convenient than former manual systems.

"Our aim is to have a complete dossier on every player in the AFL," said Nisbett. "Up until now, we've worked with a manual system."

Assistant coach Robert Wiley is currently learning how to operate the computer, which will be used for analysis on Eagles and opposition players as well as Eagles in the WAFL.

Holiday over for Eagles

THE holiday is over for the West Coast Eagles.

With their annual pre-season camp at Margaret River starting this Friday,

it's the first of 38 weekends booked between now and grand final day, on October 1.

The Eagles returned to training last week after a Christmas hiatus with only defender Mitchell White and new draftee Jason Heatley missing; both easing back to fitness in the swimming pool after groin problems.

While Heatley is recovering from a November hernia operation, White's tender groin troubled him for most of last season, but he didn't require surgery.

Star wingman Chris Mainwaring, nursing his troublesome right knee, has also resumed full training.

Margaret River is again the venue for the Eagles camp, which will be attended by all 41 WA based players and coaching and support staff.

While the players were put through their paces on a gruelling ropes and abseiling course last year, orienteering and hiking fill the agenda this time.

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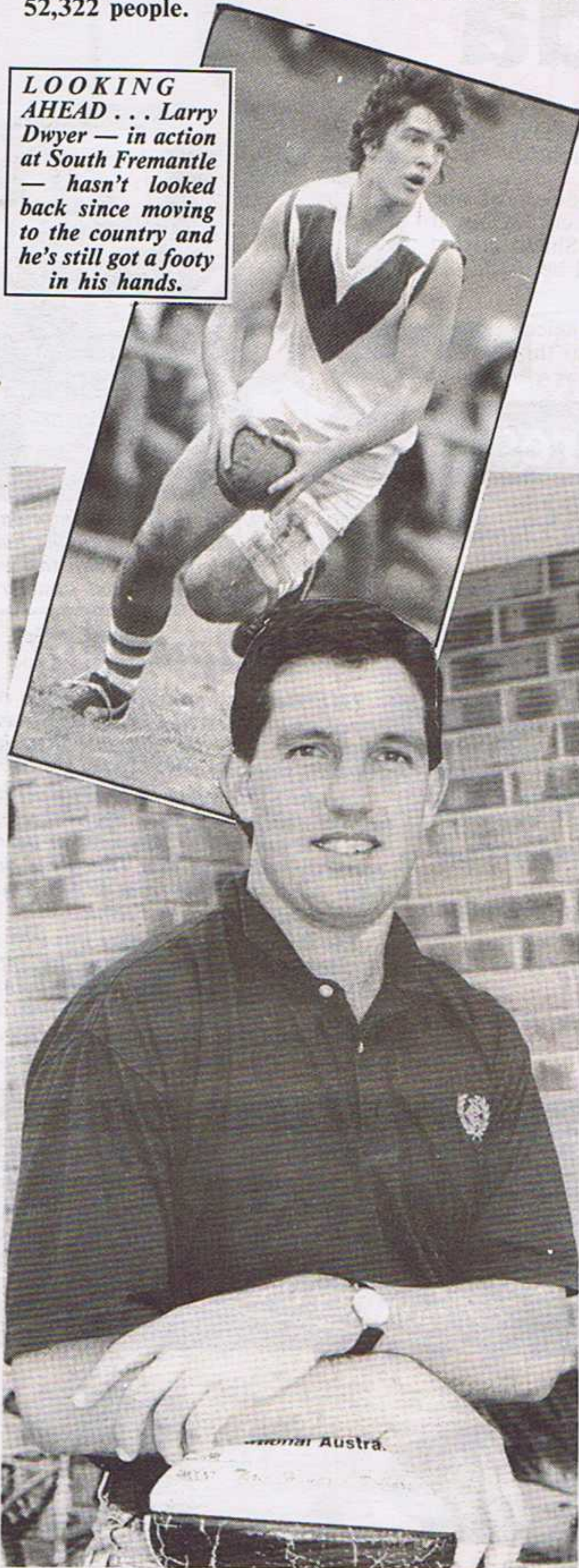
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Battling Bulldog makes good in the country

THE name Larry Dwyer doesn't exactly send the football fraternity into raptures over his success in the big league.

By his own admission, he was something of an under-achiever in a brief stint with South Fremantle, highlighted by a 1975 grand final thrashing at the hands of West Perth, in front of a record crowd of 52,322 people.

LOOKING AHEAD . . . Larry Dwyer — in action at South Fremantle — hasn't looked back since moving to the country and he's still got a footy in his hands.



But his impact on football since then — especially in the Albany region — has been significant . . . and he's still enjoying getting a kick even if he has moved into the veterans league.

After graduating from the Cockburn juniors and Fremantle CBC, Dwyer had a 1974 Bulldogs debut, but tallied just 45 games by the end of 1979 when he decided it was time to think about a business career and he accepted a job at Mt Barker.

"I wanted to get married, so I thought the country would be a good idea for a couple of years," says Dwyer, who hasn't got around to moving back to Perth as yet. He kept his Fremantle football contacts alive by marrying into a good Port family with wife Debbie being a sister of Bulldog team-mate Warren Mosconi.

"I accepted an insurance salesman's job in Mt Barker — and had to get a road map out to see where it was. The only thing I knew about Mt Barker was that Jim and Phil Krakouer came from there."

Dwyer missed South Fremantle's 1980 premiership, but has tasted grand final glory a number of times since moving to the Great Southern, where he has carved out a fine reputation as a player, coach, organiser and general football contributor.

He played more than 200 games in the local league, starting with South Mt Barker and taking over as captain-coach in his second year. When his work moved him to Albany, he joined Royals for three years, coaching in 1987 and '88.

"They were good years," recalls Dwyer. "We only lost one game and claimed two premierships, going through undefeated in '87 and losing to North Albany by four points in a qualifying game the next season."

"I had a year off then after hurting my back in a car accident, but I returned in 1990 and played under Rod Gillies to win another premiership."

Dwyer was tempted to have another stint at club coaching, taking on North Albany in 1991, but he's now content to play Superules and was a member of WA's team that went to Tasmania last year for the national championships.

"Superules is fantastic in the country," he says. "I had a few games in 1992, but played regularly in '93. You meet a lot of people and that's great, especially if you are in business."

"They take it pretty casually down here, but I got a shock in Hobart, where they were pretty keen; straight in for the ball, with a few rules going out the window."

Dwyer still looks back on his years at Fremantle Oval with a great deal of pleasure, recalling his debut under Colin Beard at the age of 17.

"I played till I was 22, but I guess I could have done a lot more," he admits.

"I hurt my shoulder early on and then in 1977, under Percy Johnson, I did a real hard pre-season only to break my ankle playing basketball the week before the first league game. I probably missed another 50 games or so over those years with injuries."

"League clubs needed disciplined footballers and at that stage I don't think I fitted into that mould. Mal Brown told me to move on, but I don't hold any grudges about that, he was right."

From that initial sales job with Wesfarmers Insurance, Dwyer took on his own franchise in Albany in 1985 and has seen the business grow to where he has some 2500 customers and employs an off-sider.

A measure of his growing reputation, both in football and the business world, came in 1989 when the old Southern Districts League was going through a rough time at various country carnivals.

He was appointed coach of the 1989 carnival side and after a disappointing experience a year earlier, when dwindling player-numbers made the task a frustrating one, he set out to revive Albany's reputation.

"We had trouble getting players to make themselves available for the carnival," says Dwyer. "But a couple of us got some fund-raising ideas going so we could make it attractive for the players to be part of the side."

"We went to a lot of employers and got their co-operation, both with letting players have time off work and helping with the funds."

"We won our first Wesfarmers carnival title, taking out the B-grade flag, helped by Stephen Hooper, who then went to East Perth and was the AFL's No. 1 draft choice in 1990, by Geelong."

HUNGRY JACK'S

P R E S E N T S



Talking footy

with ALAN EAST

During his years as a club coach in Albany, Dwyer had mixed relations with Claremont, who have dragged plenty of good footballers from the Great Southern zone.

"I was a great critic of Claremont at times because I felt they snubbed us and didn't look after their backyard too well," he says.

"But I got with Phil Smart and Gerard Neesham over breakfast one day and they talked me into doing something about it. We agreed to get a development squad off the ground, so I was given the task of organising a group of 14 and 15-year-olds from the zone around Denmark, Walpole, Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe and Albany."

"It was a big task getting them together, organising inter-school games and so forth."

"But we picked a squad and trained together eight or nine times and now that we've done it for the last two years, the results are showing through."

"This year we took six 15-year-olds and four 14-year-olds to the metro area for the State Schoolboys championships and that gave them a great affiliation with Claremont."

Dwyer has a couple of names to watch out for in coming years, suggesting that Ongerup's Simon Curtin, who made the Teal Cup side and Brendon Marshall, who just missed out, can both go on with things.

Dwyer certainly has no regrets about turning his back on city life.

"We love it in the country," he says. "I don't think I could have developed such a successful business in the city and the lifestyle is unbelievable. There's no doubt that football has helped me expand the business."

Football is never far away from the family thoughts, even though daughters Stacey (11) and Michelle (8) are into hockey — with father as a coach.



FAMILY HIT-OUT . . . Larry Dwyer enjoys a bout of hockey with daughters Stacey and Michelle

Dwyer's careers kick on in style

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Emu Export summer series on again

Four country venues on agenda

MANDURAH, Bruce Rock, Albany and Narrogin will host Emu Export pre-season matches — but no country sides will contest the summer series.

The eight WAFL clubs will do battle for the second year in succession and the pre-season competition will again take football to outer regions.

While the inclusion of country sides from Bunbury and Kalgoorlie had previously been a suggestion, they were once again overlooked.

NOT AN OPTION

"It wasn't seriously considered," said WAFC secretary Jeff Ovens when asked if the inclusion of country sides had been an option.

The series will be played over five weekends, starting on Saturday, February 26, with country venues and the WACA Ground hosting the majority of fixtures.

Following the success of fixtures in Margaret River, Moora and Goomalling last summer, the country experiment moves to new venues.

SIX CLUBS

Six of the eight clubs are involved in country trips — South Fremantle and Subiaco will travel twice to country areas, while West Perth, Claremont, Perth and East Fremantle will also head out of town.

"It's a further step in taking WAFL football to country people," said Ovens.

"Last year all country games proved a success with both the clubs and the public."

By TANIA ARMSTRONG

Ovens added that the WAFC had reached "an agreeable" cost structure with the WA Cricket Association for night fixtures at the ground.

Half of the 18 matches will be played under lights at the ground, including

the finals and a Labour Day triple-header on Monday, March 7.

The finals are scheduled at the WACA for Friday, March 25, but if WA host the Sheffield Shield cricket final another venue will be used.

The ABC will again telecast some preliminary matches and the finals.

Emu Export series fixtures

ROUND 1, Saturday, February 26 — Claremont v East Perth, Claremont Oval (3pm); Perth v East Fremantle, Lathlain Park (3pm).

Monday, February 28 at WACA — South Fremantle v West Perth (6pm); Subiaco v Swan Districts (8pm).

ROUND 2, Saturday, March 5 — South Fremantle v Subiaco, Mandurah (3pm).

Monday, March 7 at WACA — Swan Districts v West Perth (4pm); East Fremantle v Claremont (6pm); Perth v East Perth (8pm).

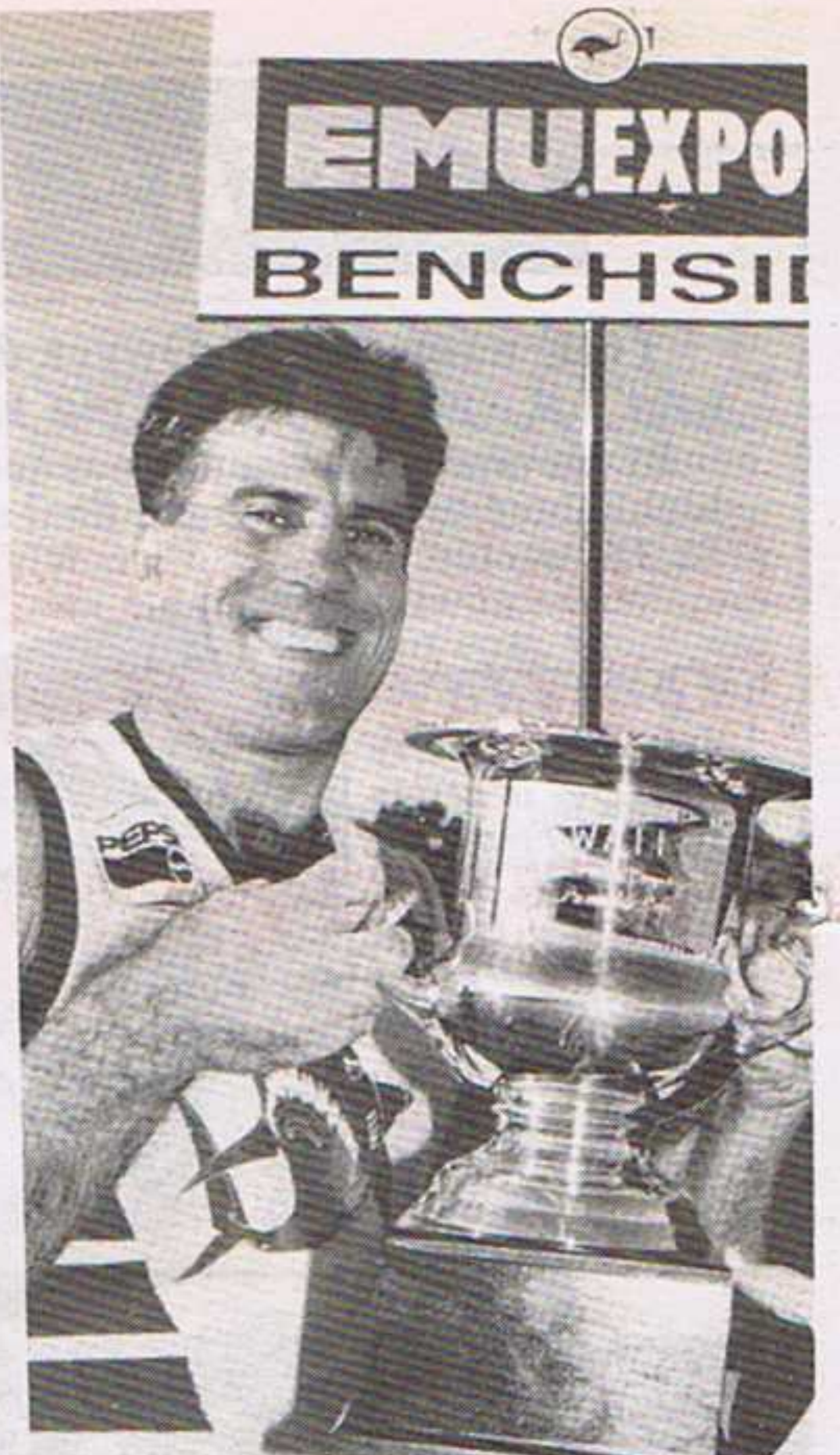
ROUND 3, Friday, March 11 at WACA — South Fremantle v Swan Districts (6pm); East Perth v East Fremantle (8pm).

Sunday, March 13 — West Perth v Subiaco, Bruce Rock (3pm); Claremont v Perth, Albany (1pm).

ROUND 4, Sunday, March 20 — South Fremantle v East Fremantle, Narrogin (3pm); Perth v Swan Districts, Kelmscott (4pm).

Monday, March 21 at WACA — East Perth v Subiaco (4pm); West Perth v Claremont (6pm).

FINALS, Friday, March 25 at WACA (if available) — Minor final 3rd v 4th (6pm); Grand final 1st v 2nd (8pm).



FIRST WIN . . . East Fremantle captain Steve Malaxos holds aloft the Emu Export Cup after leading his side to a win in the inaugural series last summer

Christmas gifts

THE Heaney family of Mullaloo received an unexpected Christmas present when they won the special Westside Football stocking competition.

Almost \$500 worth of prizes went the way of the family when their envelope was first out of our competition barrel correctly telling us that Don Pyke and Glen Jakovich came from WAFL clubs Claremont and South Fremantle.

The Bolle sunglasses prize was won by A. Jackson, of Karrinyup, whose entry was first opened giving South Fremantle as the correct answer to the question about John Worsfold's original club.

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PRESENTS ...

Aussie Rules has produced many champions in more than 100 years of fierce competition across the nation and this summer series profiles some of WA's stars of the past

Record holder Whinnen still gets his kicks

FEW people get the opportunity to play alongside their boyhood idols, but West Perth record holder Mel Whinnen says he was one of the lucky ones.

Growing up in North Perth, not far from Leederville Oval, Whinnen worked his way up through the under-age competition.

He would make every effort to get to see West Perth in action after his own game was over and it wasn't long before he made his league debut as a 17-year-old.

"In the early days I played alongside players I looked up to like Don Marinko, 'Blue' (Brian) Foley and Frank Margaria," recalls Whinnen.

"It was quite a funny feeling to be lucky enough to sit alongside them in the changerooms."

Whinnen may consider himself lucky, but West Perth would surely believe that luck was in their favour when Whinnen was reared on their doorstep.

He went on to become one of their greatest players, a champion centreman admired for his team play and considered one of the fairest players ever to take the field.

His 371 games with one club is a West Australian record surely out of reach for today's footballers. However, Whinnen disagrees.

"Records are there to be beaten and one day somebody might get there although it is hard for players to stay with the one club these days," he says.



BACK AGAIN ... leading his team of veterans into a Leederville Oval farewell was a great day for Mel Whinnen

West Perth's Mel Whinnen played 371 games at the one club — a record that is unlikely to be equalled in today's society of footballers on the move. TANIA ARMSTRONG talks to a great Cardinal of a bygone era

"Players are putting more time and effort into their football and they want to be rewarded for it.

"Money has become more important than club loyalty, so while players might play 371 games, it probably won't be with the one club. But you never know, somebody might do it someday."

BRIEF STINT

Never tempted to change clubs in the west, Whinnen says the VFL was always inviting for young players in his time — just like the AFL is now — but a brief stint in Victoria was enough for him.

Completing his final year of study in engineering, Whinnen spent five or six months with the Shell company in Geelong getting a first hand look at Victorian weather conditions.

"The weather pattern put me off for life and that was out of the football season," said Whinnen.

"I could go to work in shorts in the morning and come home wearing a raincoat in the evening.

"Besides I never had any problems at West Perth. I was happy there and they always looked after me.

"I'd do it all again if I had a body capable of doing it!"

A typically modest Whinnen puts his longevity on the football field down to "a bit of luck", but it obviously took more than that to remain at the top of the football tree for his 18 seasons between 1960-77.

SIMPSON MEDAL

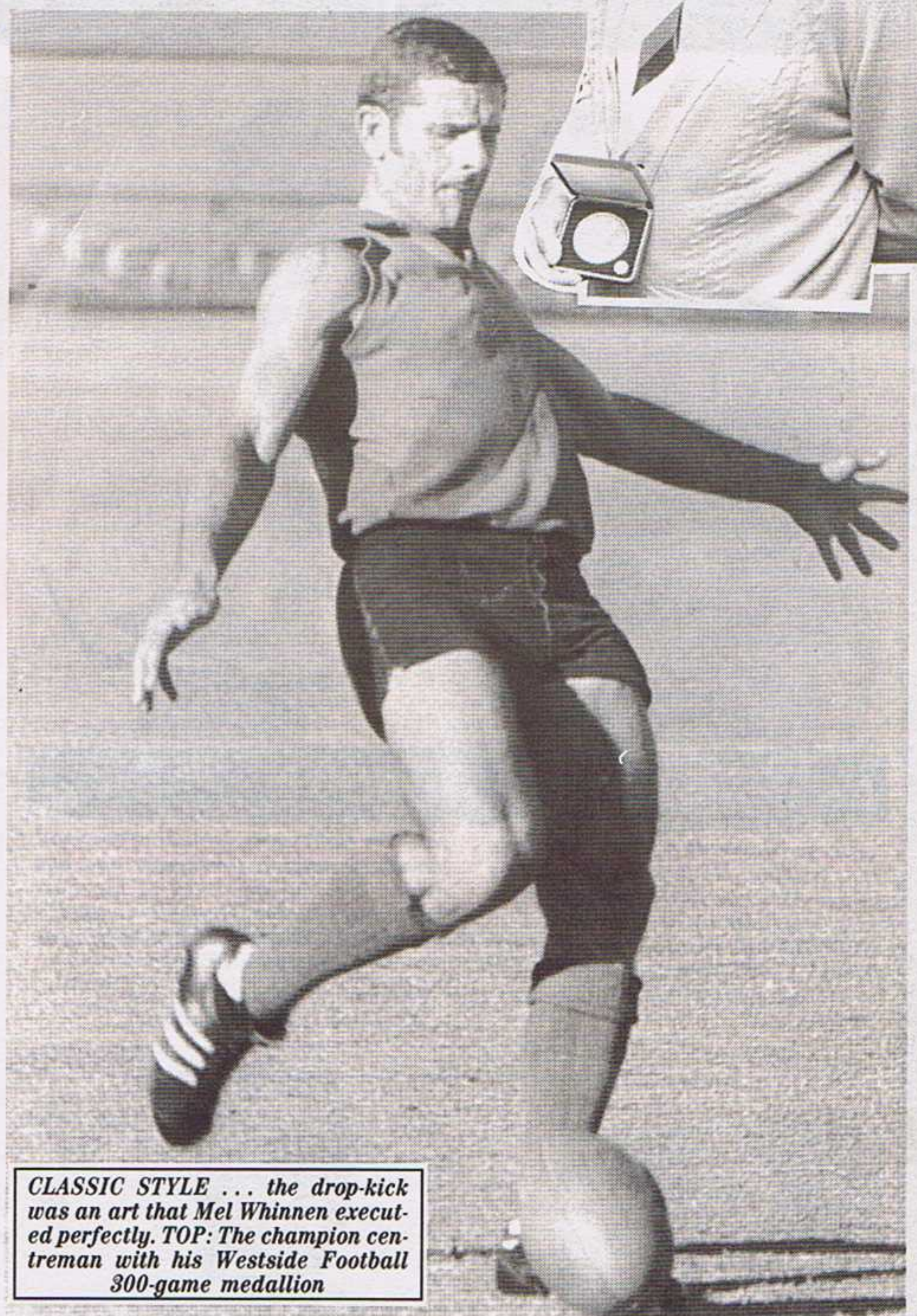
Testament to that are a club record nine fairest-and-bests, a Simpson Medal, four premierships, 14 state games and an MBE for services to the game.

"I had a few little injury problems; a knee injury which kept me out for five or six weeks was probably the worst," he says.

"One of the differences I guess was the fact that I enjoyed training and I tried to do a little bit extra.

"I figured that you could have an edge in fitness over somebody else even if you didn't have an edge in talent."

Now aged 51 and a father of two girls, Whinnen says the knees are the things that hamper him most in his regular squash games and a couple of light jobs every week.



CLASSIC STYLE ... the drop-kick was an art that Mel Whinnen executed perfectly. TOP: The champion centreman with his Westside Football 300-game medallion

"While the knees tend to restrict you, the mind is still as young as ever and thinks the body should do all the things it used to," he laughs.

He needed no reminding of that fact after pulling the boots out of mothballs to lead a team of former players in the Leederville Oval gala day late last season.

"We gathered at Leederville for a drink, a talk and a bit of kick on the Tuesday before the game," said Whinnen.

"I was having a kick and after a while the right thigh started to seize up so I changed to my left foot.

"While I try to keep fit, you really get out of the habit of sprinting and kicking and it was all I could do to walk onto the field for the game on Sunday."

Whinnen led his charges in a match enjoyed by the 20,000 crowd, many of whom had gone along to pay homage to yesterday's heroes.

The venue wasn't all that far from the oval beside Beatty Park where Whinnen learned his craft with the North Perth juniors.

With few age groups to choose from, Whinnen played the odd game with the under-16s as a 10-year-old and then in 1959 progressed to under-18s.

A year later he got his first taste of league football as a rover before regular centreman Don Marinko left the club in 1961.

Whinnen, remembered for his superb balance, poise, pace and skill, stepped into the position and held it with a vice-like grip.

While thoughts of retirement crossed his mind before he called it a day in 1977, at 34 years of age, he believes his timing was right.

"We had a disastrous year in 1974 and finished on the bottom of the ladder which was something that never happened in my era," Whinnen recalls.

"A lot of people thought about giving it away after that, but we knew we couldn't be that bad again. We proved that by winning the premiership in 1975."

Always more concerned with the success of the team than personal glory, Whinnen says a Simpson Medal in that game was the icing on the cake.

TOUGH DECISION

Two seasons later, with the 400-game mark on the horizon, Whinnen made the tough decision to retire.

"I think I went on for as long as I could," he said.

"Each year it was a bit harder to get the legs going and I wasn't able to contribute as much as I would have liked. It was time for someone else to take over.

"I guess there was a little urge in the back of the mind to go on for 400 games, but they're only numbers really."

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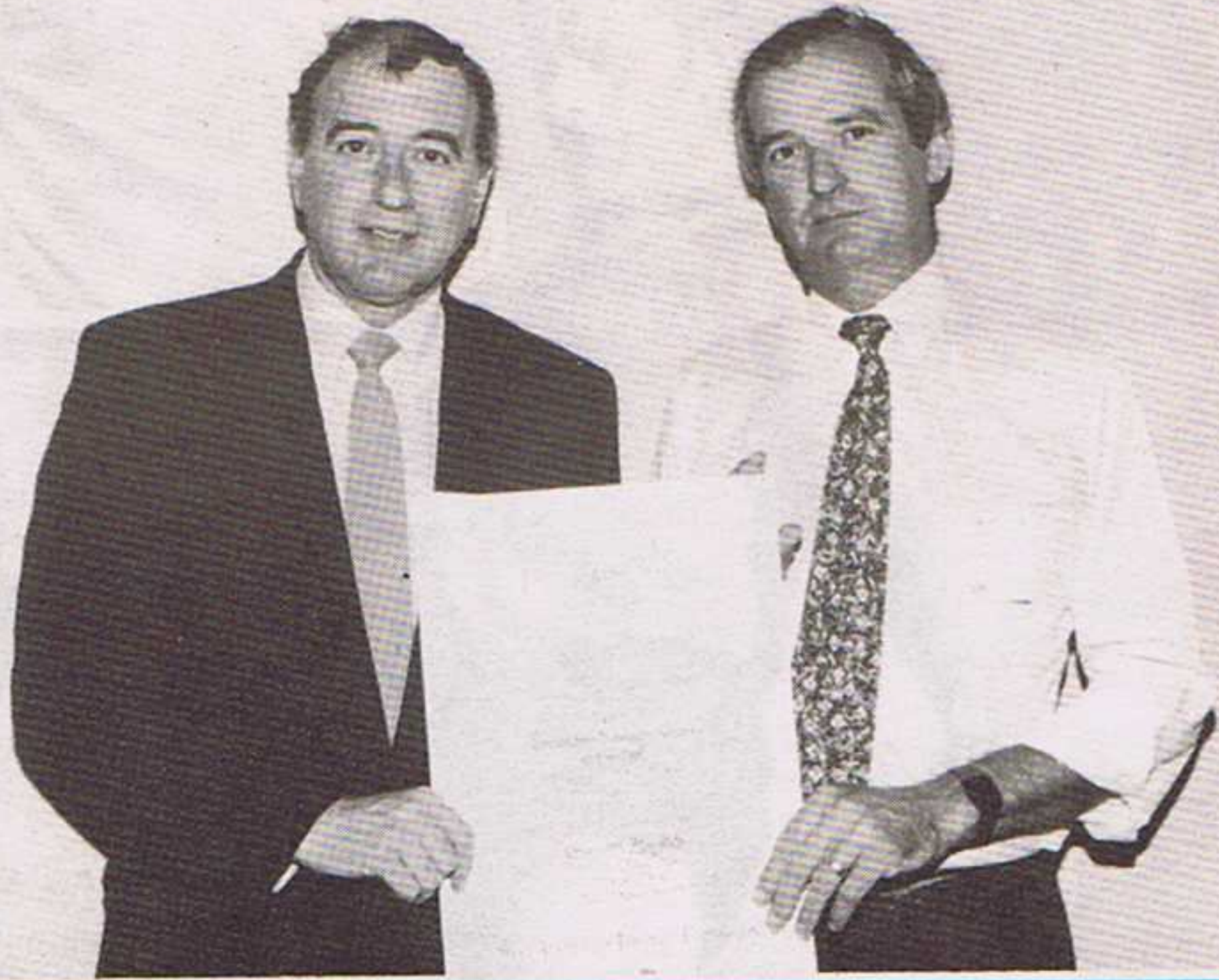
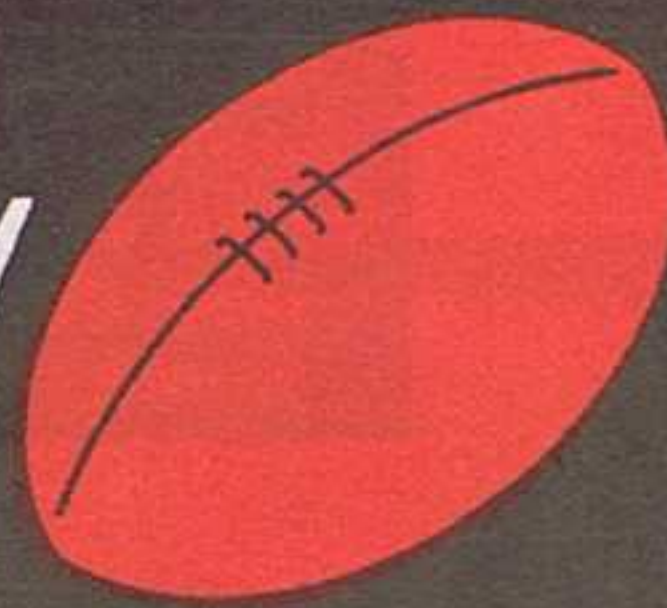
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RUMOURS



Graham Hughes

After moving to WA from Victoria in 1970, Graham Hughes started playing with the Mosman Park amateurs, serving as treasurer as well. He moved to CBC Fremantle when son Justin started playing and served in a variety of

roles for eight years, including goal and boundary umpire, timekeeper and bus driver. He was appointed to the East Fremantle Junior Football Council's Protests and Disputes Board, serving as chairman in 1993.

— Nominated by Bob Uittenbroek, East Fremantle Football Club and presented by John Fuhrmann

Rewarded for their service

EACH year the WA Football Commission acknowledges the enormous work done by the volunteers in the sport — from juniors to seniors, amateur clubs and Sunday leagues, country and metropolitan stalwarts.

The Certificate of Recognition is a means of paying tribute to the many workers who keep football alive in a variety of arenas.

The recipients are nominated by people in the football industry, from WAFL club officials who deal with them on an on-going basis, to country league volunteers who know that they couldn't survive without such solid support.

The awards were presented by various members of the WA Football Commission board and this centre spread of photographs pays tribute to just a few of the many volunteers honoured for their services at the end of the 1993 football season.

— Photographs by Natalie Hiddlestone (381 1918)



Jack Watkins

KEEPING players in the Claremont Football Club looking spic-n-span is the responsibility of Jack Watkins, who has been involved as a property manager since 1966. He started with the fourths, graduating

to head property man by 1977 and is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the club's equipment, playing gear and clothing . . . with the help of his wife Shirley and other property staff at Tigerland.

— Nominated by Phil Smart, Claremont Football Club and presented by Merv Cowan



Allen and Ellen Rumjantsev

KEEPING a legion of Swan Districts fans happy with souvenirs has been the life-long passion of Allen and Ellen Rumjantsev. They have been involved with Swans since the late 1970s, running the

club's souvenir stalls at Bassendean Oval and going to any lengths to discover new Swans products that could contribute to their wide stock range.

— Nominated by Brian Close Swan Districts Football Club

CLUB

RUMOURS

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NUMBER ONE

— OPEN FRIDAYS

BOUNCE INTO

CLUB

FUMOURS

Brian Kneale

MOVING around the suburbs hasn't stopped Brian Kneale from maintaining an active interest in junior football. In a 30-year involvement he has coached a number of teams, including Maylands, Kensington, Gosnells, East Perth-Highgate and Cloverdale. After serving as coordinator of East Perth's South Suburban area, he moved to Perth Oval as team manager of the Royals colts side, becoming involved with junior elite squads and is now the representative for clubs in the Belmont and Redcliffe district.



— Nominated by Cam Robbins, East Perth Football Club

Fay Moodie

THE Goldfields have provided a steady stream of good recruits for Subiaco and the WAFL in general and most of them have been guided to the city by Fay Moodie. She has served as secretary of the Goldfields Junior Football Association for more than a decade, organising touring teams and running the canteen. She is also involved with the Kalgoorlie City Football Club.



— Nominated by Wayne Loxley, Subiaco Football Club

John Morton

A LONG stint as a player and official in country football has occupied the last 30 years for Newdegate's John Morton. He started as a 14-year-old, with his career interrupted by National Service, but he returned to playing and later become president of the Newdegate club. He served as a delegate to the Lake Grace-Kulin League and was association president. In 1983 he helped guide Newdegate into the Ongerup Football Association and served as club president and league delegate till 1992. He has held numerous positions at league level including selector, delegate and team manager at country carnivals.



— Nominated by Dennis Knill, Newdegate Football Club

Ken McCabe

AFTER a playing career of 256-games with Osborne Park, Ken McCabe has continued to serve the Sunday League club. He moved from player to team manager of the colts side in 1986, joining the club committee and taking over as president in 1988. He is currently a delegate to the SFL.



— Nominated by Frank Figliomeni, Osborne Park Football Club



Myrtle Williams and Ruby Wilson

THEY say that behind every good man is a good woman and in the case of South Fremantle, there are two outstanding ladies behind the club — Myrtle Williams and Ruby Wilson. Both are life members of the Bulldogs, serving in a variety of ways on the Ladies Committee and in other fund-raising activities, especially among the juniors.

— Nominated by Brain Ciccotosto, South Fremantle Football Club



John Noble

DESPITE playing 321 senior games with the Canning Football Club, John Noble was still not satisfied when it came to serving the club. His playing career from 1944 to 1958 included 15 grand finals and his loyalty to Canning has continued since then, serving as secretary, treasurer, league delegate and tribunal member and he is currently chairman of directors at the club.

— Nominated by Lindsay Nicholls, Canning Football Club and presented by Brian Atkinson

MEETING PLACE

& SATURDAYS -

CLUB

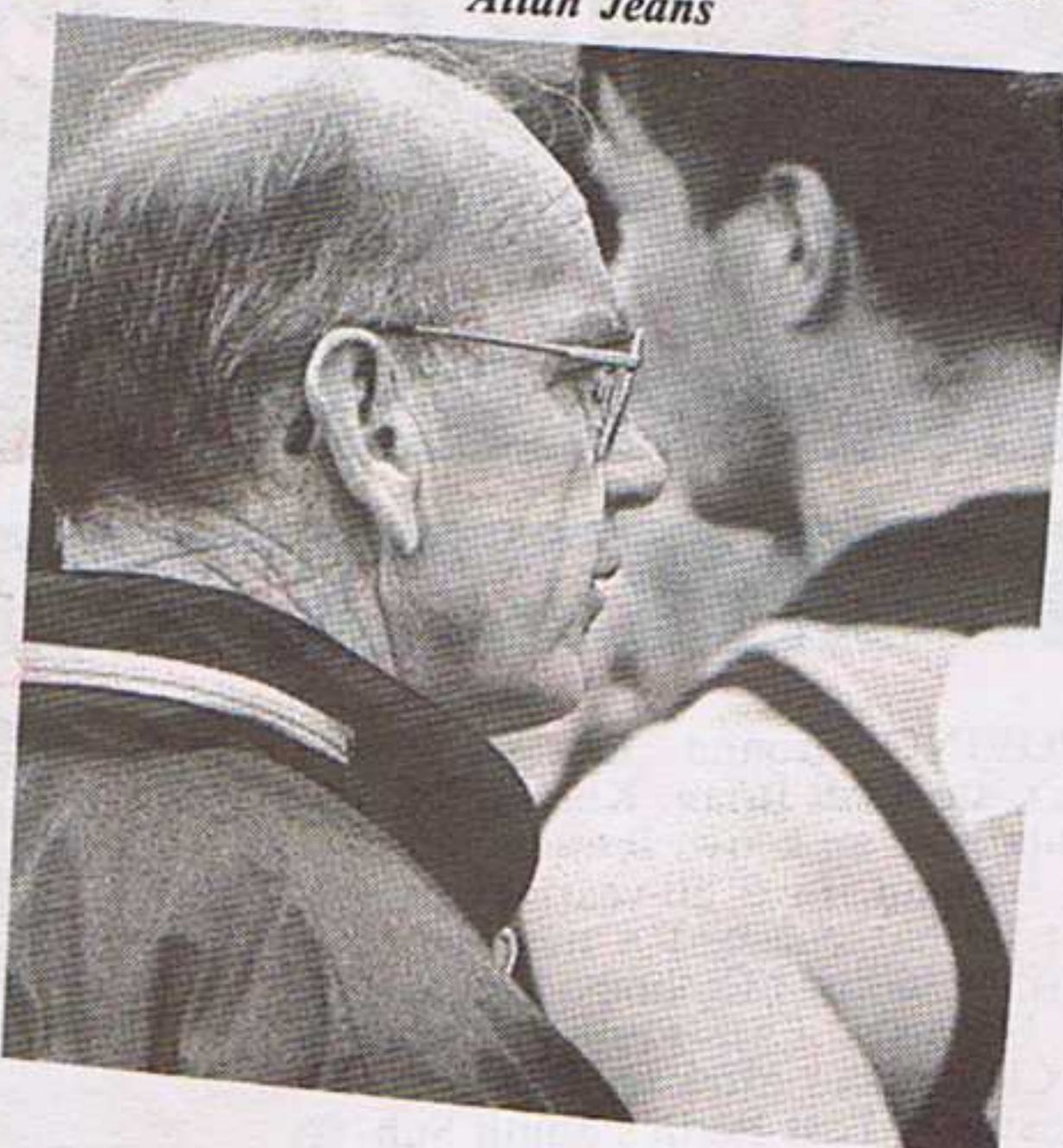
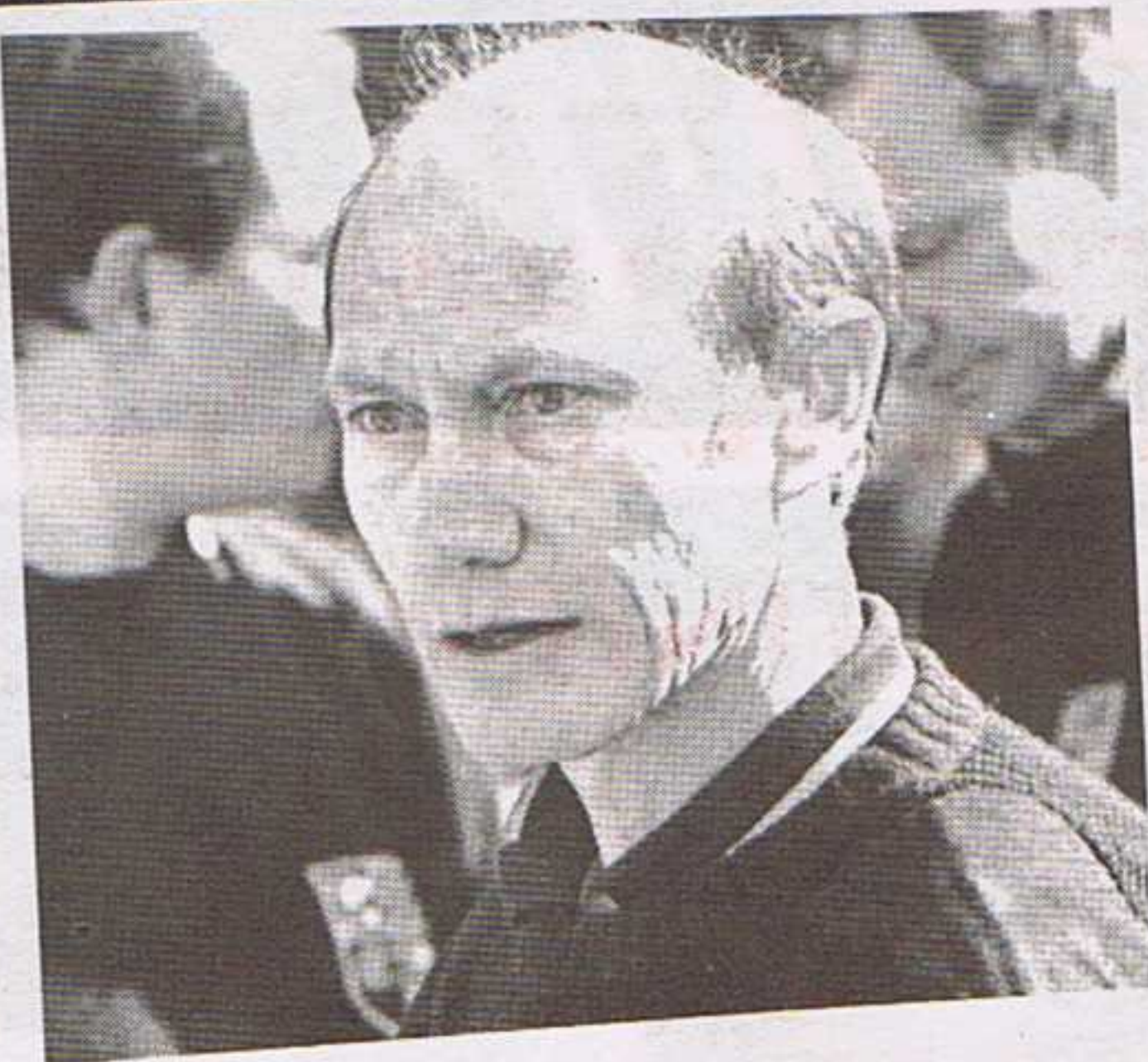
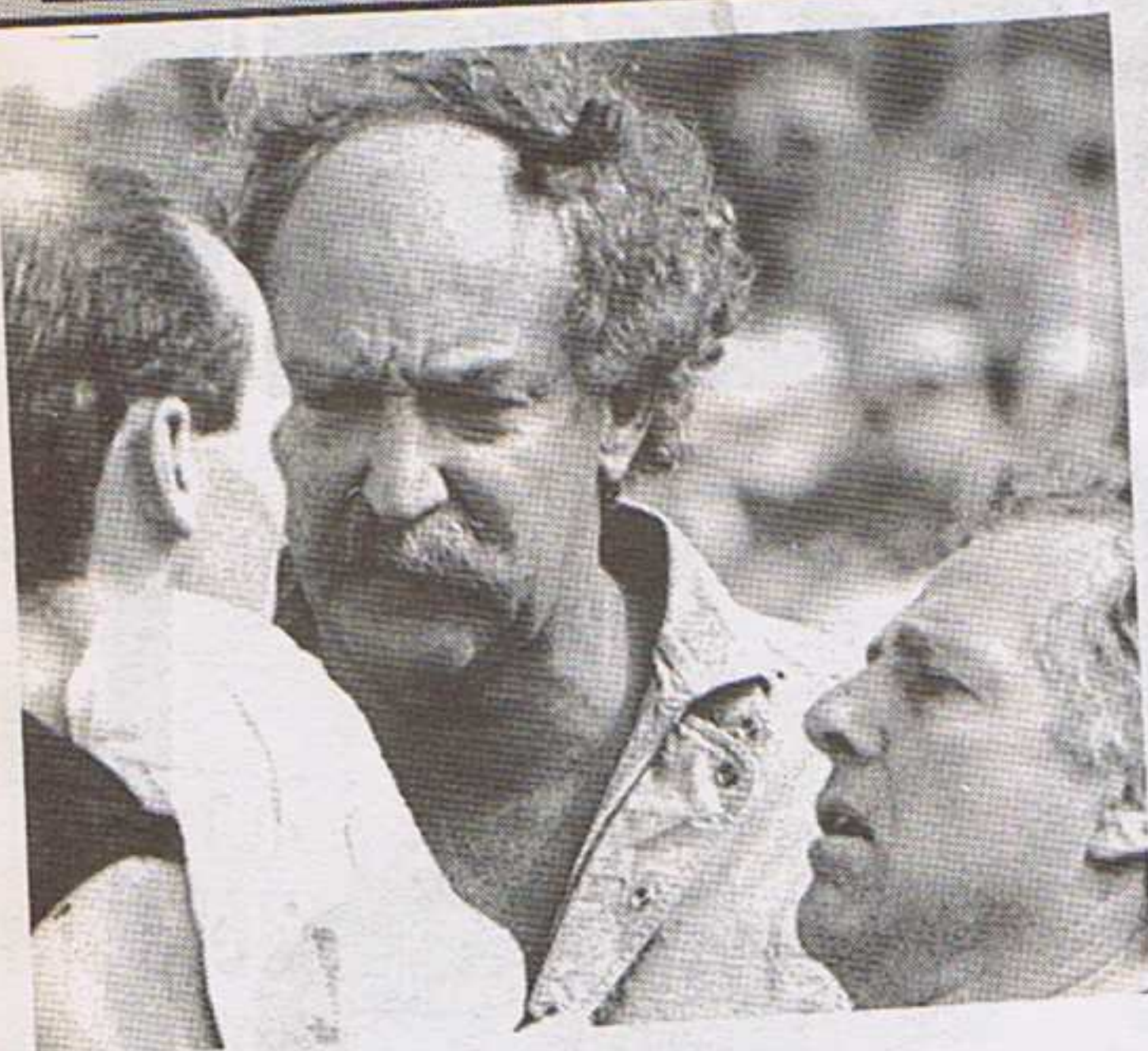
FUMOURS

418 MURRAY ST, PERTH



The Richmond revival saga

TOUGH TIMES... three recent coaches who found life frustrating at Richmond were (from left) Tony Jewell, Kevin Bartlett and Allan Jeans



STANDING on the outside looking in, the Richmond Football Club appears to be in a spot of bother.

And that's not just because their last premiership was in 1980 and their most recent finals appearance was 1982, when they were beaten by arch-rivals Carlton in the grand final.

Many clubs are experiencing longer premiership droughts, but Richmond's standings in recent seasons have been at an unacceptable low-point.

Since 1986, the traditional and highly successful club that produced champions such as Jack 'Captain Blood' Dyer, Royce Hart, Francis Bourke, Kevin Bartlett, Michael Roach and Dale Weightman, has finished no higher than 10th.

Their coaches during that lean eight-year period have been Tony Jewell, the man who led the Tigers to their 1980 flag; record games-played hero Bartlett; four-times premiership coach (elsewhere) in Allan Jeans and now John Northey, who carved a reputation as a fine leader at Melbourne.

Adding to their woes of last year, when they were placed 14th with just four wins, is the loss of captain Jeff Hogg and brilliant midfielder Craig Lambert, two of the club's most experienced players.

However, general manager Cameron Schwab believes it is only a matter of time before Richmond re-emerges as a power.

And when one considers it was only in last year's Foster's Cup that Richmond clashed with eventual premiers Essendon in the grand final at Waverley Park in front of 75,533 people, Schwab's optimism isn't misplaced.

About 10,000 people were turned away at the gates, but the attendance eclipsed the previous night final record in 1980 of 50,470 for the North Melbourne-Collingwood game and reinforced Richmond's drawing power when the club is winning.

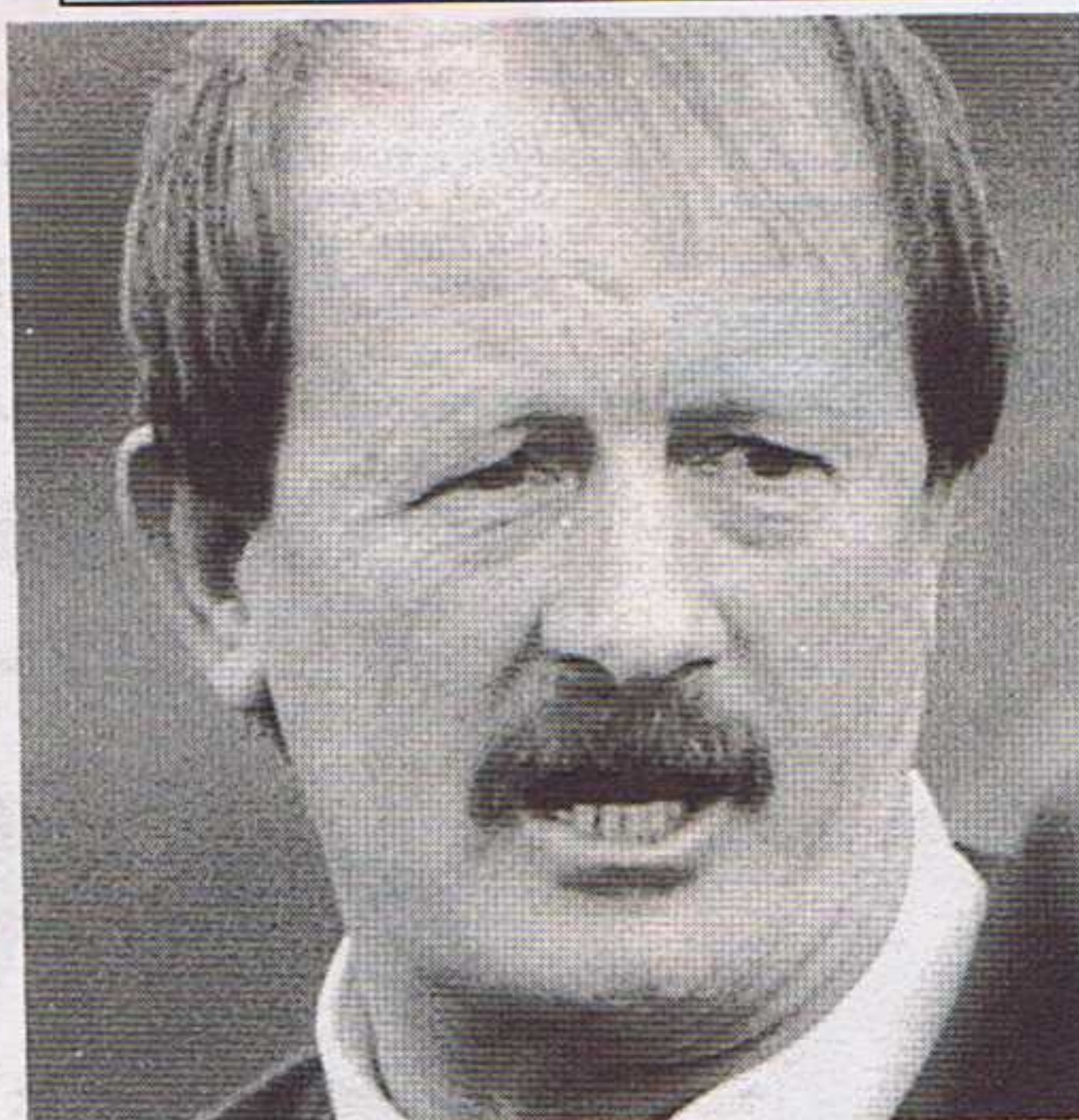
The Tigers might have lost the match by 23 points, but their courageous effort in getting to the final bolstered their membership from 6500 to 10,000 as many Tigers fans felt the good old days were back.

"We believe that as an organisation, if you continue to do the right things all the time, put the right people in the right places, then ultimately the end result is a successful football team," Schwab said.

However, Schwab feels there has to be an alternative way in assisting a club other than the national draft, which was introduced in 1986.

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PRESENTS . . .
Face to face

DIGBY BEACHAM looks at the challenge facing the famous Richmond Football Club



HAIR-RAISER . . . is the balding John Northey following in the worrying footsteps of his three predecessors?

"We are dealing with a new system in drafting and salary caps and it remains to be seen if a club can drag itself off the bottom of the ladder, using those rules exclusively," the amicable Schwab stated.

"Someone said to me that when the music stopped at the end of 1986 and they invented drafting, Richmond were left without a chair and it's very much

Now it's Northey's turn in hot seat

right. The club was devastated financially and we didn't have a great player base.

Jeff Hogg was our captain last year and he's never played in a side that finished higher than 10th.

"While Essendon have introduced many young players, they still have Tim Watson, Paul Salmon, Mark Harvey and Mark Thompson, who are all experienced and talented players — we just don't have players of that quality yet."

But Schwab feels that the structure of a successful Richmond side is starting to come together.

The draft wheeling and dealing has seen Richmond sign up handy players in Hawthorn ruckman Greg Dear and Geelong's Mark Neeld, plus some hopeful recruits with their five draft selections.

"Our focus is clearly on developing a successful football team and giving our supporters some well-deserved success," says Schwab.

"We can see Brendon Gale playing centre-half-forward for a long period; Matthew Knights playing in the centre, Tony Free will be an on-baller or thereabouts, Matthew Richardson is quite exciting wherever he plays, Wayne Campbell is most promising and Paul Bulluss can hold down a key defensive position.

"Having John Northey locked in as coach for four years is also important to the future of the club."

Though Richmond finished 14th (ahead of Sydney) they were the only club in the competition to make a profit for the sixth successive season.

Such is the fierce tradition at Richmond, the players still use the old changerooms at Punt Road, nestled in the corner of the Tigers office building.

And if Richmond recruits expect to get more up-market facilities when they play at the MCG, they are in for a rude shock.

The Tigers have passed up the new changerooms in the Great Southern Stand, opting to continue in their old rooms that have netted five premierships in the last 27 years.

"The club has had some great personalities and players and we like to remember them," Schwab said.

He is equally proud of the club's ability to attract former players back to Punt Road.

When Jeans was appointed to lead the league team for the 1992 season, he became the first coach from outside the club since 1965.

Brown to the rescue . . .



ONE of Richmond's favourite sons who has returned to Tigerland to help the revival is a player who spent just one controversial year with the club.

WA's 'Mr Football' Mal Brown has just completed a year as Richmond's marketing consultant, a challenge he accepted after taking South Fremantle to the 1992 WAFL grand final.

"Richmond is one of the power clubs in football and should stay that way," says Brown, who had a brief one-year stint with the Tigers in 1974, but developed long-lasting relationships with the people there.

"One of its big positives is the location of Punt Road.

"About 90,000 cars go past the oval every day and we also have the railway line, which gives good marketing exposure.

"But none of those points are beneficial without results on the field and that's what we have to strive for."

Brown had little hesitation about accepting Richmond's offer, even though it meant uprooting his family from Perth and settling into a new home and finding schools for the children.

"When you have success, you remember the good times and I had a lot of good times at Richmond, so it wasn't hard to go back."

Brown's one season with the Tigers — when his sheer brilliance at centre-half-forward helped them into the grand final, only to see him sidelined with suspension — left a lasting impression.

He has long been regarded as a true-blue Richmond man and his success last year in boosting revenue and marketing activities is seen as an integral part of the club's revival . . . at least off the field.



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A source of many yarns...

The Oxford Book of Australian Sporting Anecdotes, edited by Richard Cashman, David Headon and Graeme Kinross-Smith. Published by Oxford University Press, \$29.95



MOVES to take Australian Rules football overseas are well and truly out of date — according to a new book full of amusing yarns about sport in general.

The Oxford Book of Australian Anecdotes has collected sporting tales from far and wide and reveals that attempts to infiltrate overseas strongholds go back before this Century.

Aussie Rules was popular in New Zealand in the 1880s and '90s, with something like 44 clubs based in the major cities of Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland.

A NZ side competed in an Australian carnival in Melbourne at the turn of the century, winning two of their four matches, beating NSW and Queensland. In 1908 a Kiwi expedi-

tion lost a tight game to South Australia, in Adelaide, 5.8 to 3.10.

There were also attempts to take the game to England in the 1890s, but despite strong interest in the mother country — especially from their Test cricketers — a planned tour was vetoed by the Victorian Football Association.

Touring English soccer players tackled Aussie Rules in an 1888 tour of Australia. Many were Test cricketers and they won 14 of their 25 matches against clubs from the southern states.

The moves to establish Aussie Rules in rugby-mad Sydney have long occupied the promotional activities of the game's hierarchy — but they could easily have succeeded back in the 1870s if it hadn't been for a treacherous Sydney Harbour shark.

Star Victorian footballer George Coulthard was invited to Sydney to promote the game and help establish teams at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

During a promotional tour of the famous harbour, he was sitting on the side of the boat when an adventurous shark snapped at his coat, which was trailing in the water and almost had him for lunch.

Relieved of just his coat tail and suffering from lucky-escape shock, Coulthard jumped on a plane to return home and leave Sydney with their rugby fanatics.

There are dozens of fascinating little yarns like those, not only about football, but every sport conceivable. There's even the true story about the origin of 'Up There Cazaly'.

Footy has a long history overseas



Presents...



Thinking aloud



A column of news and views by ALAN EAST

Coaches enjoy media mix

IT'S interesting to reflect on how the Melbourne media and the AFL coaches get on together, what with the pressures of life in the fast footy lane and the need to maintain good exposure for the game.

Despite the drama and tension that exists during the season — especially when teams are losing or umpires are a thorn in their side — the media generally have good relationships with coaches.

Take these examples from last year's end-of-season activities.

It wasn't long after the despondent Leigh Matthews packed away his clipboard as Collingwood became September onlookers that he switched to the press box to sit among the critics and be one himself for the finals.

Brisbane's Robert Walls — a media favourite in his playing days and premiership reign with Carlton — also earned a media pass for the September finals action.

Both men mixed comfortably in the MCG press box, with plenty of former colleagues slotting into media roles and a high degree of respect existing between the rival camps.

HOSPITALITY

Matthews, a legend as a player and equally tough as the coach of the nation's most popular club, showed his hospitality on a flight to Perth at the end of the season.

After spotting Westside's Tania Armstrong in the MCG press box that day, he was quick to recognise our roving reporter later at the Ansett desk... and invited her to share the luxury of a first-class flight home.

The fact that Lethal Leigh picked Tania's brains about the Pepsi Cup finals series and the players to watch was incidental. It was simply great to see a coach acknowledge that media people do know something about the game they cover.

There was some speculation that the Magpies could have a new coach in 1994 or '95 — with Matthews resigning or replaced.

That would be a harsh way to deal with a coach who has guided the club to 105 wins from 179 matches — a strike-rate of 60 percent.

But the simple fact is that, with the exception of Carlton, no club or its coach and players, is under the type of extreme pressure put on Collingwood.

A feature of Collingwood since Matthews replaced Bob Rose early in 1986 has been their aggressive play.

The former Hawthorn champion demands his charges never take a backward step and rarely are Magpies players stretched from the ground.

The example of when rugged Collingwood defender Craig Kelly clashed with West Coast forward Karl Langdon at Subiaco Oval in 1992 — and shattered his left knee — shows how tough life in the Magpie camp is.

The former South Australian waved the stretcher-bearers away and hobbled from the oval under his own steam.

Beer battle froths up

THE entry of Carlton United Brewery into the WA football market in recent years has created a few sensitive areas for WAFL clubs especially.

As the reality of a Fremantle team looms closer, the CUB people are upgrading their marketing activities to make sure they retain a prominent role — and not only in the Port.

After their rich sponsorship deal with South Fremantle — under the Matilda Bay brand — CUB have now ventured up-river to Subiaco, where they have signed up the Lions.

Subiaco have switched away from Swan Brewery with a tempting offer from CUB — and that means a foot in the door at Subiaco Oval for the likely sponsors of WA's second AFL team.

Swan people are naturally miffed at the defection — and want to know what happened to loyalty after the brewery wrote off more than \$40,000 in Subiaco debts back in their dark financial days of the early 1980s.

MASTERS CHOC PRESENTS

What's happening in sport

Baseball

January 14-15: Perth Heat v Waverley Reds, Parry Field, 6pm
January 21-22: Canberra Bushrangers v Perth Heat, Canberra
January 25-26: Perth Heat v Brisbane Bandits, Parry Field, 6pm; 1pm and 3.45pm

Cricket

Third Test: January 28-February 1 — Australia v South Africa, Adelaide
World Series one-day games: January 14 — New Zealand v South Africa, WACA; January 16 — Australia v South Africa, WACA; January 19 — Australia v NZ, Melbourne; January 21 — First final, Melbourne; January 23 — Second final, Sydney; January 25 — Third final, Sydney
Sheffield Shield: January 19-22: Queensland v WA, Brisbane

Golf

January 22-23: Capel Open; Sea View Summer Cup
January 27-30: Heineken Classic, The Vines

Greyhounds

Cannington: January 14 — Twin Tracks championship heats.

Horse racing

Ascot: January 15 — \$18,000 Tudor Mak Handicap; \$16,000 Gurkha Cup.
January 22 — \$18,000 Belmont Handicap; \$16,000 Seafield Cup.

Lawn bowls

January 15-17: Home Bowls Classic, Melville; January 15-16: Westsure country junior championships, Nollamara; January 20-21: Henselite State junior championships, Nollamara; January 22-25: R & I State singles.

Surf life saving

January 15: Surf boat series, Sorrento.
January 16: Kellogg's State Surf League, Mullaloo.
January 22: Country Carnival, Denmark.

Trotting

Gloucester Park: January 14 — Radio 6PR 4-yr-old pace.
January 21 & 28: Gold Nugget preludes and \$100,000 final.

Tennis

January 15-16; 22-23: State Closed championships, Nollamara.
January 17-21: Wesfarmers Rural country week championships, Bayswater.
January 17-30: Melbourne — Ford Australian Open.

Yachting

January 17-18: Australia Cup selection trials, Matilda Bay.
January 22: SS22 State championships, South of Perth.
January 25-30: Australia Cup, Matilda Bay.

MASTERS CHOC



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The Sumich challenge . . .



ON TARGET . . . that's what Peter Sumich is aiming for this season
— Photograph by Nadine Wood

THERE is little argument that West Coast full-forward Peter Sumich faces an acid test in 1994.

If the gifted, but equally controversial, spearhead starts the upcoming season like he finished 1993, his critics — especially in Victoria — will start baying for his blood.

The fact that Sumich (26) ended last year with 76 goals — and 57 points — and was West Coast's leading goal-kicker for the fifth consecutive season, is a little misleading.

Achieving 76 goals from just 21 games is a fine effort, but his haul got off to a great start when he bagged 26 majors from the first five matches.

LOST CONFIDENCE

However, after that the booming left-footer lost confidence in his own ability — the worst thing that could happen to a full-forward — and his output dropped dramatically, contributing just 50 goals from his next 16 games.

Sumich also had little competition for the title of West Coast's chief scorer, with fiery Karl Langdon out injured for all but one game and talented half-forward Brett Heady continuing his ongoing battle with form and fitness.

The Eagles took a significant step to overcome this deficiency in the November draft when they selected Subiaco star full-forward Jason Heatley.

Many of the other clubs considered Heatley was not up to AFL standard, because he was "just a full-forward".

If that is the case, what are Eagles plans?

Will Heatley take over Sumich's role? Will he play in a forward pocket alongside the former South Fremantle star?

Probably neither.

Goal ace knows he has to lift

DIGBY BEACHAM looks at a footballer whose career is in the balance



Heatley, who is on his way back after a groin operation, is probably just on the Eagles books for insurance purposes.

But if Sumich fails to recapture his best form, you can bet the Eagles will look long and hard at Heatley.

Last year the 1992 AFL premiers had no choice but to leave the struggling Sumich at full-forward — an entirely different scenario to what should exist in 1994 and one Sumich is well aware of.

A lot of criticism fired at Sumich has been over his fitness — or lack of it.

He does not have the muscle definition of some of his team-mates and appears to be carrying more weight than he actually is.

However, on the other hand, Sumich needs hard work to maintain his match fitness, something he hasn't been able to achieve consistently with nagging ankle problems.

TOUGH PROGRAMME

During the off-season he has spent a lot of time training with skipper and close friend John Worsfold, who is doing his bit to see that Sumich returns to the form he displayed in 1991, when he kicked 100 goals.

After that season, Sumich was in many circles rated third in the full-forward stakes behind Hawthorn's Jason Dunstall and St Kilda's Tony Lockett.

If he can rediscover that 1991 touch, Mick Malthouse's men could well make a serious tilt at the AFL grand final — to be held this year on the first Saturday in October.

East Coast Chatter

Bews waiting

GEELONG veteran Andrew Bews is yet another player headed for the sunshine of Queensland as a possible March draft choice by the Brisbane Bears.

The 29-year-old Bews has expressed interest in moving north if negotiations with Geelong cannot be settled.

He has not been training with the Cats and with his contract expiring at the end of December, his future is up in the air.

Bews, a veteran of 207 games, says he will train on his own through January before making a decision.

Longmire's battle

A TOUGH summer on the rehabilitation road could see star North Melbourne forward John Longmire back in action much earlier than expected.

The 23-year-old high-leaping Roo had a knee reconstruction at the end of the season, but is back running and working out in the gymnasium every day.

He had the operation immediately after injuring the knee in the last qualifying game against Footscray and missed Norths losing final effort against West Coast.

Normally reconstructed knees keep players out for a year or more, but an arduous fitness campaign that sees Longmire in the gym four or five hours a day gives him a real chance to play in the March practice matches.

Being a full-time footballer enables Longmire to devote himself to the tough rehabilitation programme, doing a lot of cycling and swimming as well.

Coaching mecca

THE success of the Victorian State Football League's under-18s competition — particularly in relation to the high number of draft players to come from the teenage ranks — has seen an influx of new coaches to the competition.

The Murray Bushrangers will be coached by Noel O'Donnell, an 80-gamer with Melbourne and Essendon in the early 1980s; Brian Walsh (of Carlton and Essendon fame) takes over at the helm of the Bendigo Pioneers and Trevor Wilson, who played a handful of VFL games back in the early 1970s, takes up the coaching role with Gippsland Power.

Merrett's year

BRISBANE veteran Roger Merrett will be honoured with a testimonial this season as he lines up for his 17th year of league football.

The 33-year-old has agreed to play for another year as the Bears continue their rebuilding campaign, but he has opted to stand aside if coach Robert Walls wants to blood a new man in the skipper's role.

The big dollars paid for Fitzroy's Alastair Lynch could mean that the new Bear might be groomed as captaincy material, giving Merrett one last year at the helm.

Merrett, a champion with Essendon, where he won two premierships medals before moving north to help the Bears launch their AFL campaign, works as a promotions officer with the Queensland Australian Football League and has made a significant contribution to the game in that State.

Saintly switch

ANOTHER well-known sporting and media name to join the administration of an AFL club is Simon O'Donnell, once regarded as the best one-day cricketer in Australia.

He has joined the board at St Kilda, where he played 22 games back in the mid-1980s before concentrating on cricket.

His role is as a liaison officer between the players and the administration and he's also getting out on the track with the team.

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Recession affects Mt Barker clubs

A LACK of money and a drop in possible players has led to talks of an amalgamation between Mt Barker's two long-established clubs.

Both North and South Mt Barker experienced difficulties in securing team numbers throughout the 1993 season and merger talks were initiated recently by the North Barker Football Club.

A special meeting of South Mt Barker members agreed to the request and the amalgamation could see the two clubs join up as soon as 1994.

It has been suggested that the amalgamated team would play under South Barker's constitution and the joint club would be known as Mt Barker.

Rival club presidents George Shezney (South) and Kevin Collins have publicly acknowledged that the merger was inevitable.

Great Southern Football League officials are naturally concerned about a drop in association teams, but a merger in Mt Barker would certainly strengthen the competition.

Country stars

COUNTRY football is gearing up for a big event in the West this year when Geraldton hosts the Australian country championships.

The appointment of winning Wesfarmers carnival coach Mick Thompson as coach of the WA country side is an early step to make sure the Sandgroppers field a competitive team in search of the national honours.

Thompson, who coached the Great Northern to last year's Wesfarmers grand final victory against South West, has already started work on a preliminary squad for the '94 carnival.

Service reward

A CONVERSION to football has led to prominent Collie stalwart Tony De'Angelis being honoured by the Collie Football Club.

After migrating to Australia from Italy in 1952, De'Angelis took the natural course of playing soccer — but some of his Aussie friends got him into the spectator mode and finally he switched codes.

He had a brief taste of football action with Margaret River, but on settling in Collie he became a trainer with the Saints and has now been rewarded with life membership.

What's on at your club

SUBIACO

Club office re-opens Thursday, January 20

Swan Districts

Come to the club for dinner on Saturday night. Lockerroom restaurant open between 6.30-8.30pm.

WEST PERTH

Member's bar open Thursday and Friday evening, 4pm onwards.

West Coast Eagles

Supporter's Club bar open every afternoon. Watch pre-season training in comfort on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Good on you Mum

Sharing life with a footy legend . . .

THERE have obviously been many highlights in the long football life of Marlene Farmer, the woman behind the man often dubbed as the greatest ruckman the game has seen, Graham (Polly) Farmer.

Two Sandover Medals, six premierships in WA and Victoria as a player and coach, four Simpson Medals, a Tassie Medal, a host of club fairest and best awards, 392 senior games and a myriad of other accolades.

But, surprisingly, one of the real magic moments in the life of Mrs Farmer and her footballing family came last year — the naming of a special room at Subiaco Oval after her husband; a night full of memories.

"It was absolutely fabulous," says Marlene. "It was so emotional; more emotional because all the family were involved . . . and that's been a rare situation."

"People know we've got two sons, but not everyone knows we have a daughter, Kim. I can't remember too many official occasions when we've been involved as a family."

"It was a night when we invited special people that we wanted there; we enjoyed being with all of our favourite football people."

That special night for the legend who turns 59 on March 10 revived many highlights of a career that will take some beating; after all, Farmer changed the game with his revolutionary handball in the 1950s and instigated a new style of run-on football.

"You meet a lot of people in football, but not all that many you call close friends," says the wife who has had to tolerate four decades of living with a man idolised by thousands of other women.

"I've heard lots of people pay tributes to Pol over the years, but that night was special; the tributes came from the heart of people like Jack Sheedy, John Watts, Peter Tannock and Bob Davis. As Pol has got older, more people see him for the very wise person he is; in my opinion he's very much under-utilised as a football personality."

"It would be different if he was still in Victoria. I don't know why it's so different there when it comes to sporting heroes, but it is."

So what are the favourite Farmer matches to stick in the memory?

"I've been excited at grand final wins, but the last one in 1971 was something special; I was ecstatic," she admits.

"We had four wonderful years at West Perth; we really enjoyed our time at Leederville Oval."

With ALAN EAST



"The other wives and girlfriends and I watched the grand final from the old stand at Subiaco Oval and when we were sitting there after the game, we felt so much out of it."

"Everyone was on the ground, crowded around the players and so forth and I said I'm going down, so the others followed and we joined the invasion. But when we got there, we couldn't get near the players anyway and didn't really know what to do."

"We were a flock of ladies lost among the West Perth fans. The ABC's Jim Fitzmaurice rescued us — and interviewed me live on air about my feelings."

Football has taken the Farmers across the country a number of times, from East Perth to Geelong; to West Perth, back to Geelong and then to East Perth again. So where does Marlene's loyalty lie?

"I'm a Farmer supporter, not a club supporter," is the honest answer to that.

"Wherever my husband or sons are playing, I support that club. People who have been at one club all their lives probably can't understand that."

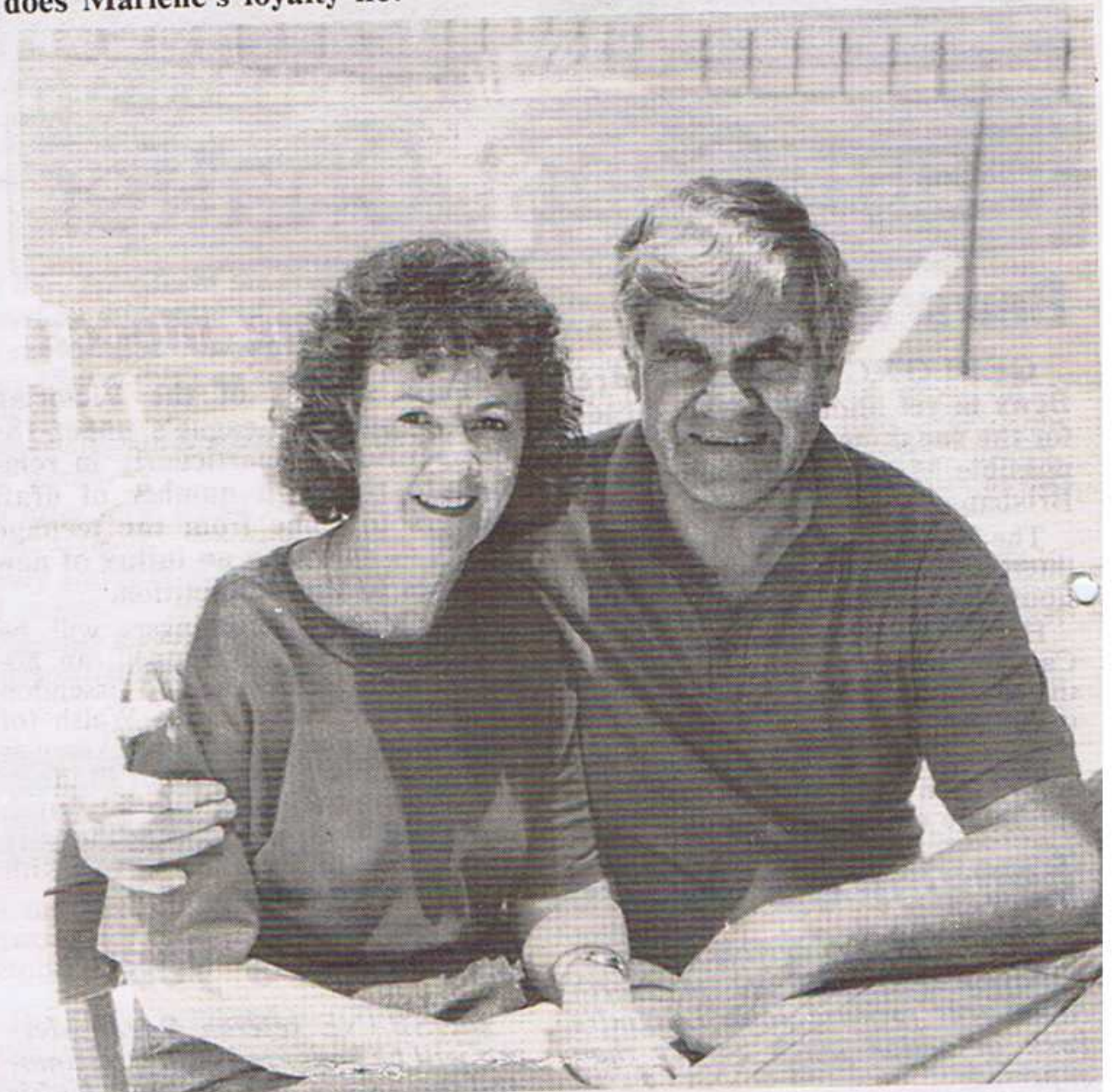
So how did this Farmer devotion start?

Marlene is a Tasmanian who came West in 1956 on a six-month working holiday; knowing little about football and even less about the stars of the game.

Soon after she and a friend arrived in Perth they discovered that there was an Australian football carnival on and because they knew a couple of Tassie players, they went along for a look.

They also discovered that the famed old Canterbury Court ballroom was the place to go on Saturday nights, not only to meet people, but because they liked to dance.

"One night someone pointed out this tall guy with a crew cut and said he was the footballer of the year, but I didn't think much about it," recalls Marlene of her first look at the local hero.



TEAM-MATES . . . Marlene and Graham Farmer are still working alongside each other 37 years after meeting at a Canterbury Court dance

SITUATIONS VACANT —

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Grades: Freeball, 9s, 10s, 11s, 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s and 17s

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S. DOODY Secretary
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Presents...

Some famous footy mothers

... it's been a journey with loads of satisfaction

"He used to go there with Tom Everett and a few other East Perth players and after we'd been going there for about six weeks, he tapped me on the shoulder and asked for a dance — and that was it.

"He was so gangly looking in those days, he was quite easy to spot — on the footy field or elsewhere.

"I certainly wasn't in awe of his football reputation, it was just fate playing a hand. I was meant to come to Perth to meet him.

"He took me home that night and about four months later we were talking about getting engaged, it was Christmas Eve by then and I went back to Tassie in April and we met up later in the year, in Hobart."

There have been numerous awards go the way of Graham Farmer, so how has his wife shared the glory?

"I was with him the night he won the Sandover Medal in 1956," she recalls.

"I was off work ill that day and living in Cottesloe with my mother and he came down to see me. We went into town to drop my friend off at the dance and he called into the milkbar underneath Canterbury Court and found out he had won the Medal.

"We didn't even celebrate; the paper took a photo of me pouring him a cup of coffee and that was it.

"The next one (1960) was unexpected; we weren't prepared for it and we were listening at home by ourselves when people started arriving. There I was driving around Scarborough trying to buy nibbles to feed them.

"The next year he won everything in the WAFL except the Sandover. That was disappointing; we had people over and there was a lot of expectation.

"But the most embarrassing one was the Brownlow Medal in 1963. He had won just about everything in the media, three cars and a heap of furniture.

"We had the Channel 7 van parked outside the house and he had already taped a milk commercial that was a traditional role for the Brownlow Medallist.



CHECKING IN... running a South Perth motel is the full-time occupation of the Farmers these days, with Marlene hard at work behind the counter

"He was so gangly looking in those days, he was quite easy to spot, on the footy field or elsewhere"



MEMORIES... Marlene Farmer looks at the portrait of her husband that now hangs proudly in a room at Subiaco Oval carrying his name

"But Pol was runner-up, getting all top votes, while Bob Skilton got the 2s and 1s.

"We sold the cars — one to pay the tax and the other two to put a deposit on a house in Geelong."

The times haven't always been great ones for the Farmer family and there are some regrets in the cupboard, along with all the trophies on the mantelpiece.

They include some incidents that won't be retold here, there's no reason to spoil a great football yarn with the dark side of the game. But Marlene Farmer makes no secret that her family was hard-done-by on two occasions:

★ The Lathlain Park affair (which resulted in Brett and Dean receiving long suspensions for allegedly interfering with umpires):-

"They were judged on Malcolm Brown's actions on the day more than what actually happened.

"If he hadn't interfered and taken the Perth reserves team off, it might not have been that bad.

"Bernie O'Sullivan (tribunal chairman) was at the game and he judged it on how it all ended up.

"Our boys were non-violent players and it was all verbal; made worse by Dean stepping back and accidentally bumping into the umpire, not knowing he was there. The umpire thought he did it on purpose. The umpire simply couldn't keep control and it got completely out of hand.

"If it had been left to Kevin Clune (Perth reserves coach), who was sending Dean down to the forward line, the whole thing could have been defused.

"They got a dreadful sentence initially, when there was nothing violent about it all. It really boiled down to Bernie O'Sullivan and his dogmatic opinion. He wanted to make an issue of it. The boys missed a year of football and then the League decided to exonerate everyone, not only our boys, but other players to mark 100 years of footy.

"Pol was devastated. It was a ridiculous sentence. We had phone calls from people all over the country.

"If they had done something absolutely terrible, you'd think they deserved it; but they weren't violent players. Dean was a little bit hot-headed at times, but they wouldn't harm anyone on the field."

★ The East Perth coaching saga (when Farmer was replaced as coach by Barry Cable):-

"We came home one time too many. I was very unhappy about him coming back to coach East Perth in 1976. I

didn't think he was appreciated, they still treated him like the little local boy made good.

"The hierarchy wanted Barry Cable to coach as part of the Ross Glendinning deal with North Melbourne, so they just dispensed with Pol. They didn't even tell him; a journalist told him."

Despite those dark days, the Farmer footballing family has stuck together and Brett and Dean are still involved — with mum and dad their No. 1 supporters.

Last year the two boys tasted premiership glory in different circles — Brett captain-coached York to a flag in the Avon league and Dean was a member of the North Beach side that took out the A-grade amateurs title.

"That was fantastic, two premierships in the one season," enthuses Marlene. "The game at York was far more exciting for me than any Eagles match.

"We never had the high expectations of Brett and Dean that other people did. It was sad that everyone compared them to their father. If they had been judged on merit, they would have done well on their own. People expected them to be as good as their father.

"After that Lathlain Park fiasco, the boys could easily have given up the game, but they kicked on and still enjoy their football."

The Farmers have mixed feelings about where they like living.

Marlene still regards herself as a Tasmanian, but she has come to grips with life alongside a West Australian legend and she's got no regrets about her moving around.

Geelong holds a special place in the family's heart; living there for 11 years all up and Marlene loved the Victorian football scene.

"Whenever we go back to Geelong, we just pick up where we left off," she says. "It's a great place and we always felt welcomed there."

The Farmers came back to WA in 1976 for the East Perth coaching job — and haven't got around to moving on again.

Sons Dean (29) and Brett (33) are well-settled in the west, as is married daughter Kim Baxter (27), who has delivered the Farmers with probably their best football highlight... grandson Cole.

"He's the light of our life," says Marlene. "He's now three and is absolutely adorable."

The Farmers now run the Southway Auto Lodge, in South Perth and big Polly is a familiar figure as he strolls to the local shops — or to the TAB for a wager.

And that's another story Marlene wants to shoot down.

"We've heard all these stories about Pol being a big gambler and all that; but it's rubbish," she says. "He loves horses and likes a bet, but he's more interested in the breeding of horses than the gambling."

So what of Polly Farmer the coach?

"Naturally I think he was a very good coach," says the proud wife.

"He was a very single-minded person and concentrated on just one thing... success. He was certainly an excellent playing coach, where he could set the example on the field. His years at West Perth saw him at his best on the field.

"At Geelong he didn't have the players, but he still lifted them from near the bottom of the table and they finished sixth one year. They just lost too many players in 1972 and the club expected miracles.

"Players make all the difference and as a non-playing coach, maybe he did expect a bit much at times. But he was a great leader; a man who could help individuals achievement enormous improvement.

"At East Perth, he took them into a grand final in his first year."

Farmer also had a stint as a skills coach with the West Coast Eagles, where he was well-respected and offered the big men especially plenty of experience.

So, has football been good to the Farmer family?

"Yes, of course it has," she says emphatically.

"Pol took some big chances when he left Perth to go to Melbourne and he deserved the rewards that came his way.

"But we're not filthy rich or anything like that; probably not even what you would call well off. We haven't got that much out of football, apart from some great memories.

"The big money came after he finished. Football always came first with Pol, before business. He's got a good business head, but he put football first always. He wanted to go into a hotel when we were younger, but I wouldn't because of the kids.

"We did well by investing in land a couple of times and we bred horses in Geelong; Pol's always loved horses. He bred a champion in Grey Sapphire. He's very knowledgeable on horses, he could tell you the breeding of all the Melbourne Cup winners."

FARMER NOTE: The nickname Polly came from Graham Farmer's boyhood days at Sister Kate's Orphanage, in Queen's Park, where he was something of a chatter-box. But wife Marlene has always called him Pol, as do his really close friends.

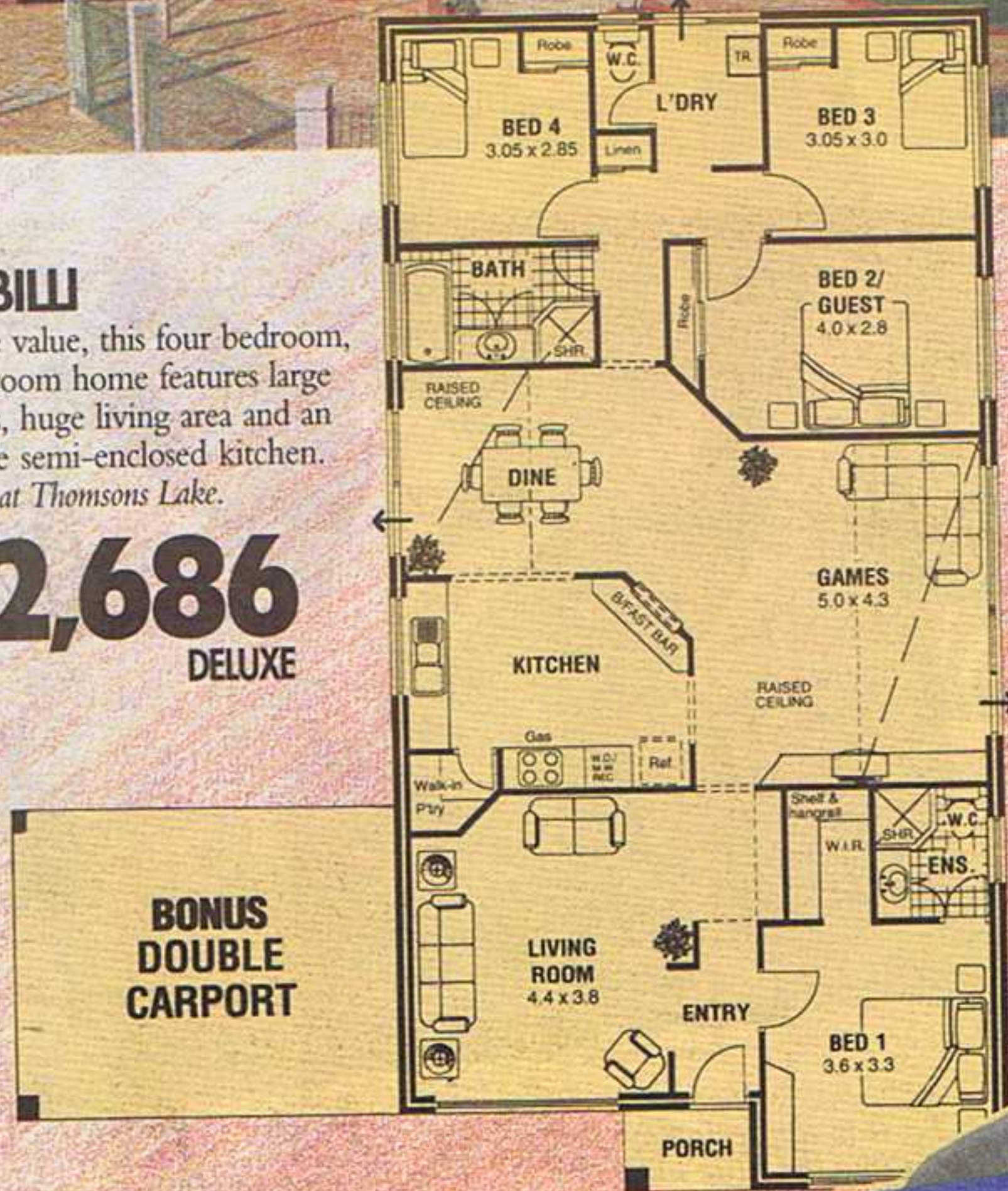
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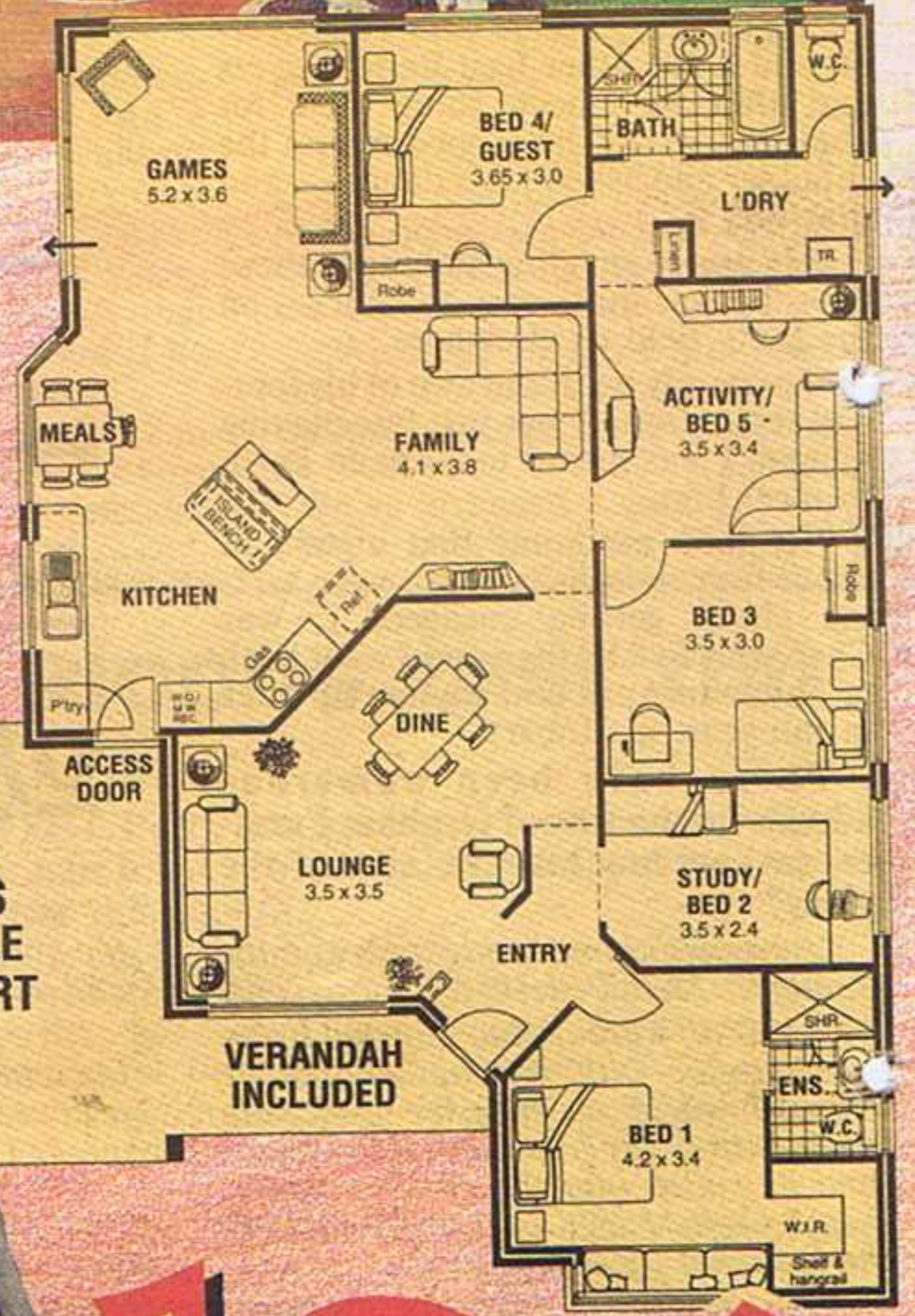
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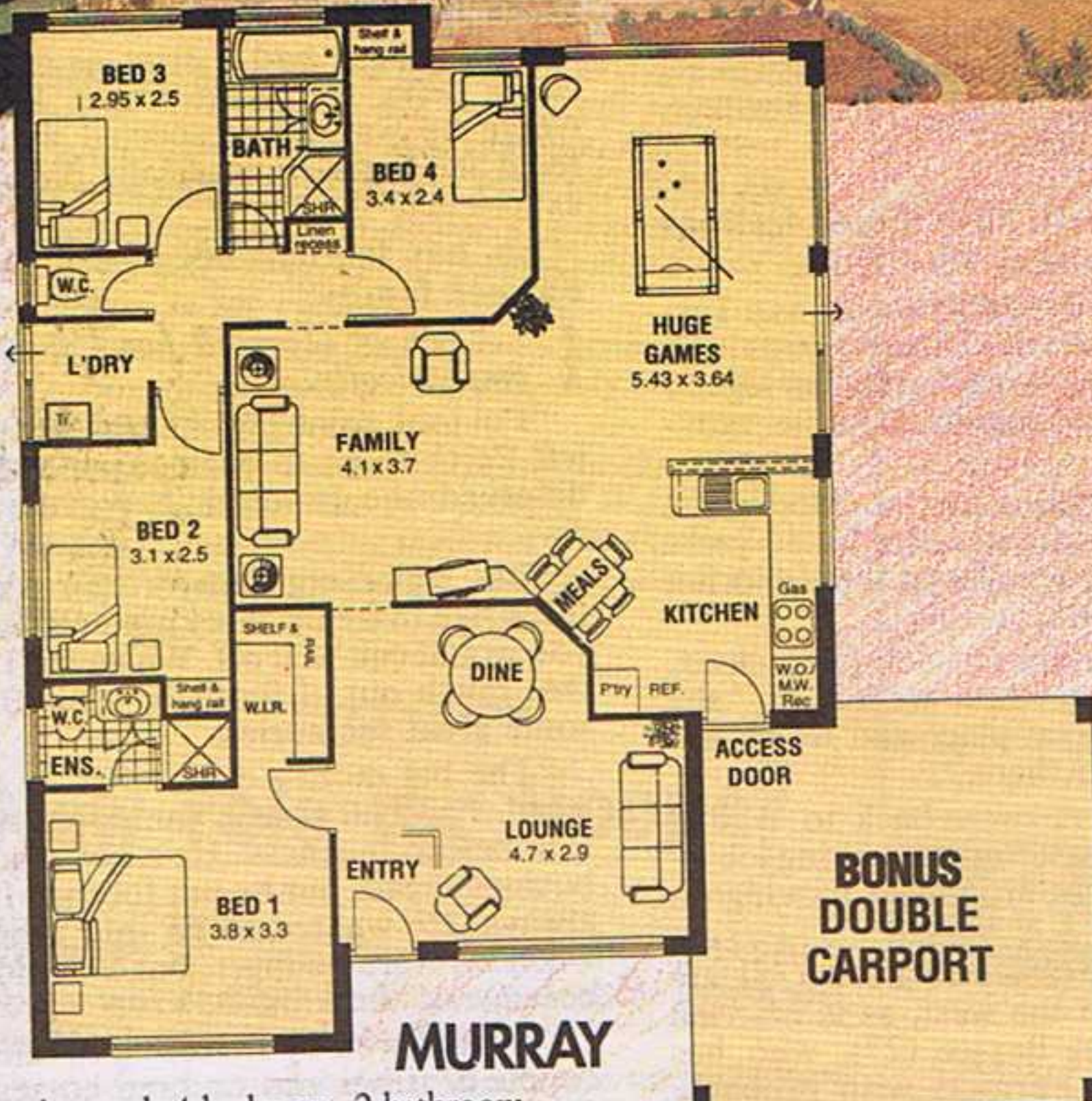
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