

WESTSIDE

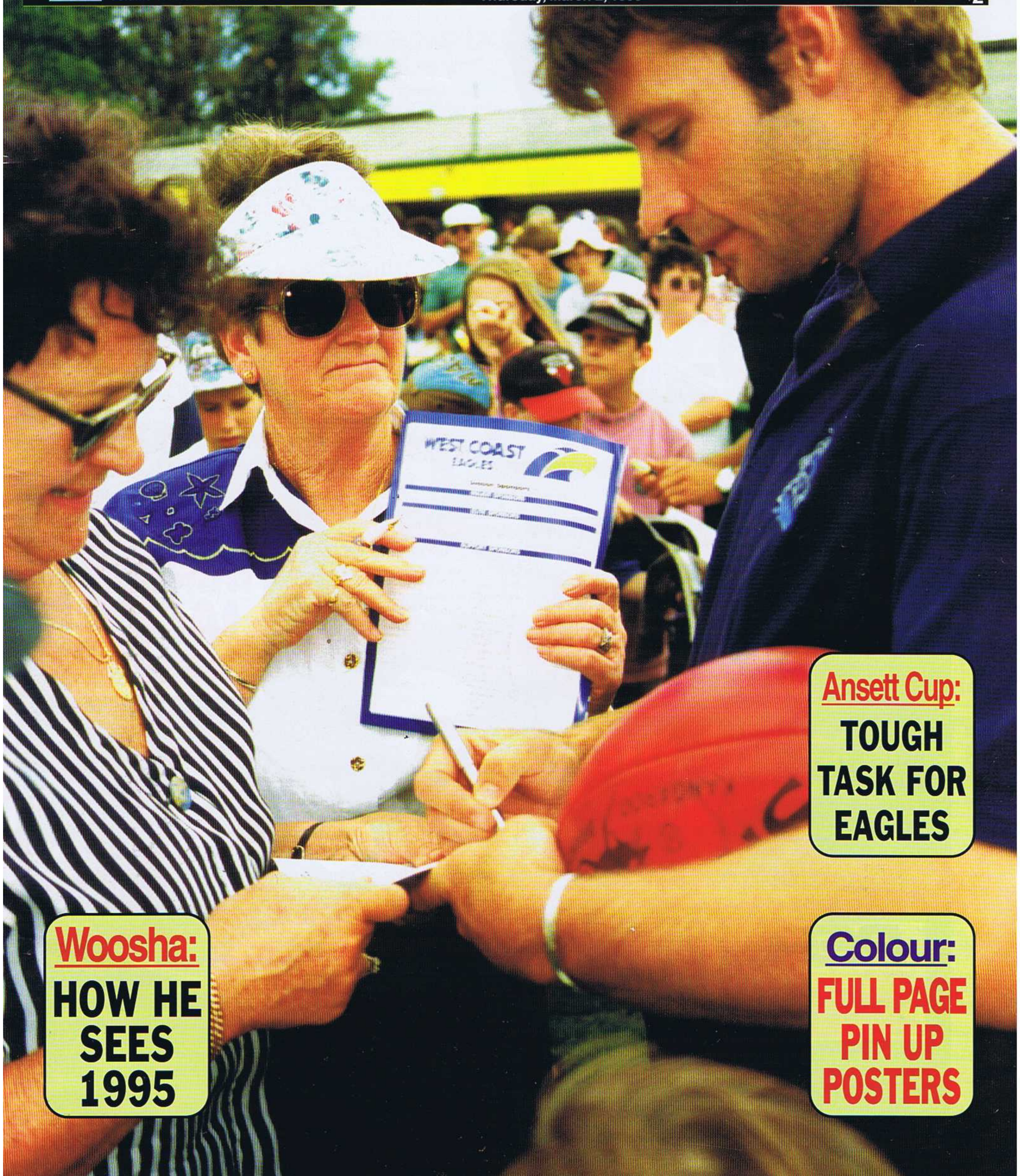
# FOOTBALL

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Volume 17, No 2, Edition 471

Thursday, March 2, 1995

\$2



**Ansett Cup:**  
**TOUGH  
TASK FOR  
EAGLES**

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POSTERS**

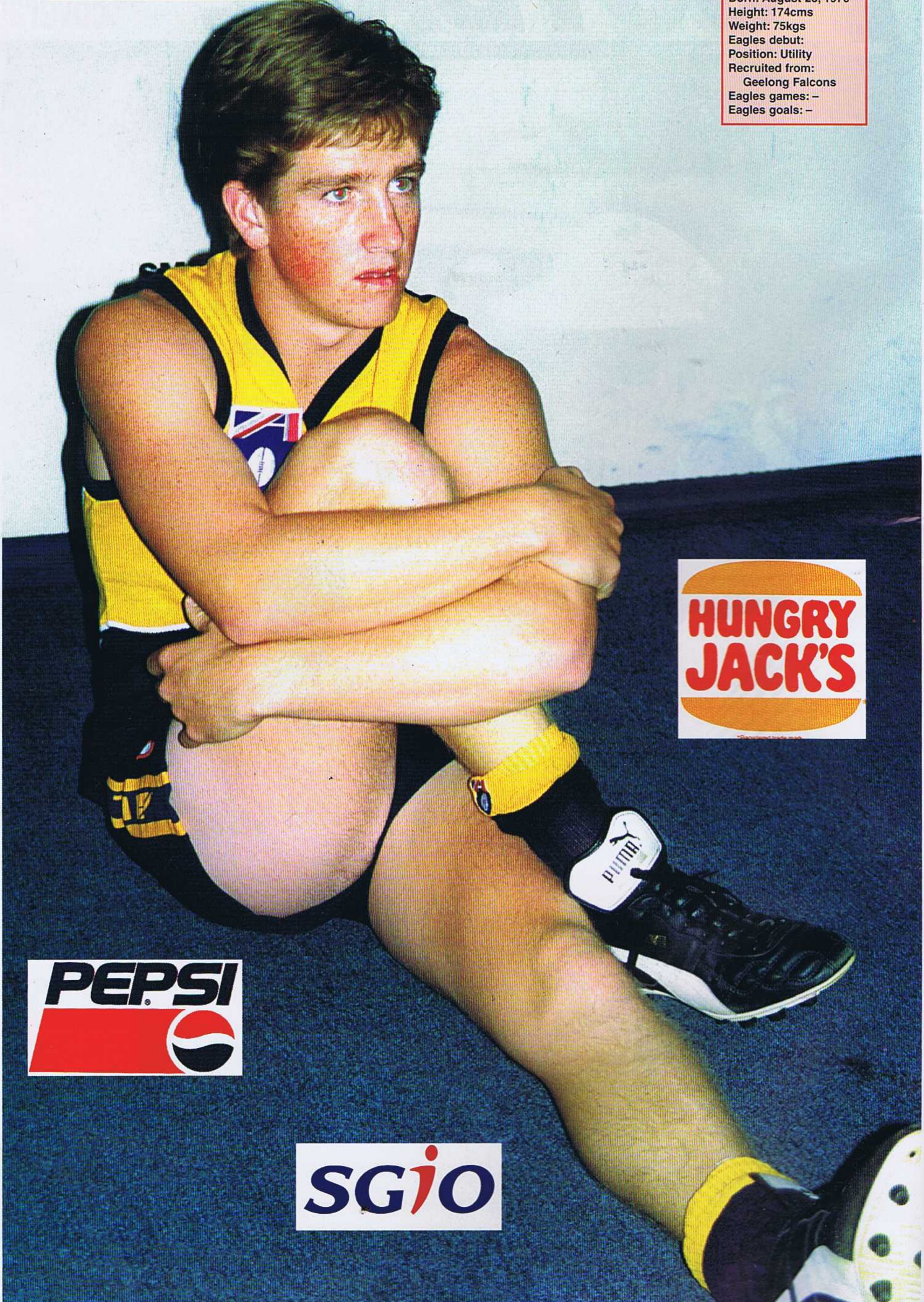
**Woosha:**  
**HOW HE  
SEES  
1995**



**WESTSIDE**  
**FOOTBALL**

**Hungry Jack's**  
**PLAYER PROFILE**

Jeremy Dyer - Eagles  
Born: August 23, 1976  
Height: 174cms  
Weight: 75kgs  
Eagles debut:  
Position: Utility  
Recruited from:  
Geelong Falcons  
Eagles games: -  
Eagles goals: -



# Fierce battle for Eagles spots

BY CRAIG NITSCHKE

**FIERCE** competition for spots will be one of the major weapons at the disposal of West Coast as they gun for back-to-back AFL premierships.

The Eagles boast depth which only 1993 premiers Essendon can rival and according to captain John Worsfold, a promising band of inexperienced members are making strong bids for selection.

"Some of our players who haven't been able to force their way into the side have really taken the step up, really matured," says Worsfold.

"It will be a lot tighter for spots and some of these younger players who get to fill in holes won't be in there just for a few weeks, they will be aiming to cement their spots."

Defenders Daniel Metropolis, and Fraser Gehrig, utility Paul Symmons and midfielders Jarrad Schofield and Tony Godden fit into this category and could be given their opportunity when the Eagles kick off their Ansett Cup campaign against Melbourne at Waverley Park on Saturday.

With last year's entire premiership outfit intact, the emerging young players plus quality performers like Craig Turley, Mitchell White, Brett Spinks and Fitzroy recruit Michael Dunstan striving for spots in the 21, the Eagles appear well-placed to become the first team to retain their title since Hawthorn in 1989.

But Worsfold is aware it is a stern test - one they failed in 1993 when they tumbled to fourth after beating Geelong in the previous year's grand final.

"I think we have learnt a lot from the previous time," the veteran of 156 games asserted.

The Eagles proved that last year. Players re-focused during what Worsfold described as the club's best pre-season and the result was a second flag, again at Geelong's expense.

"Every player takes a lot of pride in their

performance and they've got to make the decision to improve if they weren't happy with their season individually," the dual premiership skipper said about the improvement.

"And as a club we weren't happy. We were more focused to get back to performances we wanted to be happy with."

So to 1995 and recent history suggests the odds are stacked against the Eagles defending their title.

In the past 25 years the feat has only been achieved four times - by Richmond (1973-74), Carlton (1981-82), Essendon (1984-85) and Hawthorn (1988-89).

But statistics don't worry Worsfold.

"Basically, all our focus is on the '95 season and that's all that counts," the Eagles 1988 club champion said.

"Our approach to '95 is simply to improve on '94. We have to play that little bit better just to keep ahead of the other clubs.

"We have to fine-tune what we did last year.

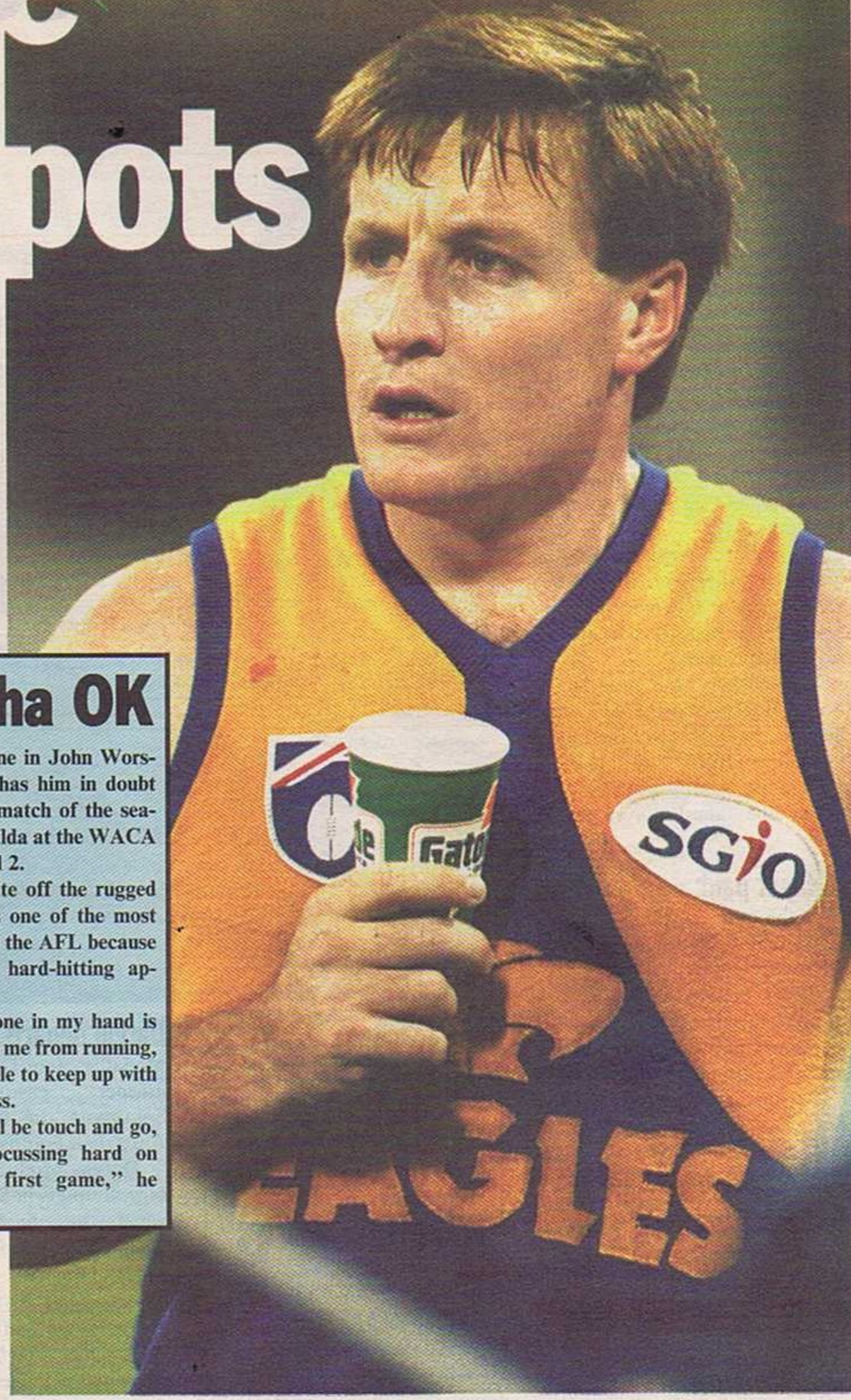
"The competition is getting more and more even.

"The so-called stronger clubs from the last few years always improve.

"But the teams six-to-eight years ago who were struggling have really improved and there is not the gap between the top and bottom sides as before."

Worsfold is happy with the Eagles preparation with the season opener only a month away.

"Things are shaping up pretty well, we are leading up to the Ansett Cup in a pretty good position," he declared.



## Woosha OK

A BROKEN bone in John Worsfold's left hand has him in doubt for the opening match of the season against St Kilda at the WACA on Sunday, April 2.

But don't write off the rugged defender, who is one of the most feared players in the AFL because of his ruthless, hard-hitting approach.

"A broken bone in my hand is not going to stop me from running, so I should be able to keep up with the guys in fitness.

"I'd say it will be touch and go, but I'm still focussing hard on playing in the first game," he declared.

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## OUR COVER



West Coast comeback man Craig Turley is still very much a popular Eagle . . . and that applies to the older as well as the young fans.

# Accuracy the highlight

GOAL-KICKING accuracy has been a highlight in the Ansett Cup so far and this should continue into the second week of games.

The conclusion of round one of Cup games will see four of the AFL's top full-forwards in action.

Dual Coleman Medallist, Geelong's Gary Ablett, Hawthorn star Jason Dunstall, West Coast's Peter Sumich and new Sydney recruit Tony Lockett should all line-up for their respective clubs this week.

Ablett, undoubtedly one of the AFL's stars, claimed his second Coleman Medal last season with 129 goals - and who could ever forget his nine-goal Norm Smith Medal performance

in their losing 1989 grand final to Hawthorn?

Ablett is certain to play against Adelaide, with Billy Brownless struggling to overcome a hamstring injury from last week.



Jason Dunstall

When Plugger booted a late goal for St Kilda to snatch victory over the Swans at the SCG last season - and was later suspended for an incident with new team-mate Peter Caven - who would have predicted him lining up for them

the following year. Although Sumich had a poor '94, interrupted by injury, his ability to kick goals in tight games

cannot be questioned, boasting one of the finest averages of the current full-forwards.

It was no coincidence that Hawthorn's bad run last season came at the same time Dunstall was sidelined by injury.

At 30 years of age, the honours earned by Dunstall are many, including Hawks fairest and best, runner-up in a Brownlow Medal, Coleman Medal, All-Australian, Simpson Medallist, EJ Whitten Medallist and AFL player association's MVP.

Although fit and in-form, Adelaide's Tony Modra won't play against the Cats this week, courtesy of a suspension after his post-season celebrations last year.

- BRAD ELBOROUGH



Tony Lockett

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# Spider Burton laps up the work

THERE'S no doubt that big Matthew Burton is becoming something of a cult figure with the Dockers .... and the way he's tucking into this watermelon, he's obviously determined to keep building up that frail-looking body.

It should be remembered that his lanky father Peter Burton was very much a late-maturer with Subiaco, but went on to be an outstanding ruckman.

The Dockers have given Spider a second chance in the AFL after he was squeezed out of the Eagles list and at 210cm - just under 6ft. 11in. in the old language - he's definitely the tallest player in the game.

**Respect paid:** Black arm bands were the order of the day for St Kilda and Carlton players when the Ansett Cup kicked off.

Players in both camps paid their respects to club people who had lost close family in the days leading up to the opening round matches.

Passing away were Annette Kernahan (mother of Carlton captain Stephen) and Neil Alves (father of St Kilda coach Stan).

**Testing time:** The fitness of North Melbourne and Brisbane players was put to the test in their Ansett Cup clash last week at Waverley Park.

With temperatures reaching 40 degrees, the AFL allowed the sides to sit six players each on their interchange bench.

The coaches enjoyed the chance to be able to see the extra contenders in action and at half-time, Robert Walls and Denis Pagan had used their interchange bench 35 times.

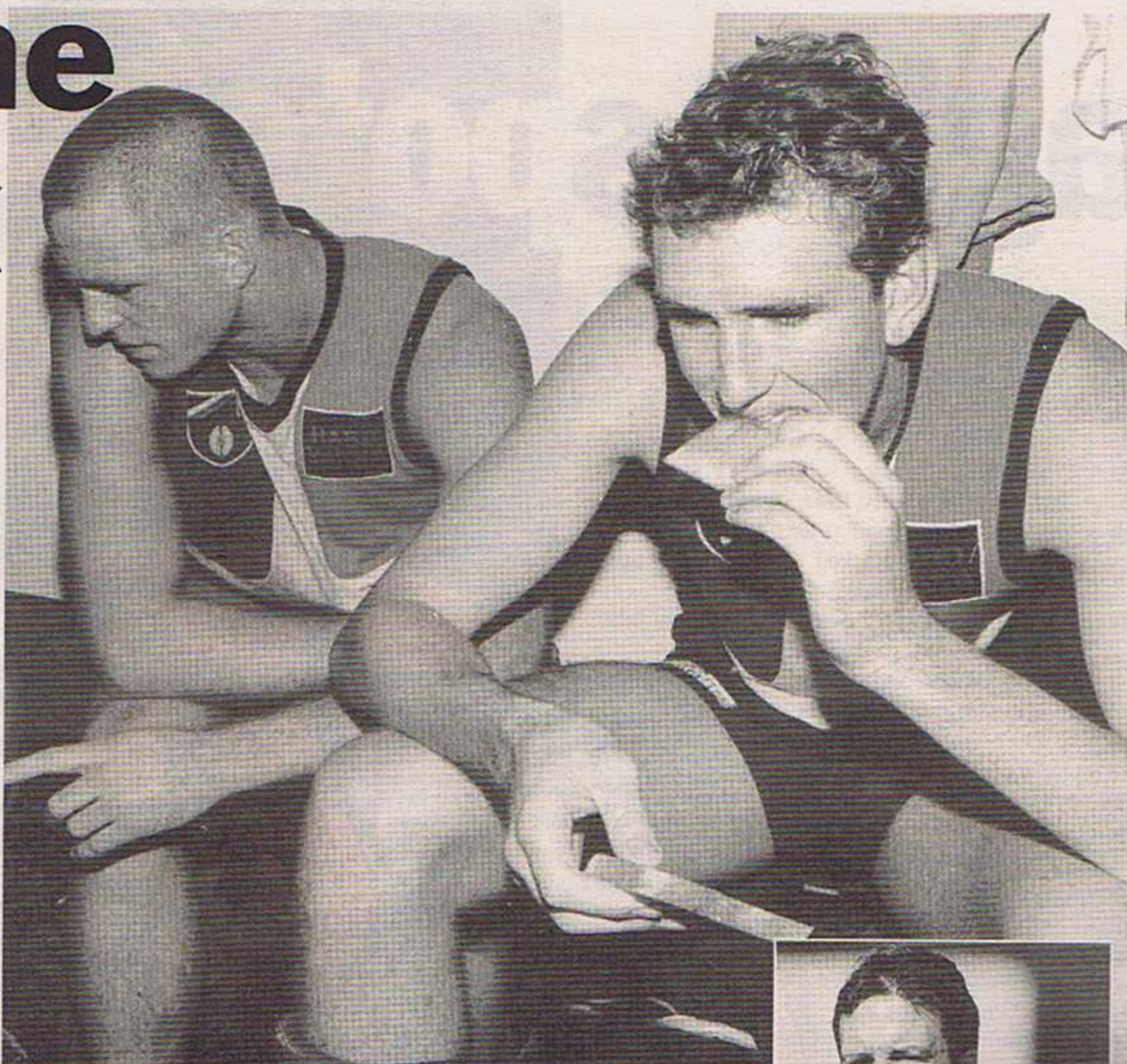
**Mark query:** The ploy by Essendon players to query the mark where their rivals should stand as they took shots on goal in the practice hit-out against Fremantle has received plenty of support.

A number of media people have criticised the tactic by rivals as they go well back behind the mark and then run forward to put the goal-kicker off.

Respected ABC man and former journalist Geoff Christian says there should be a law to make the defender stand on the actual mark and not run in.

There are many examples where players actually lose ground after taking a mark and being pressured by their rivals.

Such physical confrontation usually sees the forwards pushed



## Footy Rumours

Gossip from around the clubs

presented by

CLUB RUMOURS



back a few metres and by the time they take their kick, they could be as much as 10-metres further downfield from where they marked.

**Crowd puzzle:** With just 7000 tickets to the Fremantle-St Kilda game sold in the days leading up to Friday's Ansett Cup clash, Saints coach Stan Alves was told not to expect much of a crowd for the historical match.

That tip was on the ball and AFL officials are puzzled as to whether the weather, or the early start, kept fans away as just 10,028 people were in attendance.

Some suggestions that 4pm on a Friday isn't a good day were heard in the corridors of power and certainly a 6.30pm game at the WACA Ground would have doubled the crowd.

**Nicky tops:** St Kilda star Nicky Winmar is still a favourite son of WA footy fans.

At an auction for the Western Saints, St Kilda's WA supporter base, a poster of the dashing wingman raised \$120 - \$40 higher than any other poster - and a jumper with the famous No. 7 went for \$260.

**Dargie departs:** Dual Sandover Medallist Ian Dargie is off to greener pastures, joining Southport, in the Queensland Australian Football League.

Dargie produced one of the biggest upsets in Sandover history when he beat Claremont's Quenton Leach for the coveted Medal last year - and collected Subiaco's fairest and best as well.

The tough half-back played 11 AFL games - 10 for St Kilda and one with the Eagles, kicking a solitary goal for the Saints - and 131 games with Subiaco, posting 33 goals.

**Dockers debut:** The Fremantle Dockers will kick off their AFL debut with a trip to the home of football on April Fool's Day - Saturday April 1.

The MCG rendezvous with Richmond will be no easy introduction for the Dockers, but Gerard Neesham will marshal an army of supporters to fly across the nation to yell for their new heroes.

Ansett Australia are the official AFL carriers and they'll fly the Dockers into battle, while plenty of other package tours will also be available for the Fremantle supporters who want to get behind their team.

Westside columnist Trevor Sprigg - the man who was chairman of selectors when the Eagles won the 1992 premiership - will lead one tour and if your after an enjoyable time, with plenty of football talk and good company, then check out Directions Tours in Subiaco.



Royals youngster Tom Klaricich looks right at home in a West Coast Eagles guernsey.

**Elite grade:** Four promising young East Perth players had a taste of the next level when they were loaned to West Coast for their practice match at Perth Oval on Saturday.

Tom Klaricich, Leon Harris, Ricky Jetta and Jason Rowe were all given a run in Eagles guernseys - which depleted the Royals a little.

However, they all enjoyed the experience, with Jetta particularly revelling in the elite company.

After playing F-grade amateur colts last year with Girrawheen, the nuggetty little rover looks capable of making the step up to WAFL ranks this season.

And for Klaricich, it was the second year in a row he had worn the Eagles colours, so maybe a draft call-up isn't far away.

# Footy galore on air

THE departure of racing has enabled radio 6PR to totally revamp its coverage of football this season.

AFL games on Fridays will be taken live by 6PR through the 3AW Melbourne commentary team of Rob Gaylard, Simon Beasley and Simon Madden.

A Thursday night team selections programme will launch the station's regular shows with a Saturday morning 'Football World' featuring compere Gary Carvolth, with John McGrath, Brad Hardie and Mal Brown.

The 'Coodabeen Champions', Victoria's long-running football entertainers, will be on air from 10am until noon, when the live coverage of AFL fixtures starts.

There will be a full WAFL coverage after the AFL games, followed by talk-back.

Any East coast games played on a Saturday night will be broadcast live after the Pepsi Cup matches.

Sundays will feature a 'World of Sports' show from 10am, followed by the AFL game.

When the Eagles or the Dockers play on a Sunday, any AFL match from the East will be taken until the local game starts.

The WAFL commentary team will be Percy Johnson, Frank Sparrow and Brad Hardie, with Trevor Sprigg joining them for Perth AFL games and Shane Douglas doing stats.

Radio 6NR, based at the Curtin University, continue to cover football right across the nation and have recruited some big names.

Veteran coach John Todd joins the panel of experts, replacing Ron Alexander (Dockers chairman of selectors).

Top-rating Melbourne television host Eddie McGuire and Collingwood star Michael Christian will join 6NR's sports director Peter Vlahos for AFL games, with Keith Slater, Tim Zoehrer and Vlahos calling local fixtures.

There will be Thursday night team selections, plus a Saturday morning AFL show from 10am.

The ABC station 6WF will introduce its extensive football coverage from March 31.

All Friday night matches will be taken live with George Grljusich, Glenn Mitchell, Peter Bosustow and Gary Buckenara covering local games and the 3LO team calling from Melbourne.

Saturday morning Football World goes from 8.30am to 9, compered by Grljusich, with panellists including Bosustow, Buckenara and Geoff Christian.

The popular Sports Talk show starts at 10am, running up to the start of AFL fixtures.

# CLUB RUMOURS

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NEW LOOK



SAT 8 TILL LATE

NEW FEEL

# Dockers get taste of the tough life

FREMANTLE assistant coach Neale Daniher believes that the Dockers 35-point loss against St Kilda has given his players a much-needed dose of AFL realism.

Despite recent practice matches against Essendon and Port Adelaide, Daniher said the Ansett Australia Cup clash gave the players a valuable lesson on the intensity and physical toughness of the AFL.

"The first couple of practice games were fairly soft and I think it really gave the players a false impression of what was coming," Daniher said.

"Essendon didn't bring over much of a side and it was Port Adelaide's first hit-out.

"This was our first real game, so that was good for the Fremantle club because now the players have a better idea.

"We've got a number of blokes who have played league football, but for the majority it was their first real eye-opener to pressure league football.

"I thought the game put everything in perspective. The game gave us, as a club, what AFL reality is and up until now, we've seen it, but actually haven't experienced it.

"We are looking to playing more fair dinkum match practice games to allow the players to know the reality of what to expect during

## News Views

James Foster

talks to Fremantle Dockers assistant coach Neale Daniher presented by



the AFL season and get used to the pace and hardness of the game."

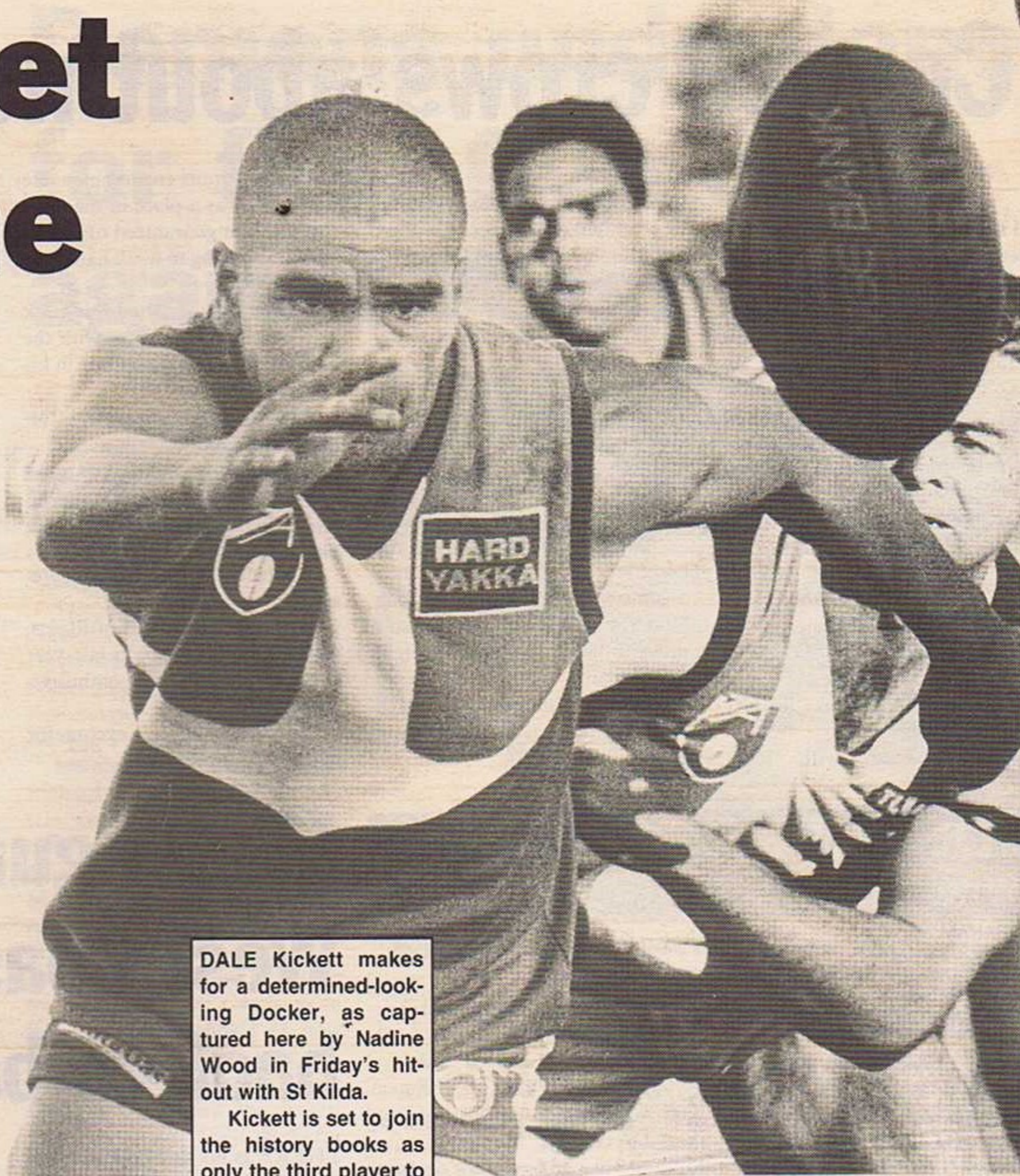
A number of Dockers admitted after Friday's game that they were surprised by the physical intensity of the match and Daniher said he had little doubt the Saints were pumped up to win the match and this year's \$366,000 Ansett Cup.

"St Kilda haven't had a great run in pre-season competitions and they are in the gun a little from the point of view that Fitzroy have been saved and the Saints are under the microscope," Daniher said.

"So it was an important game for them. The game was flat out, which was terrific for us.

"We were out there to put on a good show and hoping to win, but we would have learnt a lot as a club and in the long run that will be good for us."

Daniher said that apart from some silly free kicks and 50-metre



DALE Kickett makes for a determined-looking Docker, as captured here by Nadine Wood in Friday's hit-out with St Kilda.

Kickett is set to join the history books as only the third player to represent five different clubs in the VFL/AFL and he's certainly going to be a bonus for the Fremantle Dockers.

The talented half-back seems to thrive under the coaching of Gerard Neesham.

penalties in the first quarter and four late goals in the third term by St Kilda, there was little between the two teams.

"It was a good game, but I thought we were a little edgy and nervous in the first quarter.

"We gave away some pretty poor free kicks which got St Kilda going.

"Eight goals to two (after quarter time) was pretty hard, but I thought the side showed a lot of character after that.

"The third quarter was terrific until time-on when they kicked four goals and at that

stage it was a two-goal game and we had the wind in the last quarter.

"But those four quick goals made it a six-goal difference and I think our guys were too knocked up in the end to overcome a six-goal deficit."

While coach Gerard Neesham described the game as a learning experience, Daniher admitted the early matches were just as important for the coaching staff.

# Patience is the key for fans

MY one-word message to Dockers fans is - patience!

While the result from Friday's game against St Kilda was disappointing, it was our first real hit-out and there were plenty of positives to emerge from the experience.

The good thing was that we were exposed to a high level of football and now some of the younger players know what they can expect every week.

Friday's game also gave us a good idea as to the sort of level we have to reach each week to at least be competitive.

You can talk about how difficult a game is and the higher fitness level you have to reach before you become a good AFL side, but until you actually are out there experiencing it yourself, you don't know what anyone is talking about.

When I first started in the AFL, it took me a while to settle down.

Early on you run around like a madman and it takes a while to get used to the intensity and pace of AFL football.

Myself and some of the other senior players can tell the younger boys what to expect, but until you taste it yourself, you never really

know - but now they do!

One of the disappointments from the game was that we didn't play as we had been practicing on the training track.

In fact, some of our strategies during training weren't really adopted and we sort of lost our way a little.

But it's something we can work on in the next five weeks.

We lost the toss, which didn't help with a gale blowing and it would have been interesting to see how we would have gone with the wind in the first quarter, instead of against it.

At quarter time, we could have copped a belting after being six goals down.

We gave them three or four goals early in the first term with some undisciplined efforts, so to come back strongly in the second was encouraging and if you take those goals out, there wasn't much in it at the end of the day.

At three-quarter time, we still had a chance to win, but St Kilda are experienced and their knowledge on how to win games stood out in the end.

Stewart Loewe also hit form and anyone would have struggled against him, especially on a day where there was a strong breeze

making it even more difficult for backmen.

St Kilda finished 13th last year and if you take how we are going from that point of view, we still have a long way to go.

But hopefully our supporters will realise we have a pretty young side and it will take time.

After I went off the ground, some of our mid-fielders, apart from Scotty Watters, would be lucky to have played a combined total of 50 WAFL games, so it's a very inexperienced squad.

Dale Kickett played a fantastic

game across half-back.

He is very hard at the ball and continues to set up the attacks from his defensive area.

It amazes me that he has been discarded by clubs, given his unique talent. His training has been exceptional over the pre-season and this has been a great example to the local draftees.

Matthew 'Spider' Burton continues to improve on every outing.

Ruckmen often take time to develop and as Spider has been around for a couple of seasons, he looks ready to make an impact on

## Freo Feelings

Inaugural Dockers captain

Ben Allan writes exclusively for Westside Football

presented by



ANSETT AUSTRALIA



the AFL this season.

There were some positives and negatives to come out of the game, but the good thing is we know what we have to work on and we have five weeks to do it.

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# Connell crowns about new start

BY CRAIG NITSCHKE

"THIS year I'm starting with a clean slate with a new club and a new coach."

That's the philosophy of Adelaide Crows recruit Matt Connell as he endeavours to become a regular performer on the AFL stage.

Connell, a skilful midfielder, parted company with West Coast last October after a two-year association reaped just three matches - all in 1993, his debut year.

In 1994, Connell enjoyed his most consistent season with Subiaco, finishing runner-up to Sandover Medallist Ian Dargie in their best and fairest.

But he couldn't force his way into the Eagles line-up.

"I sat down with Mick

Malthouse and Trevor Nisbett at the end of the season and we came to a mutual agreement that there were limited opportunities and it might be better if I look elsewhere," Connell said.

"It was the hardest decision I have made in my life.

"The club has been good to me and I've got heaps of friends there and leaving my friends and family has been pretty tough."

But it was a sacrifice the affable 22-year-old was prepared to make.

"Last year I was playing my best footy and was still not getting a game with the Eagles," he said. "I'm not getting any younger so I thought maybe the time was right to move on."

Connell said Crows coach Robert Shaw made his decision easier.

"He was quite encouraging. He said there was a place in the team for me - not guaranteed of course - if I was willing to work hard," he said.

Connell, who started this week as a development officer with the SANFL, has found comfort in his new environment.

"There are no major differences," he said.

"The Crows and Eagles have more similarities than differences.

"Robert Shaw's style of coaching is very similar to Mick's."

Connell has approached pre-season training with zest.

"I have a good level of fitness, probably a touch up on last year because I'm a bit more enthusiastic," he said.

And there can be no excuses for being late onto the track.

Connell is living at West Lakes with another recruit, former Collingwood utility Jason McCartney, less than a minute from the Crows Football Park headquarters.

Connell has been allocated to SANFL team West Adelaide, but is hoping he won't be donning their black and red guernsey too often.

"I'm aiming to play as many games with the Crows as I can and try to become a regular in the side," he said.

"It's going to be tough to break into the team - they have a heap of quality players like McDermott, McGuinness, Anderson, Bickley, Ricciuto and Hart.

"I've just got to keep plugging away and hope things fall my way."



Matt Connell

## DOCKERS FACT FILE

Name	Guernsey			AFL	
	No.	Age	Height	Weight	Games
ABRAHAM, Winston	15	20	174	81	-
ALLAN, Ben	7	26	180	84	98
BANDY, Daniel	44	19	200	89	-
BELL, Peter	32	18	172	77	-
BURROWS, Craig	33	22	192	89	-
BURTON, Jay	27	22	202	92	-
BURTON, Matthew	24	24	210	104	-
CALLAGHAN, Craig	42	18	170	73	-
CAPEWELL, Darren	17	25	172	84	-
CASSIDY, Brad	39	18	185	75	-
CHISHOLM, Scott	13	21	181	78	-
DELANEY, Tony	30	19	181	86	5
DHURRICKAY, Gary	19	20	180	80	-
EDMONDS, Travis	22	24	192	85	-
EDWARDS, Scott	1	26	176	76	-
GALE, Mark	37	18	190	85	-
GILBERT, Phil	6	25	185	91	25
GOOCH, Scott	29	19	192	90	-
GROOM, Chris	35	21	194	95	12
HUNTER, Kingsley	14	19	190	95	-
HUTTON, John	16	28	185	86	23
JONES, Anthony	38	20	189	78	-
KICKETT, Dale	11	26	179	72	46
KRUMMEL, Brendan	3	22	185	88	9
LEACH, Quenton	36	22	179	80	-
LJUBIC, Antony	41	18	182	73	-
MADIGAN, Greg	48	25	193	90	40
MANN, Peter	9	24	194	100	39
McGOVERN, Andrew	43	26	185	87	20
McMANUS, Shaun	8	19	179	71	-
MENEGOLA, Todd	26	27	185	83	19
MERILLO, Jamie	47	22	180	89	-
MILDENHALL, Neil	50	26	176	75	-
MILLER, Peter	49	25	168	71	-
MOURISH, Nathan	28	20	191	82	-
MUIR, David	21	23	185	95	-
NETTELBECK, Craig	18	22	190	96	5
NORRISH, Jason	25	23	180	81	-
O'REILLY, Stephen	10	22	195	100	6
PARKER, Shane	23	22	188	84	-
RETZLAFF, Brendon	12	25	180	78	8
RIDLEY, Todd	5	26	187	86	25
SMITH, Ryan	46	23	190	86	-
TOIA, Luke	40	17	173	70	-
WARDELL-JOHNSON, Leigh	31	24	185	76	-
WATTERS, Scott	2	26	177	82	83
WHITE, Jeff	34	18	192	81	-
WILLS, Andrew	4	23	184	82	59
WIRA, Brad	45	22	179	75	-
WOLF, Clinton	20	26	195	99	-

## Media gurus pick West Coast for back-to-back flags

**THERE** is no shortage of speculation about the ability of the reigning AFL premiers West Coast to collect another flag this season - but just how hard is the challenge?

Despite the fact every other AFL club is now using the Eagles as a benchmark - and two premierships in five years under coach Mick Malthouse is good reason for that - Perth's media generally agree back-to-back flags is achievable.

As part of Westside Football's build-up to the 1995 season, the Backshall Ford Panel of Experts was asked for their thoughts on whether the Eagles can repeat their premierships of last season.

**Ross Glendinning (Channel 7):** "Given that the Eagles overcome their niggling injuries from the pre-season, there is no reason why they can't win back-to-back flags, providing they can field the bulk of their better players for most of the season.

"Looking at the top half of the top eight from 1994, I don't see any team being much stronger than last season.

"Clubs such as Adelaide or Geelong could be surprise packets, improving on their '94 season, but I still don't see them being strong enough to stop the Eagles."

**Colin Minson (Radio 6NR):** "Back-to-back flags will be very hard for the Eagles in 1995, but I expect them to do it.

"They have still got, man for man, the best squad of 42 players in the AFL.

"Their biggest challenge will

come from North Melbourne and Carlton and the big improvers, moving into the top eight, will be Essendon and Adelaide."

**Tania Armstrong (Channel 10):** "Winning back-to-back flags is probably the most difficult achievement in sport.

"A lot will depend on injuries, but I believe the Eagles have the hunger to do it.

"They have been switched on in the pre-season, but the availability of players will be a key factor.

"North Melbourne will be West Coast's main rivals after being unlucky in the finals last year.

"The big improvers for '95 will be Adelaide and Essendon."

**Ray Wilson (Sunday Times):** "History shows that winning back-to-back premierships in the AFL is one of the toughest challenges facing any team.

"Essendon did it in 1984-85 and Hawthorn in '88-89 and with North Melbourne and the Crows looking for big years, 1995 will be just as tough for the Eagles."

**Michael Thomson (Channel 9):** "A back-to-back premierships will be very hard - the key being the Eagles ability to keep their injury toll down.

"The Eagles have had a fantastic run with injuries in the last 18 months and if they can continue that for '95, they are capable of winning another premierships.

"They are far and away the best team in the competition; they have the best depth, the best talent and the best coach."

## Fremantle recruits figure out numbers game

**WHEN** Dockers captain Ben Allan chose the number he would wear in their inaugural season, he wanted one with Fremantle significance.

He opted to vacate the 15 he wore with distinction at Hawthorn and will lead the AFL's newest club onto the field in the No. 7 guernsey.

Two of the better-known Fremantle players to have made this number famous are East Fremantle champion Brian Peake and South Fremantle star Steve Marsh.

Most of the players coming to Fremantle from other AFL clubs have chosen to wear different numbers.

Vice captain, Scott Watters, who wore No. 13 in his stint with the Eagles and No. 10 at Sydney, has gone for No. 2 at Fremantle.

Watters' former Sydney team-mate Craig Nettelbeck has kept his No. 18, while Jason Norrish, coming from Melbourne was quick to put in his claim to stay with No. 25.

Of the three players coming from Essendon, only one has stuck with his Bombers number - speedster Tony Delaney will again wear 30, while Dale Kickett and Todd Ridley have opted for 11 and 5 respectively.

Stephen O'Reilly has gone higher up the ladder, opting for 10 with the Dockers after wearing 20 at Geelong and 22 at Swan Districts.

His Cats team-mate Andrew Wills has kept the No. 4 guernsey he wore in the 1994 grand final.

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PHIL BACKSHALL



## Ansett Cup match reports

### GAME 1

IT WAS not what the Fremantle Doctor ordered, but it was just the tonic St Kilda fans needed.

For the Dockers, it was their first "real" match in the AFL and for the Saints it was their first time out without big man Tony Lockett - but Stewart Loewe filled in at full-forward, posting nine goals, including four late in the third term as the Saints cruised to a 35-point win.

But the Dockers had plenty of reasons to be satisfied and if it wasn't for three 50-metre penalties in the first quarter, which resulted in goals, the scoreboard may have been tighter.

Coach Gerard Neesham would have been pleased with the efforts of Peter Bell, Matthew "Spider" Burton and Dale Kickett after half-time.

### GAME 2

FOOTBALL nomad Alan Thorpe - who has played with Fitzroy, Footscray and Sydney - made the perfect debut for Carlton as he posted six goals to help the Blues run out easy 42-point winners over Richmond.

The Blues, missing players such as Stephen Kernahan, Greg Williams and Stephen Silvagni, looked set for an early exit in the Ansett Cup when they trailed by 30 points in the second quarter.

But through the agency of Thorpe, with help from James Cook (five goals) and some top running performances from Craig Bradley, Luke O'Sullivan and Ang Christou, the Blues stormed home for a comfortable win.

### GAME 3

THE Wayne Carey show returned to the big screen for season 1995 and no-one was disappointed as he helped guide North Melbourne to a 60-point win over a hapless Brisbane.

Carey the magnificent finished with 16 kicks, took 16 marks and kicked two goals as the rampant Roos, helped by Wayne Schwass, Anthony Rock and Anthony Stevens, ran riot over the Bears.

For Brisbane, the only positives came from veteran Roger Merrett and half-forwards Gilbert McAdam and Justin Leppitsch.

Norths coach Denis Pagan revealed that star Corey McKernan had undergone minor surgery on his knee, but said he would be fit to resume by the start of the season.

### GAME 4

A STRONG seven-goal performance by former Swan Districts forward Scott Cummings gave Essendon a comfortable 33-point win over Fitzroy.

Che Cockatoo-Collins was late for the game, but he fitted in well when he went on, giving support to Cummings, Barry Young (three goals), Joe Misiti and Michael Prior. Add good performances from Mark Harvey, Darren Bewick and James Hird and the Bombers looked good.

This was Lions coach Bernie Quinlan's first official outing with his side and although he would have been generally disappointed, he found promise in the performances of Martin Pike, Frank Bizzotto and Trent Cummings.

# Demons underdone for first Cup clash against West Coast

BY JAMES FOSTER

MELBOURNE will be hopeful, rather than confident, of victory when they take on West Coast in their opening round clash of the \$366,000 Ansett Australia Cup at Waverley Park on Saturday.

The Demons, who recently delisted Allen Jakovich and lost David Schwarz for the season with a knee injury, may rest up to six senior players for the clash against last year's premiers.

Melbourne football manager Richard Griffiths says that captain Garry Lyon will definitely miss the match, while on-baller Stephen Tingay, Andrew Obst, Matthew Febey, Brett Lovett and ruckman Jim Stynes were doubtful.

"We will finalise our team later this week and make a decision on those players depending on how they come up," Griffiths said.

But he admitted that while the Demons considered the Ansett Cup important, they were far more focused on the main season starting on March 31.

"It's fair to say we have taken a low-key approach this year," Griffiths said.

"We have centred our pre-season programme to be prepared for



Preparing for action is promising Eagles youngster Paul Symmons who seems set to build on his 1994 debut

the first round match against Geelong.

"A few guys have had to be handled carefully through the pre-season because of injuries or the type of injuries they carried last year, so we have designed our pre-season primarily to be ready by round one.

"We are not under-estimating the importance of the Ansett Cup and we will give it our best shot with the players available."

The good news for Demons fans is that the Eagles also will be struggling to field their best team and could be missing up to eight players from last year's premiership side.

Chris Mainwaring (shoulder), David Hynes (knee) and Don Pyke (shoulder) are injured, while John Worsfold (shoulder), Guy McKenna, Jason Ball, Ashley McIntosh and Dean Kemp are all under-prepared.

But their absence will give border-line players Fraser Gehrig, Ashley Blurton, Paul Symmons and Daniel Metropolis the chance to stake a claim before the proper season starts.

Metropolis, who kicked six goals on debut in 1992, has been playing in defence and is almost certain to line-up against Melbourne after top performances in successive weeks.

The Eagles are geared up for the Ansett Cup as they would prefer to play in a serious pre-season competition rather than practice matches organised by the AFL for teams eliminated.

Melbourne were thrashed by 85 points last Friday by Adelaide, but Griffiths says little should be read into the result.

"We haven't had a lot of match practice and we played 10 untried players - this Saturday will be the first serious hit-out we've had this year," Griffiths said, adding that with no byes this season, it's important for all clubs to carefully plan their pre-season campaigns.

"This year we all play 22 games and if you're banking on playing in the finals, which we are, then it makes for a long season," he said.

Bookmakers have Melbourne at 6/4, while the Eagles are hot favourites at 4/9.

## Ansett Cup Details - Round 1

ST KILDA	8.2	10.6	17.7	19.7	121
FREMANTLE	2.3	10.4	11.6	13.8	86

GOALS - St Kilda: Loewe 9; Bardsley 4; Winmar 3; Burke, Shaw, Sziller. Fremantle: Watters, Nettelbeck, Bell, Burrows 2; Groom, Wardell-Johnson, Capewell, Wills, Krummel.

BEST - St Kilda: Loewe, Keogh, Winmar, Harvey, Burke, Shanahan. Fremantle: Kickett, M. Burton, Watters, Abraham, Bell, Capewell.

CARLTON	4.1	7.3	15.4	20.9	129
RICHMOND	7.1	10.3	12.6	13.9	87

GOALS - Carlton: Thorpe 6; Cook 5; Allan, Camporeale 2; Spalding, Pearce, Bradley, O'Sullivan, Hogg. Richmond: Naish 6; Richardson 4; Dundas, Rogers, Bond.

BEST - Carlton: Bradley, Dean, Koutoufides, Thorpe, Ratten, Whitehead. Richmond: Naish, Kellaway, Bond, Maxfield, Knights, Richardson.

NORTH MELB	2.5	7.8	9.16	17.18	120
BRISBANE	3.4	4.10	7.10	8.12	60

GOALS - North Melb: Schwass 4; Rock, Stevens 3; Carey 2; Scott, Campbell, Nichols, Reynolds, Longmire. Brisbane: McAdam, Leppitsch, Merrett 2; Lynch, Hart.

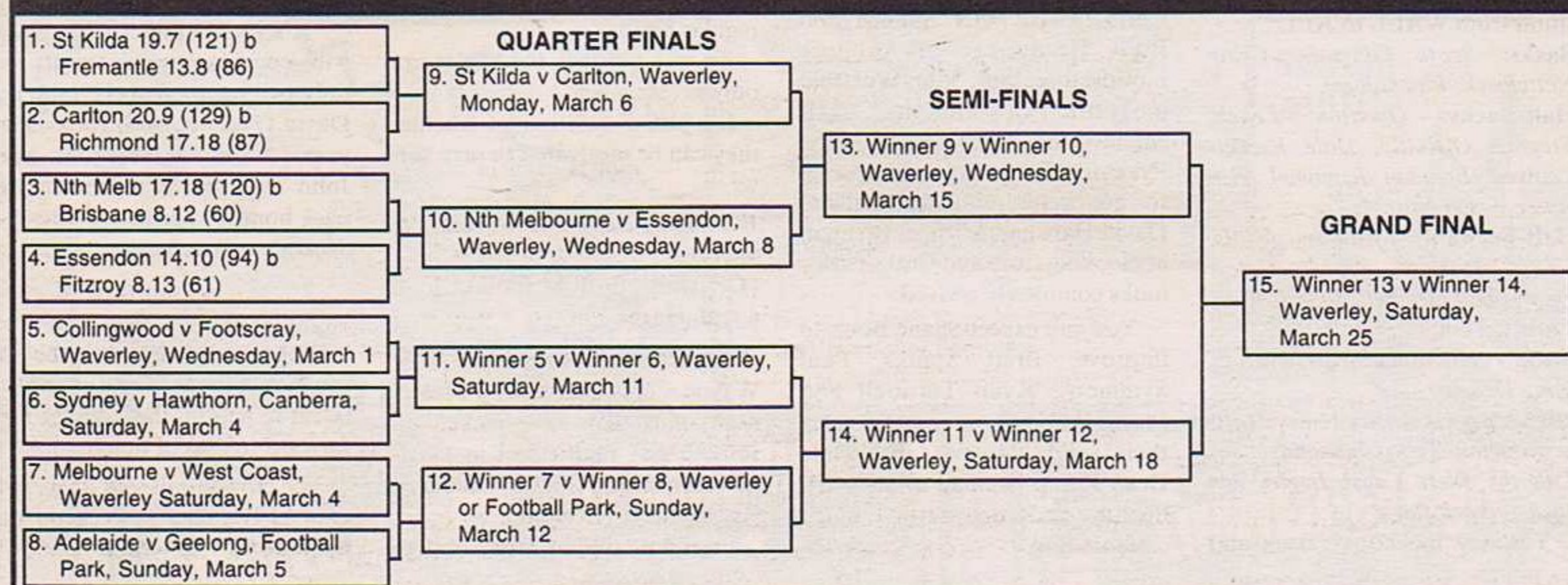
BEST - North Melb: Carey, Stevens, Rock, Roberts, Schwass, Martyn. Brisbane: McAdam, Merrett, Leppitsch, Voss, Champion.

ESSENDON	6.3	10.7	14.10	14.10	94
FITZROY	2.1	4.4	6.7	8.13	61

GOALS - Essendon: Cummings 7; Young 3; Hird, Bewick, Cockatoo-Collins, Symons. Fitzroy: Hawkins, Paxman 2; Pike, Hogg, McGregor, Atkins.

BEST - Essendon: Misiti, Cummings, Hird, Bewick, Denham, Harvey. Fitzroy: Pike, Bisotto, Cummings, Hawkins, Zanotti, McGregor.

## YOUR 1995 ANSETT CUP FIXTURES GUIDE



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# Season '95 shapes as a vintage year

IT'S time to bring out the beanies; dust off the scarves; telephone your bookie and get your tipping competition organised.

The 1995 football season is with us and if you've had a quiet summer and missed most of the headlines, then it's vital you do some pre-season homework.

There are a number of 'official' bouncings to mark on your calendar.

Some eager critics rated Saturday, February 11 as D-Day – the day the Fremantle Dockers first strutted their stuff in a practice match against a genuine AFL rival, the Essendon Bombers.

Some critics saw last Friday as an official kick-off the start of the \$366,000 Ansett Cup pre-season competition with the Dockers playing host at East Fremantle Oval to St Kilda.

The other half of our AFL footy challenge kicks off this weekend as the reigning premiers West Coast fly east for their first Ansett Cup appointment, under lights at Waverley Park against Melbourne on Saturday.

But the real action – when the teams play for premierships – kicks off on Friday, March 31, with the Dockers in action on April 1 and the Eagles on April 2.

So, to fill you in on those vacant months since last year's action and give you something to talk about during the next five weeks, here are four important football topics that can make you sound like an expert.



Jason Ball (left) and Brett Spinks are two young Eagles set to improve this season.



**Can the Fremantle Dockers be competitive?**

Yes, certainly.

But don't get carried away with their ability to win games; the 50-point victory over Essendon was far from being a serious contest.

The going will get much tougher, especially in Melbourne in muddy mid-winter.

But there are some encouraging signs, particularly the ability of WAFL players to step up.

Steady WAFL players like Scott Edwards and Quenton Leach stepped up a level against Essendon; youngsters Craig Burrows, Peter Bell and Craig Callaghan all showed enough to be contenders for fairly regular spots and experi-



Star players like (from left) Glen Jakovich, Peter Sumich, Chris Lewis, David Hart and Guy McKenna will all be big contributors to the Eagles bid to win back-to-back premierships this season.

enced campaigners like skipper Ben Allan, Scott Watters, Craig Nettelbeck, Stephen O'Reilly and Andrew Wills showed they can hold the side together.

The coaching style of Gerard Neesham, the four-times Claremont premiership mentor, is the big question mark.

Can his chip-and-draw possession style succeed in the tight, tough confines of the merciless AFL arena?

Kevin Sheedy, master coach and the AFL's senior motivator, says it can, but he has some provisos.

Other coaches are not so forthcoming, but you can bet they are studying the videos.

The Dockers have certainly fared much better in the recruiting stakes than many critics felt they could do, with plenty of experience among their signings.

Here's a possible Fremantle line-up at their strongest, given that some of the youngsters need to make the transition from WAFL to AFL:

**Backs:** Scott Edwards, Craig Nettelbeck, Phil Gilbert.

**Half-Backs:** Quenton Leach, Stephen O'Reilly, Dale Kickett

**Centres:** Brendan Krummel, Ben Allan, Jason Norrish.

**Half-Forwards:** Andrew Wills, Craig Burrows, Todd Ridley.

**Forwards:** Peter Bell, John Hutton, Chris Groom.

**Ruck:** Peter Mann, Scott Watters, Tony Delaney.

**Interchange:** Anthony Jones, Matthew Burton, Travis Edmonds.

**Can the West Coast Eagles win back-to-back flags?**

Yes, say the bookmakers and

## Face to Face

Alan East

speculates about the year ahead.

presented by



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they're not often wrong when it comes to hot favourites.

The Eagles have already tightened up in the market, with the best price being 7/2.

That means you've got to risk \$200 to win \$700 – and there are 22 tough qualifying games, plus the final-eight to navigate before you collect!

But a glance at their player list suggests that whoever beats the Eagles for the flag will have a very good side.

The Eagles have lost nothing from their premiership line-up; Glen Jakovich can only get better; Chris Lewis, Peter Sumich and Brett Heady can all produce improved seasons; John Worsfold looks fitter; Guy McKenna, Chris Mainwaring, Peter Matera, Don Pyke and Tony Evans are raring to go; veterans Peter Wilson, David Hart and Michael Brennan are looking fresh and Craig Turley looks completely revived.

You can expect Shane Bond to improve; Brett Spinks, Paul Symmons, Ryan Turnbull and Jason Ball will all benefit from their solid '94 year and while Dean Kemp has had a late start, his lithe body doesn't take much conditioning.

Hard-working players like Drew Banfield and Mitchell White will be there again; Chris Waterman's versatility is still available and the arrival of Michael Dunstan after two seasons with Fitzroy adds yet another dimension.

There are obvious question marks on the ability of Paul Harding and Karl Langdon to keep up with the rest, while Ashley McIntosh is in real doubt with a troublesome injury and David Hynes needs some vacancies to open up.

That impressive line-up doesn't take into account the clever Eagles manipulation of their rising young stars, which will surely produce at least one or two impressive rookies such as Ashley Blurton or Fraser Gehrig; plus recent debutants like Tony Godden and Jarrad Schofield are after regular berths.

So, in a nutshell, the Eagles can only get stronger.

It's just a question of whether they can be motivated to play better.

**What other clubs have the ability to improve?**

Certainly North Melbourne look a real danger.

They have superstars of the ilk of Wayne Carey and Corey McKernan, plus they have picked up some handy midfielders in Matthew Armstrong (Fitzroy) and a fit Robert Scott (Geelong).

Essendon slipped from first to

10th last year – the biggest drop by a premiership side in modern times – and they must bounce back.

Paul Salmon looks in good shape; Michael Long is fit again and they have plenty of talented youngsters.

The Brisbane question is an intriguing one.

Robert Walls has been in charge for four years, so his message must start getting through shortly and they have bolstered their playing strength with some quality names.

Hawthorn premiership player Andrew Gowen moves north and an injury-free Craig Lambert and Alastair Lynch spells midfield class in duplicate.

**How will the WAFL survive the arrival of another AFL team?**

Tough, especially down Fremantle way.

It's been an amazing summer with coaching appointments and only two men – Robert Solin and David Glascott, both rookies last year – are in the same jobs, while John Todd finally makes the trek back home to Fremantle after two decades at Bassendean.

There's no shortage of good, young stars, but they don't last long these days and while the fans can expect to see plenty of exciting talent in action, they cannot look forward to eras of dominance.

The crowds will also drop, with two AFL games a weekend and unlimited TV coverage.



Rob Solin (left) and David Glascott are the only two WAFL coaches in charge of the same teams as last season.



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# Tough match for goal umpire

W AFL goal umpire Wayne Jackson will definitely confirm the fact that league footy is tough at the top level - even in practice matches.

Standing innocently on the goal line at Perth Oval as the Royals did battle with the Eagles, Jackson suddenly found himself looking at the stars.

The flag-waver was keeping a close eye on a bouncing ball that had been kicked in from a long way out by young Eagle Ben Robbins and with an open goal, it looked set to register a major.

But two determined Royals in Rod Wheatley and Clint Johnson charged at the goalsquare, with the latter getting a hand to the ball before it went over the line - and both players cleaned up Jackson in their follow through.

There was a rather nervous delay as players and fellow-umpires gathered around the prostrate figure and certainly a well-deserved cheer from the crowd when he staggered to his feet and gave the one-point finger.

**Sheedy sham:** There have been a few furrowed brows in AFL HQ in the last fortnight as officials pondered on how to handle the situation with Kevin Sheedy and his Essendon Bombers.

You all remember how the innovative Sheeds started the practice match against the Fremantle Dockers with just 16 players on the field and then left all his guys in the same positions at the quarter-time change-over.

Well, it was suggested that Sheedy had "put the game into

## The Hood



Back in Westside by public demand

disrepute" which, of course, is a punishable offence in AFL language.

Sheedy maintained that the two-short-at-the-start sham was a genuine mistake, but knowing the cagey old Bombers boss, you can bet that was a smokescreen.

After all, it was an official AFL practice match and with heavies like Ian Collins watching, Essendon president David Shaw would have copped a barbed message.

Was Sheedy trying to lose the game and make Fremantle look good in their first unofficial outing?

That's not necessarily cheating or manipulating, simply giving Essendon plenty of ammunition for next time around.

**Legal Eagle:** The brains behind the brawn ... we hear that Wendy Sierakowski has plenty of good ideas when it comes to footy and one wonders whether she has been able to influence solicitor husband Brian, now a respected member of the Eagles board.

The mother of St Kilda recruit

David was a special guest at the Saints luncheon last Friday at Port Beach's Surf Cafe and was interviewed by comper Gary Carvolth.

Brian, of course, is well-remembered for his part in St Kilda's last premiership in 1966 and was also in the Subiaco flag-winners in '73.

But last weekend he was a neutral observer as the Saints did battle with the Dockers, leaving his wife to handle the up-front publicity.

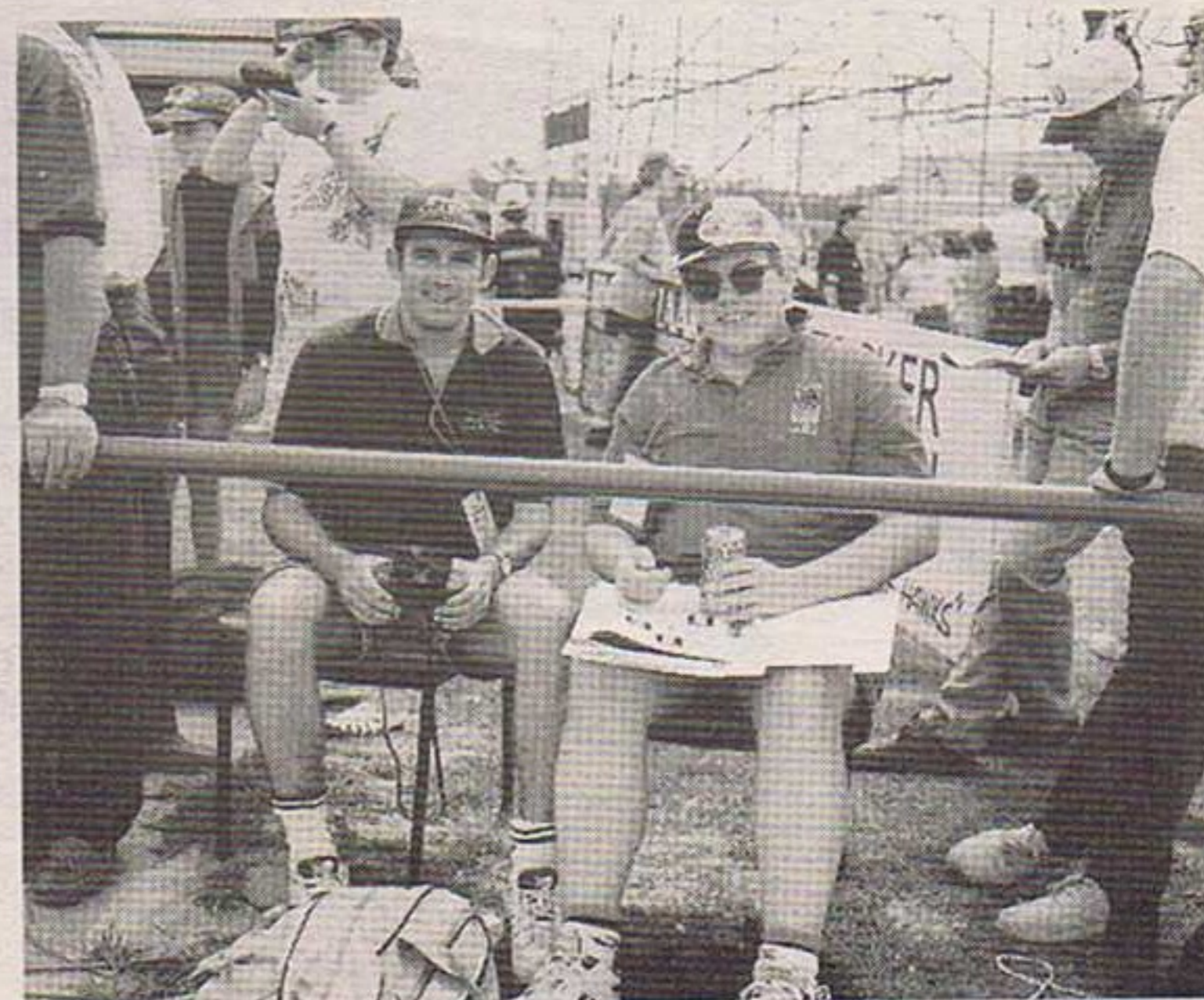
**Job offer:** Talking about the Dockers, there's a tip around town that the club's efficient chief executive David Hatt could be moving on.

After playing an important role in a number of football inquiries - and proving to be an astute co-ordinator when it came to getting the Dockers airborne - his pastures could become greener.

Seems as though he could be a candidate for a high-profile job associated with Sydney's 2000 Olympic Games.

**Betting blues:** There's a well-known and sometimes excitable football commentator around who loves a bet, but more often than not has an unlucky loser's story.

Apparently the big man went for a treble recently - Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario to beat Mary Pierce and Pete Sampras to down Andre Agassi at the Australian Open tennis, coupled with the Dockers playing the Northern Territory on the same weekend.



TALK about front row seats - these two travelling media men had to make do with whatever they could find when they covered the Margaret River clash between the Eagles and the Crows recently. That's Sunday Times writer Glen Quartermain on the left, complete with binoculars and Ross Lewis, from The West Australian (in his Hopman Cup T-shirt) settling in for a long day at the footy. There were no press facilities at the Margaret River ground - which came up looking splendid for the occasion - so the boys from the city grabbed the first chairs they could find.

After losing the two tennis bets, what chance did the Dockers have with his money on board?

**Ragged running:** If you thought colourful Dockers runner Tony Solin was struggling over the grass a little last Friday night against the Saints, you're probably spot on.

After all, his wife Jenny had delivered their first child, a bouncing girl named Ella, the day before, so there could have been a celebration or two down Fremantle way.

## Eagles-Dockers final?

Keep your eye on this column for Mrs Hood  
Every now and then she'll have something good  
Let's welcome the Dockers - they'll win five  
Fitness is tops, but can the game plan survive?  
The Eagles have landed and are the team to beat  
Watch out when these two teams finally meet  
An Eagles-Dockers grand final spat?  
Yes, sure, I'd like to see that!

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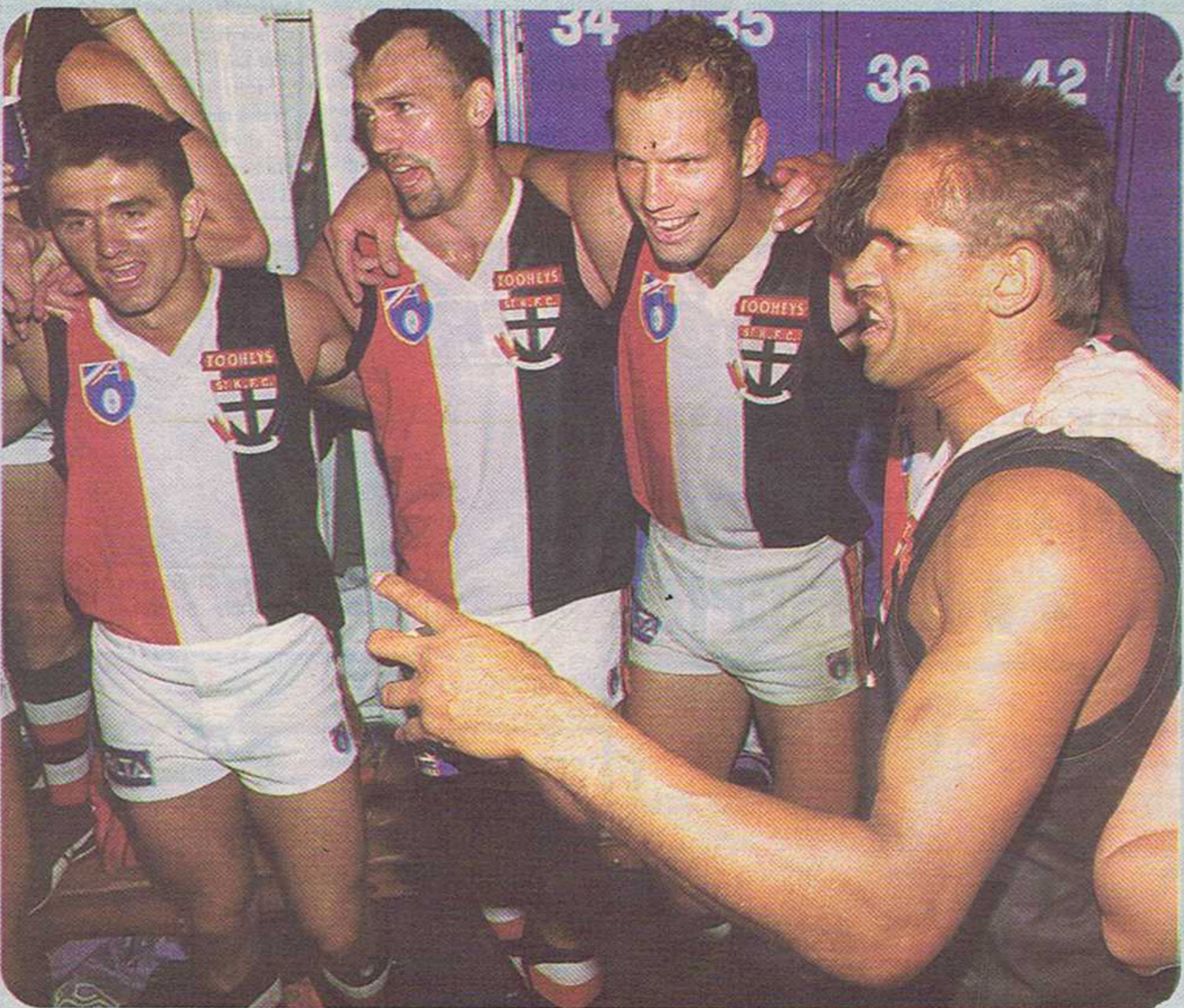
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# Battle of the giants



**Well pleased...**  
St Kilda coach Stan Alves was well-pleased with the way his team of goers overcame the Dockers challenge.

**Vocal victor...**  
Former South Fremantle player Nicky Winmar was pretty vocal about the Saints victory over the Dockers.

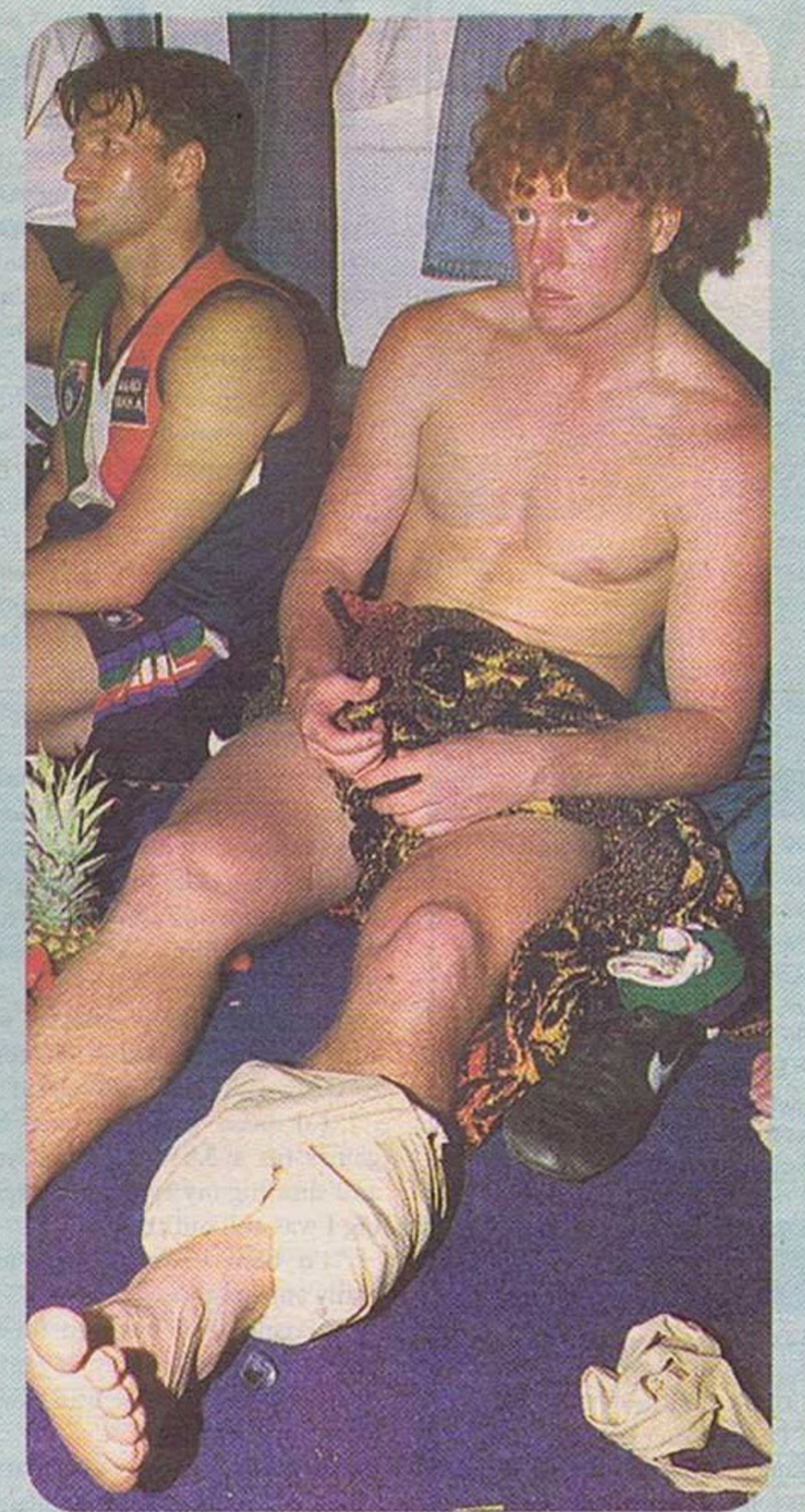


The Dockers first taste of AFL action turned out to be a torrid affair with no holds barred and no quarter given

Westside Football's award-winning photographer GREG WOOD was at East Fremantle Oval to cover the opening Ansett Australia Cup match between Fremantle and St Kilda

**Giants clash...**  
Big Docker Matthew Burton featured in some heavy duelling with St Kilda strong-man Stewart Loewe in the battle of East Fremantle Oval.

**Future promise...**  
Fremantle coach Gerad Neesham saw plenty of good signs in the Saints battle - while Brendan Krummel (centre) wasn't seeing much at all out of his left eye.



**Dazed Docker...**  
Battered Fremantle on-baller Tony Delaney needed some ice packs and a healthy supply of fruit to recover from the Saints onslaught.



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## Milestone Men

### 50 GAMES

- 49 Chris Gerrey (Claremont)
- 48 Nick Caputi (South Frem)
- 48 Matthew McMurray (Perth)
- 47 Tony Godden (Subiaco)
- 47 Clinton Wolf (Claremont)
- 46 Paul Morgan (Claremont)

### 100 GAMES

- 99 Bill Monaghan (Subiaco)
  - 98 Peter Matera (Eagles)
  - 98 Craig Turley (Eagles)
  - 98 Bill Krakouer (Sth Frem)\*
  - 97 Brett Heady (Eagles)
  - 97 Peter Wilson (East Frem)
  - 96 Karl Langdon (Eagles)
- \* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Bill Krakouer 17 South Fremantle, 65 East Fremantle, 16 Claremont.

### 150 GAMES

- 148 Guy McKenna (Eagles)
  - 148 Troy Ugle (Eagles)\*
  - 148 Geoff Passeri (Swan Dist)
- \* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Troy Ugle 105 Swan Districts, 43 Eagles;

### 200 GAMES

- 199 Wally Matera (Sth Frem)\*
  - 199 Paul Mifka (West Perth)
  - 198 Guy McKenna (Cl'mont)\*
- \* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Wally Matera 143 South Fremantle, 24 Eagles, 32 Fitzroy; Guy McKenna 148 Eagles, 50 Claremont.

### 300 GAMES

- 298 Steve Malaxos (E Frem)\*
- \* Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Steve Malaxos 72 East Fremantle, 66 Eagles, 9 Hawthorn, 151 Claremont (does not include state games)

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# Daicos almost returns

THAT famous Collingwood magican, Peter Daicos, went within a telephone call of emerging from retirement and nominating for football's last-chance draft.

The Magpies premiership hero said his Operation Comeback was serious and admitted he may live to regret his decision to stay on the sidelines.

When his former Collingwood captain Mark Williams rang him a month ago and asked if he would be interested in playing at Essendon in 1995, Daicos was genuinely surprised.

Every footballer entertains thoughts of a comeback at some stage in his retirement and Daicos said he went close to accepting his former teammate's invitation and nominating for the February draft.

"Being a former player was something which didn't sit comfortably with me," Daicos said.

"I'd been going to the big games (as a 3AW commentator) and shutting my eyes and imagining I was still out there.

"I'd been having a kick and really enjoying it.

"Having been involved for 17 years, wanting to play is something you can't easily walk away from.

"For four glorious weeks after Mark's phone call, I dedicated myself totally to playing again.

"Until he rung, I hadn't seri-

## Across Country

Melbourne journalist  
**Ken Piesse**  
reports on news from the eastern states



ously entertained a comeback.

"Being a Collingwood player and only being a Collingwood player appealed to me and still does.

"For the first time in many years I've really got myself set up well outside football.

"Playing again may have unsettled that a little bit.

"But, what do you do when your heart says go for it?"

"I pounded the streets and my local oval twice a day. I ate only low fat food, no milk, no sugar or sweets and lost 4-5kgs to be right back to my best playing weight (89kgs) of 1989-90.

"I even went so far as to sign a draft form for my manager Ricky Nixon to fax through to the AFL before the deadline.

"I thrive on challenges and I had just about decided I was going to make 1995 the most dedicated year of my football life.

"Going to a club like Essendon had instant appeal, as they are a

finals team.

"Like Dermott Brereton (now at Collingwood), I wouldn't have entertained playing again if I was to be drafted by one of the lowly or interstate clubs.

"Up until 24 hours before the Monday afternoon deadline, I was still wavering.

"Having had an approach really meant something to me. We all aspire to be wanted and in demand. It gave me a lot of confidence. I was keen and ready.

"I arranged to ring Ricky, or for him to ring me, about 10 minutes before the cut off.

"I was going to make a split decision - 'Yeah put it in' and then go away and not be near a phone in case I changed my mind.

"In the end, the reality of it all hit me.

"I'd spent some time with a couple of close mates on the Sunday and they helped put it all into another perspective.

"I was on a hiding to nothing and while my heart said yes, my brain asked what could I really achieve?

"To play at any sort of standard, there is no room for 80-percent application. You have to be



Collingwood marvel Peter Daicos went close to making his comeback a reality before a last-minute change of mind.

full bore, to the exclusion of virtually everything else.

"I was going to continue to train in the mornings, as well as with the club, stay on a low fat diet and give it the biggest push of my life."

Daicos said he called off his comeback 24 hours before the deadline for draft nominations.

At 33, he agrees he's still young enough to play at a competitive level. But he says he will now be content with a casual kick in the park with several friends.

"And at my pace, that suits me just fine," he said.

# Warning for McKenna

WHEN the ball was taken off Dockers full-back Stephen O'Reilly for wasting time in last week's Ansett Cup match, it sounded a warning for Eagles ace Guy McKenna.

The O'Reilly decision was wrong - and Stewart Loewe was given an easy goal - as the ball should have been bounced under the new rule.

West Coast fans would not take kindly to being deprived of the opportunity to clear the ball out of the danger zone if McKenna is similarly penalised.

The new rule states the umpire must warn the player once and if the ball isn't kicked into play immediately, it shall be bounced at the edge of the goalsquare.

Ironically, the full-backs are not actually wasting time as the clock doesn't start until the ball has been kicked.

It seems the rule change was motivated more by the wish to speed the game up for spectators and television, rather than because a team is disadvantaged.

Many astute supporters would also like some attention paid by the umpires to the situation where a defender simply 'paddles' the ball over the boundary line, generating a somewhat ungainly wres-

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tle which masquerades as ruckmen doing battle for possession at a boundary throw in.

Strangely, the clubs were not consulted before these latest rule changes, with several still preparing submissions when the changes were implemented.

The clubs realise they have an obligation to embrace law changes that enhance the skill and spectacle of the game, but rightly demand input to the decision-making process.

**Forgotten grass:** In this day and age, major sporting stadiums are considered multi-purpose venues and are used for a number of different entertainments.

The hallowed turf of the MCG will be used for the up-coming Rolling Stones concert and last year it hosted a Madonna appearance.

The timing of the Rolling Stones concert is ludicrous, considering Victoria has a good chance of hosting the Sheffield Shield cricket final.

It would be folly to play the feature game of the domestic season on a ground other than a Test match venue.

Indeed, if Victoria do win the right to host the cricket final, the state playing them, hopefully the Western Warriors, should claim the right to home turf.

Strangely enough, the 'G' is a cricket ground, but its major revenue, football, has been unaffected by the staging of concerts.

The ground also generates income from housing the AFL offices in the Southern Stand and function rooms in the area are well utilised, whether or not there is action out in the middle.

In relation to Fremantle Oval, the situation seems certain to be brought about where the West Australian Football Commission will take over the ground and ultimately relocate South Fremantle further south.

It was a crying shame the Dockers first official match last week was not held at Fremantle Oval.

With the WAFC in charge of the venue and the Dockers the sole ground tenants, the number of activities will be limited, with nothing being held after January 1 in the lead-up to the season.

This lesson was learned in 1992 when, weeks after the Dire Straits concert at Subiaco Oval in March, Eagles coach Mick Malthouse was picking up pieces of glass from the surface.

With the concentrated use of Subiaco Oval in the winter, when at least 16 AFL games will be played there, the WAFC must also act quickly to move the Subiaco Football Club to the northern suburbs, perhaps via Leederville Oval.

There is now no room for a suburban club to play at football's headquarters - which is soon to be the showpiece of the national league.

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# Dockers pace impresses Harvey

By JAMES FOSTER

**ST KILDA'S star on-baller Robert Harvey believes the Dockers can win six games, but no more than eight, in their inaugural season.**

Harvey, one of the Saints best in Friday's win over the Dockers, says Freo would be competitive at home, but struggle away.

"They can't be expecting to make the grand final in their first year," he said simply.

"But they can probably win 6-8 games, which would be a pretty reasonable effort.

"However, I don't know whether they would agree with that. It's going to be a tough year for them because it's so hard to come in and play at such a high

level of footy first-up, with a side that probably hasn't quite got the experience.

"Having a lot of their players coming from the WAFL and players who haven't played league before, it's going to take them a while to adjust to the pace and standard of the AFL."

Harvey admitted having little knowledge of the Dockers before

Friday's game, but said he noticed many of their players struggled to get rid of the ball quickly enough when tackled.

"It was a physical type of game and that comes with an increase in tempo," he said.

"When the tempo is not quite as high, you have more time to get rid of the ball.

"But on Friday it was a pretty fast game and players were getting tackled and bumped so they didn't have as long to get rid of the ball.

"You could see some of the Dockers thought they had more time, but they were crunched.

"Going into the game, I didn't know a lot about them or what to expect, but they have got a fair bit to work with.

"They seem to play a different style of game. They share the ball around and open it up, but because it's still early-on, they probably haven't quite got it together."

Harvey believes the Dockers have plenty of talent and said their biggest asset was their pace.

"We played all right, but we were never really in control on the scoreboard, so I think for their first game, they gave a pretty good account of themselves," he said.

"A few of the guys we didn't know played pretty well and maybe some we did know who were drafted from other AFL clubs didn't do quite as well as expected.

"We didn't really thrash them and they were never out of the game. They probably could have been a lot closer, but for a few undisciplined things and we got a few goals from 50-metre penalties.



Saints midfielder Robert Harvey

"There were things they may have got away with at their local clubs, but not in the AFL.

"Their pace was good; they are a quick side and some of their players are pretty hard to run down.

"But I think they are lacking a few key-position players at this stage."

With many critics wondering what effect the departure of Tony Lockett will have on the Saints, Harvey says it will be a case of sharing the responsibility.

"We have some good replacements for him in Stewart Loewe, Craig O'Brien, Gordon Fode and Nicky Winmar which is pretty lucky," Harvey said.

"On-ballers like myself will have to kick a few goals, which we probably haven't done in recent years, so the responsibility won't rest on one person.

"If we don't make the finals this year, we'll be very disappointed. We believe we have the side to make it."

## Bulldog legend leaves his army of fans in the lurch

**ONCE again football individuals have been shuffled around the nation like a pack of cards as the AFL draft determines the careers of players.**

The annual cattle muster in October and February sees players of all sizes, shapes and quality thrown together as the football experts decide their fate.

Many players who move from club to club do so in search of regular AFL action - and more than a fair share achieve their objective.

It's always sad to see a player who, for all intents and purposes, was quite settled and respected in a football club, but is suddenly thrown on to the scrap heap and ends up at the mercy of the draft.

But what is even sadder is when a genuine home-town hero swaps colours, such as Footscray legend Doug Hawkins, a man who converted a whole generation of fans into fervently believing that he ruled as King of the western suburbs.

The loveable Hawkins, with a cheeky grin and a sarcastic sense of humour, wrote his name indelibly in Footscray folklore last year when he broke the long-standing games-played record belonging to Ted Whitten.

The big man they call Mr Football - who is now facing an enormous struggle as he fights cancer - was first to congratulate Hawkins when he notched up game No. 322 to eclipse Whitten's name on top of the list.

After 17 seasons at the Western Oval, the boy from suburban Braybrook decided that a club record and 329 games wasn't enough to retire on.

So he committed the unspeakable sin of crossing over to arch-rivals Fitzroy in the October draft.

To see a living legend transform himself into another team's colours is surely the saddest moment of the year and there will be die-hards at Footscray who will never forgive Hawkins.

Why didn't he just bow out gracefully? He's had an unbelievable career, with a wing at the



Footscray legend Doug Hawkins spreads the Bulldogs message to his many fans on radio... but no more after switching to Fitzroy.

### Thinking Aloud

a column of news and views by Westside Football editor Alan East presented by



Western Oval named after him and multitudes of families and their children absolutely devoted to their famous Bulldog son.

It's ironic that he's been collected by Fitzroy in the draft as the Lions now share the Western Oval with Footscray, so Hawkins will, at least, feel comfortable when he arrives for home games - even if he has to change in the crummy visitors rooms.

## What's happening in football

### AFL

Ansett Cup - Saturday, March 4: Sydney v Hawthorn, Canberra; Melbourne v West Coast, Waverley; Sunday, March 5: Adelaide v Geelong, Football Park. Quarter-finals: Monday, March 6: St Kilda v Carlton, Waverley; Wednesday, March 8: North Melbourne v Essendon, Waverley.

**AFL SEASON** - Friday, March 31: North Melbourne v Adelaide, MCG; Saturday, April 1: Richmond v Fremantle, MCG; Hawthorn v Brisbane, Waverley; Geelong v Melbourne, Kardinia; Fitzroy v Essendon, Western Oval; Sunday, April 2: Carlton v Collingwood, MCG; Footscray v Sydney, Western Oval; West Coast v St Kilda, Subiaco.

### WAFL

**Emu Export summer series** - Saturday, March 4: East Fremantle v Claremont, East Fremantle Oval, 3pm; Monday, March 6: WACA Ground - Perth v East Perth, 4pm; Subiaco v South Fremantle, 6pm; West Perth v Swan Districts, 8pm. **Pepsi Cup League** - Saturday, April 8: West Perth v South Fremantle, Joondalup; Swan Districts v Subiaco, Bassendean Oval; East Fremantle v Claremont, East Fremantle Oval; Perth v East Perth, Lathlain Park.

### South Australia

**Round 1** - Friday, March 17: Port Adelaide v Glenelg; Saturday, March 18: Eagles v North Adelaide, Central District v Norwood, West Adelaide v Sturt, South Adelaide bye

### Amateur League

**Round 1** - Saturday, April 8: CBC v Mt Lawley, Morris Buzacott Reserve; North Fremantle v North Beach, Gilfraser Reserve; Nollamara v Scarborough, Des Penman; Wembley v University, Henderson Park; Trinity Aquinas v West Coast, Collier Reserve.

### Sunday League

**Round 1, SFL** - Sunday, April 23: Kelmscott v Willetton, John Dunn Oval; Gosnells v Maddington, Gosnells Oval; Osborne Park v Canning, Balcatta Reserve.

**Round 1, Sunday amateurs:** April 9: Kingsley v Midland, Kingsley Reserve; Ballajura v Kalamunda, Kingfisher Reserve.

### Peel League

**Round 1** - Sunday, April 9: Kwinana v South Mandurah; Mundijong v Harvey; Waroona v Rockingham; Mandurah v Pinjarra.

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# A week is a long time in football

## FRIDAY

WELL, Friday's finally arrived and like everyone in Fremantle, I was eagerly awaiting the Dockers first game in the big time.

As soon as we finished training with South Fremantle, I headed home to watch the game on telly and there were some good signs to come out of the result.

Peter Bell looks to have a good future and big "Spider" Burton showed a capacity for hard work.

All in all, the ferocity of the game was too much for the Dockers, but they'll get better.

## SATURDAY

WELCOME to the world of coaching.

Having taken on the role of assistant coach to John Todd and coaching the South Fremantle reserves, this was certainly an eye-opener.

So much more preparation for the team rather than myself.

But I was pleased to come away from Bassendean Oval with two wins, seniors and reserves.

I'm saddened to hear that Stephen Kernahan's mother Annette passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Sympathies to the Kernahan family, who have had a big influence at Carlton.

## SUNDAY

THE alarm goes off at 5.15am, so

## Doro's Diary

Fremantle's AFL and WAFL star  
**Jon Dorotich**  
has a weekly look at football



I'm out of bed in preparation for our early morning training session.

This has been par for the course over the last seven weeks as Toddy puts the hard work into the Bulldogs.

A bit of running, a swim and then a lovely breakfast courtesy of the Surf Club Cafe at Port Beach.

As usual, footy's a part of most people's lives and I must say it's nice to watch a footballer like Wayne Carey play on a Sunday afternoon.

North Melbourne may go one step further than 1994.

## MONDAY

BUMPED into former Souths teammate Phil Cronan in Fremantle.

Phil's been around the place for a while and has moved to the amateur ranks to coach West Coast, the reigning A-grade premiers.

Any good players looking for a

game can give Phil a call; you can't beat the feeling of being part of a premiership.

Training as usual for the Bulldogs; can't wait to get back to Fremantle Oval to train as we (and the Dockers) have been unable to use the great old ground due to concerts, rodeos etc.

## TUESDAY

AS I get a moment to myself at home, it's interesting to contemplate on how the WAFL competition will pan out this year.

There are lots of changes in coaching personnel and player squads.

Looking at the clubs, it will again be a challenging year for all.

The grand finalists of 1994, Claremont and East Fremantle, again will be the trendsetters.

Obviously down at Souths, we'll be looking for big improvements, as I'm sure East Perth and Perth are.

All in all it should be an exciting Pepsi Cup season.

## WEDNESDAY

I DON'T often get a chance to watch the Eagles train, but I had a look at them today.



Dockers little man Peter Bell has what it takes for the AFL - after just one WAFL year

The way they go about their business very much reminds me of the great Hawthorn sides of the 1980's and early '90's.

Their main nucleus of players are extremely well-drilled and season '95 may bring them similar success as 1994 if they focus on the job.

## THURSDAY

ANOTHER early start, but still time to read Westside Football - do you get it home delivered with your West? Check your newsagent for details.

## Little things add up

WEST Coast coach Mick Malthouse often talks about the 'one-percenters' in football - the little things that go unnoticed by the fans, but can be the difference between winning or losing a premiership.

Those little things include tackles and shepherds and the SGIO Eagles Fact File segment each week records the achievements of the players.

They may not attract the umpires attention when they are handing out Brownlow Medal votes, or excite the crowd like a Peter Matera dash down the wing, but they are still vital to a successful team.

It comes as no surprise to see Eagles skipper John Worsfold leading the number of shepherds with 28 in 1994, but few may have guessed that Chris Lewis was second with 23 and Drew Banfield next on 20.

While Matera excites the crowd with his dashing runs, he is also doing the hard work and in season 1994, he was the man responsible for laying the most tackles for the Eagles with 68.

The next best came from forward Peter Wilson and defender Guy McKenna, who both applied 49 tackles.

In the kicks department in 1994, Don Pyke, second in the Eagles best and fairest award, finished well in front of his team-mates with 392 kicks.

The next best came from Chris Mainwaring with 360 kicks followed closely by the 1994 club champion Glen Jakovich on 359.

Jakovich was also dominant in the marking section where he pulled in 130, ahead of Ashley McIntosh (107) and Guy McKenna (103).

West Coast's courageous defender McKenna led the way in the handball department with 202 - the only Eagles player to break the 200 barrier. Last year's Norm Smith Medallist, Dean Kemp, was second with 163, while Jakovich finished third with 137.

## Tigers to join Fremantle for home game

THE newly-formed Fremantle Dockers finally get to play a game on their home ground, Fremantle Oval, this Saturday.

The Dockers have organised a practice hit-out with Richmond, with proceeds going to the Fremantle Hospital. The two clubs were first-round losers in the Ansett Australia Cup and quickly got together to

arrange the match.

There will be a football clinic hosted by the Fremantle players before the game, from 12.30pm to 1.30.

The match will start at 2pm and tickets are available at the gate for \$9.50 adult; \$5 concession; \$2 children and \$19 for a family.

## Eagles to fly high at night

BY RICHARD CAMM

WEST Coast will be seeking to improve their overall winning record in the pre-season competition to 50 per cent in Saturday night's clash against arch-rivals Melbourne at Waverley Park.

The Eagles have played 17 games in the pre-season competition since 1987, winning eight and losing nine.

The Eagles have reached the semi-finals three times - in 1987, '89 and '93.

A one-point loss to Melbourne in 1989 foiled the Eagles attempt to reach their first night series final.

Saturday's match against Melbourne is the third between the clubs in the pre-season series, with both teams recording a win.

At half-time in Friday's battle between Fremantle and St Kilda, Dockers fans may have had expectations of their team experiencing a similar entry to the pre-season competition as did West Coast eight years earlier.

But the Dockers were over-run by the Saints in the second half, losing by 35 points - in contrast to the Eagles pre-season debut.

The Eagles first summer game was on March 3, 1987. After trailing Footscray by 38 points at half-time at Waverley Park, the Eagles stormed home to win by 29 points.

The Eagles bubble burst in a semi-final against Essendon, with the Bombers thrashing them by 18 goals.

Dockers journeyman Dale Kickett is poised to become only the third player - and the first for 50 years - to represent five league clubs.

Kickett has played 46 AFL games since making his debut in 1990 - 15 with Fitzroy, two at the Eagles, 21 for St Kilda and eight for Essendon.

The only other players to have represented five clubs at VFL/AFL level were Les Abbott and Les Hughson.

Abbott played 39 games between 1904 and 1912 for Carlton, Collingwood, Melbourne, Richmond and South Melbourne, while Hughson tallied 73 games between 1927 and 1937 for Carlton, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn and St Kilda.

## EAGLES FACT FILE

Name	1994 games	Total games	1994 kicks	1994 marks	1994 HVB	Free for	Kicks agst	1994 score	1994 Houts	1994 tackles	1994 shep
BALL, Jason	16	18	131	63	75	24	18	10.8	58	15	11
BANFIELD, Drew	24	31	192	39	116	22	25	7.4	2	46	20
BOND, Shane	21	21	129	44	113	17	26	15.11	0	33	5
BRENNAN, Michael	23	163	144	67	62	22	17	2.1	7	22	10
CLAPE, Matt	6	29	24	7	11	1	1	2.1	0	3	2
EVANS, Tony	14	51	100	31	74	14	11	12.7	0	23	7
GODDEN, Tony	6	11	24	4	12	2	4	3.1	0	4	0
HAMPSON, Damian	2	6	5	0	4	0	0	0.0	0	3	1
HARDING, Paul	6	116	29	13	17	9	11	0.0	66	2	1
HART, David	25	137	298	71	118	26	14	9.8	0	24	15
HEADY, Brett	21	97	164	68	69	23	14	44.27	0	13	9
HYNES, David	13	60	94	54	57	7	11	12.10	90	10	12
JAKOVICH, Glen	25	67	359	130	137	30	23	2.4	38	18	16
KEMP, Dean	21	110	304	80	163	27	23	18.14	2	44	13
KRUMMEL, Brendan	1	9	5	2	6	0	2	0.0	0	1	0
LAMB, Dwayne	5	151	28	17	40	4	2	0.3	0	11	3
LANGDON, Karl	3	96	19	7	4	2	7	1.2	1	3	0
LEWIS, Chris	25	153	306	97	82	14	31	39.37	3	41	23
MAINWARING, Chris	23	161	360	101	130	39	34	7.8	0	44	12
MATERA, Peter	24	98	305	77	108	44	33	21.20	3	68	13
McINTOSH, Ashley	24	77	204	107	97	22	23	22.17	13	25	14
McKENNA, Guy	25	148	227	103	202	23	17	5.4	1	49	17
McKENNA, Guy	25	103	392	98	114	29	31	13.10	1	48	15
McKENNA, Guy	4	5	13	7	12	1	1	1.2	0	3	1
SPINKS, Brett	15	15	83	56	36	8	15	10.8	27	2	5
SUMMICH, Peter	18	125	115	61	7	11	20	48.42	1	12	3
SYMMONS, Paul	4	4	20	4	7	1	0	0.0	1	2	1
TURLEY, Craig	15	98	106	39	78	11	18	10.6	0	18	6
TURNBULL, Ryan	23	34	146	45	55	23	19	6.5	267	20	11
WATERMAN, Chris	18	111	127	54	56	11	12	3.4	2	17	9
WHITE, Mitchell	6	50	48	21	14	5	7	3.0	2	9	3
WILSON, Peter	24	155	278	87	109	29	42	14.19	13	49	18
WORSFOLD, John	19	156	127	41	116	12	16	2.3	3	41	28

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# New-look Demons unit set to improve

BY SCOTT COGHLAN

PERTH, the wooden-spooners in last year's WAFL competition, will welcome back some key players when the Emu Export summer series kicks off this weekend.

The Demons, under second-year coach David Glascott, will be a much tougher combination when they tackle East Perth in the first of a triple-header at the WACA, starting at 4pm.

The Demons line-up should see an interesting mix of new faces with some old hands.

Defender Scott Spalding will play his first game for the club since 1992, after stints at Carlton and Port Adelaide and 1992 fairest and best winner Russell Thompson returns from a serious knee injury.

Among the new faces will be Echuca defender Mark Vagg, promising 18-year-old ruckman Simon Dennis, Todd Jasper, Guy Cannon, Tim Fox and Doug Headland, who attracted some summer attention from the Dockers.

East Perth will give youngsters Ricky Jetta, Shane Sadowski, Simon Mortlock, Andrew Worland and Ryan Wilkin further

trials after some impressive outings and big-men Mark Saliacus and Corey Dillon - who did well against Peter Sumich last week - will be to the forefront.

Subiaco play South Fremantle in Monday's second game, at 6pm, with the Lions welcoming Andrew Donnelly back from Sydney.

The Lions have also added Glenelg defender Hamish Stuart and Kalgoorlie utility Rob Hansen.

Two promising country recruits in Narrogin's Nathan Turvey and Ashley Hutchinson, of Donnybrook, should slot straight into South Fremantle's team, along with Phil Matera, a highly skilled wingman in the mould of his Eagle brother Peter.

West Perth tackle Swan Districts in the late game, at 8pm.

The Falcons should include Victorian recruit Bryce Steele, as well as promising youngsters Mark Sandwell, giant ruckman Martin Whitelaw and Brendan Logan, son of 1975 premiership player Ian.

Three players from other clubs out to prove a point will be former Tiger Rob Malone and Royals Lloyd Haskett and Nathan Brooks.

Swans will unveil several new

names, including a host of players from the Bunbury region.

Those expected to play on Monday include centre-half-back Jamie Nani, wingman Damian Dimer, rovers Reece Harrop and Joel Cornelius, defender Brendan Bidwell and Jason Morgan, a brother of 1994 league player David, who is tipped to play in the tough centre-half-forward position.

Two country recruits likely to play are rover Matthew Hickey (Merredin) and Michael Ottaviano (Kalgoorlie) and Swans will also unveil two Victorian country hopefuls in Matt Sculley and Adam Sheridan.

Claremont will use Saturday's game against East Fremantle to try promising youngsters such as wingman Jamie Ferguson, midfielder Ben Howard and former Sydney squad member Lee Campbell.

New faces in the Sharks side will be utility Chad Rintoul, from Karratha, defender Wayne Roser (Margaret River) and Queensland wingman Shane McCormack.

Defender Mark Cummings will also be anxious to impress after playing four games for the Sharks early last season, as will former Royal Leigh Willison.



Perth's 1992 fairest and best winner Russell Thompson is back fit again after knee problems. He will be a big asset in the Demons bid to claw their way back up the premiership ladder in season '95.

## Big task ahead for 'rookie' coaches



Sharks reserves premiership coach Tony Micale is not worried about stepping up to league ranks this season.

THE Emu Export summer series kicks off this weekend with two under-study coaches stepping up to replace men who have led their clubs to recent WAFL premierships.

East Fremantle's 1994 reserves premiership coach Tony Micale takes over from Ken Judge, who took the league side to flags in '92 and '94, while at Claremont, veteran Darrell Panizza steps into the shoes of four-times Tigers flag-winner Gerard Neesham.

The Sharks tackle the Tigers on Saturday to open the summer series with a replay of last season's Pepsi Cup grand final, giving their new coaches their first official hit-out.

Neither Micale nor Panizza have coached at a senior level before, but Micale, for one, isn't overawed by the prospect.

"I've been coaching for 10 years, so I've been in the system for some time," he said this week as he built up towards his first game.

"It's not like I'm a new person; I've been assistant to Stan Magro at South Fremantle and assistant to Ken Judge for four years, so I'm close to it all."

Far from being nervous about his first senior outing, Micale is looking forward to the summer series.

"It's terrific," he said. "In the old days practice matches weren't played in the same spirit, but now they are taken more seriously - look at the Ansett Cup matches, they are like premiership games."

Micale says the Emu Export series has benefits for both players and clubs.

"It's good for coaches to test out their game plan and style of play, but it's mainly important for individuals," he said.

"It gives the players the chance to cement a place in the side, whether they be youngsters or border-line hopefuls and it all helps to bring the team together."

- SCOTT COGHLAN

### Footy pics on display

MORE than 100 fabulous football photographs will be on display at the Whitfords shopping centre this Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday between 6.30pm and 7.30pm, players from Subiaco will be on hand to take part in handball competitions.

Youngsters can win prizes from the Lion players, as well as from the Football Development Trust.



**"Nothing changes between old friends"**



# Moves aplenty, new head at East Perth

BY SCOTT COGLAN

**THERE has been no shortage of activity on the administration side of the WAFL clubs over summer as they prepare for the 1995 Pepsi Cup season.**

A good sign of stability in the WAFL ranks was the fact that only one club had a change of president - East Perth.

Royals leader Ken Burnett has stepped down after two years to be replaced by popular Carlisle Hotel proprietor and former Royals strong man Jim Haines.

Another new face at Perth Oval is football manager Anthony Hayes, who has come through the regional development administrative programme at Kalgoorlie to take over from Cam Robbins, who has moved to Karratha.

Bronte Howson, a prominent businessman in the motor industry as the principal of AMCAP BBK Distributors, joins the Royals board as a director and has already injected considerable new funding in sponsorship.

Perth have a new vice-president in Howard Manley, who takes over from loyal club servant Peter Brophy.

Manley, the manager of the Willetton Sports and Social Club, previously was involved with East Perth as league team manager and then joined the Demons as general manager from 1988-90.

Perth have added a female touch to their board of directors in prominent fund-raiser Joy Russell, who takes control of social functions.

The Bulldogs have a new director this year with former player Peter Thorpe joining the board at Fremantle Oval.

The departure of Gerard Neesham from Claremont has led to a number of his former support staff also moving to the Dockers, including football manager Phil Smart, who becomes recruiting manager for the Fremantle side.

Another country regional development officer, Rowan Malcolm, moves from Geraldton to take up the role of Tigers football manager.

West Perth have a new director in Phil Hanna, from Conquest Constructions, who takes over from Joe Scarfo.

Swan Districts have two new board members in David Kestel, the chairman of the Camping and

Caravans Association and Alec Abbott, who returns to active service at the club after a break.

They replace Steve Gillespie and Peter Carter.



New faces on the Royals board are former player Jim Haines (left) as president and businessman Bronte Howson

## Three-year plan will keep growth tied to community

**THE WA Football Commission is compiling a three-year business plan to help co-ordinate our football growth in a host of areas.**

The Commission is producing a document showing the public what their objectives are over the next three years.

The various departments of football administration have been asked to formulate a plan for the future.

We are aiming for a number of different goals, but basically our strategies will be to ensure that the WAFL competition remains relevant to the community and provides a player pathway for our young people.

We have to show community relevance as the residential growth in Perth changes rapidly - such as the massive changes in the Joon-dalup region and the relocating of West Perth to that area.

We are seeking to show the community that the WAFL is changing focus; that it's now establishing itself as a development competition providing player pathways for young people to move through the ranks of junior

### Commission Comment

Talking about WA Football Commission activities with WAFL general manager

**Trevor Howard**

presented by

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clubs, to the WAFL and then, ultimately, the AFL.

The player pathway objective includes such things as the restructuring of the WAFL colts competition to become an elite level of football.

These changes and promotional developments are subject to funds and this is a matter which is presently under review.

We want to find out what age level can be supported and, if appropriate, introduce new competitions to add to our existing development programmes.

It's not just the colts competition we're talking about; but

junior football regions need to be involved in all age groups.

We need to develop a plan so that the community can clearly see that the WAFL isn't out to destroy their junior competitions; simply make the whole career path more attractive for our young sporting stars.

Our objective is to show the public how we plan to maintain an efficient and effective management of the existing WAFL competition and to sustain - and where possible improve - the level of support, especially from the media.

Other ways of achieving this include improved inter-action between WAFL clubs and AFL clubs.

For example, the agreement between the clubs about how players at AFL level can qualify for WAFL finals and the responsibilities of the Pepsi Cup clubs to provide opportunities for Eagles and Dockers squad members to play WAFL football.

The business plan is currently being finalised by the WAFL Board and will be released in March.

## Ernst move heralds new era

**WEST Australian umpiring has entered another era this season with the appointment of Derrick Ernst as their second full-time development officer.**

Ernst, a 200-game umpire with the Sunday Football League and a former deputy high school principal, takes on the role of umpires development officer.

He joins senior umpires coach David Johnson at the WA Football Commission and will be in control of a new programme set up in conjunction with the Ministry of Sport and Recreation and the Country Football Leagues.

The Regional Umpire Managers programme sees people

### Men in White

News from the WAFL

Umpires Association

presented by

**AMPOL**

assigned to different regions to handle the development of umpires in those areas.

In control of the southern areas and based in Nyabing will be Darryl Carpenter, with Noel Mor-

gan in Northam heading the central region and Kevin Waycott looking after northern areas from Geraldton.

In the joint venture between the CFL, the Ministry and the WAFC, \$15,000 has been provided for the three divisions.

WAFL umpires enjoyed the pleasant surroundings of Rottnest Island for their annual camp, with 88 attending the weekend's activities at Kingston Barracks.

The WAFL umpires have amalgamated with those from the WA Amateur League and the group is training at Ernest Johnson Reserve in South Perth.

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# Mouthguards crucial

SOMETIMES people realise the benefits of using a professionally-fitted mouthguard only when it is too late.

With nearly 50-per-cent of sporting injuries occurring around the head, it is obviously important to try to avoid the damage being worse than it has to be.

Many of the injuries incurred could have been avoided if the player was wearing a properly fitted mouthguard.

Australian football is a very physical game and for that reason many players in the AFL and the WAFL consider their mouth guards one of the more important pieces of playing equipment.

There are, however, several brands of guards that can be bought through retail stores that can be moulded at home.

Professionals encourage people



The face might be blood-spattered after a grand final win, but Sharks captain Steve Malaxos can smile broadly with his teeth safely protected

Former West Coast Eagles leader and East Fremantle premiership captain Steve Malaxos knows how important the use of a mouthguard is.

Malaxos has been wearing one since he was 17, but on one occasion when he didn't have it on, he wished he had.

"I had two teeth knocked out playing in a colts game for Claremont back in the 70's," he remembers.

"I was tackling a guy and he flung his head back and knocked me in the mouth."

Malaxos works with Dentex Dental Supplies, who supply Dentex Briteguard Mouthguards.

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v							2
v	2		12			22	3
v						23	4
v						24	
v						25	7
v						26	8
LAST WEEKS WINNERS						27	
						28	
	9		19			29	12
	10		20			30	13
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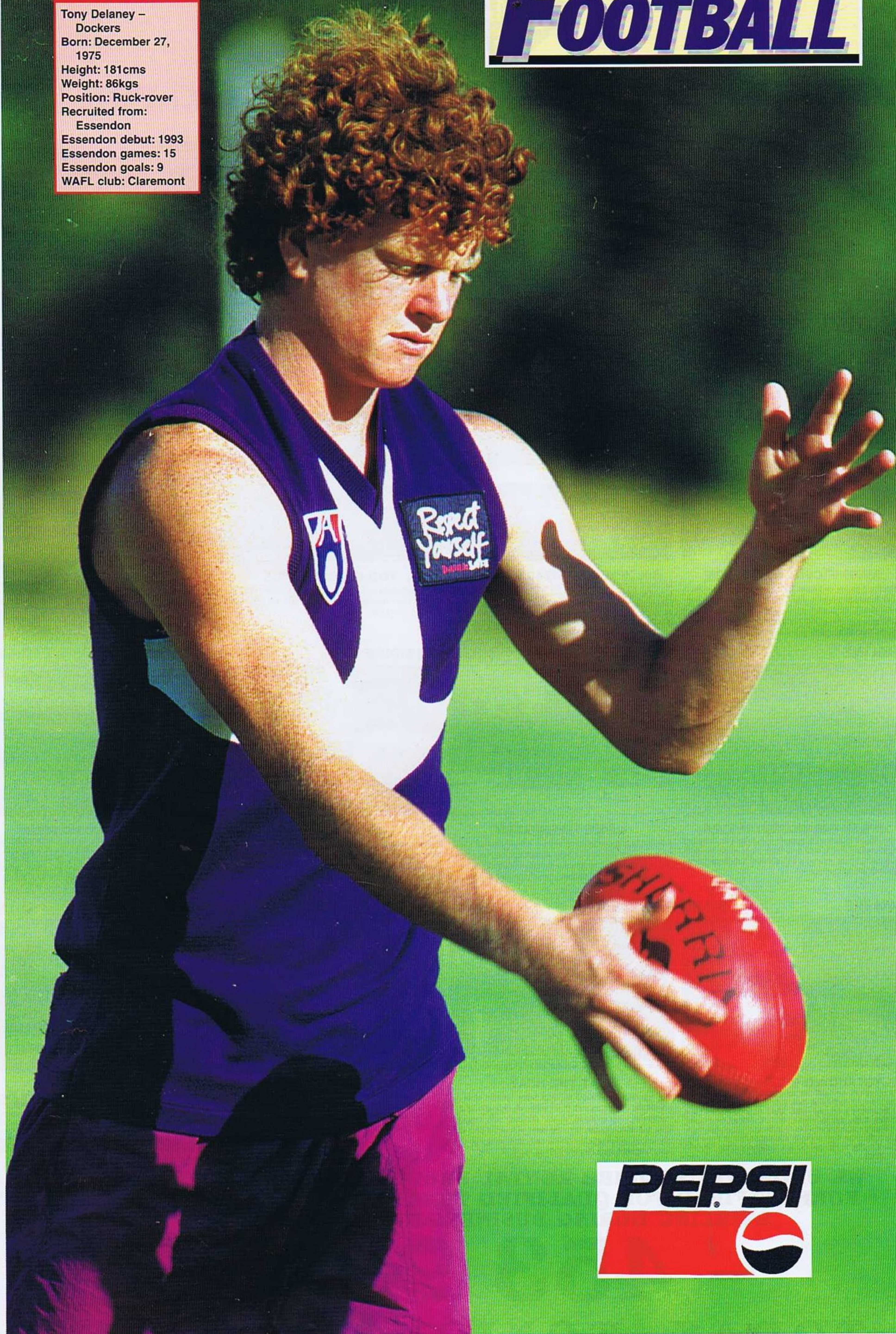
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