

RUMOURS

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# WESTSIDE Football

120



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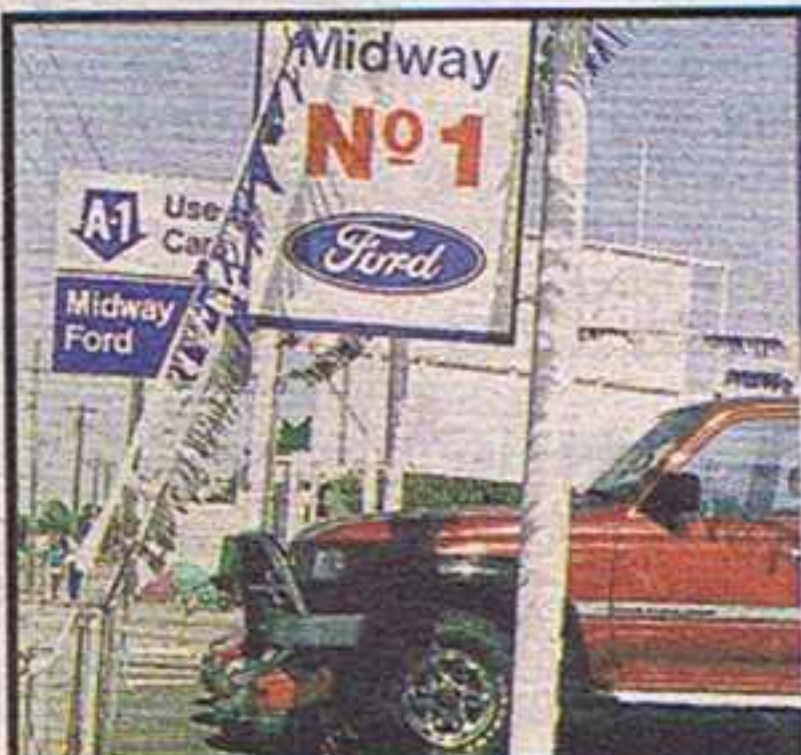
**EMU EXPORT CUP**  
It's the Tigers  
versus the Lions

**THE EAGLES OF '94**  
Who's Who in the  
West Coast camp

**PEPSI CUP PRELUDE**  
Kangaroos tackle  
the West's best

## WESTSIDE Football

**OVERFLOWING AGAIN...** Essendon giant Paul Salmon, who looms as one of the stars of the AFL season, proudly holds aloft the Foster's Cup after the Bombers blitzed Adelaide in last Saturday's final — repeating the familiar feeling that Salmon enjoyed last September. The slick Essendon side represent a big hurdle for West Coast this Saturday as the Eagles travel to the MCG to launch their 1994 campaign — Photograph courtesy Sunday Age  
★ **INSIDE:** Your full AFL preview



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# Footy Rumours

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around  
the traps



## Shades of summer

A PLEASANT summer sight, sure enough . . . especially for West Perth fans with the presence of Sandover Medallist Neil Mildenhall back in the Falcons camp for '94. Enjoying a summer moment of relaxation before the hectic season gets under way are (from left) coach Jeff Gieschen and wife Karen, director Ken Ferguson, Mildenhall and general manager Steve Woodhouse and wife Sharyn.

## Aunty into sports news

RADIO station 720 6WF has kicked off a new sports programme, Sports File, to be heard each week night, between 7.10pm and 7.30pm.

The show includes the day's wrap of sports news and incorporates feature interviews and updates on the local, national and international scene.

Glenn Mitchell, alias 'the Oracle', hosts Sports File, with regular contributions from fellow ABC radio broadcaster Julio Santarelli.

Mitchell has been a fine pick-up for the station, commentating on AFL, cricket, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's hockey, water polo and motocross since joining in 1990.

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## Roos in PR mood

NORTH Melbourne has always enjoyed great support in the West and that looks like continuing.

With such champions as Barry Cable, Ross Glenning, Phil Kelly and Jim and Phil Krakouer migrating to Arden Street, a lot of West Aussies have a soft spot for the Kangaroos.

This Friday, the North Melbourne players will be out to maintain their support base — and even increase it — when they have a kick-to-kick with the kids at half-time of the Emu Export Cup final at the WACA Ground.

## Bulldog reversal

SOUTH Fremantle fans were certainly caught short when midfielder Simon Taylor pulled the plug and headed down the gurgler back to Victoria late last week.

Taylor was a key Bulldogs play-maker in the mid-field early last season before a kidney injury slowed him down.

There was some debate about whether he would return this year after a Christmas trip home, but when he did, the smiles were broad.

But then he announced a change of mind with the decision to go back to Melbourne based on the opportunity to continue his university studies in his home town.

\*\*\*\*\*

## March lottery flak

THERE are many differing opinions about the value of the draft system in the AFL — and the March player lottery is often under fire.

Melbourne-based 6PR critic Malcolm Brown was to the forefront last week when he described the March draft as a waste of time.

"It's like re-inventing the wheel," said Brown.

"You either pick up some broken down player; you are forced to pay a high price for an over-priced player or you gamble on a youngster who no-one has ever heard of; like buying a horse at a yearling sale."

\*\*\*\*\*

## Crows to improve

ADELAIDE coach Graham Cornes isn't afraid to admit that his team can still improve — and that's bad news for quite a few Victorian-based AFL clubs.

The Crows went down to a slick Essendon in the Foster's Cup grand final and Cornes says that his team needs to learn to play a little more like the Bombers.

"They used the ball very well," he said in reference to the grand final win last Saturday.

"We bombed it in long to our forward line and we were always under pressure, whereas Essendon used the ball well, with quick hands and always ready to back each other up."

## Rising Tiger star

FORMER WA football guru Malcolm Brown rates rising young Richmond star Matthew Richardson as one of the most exciting players he has seen.

The 19-year-old son of former Alan (Bull) Richardson is a laid-back laconic type of teenager typical of today's society — but put a football in his hands in front of the goals and he changes dramatically.

He debuted against St Kilda in round seven last year and finished with 32 goals from his 14 games. But it's his style of play that captures the eye.

Tigers assistant coach Peter Schwab says Richardson is such an uninhibited player that he can create things out of nothing with his sheer athleticism.

While it's an unfair comparison to start putting him in the same category as the great forwards of the past — or even today's goalkicking machines like Tony Modra or Jason Dunstall — his potential is enormous and he'll only get better.

## Walls sitting pretty

BRISBANE coach Robert Walls must be laughing all the way to the bank these days, what with his salary cap over-draft and his successful recruiting raids down south.

The Bears have certainly made good use of the money they saved in the Nathan Buckley deal — no-one will ever know if there was some private arrangements done between Brisbane and Collingwood in the first place — and now they have replaced the South Australian star with Richmond's much-valued Craig Lambert in a huge deal.

Talking to Channel 7's football panel on Sunday, Walls admitted that a number of key Bears players were overpaid in the early days — and we trust he wasn't referring to all those West Aussies who migrated to the Gold Coast.

Walls said the Bears were more conservative with their salaries these days, which, in turn, enabled them to draft a high-priced star like Lambert.

"In the early days, when we had to entice players to Brisbane, we had to pay high salaries to get them to sign," said Walls.

"But things are different now," he added, suggesting that the Bears were good enough to win 10 or 11 games and get into the finals.

## That's my boy . . .



## . . . or nearly, anyway

IT'S not quite the typical father-son photograph, but when you are close relations, it's fair enough to share the glory of family success.

That's the case with former East Fremantle player Len Fode, who was pleased to catch up with his young cousin Gordon when St Kilda came to town recently.

Len, who played 14 games with Old Easts back in the 1960s, is still a familiar figure around football circles and when it comes to family bloodlines, he's proud to be a Saints fan.

Gordon, a 22-year-old who has struggled for senior recognition at St Kilda, has shaped up well in the pre-season matches and could be set for a big year. He's a tough half-forward type who chipped in with some handy goals against the Eagles.



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# PERCY'S POINT ...

WEST Perth president Tom James has been a good boss for the Falcons, but his comments last week were way off the mark.

James complained that aligning South Fremantle and East Fremantle, Claremont and Swan Districts to the new Fremantle AFL club was a major concern to the Falcons.

He was worried that the club's chances of luring players from Victoria — the Falcons major recruiting zone in the past three years — would be dashed.

James was adamant players from interstate who were keen to play a season in the WAFL before earning a crack at Fremantle, would choose one of those four clubs in preference to West Perth.

He is probably right, but has he forgotten why the Falcons have shifted from Leederville Oval?

Joondalup is just minutes from Wanneroo, the fastest growing municipality in Australia and the raw football talent there is enormous.

Coach Jeff Gieschen deserves ample respect for the tremendous job he's done in lifting the club out of the

## Falcons must recruit locals

doldrums and turning the Falcons into premiership contenders.

But he has brought many players from country Victoria to WA and not one of them has been good enough to take the step up to AFL level — and that includes last year's Sandover Medallist Neil Mildenhall.

Surely, that is reason enough to introduce young local blood and make sure the club's future is sound.

The Falcons beat Claremont in the 1990 colts grand final, but where have all the promising teenagers gone?

If they are still at the club, play them and if they have left, get them back, because that's where the club's stability lies.

And the Falcons have many former greats who could



Fast-talking hard-hitting 6PR football critic and Aussie Rules addict PERCY JOHNSON has his say in Westside Football

spread the message that northern suburbs youngsters are more than welcome at the Joondalup Arena, a complex that is simply breath-taking.

Brothers John and Bill Duckworth, club games record-holder Mel Whinnen, Graham and Laurie Heal and father "Pops", Les Fong and Peter Menaglio are just a few names the club could call on.

If West Perth work their district properly, they can re-emerge as a consistent power and end that 18-year premiership drought — which has not been broken by bringing across a flood of players from other states.



# Big Ron scoffs at embryo club rules

FREMANTLE board member Ron Alexander believes the AFL's 16th club will be severely hampered by the new player rules.

Alexander has scoffed at Victorian opinions that Fremantle will be handed a side on a platter.

The foundation West Coast Eagles coach argues that the embryonic team will lack a competitive edge under player rules confirmed this week by AFL clubs.

"I was involved in setting up the Eagles and they were miles in front of where Fremantle will be in terms of what the team will be like in game one," a disappointed Alexander said.

### ACCESS GRANTED

Fremantle has been granted access to 12 uncontracted AFL players, with a limit of two per club, in its first two years of competition.

Sydney, Brisbane and Richmond are, at this stage, exempt from a "player raid" under the AFL's special assistance (rule seven) package.

The AFL will also pay clearance fees of up to \$500,000 to rival clubs on Fremantle's behalf.



FREO RULES ... Ron Alexander is unhappy with the Victorian objection to rules governing the new Fremantle club

Alexander said the AFL has not gone far enough to ensure Fremantle is competitive when it enters the national competition next season.

"We have only been given access to 12 players — we haven't been given the players," Alexander stressed.

"We can't just walk into clubs and take players; we are competing with other clubs for their signatures."

Alexander said Fremantle would rely on WAFL players from South and East Fremantle, Swan Districts and Claremont to form the nucleus of the side.

"The standard of the local competition has deteriorated quite markedly and, on any given week, we are going to play 10 to 13 WAFL players which is a real worry," Alexander said.

"Look at the facts. Given open access to WA players last year, AFL clubs decided to recruit only six from the WAFL and nine AFL clubs decided not to draft any players from WA.

"Any suggestion we have been handed anything on a silver platter is based on paranoia.

"It is uninformed opinion, perhaps based on the success of the West Coast Eagles and Adelaide Crows."

He pointed out the Fremantle interim board was yet to scour the fine details of the new rules.

"For example, will we be given priority over other AFL clubs which finish on or near the bottom of the ladder?" Alexander asked.

Alexander's views were in contrast to West Australian Football Commission chairman Peter Tannock who welcomed the concessions.

"This is a good result for us and we can now get on with finalising the licence and bedding down the club," Tannock said.

AFL clubs had threatened to reverse the decision to grant Fremantle a licence if the player rules were not watered down.

They eventually agreed to the rules at a three-hour meeting on Monday night.

## PAGE THREE VIEWPOINT with GLEN QUARTERMAIN



- NOW it's time for the REAL action!
- Football gets serious this weekend when the 1994 AFL season gets underway, chasing that elusive premiership.
- Reigning premiers Essendon earned \$100,000 for its brilliant effort in 1993 and can double that amount if it wins back-to-back pennants, with a huge increase in prize-money now on offer.
- Also adding a new dimension to Australia's premier league, is the decision for the grand final to be held on the first Saturday in October instead of the last Saturday in September.
- As a lead-in to the AFL kick-off, the local focus is on the WACA Ground on Friday night, when the Emu Export Cup grand final will be contested.
- Claremont and Subiaco, coached by good friends Gerard Neesham and Tony Solin, clash in what should be an excellent encounter.
- On the same programme will be a practice match between a WAFL side and North Melbourne — who have the first-up AFL bye — and that's an excellent prelude to the launch of the 1993 Pepsi Cup competition next weekend.
- The Easter split round sees a replay of last year's Pepsi Cup grand final between Claremont and West Perth, with the revitalised Perth hosting Subiaco at Lathlain Park.
- Then on Easter Monday, arch-rivals East Fremantle and South Fremantle throw everything at each other, while a big crowd is expected to watch East Perth and Swan Districts at Perth Oval.

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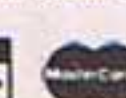
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PRESENTS ...

# He's back!

## THE HOOD

ISN'T it about time the West Coast Eagles realised there were other clubs in the WAFL?

The Eagles decision to choose Subiaco youngster Scott Thompson in last week's March draft was interesting, to say the least and people could be excused for thinking the team was about to be re-named the West Coast Lions or the Subiaco Eagles.

Thompson joins other Subiaco players Drew Banfield, Matthew Connell, Tony Godden, Damian Hampson, Brett Heady, Jason Heatley, Dean

Kemp, Dwayne Lamb, Daniel Metropolis, Jarrod Schofield and Mitchell White, on the 42-man list.

And to think another Lion, Travis Burton, was de-listed only days before the draft!

But the Subiaco connection doesn't stop there.

Selectors George Young and Tim Gepp, football manager Trevor Nisbett and general manager Brian Cook all have Lions connections.

No wonder they are WA's richest club!

## Long night for the Tigers

COULDN'T help but overhear the enthusiasm in Grant Dorrington's voice when he was talking to 6PR's Peter Newman on Sunday about those country games the poor WAFL players have had to endure.

Dorro, the Commission's director of football, was enthusing about taking the game to the country folk who generally get their footy fix via short-wave radios and TV sets ... or maybe just videos nowadays.

When Newman asked the obvious question: "Do you think the players enjoy these trips?" Dorro was quick to confirm with an emphatic yes and explained how they were driven to the country venues in large, comfortable coaches.

Try telling that to the Claremont boys, Dorro!

### EARLY START

The trip they had to Albany a weekend earlier saw them leave home at 6am or some ungodly time to get there for the 1pm kick-off.

But that was okay; it was the trip home that stretched into eternity as the "large, comfortable coach" conked out near Mt Barker and they had to sit on their posteriors till another bus came to the rescue.

They were then transferred to another bus coming from Perth and finally arrived back at Claremont Oval around 3am on the Sunday.

The only good thing about the breakdown was that it happened just near the pub of current Claremont director Kevin Somes and the boys at least had something to do to occupy the hours!

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE Hood fired a subtle barb at the umpires/Commission recently about four flag-wavers doing the country Emu Export Cup matches.**

Well, it seems as though only two goal umpies went to Albany — and none of the men-in-white get paid for the summer series anyway!

## How things have changed



WOULD you believe it!

An umpire receiving the privilege of some pre-game strapping courtesy of the friendly Bulldogs camp.

That's big South Fremantle ruckman Dean Irving — now to be a Melbourne Demon — examining the running implements used by field umpire Cameron Dawe as they share the strapping tables before a recent Emu Export Cup match.

The summer series has broken plenty of fresh ground in its two years, what with new guernseys, three field umpires, shortened quarters and other rule experiments.

But umpires and players sharing rooms and facilities pre-game?

Wow, how things have changed!

**HIGH-PROFILE** Sydney recruit Dermott Brereton claims to have been the meat in an AFL sandwich after a six-match suspension.

But he WAS the sandwich, in Victoria at least, as his head adorned loaves of Tip-Top bread, similar to Peter Sumich's breakfast presence in WA kitchens.

Now Brereton, who followed Leigh Matthews onto bread, has surrendered that prestigious honour to former Hawthorn teammate Jason Dunstall.

At least, Brereton has not lost his sense-of-humour:

"It started out as Bernie's bread and then went to Dermie's bread, but I don't know how it will go as bung-hole's bread," Brereton said of Dunstall's nickname.

**EAST Fremantle has been criticised for its lack of pace in the past couple of seasons, especially in 1993 when the club fell from first to sixth.**

So, if that's the deficiency, you would think the club would fix it, right? Wrong!

If Sharks coach Ken Judge isn't blind — and we're sure he isn't — then why hasn't he rectified the problem?

Though East Fremantle hasn't fielded its full-strength side in the Emu Export Cup summer series, its glaring lack of leg speed has been a major factor in losing the first four matches.

Let's hope something is done before the start of the season and East Fremantle avoids the wooden spoon for the first time since 1898, when the competition fielded just four teams.

**AND what about the 6PR Saturday morning show?**

Great to hear the dulcet tones of the umpire's friend, Freddie Woods in a comeback to the airwaves last week.

Freddie was obviously keen to plug his annual Telethon bowls day at the Tuart Hill greens, but he also had a few parting words for footy people.

"The three umpire system is ridiculous," he exploded in typical fashion, recalling the days when he had total control of league games on his own.

Freddie was renowned for relying on the old whistle to blow up play and award a free kick to bring the ball back into the middle when the game got too far away for him to see clearly.

**BOB Maumill and Mick Malthouse — surely two of WA's most-public-figures, wouldn't you say?**

Well, the gremlins at the Sunday Times TV magazine got them mixed up in last week's promo for the new Channel 7 footy show — as our photograph shows.

Notwithstanding that little boo-boo, the word is out that it's going to be a pretty interesting Friday night show even if the panel is made up of a few oldies, but goodies ... such as George Grljusich and John Todd!



Footy Show stalwarts (from left) John Todd, Mick Malthouse, Bob Maumill and George Grljusich.

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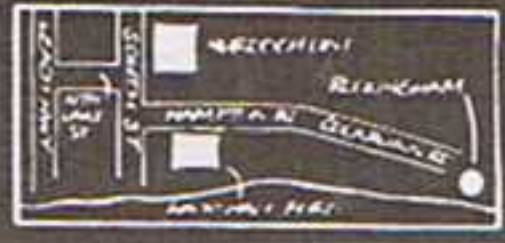


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The Bombers fly high ...



# Essendon supreme under lights

THERE is certainly a sense of deja vu in the world of football as the newspaper editors hang onto the familiar headline — Essendon win flag.

Day or night, the Bombers have made winning premierships a habit.

They have now claimed the last three Cups to be awarded, with an impressive 34-point victory over a pumped-up Adelaide in Saturday's Foster's Cup contest at Waverley Park.

It was evident watching Essendon beat the Crows, just as it was in last September's grand final triumph over Carlton, that the players are no longer "Baby Bombers".

They display such maturity under pressure and poise in clinically dissecting opposition teams that they can now be regarded as adolescent stealth fighters.

## AVALANCHE

The Crows were the latest victims of the Essendon avalanche, propelled by ruck-rover Gary O'Donnell, who gathered 35 possessions and won the Michael Tuck Medal as best-afield and fellow midfielders "Smokin'" Joe Misiti, Ricky Olarenschaw, Darren Bewick and David Calthorpe.

Calthorpe's role in tagging Tony McGuinness out of the game was pivotal to the triumph.

By GLEN QUARTERMAIN

The Crows midfielders and on-ballers, normally so dominant over four quarters, were starved of their normal opportunities by Essendon's Peter Somerville, who nullified Adelaide ruckman Shaun Rehn.

Roaming forwards Glenn Manton, Dale Kickett and Che Cockatoo-Collins were equally valuable and spearhead Paul Salmon finished off their hard work with three goals in his return from an ankle injury.

At the other end, Glenn Kilpatrick and Gavin Wanganeen roamed and repelled, while Dustin Fletcher tightened up after early loose play to restrict Adelaide full-forward Tony Modra to three goals.

Modra relieved the pressure on Fletcher with an inaccurate first term with a wasteful 1.4 from five strong marks — which could have easily changed the course of the victory.

As a result, the Crows entered the first break with an unhealthy 2.7 to trail by seven points when they should have been well in front.

However, Adelaide was not disgraced.

The football public just expected more of the team which figured so prominently in last year's finals series.

Running players Greg Anderson, Mark Ricciuto, Chris McDermott and Andrew Jarman were prominent in bursts, while Nigel Smart was the pick of the defenders.

The Crows crept to within three points in the third term after explosive forward David Brown goaled on the run, but Essendon simply moved up a gear and kicked away.

## REAL SEASON

Essendon coach Kevin Sheedy, who has steered the Bombers to four night premierships from six attempts in 11 years, along with three day flags, was mindful that the real season does not start till this Saturday when they tackle the West Coast at the MCG.

"We've just got to make sure we focus on our first AFL game too," Sheedy warned supporters.

As for Adelaide coach Graham Cornes, it was a flat ending to a week of hype in the city of churches.

"It was disappointing to lose like that when there was a title at stake," he said. "We were exposed in certain areas."



HIGH-FLIER ... Essendon's acrobatic Gavin Wanganeen has maintained his great 1993 Brownlow Medal form

## Another cup

TO SAY that consistent Essendon half-back Gary O'Donnell was a popular winner of the Michael Tuck Medal was an under-statement.

The no-frills Bombers defender was a stand-out performer and thoroughly deserved to be adjudged best-on-ground in his side's hard-fought win over the Adelaide Crows.

A veteran of 137 games, the 28-year-old was a key member of the Bombers 1993 AFL grand final success and is a definite chance to notch 150 senior appearances this year.

Recruited from North Ringwood, in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, O'Donnell will be out to repel the West Coast Eagles attacking moves in the season opener at the MCG on Saturday.

NICE FEELING ... Bombers star Gary O'Donnell now has a Michael Tuck Medal to add to his AFL premiership medallion



## Foster's Cup Details

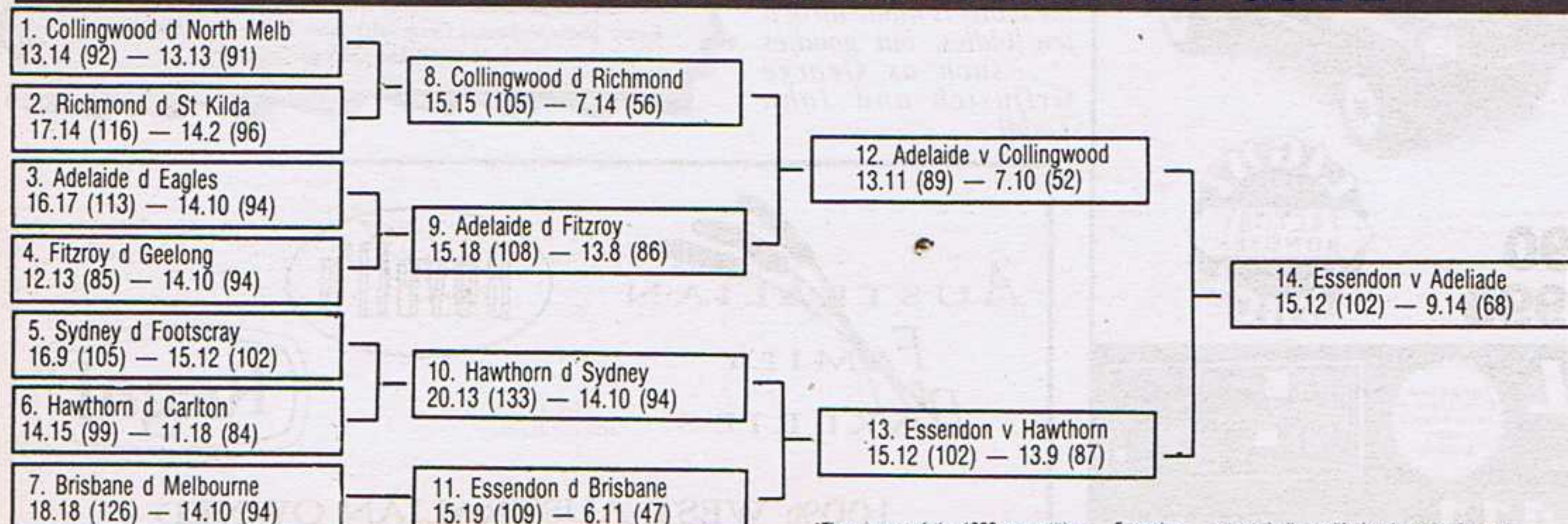
### GRAND FINAL

ESSENDON ..... 4.2 6.3 11.7 15.12 102  
ADELAIDE ..... 2.7 4.8 12.9 9.14 68

GOALS — Essendon: Salmon, Bewick, Manton 3, Mercuri, Hird, O'Donnell, Kickett, Olarenschaw, Somerville. Adelaide: Modra 3, Brown 2, Lee, Tregenza, Ricciuto, Jarman.

BEST — Essendon: O'Donnell, Manton, Bewick, Misiti, Olarenschaw, Calthorpe. Adelaide: Ricciuto, Smart, Pittman, Lee, Brown, McDermott. Played at Waverley Park. Umpires: Gavin Dore, Bryan Sheehan, Geoff Caulfield. Attendance: 43,925.

## YOUR 1994 FOSTER'S CUP FIXTURES GUIDE



\*The winners of the 1993 competition — Essendon — automatically qualify for the second round.

## On the sidelines

VETERAN Essendon utility Tim Watson's list of achievements grows like Patterson's Curse.

Watson joined Hawthorn's Chris Langford as joint night match record holder in the Foster's Cup grand final.

It was Watson's 31st appearance under lights and he joins Langford one game ahead of former Bomber Terry Daniher.

It's a fitting honour given that Watson has saved some of his best games for night matches.

He was unforgettable in 1984 when he inspired an Essendon pre-season premiership win over Hawthorn with a best-afield effort.

He might be a little slower these nights, at 32, but he's still a valuable contributor.

Watson was lively in the last line of defence before leaving the field with a minor hip injury in the second quarter.

\*\*\*\*\*

ESSENDON may have walked away with the trophy, but Adelaide claimed the "mark of the night" in Saturday's Foster's Cup grand final.

The grab was taken by Crows half-back Mark Ricciuto, who rose like a cherry-picker on the back of Essendon's Joe Misiti, to hold the spectacular chest mark.

\*\*\*\*\*

RECORD crowds watched this year's Foster's Cup series.

According to AFL figures, 251,741 spectators watched the pre-season matches, a record since 1988 when it became a separate summer competition.

Matches this year were played at Waverley Park, Football Park, the Gabba and Wagga Wagga.

The previous record, set in 1992, was 236,024 fans.

\*\*\*\*\*

MEN-IN-WHITE Gavin Dore, Bryan Sheehan and Geoff Caulfield passed the final test for the three umpire system with high marks.

It was evident throughout the night grand final that the umpires were always close to the action, even on a quick rebound and were able to make quicker decisions.





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**50 GAMES**

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- 49 Troy Davis (Perth)
- 49 Jason Ball (Swan Dist)
- 48 Matt Connell (Subiaco)
- 48 Steve Malaxos (East Frem)
- 47 David Hynes (Eagles)
- 47 Clinton Wolf (Claremont)\*
- 47 Greg Turner (South Frem)
- 47 Paul Evans (East Perth)
- 47 Michael Sidebottom (Swan Dist)

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

**100 GAMES**

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

**150 GAMES**

- 146 Dwayne Lamb (Eagles)
- 145 Chris Waterman (Eagles)\*
- 141 Lucio Baroni (East Perth)
- 140 Adrian Barich (Perth)
- 140 Richard Dennis (West Perth)\*
- 140 Michael Brennan (Eagles)

\* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Richard Dennis 70 East Perth, 57 Carlton, 13 North Melbourne; Chris Waterman 93 Eagles, 52 East Fremantle

**200 GAMES**

- 199 Steve Malaxos (East Frem)\*
- 198 Craig Nelson (West Perth)\*
- 192 David Hart (Eagles)\*

\* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Steve Malaxos 48 East Fremantle, 151 Claremont; Craig Nelson 175 West Perth, 23 West Torrens; David Hart 112 Eagles, 73 South Fremantle, 7 West Perth

**250 GAMES**

- 248 Darrell Panizza (Claremont)

**300 GAMES**

- 281 Dwayne Lamb (Eagles/Subiaco)\*

\* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Dwayne Lamb 146 Eagles, 135 Subiaco.

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## Two new columnists

### WA clubs

# must spread wings to survive

WITH the advent of the Fremantle AFL team next season, the WA Football Commission must make tough decisions for the continued success of its premier competition, the WAFL.

The commissioners would be foolish to believe the game's viability and competitiveness are secure, with several factors likely to upset the system.

The reduction of AFL squads to 42 players, the influx of young hopefuls — especially from Victoria — and the fact the Western Reds rugby league team is ready to enter the playing arena are positive influences which will not exist beyond this year.

One of the first problems to be addressed is the relocation of existing WAFL clubs.

The Emu Export summer series fixture at Kelmscott last Sunday between Perth and Swan Districts drew 1600 people — not bad for a practice match!

Surely this indicates there is a football market in the burgeoning south-eastern suburbs, confirming the philosophy of taking the football to the fans.

#### COMMUNITY SPIRIT

If any other evidence is needed, just look at the early success of West Perth's move to Joondalup.

General manager Steve Woodhouse reports a 100 percent increase in mem-



**HAPPY MAN . . . West Perth general manager Steve Woodhouse is well-pleased with the Joondalup response**

bership — up to 1600 already, exceeding the first year target of 1500.

Woodhouse predicts that membership could reach 2500 by the end of the season, with a solid core of traditional Falcons supporters having moved to the area.

Sponsorship is also up 30 percent and, significantly, the increase comes from local business firms, further enhancing football's community spirit.

Three junior clubs have started in the area and the Falcons have budgeted for a 50 percent increase in development expenditure to improve the playing strength of the club.

The AFL decision to grant Fremantle a licence was partly motivated by the Western Reds joining the national competition in 1995.

#### NEW TEAMS

Again a parallel can be drawn with the south-eastern suburbs, with the Armadale-Kelmscott area developing into a rugby stronghold, with new teams emerging in recent years.

And the Kelmscott Roos Soccer Club is a vibrant organisation with a strong junior player base.

If Australian football is to stay the No. 1 participation sport in the area, the Perth Football Club must relocate out there.

While there are other geographical options — like Canning Vale — the best short-term proposal is for Perth to share facilities with the Kelmscott Sunday League club at John Dunn Oval, arguably the best appointed ground outside the WAFL venues.

## Sprigg Marks



with **TREVOR SPRIGG**

*Radio 6PR's former State and East Fremantle defender and West Coast Eagles chairman of selectors*

To this end, three or four of Perth's Lathlain Park games should be re-scheduled to Kelmscott to prepare for a 1995 move.

Other WAFL relocations and/or mergers must also be considered.

The Rockingham/Mandurah district is expanding rapidly, but rather than moving South Fremantle, why not form a new team in the area?

It's essential that WAFL football continues to be played at Fremantle Oval, traditionally the game's biggest crowd-pulling ground.

East Fremantle's player base is the Willetton-Leeming-Bullcreek areas, but the Sharks still have strong drawing power to East Fremantle Oval.

East Perth should stay at Perth Oval because the competition needs an inner-city club.

Claremont and Subiaco could merge to form the western suburbs base, allowing room for the inevitable arrival of country clubs.

## AFL innovations only half right

THE AFL deserves both commendation and criticism for rule changes this season.

The league should be applauded for introducing three interchange players.

And the three-umpire system, which has been successfully trialled this summer, looks to be another winner.

But that is not the case with the final eight, which could have disastrous consequences.

The eight cannot possibly reflect sustained excellence over a full season.

Envisage the scenario — a side struggles over the second half of the season, slips into seventh position, plays the second-placed team in the first week of the finals and scores an upset win.

How can that be a fair system?

Hawthorn in 1991 had to win 12 of their last 13 games to claim the premiership.

That is sustained excellence, not luck.

One of the more enjoyable aspects of the season and, for a coach, the greatest time of stress, is over the final month when all clubs, media and public are debating who will play off in September and win the flag.

The final eight takes the gloss off the achievement.

It is like the National Basketball Association in the US, where the two winners of each group play a best-of-seven match finals series.

Why does it take up to seven matches to decide a champion?

They must get to the stage where they just throw up the ball for the tip-off and wonder whose turn it is.

#### UNSAVOURY INCIDENTS

The three-umpire system will take the pressure off the whistlemen and prolong their careers — as well as reduce the number of unsavoury on-field incidents.

Proponents of the system have correctly pointed to the holding tactics used by defenders against forwards.

But it works both ways. Forwards are often guilty of scrapping backmen and the umpires are unaware of the illegal tactics.

The public's confidence in the men-in-white would be undermined if an incorrect decision made through fatigue cost an AFL club a grand final.

#### MY VIEW

with **ALAN JOYCE**  
*former Hawthorn premiership coach and player*



Watching Saturday night's Foster's Cup grand final, it was evident the umpires were often only a couple of metres from the action when the ball was arriving with great speed.

The pace of the modern game and the demands on the on-ball players makes for perfect timing to bring in three interchange players.

On-ball players cover 15-22km a game and often need breaks.

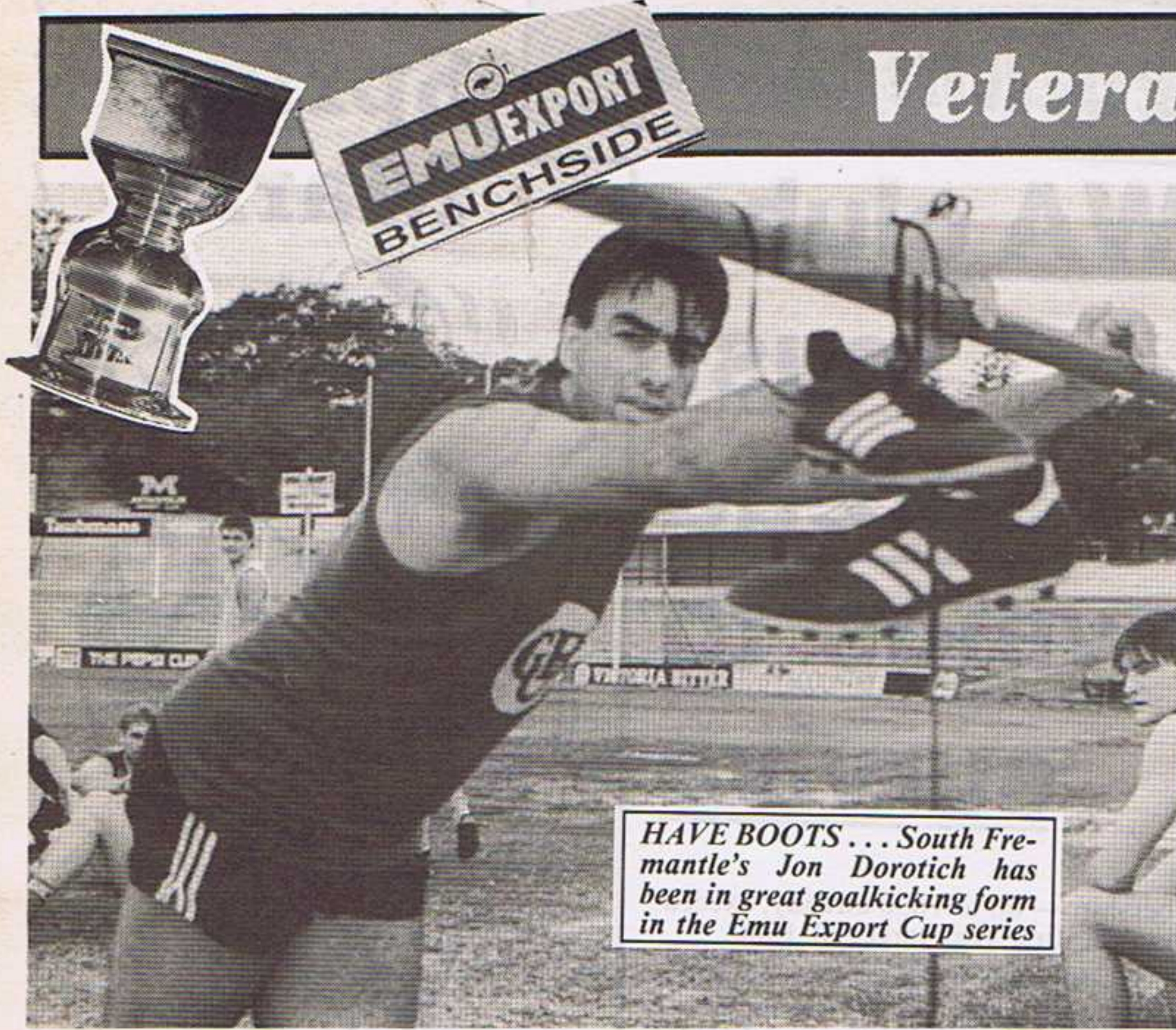
Coaches can use a system where they run their on-ball players on and off the interchange bench, much like Mick Malthouse did with Don Pyke, Craig Turley, Chris Lewis and Guy McKenna against St Kilda recently.

It also will help offset fatigue and stress-related injuries, although perhaps too much is made of the stress factor.

Sure, players can finish sore and tired, but never in my time at Hawthorn did we finish with 17 fit players.



# Veterans back on the scene



**HAVE BOOTS . . .** South Fremantle's Jon Dorotich has been in great goalkicking form in the Emu Export Cup series

**SOUTH** Fremantle has been in three grand finals — 1981, '89 and '92 — since its last success in 1980.

All appearances have been disappointing, with two losses to Claremont and one to arch-rivals East Fremantle.

But the Bulldogs are a big chance to end that drought this season.

One of the major reasons is the return from Carlton of favourite son, Jon Dorotich.

The powerfully built left-footer was dumped by the Blues at the end of last season, ending a 132-game career highlighted by a premiership in 1987.

He resisted offers to stay in Melbourne in the hope of being selected in this month's pre-season draft, preferring to resume his career with the Bulldogs.

Dorotich's decision was greeted with broad smiles from the South Fremantle camp and their expectation has

## Dorotich goals a key for Bulldogs

By DIGBY BEACHAM

been met and probably even surpassed after only a few practice matches.

He has 32 goals, with hauls of 5, 9, 8 and 10, in the opening four Emu Export Cup summer series matches and looms as a vital player when the Pepsi Cup season starts on April 2.

The major concern for rival defenders is that Dorotich is adamant he can only get better.

"I'm still a couple of kilos overweight-for-age," he said with a typical Dorotich grin.

"My playing weight is between 101 and 102kg and I'm about 105."

Dorotich's outstanding efforts in front of goal stamp him as a virtual walk-up start in the WAFL side to play North Melbourne in a practice match at the WACA Ground on Friday night — and he is a chance to captain the team.

"Any time you wear the West Australian jumper is an honour and I'd love to captain the side if it was offered to me," Dorotich said.

### EXPERIENCE

Turning 32 next month, Dorotich is considered in many circles to be too old for the Fremantle AFL side.

But his track record against boom full-forwards Tony Lockett and Jason Dunstall is sound and there is little doubt he can offer the rookie side plenty of guidance.

"It boils down to whether the Fremantle team wants experience and if that is what they want, I can give them that," Dorotich said.

"The door hasn't been closed — I believe I could have stayed in Melbourne, so I still think I'm capable of playing AFL footy."

## Keene injury brings sigh of relief

IT'S not often a player is relieved to hobble off the field with a groin injury.

It's even stranger when the injury is sustained on the eve of a season.

But that was the scenario for Subiaco "recruit" Laurie Keene in a reserves practice match against East Perth last Saturday.

By GLEN QUARTERMAIN

Keene (33) was returning for his first match in four years after recovering from an Achilles tendon injury.

"Laurie was just happy to strain something other than his foot," Subiaco football manager Wayne Loxley said.

Keene has been a physiotherapist's dream since he made his VFL debut in 1987 as a member of the original West Coast Eagles side.

The 203cm ruckman-forward had

four seasons and played 36 games at the elite level before damaging his Achilles tendon in the 1990 first semi-final against Melbourne.

### COMEBACK SURPRISE

He played his 133rd and last WAFL game, against Swan Districts, on August 18 the same season.

Keene's decision to make a comeback so late in football life has surprised opposition clubs as much as Subiaco.

"Laurie has always kept in contact with the club and the 150-game mark and life membership have been at the back of his mind," Loxley said.

"His foot has improved, as has his ability to handle the injury."

Keene is an outside chance to play in the Subiaco side in Friday night's Emu Export Cup pre-season grand final against Claremont at the WACA Ground.

He started last Saturday's return match in a forward pocket, before replacing Jay Burton in the ruck.

He was benched after three-quarter-time when he strained his groin.

"The injury is nothing serious, we are confident he will play this weekend," Loxley said.

"He has some catching up to do, but his form is encouraging."



**BACK AGAIN . . .** big Subiaco ruckman Laurie Keene has pulled the boots on with the Lions in a surprise comeback

**POWERFUL** South Fremantle full-forward Jon Dorotich confirmed he is the man to beat for this year's \$500 GIO Insurance WAFL goalkicking award after a 10-goal haul in round four of the Emu Export summer series.

The former Carlton premiership forward dominated proceedings against East Fremantle at Narrogin, lifting his tally to 32 goals in just four outings.

His bags include hauls of 5, 9, 8 and 10.

Perth goalkicking find Brenton Cooper is second with 23 majors, bagging four against Swan Districts, while last year's WAFL winner, Subiaco's Jason Heatley, is third with 16.

Heatley kicked five on Monday night against East Perth and gets a chance to add to his tally in the \$3500 grand final on Friday.

### GIO TOP SCORERS

Jon Dorotich (SF)	32
Brenton Cooper (P)	23
Jason Heatley (S)	16
Joe Smith (C)	12
Daniel Metropolis (S)	10
Damon Lukins (C)	8
Travis Edmonds (SD)	8
Todd Menegola (SD)	6
Troy Ugle (SD)	6
Lucio Baroni (EP)	6

## Happy Hawks

**HAWTHORN** full-forward Jason Dunstall has talked about something strange and out-of-date in his column in Melbourne's Sunday Age newspaper — football enjoyment.

The 910-goal achiever in his 189 games says that one of the first things new coach Peter Knights did when he took over the job was to discuss how the players could enjoy their football more.

As Dunstall said: "You only get the best out of players if they are enjoying the game."

Maybe Knights, the high-flying Hawk who tasted plenty of premiership success in his 1970s and '80s playing days, will bring a new perspective to the game of the 90s.

## Daicos legend

A HIGH percentage of the 549 goals Collingwood icon Peter Daicos kicked were registered from the Johnston Street pocket at Victoria Park.

And despite his sacking, the Daicos name will long be associated with the famous patch of turf.

Collingwood officials, eager to appease fanatical supporters after the shock axing of their football superstar, have etched his name at the ground, with the Johnston Street pocket officially declared the "Daicos pocket" — like the "Doug Hawkins wing" at Footscray's Western Oval.

The decision to carve the Daicos name into the grandstand, along with 11 other club greats, is an indication the Magpies will continue to play at Victoria Park and resist a permanent move to the MCG.



## 1994 EMU EXPORT SERIES

### FINALS ROUND

FRIDAY, MARCH 25  
 North Melbourne v WA representative side, WACA 5.30pm  
 Claremont v Subiaco, WACA 7.30pm  
 Other finals at 2.30pm on Saturday, March 26







"Nothing changes between old friends"



# Youngsters sharpen claws for night final

AN abundance of young talent will be on display when Claremont and Subiaco clash in the Emu Export Cup summer series grand final at the WACA Ground on Friday night.

The Lions forced their way into the \$3500 final with a 20-point win over East Perth on Monday night, their third successive victory after a first-up defeat at the hands of Swan Districts.

On the other hand, the Tigers suffered their first loss for the pre-season competition, when they went down to West Perth by 10 points, after coach Gerard Neesham opted to rest some senior players.

Neesham could be without several of his experienced players for the grand final, as the North Melbourne-WAFL clash precedes the Emu Export shootout.

Star centre-half-forward Joe Smith, wingman Scott Edwards, dashing defender Quenton Leach and ruckman Clinton Wolf could all wear the WA jumper, while Subiaco pair Steven Davies and Jonathon Langer are strong chances to play.

Despite their anticipated absence, plenty of emerging stars will get their chance to impress under the extra pressure of a final.

Neesham will look to his young forwards Kingsley Hunter, Jeremy Crawley and Rhys Croxford for continued improvement in front of goals.

All three have tremendous potential, with Hunter and Croxford offering an option in the ruck when needed.

The trio have combined well with the mobile Smith and face the inexperienced, but promising, Lions defenders Chris Toohey, Shane Parker and Brad Barnes.

## 1994 EMU EXPORT SERIES

### Sunday March 20

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	
SWANS	3.3	5.8	9.14	15.16	106
PERTH	3.3	4.5	5.8	10.11	71

GOALS - Swans Disticts: Ugle 6, Cornelius 3, Bradbrook, Ball 2, Edmonds, Morgan. PERTH: Cooper 4, McKenna 3, Cannon, Kelly, Abraham.

BEST - Swan Districts: Ugle, Laurito, Eaton, Finlayson, Cornelius, Passeri. PERTH: Allard, McMurray, Abraham, Cannon, Thompson, Gehrig.

Played at Kelmscott. Umpires: Peter Repper, Adam Binks, Tim Priest

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	
S. FREM	3.2	9.3	13.4	22.7	139
E. FREM.	3.1	6.3	8.3	10.4	64

GOALS - South Fremantle: Dorotich 10, W. Krakouer, Caputi, Wootton, Morellini, Dougan 2, Worsfold, Der-court. East Fremantle: Ralph, Lockyer 2, Gallop, McManus, Dhurrkay, Abbott, Hoycard, Doyle.

BEST - South Fremantle: Dorotich, Worsfold, Bell, Ballard, Wootton, Mazurek, Bottrell. East Fremantle: Sanders, McManus, Ralph, Treleven, Malaxos, Stagg.

Played at Clayton Road Oval, Narrogin. Umpires: Trevor Garrett, Wayne French, Cameron Dawe. Attendance: 1700.

### Monday March 21

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	
SUBIACO	2.1	6.4	8.10	13.10	88
EAST PERTH	3.1	4.3	7.5	10.8	68

GOALS - Subiaco: Heatley 5, Atkins, Connell 2, Lamb, Schofield, Mohen, Burton. East Perth: Haskett, Talbot 2, Lyle, Faithfull, Brooks, Ryan, Barnard, Edwards.

BEST - Subiaco: Burton, Hampson, Snow, Langer, Heatley, Lamb. East Perth: Walker, Mead, Gale, Col-bung, Faithfull, Ryan.

Played at Subiaco Oval. Umpires: Sam Kronja, Simon Gill, Robbie Butler.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	
WEST PERTH	2.3	4.3	9.7	13.15	93
CLAREMONT	2.6	9.8	10.11	12.11	83

GOALS - West Perth: Burns, Nelson 2, Mildenhall, Dennis, O'Brien, Starr, Symmons, Barrows, Bell, Reynolds, Valentine. Claremont: Wardell-Johnson, Smith, Klemm, Hunter 2, Mitchell, Shields, Gerreyn, Malone.

BEST - West Perth: Symmons, Mildenhall, Nelson, Harris, Reynolds, Smith. Claremont: Wira, Gauci, Leach, Malone, Merillo, Klemm.

Played at WACA. Umpires: Greg Scroop, Darren Starcevic, Murray O'Dea.

By DIGBY BEACHAM

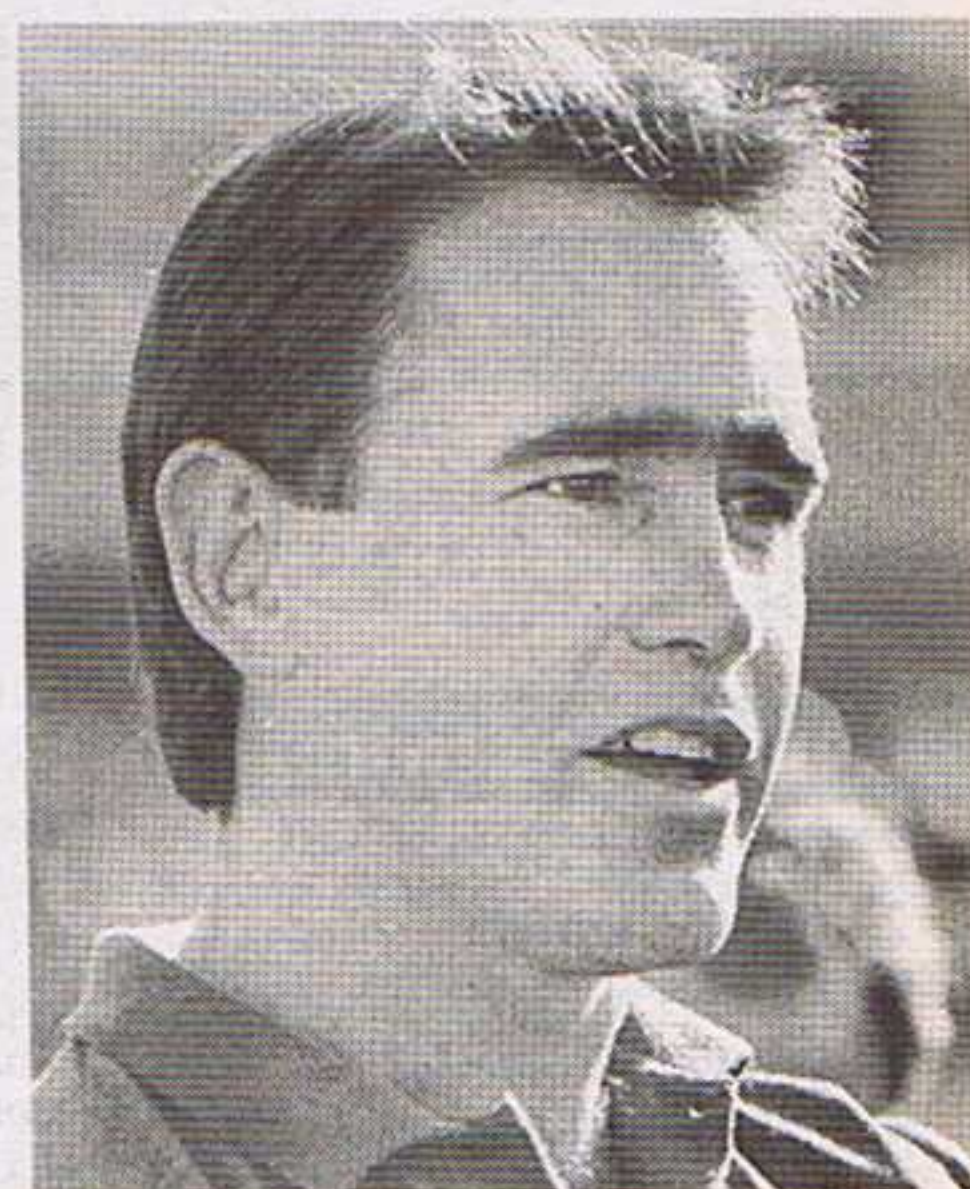
Subiaco's Jason Heatley kicked five goals against the Royals, but will need support from Daniel Metropolis, Rod Willet and Kane O'Brien.

Claremont could also recall rover Brendan Green to add bite around goals.

However, the real key to the match could be at the centre bouncdowns.

Chris Gerreyn was in excellent touch against West Perth and is receiving solid support from smaller men Darren Klemm, Rob Malone, Gavin Mitchell, Matthew Gauci and Jamie Merillo.

They won't have it all their own way however, if lanky Lions big man Matthew Burton and support staff David Snow, Damian Hampson, Dwayne Lamb, Jarrod Schofield and Matt Connell wield the same influence as Monday night.



ON A ROLL ... Subiaco coach Tony Solin will be looking for the Lions fourth successive win on Friday night

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2. Essendon
3. Adelaide
4. Shaun Rehn (Adelaide)
5. Jason Dunstall (Hawthorn)
6. Matthew Richardson (Richmond)
7. Brisbane



**DIGBY BEACHAM**

1. Adelaide, Essendon, Nth Melbourne, Collingwood, West Coast, Geelong, Hawthorn, Melbourne
2. Adelaide
3. Essendon
4. Wayne Carey (Nth Melbourne)
5. Gary Ablett (Geelong)
6. Allen Jakovich (Melbourne)
7. Richmond



**KEN PIESSE**

1. Nth Melbourne, Essendon, West Coast, Hawthorn, St Kilda, Geelong, Carlton, Adelaide
2. Nth Melbourne
3. Essendon
4. Wayne Carey (Nth Melbourne)
5. Tony Lockett (St Kilda)
6. Corey McKernan (Nth Melbourne)
7. Geelong



**GARY STOCKS**

1. Essendon, West Coast, Geelong, Adelaide, Collingwood, Nth Melbourne, Carlton, Hawthorn
2. Geelong
3. Essendon
4. Nathan Buckley (Collingwood)
5. Tony Modra (Adelaide)
6. Shane Bond (West Coast)
7. Geelong



**STEVE MARTIN**

1. Essendon, Geelong, Adelaide, Nth Melbourne, West Coast, Collingwood, Hawthorn, Carlton
2. Essendon
3. Geelong
4. Ken Hinkley (Geelong)
5. Tony Modra (Adelaide)
6. Shane Crawford (Hawthorn)
7. Brisbane

## The questions

1. The final eight
2. 1994 premiers
3. Runner's-up
4. Brownlow Medal
5. Leading goalkicker
6. Player to watch
7. Most improved club



**BRAD ELBOROUGH**

1. Essendon, Geelong, Adelaide, Hawthorn, West Coast, St Kilda, Collingwood, Carlton
2. Adelaide
3. Collingwood
4. Nathan Buckley (Collingwood)
5. Tony Modra (Adelaide)
6. Shaun Rehn (Adelaide)
7. Brisbane.



**TANIA ARMSTRONG**

1. Adelaide, Essendon, Nth Melbourne, West Coast, Geelong, Hawthorn, Carlton, Collingwood
2. Essendon
3. Adelaide
4. Wayne Carey (Nth Melbourne)
5. Jason Dunstall (Hawthorn)
6. Nigel Smart (Adelaide)
7. Brisbane

## The questions

1. The final eight
2. 1994 premiers
3. Runner's-up
4. Brownlow Medal
5. Leading goalkicker
6. Player to watch
7. Most improved club



**PERCY JOHNSON**

1. Essendon, Adelaide, Geelong, West Coast, Nth Melbourne, Hawthorn, Brisbane, Melbourne
2. Essendon
3. Adelaide
4. Shaun Rehn (Adelaide)
5. Gary Ablett (Geelong)
6. Mark Ricciuto (Adelaide)
7. Brisbane



**WILL BUTUN**

1. Essendon, Adelaide, West Coast, Hawthorn, Nth Melbourne, Geelong, Carlton, Collingwood
2. Adelaide
3. West Coast
4. Wayne Carey (Nth Melbourne)
5. Jason Dunstall (Hawthorn)
6. Shane Bond (West Coast)
7. Brisbane

## The questions

1. The final eight
2. 1994 premiers
3. Runner's-up
4. Brownlow Medal
5. Leading goalkicker
6. Player to watch
7. Most improved club



**THE HOOD**

1. West Coast, Essendon, Adelaide, Hawthorn, Nth Melbourne, Geelong, Melbourne, Richmond
2. West Coast
3. Adelaide
4. Ben Allan (Hawthorn)
5. Peter Sumich (West Coast)
6. Darren Gaspar (Sydney)
7. West Coast

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## WESTSIDE'S PANEL OF EXPERTS AFL ROUND ONE

	Tally	Coll'wood v Fitzroy	Essendon v Eagles	Footscray v Richmond	St Kilda v Hawthorn	Melbourne v Geelong	Brisbane v Sydney	Adelaide v Carlton
RON ALEXANDER	—	Collingwood	Eagles	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
TANIA ARMSTRONG	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
DIGBY BEACHAM	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
PETER BOSUSTOW	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
WILL BUTUN	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
RICHARD CAMM	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
ALAN EAST	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Richmond	Hawthorn	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide
BRAD ELBOROUGH	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Richmond	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
THE HOOD	—	Fitzroy	Eagles	Richmond	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
PERCY JOHNSON	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Richmond	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
ALAN JOYCE	—	Collingwood	Eagles	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
STEVE MARTIN	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
KEN PIESSE	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
GLEN QUARTERMAIN	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Richmond	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
TREVOR SPRIGG	—	Collingwood	Eagles	Richmond	Hawthorn	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide
GARY STOCKS	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide
<b>MOST FAVOURED</b>	—	Collingwood	Essendon	Footscray	Hawthorn	Geelong	Brisbane	Adelaide





# Premier clash has Bombers spoiling for Eagles dogfight

By GLEN QUARTERMAIN

**FRESH legs or momentum?**  
That is the question surrounding Saturday's opening AFL clash at the MCG.

Will Essendon benefit from the momentum carried over from last Saturday's stirring Foster's Cup win over Adelaide — or will last weekend's "bye" freshen up the West Coast Eagles?

The Bombers strengths and weaknesses have been exposed on national television, while it is a fair bet that the Eagles have engaged in an exercise of foxing.

The West Coast outfit that tackles Essendon will be far more balanced and potent than pre-season form would suggest, but it may still not be enough to overcome the reigning premier in a brutal opening.

West Coast coach Mick Malthouse is uncertain which side will benefit more from the alternative lead-ups.

"They have come off three good games and have got that (momentum),

but we can't do anything about it. What you can't change, you can't change," Malthouse said.

"We have elected to have another break.

"It has worked for us in the past because generally we have had good form behind us, but this year we haven't.

"We have been patchy and we have thrown players all over the place.

"So it can work one of two ways, the lull might be just what we need to freshen up, or we may well have needed a hard game. Who knows? Saturday will test us."

Essendon football manager Danny Corcoran said the Bombers know exactly what to expect.

"Our preference was for a hard lead-up match and we got that," said Corcoran. "But we know in West Coast we'll come up against a really strong side."

South Fremantle recruit Brett Spinks should make his debut in the Eagles centre-half-forward trouble spot.

Spinks, 20 and 195cm, is a booming kick, mobile, competent overhead and strong in packs, pre-requisites to play football's most important position.

Malthouse's other choice is David Hynes, his preferred option at centre-half-forward last season.

## HIGHLIGHT

The Eagles may also blood nimble Port Adelaide winger Shane Bond, whose quick hands and creativity have been a highlight of the pre-season.

The key to Essendon's game is its band of midfielders — David Calthorpe, Gary O'Donnell, Darren Bewick, Joe Misiti and Ricky Olarensaw — and their ability to feed full-forward Paul Salmon.

The 'Big Fish' will earn every kick as he is certain to wear the shadow of Glen Jakovich.

Essendon's strength in the Foster's Cup was its revamped half-forward line of Glenn Manton and the ever-improving James Hird.

Pencil in Guy McKenna for Manton and Michael Brennan or Ashley McIntosh for the mobile Hird.

Essendon may attempt to exploit the WA factor by swinging in much-travelled recruit Dale Kickett and could also introduce Che Cockatoo-Collins, a lively half-forward from Port Adelaide.

The Bombers will attempt to shut-down West Coast's engine room of Dean Kemp and Peter Matera.

Under-rated Essendon utility David Calthorpe, who successfully tagged Tony McGuinness out of the Foster's Cup grand final, is an option for both Eagles.

Essendon has its injury worries with Tim Watson (hip), Mark Thompson (calf) and Ben Doolan (soreness), while West Coast looks set to enter the match without winger Chris Mainwaring.



EAGLE PUNT... Brett Spinks is tipped to make his AFL debut

# Magpies set to swoop on Lions

COLLINGWOOD'S much-awaited move up the ladder should take its first step at Victoria Park on Saturday when it hosts Fitzroy.

Former Magarey Medallist Nathan Buckley, who starred for Brisbane last year, is tipped to have a bumper season for the Magpies, as is rover Tony Francis, new captain Gavin Brown and Saverio Rocca.

The Lions have lost Alastair Lynch, Paul Broderick, Jamie Elliott, Matthew Dundas, Michael Gale and Peter Caven from 1993 and will look to skipper Paul Roos for inspiration.

If Roos has an off-day, Collingwood should win.

FOOTSCRAY get the chance to put a bumpy pre-season behind them when it plays Richmond at the Western Oval.

The Bulldogs, first round Foster's Cup losers to Sydney, have struggled with consistency and coach Terry Wheeler needs experienced players Tony Liberatore, new captain Scott Wynd, Steve Wallis and forwards Ilija Grgic and Chris Grant to be at their top.

Richmond will send a new-look outfit on the park, including former Fitzroy players Jamie Elliott, Matthew Dundas, Michael Gale and Paul Broderick, but that might not be enough.

\*\*\*\*\*

ST KILDA and Hawthorn, co-tenants of Waverley Park, clash at their home ground in a crucial opener.

The Saints and Hawks both disappointed in 1993 and have changed coaches — Stan Alves (St Kilda) and Peter Knights (Hawthorn).

Champion forward Stewart Loewe is expected to miss three weeks, but his loss should be offset by the presence of Tony Lockett.

At the other end of the ground, Jason Dunstall is in great form and could lift his side to victory in a tight encounter.

\*\*\*\*\*

A SHOOT-out is on the cards when Geelong and Melbourne meet at the MCG on Sunday.

Geelong full-forward Gary Ablett and Demons goalsneak Allen Jakovich like the MCG and their input could be awesome.

The Cats premier midfielders Garry Hocking and Mark Bairstow were in great touch last weekend and a similar effort against the Demons could result in a win.

BRISBANE'S impressive array of recruits will go on display when the Bears host Sydney at the Gabba on Sunday.

Alastair Lynch, Craig Starcevic, Troy Lehmann, Andrew Bews, Craig Lambert and Gilbert McAdam have all joined the Bears and the Swans could feel the brunt of their force.

After an opening round Foster's Cup win, the Swans practice match form has been miserable.

\*\*\*\*\*

ADELAIDE should bounce back from its Foster's Cup grand final loss when Carlton travels to Football Park on Sunday.

The Crows fleet of midfielders, including veteran rover Tony McGuinness, could be too quick for Carlton, who will miss suspended captain Stephen Kernahan.



WANTED MAN... Nathan Buckley will finally line up in Collingwood colours

## Three big wins up for grabs on the footy!

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SCOOP FOOTO TOP SCORE

Date	Match	Home	Score
Saturday, March 26	Collingwood v Fitzroy (1)	H	Collingwood 22-24pts
	**Essendon v West Coast (5)	H	Essendon 13-15pts 99pts
	Footscray v Richmond (2)	A	Richmond 25-27pts
	St Kilda v Hawthorn (3)	A	Hawthorn 16-18pts
Sunday, March 27	Melbourne v Geelong (4)	A	Geelong 7-9pts
	Brisbane v Sydney (6)	H	Brisbane 49-51pts
	Adelaide v Carlton (7)	H	Adelaide 13-15pts

\*\* Denotes Top Score game.



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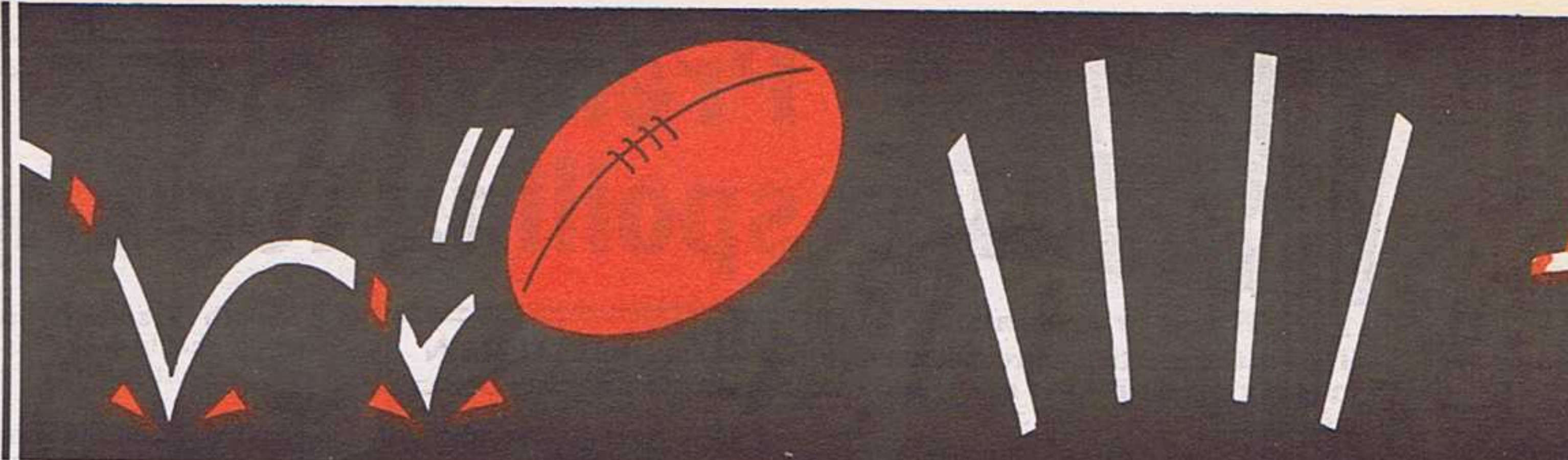
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# The Eagles of '94 . . .

Guernsey No.	Player	D.O.B.	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Came from	Debut	Games played	Goals kicked	State games	Occupation	Position	
26	BALL, Jason	21.11.72	198	98	Swan Dist/Swan View	1992	2	—	1	Admin. trainee	Ruckman	28
6	BANFIELD, Drew	27.2.74	183	86	Subiaco/Quairading	1991 Swan Dist 1993	349SD 7	75 SD 2	1	Student	Ruck-rover	37 3
20	BOND, Shane	9.7.75	182	72	Port Adelaide	1992 Subiaco	25 Subi	12 Subi	—	Travel Consult.	Wingman	30
14	BRENNAN, Michael	29.6.65	187	92	East Frem/Karoonda	1987	140	16	3	Finance Consult	Defender	11
32	CLAPE, Matthew	28.5.69	188	85	East Perth/Margaret River	1992	77 EF	3 EF	—	Wholesale rep.	Half-back	17
16	CONNELL, Matthew	3.8.72	180	78	Subiaco Carine	1989 East Perth	81 EP	11 EP	1	Development officer	Rover	8
18	EVANS, Tony	14.6.69	177	77	Claremont/Muresk	1991 Subiaco	48 Subi	33 Subi	2	Project officer	Rover	10
34	GEHRIG, Fraser	3.3.76	195	89	Murray Bushrangers, Vic	1991	37	35	—	Student	Ruckman	21
33	GODDEN, Tony	19.4.72	181	80	Subiaco/Carine	1989 Claremont	60 Cl	101 Cl	—	Sales clerk	Wingman	29
40	HAMPSON, Damian	27.3.70	180	79	Subiaco/Carlton/Woodlands	1993	5	4	—	Student	Ruck-rover	4
23	HARDING, Paul	4.6.64	193	98	St Kilda/Riverton/East Frem	1990 Subiaco	32 Subi	16 Subi	1	Dental technician	Ruckman	38
						1993	4	1	10			42
36	HART, David	3.3.64	173	79	South Frem/Bruce Rock	1981 East Frem	102 EF	34 EF	3	Salesman	Rover	7
1	HEADY, Brett	4.1.70	184	82	Subiaco/Whitfords	1987 Hawthorn	11 Haw	2 Haw	—	Real estate salesman	Half-forward	50
31	HEATLEY, Jason	21.2.72	191	87	Subiaco/Diamond Valley, Vic	1969 St Kilda	62 St K	7 St K	3	Salesman	Full-forward	35
22	HYNES, David	31.3.67	194	90	Port Adelaide	1987	112	78	—	Self-employed	Utility	25
27	JAKOVICH, Glen	24.3.73	192	97	South Frem/Sth Coogee	1983 West Perth	7 WP	9 WP	1	Sales consult.	Centre-half-back	39
2	KEMP, Dean	17.2.69	180	77	Subiaco/Kalgoorlie	1984 South Frem	73 SF	79 SF	2	Electrician	Centreman	12
15	KRUMMEL, Brendan	24.6.72	188	88	East Frem/Karoonda	1990	76	114	3	Refrig/air-con. mechanic	Wingman	9
5	LAMB, Dwayne	20.12.61	180	90	Subiaco/Nth Innaloo	1988 Subiaco	35 Subi	57 Subi	4	Promotions manager	Half-forward	24
19	LANGDON, Karl	28.3.68	191	91	Subiaco/Guildford Gram.	1991	21 Subi	111 Subi	—			
						1991	47	37	4			
						1985 Pt Adel	119 PA	111 PA	—			
						1991 Sth Frem	19 SF	13 SF	5			
						1991	62	18	—			
						1989 Sth Frem	51 SF	77 SF	2			
						1990	88	39	—			
						1989 Subiaco	23 Subi	9 Subi	—			
						1992	8	3	—			
						1990 East Frem	53 EF	16 EF	10			
						1987	146	45	4			
						1980 Subiaco	135 Subi	32 Subi	—			
						1988	93	102	—			
						1986 Subiaco	38 Subi	51 Subi	—			



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# NUMBER ONE M

— OPEN FRIDAYS &

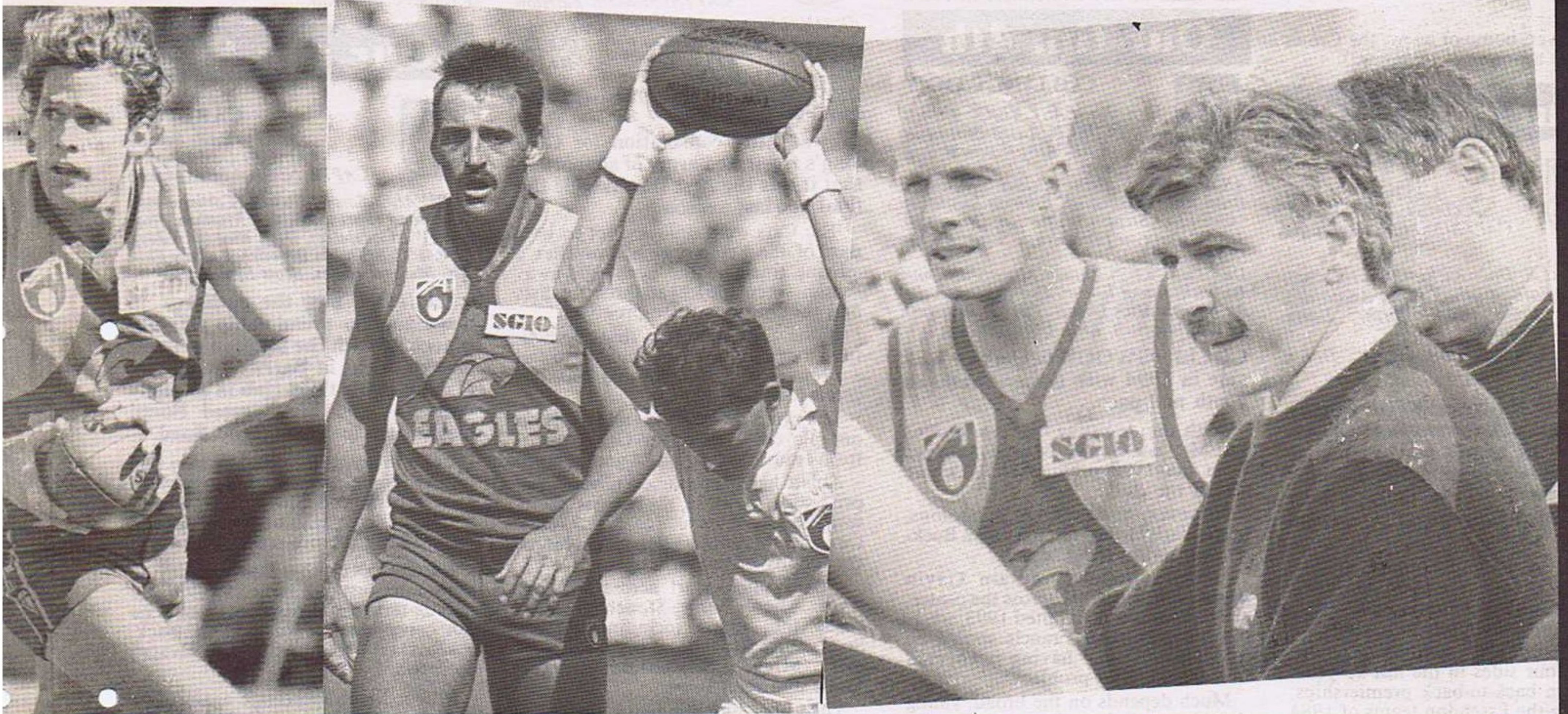


# BOUNCE INTO

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RUMOURS

## ... their facts and figures

28	LEWIS, Chris	17.3.69	183	81	Claremont/Mirrabooka	1987 1986 Claremont	128 9 Cl	155 6 Cl	3	Development officer	Ruck-rover
37	LYLE, Brayden	6.3.73	180	78	Port Adelaide	1987	138	64	10	Electrician Television presenter	Half-forward Wingman
3	MAINWARING, Chris	27.12.65	180	83	East Frem/Geraldton	1985 East Frem 1990	51 EF 74	38 EF 90	3	Footballer	Wingman
30	MATERA, Peter	3.4.69	180	82	South Frem/Wagin	1987 Sth Frem 1991	59 SF 53	96 SF 51	2	Student	Utility
11	McINTOSH, Ashley	20.10.72	190	92	Claremont/Scotch Coll.	1991 Claremont 1988	7 Cl 123	11 Cl 12	3	Sports retailer	Defender
17	McKENNA, Guy	11.5.69	185	85	Claremont/Carine	1985 Claremont 1992	50 Cl 6	3 Cl 10	—	Sales assistant	Half-forward
8	METROPOLIS, Daniel	17.3.72	188	83	Subiaco/Scotch Coll.	1991 Subiaco 1989	18 Subi 78	29 Subi 42	4	Accountant	Rover
10	PYKE, Don	5.12.68	180	78	Claremont/Canberra	1987 Claremont 1993	54 Cl 1	81 Cl —	—	Student	Half-forward
21	SCHOFIELD, Jarrod	30.1.75	178	79	Subiaco/Wesley Coll.	1993 Subiaco —	14 —	10 —	—	Student	Forward
29	SPINKS, Brett	7.11.73	195	100	South Frem/Jerramungup	1993 South Frem 1989	19 107	29 404	4	Fruit and vegetable buyer	Full-forward
4	SUMICH, Peter	11.1.68	191	96	South Frem/Cockburn	1986 Sth Frem —	58 SF —	99 SF —	—	Insurance clerk	Wingman
38	SYMMONS, Paul	2.9.73	185	78	West Perth/Warwick	1992 West Perth —	31 WP —	10 WP —	—	Student	Wingman
42	THOMPSON, Scott	15.3.75	180	65	Subiaco/Sorrento	—	—	—	3	Footballer	Ruck-rover
7	TURLEY, Craig	24.8.65	180	84	West Perth/Nollamara	1989 1985 West Perth	83 76 WP	62 34 WP	2	Development officer	Ruckman
50	TURNBULL, Ryan	23.9.71	196	97	East Perth/Clare/Christ Church	1991 1989 Claremont 1991 East Perth 1988 1987 Swan Dist	11 23 Cl 54 EP 43 90 SD	3 17 Cl 42 EP 44 100 SD	—	Welder	Utility
35	UGLE, Troy	18.4.68	179	79	Swan Dist/Carey Park	—	—	—	—	Student	Defender
25	WALKER, Lee	7.2.73	197	97	East Perth/Busselton	1993 East Perth 1988	2 93	1 52	3	Salesman	Half-back
39	WATERMAN, Chris	19.9.68	181	85	East Frem/Rossmoyne	1987 East Frem 1991	52 EF 44	37 EF 5	1	Student	Half-back
12	WHITE, Mitchell	28.3.73	191	91	Subiaco/West Torrens	1990 Subiaco 1990	37 Subi 77	43 Subi 62	9	Hotel manager	Ruck-rover
9	WILSON, Peter	15.11.63	183	88	Richmond/E. Frem/Lynwood	1982 East Frem 1987 Richmond 1987 1986 Sth Frem	97 EF 54 Rich 137 25 SF	101 EF 40 Rich 21 5 SF	7	Pharmacist	Half-back
24	WORSFOLD, John	25.9.68	182	87	South Frem/SFJFC	—	—	—	—	—	—



## MEETING PLACE

WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS —

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# It's bounced down time . . .

## Our tip: 1st



### ADELAIDE

LAST YEAR: Third  
COACH: Graham Cornes  
CAPTAIN: Chris McDermott

ARRIVALS: Tony Hall (Hawthorn), Brett Chalmers (Port Adelaide-Collingwood).  
DEPARTURES: Mark Mickan, Paul Patterson, Andrew Payze, Scott Hodges, Michael Godden.

HAVING gone so close to a berth in last year's grand final in its third year of competition, Adelaide's approach to the new season full of confidence is natural.

While they won only twice in Melbourne last year — including the knock-out of Hawthorn in the first week of September — the Crows impressive efforts at home assure them of a place in the 1994 finals.

This year Adelaide don't visit Victoria until round eight and is likely to be in good shape come the half-way mark and the run into the finals.

Young ruckman Shaun Rehn continues to impress and he gets some handy assistance when Matthew Robran returns from a broken leg and SANFL recruit Brett Chalmers becomes more comfortable with the pace of AFL competition.

Up forward, goal centurion Tony Modra will get some assistance with the arrival of Adelaide born-and-bred Tony Hall, one of the victims of Hawthorn's cash crash.

Hall may not have the pace of the classic half-forward, but is an excellent overhead mark and should relieve some of the pressure on the high-flying Crows spearhead.

A major bonus for the Crows is their home crowd advantage, which many critics believe is worth nearly five goals.

However, home or away, the Crows will take a power of stopping.

## Our tip: 2nd



### ESSENDON

LAST YEAR: First  
COACH: Kevin Sheedy  
CAPTAIN: Mark Thompson

ARRIVALS: Dale Kickett (Claremont), Che Cockatoo-Collins (Port Adelaide), Michael Prior (East Perth), Barry Oung (Richmond).  
DEPARTURES: Alan Ezard, Derek Kickett.

ESSENDON coach Kevin Sheedy has been quick to reassure supporters that the team's patchy practice match form — despite their Foster's Cup victory — is unlikely to bear any comparison to the season proper.

However, without the brilliant Michael Long — the star of the 1993 finals who is out with a serious knee problem — the Bombers may take time to assert their authority.

Only four sides in the last 25 years have won back-to-back premierships, including the Essendon teams of 1984 and '85, rated among the best of all time.

Sheedy's sights are clear.

He wants top spot and another flag — whatever the club's achievements were in 1993, he expects to do better in '94.

In wanting his players to be mentally and physically geared to the demands of playing consistent football, Sheedy has again staged much of their summer programme interstate.

A premiership hangover is possible, especially among the younger players so dominant throughout 1993.

However, the depth is good and the mood buoyant.

## Our tip: 3rd



### WEST COAST

LAST YEAR: Fourth  
COACH: Mick Malthouse  
CAPTAIN: John Worsfold

ARRIVALS: Fraser Gehrig (Murray Bushrangers, Vic.), Shane Bond and Brayden Lyle (Port Adelaide), Jason Heatley (Subiaco), Scott Thompson (Collingwood).  
DEPARTURES: Robert West, Dean Irving, Brendon Retzlaff, Travis Burton, Derek Hall

WEST Coast struggled last year in its premierships defence, uncharacteristically losing three home games and nine for the season.

However, the Eagles remain one of the most respected sides in the competition, mainly due to their tight defence and noted home ground advantage at Subiaco.

Coach Mick Malthouse's major problem is in the forward line, where he is trying to develop more goalkicking options to ease the pressure off Peter Sumich, whose goals-per-game average fell below four in 1993.

Malthouse wants to use Sumich more at centre-half-forward, a constant trouble-spot for the Eagles, especially as knee problems plague premier-ship forward Karl Langdon.

Captain John Worsfold and comeback ruck-rover Craig Turley are others worried by early-season injury.

Turley (28), could find it difficult to recapture his best form of 1991, when he finished behind Jim Stynes in the Brownlow Medal and he's back after a year's absence.

Injuries often denied Malthouse his best side in 1993.

The club depth was stretched to the limit and while the Eagles lasted into the second week of the finals, they were not the same team that figured in consecutive grand finals.

Enough polish remains to suggest, however, that they will bounce back and again be key contenders in 1994.

## Our tip: 4th



### COLLINGWOOD

LAST YEAR: Eighth  
COACH: Leigh Matthews  
CAPTAIN: Gavin Brown

ARRIVALS: Nathan Buckley (Brisbane), Brad Plain (Essendon), Brenton Sanderson (Adelaide), Stephen Patterson (Norwood), John Ballantyne (Footscray), Stephen Ryan (Richmond).  
DEPARTURES: Shane Morwood, Doug Barwick, Jamie Turner, Ron McKeown, Peter Daicos, Mick Gayfer, Darren Saunders, Craig Starcevic, Troy Lehmann.

COLLINGWOOD field a new-look side in 1994 with the emphasis on youth and pace.

With the de-listing of Peter Daicos and Michael Gayfer, only 11 Magpies from the 1990 premierships side are still at the club.

However, some of the inclusions, particularly highly-rated Nathan Buckley, will offset those losses.

Newly-appointed captain Gavin Brown will also assist across the centre, after an injury-interrupted 1993, while No. 1 rover Tony Francis should be more consistent, having recovered from an Achilles problem.

Much depends on the broad, young shoulders of key forward Saverio Rocca, who kicked 73 goals in 1993, while Essendon recruit Bradley Plain is keen to fill the Daicos goalsneak role.

Brad Rowe, the centre of a dispute over summer, is also a key man playing alongside Rocca in a forward pocket.

The Magpies are at the MCG or Victoria Park for all but one of their first 13 games and must win eight or nine of those to claim a top-four spot.

One of the season highs will come when veteran Tony Shaw reaches 300 games, a magnificent tally achieved by only one Magpie — Gordon Coventry.

Shaw (33), begins his farewell season on 293 games, just 13 behind Coventry's long standing record of 306.

## Our tip: 5th



### NORTH MELBOURNE

LAST YEAR: Fifth  
COACH: Denis Pagan  
CAPTAIN: Wayne Carey

ARRIVALS: Gareth John (Sydney), John Barnett (Hawthorn), Troy Polak (Perth), David King (Port Melbourne), Warren Campbell (South Fremantle), Adam Simpson (Northern Knights), Trent Nichols (West Coast).  
DEPARTURES: Ben Buckley, Richard Dennis, Jeremy Silcock, Justin Staritski.

WHEN Denis Pagan replaced Wayne Schimmelbusch only weeks before the start of the 1993 season, he confidently predicted North Melbourne would make the finals.

Such a statement caused a few chuckles in football circles.

After all, he had taken over a side that had been thrashed by 147 points by Adelaide in the Foster's Cup.

But at the end of the year, Pagan held his head high, although the season ended on a sour note when they were bundled out of the finals by West Coast.

New captain Wayne Carey was outstanding and again looms as a key to the club's chances. He dominated the centre-half-forward position and received good support from mercurial goalsneak Adrian McAdam.

Club officials hope talented teenager Warren Campbell can repeat that feat, while the once-burly Mark Roberts continues to improve.

Often criticised for their lack of character, Norths cured that problem and Pagan will look to youngsters Robert Pyman, Anthony Stevens, Glen Archer and veterans Wayne Schwass and Brett Allison to maintain their high standard.

## Our tip: 6th



### GEELONG

LAST YEAR: Seventh  
COACH: Malcolm Blight  
CAPTAIN: Mark Bairstow

ARRIVALS: Aaron Lord (Brisbane), Grant Tanner (Norwood), Shayne Breuer (SA Eagles), Christian O'Brien (Norwood/Melbourne).  
DEPARTURES: Stephen Hooper, Russell Merriman, Trevor Poole.

IT was little consolation for Geelong's frustrated army of supporters that it was the best side outside the final six last season.

The Cats were unlucky not to be a part of the September action after a stirring finale to the home-and-away season when they beat three finalists and the previous three premiers.

If the Cats maintain that momentum, they rate as a strong chance to end a premierships drought that has lingered for 31 winters.

The campaign will depend largely on one player — superstar Gary Ablett, fresh from last year's 124-goal season.

Ablett has been nursed through the pre-season as, at 32, his body is not as forgiving as it once was and like all forwards, his success depends a lot on the quality of his feeders.

His suppliers start across half-forward, where Barry Stoneham marshals the troops including Robert Scott, Billy Brownlee, Darren Forssman, Michael Mansfield, Darren Steele and Paul Brown.

The Cats major strength is their mobile division of ruckman John Barnes, ruck-rovers Mark Bairstow, Garry Hocking, Paul Couch, Peter Riccardi and Andrew Wills.

But its most underrated sector is defence, where Ken Hinkley, Stephen O'Reilly, Steven Hocking and Tim McGrath form an impasse.

Coach Malcolm Blight has trialled South Australian trio Shayne Breuer, Christian O'Brien and Grant Tanner this pre-season.

Tanner has been lively at half-back and half-forward, O'Brien is still learning how to play the forward line at AFL level, while Breuer has been the most impressive of the trio in a variety of on-ball roles.

## Our tip: 7th



### HAWTHORN

LAST YEAR: Sixth  
COACH: Peter Knights  
CAPTAIN: Chris Langford

ARRIVALS: Nick Holland (North Adelaide), Tim Hargreaves (Berrigan), Paul Barnard (East Perth), Shane Stevenson (Fitzroy), Luke McCabe (Sacred Heart).  
DEPARTURES: Dermott Brereton, Gary Ayres, Greg Dear, Tony Hall, James Morrissey, John Barnett, Ricky Nixon.

THE powerbrokers at Glenferrie Oval have been doing a spot of spring cleaning.

A new coach and captain and the departure of Gary Ayres, Dermott Brereton, Tony Hall, Chris Mew, Greg Dear and James Morrissey have shaken the foundations of the "Family Club".

But despite some early gloomy forecasts, the expansion of the finals system to eight should extend Hawthorn's finals action for another 12 months.

Just how long Hawthorn survive in September is largely in the hands of new coach and decorated premierships player Peter Knights, who replaces Alan Joyce.

The Hawks boast an on-ball mid-field division equivalent to any in the competition — Ben Allan, John Platten, Darren Jarman, Anthony Condon, Darrin Pritchard and Glen Nugent, who will all benefit if ruckman Stephen Lawrence can regain fitness.

The Hawks defence hinges on trusty campaigners such as newly-crowned captain Chris Langford, the dependable Andrew Collins, Ray Jencke, Paul Cooper and Scott Maginness.

At the other end, Jason Dunstall is as reliable as Christmas, with 910 career goals in nine seasons and he was in devastating form in the Foster's Cup, with 21 goals in three games.

The Hawks major problem is spinal, with the departure of Mew and Brereton leaving big holes at centre-half-back and centre-half-forward.

Former Fitzroy discard Jason Taylor can fill Brereton's old role, while Nick Holland is being groomed for the key defensive position.

## Our tip: 8th



### CARLTON

LAST YEAR: Second  
COACH: David Parkin  
CAPTAIN: Stephen Kernahan

ARRIVALS: Barry Mitchell (Collingwood), Troy Bond (Port Adelaide), Matthew Hopkins (West Adelaide), Dean Rice (St Kilda).  
DEPARTURES: Jon Dorotich, Andrew Phillips, Michael James, Scott Spalding.

CARLTON has the pedigree to make another premierships play-off, especially with the infusion of extra on-ball talent in Barry Mitchell — playing at his third club in as many years — and highly-rated South Australian speedster Troy Bond.

Captain Stephen Kernahan may also receive some assistance up forward with experienced Steve Silvagni and Stephen Oliver, who has been in good form during the pre-season.

Kernahan's brother David is playing again after just one game in 1993, due to long-term groin problems, but if he can consolidate a place at full-back, coach David Parkin can use Silvagni up forward.

Mitchell will appreciate again playing alongside his old Sydney teammate, champion pivot Greg Williams.

Mitchell floundered at Collingwood as the No. 3 rover behind Tony Francis and Scott Russell, but is likely to share senior roving responsibilities at Princes Park with Adrian Gleeson.

Williams, the highest paid player in the land, will again be crucial to Carlton's premierships aspirations.

The Blues also hope that lively half-forward Luke O'Sullivan can re-emerge after his battle with knee and shoulder problems.

He failed to play a senior game last year after damaging his knee in a pre-season game at Waverley Park in February, 1993.





Melbourne journalist **KEN PIESSE** surveys the 15 clubs lining up for this year's AFL season



# ... and here are the contenders

## Our tip: 9th



**ST KILDA**  
LAST YEAR: 12th  
COACH: Stan Alves  
CAPTAIN: Danny Frawley

**ARRIVALS:** David Strooper (Sydney), Rod Keogh (Melbourne), Adrian Burns (Essendon), Kristian Bardsley (North Melbourne), Michael Frost (Footscray), Shane Wakelin (Port Adelaide), Anthony Harvey (Frankston).  
**DEPARTURES:** Chris Wittman, Stephen Newport, Ian Aitken, Laurence Bingham.

**ST KILDA** enter the season with a new coach and high hopes, especially given the renewed fitness of star goalkicker Tony Lockett.

The match-winning potential of Lockett, who says he is as fit as he ever, is a key factor for the Saints even though his pre-season appearances have been few.

If he can maintain a six-goal average and kick more than 100 for the fourth time in his career, the Saints could qualify as high as fifth or sixth.

Much will depend on the form of other high-profile stars such as Stewart Loewe and key midfielder Robert Harvey.

Harvey's pre-season has been injury-interrupted, but he was in top form against West Coast recently.

Port Adelaide's Shane Wakelin, a key defender, is expected to make his presence felt.

A brittle defence is a major worry for the Saints, with captain Danny Frawley having a limited preparation and, at 30, is unlikely to play much longer.

Coach Stan Alves is looking to increase the team's around-the-ground speed with the inclusion of younger players such as Damen Shaw, the club's best rookie last season.

After the de-listing of Laurence Bingham, Alves will use Lazar Vidovic and Peter Everitt as ruckmen, with Everitt — a Teal Cup star — doubling up in attack.

## Our tip: 10th



**MELBOURNE**  
LAST YEAR: 10th  
COACH: Neil Balme  
CAPTAIN: Gary Lyon

**ARRIVALS:** Paul Ridley (Collingwood), Paul Prymke (SA Eagles), Brad Hall (Assumption College), Michael Prentice (Southern Stingrays), Dean Irving (West Coast).  
**DEPARTURES:** Darren Bennett, Greg Healy, Steven Stretch, Hadyn Robbins, Rod Keogh, Andy Goodwin.

**MELBOURNE'S** slow start last year had many people thinking the lean days of the early 1980s were back.

However, by the season's end the Demons had recovered to finish just two games out of the five, with a creditable 10-10 win/loss record.

The signs were encouraging and a good start to 1994 could see the club re-emerge as a finals contender.

Colourful ruckman Jim Stynes might not have reproduced his 1991 Brownlow Medal form, but he is a magnificent contributor.

Captain Gary Lyon is a player every coach dreams about and the veteran has overcome his injury-prone nature.

And then there is Allen Jakovich.

The enigmatic full-forward has yet to produce the form that made him a household name in his rookie year of 1991, but he has worked on his fitness.

Melbourne were well-served by Glenn and Brett Lovett, Matthew and Steven Febey and Stephen Tingay and unveiled future stars in David Neitz and Darren Kowal.

The young pair provided other options up forward, while experienced campaigners Rod Grinter and Peter Rhode thrived after being switched to attack by coach Neil Balme.

If exciting forwards Sean Charles and David Schwarz can recover from forgettable 1993 seasons, a Demons revival is on the cards.



THE KINGS... and who has the ability to dethrone them this season? That's the question the fans will be asking as Essendon maintain their premiership momentum

## Our tip: 11th



**FOOTSCRAY**

LAST YEAR: Ninth  
COACH: Terry Wheeler  
CAPTAIN: Scott Wynd

**ARRIVALS:** Richard Osborne (Sydney), Robert West (West Coast), Kym Koster and Luke Darcy (South Adelaide), Daniel Southern (Claremont), Jason Watts (Werribee).  
**DEPARTURES:** Glenn Coleman, Justin Charles, Bernard Toohey, Peter Foster, Brian Royal, Michael Frost.

**FOOTSCRAY** have been busy over summer and judging by the early form of some likely newcomers, it possesses as much depth as most rivals.

Sydney's Richard Osborne, Claremont's Daniel Southern and South Adelaide's Kym Koster all seem ready-made additions to the line-up.

Given full seasons from stars such as Simon Atkins, Chris Grant, Scott Wynd, Tony Liberatore and Leon Cameron — and the extension of the finals to eight teams — the Bulldogs can expect to make the play-offs.

Osborne, who will return from America if he fails in a bid to become a gridiron kicker in the NFL, could roam alongside Ilija Grgic and Danny Del'Re up forward, giving the Bulldogs some potency in attack.

Scott Wynd's summer knee operation sees him in doubt for the start.

Coach Terry Wheeler hopes his side stay united after injuries decimated 1993's early-season planning.

Former captain Steve Wallis was restricted to four games with a serious knee injury, while versatile key position player Keenan Reynolds missed the last seven rounds with a serious shoulder injury.

## Our tip: 15th

**ARRIVALS:** Dermott Brereton (Hawthorn), Darren Gaspar (South Fremantle), Mark Hepburn (West Coast), Derek Kickett and Peter Filandia (Essendon).  
**DEPARTURES:** David Murphy, Brad Tunbridge, Richard Osborne, Paul Bryce, John Hutton, David Strooper.

WITH one win in its last 35 games, Sydney has much ground to make up before it again command the respect of the football world.

## Our tip: 12th



**BRISBANE**

LAST YEAR: 13th  
COACH: Robert Walls  
CAPTAIN: Roger Merrett

**ARRIVALS:** Alastair Lynch (Fitzroy), Troy Lehmann and Craig Starcevich (Collingwood), Gilbert McAdam (St Kilda), Andrew Bews (Geelong), Craig Lambert (Richmond), Nigel Lappin (Chiltern), Chris Scott (Eastern Rangers).  
**DEPARTURES:** Nathan Buckley, Matthew Campbell, Paul Spargo, Peter Worsfold.

**BRISBANE** should kick off to a good start considering it plays only one top-six side (Adelaide at the Gabba) in the first seven rounds.

One of the most active clubs over summer, the Bears welcome back experienced defender Martin Leslie after half a season in 1993 because of injury.

Nathan Buckley will be a major loss, but prize recruit Alastair Lynch — despite an early collarbone injury — should be just as impressive.

Other newcomers like Craig Lambert, Andrew Bews, Craig Starcevich, Troy Lehmann and Gilbert McAdam increase their player depth.

Experienced ruckman Damien Bourke will miss a major part of the season and veteran skipper Roger Merrett is ineligible for four weeks because of suspension, so Aboriginal All-Stars captain Michael McLean could lead the side.

Coach Robert Walls will look to locals Marcus Ashcroft, Troy Clarke and Stephen McLuckie for continued improvement and outstanding teenager Nathan Chapman to carry on from last season.

Having won only 36 games of the 152 they have played since entering the AFL in 1987, the club could double its 1993 return of four wins and even vie for their first finals berth.

**SYDNEY**  
LAST YEAR: 15th  
COACH: Ron Barassi  
CAPTAIN: Paul Kelly



However, they went within one point of beating eventual grand finalists Carlton in the final home-and-away game of the 1993 season and with more drafting concessions, are building a competitive squad.

The club has improvers in Jason Mooney, Neil Brunton, Andrew Dunkley and Jamie Lawson and extra potential with Darren Gaspar's arrival from Perth.

The Swans also did well to hold star ruck-rover Dale Lewis after a planned summer shift to Footscray.

If the team's No. 1 March recruit Dermott Brereton plays most of the season, the Swans could cause a few shocks.

The arrival of legendary coach Ron Barassi midway through 1993 stiffened things up.

Westside Football — Thursday, March 24, 1994 — Page 15

## Our tip: 13th



**RICHMOND**

LAST YEAR: 14th  
COACH: John Northey  
CAPTAIN: Tony Free

**ARRIVALS:** Paul Broderick, Jamie Elliott, Matthew Dundas and Michael Gale (Fitzroy), Mark Neeld (Geelong), Greg Dear (Hawthorn), Hadyn Robbins (Melbourne), Justin Murphy (Central Dragons), Jamie Tape (SA Eagles).  
**DEPARTURES:** Jeff Hogg, Craig Lambert, Dale Weightman, Barry Young.

**IT ALL** began with so much promise — an appearance in the Foster's Cup grand final in front of 70,000 supporters.

But by September, there was little for Richmond supporters to enthuse about... four wins and 14th place on the ladder.

Add the departures of Jeff Hogg and Craig Lambert and another knee injury to forward Stevan Jackson over summer and Richmond look fragile.

But coach John Northey points to a busy off-season that saw Paul Broderick, Michael Gale, Matthew Dundas and Jamie Elliott come over from Fitzroy, while defender Mark Neeld crossed from Geelong.

The Tigers also signed triple Hawthorn premiers ruckman Greg Dear and are excited about SA pair Jamie Tate, a defender from the Eagles and Matthew Rogers, a midfielder from South Adelaide.

Among last year's big crop of newcomers was young Tasmanian Matthew Richardson, who turns 19 on Saturday and is the son of former premiers player Allan 'Bull' Richardson.

The tall, strong-marking Richardson kicked eight goals in the Tigers opening Foster's Cup win over St Kilda.

## Our tip: 14th



**FITZROY**

LAST YEAR: 11th  
COACH: Robert Shaw  
CAPTAIN: Paul Roos

**ARRIVALS:** Jeff Hogg (Richmond), Kieran Sporn (Essendon), David Bain and Nigel Palfreyman (Brisbane), Trent Cummings (Central District), Chris Johnson (Northern Knights), Rowan Warfe (Bendigo Pioneers), Steven Stretch (Melbourne), Matthew Mansfield (Footscray).  
**DEPARTURES:** Alastair Lynch, Paul Broderick, Michael Gale, Jamie Elliott, Matthew Dundas, Paul Abbott, Brad Davis.

THE years of constantly being financially-troubled, with its very existence questioned, has been too much for some Fitzroy players in recent times.

Born-and-bred champions Gary Pert and Richard Osborne left, followed this summer by Alastair Lynch, Paul Broderick, Jamie Elliott, Matthew Dundas and Michael Gale.

Long-serving captain Paul Roos feared a 'domino affect' after Lynch's shift to Brisbane and in losing four players to Richmond, his worst nightmare has become a reality.

However, with a new home base at the Western Oval and a friendly landlord in Footscray, the Lions are in an optimistic mood.

Nine of the club's home games have been scheduled at the Western Oval but the club's strike-rate at that ground is abysmal — one win since 1981.



# Two's company — three's a joke

THE apparently insatiable desire of football administrators to mess with the laws of the great Australian game is contributing to its ruination.

The spectacle was lessened during the AFL and WAFL pre-season series because of the latest blunder — the three-umpire system.

The AFL's switch to the system has yet to be followed by the WAFL, but inevitably it will because history shows an inclination for WA's football power brokers to follow the leader.

It will be a sad day, not just because "soft" free kicks have become common in attack, but also because umpiring resources already have been stretched to the limit.

## PHYSICAL CLASHES

One of the great attractions of Australian football has been the bone-jarring physical clashes, but it seems the decision-makers are intent on eliminating that aspect from the sport.

## TALKING STOCK

with GARY STOCKS of The West Australian



With umpires permanently patrolling the 50-metre zones it seems they are looking to justify their presence by pulling up the game with a free kick that simply is not on.

WA umpires chief David Johnson would surely agree, after watching the Emu Export Cup series, that there simply are not enough quality umpires to send three capable men out to the middle every match.

The new system throws the umpire

development programme into disarray.

In much the same way that clubs like to take their time in promoting their best youngsters through to senior ranks, umpires like to groom young prospects into the senior level.

With a host of WAFL senior umpires called up for AFL duty last year, local ranks were left a little thin. It's fair to assume that with the weekly AFL needs swelling from 30 to 45, even greater strain will be placed on field umpires in the WAFL.

Many new faces emerged during the Emu Export series and while some shone, others showed they were some distance from senior standard. And, as is the case with players, consistency usually eludes the rookies.

Even with the WAFL ignoring the move of the AFL to extend the number of umpires, some promising young WA whistlers will be elevated before

their time and will need understanding and consideration from players, officials — and the public.

While the umpires will come under scrutiny at both levels of football in WA, so, too, will a long list of newcomers in search of playing stardom.

The Eagles appear to have unearthed a couple of quality youngsters, with Port Adelaide recruits Brayden Lyle and Shane Bond producing exciting displays pre-season.

And the prospect of snaring a spot in the initial Fremantle squad also enticed a few hopefuls into the WAFL, whether they have returned from interstate or crossed the border in search of an opportunity — such as Jason Heatley.

Time will tell whether any AFL players are among them, but in the meantime, the depth of talent in WAFL player ranks is as healthy as it has been since the advent of the Eagles.

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## Stats AND Facts

with Richard Camm

## Bombers do the double

ESSENDON became the first team in more than 25 years — other than Hawthorn — to win consecutive night premierships when its beat Adelaide on Saturday night.

The Hawks have won consecutive night flags three times — in 1967-68, 1985-86 and 1991-92.

The Bombers win gave them their fifth night premiership in 14 years, with those victories being recorded against five opponents — Carlton in 1981, Sydney in 1984, North Melbourne in 1990, Richmond last year and Adelaide on Saturday.

\*\*\*\*\*

RICHMOND supporters will be hoping the Tigers can win their opening game for the first time in 12 years when they play Footscray at the Western Oval on Saturday.

The Tigers have not opened an AFL season with a win since they beat North Melbourne by 18 points at the MCG in 1982.

Last year, the Tigers — after losing the Foster's Cup grand final to Essendon — lost by 94 points to Adelaide in the season opener.

In the 11 years since the Tigers last won their first game, they have lost their opening games by an average of more than 40 points.

\*\*\*\*\*

ESSENDON last year became the seventh consecutive team to win the premiership after losing its opening game of the season.

The last premiership team to have won in round one was Hawthorn, who won its first four games in 1986.

\*\*\*\*\*

BRISBANE — after a summer of extensive recruiting — will be seeking to break its record of losses in the opening game in each of the past three seasons.

Only two teams — Collingwood and North Melbourne — have won their first game in each of the past three seasons.

\*\*\*\*\*

WEST Coast start their eighth season in the AFL with Saturday's game against Essendon, the AFL premiers.

The Eagles have started five of its seven seasons with wins — losing the first game in only two years, 1989 and 1992.



# Kicking around . . .

THE topsy turvy playing career of Brad Gwilliam continues after a drawn out clearance wrangle between his original club West Perth and Subiaco.

Gwilliam was set to resurrect his career with the Lions, but his season may be over before it starts after landing a new job.

The injury-plagued Gwilliam, who returned from a stint with Richmond last year, has a job as a courier which keeps him busy on Friday nights and in the early hours of Saturday mornings.

That is hardly the ideal lead-up to a match and a situation that has the 27-year-old seriously considering a WAFL comeback.

\*\*\*\*\*

EAST Fremantle's defence took a hammering from the South Fremantle forwards in Narrogin on Sunday . . . their cause not helped by the retirements of Brad Read and Simon Moss.

Read (25) has left the Sharks after 73 games and Moss after 20, having transferred from Swan Districts.

Moss has accepted a ranger's job in Mundaring and must live within a few kilometres of his station, making the trek to East Fremantle Oval a long haul.

Moss was at the centre of controversy last year when he was suspended for five matches after an appeal from Subiaco over an incident involving century goal-kicker Jason Heatley.

He struck trouble on his return, immediately copping another suspension — for contacting Heatley.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE selection of Jon Langer in the WA squad to play North Melbourne on Friday night is nothing short of remarkable.

It's impressive because he is yet to make his senior debut with Subiaco and also for the fact that his leg was smashed last season.

The 19-year-old, hit while walking along a road, missed the entire season after showing good signs in the Emu Export summer series.

Langer has spent a gruelling nine months of rehabilitation with Steve Smith and it has paid off.

He has recovered enough from a knee semi-reconstruction and broken fibula to star in four Emu Export Cup matches and earn a chance of wearing the black and gold.

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## Another snag in Gwilliam return

CLAREMONT unearthed another talented prospect when Kingsley Hunter donned the guernsey against West Perth on Monday night.

Hunter, a member of the Tigers colts premiership side last season, showed plenty of ability at full-forward, kicking 2.3 before a stint in the ruck.

Although not skyscraper tall, he has a good leap and an impressive set of hands and is a player to watch out for.

\*\*\*\*\*

PERTH'S rigorous pre-season training schedule is likely to pay dividends.

New Demons coach David Glascott has made it clear he wants his players in peak fitness and one player who has achieved that is Winston Abraham.

The nippy small man has had a superb Emu Export series in the midfield and up forward and has been rewarded with a berth in the WA side to play North Melbourne at the WACA Ground.

Abraham's summer performances have also attracted attention in the AFL arena.

\*\*\*\*\*

WEST Perth's never-say-die attitude — so prominent last season — again was evident at the WACA Ground on Monday night.

The Falcons trailed Claremont by 35 points at half-time and although Tigers coach Gerard Neesham rested some senior players, West Perth's second-half fightback was outstanding.

The Falcons winning margin of 10 points was even more meritorious considering experienced players Derek Hall, Greg Jones, Peter Freeman and Mark Lambourn were on the sidelines.

\*\*\*\*\*

PERTH skipper Adrian Barich should make a return to senior action this Saturday when the Demons play their final Emu Export Cup match.

The former West Coast Eagle has overcome his injury problems and was expected to take the field against Swan Districts last Sunday, but was struck down by a virus.

Another good sign for last year's wooden spooners is the return from injury of clever midfielder Mal Williams.

Despite being below full fitness, Williams showed his usual zest and should be ready for next week's Pepsi Cup kick-off.



with TANIA ARMSTRONG



BLIND SPOT . . . Swan Districts midfielder Geoff Passeri has the front berth, but not the ball as he loses this marking duel to Perth's Wayne Allard at Kelmscott last Sunday

## Mitre 10 PRESENTS . . . Key men in Eagles camp



Peter Sumich

PETER Sumich has come under fire for his failure to dominate opposition defences.

But the raking left-footer can silence his critics with a big haul against Essendon at the MCG this Saturday.

With Karl Langdon suspended, Sumich is the key to dispel doubt about the Eagles ability to kick enough goals to win their first game for the season.

Sumich can expect to be minded by teenager Dustin Fletcher, who has been his rival more than once.



Dean Kemp

AFTER a relatively light pre-season, it's time for Dean Kemp to assert his authority.

Superbly balanced and with magnificent disposal, Kemp is one of the game's stars and should line up in the centre against Essendon on Saturday.

The lithe midfielder would have benefitted from his hit-out against St Kilda and the club's 1992 best and fairest is one player coach Mick Malthouse will rely on to provide Peter Sumich with the ball.



Glen Jakovich

THERE is no denying Glen Jakovich's value to the Eagles — which should be highlighted in Saturday's clash with Essendon.

No one is better equipped to handle Bombers giant Paul Salmon, who at 206cm, is a major obstacle for every side.

West Coast's defence has a miserly reputation and if the joint club champion can carry last season's form into Saturday's encounter, the Eagles can spring an upset.

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# Border traffic is a boost for WAFL

THE stream of footballers crossing the Nullarbor Plain has provided attractive opportunities for players and clubs on both sides of the nation.

This year's exodus of players from the West has been well-compensated by the talent that has returned to Perth — plus some handy acquisitions in terms of big-name recruits.

Eighteen players have left WA in search of fame, fortune and football success in the AFL — two of them without testing the water in a senior WAFL fixture.

However, their loss to the Pepsi Cup competition has been offset by an influx of de-listed West Australians returning home in a bid to have a second chance with WA's second AFL side.

The 14 who have been enticed back home from the east have played 276 WAFL games between them, an average of just under 20 senior matches each.

In addition, a couple of former AFL players have come West in search of greener pastures and the Eagles have boosted the WAFL by providing two South Australian recruits.

Along with the departing youngsters go former AFL players Mark Hepburn (Sydney), Dale Kickett (Essendon), Trent Nichols (North Melbourne), Dean Irving (Melbourne) and Robbie West (Footscray), plus David Muir (North Melbourne) who didn't crack an Eagles chance.

They will try their luck again on the football merry-go-round with their second, third or — in the case of Kickett — their fourth AFL club.

South Fremantle pair Damien Gaspar (Melbourne) and Stephen Jurica (Richmond) leave with only colts or reserves experience behind them.

WAFC director of football Grant Dorrington says that grounding is far from ideal, but it depends on the individual.

*"I believe that joining an AFL club at 19 or 20 years is probably the right age for the masses, but there are always exceptions," he said.*

*"Tim Watson was outstanding at 16 and Glen Jakovich stood out at 17, but they debuted while living at home, which makes a huge difference.*

*"I still believe that maturity as a player on the field comes from off-field maturity.*

*"Glen Jakovich was comfortably based at home when he started out and that is a huge advantage compared with kids who have to leave their homes, family and friends."*

Others like Subiaco's Paul Ridley (three games), South Fremantle's Darren Gaspar (six), Perth's Troy Polak (14), Claremont's Daniel Southern (18) and West Perth's Mark Merenda (13) have played a handful of matches.

In the 20-game range or beyond — but still with only two or three seasons to recommend their services — are Paul Barnard (Hawthorn), Michael Prior (Essendon), Scott Cummings (Essendon), Todd Curley (Collingwood), Warren Campbell (North Melbourne) and Andrew Donnelly (Sydney Swans).

All are hoping to make it big in the east and they have been busy completing pre-season with their new team-mates since Christmas.

"Having another season in the WAFL has got to help and I'll watch Stephen Jurica with interest," said Dorrington.

"He's yet to play a WAFL game and you've got to be better off going with some experience than starting at the bottom."

The odds are stacked against those rookies succeeding, but they all subscribe to the theory that they will never know if they don't give it a go.

*The Pepsi Cup competition is shaping up as one of the best WAFL contests for many seasons, with a host of quality players boosting the hopes of all eight clubs. TANIA ARMSTRONG and DIGBY BEACHAM combined to produce this WAFL balance sheet*



**BACK HOME . . .** a welcome return to East Fremantle Oval is former Sharks fairest and best winner Stephen Edgar

In Perth last month for a clash against West Coast, Cummings has already impressed Bombers coach Kevin Sheedy in early outings with Essendon.

He kicked four goals in his first match against a Northern Territory combined side and two from limited opportunities against the Eagles.

*"We've had interstate blokes come over who have been real good players, like Paul Weston and Billy Duckworth and they never got a kick for six or eight weeks," said Sheedy.*

Duckworth had played 33 senior games with West Perth while Weston, at 26 years, was a veteran of 10 seasons with SANFL club Glenelg.

He had twice captained South Australia and was reportedly cleared for a fee of \$200,000, a huge figure in 1983.

Weston's experience was a far cry from Cummings' meagre six WAFL games when he was drafted in 1992 though he sensibly opted to increase his tally with another season in Perth.

Cummings is not the only player to catch the eye at this early stage as Footscray coach Terry Wheeler is equally pleased with the progress of Southern.

He has excelled at full-back and centre-half-back in intra-club matches and Footscray look to be the envy of all AFL clubs after securing a ready-made league player.



**HANDY RECRUITS . . .** three WA players back home to continue their careers are (from left) Todd Menegola, Andrew Krakouer and Richard Dennis

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PRESENTS . . .  
**Face to face**

## WAFL balance sheet

### DEPARTURES

South Fremantle — Dean Irving, Mark Hepburn, Darren Gaspar, Damien Gaspar, Stephen Jurica, Warren Campbell, Russell Williams.

East Perth — Paul Barnard, Michael Prior.

Swan Districts — Scott Cummings.

Claremont — Daniel Southern, Dale Kickett.

Perth — Troy Polak.

West Perth — Robbie West, Todd Curley, Mark Merenda.

Subiaco — Andrew Donnelly, Paul Ridley.

### ARRIVALS

East Fremantle — Stephen Edgar (St Kilda, Carlton), Paul Abbott (Fitzroy).

South Fremantle — Jon Dorotich (Carlton), Peter Worsfold (Brisbane), Andrew Krakouer (North Melbourne), Billy Krakouer (Werribee), Russell Merriman (Geelong).

East Perth — Jeremy Silcock (North Melbourne), Leigh Willison (Geelong), Shane Bond and Brayden Lyle (Port Adelaide).

Swan Districts — Todd Menegola (Richmond).

Claremont — Grant Povey (Pahran, Carlton), Andrew McGovern (Sydney), Paul Burton (Sydney).

Perth — Matthew McMurray (Geelong), Fraser Gehrig (Murray Bushrangers, Vic).

West Perth — Richard Dennis (North Melbourne/Carlton).

Subiaco — Jay Burton (Richmond), Todd Breman (Richmond).

Meanwhile Barnard, at 20 years, is excelling in the Hawks gymnasium and is expected to be bench-pressing with the best of them by the end of the season.

The WAFL lost further players in the AFL March draft with Irving and Nichols being recycled and Muir given another chance.

Irving, who trained with Sydney, but was picked up by Melbourne, is eager to have a second chance, while Nichols has earned a call-up by North Melbourne after being tipped to join St Kilda.

A look at the players returning home to further their football careers is an indication of how tough the competition is.

Stephen Edgar left East Fremantle on the crest of a wave after excelling in defence and winning his club's fairest-and-best award in 1989.

He came close to being drafted by the Eagles in 1989 at 22, but went to Carlton as their first choice and played 14 games.

Injuries took their toll and he was released to St Kilda in June 1992, but failed to add to his AFL tally.

A good season in the WAFL would make Edgar, now 26, a candidate for the Fremantle side and tough little Bulldog Peter Worsfold is determined to build on his 31 games with Brisbane.

East Perth's pair of defenders, Leigh Willison and Jeremy Silcock, returned after stints at Geelong and North Melbourne and both must be candidates for a Fremantle call-up.

Perth youngster Matthew McMurray is back after his premature try-out with Geelong and he is a skilled performer who has AFL aspirations, while Todd Menegola is far from finished as an AFL player despite losing out at Richmond.

Claremont's returning trio of Andrew McGovern, Paul Burton and Grant Povey cannot be ruled out of Fremantle's thinking.

More experienced campaigners like Jon Dorotich (31), Richard Dennis (27) and Todd Breman (28) are returning home to finish their careers.

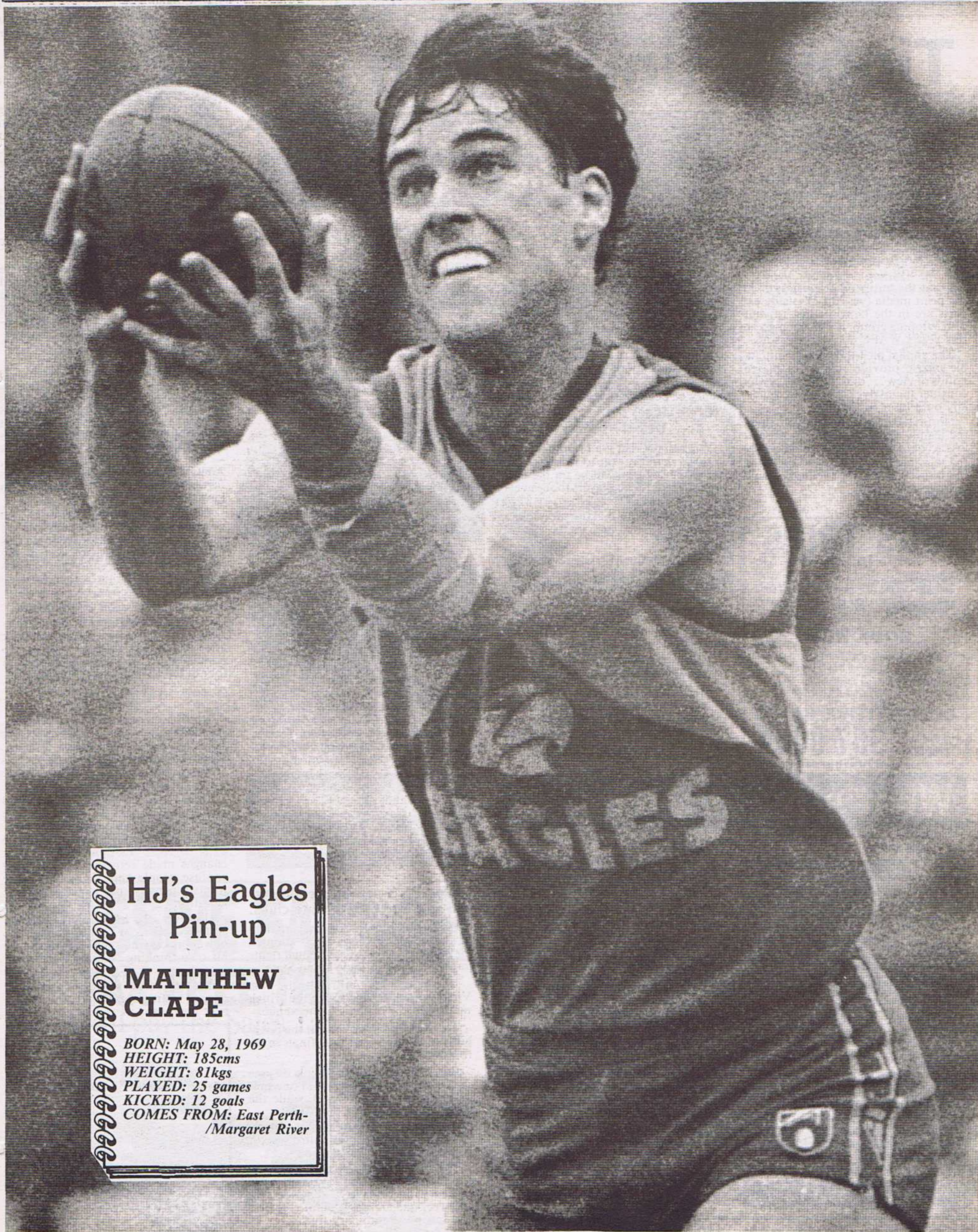
They have tasted life in the cut-throat world of the AFL while others are following in their footsteps on the eastern seaboard.

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# HUNGRY JACK'S



**HJ's Eagles  
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# Thinking aloud



Presents ...

A column of news and views by ALAN EAST

## Celebrities have a say

MELBOURNE's highly-interesting Sunday Age newspaper devoted the back page of its sports section to a line-up of celebrities giving their thoughts on season 1994.

At the cost of incurring a copyrights fee, Westside believes that a couple of the forecasts are worth recording.

For example, the paper's leading writer Rohan Connolly (often heard on 6WF on Saturday mornings) tips an Essendon-West Coast grand final — with only three others putting the Eagles in the premiership play-off ... Jane Kennedy, of The Late Show, AFL football chief Ian Collins and Michael Roberts, filling in as the notorious 'Psst' back-page columnist.

And he's the only one to tip the Eagles for the flag.

But then he also put Brisbane in the grand final, tipped Sydney's Sanford Wheeler to win the Brownlow, had Fremantle on top of the ladder, had retired Micky Gayfer topping the goal-kicking and Adelaide to take the wooden spoon.

Who can believe that man?

### IMAGE

WA's own George Grljusich, who is suddenly developing a multi-media image outside the Aunty headquarters after a lifetime of ABC imprisonment — tips the Eagles to slip to seventh, Adelaide to win the flag — and his favourite footballer, Peter Sumich, to kick big bags of goals.

Prime Minister Paul Keating, who obviously knows as little about football as he does the nation's feelings, tips Collingwood to finish on top of the table and win the premiership and the Magpies prize recruit Nathan Buckley to win the Brownlow.

But then he's a Magpie supporter.

Buckley, the high-priced South Aussie who finally arrived at Victoria Park after a one-year Brisbane visit, is the popular pick for the Brownlow, with four of the 12 panelists opting for him.

### CHANGE

North Melbourne's Wayne Schwass, Adelaide's Ben Hart, Geelong's Gary Hocking, Essendon's Mark Mercuri, Carlton's Greg Williams, Brisbane's Craig Lambert and Norths Wayne Carey all earn a mention.

Under the heading of 'What should be the AFL's next rule change? The Age's Linda Pearce suggested straw hats for players in temperatures above 23.8 degrees; 'Psst' wanted all rule changes made retrospective to really confuse people and 3LO's Tim Lane wants a penalty spot to have shots at goal from.

However, the most interesting suggestion came from Collins — the AFL power broker who could well introduce his own thinking in years to come.

He wants to see players with 200 games, 10 years of service or aged 28 or over to be free agents and move wherever they want to.

# Tipping time again . . .

IT'S that time of the year again — when you try to convince yourself and others that you really are a football expert.

It's time for the annual tipping shows, where you throw in your choice of favoured teams; nominate your fancies for the premiership; pick the order of the premiership table; forecast the grand final combatants; name the Sandover and Brownlow Medal winners and so forth.

From the gurus on television or in the print media (yes, the Westside experts are in the hunt) or just to your office tipping group, it's an open-go on this year's WAFL and AFL seasons.

The annual pick-the-premiership table puzzle provides plenty of biased points of view . . . and those critics who consider themselves experts are generally on a loser to nothing.

No matter how carefully you study the teams, weighing up the profit and loss account for the various sides, judging their coach's prowess or analysing the respective playing methods, you'll struggle to be right.

## ... and that's a worry for the experts

Somewhere along the line you have to nominate your choice for the wooden spoon — and that team will cross you off their list for Christmas cards, for this year at least.

Even if you are right, no-one is going to remember who you tipped to finish first or last and coaches are quite happy to use critics as a motivational tool.

If the team you picked to run last actually does well — as West Perth did last season — and finishes high up the ladder, you can be sure there will be plenty of people to remind you about that choice.

### REMINDERS

You can bet that if a prominent critic tips a certain team to run last, that newspaper cutting will be on the club notice board for all players to see every week.

And what about picking individuals such as the Medal men or the leading goalkickers?

It's okay in the AFL where you have recognised stars like Jason Dunstall, Gary Ablett, Wayne Carey or Tony Lockett to consider — and don't forget the slimmer-trimmer Peter Sumich.

But how about the Pepsi Cup contenders?

This time last year no-one had ever heard of Jason Heatley, let alone seen him play.

The Victorian surprise recruit of '93 made a late arrival at Subiaco Oval and went on to kick 90 goals in the qualifying rounds and topped the ton in the finals.

Tipping contests are the life-blood of football; if you're not in one, you had better go out now and enrol somewhere.

Whether it be picking all sorts of permutations of who finishes where and when, or whether it's just poking a finger at the weekly fixtures, it's something that should dominate your life for the next six months.



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## What's on at your club

### SUBIACO

Sunday March, 27: Guernsey presentation, 4pm, in social hall. Ring 381 1266 for bookings. Bar open Thursday evenings.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### EAST PERTH

Saturday, March 26: Club open for colts and reserves practice matches.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### East Fremantle

Sunday, March 27: Guernsey presentation and family fun day at the Swan Brewery, Canning Vale, 11am. BBQ packs available.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### Swan Districts

60th anniversary gala night — Postponed. For other 60th anniversary year functions, inquire at club. Meet the players in the bar, Wednesday nights after training. The Club Restaurant open Saturdays, 6.30-8.30pm. Club open Sunday afternoons.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### PERTH

Saturday, March 26: Guernsey presentation and sausage sizzle, 6pm in social hall. NOTE: Change of date. Monday, April 18: Quiz night.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### WEST PERTH

Saturday, March 26: Guernsey presentation and slave auction.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### West Coast Eagles

Wednesday, March 30: Sausage sizzle at training, Subiaco Oval, 5pm. Supporter's Club bar open every afternoon. Lunch served Fridays. Watch training in comfort on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Peter's Junior Eagles Club has vacancies for youngsters aged under 15. Telephone Chris Radice on 381 1111. Ring the West Coast Hotline on 0055 10065 for information about the Eagles. Half-time entertainment for the match between West Coast and Adelaide will be sponsored by Peter's and Triple M.

### South Fremantle

High Roller bingo, third Tuesday of each month, tickets \$18. Normal bingo every Tuesday, \$10. Daytime bingo, Mondays, 12.30pm. Wednesday, March 30: Guernsey presentation and sit-down meal, 7.30pm. Tickets \$8. For bookings, ring Rachel Tiede by 5pm, Friday, March 25 on 335 1555.

## Simple solution to finals series

### THE AFL'S new final eight system will benefit interstate clubs.

Under the criteria for finals matches, the AFL Commission has adopted the policy that "clubs have equal rights to play a final in their home State".

The guidelines confirm if one non-Victorian club qualifies, the finals match will be at their home venue.

The AFL has not ruled out the possibility of two non-Victorian finals in the first week.

But it has placed a ceiling on one semi-final (second week) and one preliminary final (third week), while the grand final will be at the MCG.

The revamped system sees first v eighth, second v seventh, third v sixth and fourth v fifth in the first week.

The two lowest-ranked losers are eliminated, while the two highest-ranked winners have byes in the second week and are elevated into the first and second preliminary finals.

In week two, the second highest ranking loser plays the fourth highest ranking winner in a first semi-final.

The highest ranking loser and third highest ranking winner clash in a second semi-final.

Two winners progress to the preliminary finals, where the two survivors then qualify for the grand final.

The AFL estimates that the extra finals matches will increase club dividends by \$30,000 to \$1.4 million.

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# CBC gain revenge for grand final loss

THE CBC Amateur Football club used a four-team pre-season carnival to avenge their surprise loss to North Fremantle in last season's B-grade grand final.

North Fremantle were promoted to the A-grade competition this season when they came from fifth spot after the qualifying rounds to beat minor premiers CBC in the grand final.

But CBC gained some consolation by winning the \$300 first prize in the round-robin hosted by Bullcreek-Leeming at Beasley Park.

Country club Hyden-Kalgarin made up the foursome.

Each club played three games, with two, 20-minute halves.

There were unlimited interchange players so coaches were free to experiment with all of their players.

The scores of each match were tallied, with the net scores — points for less points against — totalled over the day.

CBC eventually ran out comfortable

By **BRAD ELBOROUGH**

winner, followed by Bullcreek, North Fremantle and Hyden-Kalgarin.

Rival coaches, Bullcreek's Wayne Langborne, who coached Norths last season, Tony Beers (North Fremantle), Paul Bennett (CBC) and Ross Majors (Hyden-Kalgarin) praised the concept, saying it was good to see the abilities of some of their players before the season started.

Each club put up \$100 with CBC winning the \$300 purse, while Bullcreek won \$100 as runner-up.

Despite the oppressive heat, all six matches were fiercely contested as each club had their first hit-out for the season.

CBC's Ryan Basich was voted best player on the day, performing strongly at half-back, while others to play well included Anton Lees, Graham Watson, Greg Terpis, Wayne Myers (Bullcreek) and Darryl Hagen, Brett Woods and Scott Misich (North Fremantle).

More than 500 people turned out to watch the matches.

## Goal quiz Challenge for readers

FOOTY quizzes are great fun — but they do pose some problems for readers at times.

Such was the case with our Challenge Bank football quiz with the question of who kicked the ball through the goals the most times last season.

Well, if you take into account the AFL finals series, the answer was Adelaide's Tony Modra, who finished the season with 129 majors, just eclipsing Geelong's Gary Ablett on 124.

There were plenty of readers who answered Ablett — and even a few who

thought Hawthorn's Jason Dunstall was the man.

But the first two correct out of the competition barrel were Mark Sweeney, of Woodlands and J. R. Robertson, of Bunbury, both of whom win a fabulous football with the Challenge Bank logo that will be kicked around the AFL arenas this season.

MASTERS  PRESENTS



## What's happening in football

 Aust. Football League

Round one — Saturday, March 26: Colingwood v Fitzroy, Victoria Park; Essendon v Eagles, MCG; Footscray v Richmond, Western Oval; St Kilda v Hawthorn, Waverley.

Sunday, March 27: Melbourne v Geelong, MCG; Brisbane v Sydney, Gabba; Adelaide v Carlton, Football Park. Bye — Nth Melbourne.

\*\*\*\*\*

 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Round 2 — Friday, March 25: Glenelg v Eagles, Football Park.

Saturday, March 26: Norwood v Central District, Norwood; North Adelaide v Sturt, Prospect; Port Adelaide v South Adelaide, Alberton. Bye — West Adelaide.

 WAFU—Emu Export Cup

Grand final — Friday, March 25, WACA Ground — Claremont v Subiaco, 7.30pm. Curtain-raiser, 5.30pm: WAFL v North Melbourne. Other Emu Export Cup finals on Saturday.

\*\*\*\*\*

 Amateur Football League

Games start Saturday, April 9: Grades A, B and C; Saturday, April 16: Grades D to K. Clubs are currently involved in pre-season practice matches.

\*\*\*\*\*

 Sunday Football League

Saturday, April 16: Saturday competition. Sunday, April 17: Sunday League and Sunday Amateurs.

## 6PR has Perth talking

### Be a winner with Westside and 6PR

WHO will be the star of the season as far as the West Coast Eagles are concerned?

That fascinating question will be answered as the 1994 season unfolds and Westside Football readers can share in the suspense — and win a few prizes along the way — by telling us their favourite players.

Among the weekly awards to be decided by the multi-talented Radio 6PR panel of experts will be the Eagle of the Day prize — \$100 courtesy of Makita — which will form part of the football station's Eagle of the Year award, a \$2000 cheque, plus a trophy from sponsors Major Motors.

As the experts cast their votes, Westside will publish the progressive tallies, plus a weekly profile on the star of the match.

In addition, Radio 6PR will have weekly prizes for the mark of the day in the Eagles match — a \$50 award from

Clifford Automatic Transmission.

And Westside readers can win a fabulous meal at the Dear Friends restaurant, in Caversham, by telling us who you think will be the Eagles player of the day as the West Coasters shape up each week to tackle their opposition.

Simply send your choice for next week's match (not this week's game!) on the back of an envelope, along with your name and address, to:

Westside's 6PR Quiz  
PO Box 119  
Northbridge WA 6865

Entries must reach us by Friday of each week and the first correct envelope drawn out of our competition barrel will be dining out at Dear Friends, right in the heart of the Swan Valley.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tune in to Gary Carvolth's sports show between 3pm and 4pm each Monday afternoon to find out if you are the lucky winner.

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## SANFL RESULTS —

### Round 1

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

GLENELG ..... 3.5 7.8 11.1213.18 96

NORWOOD ..... 5.0 8.6 11.1213.16 94

GOALS — Glenelg: McGuinness 3; West, Cox, Bartlett 2; McRae, Barton, Flower, McNamara 1. Norwood: Patterson, Prime, Rowe, Burns 2; Pierri, Flemming, Davey, Pitt, Russell 1.

BEST — Glenelg: McRae, Bow, Mansell, Cox, Hele, McGuinness. Norwood: Burns, Rowe, Ross, Patterson, Balme.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

PORT ADELAIDE ..... 3.0 8.7 9.8 18.11 119

CENTRAL DISTRICT ..... 4.2 5.4 8.6 11.7 73

GOALS — Port Adelaide: Taylor 6; Hodges, May 3; Gaffney 2; D. Smith, Pedlar, Bartsich, Malakellis 1. Central District: Richardson 3; Windsor 2; Cook, Tongerie, Handley, MacGowan, Reimers, Chaplin 1.

BEST — Port Adelaide: Malakellis, Ginever, May, Wakelin, Spalding, Bartsich. Central District: Potter, MacGowan, McKinnon, Schwert, Abbott, Chaplin.

STURT ..... 3.7 6.1414.1815.21 111

WEST ADELAIDE ..... 6.3 10.5 11.8 15.13 103

GOALS — Sturt: Baker, Brooks, Wigney, Trimboli, Geddes 2; Copeland, Williams, Johns, Lienert, Sutherland 1. West Adelaide: Simmister 7; Symes 3; C. Palmer, Fielke, Godden, Hocking, Woosman 1.

BEST — Sturt: Brooks, Johns, Lienert, Wigney. West Adelaide: Loving, Patterson, Fielke.

EAGLES ..... 3.7 6.10 9.14 15.21 111

SOUTH ADELAIDE ..... 2.3 5.5 10.1010.13 73

GOALS — Eagles: M Hannam 3; Taylor, Morphet, Sziller 2; Todem, Phillipou, Negri, Gluzek, Paze, Shanky 1. South Adelaide: Groom 3; Lamb 2; Cook, Polkingham, Keene, Witman, Stockel 1.

BEST — Eagles: Morphet, Rogers, Wartz, Freeborne, M Hannam. South Adelaide: Clifton, Cameron, Heath, Lamb, Groom, Powell.

## WESTSIDE Football

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# Pepsi Cup prelude — WA v North Melbourne



## The WAFL squad

Scott Edwards — 26yrs, 182cms, 80kgs, games 100 Claremont — Tough wingman in great form during Emu Export summer series.

Clinton Wolf — 25yrs, 199cms, 93kgs, games 28 Claremont, 19 East Fremantle — Good knock ruckman who offers drive from centre bounces.

Quenton Leach — 21yrs, 180cms, 82kgs, games 35 Claremont — Cool-headed half-back who continues to improve each week.

Andrew McGovern — 25yrs, 179cms, 79kgs, games 33 Claremont, 20 Sydney Swans — Has returned from Sydney and assumed the role of midfield play-maker.

Brendan Green — 23yrs, 174cms, 78kgs, games 41 Claremont — Clever rover who is dangerous around goals.

Joe Smith — 23 yrs, 188cms, 84kgs, games 14 Claremont, 1 Subiaco — Gifted centre-half-forward in great form; superb aerialist.



Marty Atkins

Joe Smith

Martin Atkins — 24yrs, 190cms, 93kgs, games 67 South Fremantle — Lion-hearted defender who makes it hard for forwards.

Jon Dorotich — 31yrs, 193cms, 104kgs, games 74 South Fremantle, 132 Carlton — Veteran who has kicked 32 goals in four Emu Export summer series matches.

Greg Wootton — 22yrs, 174cms, 71kgs, games 24 — Capable midfielder with tough work ethic and good skills.

Nick Caputi — 22yrs, 193cms, 94kgs, games 32 South Fremantle — Raw-boned centre-half-forward capable of rucking if necessary.

Travis Edmonds — 23yrs, 195cms, 85kgs, games 86 Swan Districts — Brilliant big man

who can play in the ruck and at centre-half-forward.

Ron Skender — 19yrs, 195cms, 90kgs, games 13 Swan Districts — Mobile ruckman destined for higher honours with good marking.

Michael Sidebottom — 22yrs, 185cms, 75kgs, games 47 Swan Districts — Utility who has shown good Emu Export summer form in defence.

Winston Abraham — 19yrs, 182cms, 74kgs, games 4 Perth — Quick-silver teenager displaying skills all over the ground.

Wayne Allard — 19yrs, 176cms, 85kgs, games 43 Perth — Best and fairest winner who has starred on the ball in Emu Export series.

Damien Condon — 27yrs, 194cms, 88kgs, games 51 — Strong-marking big man who could be a surprise up forward.

Shaun McManus — 18yrs, 180cms, 73kgs, games 5 East Fremantle — Lightly-built wingman who is a star of the future.

Stephen Bilcich — 24yrs, 175cms, 75kgs, games 51 East Fremantle — Renowned tagger with a high level of discipline.

Craig Treleven — 23yrs, 187cms, 86kgs, games 37 East Fremantle — Free-wheeling half-back who has been in spectacular touch during Emu Export summer series.

Greg Jones — 24yrs, 190cms, 88kgs, games 24 West Perth, 20 Swan Districts, 2 St Kilda — Rugged defender who is a likely opponent for Wayne Carey.

Neil Mildenhall — 25yrs, 179cms, 70kgs, games 21 West Perth — Sandover Medalist who has continued his good midfield form over summer.

Derek Hall — 23yrs, 188cms, 84kgs, games 81 West Perth, 2 West Coast — Mobile forward with good leap and strong hands.

Steven Davies — 21yrs, 187cms, 85kgs, games 28 Subiaco — Capable forward now over injury problems and in good form in attack.

Leigh Willison — 24yrs, 188cms, 90kgs, games 26 East Perth, 3 Geelong — Rangy left-footer who has shown his class in defence.

Peter Miller — 24yrs, 167cms, 67kgs, games 109 East Perth — Experienced rover with goal sense and courage.

## Kangaroos best tackle WA team

NORTH Melbourne will bring a near full-strength squad to Perth to play a WAFL side at the WACA Ground on Friday night.

The match will provide an ideal pipe-opener to the Easter weekend Pepsi Cup kick-off, being staged under lights as the curtain-raiser to the Emu Export Cup grand final between Claremont and Subiaco.

Norths coach Denis Pagan said that courageous rover Anthony Rock and reliable defender Ross Smith, who have back and calf soreness respectively, should play.

WAFL coach Gerard Neesham favours using a squad of 25 for the game, with an emphasis on youth and future Fremantle AFL players.

Teenage East Fremantle wingman Shaun McManus and clever half-back Craig Treleven, Perth rover Wayne Allard and Claremont centre-half-forward Joe Smith are all certain to play.

### LIKELY STARTERS

Swan Districts pair Travis Edmonds and Michael Sidebottom are likely starters, along with West Perth's Greg Jones, Neil Mildenhall and Derek Hall.

Jones, who played two games for St Kilda in 1991, looms as the likely opponent for star 'Roos centre-half-forward Wayne Carey.

Troy Ugle and Jason Ball are expected to play considering they will not line up for West Coast against Essendon at the MCG on Saturday.

A surprise appearance could be made by Claremont's David Muir — but not for WA.

The solidly-built utility player was



CHALLENGE... North Melbourne coach Denis Pagan wants his players to have a tough work-out

selected in the WA squad after impressive displays in the Emu Export series, but was surprisingly chosen by the Kangaroos in the March draft.

Other players familiar with the WACA Ground surface who could play for the 'Roos are defender Dean Laidley (West Perth and West Coast), exciting forward Warren Campbell (South Fremantle) and rover Trent Nichols (Richmond, West Coast and East Fremantle).

Pagan said the Kangaroos, who will arrive in Perth on Thursday night and have a light training run at the WACA Ground on Friday morning, were eager to perform well.

Neesham is well aware that toppling North Melbourne, generally considered as the AFL night specialists, would be a massive task.

"It's difficult when you think that they have trained together for years and we are just putting our side together," Neesham said.

## The North Melbourne squad

Brett Allison — 25yrs, 180cms, 80kgs, games 114 — Speedy forward who flashes in to kick crucial goals.

Glen Archer — 21yrs, 182cms, 85kgs, games 29 — A handy player in attack and defence last season and can still improve.

John Blakey — 27yrs, 187cms, 81kgs, games 135 Fitzroy, 17 North Melbourne — Close-checking experienced defender.

Warren Campbell — 19yrs, 185cms, 76kgs, games 0 — Former South Fremantle player who kicked five goals in the reserves last week.

Wayne Carey — 22yrs, 192cms, 95kgs, games 79 — Champion centre-half-forward with superb marking skills.

Alistair Clarkson — 25yrs, 177cms, 80kgs, games 76 — Nuggetty tagger-rover with snarling aggression.

Jason Daniltchenko — 18yrs, 189cms, 89kgs, games 2 — Promising teenager capable of lining up at either end of the ground.

Ian Fairley — 29yrs, 189cms, 92kgs, games 155 — No-frills centre-half-back with handy experience.

Gareth John — 22yrs, 200cms, 102kgs, games 21 Sydney Swans — capable ruckman who could prove to be a good pick-up.

Dean Laidley — 27yrs, 184cms, 76kgs, games 52 West Coast, 17 North Melbourne — Rugged half-back who hates conceding goals.

Matthew Larkin — 29yrs, 180cms, 90kgs, games 172 — Former captain who will be keen to prove he has something to offer.

John Longmire — 23yrs, 194cms, 100kgs, games 110 — Has made a remarkable recovery from a knee reconstruction and could play at full-back.

Peter Mann — 23yrs, 194cms, 100kgs, games 22 — Has bulked up considerably over summer and kicked five goals against Sydney

Michael Martyn — 25yrs, 189cms, 101kgs, games 113 — Tough defender who will make life tough for the forwards.

Adrian McAdam — 23yrs, 183cms, 86kgs,

games 17 — Mercurial forward with excellent goal sense.

Corey McKernan — 20yrs, 197cms, 90kgs, games 1 — Promising big man who is showing considerable promise.

Trent Nichols — 24yrs, 173cms, 76kgs, games 52 Richmond, 4 West Coast — Former Eagle picked up in the March draft and should make the trip.



Trent Nichols

Mark Roberts

Mark Roberts — 28yrs, 189cms, 92kgs, games 59 Brisbane Bears, 33 North Melbourne, 18 Sydney Swans — Has found a new lease of life at North Melbourne across half-forward.

Anthony Rock — 23yrs, 170cms, 73kgs, games 65 — Courageous rover who is in doubt with a back injury.

Jose Romero — 22yrs, 173cms, 68kgs, games 74 — Clever rover who knows where the goals are.

Wayne Schwass — 25yrs, 180cms, 80kgs, games 98 — Dashing wingman with a raking left-foot kick.

Craig Sholl — 26yrs, 189cms, 88kgs, games 85 — Star half-back, excellent overhead.

Ross Smith — 29yrs, 184cms, 85kgs, games 172 — Bounced back to his best in defence last season, but under an injury-cloud.

Anthony Stevens — 22yrs, 178cms, 78kgs, games 63 — Hard-working midfielder who showed his class last season.

## SPORT INTERVIEWS NEWS REVIEWS

### MITCHELL



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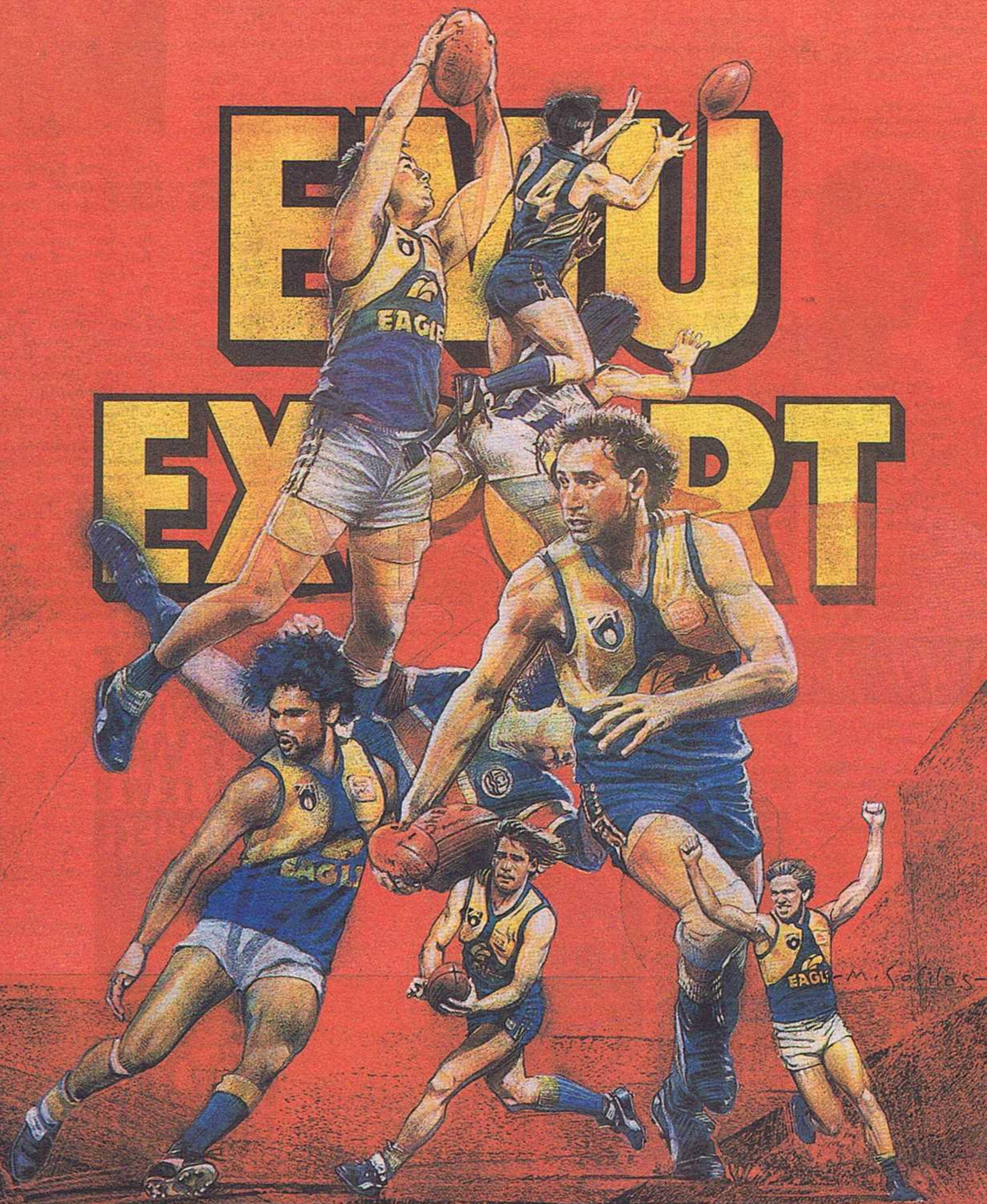


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