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COMMON GOAL ... last year's joint West Coast club champions Don Pyke and Glen Jakovich represent the opposite ends of the little-man/big-man football spectrum. But they share the same ambitions this season ... as **TANIA ARMSTRONG** examines in her special page 15 feature



JOHN LEONARD ...
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Club Rumours PRESENTS

Summertime Footy



GOSSIP

Missing film

FOOTBALL legend Graham Farmer has been captured in many great photographs and video tapes . . . but one film of his early days has gone missing.

The ABC produced a documentary about Farmer back in the early 1970s, capturing a lot of his early career and tracing his boyhood days when he was educated at Sister Kate's Home, in suburban Perth.

The documentary was done by former ABC commentator Jim Fitzmaurice and was shown after Farmer broke Jack Sheedy's games-played record of 338 at Leederville Oval in May, 1971.

But the film has gone missing and football author Steve Hawke is keen to track it down.

Hawke is writing a book about the great Farmer and would love to see the documentary, which contains many rare items about the big man's younger days.

Any football lover with information about the film can contact Hawke by giving Westside Football a call on 227 6722 or dropping us a line at PO Box 119, Northbridge 6865.

Out in front



EAST Perth would like to keep their noses in front of their WAFL rivals this season — and they have already got the jump on some of the other clubs.

After many months of negotiations, the Royals have finally been able to release their specialised car license plates featuring the club's logo and personalised numbers.

Already a number of Royals supporters have been spotted driving cars with the East Perth plates — including club sponsor Brian Hayward, the principal of Centre Ford, who have renewed their support of the club into a second decade.

The spying game

THE growing influx of AFL spies based in Perth to keep tabs on the Eagles has forced the West Coast hierarchy to plan some secret training sessions.

The Eagles want to ban the public and the media from occasional training sessions in an attempt to keep match strategies under wraps.

Football manager Trevor Nisbett has confirmed that a "training lock-out" was likely to be implemented this season, saying that coach Mick Malthouse had

a number of specific match plays that he would like to keep to himself.

In the past, training at Subiaco Oval has been open to the public and the media on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Though Nisbett said the specific week night was yet to be determined, it appears unlikely to be Monday evening, when the full squad is rarely in attendance after weekend matches and many players venture to the swimming pool.

A secret training session could also mean closing the revamped Eagles Supporter's Club bar, which overlooks the ground — or, at least, putting up a barrier in front of the windows.

The move could be a sign of things to come as the Eagles guard against the inclusion of the Fremantle side in 1995.

However, the club is just as wary of their other 14 AFL rivals and the presence of 'spies' at training sessions on the eve of matches is no secret.

Customer talk

THE WA Football League has sought out the opinions of the "average" club follower in a bid to improve the game's image in a number of areas.

Each of the eight WAFL clubs submitted the names of 10 members selected at random and they were invited to a special function at Subiaco Oval, where they expressed their thoughts about the Pepsi Cup competition and how football could be improved.

Director of Football Grant Dorrington said the move was long overdue, conceding that for too long the game's administrators had taken for granted that they understood the way the football public were thinking without ever really asking the paying public.

Some Vics love us

WHO says that Victorians don't want a national football competition?

Not the business world, that's for sure. And business people outside of Victoria are also pretty keen on the expansion of the national league.

Figures released by the AFL show that 25,000 out-of-state visitors flew into Melbourne to watch last year's finals series — injecting an estimated \$35 million into the ailing Victorian economy.

With about 20,000 South Australians crossing the border for the finals series — plus the usual 2000 or 3000 West Aussies who make the trip — there is plenty of handy dollars dropping into the cash registers of airlines, hotels, service stations, restaurants and so forth.

Poetry in motion

PROMINENT Melbourne journalist Geoff Poulter is regarded as one of the kings of trivia when it comes to the national game.

Apart from being an avid Carlton man, he's got quite a way with words — especially when it comes to putting footballers into amusing line-ups.

He recently picked a team that had an interesting ring about the various lines, such as at the centreline of Taylor, Foulds, Coates or the ruck division of Wood, Burns, Allday.

Here's the rest of his team line-up as published in the Herald Sunday-Sun:

- BACKS: Cross, Burke, Rohde.
- HALF-BACKS: Passmore, Brown, Beers.
- HALF-FORWARDS: Judge, Law, Fairley.
- FORWARDS: Watt, Price, Greening.
- INTERCHANGE: Rock and Croall.

How about a West Aussie poet to match his skills? Is there anyone out there who could come up with a similar team from WA football?

There's a prize of a carton of Matilda Bay beer for a smart reader who captures our attention with such a poem. Send your thoughts to Westside Football, PO Box 119, Northbridge, 6865.

Saints Sizzle

THE mixed moods that exist at St Kilda are still puzzling the outsiders looking in.

New coach Stan Alves has given up his comfortable ABC media seat for one of football's toughest jobs and he's got all sorts of fires to quell.

Not the least is the simmering feud between volatile West Aussie Nicky Winmar and big marking Stewart Loewe, who apparently clashed rather heatedly before Christmas.

Then there's the on-going saga of over-weight Tony Lockett.

Plugger's manager Robert Hession says that the big forward is training five days a week and is making a real effort to be as fit as possible for the start of the season.



Mel helps out

AFTER 371 games for West Perth, you can't blame Mel Whinnen for not trying his hand at football coaching, but he did give softball and netball a go.

A father of two girls, Whinnen did the right thing during their junior sporting days and helped out where he could.

"I didn't even know the rules and had to read a few books, so I was a bit of a hacker at it," said Whinnen.

"I would tell the girls in netball to put a bit of hip and shoulder into it and they would tell me that they couldn't do that.

"It would have been good to have given junior football coaching a go and put something back into the game, but I don't think I had the personality for senior coaching."

Fremantle tip

FORMER West Coast midfielder and South Fremantle product Scott Watters is a leading candidate to be an inaugural member of the proposed new Fremantle AFL side.

The tough little Watters — who turned 25 on Tuesday — was never really happy about departing from the Eagles camp and becoming a Sydney Swan . . . where he was a stalwart last season.

Watters missed the Eagles 1992 premiership with some late-season injuries and after 46 AFL games, he was drafted to Sydney, adding another 18 matches.

Back home for Christmas, the affable midfielder admits that he would love to return to Perth to live, even though he's happy at Sydney.

A true South Fremantle product — his father Allan coaches the Bulldogs colts side — Watters didn't rule out the thought of being part of the Fremantle camp.

While back at home he showed his prowess in another sporting field — cutting his golf handicap at Royal Fremantle from 11 to 7.

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Roos keen to tackle WAFL side

NORTH Melbourne, the early-season trendsetters in last year's AFL competition, are keen to come to Perth to play a practice match against a composite WAFL side.

The Roos want to strut their stuff as a curtain-raiser to the grand final of the WAFL Emu Export pre-season series scheduled for the WACA Ground on Friday, March 25.

Last year's big improvers have a bye on the first weekend of AFL fixtures, which coincides with the climax of the WAFL pre-season competition.

Norths have approached the WAFL about the possibility of staging a match and though negotiations between the WAFL, North Melbourne and the AFL are not finalised, WAFL clubs are right behind the idea.

The match would provide a huge promotional opportunity for WAFL clubs and a spectacular curtain-raiser to the summer series grand final.

PAGAN KEEN

Norths coach Denis Pagan is one man keen to see the match go ahead.

"We want to get as much practice and travel in as possible before the season kicks off," said Pagan.

"It's hard having a bye first up when there is so much hype leading up to the first round.

"Our idea is to fly to Perth, get a bit more used to travel and play against some good opposition."

Players from the six WAFL clubs not contesting the Emu Export grand final at 8pm would make up a composite State side to play the twilight match at 6pm.

Pagan and his side could then catch the midnight flight home in time to watch first round AFL action in Melbourne on Saturday and Sunday.

With no accommodation needed, costs would be kept at a minimum and gate proceeds would be negotiated with the WAFL.

With the SANFL starting on the same weekend as the AFL, the only other option for North Melbourne is a game against South Adelaide, who also have a first round bye.

But as South Adelaide finished sixth last year, they would provide weaker opposition than a combined WAFL side.

However, the whole scenario depends largely on the fixture being held on a Friday night, a result solely in the

By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**



WA CHALLENGE . . . North Melbourne coach Denis Pagan is keen to bring his side to Perth for a practice match hit-out

hands of the WA Sheffield Shield team.

Currently placed second with three matches remaining and a home final the reward for top spot, those 12 days of cricket will determine more than the success of their season.

With the Shield shoot-out scheduled for March 25-29, a home final at the WACA would mean a change of venue — and a move to a day game on Saturday — for the Emu Export climax.

North Melbourne could be reluctant to come to Perth for a Saturday fixture, as gate receipts and attendance would drop with a live telecast of the Eagles match against Richmond coming in from the MCG.

Pagan, an astute student of opposition sides, also indicated he would be reluctant to be away from Melbourne for the opening day of the AFL season.

Falcons set for change

THE West Perth Football Club could play its last season in the WAFL this year before the Joondalup influence takes a permanent hold on the club's name.

West Perth have already been unofficially labelled the Joondalup Falcons and the possibility of a name change is a growing reality, according to Falcons president Tom James.

"Within 12 months I could see the weight of numbers of new members and community interest out that way leading to a change," he said.

"It could be determined by our AGM at the end of the season, though I'm not willing to make any drastic changes.

"I can see it gradually changing and being accepted over time as the media will pick it up and call us what they see appropriate anyway."

James ruled out the possibility of the club playing in a new guernsey to mark the start of their Joondalup era.

A guernsey with a touch of green — the colour of the Joondalup Development Corporation — added to the traditional colours of red and blue was thought to be appropriate by some people.

"When we move out there in March, our office will still have West Perth Football Club written on the door," said James.

The WA Football Commission recently queried what name the club wanted to use on the official WAFL fixtures for this season and West Perth was the emphatic reply.

To make travel to their new ground easier, the Falcons are negotiating with Transperth to incorporate a train station inside the new Joondalup Arena similar to the Belmont Park and Claremont Showground stations.

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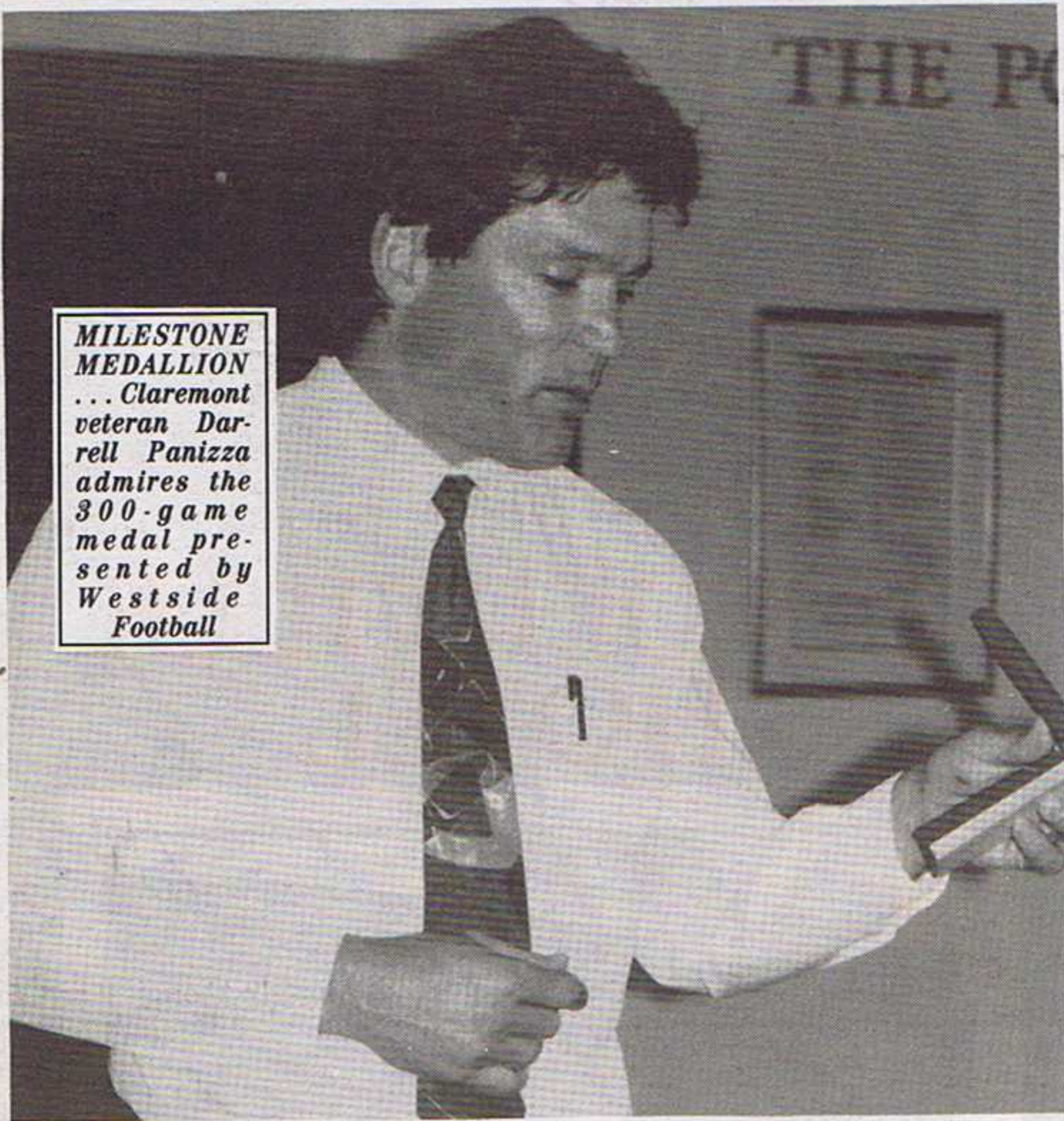
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MILESTONE MEDALLION
... Claremont veteran Darrell Panizza admires the 300-game medal presented by Westside Football

Demon defects

PERTH have lost another player to the lucrative South Australian playing fields with Robert Thomson the latest Demon to cross the border.

The dashing ruck-rover is yet to sign with the Haydn Bunton coached Sturt, though that is imminent as he heads to Adelaide in the next fortnight to tackle pre-season training.

Perth football manager Russell Clark says Sturt spoke to Thomson on numerous occasions and offered him a healthy package, though it was more a new challenge that the hard-working Demon was seeking.

"They put together an attractive offer per game, as well as a relocation fee," said Clark.

"He's had four seasons with us and was keen to try his hand in another competition.

"We hate to lose a player of his calibre, but he goes with our blessings."

Perth will be asking for a transfer fee should Thomson sign with Sturt, who also recruited fellow Demon, Brendon Baker last season.

Baker is also negotiating a return to Sturt, where he played 20 matches in an outstanding debut year. He returned to Perth over summer and spent a week training with Subiaco, but is now keen to return to Adelaide.

Rival SA club Port Adelaide have already snared the signature of Scott Spalding, who was heading back to Perth after being delisted by Carlton.

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Two new members join the 300 men

TWO more West Australian footballers have joined one of the game's most elite groups — Westside's 300 Club.

Claremont's evergreen defender Darrell Panizza and former West Perth back pocket high-flier Ross Gibbs have become the 16th and 17th WA players to achieve 300 club games in senior football.

Panizza, who plans to go into a 16th season in addition to taking on a coaching role with Claremont's reserves, is perched on 248 games with the Tigers, in addition to his 74 at Woodville.

Gibbs, who played 97 with West Perth from 1979 to 1983 after graduating from Mirrabooka, has continued his career with Glenelg, in the South Australian NFL.

Approaching his 34th birthday on February 16, Gibbs has no firm retirement plans, always suggesting that he could play league football until he was 35.

GLENELG MILESTONE

He has now tallied 250 SANFL games, celebrating that milestone in Glenelg's final outing for the season. The Adelaide Tigers finished fourth, losing the first semi-final to Norwood, with Gibbs rated as the team's best player.

"I'm still enjoying my football," says Gibbs, who has resisted West Perth offers to return home in recent years. "I'm still enthusiastic about another year and providing I stay injury-free I've got no worries about lining up again."

Gibbs works with a security firm in Adelaide and is happily settled with his wife Julie and children Bryce (4) and Kelly (2). But the family are keen to return to the West eventually, but after his playing days are over.

For the record, here is the line-up of the 300 Club, with the criteria for membership being that they had to be West Australian produced players and the games were recorded in the three major leagues — WAFL, SANFL and VFL/AFL.



FALCON MEMORIES ... former West Perth dasher Ross Gibbs as the fans remember him, clearing the ball out of defence

The 300-game champions

BARRY CABLE
382 games

Perth (1962-69, 1971-73, 225 games)
North Melbourne (1970, 1974-77, 116 games)
East Perth (1978-79, 41 games)

BRIAN PEAKE
374 games

East Fremantle (1972-80, 1985-90, 304 games)
Geelong (1981-84, 66 games)
Perth (1990, 4 games)

MEL WHINNEN
371 games

West Perth 1960-1977

GRAHAM FARMER
356 games

East Perth (1953-61, 176 games)
Geelong (1962-67, 101 games)
West Perth (1968-71, 79 games)

ROSS GIBBS
347 games

West Perth (1979-83, 97 games)
Glenelg (1984-, 250 games)

STEVEN CURTIS
345 games

East Perth (1973-82, 215 games)
Port Adelaide, SA (1983-88, 130 games)

BILL DEMPSEY
343 games

West Perth 1960-1976

GRAHAM MOSS
342 games

Claremont (1969-72, 1977-83, 253 games)
Essendon (1973-76, 89 games)

JACK SHEEDY
340 games

East Fremantle (1942-55, 210 games)
East Perth (1956-63, 122 games)
South Melbourne (1944, 8 games)

PETER FEATHERBY
332 games

Subiaco (1970-74, 1977-79, 1984-88, 197 games)
Footscray (1975-76, 42 games)
Geelong (1980-83, 93 games)

GRAHAM MELROSE
322 games

East Fremantle (1967-74, 140 games)
North Melbourne (1975-79, 111 games)
Swan Districts (1980-83, 71 games)

DARRELL PANIZZA
322 games

Claremont (1979-86, 1990-, 248 games)
Woodville (1987-89, 74 games)

BRYAN COUSINS
312 games

Perth (1970-74, 1980-87, 240 games)
Geelong (1975-79, 72 games)

RON ALEXANDER
308 games

East Perth (1971-75, 98 games)
Fitzroy (1976-81, 133 games)
East Fremantle (1982-85, 77 games)

BOB BEECROFT
308 games

Swan Districts (1970-75, 126 games)
Fitzroy (1976-80, 96 games)
Woodville (1981-85, 86 games)

TOM GRUJUSICH
307 games

South Fremantle (1960-64, 1968-76, 258 games)
Central District, SA (1965-67, 49 games)

BILL WALKER
305 games

Swan Districts 1961-1976

Spreading the gospel ...

Footy message thrives in the Kimberleys

IT WAS August down in the city, heading towards the end of winter and action time in the football season.

In the North West it was still August, of course, but a different type of weather when a mate of mine in Bruce Malloch, a professional artist, invited me to Broome, where he was a guest for the annual Pearl Festival.

The invitation was hard to resist and we spent four days in sunny Broome, mostly involved with activities surrounding the Festival.

But I took the Sunday off and headed to the football oval to get my weekly fix of Aussie Rules and watched two of the top West Kimberley sides fight out the preliminary final.

The standard was good and the play open and pretty fast. But the atmosphere was so relaxed it was almost like a session of kick to kick.

PEP TALK

Towns, with a considerable history of success behind them, seemed slightly more serious than the opposition and they won on the day — helped obviously by a pre-game pep talk from one-time West Perth high-flier Brian Adamson.

Umpiring didn't seem to pose a problem and the game was always well under control. One boy seemed ready to make his physical presence felt when a teammate ran past him and yelled: "Forget about it, mate. We need you in the grand final."

The advice was heeded and the player went on with the game and forgot the mayhem on his mind.

On the final siren, the players walked casually from the ground and I happened to pass by the umpire.

"Where's the police escort?" I asked.

He didn't bat an eye-lid as he continued towards the boundary line and replied: "I am the police."

Surely this could be a solution to crowd/player violence at WAFL and AFL level — let the police do the umpiring!

Kimberley football seems to be on a high, supported heavily by mining giant CRA, with the local seven-team league providing plenty of rivalry.

For the record, football kicked off in the Kimberleys back in 1921, with North Broome winning the first premiership, but South Broome claiming the next six flags.

There was no football played between 1929 and 1949, when the game was revived with Towns, Meatworks and Commonwealth returning to action, with the latter winning the flag.

The competition continued until 1962, when another six-year break occurred before football fanatic,

Kimberleys



PIN UPS ... WAFC country development officer Terry Waldron hands out Eagles posters to keen youngsters in Broome

Father Michael McMahon (born in Footscray) revived regular competition and the seasons have been uninterrupted since 1969.

Towns have won 20 premierships and are the most successful club, while Meatworks and Saints have taken out five flags each.

In 1993 the competition boasted seven teams — four from Broome and three from out-lying areas — and on that point they're not kidding!

Bardi is 200kms away, with One Arm Point and

Beagle Bay about the same distance. The teams travel the corrugated roads every weekend and never seem unhappy about it, such is their love of football.

Three teams are predominately Aboriginal and, for the most part, play bare-footed. The other sides are cosmopolitan.

Nearby Derby — just 200kms away — fluctuate in and out of the competition depending on how their football population is. They run their own four-team league, but often field an extra side in the West Kimberley association if they have a surplus of players.

Interest in the Kimberley season is widespread and the ABC has complemented this by broadcasting the grand final in recent years, with Towns taking out last year's flag, beating Saints in a spirited tussle.

DEVELOPMENT WORK

The Perth-based Football Development Trust is keen to provide support for the North West and in conjunction with sponsors, CRA, there is a lot of development work going on up there.

Former Eagles and East Fremantle coach Ron Alexander, whose work with the Ministry of Sport involves a lot of football, has helped put together a series of coaching clinics through the North-West and players like Michael Brennan, Chris Lewis and Ryan Turnbull have visited various schools in the region.

With air travel bringing the isolated communities closer to town, it may not be long before we see what the North has to offer.

A combined Kimberley team could be given the chance to show their stuff as a pipe-opener to one of the big fixtures in Perth.

WAFL changes overdue

IT'S time for change — at least, it's time to think about some changes.

The format of the local competition has not changed since Swan Districts entered the WAFL back in 1934.

The eight WAFL clubs have continued to produce top-flight players of a calibre to match it with the best in the country, but things have changed, sadly, for the worse.

It's all very well for the propaganda wizards to try and convince the public that everything on the local scene is rosy. But it's still tough in the highly-competitive law of the jungle, where only the best clubs survive.

The Commission must stop molly-coddling the traditional eight senior clubs in the WAFL and open the competition up for all-comers, by adopting a promotion and relegation system.

Only eight teams should be in the top division and they remain there only as long as they are capable of holding their places competitively.

Pouring money into the existing eight clubs is only a stop-gap measure; things would change if they knew they could be relegated if they didn't perform, on and off the field.

Once all the clubs are

out of debt and everyone starts off equal — apart from the wealthy Subiaco, of course — the Commission must leave the clubs to fend for themselves.

The introduction of a final five in the eight team WAFL competition was ridiculous, even if it does generate more finals interest and increased funds.

The prospect of country teams from Kalgoorlie and Bunbury would spread the playing talent more thinly than it already is.

If Kalgoorlie wants to show what they can do, then let them start by competing in the Sunday League and if they can win a premiership there,

then let them challenge the bottom side of the WAFL.

That could be a guide as to how competitive they would be before they are cemented into a situation that would be hard to reverse.

Until the Commissioners do something to improve the standard of the WAFL and to come up with a format that will give everyone a chance to be part of the action, then things are going to keep sliding.

No outside league, such as Kalgoorlie, Bunbury or Geraldton, should contemplate getting themselves into the present mess.

HUNGRY JACK'S

P R E S E N T S

Talking footy

with BILL MATHER-BROWN

He's the first



A BEAMING Patrick Cox was a proud man when he made his WAFL debut for Claremont in round 15 of last year's Pepsi Cup action. The 22-year-old was the first player from Beagle Bay, in the West Kimberley League, to make it to WAFL ranks. His first-up match was against Subiaco and he was pleased to get his hands on the inaugural John Leonard Cup introduced for that clash and claimed in convincing style by the Tigers.

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BOVELL'S

PRESENTS ...

Bovell's Best

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

Football's elder statesman, John Leonard, stands tall as one of the outstanding achievers in the early days of Australian Rules

Gentleman coach handed his fee back

TIMES have changed since the legendary John Leonard made his mark on and off the playing fields of WA and Victoria.

As a six-times premiership coach, Leonard rarely raised his voice at the players under his control.

Even more remarkable is the fact that he returned payments to clubs when they insisted on rewarding him for his time and efforts as a champion rover or coach.

But Leonard is a remarkable man. A non-drinker now in his 90s, his wisdom on life, football and sport in general is invaluable.

Born in England, he says cricket was always his first sporting love but he also excelled at football, soccer, tennis, hockey and basketball.

As a five-year-old he came to Perth by ship with his parents, John and Margaret and older brother Richard after the death of two brothers prompted the family to seek out a new start in the promised land.

When Richard lost his life in WWII, John was the only remaining child of four.

SAD TIMES

"It was a sad little home for quite some years really, but I had a very good up-bringing," he said.

"I don't remember anything of England and used to tell everyone that I

was born in Subiaco, because that's where I spent the greater part of my life.

"In fact, we used to joke by calling Subiaco the capital of Perth."

Still very active and living in Cottesloe, it is only a few months ago that he curtailed his 6am daily swim habit in the ocean.

A touch further back he retired from the veteran's tennis circuit with Royal King's Park, the club he joined back in 1932 and still visits on Saturdays.

Subiaco's 1926 Sandover Medallist and runner-up in 1927 and '29 — when he finished equal first only to see the president's vote go to East Perth's Billy Thomas because Leonard had already won a Medal — he went on to even greater heights, first as a captain-coach and then as a non-playing leader.

A premiership in his first stint as a playing coach with Maryborough, in country Victoria (1930), led to him to South Melbourne in 1931 and on his return to Perth, premierships with West Perth (1934-35) and Claremont

By **TANIA ARMSTRONG**



(1938-39-40) followed.

His feats are even more amazing when you consider he had never seen an Australian football until he went to Subiaco Primary School.

He recalls dodging the tram lines in Rokeby Road to kick a soccer ball up and down with his father and brother.

"I can still remember one play-time when this oval shaped ball came out and I couldn't understand it," he recalled.

"I thought to myself 'what is this game?'. But it wasn't long before I was playing soccer one day and football the next.

"I always had a ball of some sort in my hand.

"I think that's the same with anyone who has a natural ability like a musician, a pianist or a painter. You have that natural feeling towards something and you migrate to it."

PHILOSOPHIES

Leonard admits to moulding most of his sporting philosophies around cricket and his liking for the spirit of the gentleman's game.

The story goes that he amazed many at South Melbourne when he began his first training night address to the players with "Gentleman ..."

"You wouldn't do anything if it wasn't cricket and I based my life on that — just play the game," he says.

"You don't do that now. I wouldn't query umpires, you would just accept it and take it."

Leonard combined cricket in summer and basketball on Friday nights with football throughout his playing career and captained a State colts cricket side.

While he looks back fondly on his football stints with all his clubs, it is his association with Claremont that remains the strongest.

Busy establishing a wholesale agency business on return from the east, Leonard says business opportunities led him to Tigerland.



PROUD MOMENT ... John Leonard is among the outstanding West Australians honoured with inclusion in the Hall of Champions

He was a business associate of Claremont president Horrie Mercer, who was managing director of Drabbles, in Claremont and Leonard was later enticed to the Tigers by incoming president and good friend Pat Rodriguez.

"Horrie offered to send a little business my way and I thought, well business is business so I agreed to be non-playing coach," he said.

"Getting paid was against my principles. Claremont actually gave me 25 pounds, which I sent back.

"I never played for money until the last two seasons of my football years.

"It was wrong to me, but I never begrudged anyone who was getting paid, it was just my belief."

In an outstanding run yet to be repeated at the club, Leonard's hat-trick of premierships began in his first year as coach, 1938.

Leonard believes, if not for the interruption of war, the side could have won five or six flags.

"I had a fine side, a very fine side with some brilliant players," he recalls.

"In the main it was a very well balanced side and you can win premierships with that."

GRAND FINAL TIE

He coached the Tigers to the famous tied grand final of 1938 against East Fremantle and after a harrowing week, led the side to a comfortable 22-point victory.

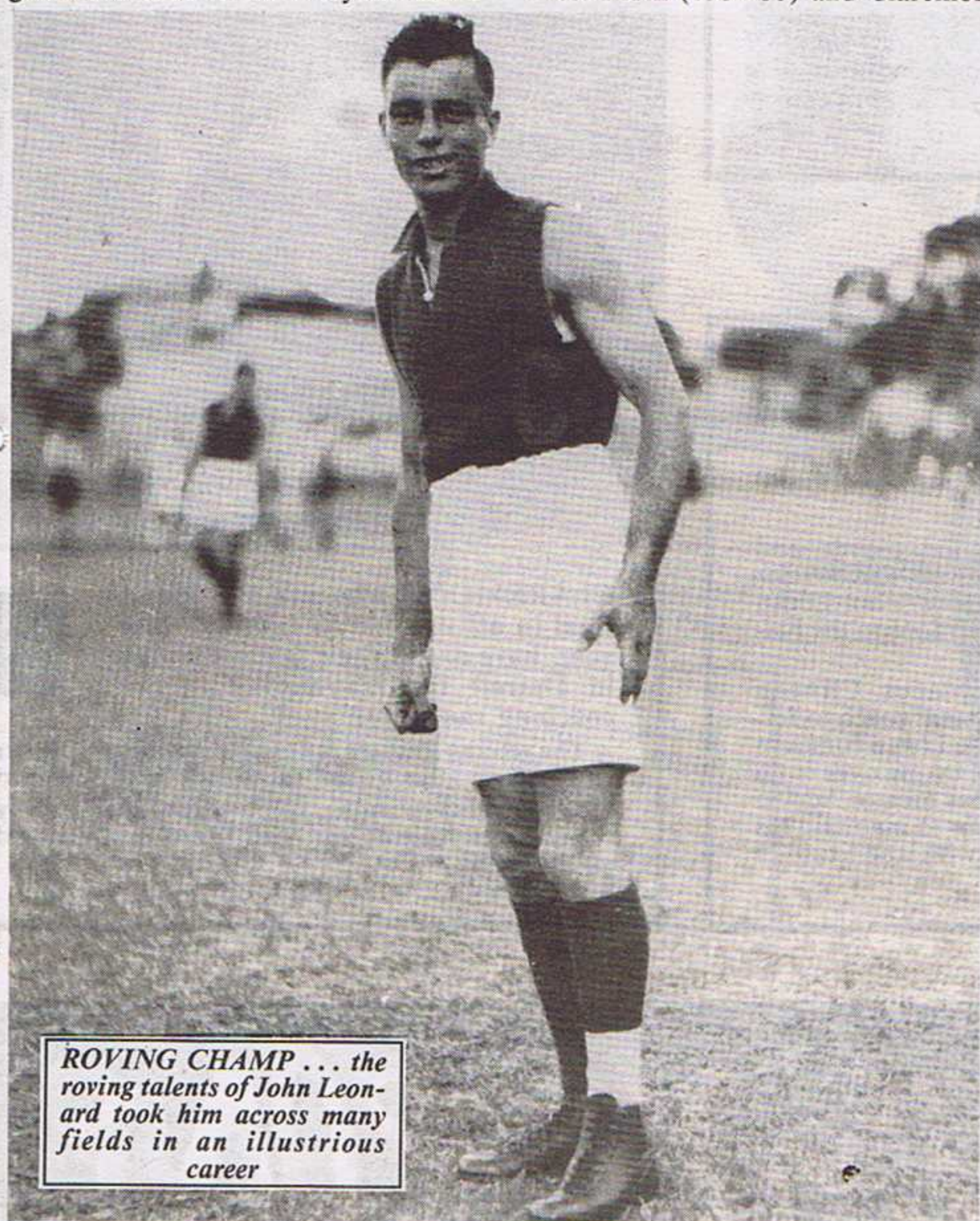
"My heart went right down to my boots after the tie," said Leonard.

"I felt so sorry, not only for the players, but for president Horrie Mercer because he'd never been involved in football until that period. I can still see the look on his face ... so close to tears."

Leonard has given a lot to football, but it is only in the past few years — an incredible five decades since he made his mark — that his feats have been recognised by Perth's football fraternity.

The WA Coaches Association recognised his service when they introduced the J.J. Leonard Medal for coach-of-the-year; the WA Football Commission last year inaugurated the John Leonard Cup for an annual match between Subiaco and Claremont and he was also honoured with life membership at Subiaco.

Leonard married a Perth girl, Anne in 1942, who passed away eight years ago. He has a son Richard and daughter Margo.



ROVING CHAMP ... the roving talents of John Leonard took him across many fields in an illustrious career

NEXT WEEK John Leonard's unusual arrival in Victoria and memories of his other clubs.

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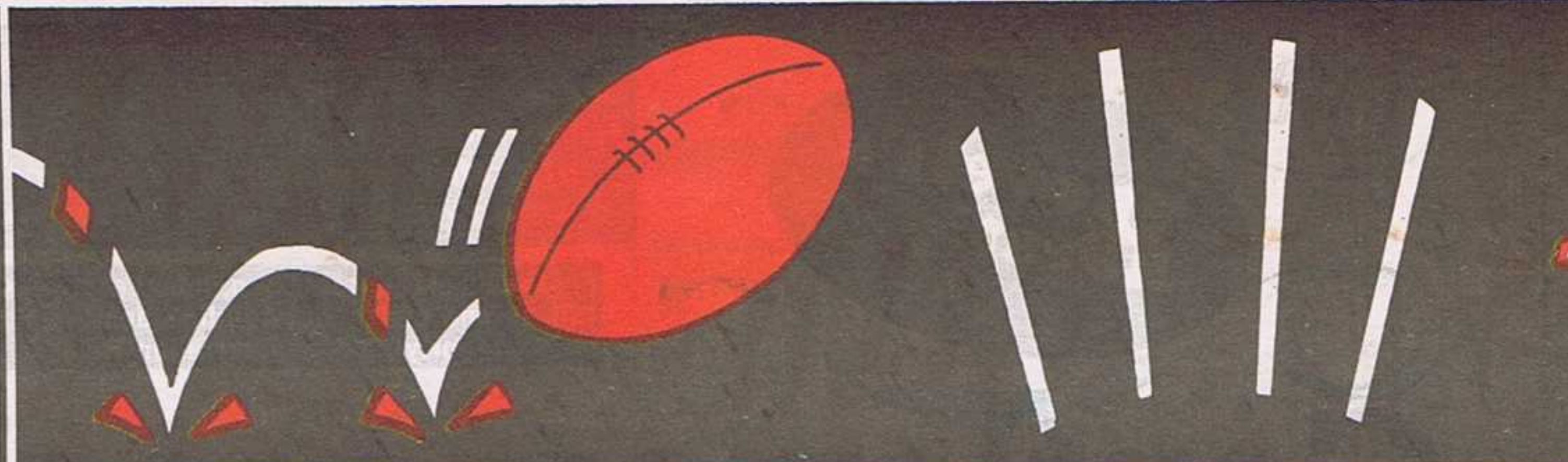
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RUMOURS



ROYALS TRIO ... new East Perth coach Robert Solin with his right-hand men, Wayne Otway (left) and Ziggy Karow



TWO major changes have occurred at East Perth, with Stan Magro's move to Collingwood.

His off-sider from last year in veteran player Robert Solin has quickly stepped into the senior coach's role, recalling former Royals premiership player Wayne Otway from a coaching stint in the amateurs to take on the reserves side.

Otway replaces Greg Henderson, who has retired after 11 years of service with the colts and reserves.

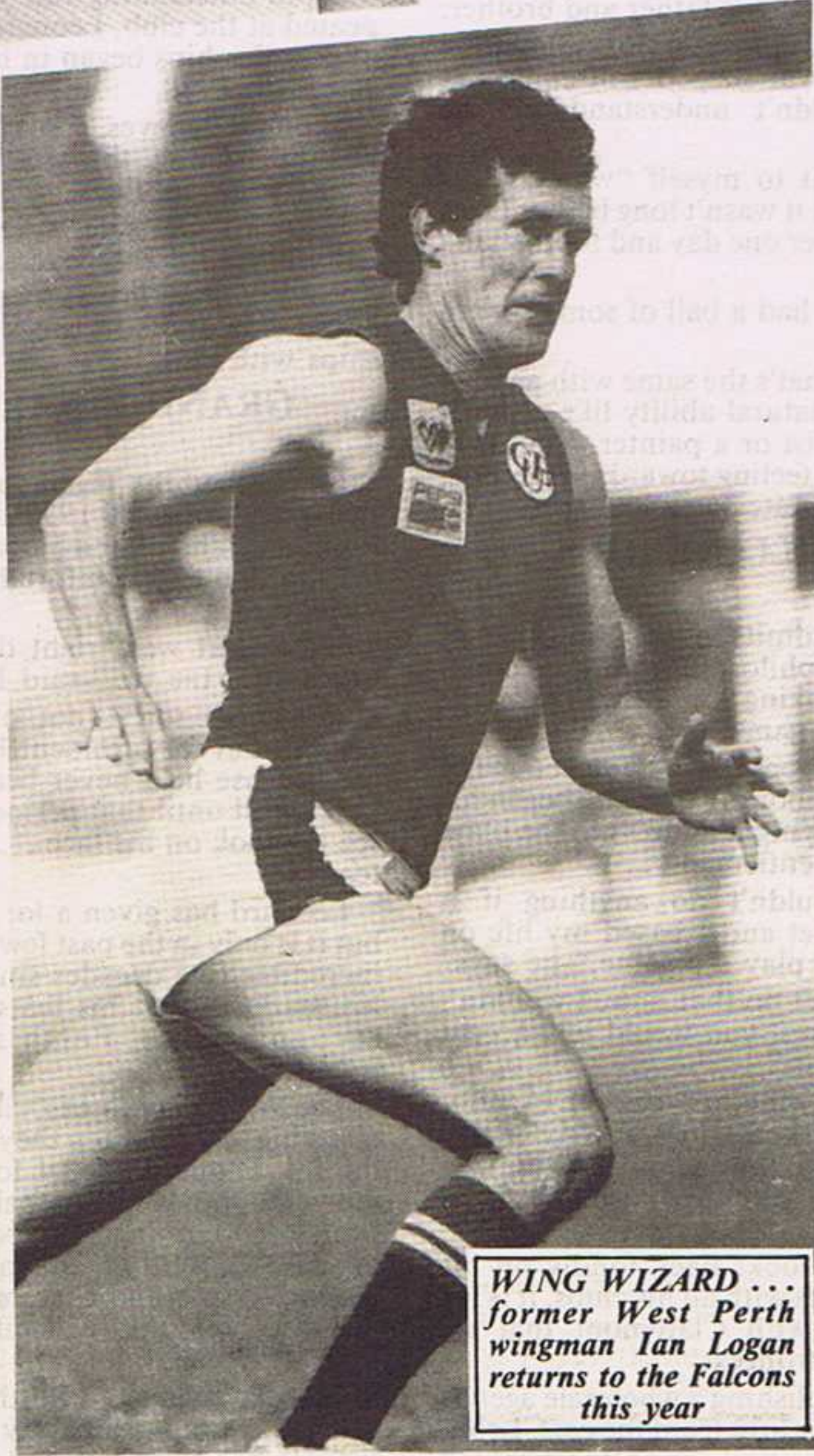
Kevin Worthington returns to Perth Oval to assist Solin and fill the role of chairman of selectors, while Mick Fuller retains the colts coaching job.

Sup
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THE summer footlin
real action is back v

Football action is jus
scenes people have bee
club into shape.

Each of the eight WA
and there are quite a fe
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fold.



WING WIZARD ... former West Perth wingman Ian Logan returns to the Falcons this year



EAST Fremantle is in the rare position of having three former players at the coaching helm of their teams.

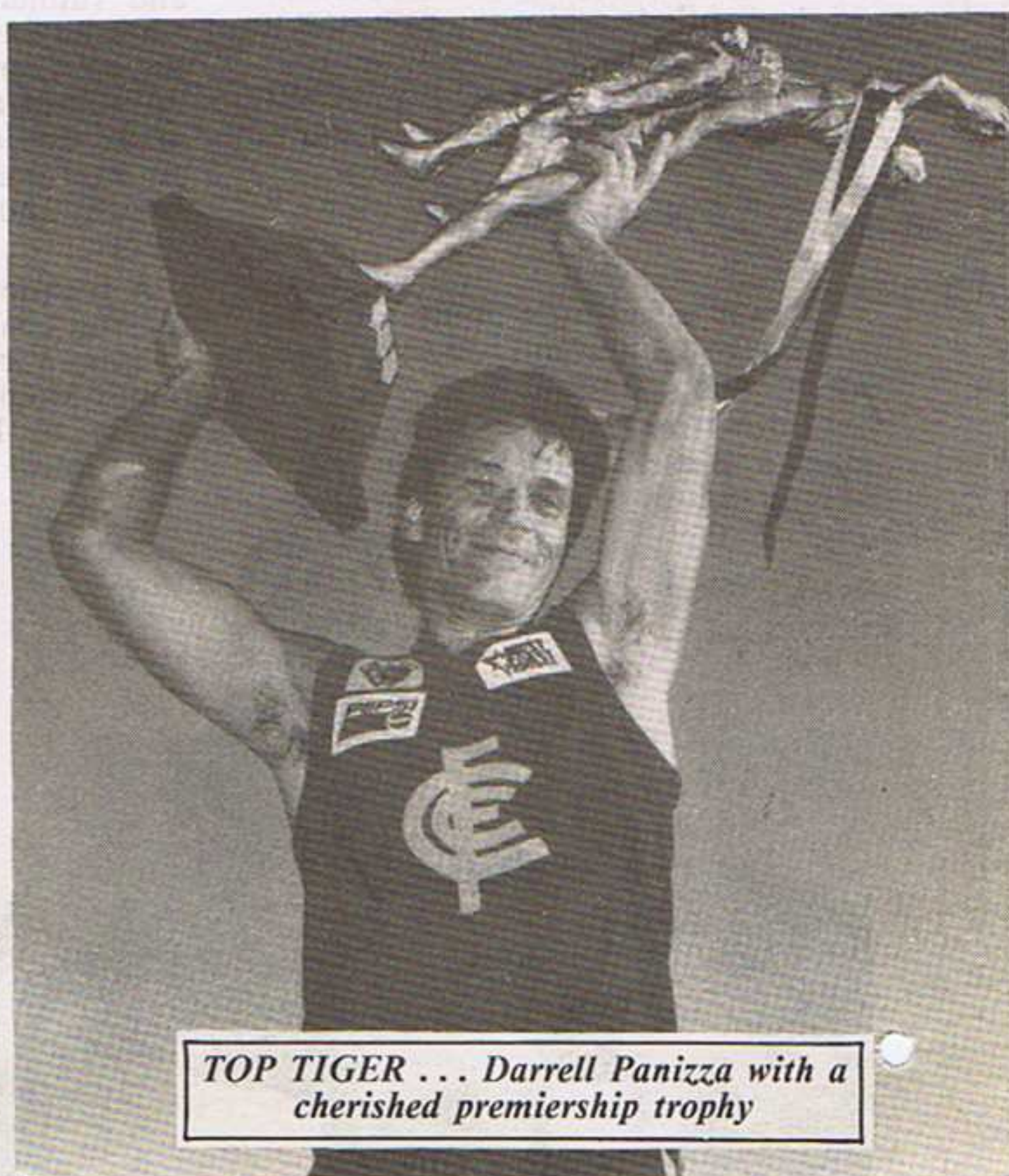
Supporting Ken Judge once again are Tony Micale — who claimed a premiership last season with the reserves side — and Kerry Coates in charge of the colts.



TWO former West Perth players are back in the blue-and-red this year as the club prepares to move to Joondalup.

Much-travelled player and coach Phil Cronan and former West Perth stalwart Ian Logan are the new additions to the Falcons camp.

Cronan replaces Clinton Farmer as assistant coach to Jeff Gieschen, while Logan comes in as colts coach, taking over from State schoolboys mentor Adrian Scott, who plans to maintain his involvement with the club in other areas.



TOP TIGER ... Darrell Panizza with a cherished premiership trophy

CLAREMONT, who made the grand final in all three WAFL grades last year, have one of their favourite sons in Darrell Panizza moving to the coaching ranks.



The veteran Panizza takes over coaching the reserves after a long stint by the successful John Dimmer.

Premiership winning colts coach Mark Riley is ready for a second year with the club's outstanding young talent.

CLUB

RUMOURS

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NUMBER ONE M

— OPEN FRIDAYS

BOUNCE INTO

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RUMOURS

Support staff gives some old names

...ing is almost over and it won't be long before the ...k with us again.

...s just weeks away, but a hard-core group of behind-the-...been busy over recent months putting their players and

...WAFL clubs have got their support staff up and running ...a few new faces out on the training track helping give the ...are some familiar names from the past back in the footy



THE successful Bassen-dean Oval coaching trio of recent years is together once again.

League coach John Todd has been well-supported by his assistant, Allan Walker, with the third member of their coaching panel in premiership defender Tom Mullooly still in charge of the colts.



LION AGAIN ... Alex Hamilton is back in a support role at Subiaco

AT Subiaco, Kevan Sparks moves into his second season as Tony Solin's assistant after just missing a place in the final five on debut, while Jeff Lind retains the colts post.

A new addition to the Lions camp is former East Perth and Subiaco player Alex Hamilton as assistant skills coach.



DASHING DEMON ... Craig Smith moves from Armadale back to Lathlain Park



PAUL Vasoli continues as assistant coach to South Fremantle's Mark Watson at Fremantle Oval after being touted as a candidate for the Perth league position.

Long-time servant of the club, Allan Watters, is again in charge of the Bulldogs colts.



THE off-field reshuffle at Perth sees an entirely different coaching structure to last season.

All three coaching positions will be under new management, however, only two of the personnel have changed.

Roger Kerr is the survivor from season 1993 and the former Perth and East Fremantle rover takes over as assistant to new league coach David Glascott.

Kerr took the colts side to the grand final last year and now he moves up to the reserves, replacing Steve Hargrave, who stepped down.

Former player Craig Smith takes over from Kerr after leading the Armadale league side to the Sunday League preliminary final.

FALCONS FAN ... much-travelled Phil Cronan returns to West Perth in a coaching role

MEETING PLACE

& SATURDAYS -

CLUB

RUMOURS

418 MURRAY ST, PERTH



Recruits give Solin mark II a pre-season boost

TANIA ARMSTRONG talks to new East Perth coach Robert Solin on his hopes for his senior coaching debut

EXTENSIVE recruiting by East Perth has given rookie coach Robert Solin something promising to work with on the eve of his first season in senior ranks.

New arrivals from Victoria and country areas have been filtering onto the Perth Oval training track at regular intervals, with Solin full of expectations.

Like all coaches at this stage of the season, Solin is faced with the arduous task of sorting through the assortment of hopefuls.

Depth is hard to gauge at this time of year when hundreds of contenders sojourn to WAFL clubs and Solin says there are "a dozen or so promising new faces" at Perth Oval.

And if any of the Victorians turn out to be another Jason Heatley — who kicked 111 goals for Subiaco last year — it will be \$850 well spent by the Royals.

That is what it cost East Perth to move Dean Talbot (Fitzroy), Jeremy McVay (St Kilda) and Dale Foster (Carlton) and their vehicles by rail to Perth.

A seven man talent scout system, set up in Victoria by Royals football manager Cam Robbins, located the players and directed them to Perth Oval.

FORWARD ZONE

While Heatley's big Pepsi Cup season was a key factor in Subiaco's climb to third spot last season, Solin says the whole forward zone is the area that needs the most work if the Royals are to be a success in the coming season.

East Perth must cover the loss to Hawthorn of Paul Barnard, runner-up to Ryan Turnbull in the club's fairest and best award, after an exceptional 1993 season helped him overcome the disappointment of missing an AFL call-up after his debut a year earlier.

"Even though Barnard did well last year, he was more of a pinch-hitter who played at full-back, centre-half-back and up forward," says Solin.

"We haven't got a ready-made replacement for Paul at this stage, but we hope to develop one who may fill the gap."

East Perth's previous leading goalkicker was cap-



BULLDOG DAYS ... Robert Solin with the 1990 Foundation Day Cup after a South Fremantle win



bolle
Put 'em on your face
PRESENTS ...
Face to face

tain Glen Bartlett (1990) and Solin makes no secret of their desire to snare another key goalsneak.

"Most of the local clubs have struggled to find a well-functioning forward line in recent times," he emphasised.

"Subiaco and Swans have had a couple of good key forwards over the last few years and they've been successful as a result."

WELCOME CHANGE

Solin added that having big centre-half-forward Paul Sullivan fit and firing would be an asset for the club — and a welcome change of fortune for the injury-troubled Royal.

"We need him fit. He's good at the moment, but he needs a couple of games under his belt," said Solin.

With around 74 potential Royals being put through their paces at the moment, the enormous task of cutting lists has already begun for Solin.

He says that depth is hard to measure at this early stage and admits that sending players on their way is not the most pleasant task in coaching.

"Depth adds a bit of pressure, although most blokes know where they stand in comparison to others at the club," he said.

"At this stage of the year it's OK; it's when you get to that last 12 players or so who have to go in March that it will be really tough, because they don't have anywhere to go.

"They're either here or they're not."

A veteran of 191 games and 12 seasons, Solin was a ready made replacement for senior coach Stan Magro when he left for Collingwood before Christmas.

Solin worked alongside Magro while completing his last season as a player in 1993 — and admits it was not an easy decision to retire, even at the ripe old age of 36.

HARD DECISION

"It was a hard decision, although it was made a bit easier when I got the coaching job," he said.

"It would have been easier to keep going and combine both if I was a mid-fielder, but I've spent the last few seasons in a back-pocket or somewhere in defence.

"Gerard (Neesham) did it for a couple of seasons at Claremont, but that was made easier because he was in the mid-field and could see what was happening at both ends.

"But I think the days of the old playing coach are gone.

"I will miss it. Even if we win a premiership, it won't be the same as playing in one."

A premiership medallion went Solin's way in 1985, when he was in the centre for Ron Alexander's East Fremantle side — and he coached the South Fremantle reserves side to the 1991 premiership.

His elevation to the senior coaching role at Perth Oval saw the return of a former team-mate in tough little rover Wayne Otway, who played with Solin during the 1980s.

Otway comes in as reserves coach, with former Claremont and Collingwood tough guy Kevin Worthington returning to Perth Oval to pick up the assistant coach and chairman of selectors role that he had alongside Magro two years ago.

Otway has been coaching Nollamara, in the WA Amateur Association and developed a good liaison with East Perth with players going to and fro.

Big Wayne Duke also returns to Perth Oval as league runner, reviving a relationship that goes back to the early 1980s when Solin first tried out with the Royals, only to break a leg and delay his league debut.



ABOVE: Nearing the end of his playing career with East Perth. BELOW: Flying high over Claremont's Derek Kickett with East Fremantle



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 <p>46¹⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>6 1990 HOLDEN BARINA 5 DOOR 8BW 09 \$10990</p> <p>Absolutely immaculate one owner, privately owned local car. Someone is going to buy themselves a very good car. Inspection is a must.</p>	 <p>54⁵⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>7 1990 del. COMMODORE VN EXEC. 8BD 430 \$12990</p> <p>Smooth series II, V6, power steering, cool air conditioning, quality cloth seating, very popular and none as cheap as this. More to choose from.</p>	<h3>THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL</h3>	 <p>54⁵⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>9 1990 EA FALCON SERIES II 8GO 615 \$12990</p> <p>T-bar automatic trans, power steering, cool air conditioning, popular 4 speed overdrive, very well presented vehicle and a credit to previous owner. More to choose from.</p>	 <p>54¹⁸ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>10 1992 HOLDEN NOVA 8W 273 \$12900</p> <p>One owner on L.P. gas and petrol, air conditioning, power steering, cloth seating, stereo, rear washer wiper, pin stripping, full wheel covers, a new year gift at this price.</p>
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 <p>50³⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>17 FALCON EA WAGON 8AP 933 \$11990</p> <p>Hard to find 6 seater, automatic, icy air conditioning, power steering, super popular family wagon, ball room size but cheaper than a 4 cylinder to buy.</p>	 <p>46¹⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>8. New series GL t-bar automatic, air conditioned, power steering, AM/FM stereo, factory cloth seating, attractive pin striping, full wheel covers. A good car with log books. 7MJ 981. \$10990</p>	 <p>50³⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>12 1989 TOYOTA SITE ACE VAN \$11990</p> <p>Air conditioned, 5 speed van, a credit to previous owner, lightly used commercial, very popular and will suit the real fussy buyer.</p>
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 <p>37⁷⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>13 1988 SUBARU BRUMBY 4X4 8LC 350 \$8990</p> <p>Not many of these are available at this value, go anywhere ute, ready for work or play.</p>	 <p>54⁵⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>14 1988 HI LUX DUAL CAB UTE 7MO 617 \$12990</p> <p>Our best value ute, air conditioned 4 door dual cab, not easy to find in this condition, a truly looked after one owner with log books. Any inspection is most welcome.</p>	 <p>54⁵⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>15 1990 FORD CORSAIR SEDAN 8CK 337 \$12990</p> <p>Grand luxury model t-bar automatic, air conditioned, power steering, smart cloth trim, log books, sensible roomy economical new series sedan.</p>	 <p>54⁵⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>16 1990 TOYOTA SETA HATCH 8PG 451 \$15990</p> <p>5 door sports, very stylish 5 speed, with icy cold air conditioning and power steering.</p>	 <p>67¹⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>17 1989 COMMODORE VN WGN 8BK 113 \$15990</p> <p>Hard to find 5 speed, icy cold air conditioning, power steering, a great family wagon with miles of room. They are also very economical.</p>
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 <p>37⁷⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>18 1988 NIVA CONSTANT 4X4 8PA 224 \$8990</p> <p>Tough go anywhere 4x4 with a load of extras, including sports wheels, ready for summer fun, off road exploring, spotless condition.</p>	 <p>50³⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>19 1990 FALCON GL UTE 8PA 677 \$11900</p> <p>Almost half the cost of a new one, just 65,000 kms, one owner, air conditioned with centre fold seating, low interest business loans are available if required.</p>	 <p>54⁵⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>20 SUZUKI SIERRA 4X4 SOFT TOP 8NS 506 \$12990</p> <p>Yes, current model for just \$12,990, fully convertible fun machine with factory rear seat, custom pin striping, Sunraiser mag wheels plus a host of other extras. Happy New Year!</p>	 <p>71³⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>21 1985 TOYOTA BUNDARA 4X4 7CN 616 \$16990</p> <p>Hardtop Landcruiser big wide wheels, cool air conditioning, rare find, everyone we get of these sells quickly.</p>	 <p>92³⁶ WEEKLY WA's BIGGEST</p> <p>22 1985 TOYOTA NJ60 LCRIUSER WGN 7GU 878 \$21990</p> <p>Diesel 4x4, 5 speed power steering, air conditioning, big wheels, plenty tough vehicle. The best diesel Cruiser we have handled. Be quick!</p>
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Big rewards on offer for fledgling Eagles

GOOD performances against Brisbane on Saturday will guarantee young Eagles a shot at Essendon the following week.

With regular Eagles Mitchell White, Brett Heady and Ashley McIntosh certain to miss the clash with the reigning premiers, Saturday's under-23s practice match takes on new importance.

Incentives to perform well in practice matches are often hard to find with the season still months away, but not so in the Eagles camp.

Saturday's clash is the first of three matches the Eagles have to show their wares before the Foster's Cup battle

By TANIA ARMSTRONG

with Adelaide at Football Park on February 23.

Brendan Krummel, a border-line senior last season, looms as a likely replacement for White in defence and there are vacancies in the forward line.

With Peter Sumich set to be moved out of full-forward this season, Jason Ball will spearhead the attack with recruit Jason Heatley still recovering from a groin operation.

Ball and fellow forwards Brett

Spinks and Daniel Metropolis will be closely watched, along with centre-half-back Lee Walker.

The Eagles announced a maximum 24-man squad, though Glen Jakovich, named on the interchange, is not a definite starter.

The Bears will bring 21 players to Perth and will field the youngest player, draft pick No. 45, Deloraine's Trent Bartlett, who turns 18 in November.

On Saturday week at Subiaco Oval, an Eagles B-team will play Subiaco, followed by the A-team clash with Essendon.



BIG CHANCE . . . Jason Ball has the chance to impress at full-forward

Sharks on way back

TALENTED East Fremantle pair Ian Newman and Denis Repacholi are progressing well after long injury lay-offs caused by serious knee injuries.

Newman was given the all-clear by a specialist a fortnight ago and has started jogging as he eases into pre-season work.

The Sharks No. 1 ruckman in the premiership season of 1992, Newman played only three injury-plagued games in a frustrating 1993.

Repacholi underwent a full knee reconstruction and is a little further along in progress, according to East Fremantle football manager Rod Lester-Smith.

Before sustaining the injury, Repacholi starred in defence in the opening four matches after gaining a clearance from West Perth on his return from Footscray.

He had surgery again before the end of the season when a specialist decided to remove more material.

"Repacholi is jogging, doing weights and having a kick of the footy, but twisting and turning will take some time," said Lester-Smith.

Cricket winners

CRICKET is certainly a popular sport among Westside Football readers, judging by the host of entries we received for the cricket book competition in our last edition.

Readers who will receive a copy of one of the Ken Piesse cricket books for correctly telling us that Allan Border started his cricket career with NSW are:

P. Quinlan, Duncraig; B. Probert, East Fremantle; Neville Redmond, Thornlie; Jill Wainwright, Duncraig; M.T. Jessop, Applecross; Nicole Baker, Warwick; V.F. Sheills, Craigie; T. Watts, Greenwood; Bob Tanner, Yarloop.

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Likely line-ups for Saturday

WEST COAST

BACKS: Scott Gooch, Fraser Gehrig, Brayden Lyle

HALF-BACKS: Paul Symmons, Lee Walker, Brendan Krummel

CENTRES: Shane Bond, Matt Connell, Travis Burton

HALF-FORWARDS: Tony Godden, Brett Spinks, Daniel Metropolis

FORWARDS: Damian Hampson, Jason Ball, Aaron Gale

RUCK: Ryan Turnbull, Drew Banfield, Jarrad Schofield

INTERCHANGE: David Snow, Greg Wooten, Tom Bottrell, Steve Pendleton, Nathan O'Connor, Glen Jakovich

BRISBANE

BACKS: Steven Lawrence, Ashley Green, Rudi Frigo

HALF-BACKS: Craig Edwards, Ray Windsor, Tim Sherman

CENTRES: Nigel Lappin, Shaun Hart, Chris Scott

HALF-FORWARDS: Steve McLuckie, Nathan Chapman, Troy Lehmann

FORWARDS: Clark Keating, Darryl White, Shane Hodges

RUCK: Matthew Clarke, Marcus Ashcroft, Fabian Francis

INTERCHANGE: Trent Bartlett, Brent Green, Cameron Bennett

Kicking around the clubs

On the move

SUBIACO are likely to be without ruck-rover Errol Bourn this season, with the Tasmanian opting for a year of travel.

Lions football manager Wayne Loxley confirmed that Bourn is not training and wants to spend a year in the UK and Europe.

Bourn enjoyed his best season in the WAFL last year, finishing just five votes behind Neil Mildenhall in the Sandover Medal count, though he was ineligible after being found guilty of time-wasting.

Bourn has played 39 games in two seasons since joining the club from Davenport and represented WA against South Australia in May in his interstate debut.

Demons return

A NUMBER of former Demons are back on the training track at Lathlain Park, eager for another shot at league football under rookie Perth coach David Glascott.

Shane Porter has returned from Thornlie, along with another Sunday League regular of 1993 in Geoff Wilson, from Canning.

Mick Handley is back after a year in Europe, along with his 24-year-old brother Gavin, a previous captain of Kenwick and the club's highest vote-getter in last year's Bowden Medal.

Utility player Malcolm Williams has resumed training after recovering from a broken leg sustained at the start of series three last year.

Top number

FOOTSCRAY obviously have big plans for former Claremont rookie Danny Southern after presenting him with one of their most hallowed guernseys, No. 8.

Previously worn by former skipper Rick Kennedy and recently handed in by veteran Bernard Toohey, Southern has some big shoulders to fill.

Bulldogs coach Terry Wheeler sees Southern as a long-term replacement for Peter Foster in defence.

NT challenge

PERTH players Toby Jackson and Nathan Mourish could get a taste of the big-time after being selected in the Northern Territory squad to play Essendon in a practice match in Darwin on Saturday.

The Demons pair are currently playing with Nightcliff, in the highly-competitive NTFL, but will return to Lathlain Park in late February, just as the Emu Export pre-season starts.

Wedding bells

THREE more Eagles are set to tie the knot after announcing their engagements over the festive season.

Skipper John Worsfold will wed Georgina Lines after the football season, but before the year is out.

Matt Clape and Kristin Jones celebrated their engagement with a party last weekend, while former Eagle Dean Irving is set to walk down the aisle with long-time girlfriend Sheila Ledo.

Coaching vacancies

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Eagles seek guarantees on WAFL players

WEST Coast officials have asked WAFL clubs to guarantee that Eagles players are used in the league side when returning to the Pepsi Cup competition.

Last season a number of Eagles were regulars in the reserves, either coming back from injury or searching for form — but that is a thing of the past.

"They must play senior football, that's the deal," says Eagles football manager Trevor Nisbett.

A reduced squad and the fact that 16-year-old Ben Robbins will remain in Victoria to complete his schooling, means the Eagles have only 41 players to choose from.

On average, the Eagles use 37 players each season and they want every player to be in peak condition.

Subiaco, with 13 players in the squad, but only five regular Eagles, is the club whose juggling act is the toughest.

"We put it to Subiaco last November because they are the club most affected," said Nisbett.

"They were to get back to us if they saw a problem and we would shift the guys to a club where they could be guaranteed a league game.

"With only 41 players to choose from, it's more than likely they will all be used at some stage and we don't need them playing reserves.

"They must be playing at the highest possible level."

REGULARS

While Brett Heady, Dean Kemp, Wayne Lamb, Mitchell White and Karl Langdon (when fit) are rarely seen in a Subiaco guernsey, the other eight are.

Daniel Metropolis, Travis Burton, Jarrad Schofield, Drew Banfield, Matthew Connell, Tony Godden and Damian Hampson played the bulk of their football with the Lions last season, with the first three playing a number of reserves matches.

Jason Heatley, the WAFL's leading goalkicker last season, was recruited from Subiaco in the November draft.

Subiaco football manager Wayne Loxley said it was more difficult for his club than others, but he couldn't see any major problems.

"It's obviously difficult for us, but it's something that we'll look at between now and the start of the season," said Loxley.

"There are five or six matches before then and if we see that there's going to be a problem, we'll do something about it.

"But there's no use worrying about something that might not happen. At this stage, nobody's played a bad game."

— TANIA ARMSTRONG

"HE COULD have been anything if he didn't get injured" — that's a common cry in football circles.

It's certainly very true in the case of the richly-talented, but injury-prone West Coast Eagle Lee Walker.

Walker (20) has been in the football spotlight ever since he represented Western Australia in State Schoolboys and the Teal Cup (now Commonwealth Bank Cup) in the same season.

Reports filtered through the national football grapevine, that the gangly kid from Perth was one of the most promising talents in the land.

Not a bad wrap when it's remembered that reigning Eagles club champion Glen Jakovich was his teammate.

However, Walker was brought back to earth not long after with a serious knee injury, which required surgery.

The first operation was unsuccessful and was followed by another.

He then embarked on a strenuous weights programme, in the hope that he could handle the rigours of AFL if ever given the chance.

COUNTRY STINT

That time looked like it might be a long way off when he spent 1992 with Augusta-Margaret River in the South West National Football League, while living in the coastal town with his family.

In several league matches, Walker was the difference, dominating at cen-

Injuries plague Walker's career

tre-half-forward, despite his obvious lack of match conditioning.

In that season's AFL draft, the Eagles sprung a surprise, nominating Walker with their third pick and 19th overall.

There is little argument that the selection of Walker was a gamble, but anyone who stands 201cms and weighs 97kgs and possesses uncanny ball skills, is worth the chance.

SHOULDER DAMAGE

Unfortunately for Walker, he couldn't repay the Eagles faith in 1993.

He managed just two WAFL games for East Perth and in one of those, he was injured again.

After a slow start opposed to good friend and Swan Districts centre-half-forward Jason Ball, Walker displayed some impressive skills before damaging his shoulder — an injury which saw him go under the knife and ultimately, ended his season.

That game was Walker's first back after receiving stitches to his foot when he accidentally stepped on a garden stake while jumping over a fence to retrieve a tennis ball.

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



With the Eagles trimming their squads to 42 leading up to last November, Walker's position was a hot topic.

Would the 1992 AFL premiers elect to keep the potential key position player on the books, rather than Subiaco beanpole Matthew Burton, who had played more than 50 WAFL games.

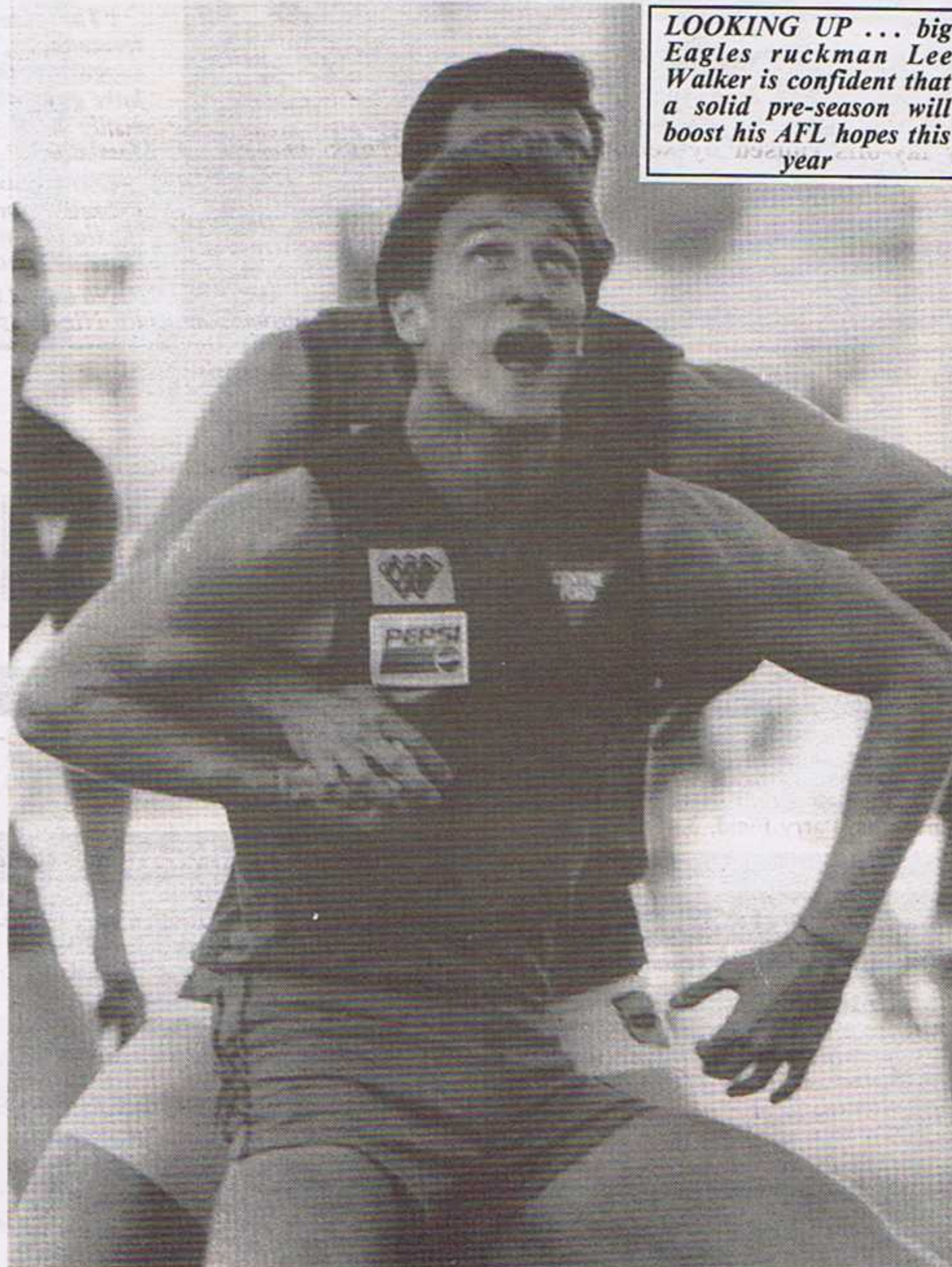
They did and now it's time for Walker to reward them.

He has many doubters in WA because of his "inability to stand up".

But for the first time in his frustrating career, Walker is enjoying an injury-free pre-season — something which is vital for him and the Eagles leading up to this Saturday's under-23 clash with the Brisbane Bears at Subiaco Oval.

If Walker cannot produce the goods in 1994, the Eagles, who do rate the big man highly, could be forced to look seriously at his position.

LOOKING UP ... big Eagles ruckman Lee Walker is confident that a solid pre-season will boost his AFL hopes this year



East Coast Chatter

New AFL tribunal

STRONG lobbying by the AFL Players' Association has resulted in the formation of an independent committee to handle disputes between players and clubs over contracts.

Former players Michael Moncrieff, Laurie Serafini — both stalwarts of the Players' Association since their retirement a decade ago — and current Saint, Stephen Newport, will represent the footballers on the tribunal.

The AFL nominations are QC Jack Rush; Kevin Power, a solicitor with the Victorian Law Institute and another lawyer in Peter Sinn, who has had long experience dealing with contractual disputes.

Only three tribunal members will be required at any one time and their role will be to hear debate on contract disputes between players and clubs and any conflicts that may occur between the AFL and the Players' Association over pay or conditions.

Revival call

GETTING a revival call-up in last November's draft was something only five former AFL players experienced ... and Gareth John was one of them.

The son of former East Perth forward and South Melbourne president Graeme John, the strapping youngster is set to revive his career at North Melbourne, the Arden Street camp that gave big former Royals and Eagles ruckman Alex Ishchenko a new lease of life last year.

With just 21 games in four years — and only four last season — the 22-year-old 200cm John has enjoyed his best pre-season and says he is fit and keen to go when the season kicks off.

Schools boost

IT'S back to school this year for Alan Joyce, the deposed coach of Hawthorn despite his premiership success.

The former Hawks player and one-time Perth and East Fremantle coach, will be guiding Scotch College in the inter-schools competition.

He'll have a couple of pretty handy opponents, with his Hawthorn compatriot Allan Jeans coaching at Haileybury and Brownlow Medallist Bob Skilton helping out at Carey Grammar.

Rowe's future

THE decision of dashing young rover Brad Rowe to sign just a one-year renewal contract with Collingwood could be a pointer to his desire to return West.

The former East Fremantle star had a great year with the Magpies, finishing second in Collingwood's goalkicking, posting 33 majors and he would be a great coup for the new Fremantle side.

Aged just 24, Rowe has developed into a class AFL rover, starting his career with Brisbane, but not really producing his best until last season.

New Magpie

COLLINGWOOD have gained the services of a talented player who was a one-eyed Magpie in his younger days.

Essendon's Bradley Plain has switched from Windy Hill to Victoria Park and says he's pleased to be at the club where he first got his football kicks as a youngster.

Plain had an injury-troubled 1993, missing Essendon's premiership surge and decided it was time for a move, with just 46 senior games in seven years behind him.

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Thinking aloud



A column of news and views by ALAN EAST

Percy's back in fine form

DESPITE the rumours, he's back . . . Percy Johnson we're talking about, football's fastest mouth in the West.

The man who has coached everywhere and been there as well, bounced back onto the 6PR airwaves this week with a huge blast at the WA Football Commission.

"It's bloody unbelievable," he exploded, when told by Gary Carvolth that the WAFC had paid the Goldfields Football League about \$100,000 compensation for their failed bid to join the WAFL competition.

"I'm staggered; it's amazing. It seems as though there was some sort of commitment there after all.

"Football can't afford to chuck money around like that."

Most of the money went to former Subiaco general manager Mike Flanagan, who had been retained by the Goldfields consortium as a consultant to prepare their bid for WAFL inclusion.

Special note

WESTSIDE Football apologises to any subscribers who receive this edition later than normal through Australia Post. Owing to Wednesday being a public holiday (Australia Day), the Australia Post mail dispatch section was closed, thereby delaying posting of this week's copy.



Electronic Langdon

THE multi-talents of Karl Langdon are emerging in many areas and his future in the electronic media, for one, seems guaranteed.

Despite 1993 being a one-game write-off loss as far as his Eagles football commitments went, his introduction to the airwaves, with television especially, was quite stunning.

He's definitely star material for TV in the future, judged on his appearances with Channel 9, especially their Melbourne-based sports panel show and he's added to that with a Saturday morning involvement on radio 6PR.

Last week he used the 6PR show to promote his Channel 9 activities — much to the consternation of a few loyal Channel 7 people!

Responding to a caller about football coverage on TV, Langdon suggested that Seven could really do it a lot better, especially when it came to livelier entertainment on their Sunday show out of Melbourne.

"The entertainment value of Nine's footy show is tremendous," said Langdon, denying a Gary Carvolth suggestion that he was talking through his pocket. "They have guys with a bit of flair and enthusiasm and Seven really need to brighten up their whole promotion of football."

Our picture on the left shows the feisty forward taking a break from his Eagles training to indulge in some media talk with fellow Channel 9 personality and world wave ski champion, Natalie Fuhrmann.

No doubt they're discussing more ways of brightening up Nine's sporting presentation . . .

Who wants to be nice anyway?

WHAT'S with this be-nice-to-the-Vics campaign?

South Australian premier Dean Brown certainly has his sporting wires crossed if he thinks the Vics and his Croweaters are ever going to share the same peace pipe.

Before Christmas he was saying that his State would 'get square' with the Grand Prix-stealing Vics via the football field . . . but now he's asking all his followers to be nice to the Vics.

Everyone knows that football thrives on rivalries, arguments and — in the case of Collingwood — sheer hatred.

Just look at the one-team-town situation we've had in Perth for the last seven years.

Each year we've heard the West Coast heavies calling for more player concessions to make life easier for the Eagles . . . and now they say point-blank that they won't be giving the new Fremantle team any help with players.

It will be open warfare on the Fremantle team, declares the Eagles, saying that there won't be any beg pardons, especially when it comes to player concessions.

"They are the mortal enemy," emphasises Eagles football manager Trevor Nisbett, who learnt his craft in the amiable surrounds of East Perth and Subiaco.

We hear the Vics complaining about poor sportsmanship from the West, claiming that Subiaco Oval is the worst crowd-behaviour arena in the AFL — forgetting completely that Victoria Park is Collingwood's home-grown war zone; the Western Oval is just as dangerous (especially on a cold, wet day) and they try to pull Eagles heads off at stately Princes Park.

Even over summer the interstate rivalry doesn't cool down.

BASKETBALL BOOS

The latest saga was the booing and other accolades that went the way of the Melbourne Tigers when they clinched the National Basketball League grand final in Perth.

The locals naturally wanted the Wildcats to win and weren't too pleased about the out-of-towners taking home the trophy.

If you think that pleasantries between Victoria and other States could ever become a reality, then think again.

How about this recent gem from Melbourne's Sunday Age newspaper:

"In terms of churlish, ill-mannered, rude and ignorant crowd behaviour, nothing came near the disgraceful showing by Perth fans after the Wildcats' loss in the NBL final to the Melbourne Tigers. No wonder we hate them."

And now we can't even get a cricketer into Australia's best 15 even though WA is odds-on to win the Sheffield Shield.

Roll on the footy season . . .

Baseball

January 28-29: Brisbane Bandits v Perth Heat, Brisbane.
February 5-6: Perth Heat v Melbourne Monarchs, Parry Field, 3.45pm.

Cricket

Third Test: January 28-February 1 — Australia v South Africa, Adelaide
Sheffield Shield: February 2-5: NSW v WA, Sydney.
Mercantile Mutual Cup: February 6: NSW v WA, Sydney; February 11: Victoria v WA, Melbourne.

Golf

January 27-30: Heineken Classic, The Vines
February 5-6: Gosnells Summer Cup.

Greyhounds

Cannington: February 5 — \$10,000 Twin Tracks championship final

Horse racing

Ascot: January 29 — \$25,000 Australia Day Handicap.
February 5 — \$30,000 Qantas Cup.

Lawn bowls

January 29-30: Country inter-zone round-robin; January 30-31: Swan Gold Classic, Yokine. February 4-11: Tooheys 1500, Royal Park.

Speedway

Claremont: January 28 — Professional Printers sidecar shoot-out; February 4: Nuspaes/Marshall Batteries solo sizzler.

Surf life saving

February 5: State champion patrol, City of Perth.
February 6: Kellogg's State Surf League final, Mullaloo.

Trotting

Gloucester Park: January 28: Gold Nugget \$100,000 final.
February 4: Channel Seven Western Gateway \$25,000 Pace.

Tennis

January 26-30; City of Fremantle Championships.
January 28-30: South West Open, Bunbury.
February 5: Summer Shield resumes.

Yachting

January 29-30: Australia Day Regatta, Claremont.
February 5-6: Moth State Championships, Nedlands.

MASTERS CHOC PRESENTS

What's happening in sport

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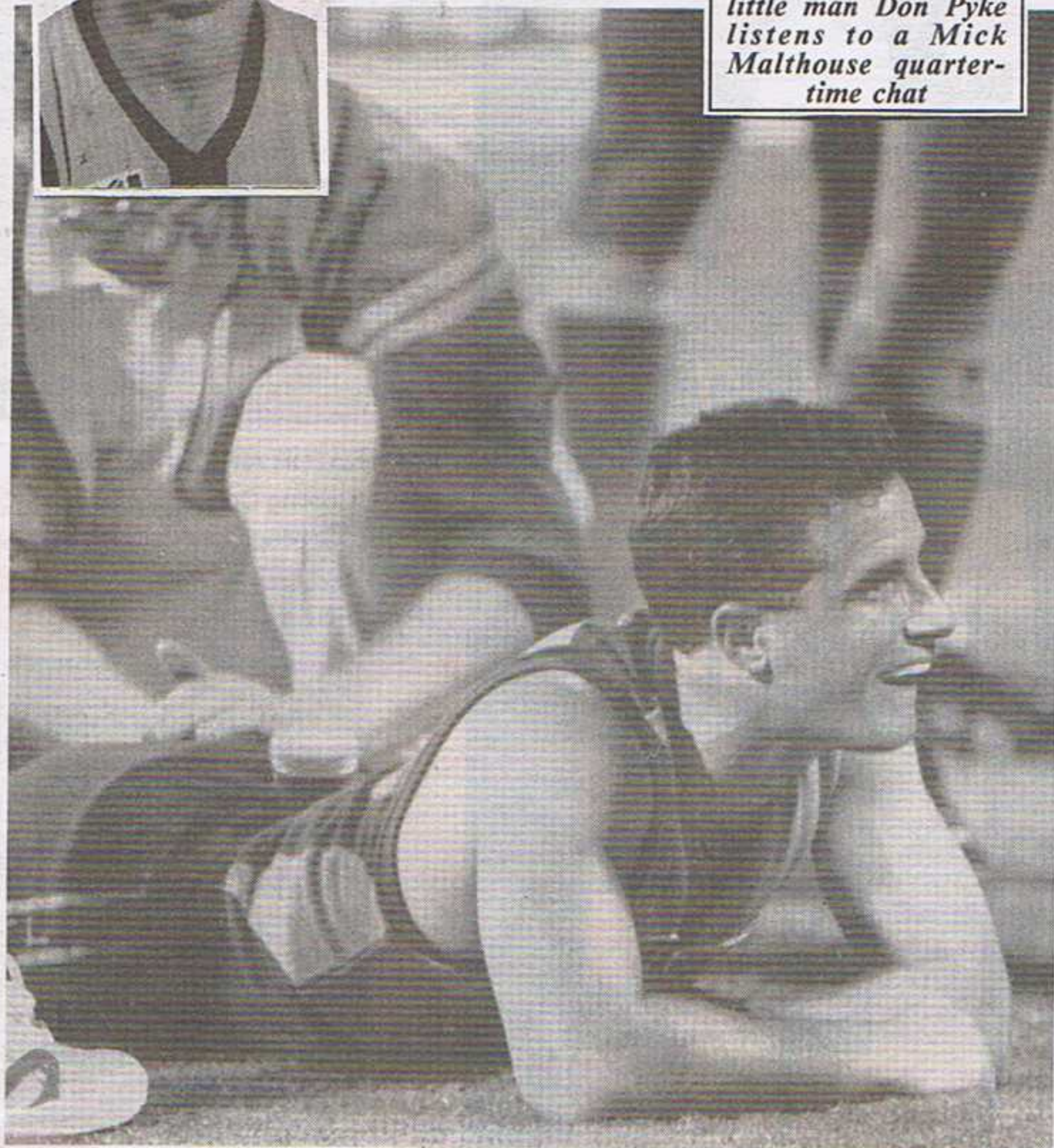
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Champions in contrast



GLEN JAKOVICH

ALL EARS... Eagles little man Don Pyke listens to a Mick Malthouse quarter-time chat



DON PYKE

Big man, little man... but sharing a common '94 goal



DRINKS BREAK... West Coast big man Glen Jakovich is relaxed as Eagles trainers go to work

TWO of WA's best footballers at different ends of the national spectrum go into season 1994 sharing a common goal.

Joint West Coast club champions Don Pyke and Glen Jakovich are obviously keen to atone for last year's fourth-placing with another premiership tilt, but they also face the challenge of being the first Eagles to win back-to-back fairest and best awards.

Eight players have claimed the award in the seven years since the club's inception, but no names have been duplicated on the honour board.

Steve Malaxos, John Worsfold, Guy McKenna, Chris Lewis, Craig Turley and Dean Kemp have all won the coveted prize, but are yet to repeat the success.

McKenna has come the closest, finishing runner-up once and third behind last year's joint winners.

But like coach Mick Malthouse, who grew to loath the tag of 'reigning premiers' last season, Pyke and Jakovich will feel the pressure of being the 'reigning club champion'.

Each polled 34 votes and in a highly unusual twist to the complicated voting system, they could not be separated on a countback.

Both played all 22 games and were each responsible for negating more than a few classy opposition players.

But that is where the similarities end.

At 78kgs, Pyke is one of the lightest squad members, while Jakovich is one of the heavyweights at 91kgs.

Jakovich's physique gives you the impression that he was bred to play football, while the well-balanced Pyke was also a talented all-round cricketer.

An A-grade player with Claremont-Cottesloe, the Illinois-born Pyke had to choose between football or summer in the baggy creams.

Pyke opted for football, but it's never been plain sailing for the free-running rover turned tagger.

Disenchanted with the way his AFL career was turning out in 1990, he returned to Claremont and contemplated retirement from AFL ranks as a 21-year-old before a change of heart saw him play 24 games the following year.

Restricted to 12 games in 1992 after a mystery ankle injury required surgery, he again bounced back as a member of the Eagles premiership team.

Jakovich was also in that premiership side and his fairest-and-best award was only a matter of time.

An outstanding junior player in South Fremantle's zone, many who knew him as a youngster say he was rarely seen without a football in his hands.

After finishing 18th in line to the club champion in his debut season of 1991, he jumped to third place the next year.

Set to turn 21 in March, Jakovich is odds-on to be one of the first Eagles to repeat his club champion haul.

The fact that he won in a season which saw team-mates Pyke and McKenna receive most of the media accolades, indicates that he doesn't go unnoticed by the men who count, the match committee.

GLEN JAKOVICH

AGE: 20
HEIGHT: 192cm
WEIGHT: 91kgs
GAMES PLAYED: 62
GOALS KICKED: 18
GUERNSEY NO: 27
CAME FROM: South Fremantle

The selectors obviously like Jakovich's game as he handled stints at centre-half-forward, full-back, in the ruck and, more regularly, centre-half-back.

The match committee of coach Mick Malthouse, assistant Robert Wiley, chairman Ian Miller and selectors Tim Gepp and George Young cast the votes which made Jakovich a worthy winner alongside Pyke.

The five-man panel remains unchanged for this season and the Eagles honour-board is in their hands.

DON PYKE

AGE: 25
HEIGHT: 180cms
WEIGHT: 78kgs
GAMES PLAYED: 78
GOALS KICKED: 42
GUERNSEY NO: 10
CAME FROM: Claremont

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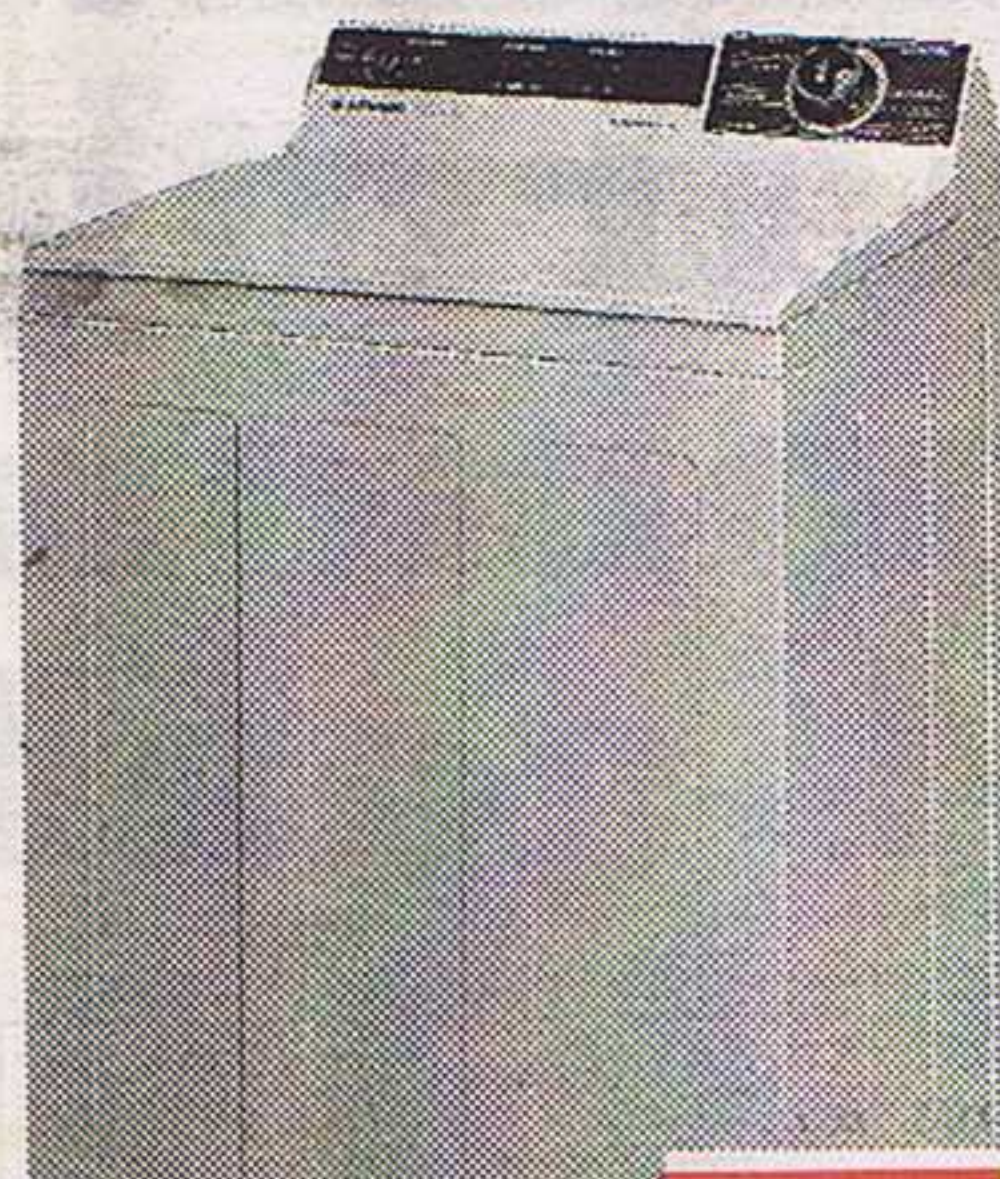
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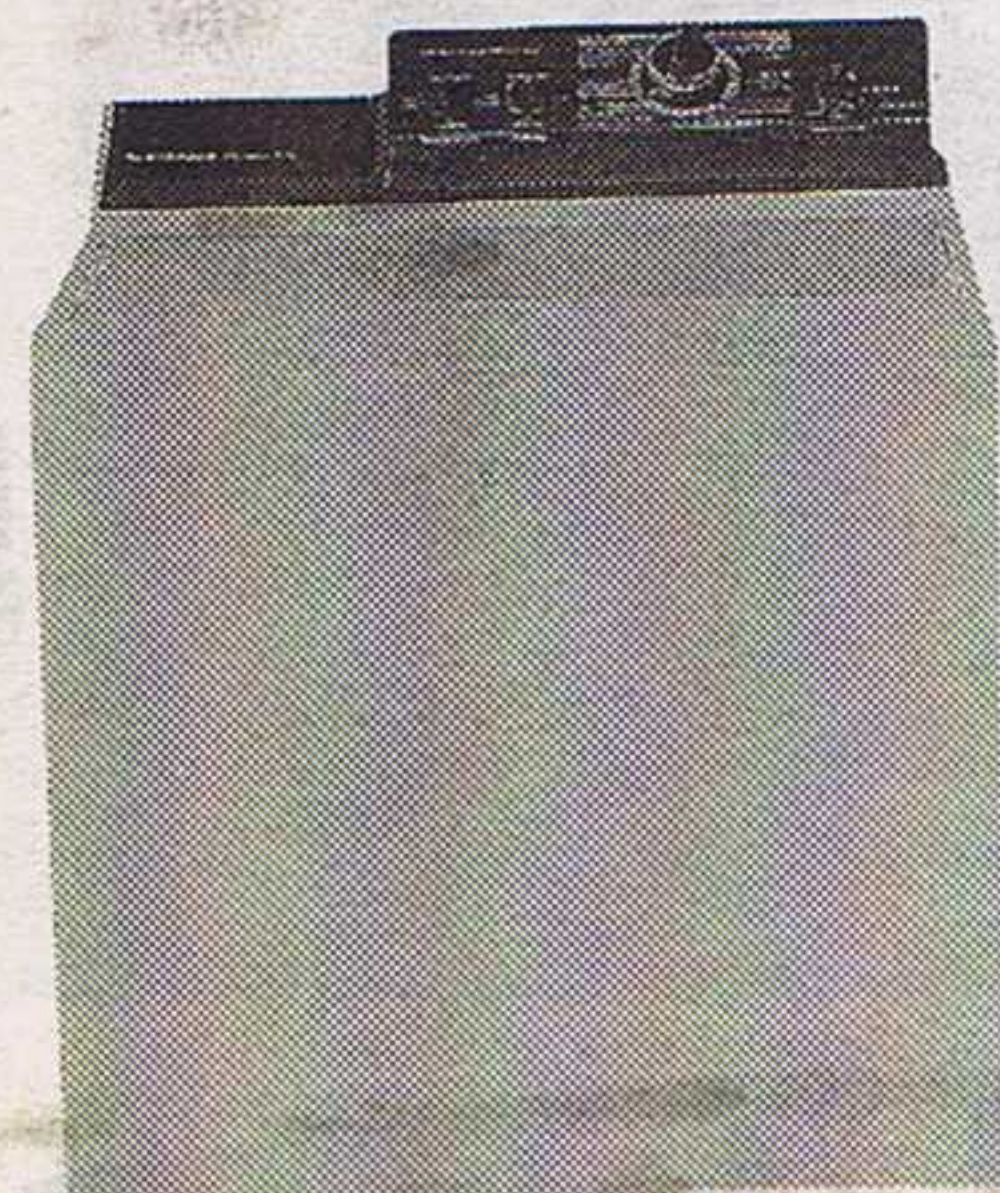
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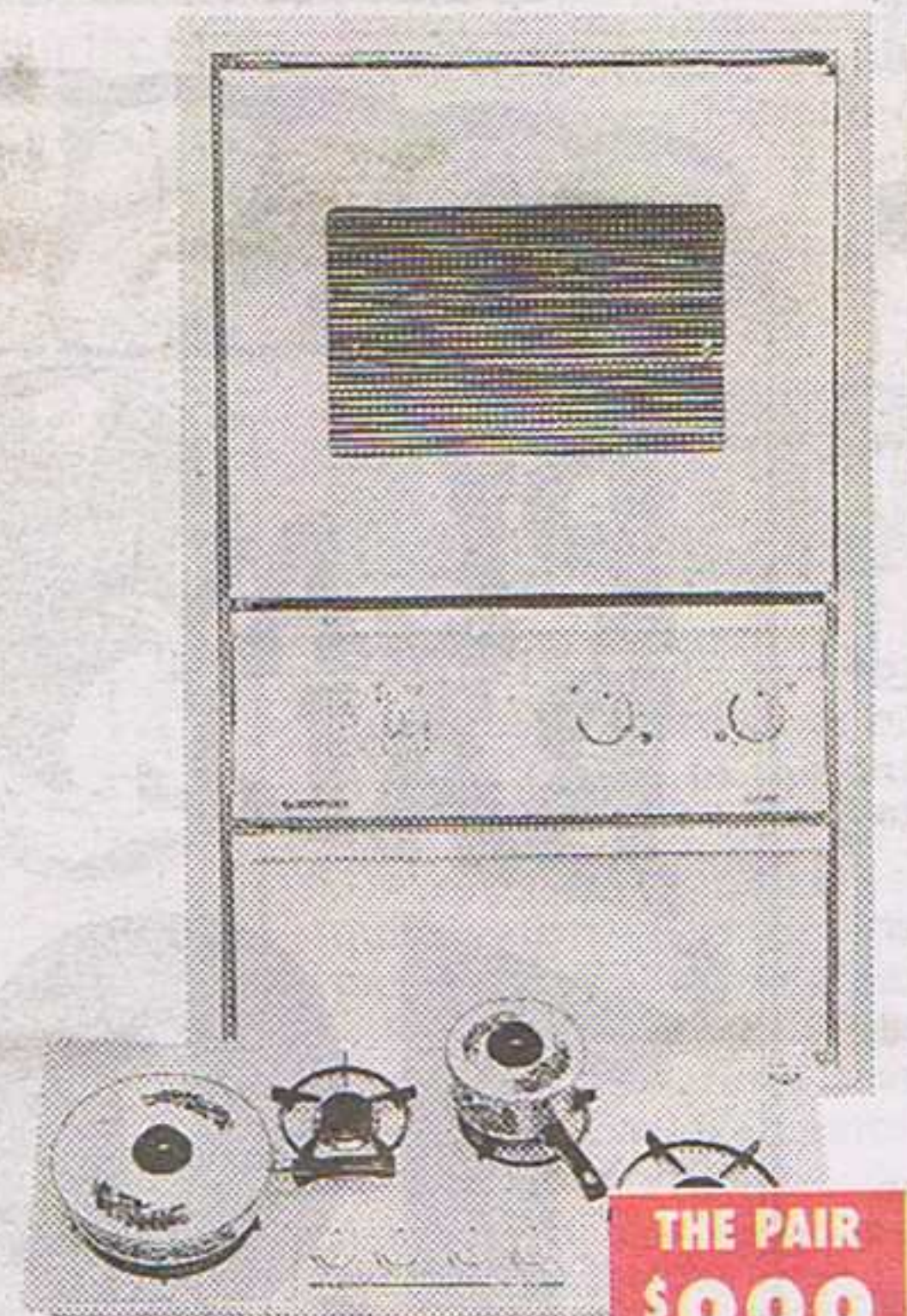


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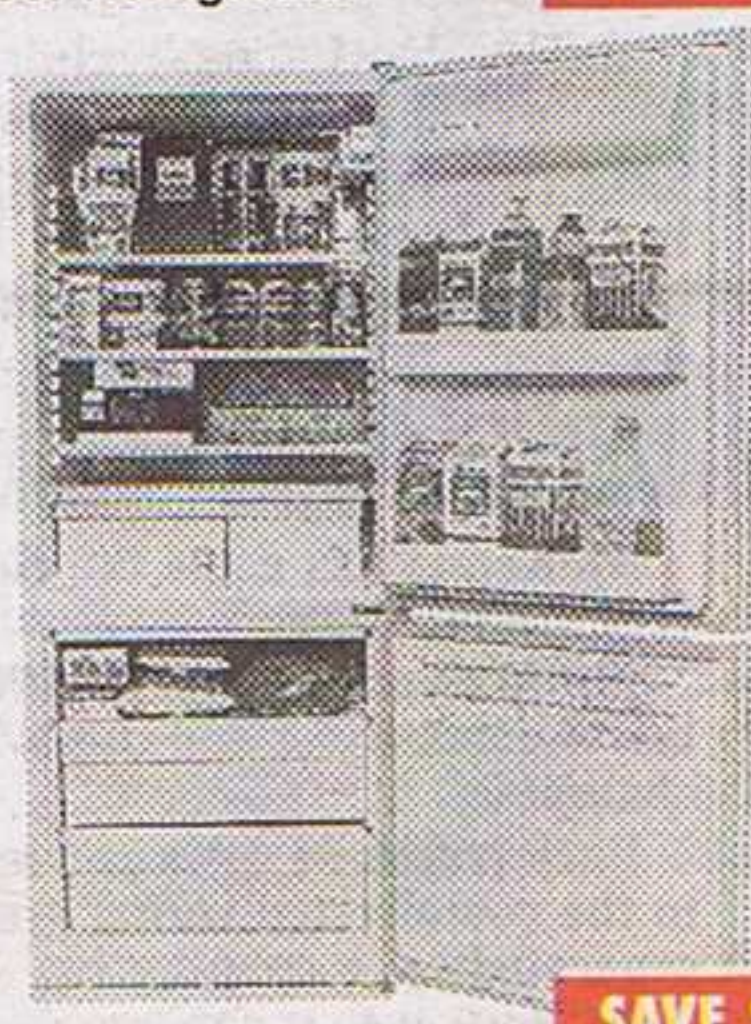
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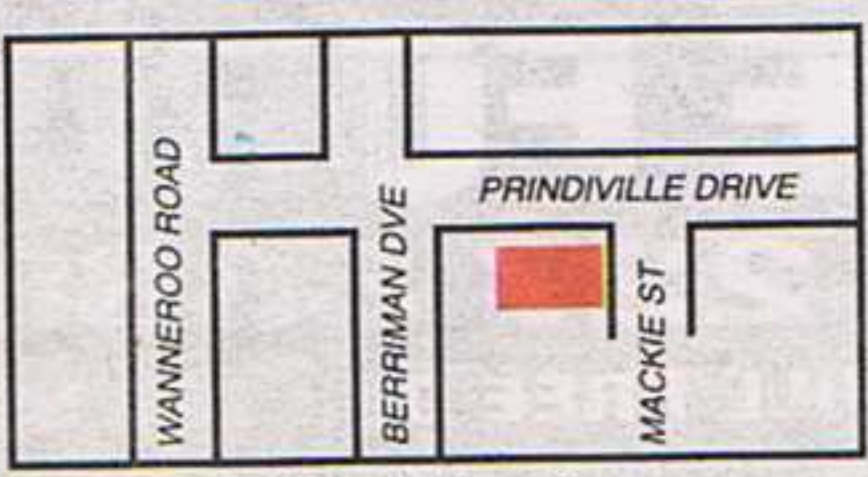


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