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Volume 17. No 3. Edition 472

Thursday, March 9, 1995

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New age

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FORM**

Ansett Cup:

**CROWS TO
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EAGLES**

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PLAYER PROFILE

Karl Langdon – Eagles
Born: March 28, 1968
Height: 191cms
Weight: 91kgs
Eagles debut: 1988
Position: Forward
Recruited from:
Subiaco
Eagles games: – 96
Eagles goals: – 103
WAFL games: – 50
Subiaco
Picture: MICHAEL RADALJ





Sumich ready to repeat '91 century feat

BY JAMES FOSTER

WEST Coast full-forward Peter Sumich is planning to let his football do the talking this year.

And if the pre-season work of the ace goalkicker is any guide, the Eagles may see him repeat his 1991 feat of topping the century.

Fitter Suma

EAGLES fans will see a fitter and trimmer Peter Sumich in front of goals this season – and he's aiming right back at the top again.

After finishing second on the AFL's goalkicking table in 1991, topping the century mark, Suma has struggled with form and fitness.

But he's an integral part of the West Coast premiership challenge and coach Mick Malthouse has continually said that the former Bulldog is his priority choice as full-forward.

Photo: GREG WOOD

While the dual premiership player is reluctant to talk about his promising summer form, Eagles football manager Trevor Nisbett says Sumich's training has been first class.

Sumich struggled last year with injury and form, managing only 49 goals compared with 76 in 1993, 82 in 1992, 111 in 1991 and 90 in 1990.

But according to Nisbett, the 27-year-old forward has worked harder than ever this summer and it was a meaner and leaner Sumich who posted seven goals against Melbourne in the Eagles Ansett Cup win on Saturday night.

"Pete has been very conscious of the fact that he needed to do some extra work in certain areas," Nisbett said this week.

"He has trimmed up with his fitness and has worked a lot harder. He has watched his fitness close-

ly and has probably had a little different programme to what he has done in other years.

"Pete has been doing everything that everyone else has done, but has also been doing some extra work designed by our fitness staff.

"He's done all that and is pretty confident with his fitness as a result of the excellent pre-season.

"I think it's the first time for a few years that Pete has got through the pre-season without any interruptions, which is pretty handy for him."

While Sumich had a disappointing 1994, there were excuses according to Nisbett.

"Last year he received a lot of criticism about being overweight and unfit and all that sort of thing," Nisbett said.

"The problem is when you are out for five or six weeks with an injury, it makes a difference and that's what happened to him last year.

"But this season he would be on a par of a few years ago when he got himself into terrific shape with an uninterrupted preparation.

"I would see him being a very good contributor for us this year and if he can kick more goals than he did last year, then that will be a real bonus."

Nisbett says he's not surprised Sumich wants to take a low-key approach to the season, given the criticism he received last year from the media and his fans.

"I guess he has got the justification to just let his football do the talking," said Nisbett. "There was no-one more maligned by the media and the public last year.

"Pete is in the position where he just wants to get back to where he was a couple of seasons ago."

New look Demons for '95

PERTH'S hopes of avoiding the wooden spoon again were set back a little when last year's top WAFL goalkicker Brenton Cooper returned home to Victoria – but do the Demons even need him now?

Perth showed plenty of promise as they demolished East Perth in their Emu Export Cup opener on Monday and coach David Glascott says that they will quickly learn to spread the goalkicking around.

Perth won by 79 points and although the Royals were disappointing, the Demons were happy with way their side worked.

"David Glascott has had a chance to see what coaching in the WAFL is all about," said

Demons football manager Russell Clark.

"He has re-evaluated his ideas after coaching us in '94 and it's going to be a lot easier for him this season."

Perth's line-up doesn't look a lot different to the side that finished bottom in the Pepsi Cup League last season, but the new faces are full of promise.

Kurt Graham, Chris McGuire and Paul Lenaghan have all moved from other clubs in search of regular WAFL games and the three newly-arrived West Coast players – Shane Sikora, Jeremy Dyer and Ben Robbins – contributed well on Monday.

"With some of our senior players moving on this year, it's good to see newer blokes like Lee Cannon (three goals) do well," says Clark.

Out of the box: The Claremont success secret has been unveiled.

"We've got this box at the club and players just pop up out of it every now and then."

That was the half-joking response from new Tigers coach Darrell Panizza when quizzed about the origins of a couple of potential stars unveiled by Claremont in Saturday's Emu

Export Cup clash with East Fremantle.

While the existence of such a box seems unlikely, one player who looks like he could be one out of the box is former Wembley amateur James Ferguson.

The slightly-built youngster displayed an abundance of two of a footballer's most important attributes – pace and skill.

Playing on a wing, Ferguson dominated proceedings in a midfield that was just too strong for the Sharks.

And Ferguson makes light of the theory that you have to uncover talent early as he is a relative newcomer to the game, taking footy up just three years ago.

Another former Wembley amateur to impress was utility Ben Howard, a strongly-built type who looks as though he could fill a variety of roles for the Tigers.

He lined up on a half-forward flank on Saturday and although he only kicked one goal, he impressed with his tireless work ethic, crisp ball handling and excellent disposal.

Despite looking in trouble after a heavy knock in the third quarter, Howard continued to improve and was one of the best afield in the second half.

OUR COVER



Fremantle are flying rapidly towards their first official AFL match and they will be led into action by tough centreman Ben Allan, the Dockers inaugural captain.

– Photo: MICHAEL RADALJ

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Cornes won't be forgotten

THE South Australian National Football League has made sure that former Adelaide coach Graham Cornes will not become a forgotten man.

The inaugural Crows coach, who took them to within one step of a grand final berth in 1993, has been named state coach for the coming season, putting him up against Victoria in the State-of-Origin series.

Cat in ring: Opponents of Geelong star Gary Ablett should be wary this season, if his pre-season preparation is anything to go by.

Instead of taking part in practice matches, the dual Coleman Medallist chose to don the boxing gloves and spar with Australian champion Lester Ellis.

Ablett handled himself well in the squared circle, easily outweighing his opponent, who was full of praise for the full-forward's punching ability.

High rollers: South Fremantle have gone into the gambling business.

The Bulldogs are betting on a certainty with the opening of a Pub TAB business in their social headquarters at Fremantle Oval.

Souths, one of the privileged clubs to actually own their own licensed premises, have remodernised their bar and social area to accommodate the Pub TAB and betting has kicked off in fine style.

With the Fremantle Dockers finally getting onto the ground to train and the WAFL season fast-approaching, Souths should be on a winner with their involvement in the racing and pacing world.

Moving House: Well-known South West football identity Terry House just can't keep out of the action, taking on the role of coaching Busselton this season.

With a record four South West NFL premierships to his credit at the helm of Harvey-Brunswick — plus three victories with the com-



bined SWNFL side at the annual Wesfarmers country championships — House reigns as one of the most successful coaches in country football.

He has also coached South Bunbury and Boyanup-Capel-Dardanup and operates on the theory that if you put in the hard work, you will get the rewards.

House is a former leading player, winning a Haywards Medal for best and fairest in the SWNFL and ranks as one of South Bunbury's top football products.

Junior moves: Swan Districts, East Fremantle and South Fremantle have followed the lead of the South Suburban Association by appointing regional junior development officers.

Working under the direction of the Town and Country Bank's Football Development Trust, their roles will be to create and enhance school and commu-



Neil Lester-Smith back, in junior development.



Dockers recruit Brendan Krummel shows some East Fremantle juniors what football is all about.

nity football links and promote and develop coaching standards.

Joining South Suburban's Gary O'Shea are Andrew McBean (Swan Districts), Neil Lester-Smith (East Fremantle) and Ron Bayens (South Fremantle).

Bayens, a Subiaco premiership player in 1973, is an experienced footballer who also graduated to league umpiring with the WAFL, while Lester-Smith retired as a Sharks player after being a member of their 1992 premiership side.

One of the first jobs Lester-Smith did was to recruit a former team-mate in Brendan Krummel to feature as the front-line person in a promotion boosting underage football.

Krummel has been visiting juniors in the East Fremantle district to encourage them to register with their local club and the newly-capped Dockers utility player found plenty of enthusiasm among the youngsters.

Like father like son: Football royalty goes head-to-head this season as much-travelled utility player Rod Grljusich hangs up his boots to join the media circus.

Grljusich will join radio 6NR to do around-the-grounds reports, which puts him in direct competition with his famous father, George.

It's quite possible the two will end up covering the same game, so maybe they'll pool their car resources to save petrol costs.



Rod Grljusich . . . set for contest with George

East comeback: Talented East Perth half-forward Heath East is aiming for a WAFL comeback this season after a successful year back in his home town of Manjimup.

The clever goalkicker made his

WAFL debut in 1991 and was the talk of the town after kicking nine goals for East Perth in the 1992 elimination final against Subiaco.

His performance came on the eve of the AFL's November draft and had him touted as a high choice, but the call never came and a 1993 injury-plagued season was next, notching just 10 games.

He returned home to regain fitness and confidence and helped Deamill to a premiership in the Lower

South West League, where he was best-on-ground in the grand final triumph over Southerners, kicking three goals.

Royals officials have enticed East back to the city and a recent training run at Perth Oval confirmed his comeback attempt.

Hawthorn players hold top billing

THERE is a strong Hawthorn flavour about the AFL's pre-season competition, the Ansett Australia Cup.

The \$366,000 series gives the 16 clubs the chance to have a solid month of preparation leading up to the opening of the Coca-Cola sponsored season proper on the weekend of April 1-2.

Since the re-introduction of the night series in 1977, the Hawks have won the flag six times, including the inaugural year and have gone on to win the AFL premiership in September in three of those years.

Two outstanding Hawthorn players hold pride of place in the games-played and goals-kicked categories of the night series.

Tough defender Chris Langford shares the honour with retired Essendon veteran Tim Watson for the most number of night series games, 31

— and he should clear out from the field this year, with the next dozen or so players behind him all retired.

Heading the most goals department is newly-appointed Hawthorn captain Jason Dunstall, who has kicked 106 majors, well-ahead of former Hawk champion Peter Hudson, who kicked 60 goals in the 1956-71 era when the series was first introduced.

Here's how the two tables look, with games and goals from the earlier version of a pre-season competition included:

- Games played:
 31 — Chris Langford (Hawthorn), Tim Watson (Essendon)
 30 — Terry Daniher (Essendon)
 29 — Michael Tuck (Hawthorn), Gary Ayres (Hawthorn)

- 28 — Tony Daniher (Sydney, Essendon)
 27 — Robert DiPierdomenico (Hawthorn), Jason Dunstall (Hawthorn), Simon Madden (Essendon)
 26 — Ross Glendinning (North Melb, West Coast), Wayne Johnston (Carlton), John Kennedy (Hawthorn), Garry Foulds (Essendon), Peter Schwab (Hawthorn), Terry Wallace (Hawthorn, Footscray).

- Goals Kicked:
 106 — Jason Dunstall (Hawthorn)
 60 — Peter Hudson (Hawthorn)
 54 — Dermott Brereton (Hawthorn, Sydney)
 49 — John Dugdale (North Melb), Leigh Matthews (Hawthorn)
 44 — John Peck (Hawthorn)
 36 — Bernie Quinlan (Footscray, Fitzroy)
 35 — Bill Brownless (Geelong).

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Clean break meant swansong for Craig

IF CRAIG Nettelbeck ever decides to renovate his home, he may have to watch the TV show *Home Improvements* for some handy hints – Tim the Toolman he is not!


It was a home handyman exercise that put his career back considerably last year – but that's all in the past for the talented Dockers recruit.

After a rather lean 1993 season, when he played only two senior games, Nettelbeck was aiming to resurrect a promising career that had seen him play 15 games in 1991 and 21 in 1992.

Injuries wrecked season '93 and after missing the first rounds last year, Nettelbeck played the next

News View

James Foster
talks to a new Dockers
presented by



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two matches before a sheet of glass literally shattered his career with the Swans.

"I was trying to be a handyman

at home when I grabbed a sheet of glass," he recalls.

"It cracked at the bottom, slipped through my hands and sliced my foot. It was pretty nasty."

His badly cut foot saw him sidelined for a month – a setback from which he never really recovered – and mid-way through last season, Nettelbeck knew his time with the Swans was up.

"The sheet of glass cut through a tendon in my foot and I missed four weeks. I really never cemented a spot after that," he said.

"I got injured, played a couple of games and then got hurt again before playing the last eight in the reserves."

The 22-year-old also believed his opportunities to play senior football would be limited if he stayed in Sydney, so he started looking elsewhere.

"I knew my time had finished with the Swans," he says.

"I felt I wasn't being given a fair go. I think it might have been a little

bit personal, but I don't really want to say much about that.

"It started half-way through last season when I had a bit of a falling out with them. I knew I had to leave.

"It was then I had a chat with some guys from the Dockers and a few other clubs and, as it worked out, Fremantle was my best option.

"I heard Gerard (Neesham) was a good development coach and that was the reason I headed west.

"It was a young side, it was going to grow and I really wanted to be a part of it.

"It's really good going to a new club. I suppose you get more enthusiastic about the whole thing.

"I was always enthusiastic about my football, but I've got more direction now. I really want to play football."

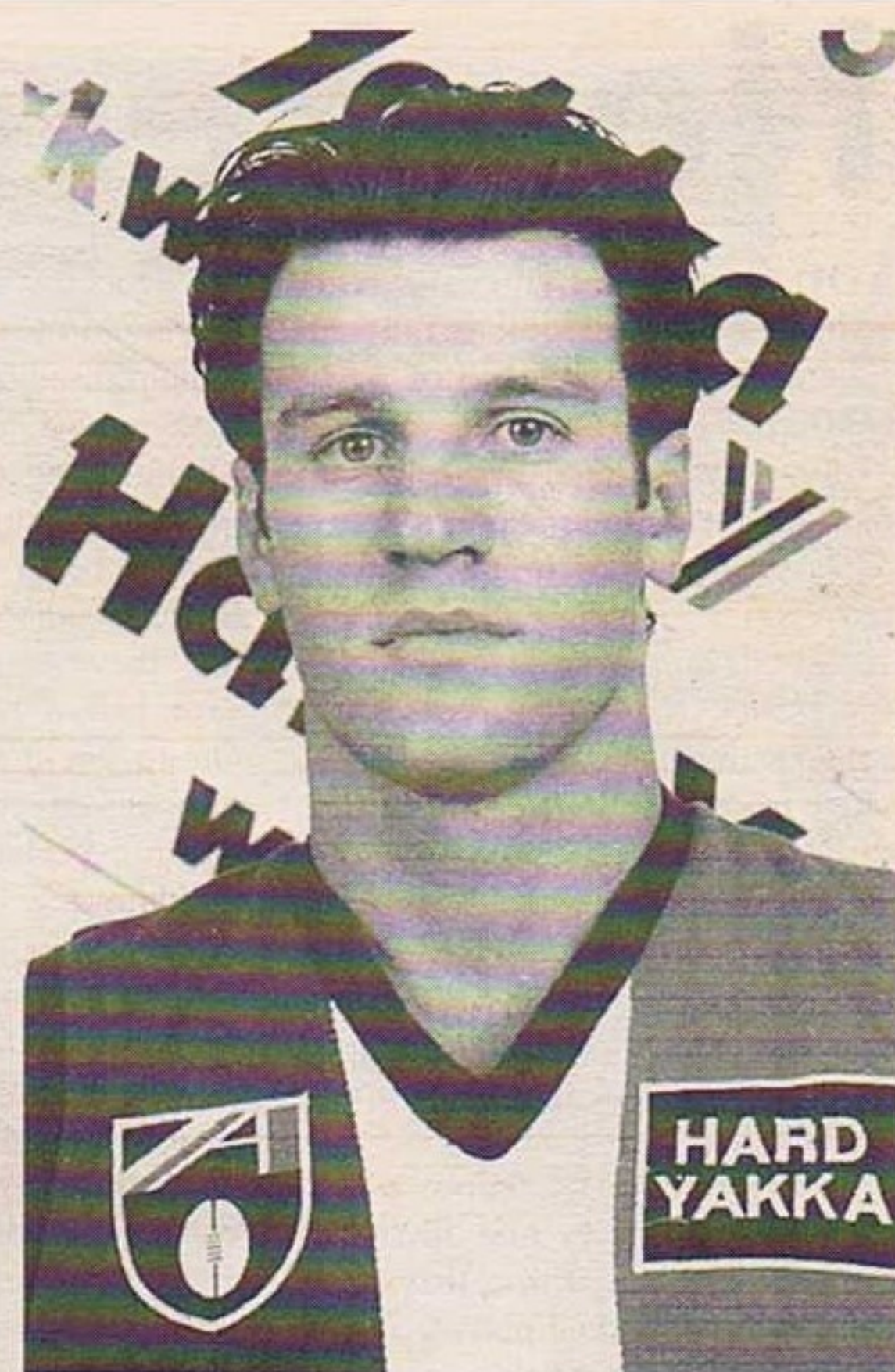
And in the West is where Nettelbeck is happy. After spending five years with the Swans from the age of 16, he is finally tasting life in a football state.

"It's something I never experienced in Sydney," Nettelbeck said.

"It was very quiet in Sydney and not many people got behind the team, but over here everyone seems to get behind you.

"You definitely have more awareness that you are playing footy here and that can only help.

"It's a great feeling. Sydney is a



Craig Nettelbeck is a Sydney-sider who is happy to settle in the West to play footy.

top town, but it wasn't the best place to play Australian Rules football.

"You get a lot of feedback here and I feel Fremantle is right behind us."

Nettelbeck said he misses his family and friends.

"It's hard to get used to not having your friends about, but then in a footy club you have automatically got 40 mates, so it's not too bad."

Already Neesham has given Nettelbeck, a former junior Australian discus champion, the hint he may be required to play at either end of the ground.

But after two years of little senior football, he is just happy for an opportunity.

"I have been playing a little in the forward line and a bit in the back line, which is teaching me to be more versatile," he said.

"I haven't really got a set position, but I can slot in either end of the ground, depending on what's required at the time.

"Basically, I want to play all the games this year – that's my No. 1 objective. If you play every game, you start to grow in confidence and that's the only way to have a good year.

"It will be a tough season; it won't be all fun and games.

"But everyone knows that and I'm really determined to have a good year."

Skipper sees Crows as Shaw thing this year

BY JAMES FOSTER

A NEW coach, a new captain and new hope. After making the preliminary final in 1993, Adelaide failed to reach the finals last year and the club responded by replacing coach Graham Cornes with former Fitzroy mentor Robert Shaw.

Chris McDermott stepped down as skipper, Tony McGuinness took over the reins and a new-look Crows showed the football world they were again ready to be a force.

In their first official game of the year, they walloped Geelong by 61-points in their Ansett Cup clash on Sunday.

"It was a pretty good result for the club," McGuinness said this week.

"We have been going pretty hard at it like everyone else over the past few months.

"With a new coach coming, we've been learning new strategies and the way he works and he has been getting to know us.

"All in all it was a pleasing result, even though it's early in the year and difficult to gauge exactly where clubs are at.

"McGuinness said it was difficult to pinpoint exactly why the club failed so badly last year; it wasn't anything anyone could put their hand on.

"It was disappointing, especially as it came on the back of an exciting year in 1993 when we made the preliminary final," he said.

"What went wrong for the club was a lack of experience in coming to grips with what happened the year before.

"We just didn't go to the next level, so basically everyone has got that in the back of their minds.

"We have written last year off and are looking forward to this season."

Already McGuinness has a fair idea of how Shaw will direct his troops in his first season at the helm.

"All coaches have different styles, strategies and messages

they try to get across," McGuinness said.

"Graham did an excellent job for the four years he was with us, but it was always going to be difficult for the first coach, as it was a real learning curve.

"Shawry has obviously had a similar learning curve at Fitzroy and now comes into the club with fresh ideas.

"It will be a matter of not suppressing our natural game, which is a free flowing one, but just tidying that up and adding a stronger defensive component to it.

"I think all 16 teams would be expecting to make the finals this year and we are no different.

"All I can say is the new coach has settled in well, the players are responding to his leadership styles and we are looking forward to an exciting year."

Shaw recently said his players needed to know a lot more about their opposition players if they were to be successful.

"In any sporting sphere or business it's important to know what your opposition is doing and it's a matter of keeping up with what's happening on the east coast and with you guys in Perth," McGuinness said.

"And that should be a natural progression in your footy make-up. "You can never do enough homework no matter what level you're at.

"Robert has been pretty active in getting us to understand what our opposition is doing, that's not to say we didn't do it in the past; it's just what level you want to focus at."

While McGuinness is pleased to have been appointed captain, he doesn't expect things to be any different to last season.

"I am honoured and thrilled to get the position, but not a lot has changed," he said.

"Chris has been a fantastic leader and will continue to be with the side.

"Just because I've got a 'C' next to my name doesn't mean I become more of a leader or less of one.



Newly-appointed Adelaide captain Tony McGuinness.

"The captain should lead by example and when the crunch times come, hopefully I will be able to stand up."

Given Geelong were grand finalists last year and West Coast the premiers, McGuinness is looking forward to finding out what level his team is at when they clash with the Eagles this Sunday.

"The Eagles are continually the bench mark of the competition and I'm sure that will be the same case this year," he said.

"We end up every year playing the Eagles early on and that's a good thing because they are the leaders of the competition.

"They were premiers last year and Mick Malthouse has always got them up and running pretty early."

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It's a simple fact that being an interstate team, television will play a big role in the development of our players.

All our home games will be televised back to Melbourne, so the whole team will be under the microscope from the word go.

People in Melbourne will be watching us every second week, so opposition players and coaches are really going to be able to look at our team weaknesses and strengths more closely than the Melbourne-based clubs.

For instance, we know a lot more about Sydney and Brisbane players, as opposed to a team like Fitzroy, because their players aren't in the spotlight as much.

Brisbane and Sydney are on TV every second week, so you get to understand a lot of their strategies and their players.

The other coaches will also be able to see what sort of team style

the Dockers are playing, which is a slight disadvantage, because having young and inexperienced players being so critically analysed, they won't have half a season to get away with things that they perhaps could have.

People will be pretty quick to jump on any weakness our players might display early on, or try and nullify someone's obvious strengths.

We certainly won't be taking any team by surprise. Any advantage you can get these days is going to be used. If it cuts out a goal a quarter, it's obviously worthwhile for the opposition.

Historically, except for the Eagles and Adelaide two years ago, the interstate teams have all struggled.

But you still seem to know their

Free Feelings

Inaugural Dockers captain
Ben Allan
writes exclusively
for Westside
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players more than other clubs because they are on TV every week.

It makes your job easier when your own team is doing set plays and analysing your opposition.

On the individual side, you are also far more aware of your

opposition's physical attributes, whether they kick left or right foot — little things that all help when trying to beat your opponent.

We are going to be under the pump from the word go, but the quicker the younger blokes stand up and become mature and hardened AFL players, the better we will be.

The Eagles put up with it and they have obviously survived the problem of over-exposure and, hopefully, we can follow in their footsteps.



Dockers hopeful Darren Capewell uses his strength to hold out young Richmond big man Robert Schaefer

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Backward step works wonders

BY CRAIG NITSCHKE

A BACKWARD move has proved a saviour for border-line West Coast player Daniel Metropolis.

The Subiaco sharp-shooter was the talk of the AFL on April 5, 1992, when he bagged six goals in a sensational debut against St Kilda at Subiaco Oval.

But at the end of the 1994 season, he had boosted his tally by just four more goals in five subsequent games.

Metropolis has revealed he was worried "for most of last year" that he might not retain his spot on the Eagles list.

But a master stroke by Subiaco coach Tony Solin mid-season has increased his chances of a recall to AFL ranks after a year in the wilderness.

Solin switched Metropolis from attack to centre-half-back and he emerged as a key player with the Lions because of his dash and skilful use of the ball.

"It might have been my saviour," said the talented utility, who turns 23 on Friday week. "I was rapt. I played a lot there in reserves and a bit there in '91 in the league. I'm pretty confident in defence."

Metropolis has revelled in his return to the Eagles line-up and impressed on a half-back flank in Saturday's demolition of Melbourne.

"Every game is an opportunity to get experience and show your wares a bit," he said this week.

"I've still got a lot of work to do in some areas, but in general my form has been pretty good. I think I've progressed a bit from last year."

Metropolis, like a host of other fringe players, knows the importance of performing well pre-season.

"Every game is a finals game for me," he said. "I would say this is very close to being my last chance. I've got to have a good year."

"I must admit I was very nervous on Saturday. It was the first proper hit-out and you hope to play well. I was very relieved when the game was over and I had played all right."

But Metropolis realises that with eight premierships players sidelined last weekend, competition will be fierce for spots.

"I have set my goals to play in the first game (against St Kilda at the WACA Ground on April 2), he said.

"It's going to be hard break in into the best defence in the competition.

"But all you can do is train hard and keep putting your face in front of the selectors and hope your form can carry you through."

"You've got to be optimistic. You are playing well, it's hard to get dropped."



Metropolis — pleased about second chance

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Crows star back for vital match

BY JAMES FOSTER

ADELAIDE star forward Tony Modra is expected to be rushed back into the Crows line-up for their clash against West Coast at Football Park on Sunday.

Modra has served a one-week suspension imposed by the AFL for 'conduct unbecoming' on the plane trip home from London last year after the Crows played an exhibition match.

Adelaide's football manager John Condon said defender Mark Bickley and Greg Anderson were also possibilities to return for the match.

Bickley broke a bone in his foot last year and re-broke it just before Christmas, while Anderson received a kick in the calf in a practice match against Melbourne, but both have been training well.

The Eagles appear set to bolster their team with Chris Waterman, Ashley McIntosh, Don Pyke and Dean Kemp all under consideration.

"I think we could have three or four back and those players are the most likely to be available out of the senior group," said Eagles football manager Trevor Nisbett.

The Eagles might just need them when they take on a pumped up Adelaide, who thrashed last year's AFL grand finalists, Geelong, by 61 points last Sunday.

"They played pretty well. They have got a good squad, so it will be a tough game," Nisbett said.

If last year's night match at Football Park between the Eagles and the Crows is any guide, fans can expect a thriller.

The teams couldn't be separated at full-time and extra time was needed before the Crows ran out 19-point winners.

Both teams will be full of confidence as they approach Sunday's game.

The Eagles ran out easy 34-point winners over Melbourne on Saturday night, despite stars like Glen Jakovich, Guy McKenna and Peter Matera all struggling and coach Mick Malthouse later describing some of his senior players as "woeful."

But not so Peter Sumich and Chris Lewis. The magical Lewis bobbed up with four goals and the Eagles were well-pleased with Sumich's form.

The star full-forward posted seven goals - including a classic 50-metre soccer shot - and after

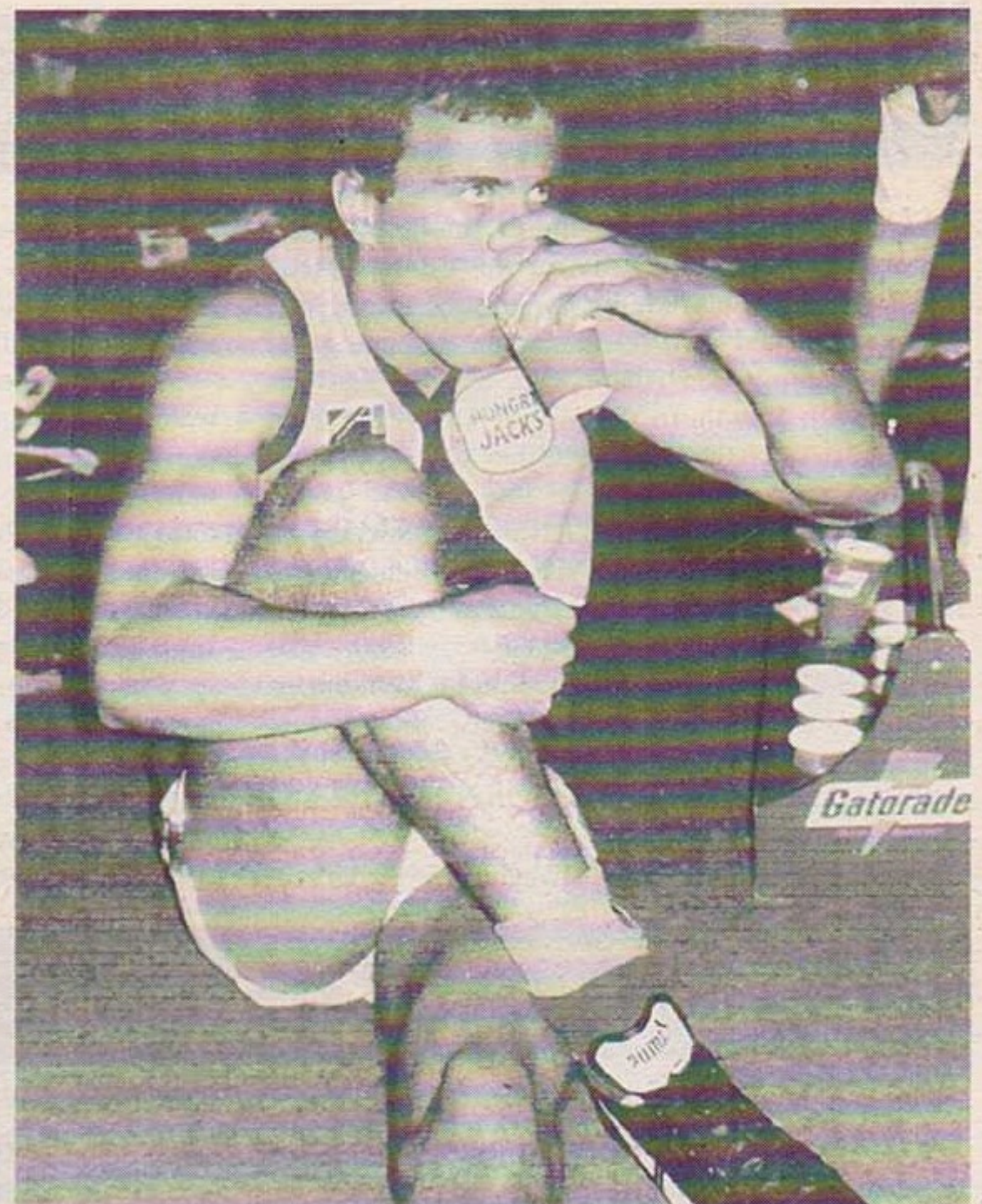
last year's lean pickings of only 49 goals, he has come back looking fitter and stronger.

Emerging Eagle Fraser Gehrig and comeback man Daniel Metropoulos also did their prospects of becoming regular players no harm with strong performances against the Demons.

Adelaide, under Robert Shaw, showed they are likely to improve dramatically on last year's poor showing, by making the Cats look second-rate.

The Crows were always in command and had 11 different goal-scorers with Tony Hall, in the forward pocket, kicking five against four opponents.

Bookmakers have installed Adelaide favourite at 4/6 and the Eagles at 10/9.



Fraser Gehrig might look a little tangled up here as he goes through a pre-match routine, but he was in top form last week for the Eagles.



Ansett Australia Cup match reports

GAME 5 FOOTSCRAY survived several late Collingwood attacks to win a cliff-hanger by a point.

The Magpies wasted three easy chances to grab victory, the last from Trent Hotton with just seconds to go.

Seeing the Bulldogs across the

line were Chris Grant and Richard Osborne (three goals each), with rover Scott West setting up several scoring opportunities.

Collingwood's Nathan Buckley (three goals) was in sensational form and looms as one of the stars of the season, while Gavin Brown also played well.

GAME 6 WITH last year's wooden-spoon and new recruit Tony Lockett, Sydney fought back from a six-goal third-term deficit to beat Hawthorn by 13 points.

Lockett kicked four goals, gave away several others, and nine players made the Swans scoreboard.

Sydney big man Adam Heuskes (three goals) sparked the revival, with captain Paul Kelly and veteran Mark Bayes also starring.

Hawthorn's ever-reliable Jason Dunstall kicked seven goals.

GAME 7 THE depth of premiers West

Coast showed through in their 44-point win over Melbourne.

Fraser Gehrig, Daniel Metropoulos, Drew Banfield and Mitchell White all flagged their intentions for season '95 and a fitter-looking Peter Sumich showed a return to form by kicking 7.3.

Melbourne had a stunning debut from Tambellup teenager Jeff Farmer, who went straight to the AFL from the Great Southern League.

GAME 8 TO SAY Adelaide were too good for Geelong at Football Park is an under-statement.

Under new coach Robert Shaw, the Crows thrashed Gary Ayres' Cats by 61 points, leading by 71 points at the last change.

Tony Hall took over from Tony Modra, marking strongly and kicking 5.2 in three quarters.

Former Magpie Jason McCartney enjoyed his first run with his new team, posting three majors.

Former West Coasters Matt Connell and Derek Hall put in solid performances.

GAME 9 - QUARTER FINAL St Kilda took the first semi-final berth with a last-minute win over Carlton.

When the Saints kicked their first goal, 11 minutes into the second term, they trailed by 43 points and looked anything but winners.

But midfielders Robert Harvey, Craig Devenport and Rod Keogh lifted and when rookie Joel Smith goaled with 30 seconds to go, the Saints hit the front for the second time in the last four minutes.

Blues wingman Brad Pearce had a chance to steal it back for his side and the crowd erupted when the goal umpire signalled a behind.

Ansett Australia Cup Details

FOOTSCRAY 4.6 5.7 12.9 12.16 88

COLLINGWOOD 2.5 8.9 10.11 12.15 87

GOALS - Footscray: Grant, Osborne 3; Kellett, Romero 2; Kretiuik, Lane. **Collingwood:** Buckley, Liddell 3; Hassall 2; Brown, Sharkey, Hotton, A. James.

BEST - Footscray: Grant, West, Johnson, Kretiuik, Osborne, Kellett. **Collingwood:** Buckley, Brown, Hassall, Croisica, Liddell, Russell.

SYDNEY 3.3 6.6 12.9 18.11 119

HAWTHORN 3.1 8.3 12.7 16.10 106

GOALS - Sydney: Bayes, Heuskes, Kappler, Lockett 3; Grant 2; McRae, Kelly, Lang, Kickett. **Hawthorn:** Dunstall 7; Hudson 4; Jencke, Crow, Holland, Pritchard, Barnard.

BEST - Sydney: Kelly, Heuskes, Kappler, Bayes, McRae, Kickett. **Hawthorn:** Dunstall, McCabe, Langford, Hudson.

WEST COAST 4.2 9.6 12.13 16.15 111

MELBOURNE 5.2 6.6 8.11 11.11 77

GOALS - West Coast: Sumich 7; Lewis 4; Heady, Banfield, White.

Gehrig, Turnbull. Melbourne: Lamprill, Charles 3; Farmer 2; Neitz, B. Lovett, M. Febey.

BEST - West Coast: Lewis, Turley, Banfield, Sumich, Gehrig, Turnbull. **Melbourne:** Lovell, Viney, B. Lovett, Seecamp, Neitz, Charles.

ADELAIDE 4.4 9.9 16.15 23.16 154

GEELONG 3.3 4.6 5.10 13.15 93

GOALS - Adelaide: Hall 5; McCartney, Pesch, Brown 3; Wellman, Rehn 2; McDermott, McGuinness, Connell, Maynard, McKinnon. **Geelong:** Barnes 3; McGrath, Hall 2; Lord, Tudor, Lynch, Pickering, Simpson, Hickmott.

BEST - Adelaide: Pittman, McGuinness, Robran, Jameson, Wellman, McKinnon. **Geelong:** Barnes, Handley, Sholl.

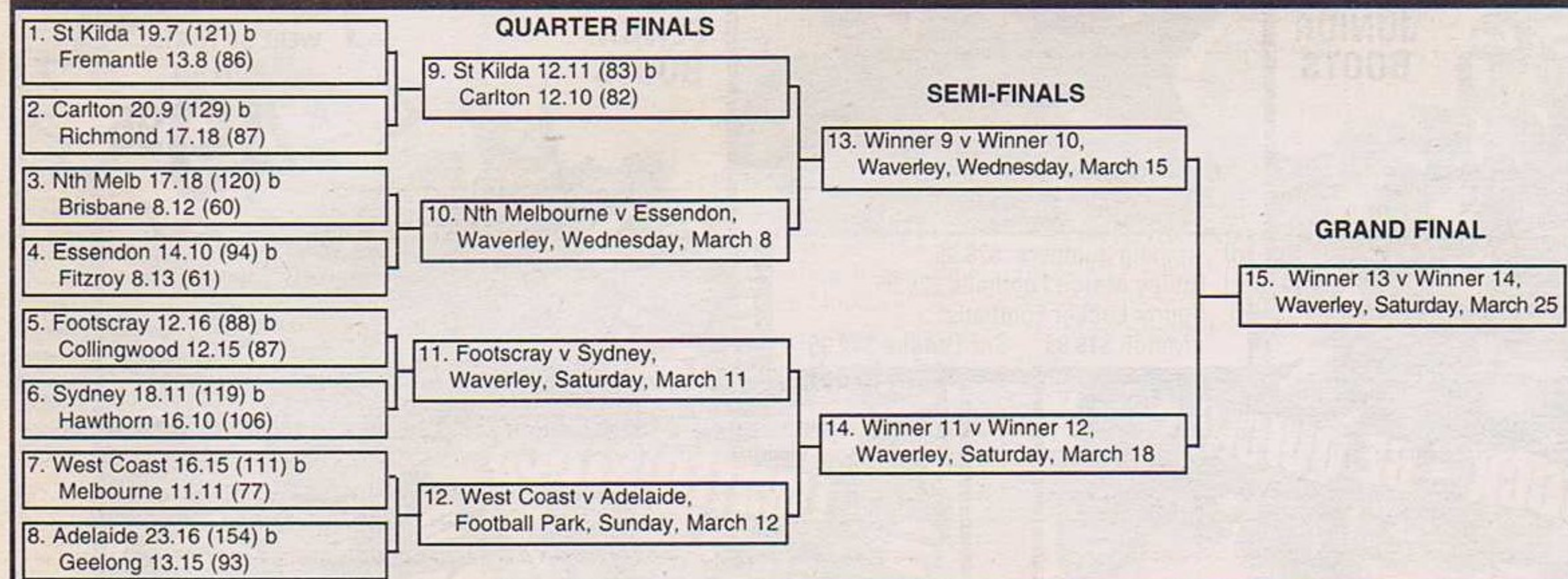
ST KILDA 0.2 3.5 6.8 12.11 83

CARLTON 3.2 7.6 8.9 12.10 82

GOALS - St Kilda: Jones 3; Matthews, O'Brien, Loewe 2; Sziller, Smith, Pekin. **Carlton:** Kernahan, Cook 3; Spalding, Gleeson, Camporeale, Pearce, Bradley, O'Sullivan.

BEST - St Kilda: Devonport, Harvey, Keogh, Jones, Peckett, Loewe. **Carlton:** Christou, Sexton, Allan, Whitehead, Dean, Spalding.

YOUR 1995 ANSETT AUSTRALIA CUP FIXTURES GUIDE



We're shipping the Dockers.

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Eagles get lots of kicks

TWO interesting names stand at the head of the Burswood's Best kicks tally for the 1994 season - Don Pyke and Ben Allan.

Pyke finished two kicks ahead of inaugural Dockers captain Ben Allan, who, at the time, was playing with Hawthorn. Pyke and Allan have been good mates since the days when they played together at Claremont.

In previous years the two have often lined up on each other when West Coast clashed with Hawthorn and have had some entertaining battles.

With Fremantle playing West Coast twice this season, the clashes between the pair could be a highlight of the WA derby games. The fact that both have won club champion awards with their respective teams confirms the effect they have when they get possession of the football.

The Burswood's Best stats panel keeps readers up

to date with the performances of the leading AFL players in kicks, marks and handballs.

Although no Eagles were listed in the top 10 players for marks and handballs, three made it onto the kicks list. Pyke led that tally with 392 kicks, while Chris Mainwaring (360) and Glen Jakovich (359) were fifth and sixth respectively.

When three players such as these touch the ball as often as they do - and use the ball well - it's no wonder the Eagles have become a power.

As the AFL season proper gets underway, watch out for this space each week for your weekly updated Burswood's Best lists.



Don Pyke

Mick's boys on target

THE WEST Coast victory against Melbourne last Saturday kept the Eagles on target to become only the sixth team to follow a premiership in the regular season with a win in the next year's night series.

Essendon took out last year's pre-season competition after winning the AFL flag in 1993; Hawthorn followed premiership wins in '91, '85 and '76 with summer triumphs in the night series and Carlton repeated their success in winning the 1982 grand final by taking out the night series in 1983.

Five teams have won the night-day premiership double in one season - Hawthorn in '86, '88 and '91 and Essendon in '84 and '93

Tally lifted: Hawthorn's Jason Dunstall lifted his goals tally in night games to 113 with a seven-goal haul against Sydney in Canberra on Saturday.

Dunstall, who has played 28 night games, is well clear of former Hawthorn forwards Peter Hudson (60) and Dermott Brereton (54), who are the only other players to have kicked more than 50 goals in night matches.

Cats out: Geelong tumbled out of the Ansett Cup competition at the hands of Adelaide on Sunday - and for the fifth time in six seasons the Cats have been eliminated from the night series in their first match.

Stats & Facts

By Westside Football's historian

Richard Camm



The club with the most consistent record in the night series is Adelaide - with at least one win every season since entering the competition in 1991.

The Crows have won nine of 13 matches played in the night series - a winning rate of 69.2 percent.

Only Hawthorn - with wins in 70-percent of night series games since 1956 - have performed better in percentage terms.

Adelaide have failed to make the semi-finals in the night series only once - in 1993, when they were 19-point losers to eventual premiers Essendon in a quarter final.

Eagles 50-50: WEST Coast have played 18 night matches - with a 9-9 win-loss record - and have played against 11 different opponents.

The Eagles have played all clubs except Brisbane, Carlton, Fremantle and Richmond at least once in night matches.

Burswood's Best

THE AFL'S LEADING PERFORMERS

The following tables show who topped the AFL in 1994 in the kicks, marks and handballs department, including all finals:

KICKS		MARKS		HANDBALLS	
Don Pyke (Eagles)	392	David Schwarz (Melbourne)	173	Greg Williams (Carlton)	364
Ben Allan (Hawthorn)	390	Wayne Carey (Nth Melbourne)	164	Chris McDermott (Adelaide)	314
Nathan Buckley (Collingwood)	376	Stephen Kernahan (Carlton)	160	Paul Broderick (Richmond)	293
Mark Hunter (Footscray)	365	Chris Grant (Footscray)	155	Todd Viney (Melbourne)	288
Chris Mainwaring (Eagles)	360	Garry Lyon (Melbourne)	151	Craig Lambert (Brisbane)	279
Glen Jakovich (Eagles)	359	Shaun Rehn (Adelaide)	149	Garry Hocking (Geelong)	273
Wayne Schwass (North Melbourne)	353	Brendan Gale (Richmond)	144	Barry Mitchell (Carlton)	268
Tony McGuinness (Adelaide)	352	Jason Dunstall (Hawthorn)	144	Brett Lovett (Melbourne)	241
Anthony Stevens (North Melbourne)	343	James Hird (Essendon)	143	Shaun Rehn (Adelaide)	236
Garry Hocking (Geelong)	338	Jason Taylor (Hawthorn)	142	Paul Couch (Geelong)	229
Scott West (Footscray)	338	Paul Roos (Fitzroy)	141	Gavin Brown (Collingwood)	219

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Toddy aims to put bite back into Bulldogs

COACHING legend John Todd has turned his geographical map of Perth upside down this season — and he's loving it.

The football year will see Todd make the trip to Bassendean Oval as an invader, not the reigning supremo — and that's certainly a different feeling after coaching Swan Districts for 16 of the past 18 years.

During those many years he made numerous trips from his home near Fremantle to the opposite end of the railway line, but now he's within jogging distance of his new footy headquarters.

He's now back "home" — at South Fremantle, where he first made his name as a 16-year-old destined to be rated one of the all-time great players.

While injury was a justifiable excuse for Todd's career to be curtailed after 132 games, he's making no excuses as he rebuilds the Bulldogs for 1995.

Already he has emptied out the player-barrel and, as the saying says, a new broom sweeps clean.

Souths had a disappointing season in 1994, missing the finals by six games.

Todd is glad to be back at Fremantle Oval, but admits that he is looking forward to the prospect of visiting the club where he achieved four premierships.

"My time at Swans was enjoyable and I left on a good note," he says.

"I'll be glad to see a lot of people I respect tremendously."

Todd is more than happy to return to the Port city, where his involvement with West Australian football began 41 years ago.

"It's great to back in Freo for many reasons," he says.

"I've been away for a few years and it's nice to get back to where the action is — the centre of Fremantle is out the front door

and the markets are over the road.

"Life comes a full circle," he says referring to being back where he started.

"It's great to see some of the old players I played with and renew friendships with people who put Souths on the map during their golden era, when they won six premierships.

"Those people were great achievers for Souths and they must never be forgotten," he said, referring to the 1947-54 era.

"I had been disappointed in Souths performance over recent periods and felt it was time to see if I could contribute.

"I had seen some of my peers become disillusioned with the club. I thought I may be able to resurrect South Fremantle and bring some joy back to those people."

Throughout his career Todd has been willing to take on the hard tasks and he's happy to do it again at Souths.

"It's the same position I was in with Swans, having to resurrect a struggling club and I'm happy to give it a shot," Todd said.

Todd's trips back to Bassendean Oval this season — in rounds 5 and 19 — will see a re-match with his old friend and coaching protege Graham Melrose, who has stepped into the shoes of the man he served faithfully as captain in three premiership sides — at East Fremantle in 1974 and Swans in 1982 and '83.

They have already had one re-match, a practice hit-out a few weeks back when the stronger-looking Bulldogs came away victorious.

"It was just a pre-season game," says Todd. "You can't take anything from it other than to give players some match-play so they are ready when the season starts; it's no big deal."

Todd says he's tried to change the direction at Souths and open the door for the young guys around the club.

Some well-known Bulldogs of recent years have moved on and Todd makes no apology for that, saying it was time for fresh blood.

"There were players who had their shot and it was time for them to move aside to give younger guys a chance," he says.

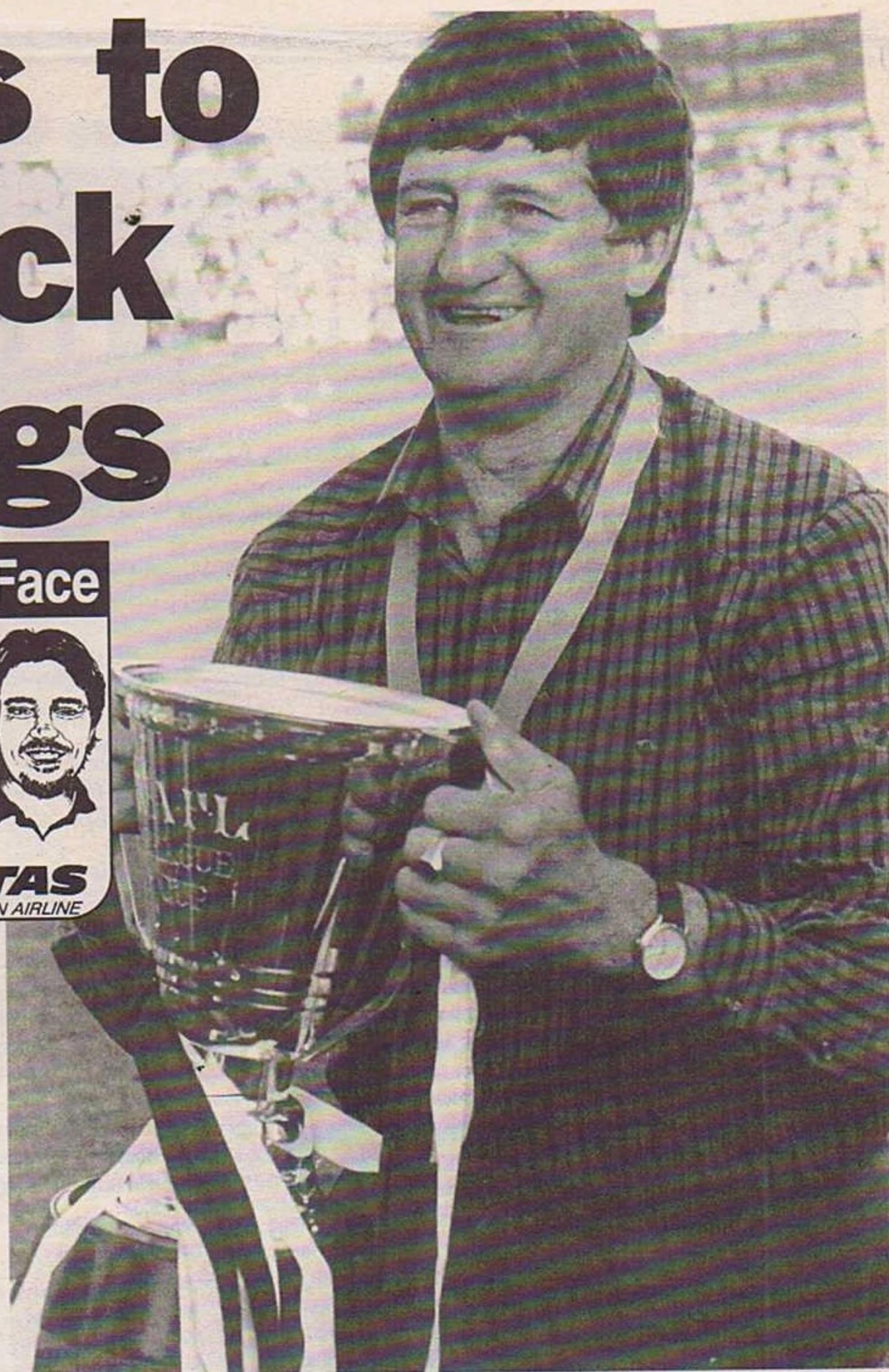
Face to Face

Scott Coghlan

talks to football's long-serving coach John Todd.

presented by

QANTAS
THE AUSTRALIAN AIRLINE



▲ The spoils of another premiership cup comes John Todd's way.

▼ The point of it all . . . getting players to respond.

"Whenever those opportunities arise, there is always a good feeling around a club."

Despite the player losses, Todd is quietly confident about the coming season.

"We'll be okay, we're very enthusiastic and the young players are keen to learn," he says.

"We've got some good leaders in captain Peter Worsfold, vice-captain Jon Dorotich and Marty Atkins to guide the young players. Stephen Pears will also be a good player for us.

"We've got a good mix of youngsters and experienced players," he added.

Coaching high-profile football clubs is never easy and it hasn't always been smooth sailing for Todd, but he still considers himself luckier than most.

"I'm very contented because I've been fortunate enough to do something I love for so long," he says.

"Most people don't get the chance to do that.

"I've enjoyed everything I've done. I'm a life member of South Fremantle, Swan Districts and the WAFL — so I'm pretty fortunate."



Todd has a reputation for being a hard taskmaster and, at times being difficult, a tag that's hard to reconcile with his relaxed voice and contented mood.

"As long as I've got peace of mind — which I've certainly got — that's all that's important," he said.

Todd doesn't know how much longer he will coach for, but he's not afraid of the end.

"As far as I'm concerned I'll have no regrets when I turn my back on coaching," he said.

"I go fishing off the beach, I'm no expert but I enjoy catching a few tailor if I can."



Contented . . . that's the look on John Todd's face.

 **QANTAS**
THE AUSTRALIAN AIRLINE

Another milestone for r

By WESTSIDE FOOTBALL EDITOR, ALAN EAST

THE world of football has taken a number of interesting turns in recent times and yet another scenario has opened up in the West.

The arrival of Fremantle as the Australian Football League's sixteenth team in the national competition marks another milestone in the century-old game.

It has also achieved a number of things locally, such as:

- Given parochial Fremantle people something passionate to adopt.
- Helped balance the media coverage of what was a one-team-town, albeit a highly-successful one.
- Done away with the bye in the AFL.
- And it's added to the scope of what is now commonly referred to as the football career path.

As the wheel revolves, the WA Football League competition changes face from what the old dihard once knew. The Pepsi Cup League now becomes a central axle in the wheel and is emerging as an integral part of the whole scenario.

Over the years there have been many and varied ways of rising to the top of the football tree – long acknowledged as the Victorian Football League and latterly by its new name, AFL.

There were players of days gone by who trekked across the Nullarbor Plain by train to chance their luck in Melbourne; turning their back on the local league and often being shunned by their former clubmates and officials who regard such border-crossing as almost traitorous.

Bassendean boy Dave Cuzens did it, going to Melbourne, via Kalgoorlie, where he got stuck for four years before completing the journey; Alec Epis did it, going straight from Kalgoorlie to Essendon. But both paid a severe penalty, being forced to stand out of VFL ranks for one and two years respectively because of the reluctance to grant clearances.

In latter days it was page one news when the talent-hungry Victorian scouts snared the signature of a big-name WA player such as Barry Cable or Graham Farmer, who was regarded as one of the biggest recruiting coups of all time, while North Melbourne had to give Perth four players just to borrow Cable for one year.

Ross Glendinning made the move in the 1970s, but was forced home and had to kick out another season at East Perth before being allowed back to Victoria to become one of the game's all-time greats. In latter days Brian Peake's departure to Victoria was a sensational mid-season where his arrival at Geelong saw him land at Kardinia Park in a helicopter.

Things have become more sophisticated lately with an annual cattle muster known as the national draft – a television production that sees tables of experts sitting around determining the careers of dozens of teenagers scattered right around the country.

Any aspiring footballer with a taste for the top has to nominate himself in the draft and there are plenty of strings attached before you become eligible – you have to be affiliated with a league such as the WAFL, you have to be aged 17 and you have to be prepared to go wherever you're told. If you're a country boy from southern New South Wales and someone in the City of Melbourne wants you to join the big league, then that's it . . . off you go.

Likewise, if you're born-and-bred in the tough inner suburbs of Melbourne and Brisbane calls you, then north you head, with bathers and thongs in your travelling bags.

While the whole draft operation seems immoral and unfair, it's a fact of life that you need to be called up through those channels if you're going to make it to the big-money league – and it is handy dollars. In today's modern-age of football, older players like Tony Lockett, Greg Williams or Gary Ablett can demand – and expect – more than \$300,000 a season.

Not-so-old stars like Ben Allan and Wayne Carey are getting around \$200,000 today and even the young stars like Glen Jakovich and Nathan Buckley can command \$150,000 or so for a year of football action. So it's worth going through the trauma of a shift interstate, to leave family and friends and uproot your life to aim at the top shelf.

Take the challenge ahead for young Victorians Ben Robbins, Jeremy Dyer and Shane Sikora – they are all aged around 18, very raw in the world of living and surviving.

But they have departed their comfortable homes on the east coast to join the Eagles nest, where a homely welcome awaited them and a solid and professional family structure was in place to help them settle in. And it's here that the career path comes into play. The fledgling Eagles are a year or so away from actually playing AFL; their Eagles guernsey numbers might be allocated and they've been fitted out for all other parts of the uniform.

But, apart from practice matches and training sessions, they won't get to wear the action jumper for a while. In the interim period, they will live life as members of the 42-man West Coast squad, training four or five times a week and then on weekends they'll transform into Demons, wearing the black-and-red colours of Perth and lining up in the Pepsi Cup league as part of their WAFL initiation.

The fact that the Football Commission – with some gentle persuasion from a few club officials, especially those at the Eagles – agreed to allocate all three teenagers to Perth is a sure sign that the welfare of the players is being given high priority. As Demons coach David Glascott, a Victorian in his second year in the WAFL, says:

"We're more than happy to accommodate the three youngsters. They can add some much-needed pace to our team and I'm sure they'll settle in well."

Trevor Nisbett, Eagles football manager and a man who knows how important it is to make young players feel comfortable off the field, says it's crucial for the three boys to be at the same WAFL club.

"It's hard enough coming across the country to settle into an AFL club when you're 17 or 18," he said. "But then to settle into a new club in the WAFL is even more difficult and that's why we wanted them to stay together. At least they know each other and that will help them at Perth."

So, while Eagles veterans of the ilk of Peter Wilson, Paul Harding and David Hart continue to strut their stuff in the AFL, a decade or more behind them are a whole bunch of aspiring stars, all prepared to serve their apprenticeship in the WAFL.

While the cynics say that the WAFL isn't what it used to be – and that's certainly true – it's still going to be very good. The Pepsi Cup League will be full of exciting young footballers with an eye to the top.



Left: The WAFL stage . . . Dr Peter Tannock, chairman of the WA Football Commission, has a contented look on his face as he watches 1994 premiership duo Steve Malaxos and Ken Judge celebrate their Pepsi Cup win – with the symbolic crane in the background signifying new developments at Subiaco Oval.

Right: The major stage in football – the MCG on grand final day with John Worsfold and Mick Malthouse basking in the glory of a premiership in the nation's highest profile sport.

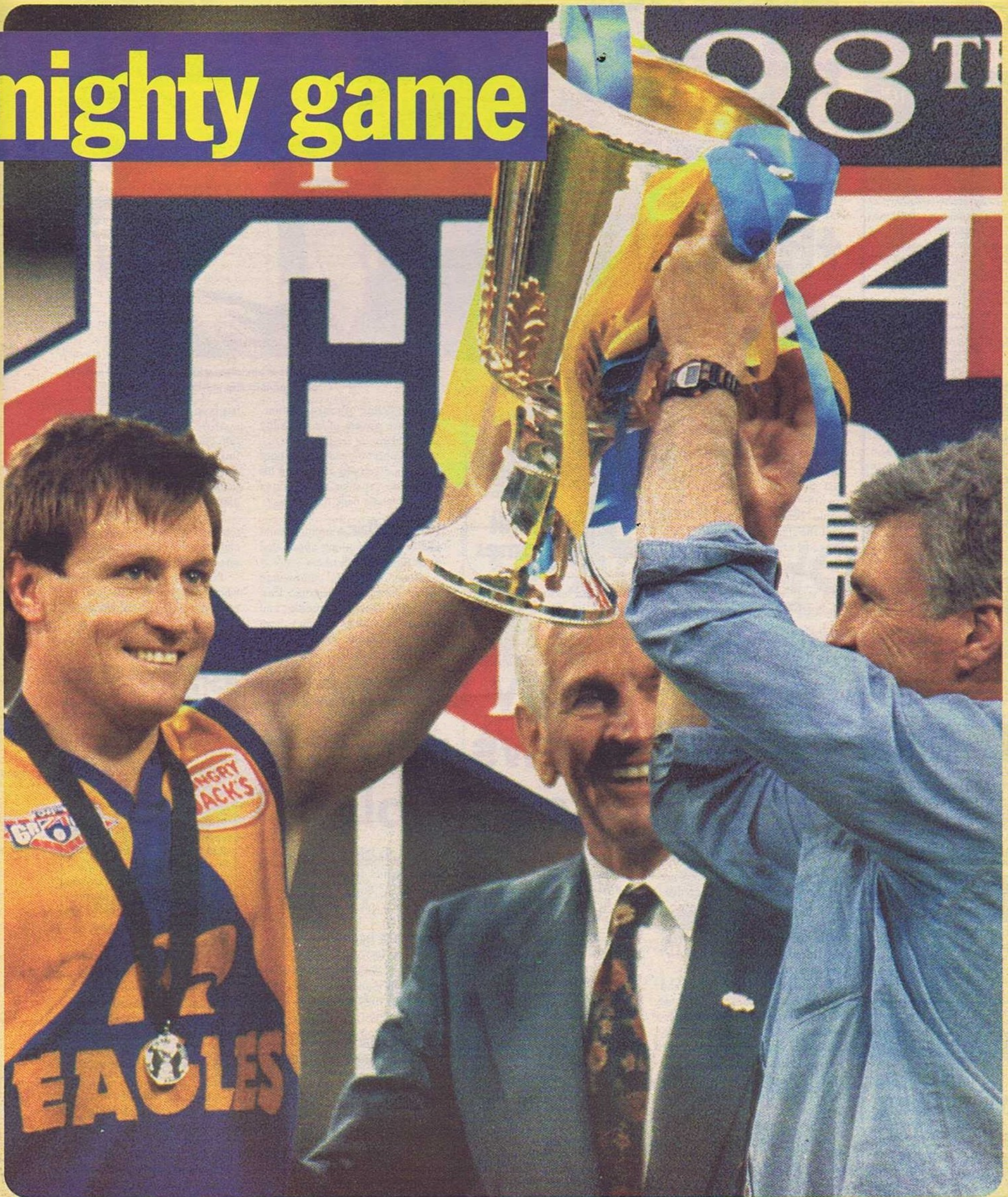
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Milestone Men 50 GAMES

- 49 Chris Gerreyn (Claremont)
 - 49 Craig McNaughton (Perth)
 - 48 Nick Caputi (South Frem)
 - 48 Matthew McMurray (Perth)
 - 47 Tony Godden (Subiaco)
 - 47 Clinton Wolf (Claremont)
 - 46 Paul Morgan (Claremont)
 - 46 Dale Kickett (Dockers)*
 - 45 Craig Nettelbeck (Dockers)*
- * Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Dale Kickett 15 Fitzroy, 2 West Coast, 21 St Kilda, 8 Essendon. Craig Nettelbeck 45 Sydney.

100 GAMES

- 99 Bill Monaghan (Subiaco)
 - 98 Peter Matera (Eagles)
 - 98 Craig Turley (Eagles)
 - 98 Bill Krakouer (Sth Frem)*
 - 98 Ben Allan (Dockers)*
 - 97 Brett Heady (Eagles)
 - 97 Peter Wilson (East Frem)
- * Denotes that tally includes games with more than one club as follows: Ben Allan 98 Hawthorn; 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; Geoff Passeri 57 Carlton, 13 North Melbourne, 8 West Perth.

200 GAMES

- 199 Wally Matera (Sth Frem)*
 - 199 Paul Mifka (West Perth)
 - 198 Craig Nelson (West Perth)
 - 198 Guy McKenna (Eagles)*
- * 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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League must be better than that

FROM a footy point of view, don't believe what you've seen or what you've heard.

Firstly, if you looked at that Emu Export game on ABC TV last Saturday, when East Fremantle played Claremont, you could be conned into believing that the standard in WAFL ranks is as low as it could go.

But with both sides leaving many of their top players out, the real stuff will be like chalk and cheese to what you saw.

I personally felt it was a bit poor to play such depleted sides and it could even be seen as degrading to the sponsors.

If people are prepared to invest in your club or sport, you should, in turn, give value for money and create as much interest as possible in the display you're putting on.

By lining up so many players that people simply don't identify with, you lessen the interest considerably, as was shown by the attendance and standard at East Fremantle last Saturday.

Hopefully, from here on this competition will see clubs feature their better-known and credentialled players.

Hear say: Another point from the "don't believe all you hear" department.

Eagles coach Malthouse had words to say about some of his senior players after their impressive Ansett Cup win over Melbourne.

He warned them to smarten up or they might lose their spots to up and comers.

I can tell you this, when it comes to premiership points time, all the established stars will be out there.

The words are meant to kick-start their minds out of the "we are the premiers" mode of thinking and to realise that last year is history and it's what you do today that counts.

Mick knows that two in a row is a rarity in modern footy.

But if he can turn the players' minds back to the desire they



Eagles coach Mick Malthouse is already working on the mental attitude of his premiership players.

Percy's Point

Fast-talking, hard-hitting 6PR football critic and Aussie Rules addict
Percy Johnson has his say



presented by



showed last season then, barring injuries, the Eagles are a mile above the rest, in talent and organisation.

Even before official start time, they have an air of invincibility about them.

So I expect to read plenty about Malthouse verbally reminding his players to get their heads out of the clouds and back to business.

Piddling affair: Finally, I would like to say something about that wee affair at the Dockers.

Some intrepid cameraman intruded, via his telescopic lens, into the Dockers huddle and found something that has been going on in footy since the game

has been played.

How anybody in administration could be bothered looking at this, let alone dish out some sort of discipline, dumbfounds me, particularly if the administrator has played the game.

They have fined Scotty Waters, which means that every footy club at some time has had someone offend the system.

Personally, I will be relieved when this affair is over and if I meet our intrepid cameraman, I will probably tell him what to do with his long lens.

Footy debacle shows up lack of game plans

FOOTBALL shot itself in the foot last week with the inability of different parties to compromise in the scheduling of games.

The first game of the WAFL's Emu Export summer series was scheduled nearly two months ago, while Fremantle hurriedly arranged a Saturday practice match against Richmond.

It's understandable that the Dockers would want to play at their home ground, but surely some consideration should have been given to the local competition.

After all, leading officials Gerard McNeill and Grant Dorrington, both now with the Dockers, were in WAFL positions last season and must have been aware of the Emu Export series.

Dockers chief executive David Hatt has been quoted as saying that he didn't want to confuse supporters with yet another game change.

However, the initial announcement of a 2pm Saturday start hadn't really sunk in and could have

been amended last Wednesday with minimal disruption.

Ideally, both games should have been played at Fremantle Oval, with a Dockers-Richmond and Sharks-Tigers double-header.

At the very least, if two venues were to be used, the starting times should have juggled to avoid a clash and enable Port fans to see both matches.

Flexible coach: Much has been said and written about Gerard Neesham's "get possession" attacking style of football and Mick Malthouse's defensive "get the job done" methods at West Coast.

A sidelight to the contrasting styles is the amount of pressure on the individual players.

Neesham's attacking style demands a performance in terms of goals on the board.

On the other hand, Malthouse insists on his entire team sticking rigidly to the game plan and not worrying about the scoreboard, requiring players to concentrate

Sprigg Marks

with **Trevor Sprigg**, 6PR's former State and East Fremantle defender



presented by



on only one thing and minimising the individual pressure.

Under the master coach's blueprint, the Eagles are seldom far in front - or far behind - and the old adage of "stick to the game plan and sooner or later they'll break" applies.

It may be that Neesham has already started to modify his approach, with his players demonstrating good defensive skills into the breeze against Richmond.

The Dockers got plenty of players back to crowd up the Tigers forward area and force the ball around the defensive side.

Seldom did they switch play or chip the ball short, sacrificing their natural running game.

Similarly, when going with the wind, Neesham had his players kicking long into the forward line.

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Lyon sure of Demons chances

MELBOURNE'S first-round exit from the Ansett Australia Cup, coupled with the long-term absence of several stars, is no cause for panic, according to captain Gary Lyon.

"The test of any good team is how they cover the loss of leading players," Lyon said.

"It makes it a bit harder, but I still feel we have enough quality players who are smart enough to adjust."

Allen Jakovich's de-listing and the unavailability until at least August of boom centre-half-forward David Schwarz through injury has again given Lyon key goalkicking responsibility.

Starting his 10th season of league football, Lyon is confident pre-season injuries will not unduly interfere with the Demons momentum, which last year saw them make the preliminary final.

"You have to grab your opportunities," he says.

"We're in a pretty good position if we continue to improve."

With 79 goals in 1994 - a career-best effort - Lyon was outstanding in Melbourne's surge from 10th to fourth and says he's happy to again play at full-forward this year... even though it's not his preferred position.

He completed a rigorous running programme during the pre-season, a wrist injury having sidelined him from Melbourne's early practice matches.

"While it was annoying that I wasn't able to get out in February and touch the footy, I maintained a good level of fitness," he says.

Lyon believes the Demons have the players capable of switching positions to cover their losses.

"Jimmy Stynes, Greg Doyle and Dean Irving are all pretty flexible and can play key positions at a pinch," he says.

"We'd obviously prefer to have Schwartz up there and doing what he does very well, but it's not to be."

Lyon says several younger

Across Country

Melbourne journalist

Ken Piesse

reports from across the border



players, including 198cm Brad Hall, from Assumption College, are in line to play senior football.

Another key forward option could be David Neitz, who last year represented Victoria at centre-half-back.

"All teams are improving, but we reckon we're in pretty good shape with an even bunch of players who are well coached," he says.

"If we do the right thing and get away to a good start, we are hopeful of having Schwarz back towards the last half of the year."

Lyon (27) says he has "some unfulfilled ambitions" left in football, including playing in another grand final.

"You know you're not going to be around forever," he says.

"You get a bit anxious and are keen to get under way. You really appreciate your footy."

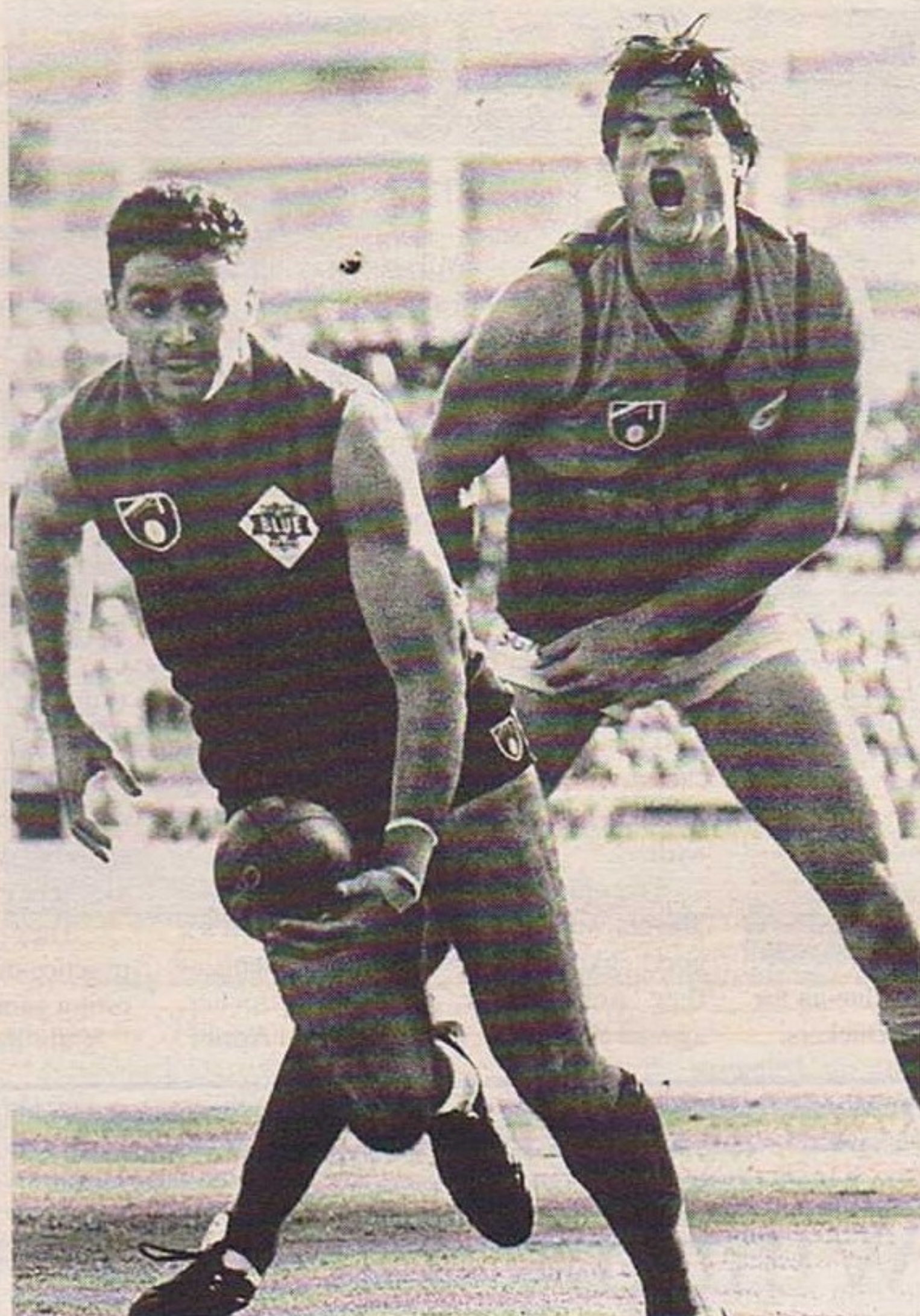
Lyon says one of the pleasures of having the MCG as a home base is the superb drainage - which allows dry weather football to be played, with all the high marking skills, even if there has been a deluge leading up to match day.

"Back in 1989 we played on a series of bog heaps there.

"Now we can have buckets of rain and literally run straight onto the ground with your moulded soles. It's amazing.

"It can get a little bit slippery, but nowhere near as heavy or boggy as it once did."

Five clubs will be sharing the MCG again this season - Melbourne, Richmond, North Melbourne, Collingwood and Essendon.



Melbourne skipper Gary Lyon believes the Demons will thrive.

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AFL

Ansett Cup - Quarter-finals: Saturday, March 11: Footscray v Sydney, Waverley; Sunday, March 12: West Coast v Adelaide, Football Park.

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 11: East Fremantle Oval - South Fremantle v Perth, 3pm; East Fremantle v Swan Districts, 5pm. Monday, March 13: WACA Ground - Claremont v Subiaco, 6pm; East Perth v West Perth, 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

Football happenings

A round up of fixtures from all the leagues presented by



North Beach, Gilfraser Reserve; Nollamara v Scarborough, Des Penman; Wembley v University, Henderson Park; Trinity Aquinas v West Coast, Collier Reserve.

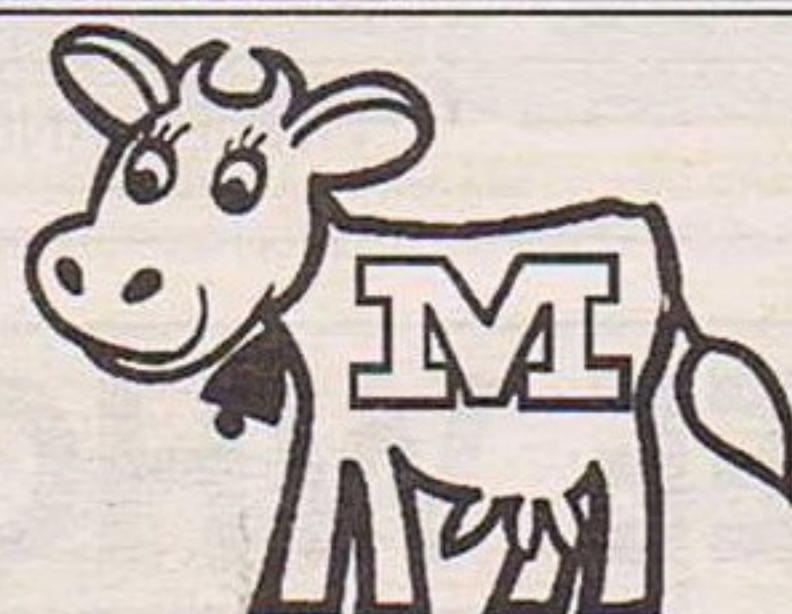
Sunday League

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.

MASTERS CHOC



You'd think that Masters Choc comes from chocolate cows



Billy Brownless will be back in the Cats line-up for this week's practice game against the Dockers.

Dockers battle Cats

By BRAD ELBOROUGH

FREMANTLE will be playing in a curtain-raiser practice match this Saturday – but the excursion to Melbourne will be an important trip.

The Dockers play in Melbourne for the first time when they tackle Geelong at Waverley Park and it's a full dress rehearsal for their eight trips to Victoria in the season ahead.

For Geelong, it's a chance to regroup after their 61-point thrashing from Adelaide in last week's Ansett Cup.

For the Melbourne public, it's their first chance to look at the Dockers, with this game being before the Ansett Cup quarter-final between Footscray and Sydney.

Travelling is something Fremantle's players will have to get used to and it's a good chance to iron out any problems as they prepare for the season-opener, against Richmond, at the MCG on April 1.

Fremantle go into the game confident after beating first-round Cup losers Richmond by 52 points at Fremantle Oval last Saturday.

"We came out of the game pretty well," says Dockers football manager Gerard McNeill.

"A few of our players are sore, but they will be available this week.

"A few who missed the Richmond clash should play this week, including Tony Delaney, Andrew Wills, Dale Kickett and David Muir."

The practice hit-out will be the first for Wills and Stephen O'Reilly against their old club.

Geelong football manager Paul Armstrong says last year's runners-up are eagerly awaiting the chance to see the Dockers in action.

"They have been doing well in their practice matches, so it should be an interesting game for us," Armstrong said.

Cats defender Ken Hinkley jarred his

ankle against the Crows and is the only casualty from the clash.

On a brighter note, Bill Brownless will return to the side, as will Paul Brown, who is coming back from a shoulder operation.

Although Geelong planned to rest star forward Gary Ablett when Brownless returned, the super-star is likely to line up this week.

"We only planned to play him for a half against Adelaide," said Armstrong.

"Gary wanted to see how he went at centre-half-back against them, so we put him back on.

"He looked a bit rusty and could benefit from another hit-out before the season opens in three weeks."

Meanwhile, Geelong has received further bad news regarding key utility player Barry Stoneham, who needs to re-enter hospital for yet another operation on his troublesome leg.

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DOCKERS FACT FILE

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Name	Guernsey			AFL
	No.	Age	Height Weight	
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
DHURRKY, 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	-

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New talent ready to take WAFL by storm

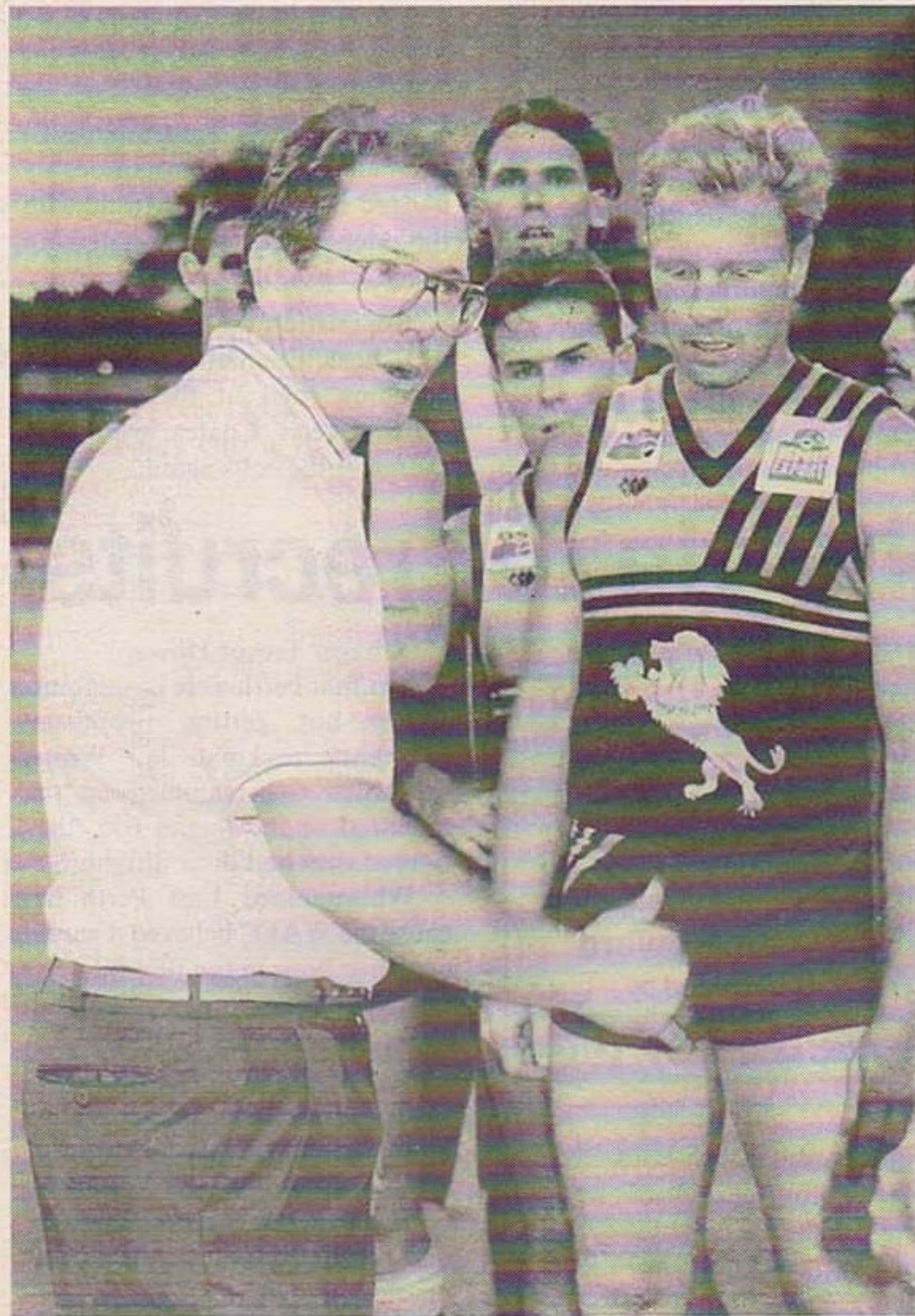
By SCOTT COGHLAN

THE opening round of the Emu Export Cup series proved one thing - Claremont are not the only side in the WAFL to boast exciting young footballers.

In traditional summer style, the Tigers opened the series by unveiling a host of talented young new-

comers. But Perth, South Fremantle and West Perth also notched wins with the help of many new names about to explode onto the Pepsi Cup scene.

The series kicked off with last year's pre-season champions Claremont gaining some revenge on East Fremantle for their loss in the 1994 Pepsi Cup grand final,



Subiaco coach Gary Buckenara has an attentive listener in Eagles forward Karl Langdon in the Emu Export series.



Young Donnybrook recruit Ashley Hutchinson awaits his turn to impress his new Bulldog teammates.

winning by 52 points.

New coach Darrell Panizza was pleased as the midfield dominated and among the outstanding youngsters to impress were former Wembley amateurs team-mates Ben Howard and James Ferguson.

Howard was outstanding across half-forward, while Ferguson showed exceptional skills and pace on a wing.

Key forwards Joe Smith and Chris Gerreyn gave strong showings as they combined to give Claremont a dangerous attack.

East Fremantle had just a few of their 1994 grand final team available and although easily beaten, first year coach Tony Micale isn't pressing any panic buttons. Players who did show promise were on-baller Marshall Stockden and former Falcon Denis Repacholi, both of whom performed solidly under difficult circumstances.

Perth had a number of new players to the forefront as they took apart traditional rivals East Perth by 79 points.

The star Demon was forward Kurt Graham, who despite showing promise last year could only manage three league games.

Graham kicked four goals and with last year's top goalkicker Brenton Cooper returning to Victoria, the former Sharks colts player can expect to play a bigger role this season.

Amateurs recruit Simon Dennis, a young ruckman with outstanding potential, looked good, as did Carlton recruit Jeremy Smith and Victorian

Jonathon Rowe.

East Perth struggled up forward, but rover Brady Anderson and defender David Swan showed enough to suggest the WAFL will see more of them this season.

Utility Spiro Mallis put his hand up for a regular spot with an encouraging display and nippy rover Sean Colbung also played well.

John Todd's new-look South Fremantle produced a classy display against Subiaco, winning comfortably by 67 points.

Exciting half-forward Owen Woods, who played three games last year, was a star for the Bulldogs, kicking three goals and producing some freakish play.

Others to catch the eye for the Bulldogs were forward Darryn Rennick, Coogee recruit Dean Ercegovich, who kept Karl Langdon goalless and Wagin's Zane Parsons, who looked promising up forward with three goals.

Martin Atkins, who has represented the state as a defender, played well at centre-half-forward bagging two goals.

Subiaco were disappointing in their first outing for Gary Buckenara, lacking fire-power and finishing without any multiple goal-kickers.

Paul Ridley showed promise for the Lions, as did former West Coast amateur Chris Toohey, who played three games last year. Eagles squad member Jarrad Schofield, tall defender Lee Sounness and midfielder Paul Cox were other handy players.

New West Perth coach John Dimmer experimented against Swan Districts and was rewarded with a 68-point.

Falcons to impress included Mark Harris in a midfield role, former Royal Louis Cheeseman, South Australian Dudley Ah Chee and tall forward Trevor Green, who kicked four goals.

Half-back Peter Kelly was lively for the Swans, as was Todd Hawes, who has returned after an unsuccessful stint with Richmond while young South Bunbury rover Joel Cornelius also turned in a good performance.

Emu Export Cup details

CLAREMONT 3.1 10.2 12.6 14.14 98

EAST FREMANTLE 2.3 2.5 5.7 6.10 46

GOALS - Claremont: Gerreyn 4; Sheldrick 3; Smith 2; Klemm, Croxford, Ferguson, Howard, Mitchell. East Fremantle: Beattie, Willison, Woewodin, C. Smith, Bilcich, Roser.

BEST - Claremont: Gerreyn, Smith, Croxford, Ferguson, Howard, Trovarello. East Fremantle: Stockden, Bilcich, Repacholi, Willison, C. Smith.

PERTH 1.6 8.11 10.14 17.20 122

EAST PERTH 2.5 2.6 4.11 5.13 43

GOALS - Perth: Graham 4; L.Cannon 3; G.Cannon, Thompson, Smith 2; Sikora, Robbins, Dennis, Maguire. East Perth: Williams 2; Mallis; Wilkin, Screaigh.

BEST - Perth: Graham, Smith, Rowe, Maguire, Dennis, McMurray. East Perth: Colbung, Anderson, Swan, Mallis, Faithfull, Lyle.

WEST PERTH 1.0 6.4 11.6 18.10 118

SWAN DISTRICTS 2.4 5.8 6.10 6.14 50

GOALS - West Perth: Green 4; Pickett, Ah Chee 3; Steele, Mead, D.Harris, O'Brien, Burns, Haskett, Crothers, Downsborough. Swan Districts: Smith 2; Castledine, Hawes, J.Morgan, N.Kelly.

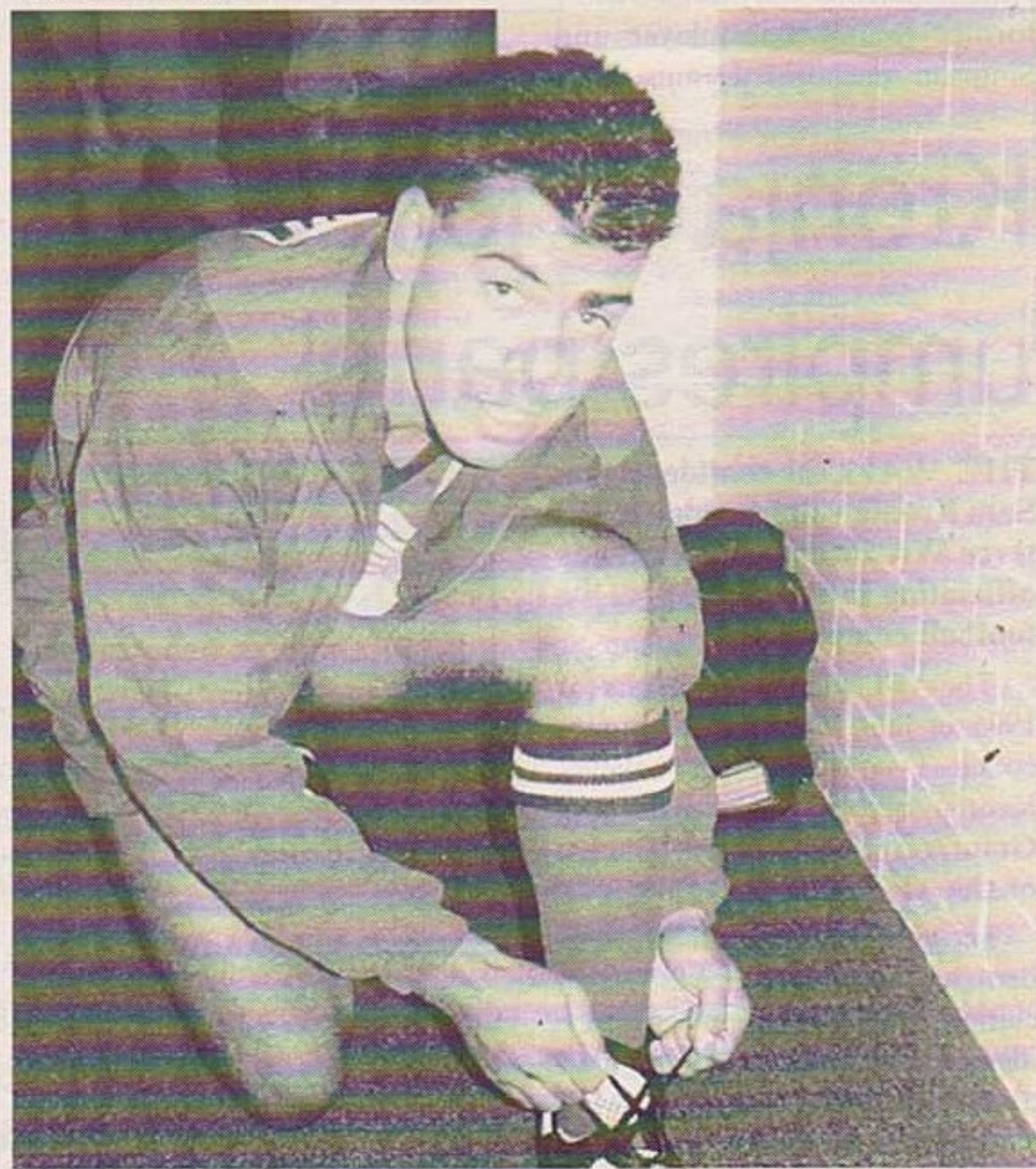
BEST - West Perth: M.Harris, Toovey, D.Harris, Green, Cheeseman, Logan. Swan Districts: P.Kelly, O'Neill, Hawes, Castledine, Kestel, Cornelius.

STH FREMANTLE 3.1 9.3 14.7 19.11 125

SUBIACO 1.5 3.8 5.8 8.10 58

GOALS - South Fremantle: Woods, Parsons 3; Dodd, Atkins, Wootton, Pears, Rennick 2; Gundersen, Grosse, Ballard. Subiaco: Snow, Ridley, Lamb, Cox, O'Connor, McFarlane, Heatley, Hubble.

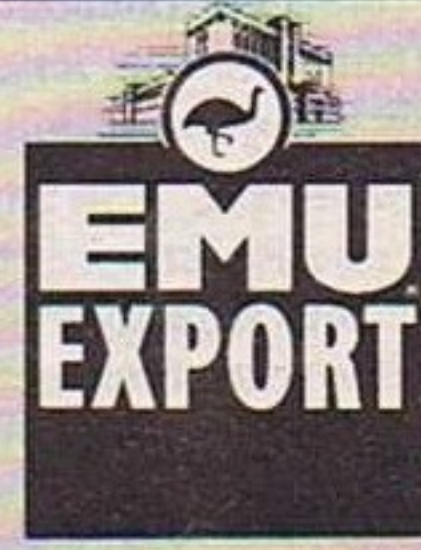
BEST - South Fremantle: Woods, Ercegovich, B.Collard, Atkins, Porter, Ballard. Subiaco: Sounness, Ridley, Schofield, Toohey, Cox, Lamb.



West Perth recruit Dudley Ah Chee has crossed over from Sturt, in South Australia and looks like he will be a handy pick-up.



"Nothing changes between old friends"



Pepsi coach scene vastly different

BY SCOTT COGLAN

THE Pepsi Cup League coaching scenario for season '95 will have a vastly different look, with only two clubs retaining their league coaches from last year.

East Perth and Perth, who finished seventh and eighth last season, have retained Robert Solin and David Glascott at the helm for their second year.

The Royals support staff changes with last year's colts assistant coach in Ross Nash taking over from Mick Fuller (who becomes league runner), with reserves coach Wayne Otway also serving as Solin's assistant.

Perth have produced an unusual move by switching last year's reserves coach Roger Kerr back to the colts side he handled the previous season, but still retaining him as Glascott's assistant.

Taking over as reserves coach is Craig Smith, who was in charge of the colts last year.

Subiaco have handed favourite son Gary Buckenara the coaching reins (replacing Tony Solin), while former premiership player and Simpson medallist Dennis Blair

comes in as reserves coach, taking over from Kevan Sparks. Jeff Lind continues as colts coach.

Subiaco add to their strong match committee line-up with veteran Dwayne Lamb named club captain as he continues his fine career, passing the 150-game mark with both the Lions and the Eagles last season.

There has been a complete revamp of the coaching staff at South Fremantle.

The WAFL's longest-serving coach John Todd makes the switch from Swan Districts back to coach his original club, where he started his illustrious career as a 16-year-old in 1955.

This will be Todd's 22nd successive year as a league coach.

Former Carlton star and South Fremantle product

Jon Dorotich will mix playing and coaching the reserves this season, while Todd has enticed one of Swan Districts most-respected junior coaches, Joe Both, to Fremantle Oval to guide the colts team. Tough midfielder Peter Worsfold takes over as captain from the retired Wally Matera.

Veteran Darrell Panizza finally gets his chance to be in sole control of a league side as he takes

over at Claremont after coaching the reserves last year.

The 35-year-old veteran is expected to line up in the seniors at the start of the season, but retirement could be on the cards when he breaks the club record of 273 games held by Ken Caporn - an achievement that is just three games away.

Panizza's replacement at the helm of the reserves is former North Melbourne player John Holt, who played 71 VFL games between 1981 and 1988.

The Tigers also have a new colts coach as former player and league runner Peter Thorne takes over from Phil Smart.

Jeff Gieschen, who rejuvenated West Perth during his time at the helm, has left the Falcons to take up the assistant coaching position at Geelong and his replacement is former Subiaco and East Perth premiership player John Dimmer.

Judged as the Football



Gary Buckenara will be making a strong point to his new charges at Subiaco

Coaches Association's coach-of-the-year last season, Dimmer moves from amateur ranks where he took West Coast to the A-grade premiership.

Former West Perth defender Ross Prunster replaces Phil Cronan as reserves coach, while Phil Crannage takes over from Ian Logan as coach of the colts.

Graham Melrose, one of WA's outstanding footballers in lengthy careers with East Fremantle, North Melbourne and Swan Districts, returns to Bassendean Oval to coach the side that he led to the 1982 premiership.

His one-time team-mate Tom Mullooly has been promoted from

colts coach to the reserves, giving Swans plenty of league experience in charge of this year's big squad.

Alan Walker, who has been appointed coach of WA's Commonwealth Bank Cup side, is replaced by Chris Oakley as colts coach.

The chain of command at East Fremantle has been smoothly handed over to Tony Micale with the departure of premiership coach Ken Judge to Carlton.

Completing the line-up of former East Fremantle players in coaching roles at their original club is Kerry Coates, who is in charge of the colts again.



George Christie returns to the Sharks as reserves coach

WAFL clubs vie for recruits

TEN new players have been added to this year's WAFL competition under the player-allocation from WA's two AFL clubs.

West Coast and Fremantle have recruited players who require a Pepsi Cup club to belong to under the AFL player interchange agreement.

Many of those picked up by Fremantle already had ties with local clubs and the WAFL left them there.

That left three Eagles and seven Dockers without a home for those weeks when they are not required for AFL duties.

Three criteria were discussed when allocating those players:

- Where were the best development opportunities for the players.
- What allocations best satisfy the needs of the AFL clubs.
- What decision will best assist the evening-up of the WAFL competition.

The eight WAFL clubs submitted their preference of players,

Commission Comment

Talking about WA Football Commission activities with WAFL general manager **Trevor Howard** presented by

McInerney Ford

which were taken into account when the final decisions were made.

The results of the allocation were:

Perth - Shane Sikora, Ben Robbins, Jeremy Dyer; *East Perth* - Jeff White, Craig Nettelbeck; *South Fremantle* - Brad Cassidy, Antony Ljubic; *Swan Districts* - Greg Madigan; *West Perth* - Chris Groom; *East Fremantle* - Andrew Wills.

"There have not been any whinges about which clubs got what players," said WAFL gener-

al manager Trevor Howard.

"At first Perth were disappointed in not getting promising Fremantle ruckman Jeff White, but when they summed up the potential of the Eagles trio, they figured they had done alright."

White joined East Perth because the WAFLC believed it would not have been in the best interests of the Dockers to place him with the Demons.

"Perth already have promising Dockers ruckman Daniel Bandy and White would be competing for a spot against him," said Howard.

"One of the players would be disadvantaged and therefore their development hampered."

Two clubs were not allocated players, with Subiaco and Claremont already boasting long lists of players joined to WA's two AFL teams.

"Subiaco and Claremont requested two players each, but by the time it came around to their turn, those players were gone. In the end it was quite a painless decision," said Howard.

Kronja to join AFL umpires panel

THE WAFL is confident that Sam Kronja will be added to the three WA field umpires already officiating in the country's elite football competition.

The AFL will trim their lists for 1995 in late March and umpires coach David Johnson believes Kronja will join Greg Scroop, Grant Vernon and Trevor Garrett on the AFL panel.

Scroop, recently named president of the WA Umpires' Association, with Kronja his vice-president, has become an AFL regular, along with Garrett and Melbourne-based Vernon.

There could be two new names on the national boundary umpires panel also, with Tim Gooch (brother of AFL boundary umpire Dan) and Nathan Jessup joining fellow West Australian Tony Franchina.

Bernie Roberts has been there in previous years, but has opted to take this year off to tour Europe.

Goal umpires Peter Jeffers and Dean Berry will also aim to join

Men in White

News from the **WAFL Umpires Association** presented by



Robert Hendrie and Paul Smith as AFL flag-wavers.

Milestones are just as important to umpires as to players and several of the WAFL's men-in-white have officiated in a significant number of matches.

There are several umpires who will reach milestones in early rounds of the coming Pepsi Cup.

They include: 197 Gil Bishop (goals); 143 Greg Scroop (field) with 113 WAFL and 30 AFL; 140 Tig Bergersen (boundary); 99 Trevor Pescud (goals); 91 John Hauswirth (goals); 47 Cameron Dawe (field); 42 Wayne French (field).





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Sam supports Bears

Friday: Being a non-training night, there wasn't much happening, so I was out to Perth Airport to pick up a family friend.

Now the name Samantha Smith, mightn't mean much to some, but it's a special one in football.

Young Samantha is the granddaughter of legendary coach Norm Smith and if he wasn't the best, he's certainly in the top two or three coaches in history.

The Norm Smith Medal is awarded to the best player in the AFL grand final and Samantha would like to present it one day - hopefully to a player from her favourite team - the Brisbane Bears!

Saturday: The Dockers get the opportunity to redeem themselves after their Ansett Cup loss.

Their style of play is quite unique as they retain possession for as long as possible and their running on Saturday was quite outstanding.

Players who should make their mark are Quenton Leach, Jeff White and Peter Bell.

Richmond played a young side and will be well-prepared for the official re-match on April 1.

Caught the Eagles on telly on Saturday night and even with some premiership players missing, their performance was encouraging.

The way they nurture young players is great and Fraser Gehrig and Ashley Blurton showed outstanding qualities.

Good to see Daniel Metropolis take his opportunity to perform well.

Sunday: The South Fremantle boys had their usual Sunday swim and breakfast and then it was the Adelaide-Geelong game on TV.

A coaching change seems to have produced a positive change with the Crows and the way they methodically destroyed Geelong was typical of Robert Shaw's style.

It will be great for the AFL if the Crows can reach the heights of their 1993 season.

Monday: Well, today's the day for six WAFL clubs to go on show in the triple-header at the WACA Ground.

Being a 6pm start for Souths, it's critical that the boys keep themselves occupied, as it's a long day waiting around to play, so you must drink plenty of fluid to avoid becoming dehydrated.

Keeping out of the sun is important also, as it can sap your energy.

The Emu Export Cup opener between Claremont and East Fremantle was a bit of a let-down.

Claremont, under Darrell Panizza, looked great and will get even better with a few Free Dockers in the side.

I'm sure East Fremantle will welcome back some senior players.

Tuesday: The Emu Export Cup saw winners in Perth, South

Fremantle and West Perth and if you support those sides this season, you'll have many good moments - and some not so good.

But the early signs are good for all clubs.

Perth got some terrific running into their game and I'm sure under coach David Glascott they will improve greatly.

Souths worked extremely hard to beat Subiaco, with good early form, especially from Stephen Pears.

To have 11 goal-kickers provided an even spread, which was encouraging.

Peter Worsfold and myself look forward to getting into the action against Perth on Saturday

Wednesday: Ever wondered what sort of commitment is required to reach the top at AFL level?

Well, it's a great deal and puts enormous strain on everything -

Doro's Diary

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



family, work and other relationships; they all suffer at various stages.

Your greatest commitment is to training.

Most AFL clubs train four days a week, Saturday is match day, Sunday is casual, run and swim - that's six days out of seven.

What about the guys with professional careers?

Your job is critical, because there must be life after football, which, at the elite level, is only a short time.

Don't forget the families, wives, girlfriends and children.

To all of those people out there this season, thanks for supporting your men and children.

Thursday: Westside Footy day - and time for a quick read before work.

During the course of the day you always bump into someone who wants to talk about football.

That's what makes our game so special.

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Print Post approved PP63004500001
 Publisher/Editor: **ALAN EAST**
 Advertising Manager: **GEORGE BOUZIDIS**
 OFFICE: Community Newspapers
 120 Roe Street, Northbridge, WA 6003
 PHONE: Editorial, Advertising
 and Distribution 227 6722
 FAX No. 227 6440/227 5197
 Correspondence:
PO Box 119, Northbridge, WA 6865
 Printed by Colourpress
 Briggs Street, Victoria Park
 and Dix Print
 10 Wittenoom Street, East Perth
 Distributed by WA Newspapers
 54 Hasler Road, Herdsman Business Park
 For Subscriptions or Home Deliveries
 PHONE: 227 6722
 or write to:
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 A Community Newspaper Group publication
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Young Shark gets serious

By SCOTT COGLAN

MIXING in sporting circles with the likes of retired English Test cricketer Mike Gatting has probably cost a young East Fremantle player some early football success.

Marshall Stockden is a 24-year-old midfielder and keen indoor cricketer who is having troubles fitting two sporting seasons into the one year.

On the football arena, he has the potential to play a major role as East Fremantle chase back-to-back Pepsi Cups this season.

Stockden, one of the Sharks best in their first round Emu Export series loss to Claremont, is no newcomer to the WAFL scene, debuting in 1992.

He has also featured in two reserves premierships and after 55 games in the twos, one could wonder about his league potential.

But it's been cricket, rather than a lack of talent, that has kept Stockden back.

After playing six senior games in 1993 and with a regular league spot beckoning, Stockden chose to travel during the off-season.

Stockden, a state indoor cricketer, took up a spot as a professional indoor cricketer in England, where the game is much bigger than it is in Australia.

After the 1993 football season, Stockden and close friend Mark Hullett packed their bags and travelled to Lancing, in West Sussex, where they played under contract for seven months.

Gatting was just one of the well-known players they came up against, tackling other Test names such as Gladstone Small, Kim Barnett and Paul Taylor.

Hullett and Stockden spent any spare time exploring Europe and when he returned to Perth the WAFL season was well under way.

Stockden, who is a physiotherapist, enjoyed the trip immensely, but admits it didn't help his football career.

"It was wicked fun, but it affected my football pre-season

training when I got home," says Stockden.

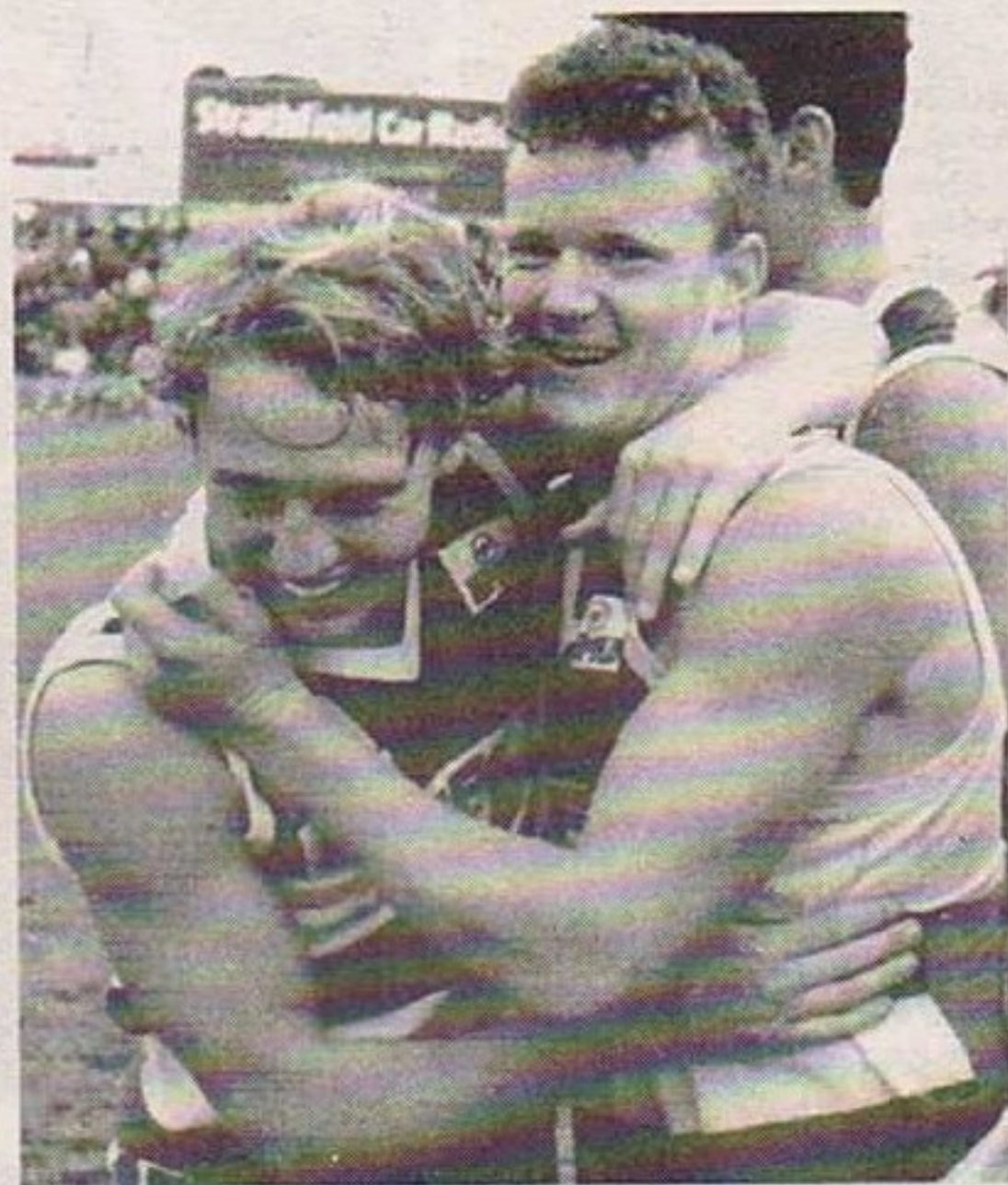
"We travelled around England playing at many different centres and we also toured Europe a lot."

State indoor cricket commitments again took Stockden interstate mid-season and although he played in the reserves premiership side, he wasn't able to add to his tally of eight league games.

"I came back under-prepared and had what I consider to be a disappointing season," he said.

East Fremantle adopted a tol-

erant stand on Stockden's two sports, but he says it's now time for football to come first.



The joys of a premiership, with Marshall Stockden (right) sharing a reserves flag with Jon Stagg

"If I have to make a choice this season, then footy is my No. 1 priority; I enjoy it more than cricket," he explained.

Stockden realises that he hasn't risen to the heights he could have and is fully primed for a strong showing in 1995.

"I'm not getting any younger and this is the best I've ever been prepared for a football season," he said.

If Saturday's game is any indication, Stockden certainly looks set for his best year since he joined the Sharks from Sunday League club Willetton in 1992, but he is not getting carried away.

"I played alright in patches on Saturday, but I'm just taking it one step at a time - my aim is simply to cement a regular league spot."

One thing is for sure - he won't come up against anyone as slow across the ground as Mike Gatting in the WAFL.

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What's in a name, Tony?

IT'S back - the fabulously funny Channel 9 Footy Show, with all its humour and personalities and this hooded columnist is making no secret of the fact that he's a big fan of Sam Newman and Co.

What a crack-up last week as the panel talked to Tony Lockett and Paul Roos live in their new home-town of Sydney, especially when host Eddie McGuire made reference to the up-coming mardi gras in the harbour city.

As big Plugger jokingly suggested that they were still discussing what costumes they would wear, McGuire quipped: "Well, you might like to change your nickname, Tony."

Unhappy Sharks: Don't believe everything you hear and read - East Fremantle are far from happy about the allocation of players in the recent WAFL hand-out from the Eagles and the Dockers.

The Sharks have lost five of their premiership side - Mark Amaranti, Stephen Edgar, Paul Abbott, Steve Lally and Damien Condon - and only got Dockers forward Andrew Wills in the distribution.

He's likely to play with the Dockers, which means the Sharks

- who supposedly have a vested interest in the Fremantle AFL entry - get nothing for their troubles.



Andrew Wills

as yet. Dockers trio Brendan Krummel, Matthew Burton and Gary

Dhurrkay were victims of fisticuffs from Saints big man Lazar Vidovic (twice) and Port Adelaide's Darryl Borlase.

Another Port man in Darren Mead was reported for disputing the umpire's decision in the practice match between Fremantle and the Magpies.

At least footy fans know the Dockers are in town!

Hooded gremlins: Talk about being misrepresented!

One of my items finished up under the byline of respected Melbourne journalist Ken Piesse in our opening edition - and he wasn't happy!

It referred to Ken Judge and Colin Kinnear having some con-

The Hood



Back in Westside by public demand

flicts at Carlton - and they weren't happy either!

Seems as though my mail - not Piesse's - was off beam, so apologies boys. There are no blues at the Blues, that's official.

Costly talent: Have the Dockers almost exceeded their salary cap of more than \$2-million with their present group of players?

Apparently captain Ben Allan, Peter Mann, Scott Watters, Stephen O'Reilly and Craig Nettelbeck are being particularly well paid - leaving little scope for recruiting the permitted five out-of-contract players for next season.

Footy trumped: Has local footy been trumped by rugby league again?

This week's Ansett Cup clash between the Eagles and Adelaide will be a big drawcard - especially for the people running Football Park.

The WACA Ground would have been a great venue, but guess who is playing at the home of cricket this weekend - yep, the Western Reds.

EAGLES FACT FILE - presented by SGIO

Name	1994 games	Total games	1994 kicks	1994 marks	1994 H/B	Free for	Kicks agst	1994 score	1994 H/outs	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	87	359	130	137	30	23	2.4	38	18	16
KEMP, Dean	21	110	304	80	163	27	23	19.14	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
PKYKE, Don	25	103	392	98	114	29	31	13.10	1	48	15
SCHOFIELD, Jarrod	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	49.42	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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PEPSI

PLAYER PROFILE

Anthony Jones –
Dockers
Born: December 19,
1974
Height: 189cms
Weight: 78kgs
Position: Defender
Recruited from:
Claremont
Dockers debut: –
Dockers games: –
Dockers goals: –
WAFL games: 19
Claremont

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