

# WESTSIDE FOOTBALL

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coverage

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\$2

**Farmer  
officially  
now a  
Legend**





# WESTSIDE FOOTBALL



## PLAYER PROFILE

**Michael Brown** – Dockers  
Born: Perth, WA  
Date: September 20, 1976  
Height: 188cms  
Weight: 96kgs  
Position: Key-position  
Recruited from: Swan  
Districts; Swan View  
WAFL games: 15 Swan  
Districts  
Nicknames: Browny  
Car: Commodore  
Other sports: Cricket  
Favourites:  
*Movie* – Beverley Hills  
Cop  
*Food* – Pasta; Stew  
*Drink* – Milk  
Boyhood Idol: Wayne  
Carey



AlintaGas



# Dream now a reality

By ALAN EAST

IT'S one of those magical player-recruiting stories football managers dream of ... a star-to-be walking in off the street looking for a game.

While the success story of Carnarvon's AFL draft choice Richard Peck isn't exactly from that script, his rapid rise to the upper echelon started in similar fashion.

Plucked by Essendon at No. 14 in the recent cattle muster, few people had heard of the 20-year-old Peck - even Claremont supporters, where he was listed as coming from.

The lithe Aboriginal from the north only played one league game for the Tigers last season, against Subiaco at Claremont Oval, and not with any real distinction, failing to trouble the scoreboard attendants even though he was playing in attack.

However, the astute Essendon recruiting team, led by football manager Noel Judkins and backed up in WA by former West Perth and Bombers champion Colin Hebbard, had done their homework on Peck.

They saw him kick nine goals in a reserves finals outing for the Tigers last season and immediately dubbed him as a player with that touch of class.

But the rags to riches story goes back further than last year's finals - to Carnarvon a year earlier when Claremont sent star forward Joe Smith north on a promotional visit to a festival in the Gascoyne region.

Peck, a shy, but ambitious young footballer with East Carnarvon - a league that seldom obtains exposure at the annual Wesfarmers country championships in Perth, mainly because they cannot afford the cost of coming south - recognised one of his city-league idols.

"I went up and introduced myself to Joe," recalls Peck, still coming down to earth on the prospect of moving to Melbourne.

"I asked him did he think I was big enough to have a try at the WAFL.

"He suggested that my frame was a little light (Peck is 175cm tall and weighs only 70kg) but I could soon build myself up a bit.

"So I decided to give it a try." Peck joined the summer hope-

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Richard Peck... surprise draftee.

fuls at Claremont Oval and while he found that life in the fast-lane of the city footy scene was hard to adjust to, he soon started impressing the match committee.

But he couldn't quite make the final 21 even though he was listed

in the squad a number of times.

"I was a little disappointed at that happening so often," says Peck.

"But I finally got a guernsey against Subiaco and even though that was my only game, it gave me plenty of confidence.

"But getting drafted by Essendon was a complete surprise.

"I hadn't spoken to anyone about going to Melbourne. Maybe they had talked to people at the club, but I knew nothing about the draft and the first I knew they had picked me was a few hours after when someone told me.

"I can't wait to get to Melbourne and try myself out."

Judkins made another of his many trips to Perth as soon as the draft was over - accompanied by outgoing chief executive Roger Hampson - to meet with Peck and arrange his immediate departure from Perth.

The Bombers have an excellent track record when it comes to helping country Aborigines settle into life in Melbourne.

They plan to house Peck with Che Cockatoo-Collins and there will be plenty of personal support to allow him to settle in comfortably.

"We're in no hurry with him," says Judkins.

"It's a long-term draft choice, we believe he's got the class to make it in the AFL, so we'll be patient with him."



Essendon's mystery recruit Richard Peck with the Bombers Roger Hampson (left) and Noel Judkins.

## OUR COVER:

Graham Farmer has been officially declared a Legend of the game. The former East Perth, Geelong and West Perth ruckman was one of 12 Legends inducted to the Hall of Fame by the Australian Football League to mark their centenary. He was the only West Australian to achieve that honour, but 10 others from WA were admitted to the inaugural Hall of Fame. Turn to pages 9-12 for a special Hall of Fame lift-out.

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# Nothing changes in white

WE'VE had rule changes, competition changes, player changes and colour changes... but one thing that hasn't changed over summer is the umpiring.

Once again coaches, players and commentators were completely baffled when the whistle-blowers strutted their stuff in Darwin.

All eyes were on the Dockers-Eagles clash and, true to form, the umpires were totally inconsistent, penalising minor blemishes and ignoring major breaches.

Eagles coach Mick Malthouse was far from pleased and Dockers mentor Gerard Neesham, who could have blamed missed opportunities for the team's loss, had good reason to look at the umpires as well.

The second-term decision to disallow a Brett Heady goal after some gutsy play by Chris Waterman was pathetic, with the umpire finding a technical breach along the way to cancel the tremendous piece of football action.

## Big punt:

IT was great to see former East Fremantle big-kicker Darren Bennett back in Australia and receiving accolades on national television.

The one-time West Coast and Melbourne forward was a special guest on Channel 9's opening *Footy Show* - and that was the day he arrived back in Australia from his all-conquering season in American gridiron.

The Sydney-born youngster who learnt his football at Ardross, in East Fremantle territory, won fame (and certainly fortune) this season as a punter with the San Diego Chargers. Not only did he play in the Super Bowl (receiving a \$10,000 ring for the achievement), but he was named the best punter of the season and broke

## The Hood's Gossip



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the record for the longest kick in the NFL.

"It was a lot of hard work; it wasn't something where you just walked in and took over," he said of his feat.

"It was a job and while I always had people doubting what I was trying to do, it was certainly satisfying to achieve success.

"I've had a lot of fun in the last couple of years and seen the world as part of it all."

Bennett, now aged 31, hobbled onto the Channel Nine set on crutches, having just had an operation to scrape some bone chips off an ankle.

## Funny feeling:

THE return of *The Footy Show* was a welcome relief for those TV viewers who are desperate for football... and a bit of humour.

The first-up show was definitely a lot funnier than most of last year's episodes, where they tried to be smart, more than funny and it just shows that the powers-to-be must take note of what the viewers say.

The crack-up highlight was when the irrepressible Sam Newman unintentionally exposed the fact that the rival show *Four Quarters*, wouldn't be returning to Seven this year.



Fresh look... Tigers president John O'Connell (left) and John Gibbons touch up the grandstand in a summer busy-bee.

## Tidy Tigers:

CLAREMONT Oval has a fresh new look with the installation of reticulation at the ground.

New Tigers groundsman Dixie Joy is now saved the onerous task of shifting sprinkler

pipes across the turf and the grass is looking healthier.

The \$26,000 reticulation project was made possible with the injection of \$18,000 raised by using Claremont Oval for parking during the Royal Show.

Or maybe it was his show-opening effort - singing Welcome Back with a voice that had the females swooning... again.

## TV bloopers:

TALKING about television, one wonders why rival sports-oriented stations Seven and Nine make so many mistakes in their news, despite having big staff and plenty of behind-the-scenes experts.

For those addicts among us who watch the sport news on both stations with the help of a remote control, it's disappointing to see so many errors, especially when names of players or people are flashed up wrongly.

A mate of this cynical columnist has a standing bet with a friend that he can spot an error on either one of the stations every night of the week - and he's won more cartons of Emu than he's lost!

The best blooper in recent times was when Port Adelaide coach John Cahill was interviewed in Perth... but the name tag said it was Gerard Neesham.

Players like Scott Chisholm must get tired of seeing their name spelt wrongly (usually Chisolm) and there's plenty more of those little errors every week.

The latest was on Sunday night when Seven flashed up a Hawthorn logo alongside West Coast at the start of each quarter.

## Dispute simmers:

DESPITE the resignation of South Fremantle president Ric Gloede, the club's dispute with the WA Football Commission simply won't fade away.

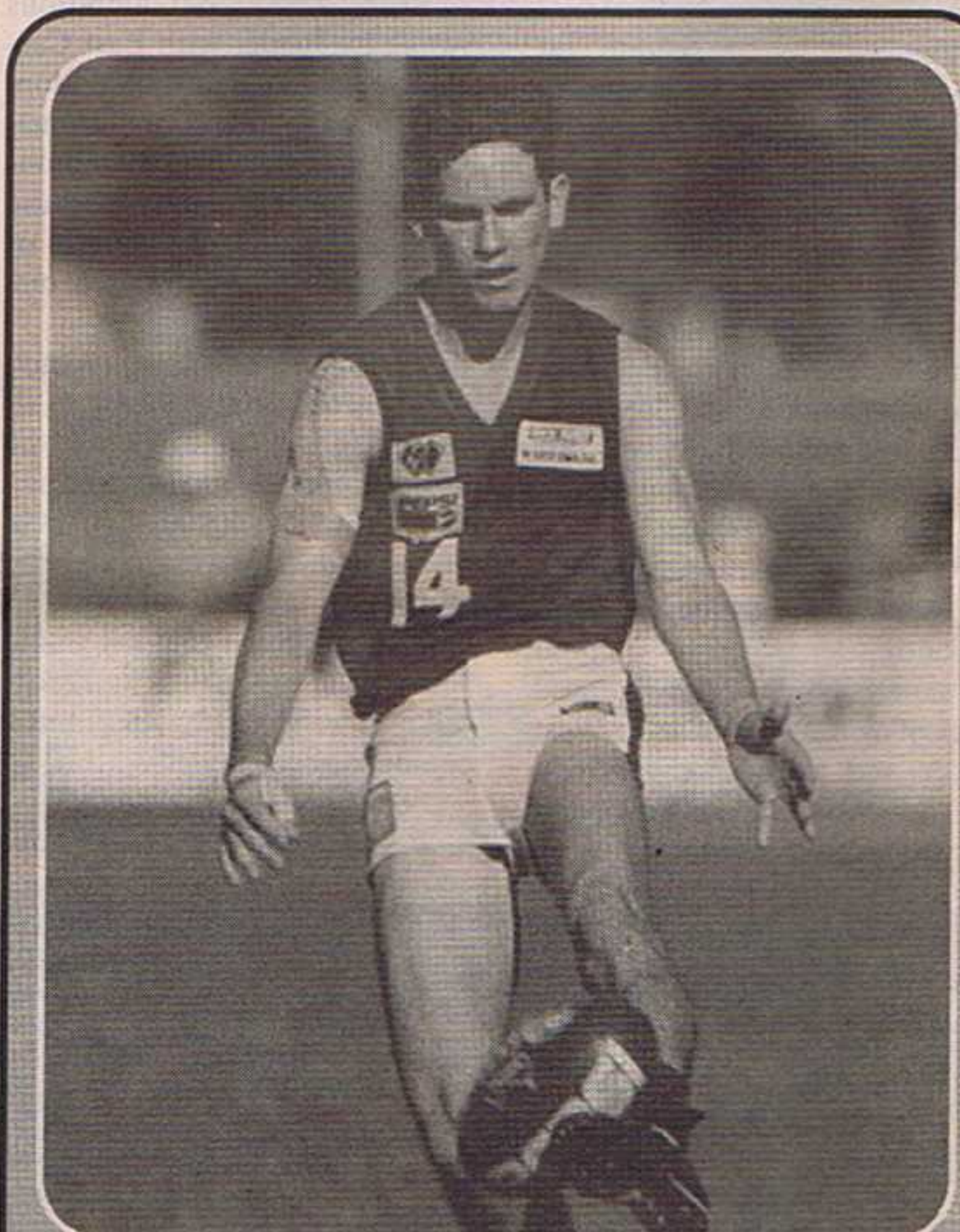
The Bulldogs are determined to press on with their legal claim for damages from the commission over the lease agreement of Fremantle Oval, claiming a loss of \$200,000 in the deal.

Souths have missed out in terms of revenue now that Fremantle have decided not to base their administrative headquarters at the ground and verbal commitments from the commission to compensate the Bulldogs are the centre of the controversy.

Apparently, the WAFC offered Souths \$15,000 in compen-

sation if the Dockers deal didn't go through... and new Bulldogs president Terry Dean seems cer-

tain to find himself in the battle that Gloede has fought for months.



Have boots... Brendan Logan is off to Adelaide, despite leaving his boots with Essendon.

## Draft diversion:

FALCONS premiership player Brendan Logan was over-the-moon at being drafted by Adelaide - but he could easily have been headed for the Essendon camp.

He was one of four WAFL players used by Bombers coach Kevin Sheedy in the recent practice match against Fremantle, a move designed to have a look at a few locals before the February draft.

Logan obviously tried to drop the Bombers people a big hint about his AFL aspirations, leaving his footy boots in their property bag after the Fremantle Oval hit-out.

Recruiting officer Noel Judkins called the West Perth youngster to congratulate him on the Crows call-up... and said he would forward the boots to Adelaide.

## WEDDINGS, PARTIES, ANYTHING

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Peter Wilson

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# Umps move a bonus

NOW that I'm a non-playing football consumer, the Dockers-Eagles clash was an entertaining contest, especially with the scores being close.

One thing I did notice was that one of the umpires, Mark Prince, was taken from the ground at half-time.

What a bonus!!

In one passage of play in the second term "Muddy" Waterman was sensational in gathering the ball and delivering it to Brett Heady, who went on to goal.

It was an ordinary umpiring decision by Prince to call it a throw and then give 50 metres against Heady for going on with things. The replay clearly showed it was a legal handpass.

When play resumed in the sec-

## Willo's World

Flamboyant  
retired  
footballer

**Peter  
Wilson**

talks about  
the game



ond half, Prince was not on the ground.

Were we seeing an umpire interchanged to give another whistle-blower a run? Or were we seeing him dragged for his bad decision?

For mine it was the latter and isn't that magnificent!

# Dramatic lift on past encounters

THE Ansett Cup match in Darwin must rank as one of the toughest I've experienced - the humidity made life pretty unbearable.

While we would have liked to come home with a win over West Coast, we certainly felt that we performed better against them than in past encounters.

We regard the Eagles as one of the top two or three sides in the competition and it's important that we continue to use them as a yardstick every time we play them.

It's been suggested that we wasted a few opportunities, especially early in the game, but it must be remembered that they are a solid unit and know how to put teams under pressure.

We made a couple of early mistakes that cost us goals, but when you compare how we were this time last year, there is some dramatic improvement.

Generally we were harder at the ball and our younger guys backed themselves a lot more; they are growing in confidence.

We were also more direct at the ball and that's a flow-on from work assistant coach Neale Dan-her has done over summer, where he has had us working on our inside play and within the packs.

The ball was pretty slippery with the humidity and there were lots of fumbles as all players had trouble

## Freo Feelings

Dockers captain  
**Ben Allan**  
writes exclusively  
for Westside  
Football



grabbing the greasy leather.

The humidity was unbelievable; it's pretty hard to describe.

We were sweating so much that our jumpers and socks must have weighed an extra 5kg. The legs got heavy and it was hard to go full-on all the time.

Some players could have lost up to 4kg in fluid, but we had a pretty scientific approach to the liquid problem.

Our physical fitness expert Clint Roberts had briefed everyone on the dangers and we drank a lot of water before the game. He monitored the situation closely and was a water runner during the match.

While I felt knackered at half-time and after game, I was surprised at how well I pulled up the next day, despite flying home after the match and not getting to bed until 2am.

Darwin is a great place for a football team to visit; the locals always seem pleased to have us up there.

We don't mind going; the peo-

ple are fantastic, particularly as we had a couple of locals in Scott Chisholm and Gary Dhurrkay.

Young Steven Koops also went with us and they did a lot of promotional work before the game.

When we hit the front in the last term the Dockers chant went up around the ground, but then I think quite a few fans switched when the Eagles came back at us.

We had a few good signs in the playing department.

It's obvious that Brad Rowe will be handy in attack. He's good at the drop of the ball and he's been around the AFL since 1990, so he gives us a cool head, with experience.

Gavin Mitchell has certainly stepped up well; he shows great poise and has a touch of speed.

It was good to see Phil Gilbert back in touch after a serious injury last year. He played well at full-back on Jason Heatley and then went to a pocket.

So now we're out of the Ansett Cup, which means we play another loser, probably at Mandurah in a couple of weeks.

That means we get this week-end off, which will be a pleasant break.

We can sit back and assess where we're at, with a few weeks left to go before the season proper kicks off.



Winners all... Peter Wilson (second from left) with team-mates of the Claremont Jets who won the WA Perth Bowl at the weekend beating the Belmont Steelers for the fourth successive year.

## Still winning:

The Claremont Jets gridiron side won the WA Perth Bowl at the weekend, beating the Belmont Steelers for the fourth successive year.

It was the Steelers sixth loss in as many years and I'm keen to hear of any side that has won four premierships in a row.

The entire Jets team, including yours truly,

enjoyed the traditional nude laps of honour - four wins meant four laps - around our home ground at Nedlands Tregonning Park.

Now, not all of our guys have great physiques and there were plenty of verandahs over the sensitive parts.

But for those Nedlands residents who saw 35 naked men prancing around the park, don't worry, we were just celebrating.

## Trendsetter:

GUY McKenna is staking his claim as the trendsetter of the AFL.

After his success with wearing gloves in wet conditions, we now see a lot of other players doing the same.

Now he and Chris Waterman have come up with another innovation.

Careful watchers of Sunday's game from Darwin would have

seen the two Eagles wearing skin-coloured noseclips.

This is something they picked up from the Super Bowl, as many gridiron players wear them under their big masks.

The idea is that the clips open the nostrils so you are getting more air making it easier to breathe.

There have been a lot of tests on them in the United States, without conclusive findings. But many gridiron players choose to wear them.

Who knows what'll be next?

## Rebirth:

ARE we seeing the rebirth of the Krakouer brothers in the West Coast camp?

I'm talking about the formidable combination of brothers Phil and Peter Matera.

We only saw glimpses of this understanding last weekend, but

we can expect more of the Matera magic from these brothers.

## Winnie's word:

A MESSAGE for Fremantle's Winston Abraham.

You have enormous talent, but you are too easily rattled. You need to pull your head in, as they say.

You need to concentrate more on your game and fully utilise the great talents you have been blessed with.

## Close contest:

SUNDAY'S contest was close, but I was confident the Eagles would keep their unblemished record against the Dockers.

Fremantle had their opportunities, but they wasted them.

The maturity and experience of the Eagles showed through in the finish and sealed the deal.

Well done boys.



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# Fans flock to join the 'nest'

**WEST Coast marketing officials expect to put the "house full" sign up pretty soon for all five of their coterie groups for this season.**

The highly-successful Golden Eagles, Premiers Club, Business Network Club, Eagles Nest and Club Bay '96 have all been well-supported.

The five groups have more than 1000 members and generate almost \$1.3 million in sponsorship income.

The Golden Eagles, formed in the club's inaugural year, has 146 members, as does the Premiers Club.

Last year's new group, the Business Network Club, has 185 members and the newly-formed Eagles Nest has almost filled its 180-member capacity.

Club Bay '96 - which operates on the hill - has 500 members and is one of the most successful outdoor coterie groups in the AFL.

## Tough contract:

EAGLES match committee member and former Subiaco player Tim Gepp found himself making an unexpected comeback recently.

Gepp, who takes over as the Eagles runner this season, allowing assistant coach Rob Wiley to sit in the coach's box, was needed to make up the numbers at an intraclub practice match.

He was pitted against Guy McKenna and despite plenty of defensive experience in his days at Richmond and Footscray, Gepp found the nagging tactics of Bluey took much to handle.

## Junior force:


THE Eagles have revamped their Peters junior club for season 1996.

In keeping with the club's new look for their 10th year, the Peters Eagles Force has a new image.

With more than 4000 members at a joining fee of just \$30, the club offers young fans a package

**Eagles Nest**

Alan East reports on happenings in the West Coast camp



presented by

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deal worth about \$300, with a host of vouchers, stickers and other Eagles memorabilia.

## Rising star:

THERE were some tremendous individual efforts by Eagles players in Darwin, but none more eye-catching from a potential point of view than that by Phillip Matera.

The third of the Matera brothers to don the West Coast guernsey, the 20-year-old looked quick and dangerous and was especially effective around the goals.

While he might lack a bit of muscle power, especially in the legs, his speed and agility is similar to brother Peter and his courage matches that of Wally, who was an original Eagle back in 1987.

It was fascinating to see the number of times Phillip and Peter aimed the ball at each other and it was almost shades of the Krakouer brothers, Jimmy and Phil, in their WAFL and VFL days.

The young Matera was still running on strongly at the end ... in fact he had enough energy to run across the ground and shake hands with Dockers rivals Dale Kickett and Michael Brown on the final siren.

## Mean machine:

THERE'S no doubt that Eagles skipper John Worsfold is looking fitter, tougher ... and meaner this season.

After completing a solid pre-season without any major injury

worries, Woosha showed in the opening minutes of the Darwin clash with Fremantle that he won't have any soft spots for his rivals this year.

He confronted Winston Abraham in a renewal of their hostilities from last year and he put his body on the line a number of times to let other Dockers know who is boss.

Despite having to constantly battle with injuries, it was interesting to note that the Darwin match was Worsfold's 14th pre-season game ... compared to the first by his classy team-mate Dean Kemp, who somehow seems to have avoided these early-season battles.

# Dockers show great deal of improvement

## FREMANTLE'S 14-point loss to West Coast in Darwin was a big improvement on their previous two clashes in AFL action proper.

When you consider the Eagles two massive earlier wins - 85-points and 63-points - the Dockers didn't do too badly.

And while the Dockers experienced crew are going along well - in particular Ben Allan, Peter Mann, Stephen O'Reilly and Dale Kickett - their recruits are also showing plenty of promise.

There are several new squad members pushing for early selection, with David Hynes, Brad Rowe and Tony Godden almost certain first-up starters.

Their experience at AFL level makes them good back-up for leaders Allan and Mann.

Among the younger players, South Fremantle defender James Clement looks likely to force his way into the regular side.

In pre-season, Clement has shown a lot of poise in defence, using the ball well to his midfield.

Gavin Mitchell has surprised many with his pace and disposal.

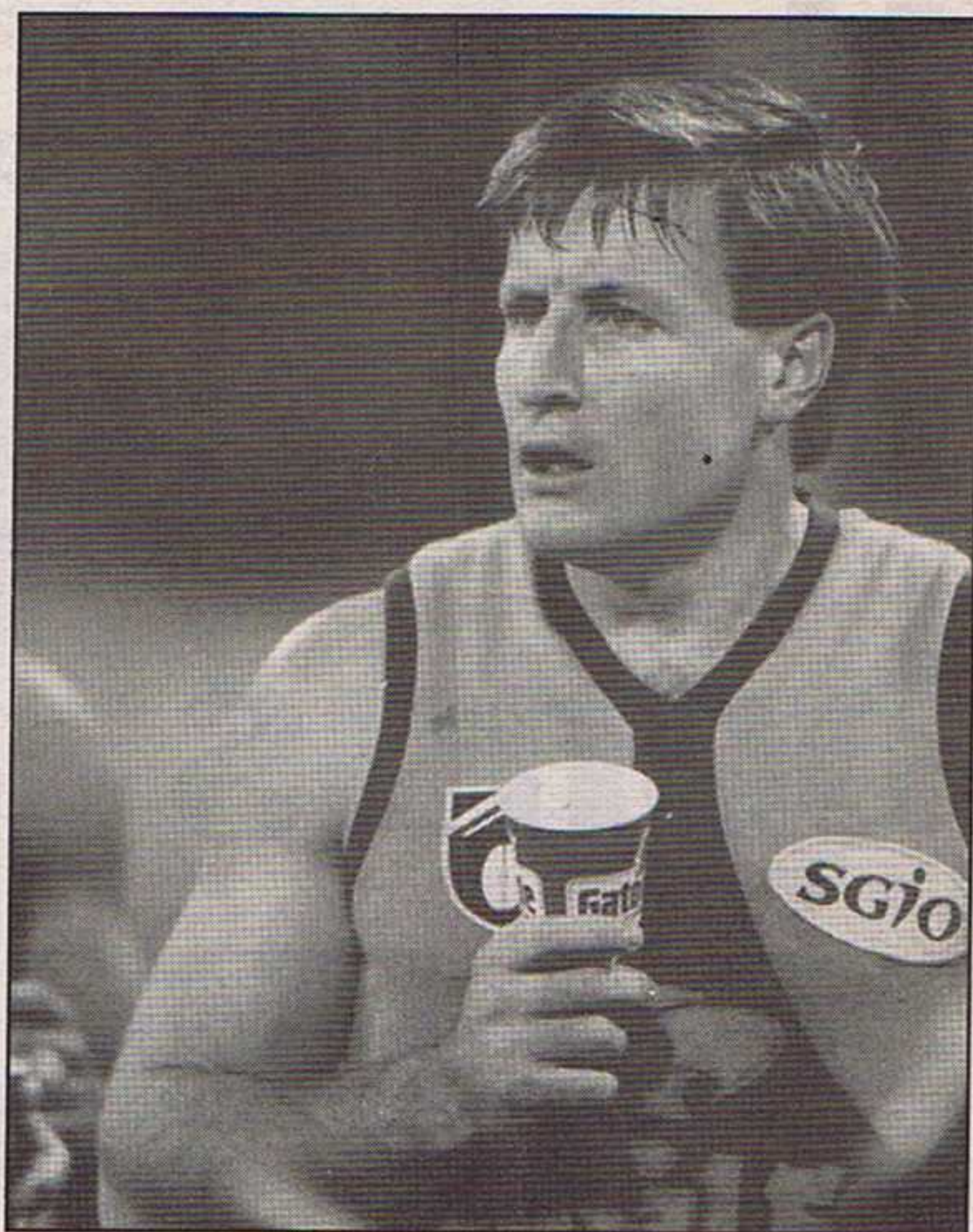
At 23, Mitchell has played a lot of football and has quickly adapted to the change in pace.

And Clive Waterhouse has already shown glimpses of why he was the Dockers No.1 draft choice.

Injury took its toll on the Dockers last season. Having the likes of Scott Edwards and Winston Abraham back makes a difference in their midfield.

Anthony Jones, who produced some classy performances early last season, is making a healthy recovery and having players like that return after long lay-offs is like adding new recruits to the squad.

When you consider that Matthew Burton, Shaun McManus, Luke Toia, Scott Watters, Jeff White, Jamie Merillo, Tony De-



Looking tougher ... John Worsfold means business this season.

## Dockers Den

Brad Elborough looks at news in the Fremantle camp

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laney and Craig Burrows are good enough to force their way into the side, the Dockers have some excellent depth.

## Handy man:

IT'S pretty obvious that nippy little East Fremantle product Brad Rowe is going to be a handy player for Fremantle.

With his floppy locks

replaced by a short haircut, the dangerous Rowe is going to give the Dockers plenty of the ball, but he'll need to straighten his kicking in attack.

He returned just two points from four fairly easy scoring chances early against the Eagles and his experience in 59 games at Brisbane and Collingwood will be great support for the team's little-man brigade.

## Tough leader:

YOU have to admire Fremantle skipper Ben Allan; he certainly leads by example.

At a time of the year when you could expect Allan to have a break and miss a couple of games - given the way he totally commits his body in every outing - he's leading from the front.



Back again ... Scott Edwards has shaken off his injury woes.

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FOOTBALL is a serious business for Mick Malthouse, the man who played in a back pocket when Richmond won the 1980 VFL premiership.

He gave nothing away to his Collingwood rivals that day and he concedes little to his opponents these days.

Malthouse inherited arguably a State side just waiting to be moulded and developed Victorian-style when he took on the Eagles coaching role in 1990.

In six years since then the worst the Eagles have finished is sixth – and that was last year – and he has compiled a 102-44 win/loss record with two draws.

In 1992 and '94 Malthouse guided his team to a premiership. Now, in the pattern of that two-year cycle, can he do it again?



Eagles coach Mick Malthouse has some words of advice for talented utility Ashley McIntosh.

# Younger Eagles in bid for third flag

**AC:** How is this year's team different from the side of 1995? And what have you done differently in your preparation?

**MM:** We have probably – and I haven't done this statistically – gone from an average age of 25 or 26 down to probably 22 or 23.

When you lose 844 league games in experience and you bring in Andy Lovell, with 121 games, you can see there's a vast hole in experience.

But we pick up, hopefully, young people with enthusiasm.

There's no difference in preparation. Well, that's not quite right. I guess the onus is on our assistant coach and developmental coach to work overtime with a lot of young kids, which is a bit different from what we've had in the past.

**AC:** There's no question about the talent of the Eagles players, so is it a mental thing, the difference between finishing first and sixth?

**MM:** People forget that there are 15 other sides in the competition. You're not always going to be the best because to be the best you need a lot of things going for you and sometimes they don't always work out.

A lot of people probably branded us as the best side, but I

## Face to Face

**Andrew Clennell** talks with the Eagles coach about the 1996 season.



presented by



think we are one of the better sides in the competition.

And the difference between first and sixth is sometimes very minor. It might be one or two players playing good footy.

So, let's not get too carried away with what the general public and the media say – that we are blessed with a whole heap of great players, because we are not blessed with a whole heap of great players.

**AC:** How do you see the Eagles forward line problems? The team hasn't had a quality full-forward for a year or so.

**MM:** Well, how many super forwards are there in the competition?

Perhaps Peter Sumich is not the super forward that he was a couple of years ago, but he's trying to get back to that. And perhaps we haven't got a Jason Dunstall or a Tony Lockett. But then again, Lockett's been to two clubs in 10 years of football and hasn't played in a premiership.

Just because you don't have a super forward doesn't necessarily mean that you're not going to win a premiership. And one player will not change our position on the ladder greatly.

We need more young players coming up and playing good footy.

**AC:** What is the future for Peter Sumich and Jason Heatley?

**MM:** Well, that's up to them this year.

**AC:** As a coach, what challenges are left for you after two premierships with the Eagles? Is it easy to keep the hunger up?

**MM:** I believe that unless you aim for perfection, you don't aim very high. No league club, no league team ever attained perfection.

If you give up trying for it, you will never go on. So that's the challenge.

**AC:** Isn't there more of a desire to

take on a different challenge; maybe a team that's down the bottom of the ladder and try to lift them?

**MM:** In 1989, West Coast was 11th. So it's a big enough challenge to get there. You've then got to stay there. We haven't stayed there yet. There lies the challenge – getting up there again.

**AC:** So you want to be like the Hawthorn of the 1980s or even better?

**MM:** I don't think there'll ever be another Hawthorn of the '80s.

**AC:** Why is that?

**MM:** Because they were a freak group of people who came together at the right time under different rules to today.

**AC:** How long do you see yourself coaching the Eagles – do you have a five-year plan?

**MM:** A year-to-year basis is probably as good as you're going to get in any league club. Because you've got to judge it every year, unless you're probably a new coach at a club.

But when you get to the stage where I have been – it's come to my seventh year – you've got to be careful that you don't start looking at two years down the track.

**AC:** Who are some of the



Mick Malthouse ... aiming for perfection is the challenge.

young up-and-comers to keep an eye on this year?

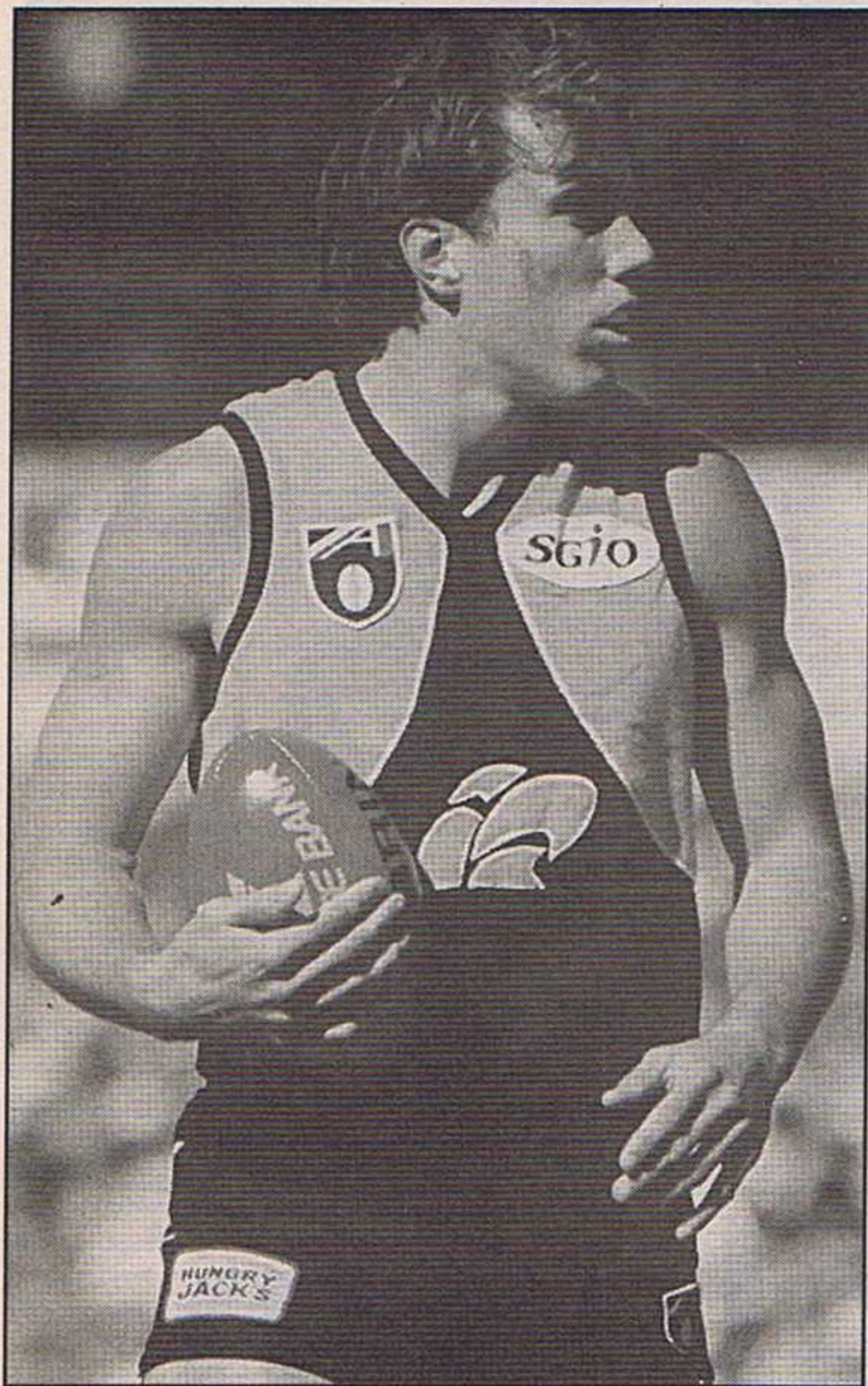
**MM:** Any number of our draftees could make the grade. We'll just have to wait and see how things work out.

Brendan Fewster, young Ben Cousins, Phillip Matera, Craig Smoker, Jonson Clifton, Neil Marshall, Paul Whitelaw, Luke Trew and Chad Morrison – who was recruited last year as our 16-year-old choice – are all going to be worth watching.

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# Gehrig set to consolidate



Looking good ... Fraser Gehrig is set to build on last year's great debut and show the versatility he displayed.

By BRAD ELBOROUGH

WEST Coast coach Mick Malthouse has described Fraser Gehrig as the perfect example of the modern-day footballer - with pace, skills, heart, size and athletic ability.

In his first season of AFL football, Gehrig showed why he was given such respect by one of the game's master coaches.

The highly-rated draftee from the Murray Bushrangers, in Victoria's 18s competition, was selected by the Eagles at No.16 in the 1993 draft.

Recruiting staff from several other clubs are still wondering how they let him slip past them.

After spending a full season in the WAFL with Perth, Gehrig was ready to make a claim for a spot in the AFL. He finished with 16 AFL games last season and is now looking to beat off any second-season blues that have affected many youngsters over the years.

To do that Gehrig knows he has to do a lot of hard work.

"A number of youngsters playing in their second year fail because they get too cocky, or whatever," Gehrig said.

"I don't think I'll be a victim of that because I've had a better pre-season than other years and I'm a fair bit stronger.

"I'm way ahead, as far as my fitness level is concerned."

Gehrig had a couple of false starts before settling into the Eagles line-up last year.

He played the opening two games, coming off the bench and then went back to WAFL ranks for three weeks before a recall against Carlton and the history-making first Western Derby.

Another five-week stint in WAFL ranks was followed with his third call-up for the year ... and this time it was permanent.

His hard work had paid dividends and he was selected to play for WA in their clash against Queensland, in Brisbane.

Gehrig was starting to show his versatility. When he returned to the Eagles team the next week he was used in a variety of roles, comfortably handling such jobs as centre-half-back and centre-half-forward.

"I can see myself playing a bit more in defence this season," he said.

"I've spent a bit of time there during pre-season."

Despite Gehrig's effort in winning the Eagles best first-year player award, he knows he has to keep improving in order to keep his spot.

"The guys drafted this season have come along a bit better than even the club expected them to," he said.

"There are probably five or six of the 10 new guys who could play senior football this year.

"Phil Matera and Ben Cousins are two who are playing well and could press for spots if they continue.

"It leaves us with a pretty strong squad."

## Heady has new sporting goal

WEST Coast forward Brett Heady has twice achieved the ultimate in football - AFL premierships in 1992 and 1994.

Now he is aiming to snare the Holy Grail in another sport, harness racing.

The clever half-forward is a part-owner of Admiral's Ecstasy, one of the contenders striving to win the most prestigious pacing event in Australasia - the 1996 Ausdrill Diamond Jubilee Interdominion.

Another in the owner's syndicate is Trevor Riley, the former Perth general manager who has now moved to the Kelmscott Football and Sportsmen's Club.

Heats of the Inters, at Perth's Gloucester Park, will be run on Friday night and March 5 and 8, with the final

on March 15. Admiral's Ecstasy is ranked No.16 in the field of 36 and is rated a 20/1 chance in pre-post markets. Riley was excited about the prospects of taking on the best pacers from Australia, New Zealand and America.

"It is every owner's dream to have a horse in the Interdominion," he said.

"I've been dreaming about it for 12 years, it's sensational."

Riley revealed Heady was passionate about his involvement.

"Brett loves trotting, he gets a great thrill out of it," he said.

"But he gets very nervous on race nights - he's like

a cat on a hot tin roof."

Admiral's Ecstasy has an excellent strike rate, recording 20 wins, 11 seconds and eight thirds from 53 starts, for earnings of \$151,166.

Riley is confident leading trainer-reinsman Trevor Warwick will have the six-year-old gelding primed for a bold showing.

"He has a good chance as long as he draws well," Riley said.

"He has clocked good times and been a terrific horse for us.

"We're all hoping for a win, but it's all in the lap of the gods now."

- CRAIGNITSCHKE

## Demons fail in bid to add to depleted squad

MELBOURNE have failed in a bid to increase their squad after the injury to David Schwarz.

Melbourne's *Sunday Age* writer Rohan Connolly says that the Demons are in numbers trouble as their list is effectively reduced to 36 players.

The knee injury to Schwarz virtually ruled him out for the year and with Todd Viney off on a tennis coaching stint; Sean Charles and Shaun Smith out injured and the 17-year-old Cockatoo-Collins twins Donald and David expected to stay in school football, their squad strength is looking grim.

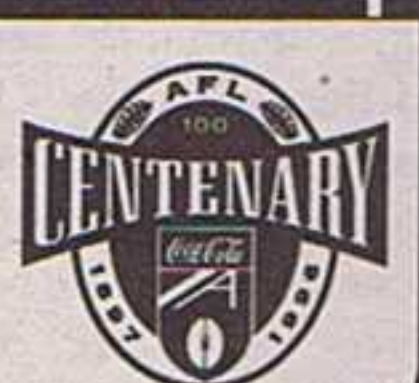
The AFL's football operations manager Ian Collins denied the request and said that Melbourne had made a conscious decision to retain Schwarz and Viney and they weren't entitled to special consideration.

### Happy Cat:

GEELONG fans were pleased to see star midfielder Garry Hocking get through a tough practice match in 30C heat last weekend.

### East Coast Gossip

A round-up of what footy people are talking about in Melbourne



suffering from a sore tendon in a knee, Steve Wallis and former Carlton forward James Cook all impressed in the hit-out.

Footscray are prepared to "carry" Wynd this season, knowing that the skipper's knee is suspect and they will give him and Wallis an easy run up to the opening of the season.

### Draft gamble:

FITZROY, desperate to shake off the cellar-dweller blues, puzzled a few outsiders with their draft choices.

They ignored seasoned campaigners such as St Kilda's Gordon Fode and plucked two unknowns - Brian McInnes with their first pick, then Brent Frewin.

The 18-year-old Frewin has played with the Bendigo Pioneers for the past two years and was included on Fitzroy's supplementary list. McInnes, now 23, was hampered by injuries when he first tried out at Footscray four years ago.

### Dogs biting:

THREE key Footscray players successfully completed a hard practice match hit-out last weekend - even though it was a reserves game.

Bulldogs skipper and Brownlow Medallist Scott Wynd, who is

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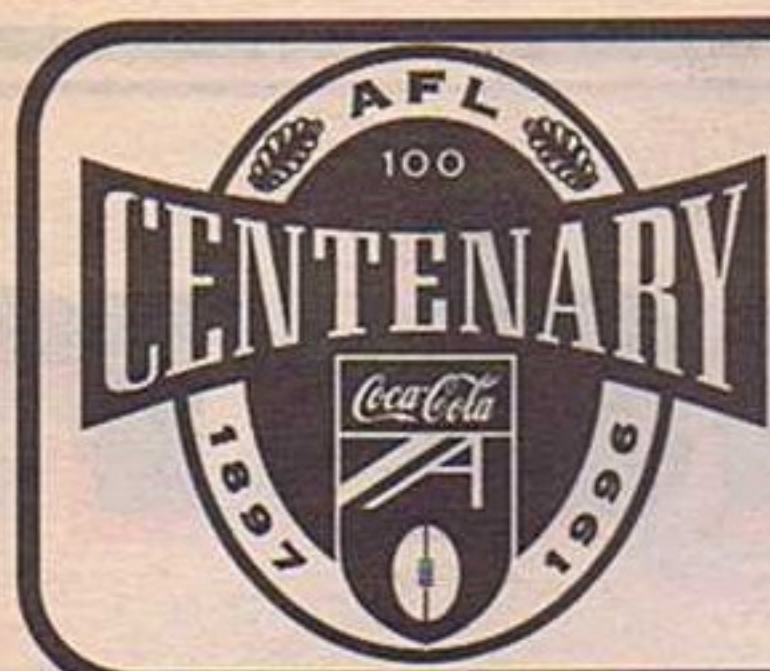
Eagles Captain John Worsfold says, "Marlows will fit manufacturer specified replacement brake shoes or pads to your car and inspect your complete braking system at no extra charge - that's all brake lines, wheel cylinders and the master cylinder. But more than that, if you bring your car back after 6 weeks, they'll inspect your brakes again to make sure your pads or shoes are bedding in properly. You can't beat that, but that's Marlows for you!"

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# Australian Football Hall of Fame

## On-ballers dominate

**RUCKMEN and rovers dominated the game's Legends group when the AFL announced its inaugural football Hall of Fame.**

Of the 12 champions granted Legend status, four were ruckman and four were rovers.

The others were two full-forwards, a centre-half-forward and an old-style ruck-rover.

No defenders or centreliners made the Legends group – an amazing situation considering some of the all-time greats who

have played in those positions.

However, amid all the debate over the Legends list, it's a question of who you would leave out of the 12 to include an alternative player.

This week's special Westside Football tribute to the Hall of Fame focuses on the 12 Legends.

They were:

Rucks: Graham Farmer, Jack Dyer, John Nicholls, Roy Cazaly.

Rovers: Leigh Matthews, Dick Reynolds, Haydn Bunton sen., Bob Skilton.

Ruck-rovers: Ron Barassi.  
Full-forwards: John Coleman, Bob Pratt.  
Centre-half-forward: Ted Whitten.

### Ron Barassi:

Born: February 27, 1936.  
Played: 254 games with Melbourne and Carlton, 1953-69, for six premierships.

Coached: 514 games with Carlton, North Melbourne, Melbourne and Sydney, 1965-95, for four premierships.

Often regarded as football's genuine hot-gospeller, Barassi was a player who used his physical strength and fierce determination to offset a perceived lack of natural football skills. He developed under the legendary coaching of Norm Smith at Melbourne, captaining them to their last two premierships in the run of six from 1955 to '64. His coaching feats were highlighted by sparking an amazing revival from Carlton in 1970 when they came from 44-points down at half-time to beat Collingwood, and taking North Melbourne to their first flag in 1975.

### Haydn Bunton sen:

Born: July 5, 1911.  
Played: 119 games with Fitzroy, 72 with Subiaco, 1931-42, for three Brownlow Medals and three Sandover Medals.

Coached: 18 games with Fitzroy, 1936.

Many critics have rated Bunton as the greatest footballer ever, not only because of his historic Brownlow and Sandover victories, but his sheer ball-getting capacity. He was a fast, high-leaping player built in the mould of a ruck-rover in today's football. He made his debut with Fitzroy at the age of 19 – after sitting out the 1930 season over a controversy about being paid to sign on with the Lions. He won Brownlows in his first two seasons. He also



Ted Whitten... carried the title of 'Mr Football'

played with Port Adelaide, coached North Adelaide and umpired after his playing days.

He was killed in a car accident in South Australia at the age of 44.

### Roy Cazaly:

Born: January 13, 1893.  
Played: 199 games with St Kilda and South Melbourne, 1910-27.

Coached: 70 games with South Melbourne and Hawthorn, 1937-43.

A fairest and best winner at both clubs, Cazaly had a magnificent leap that turned an average-sized player into a ruck star. After growing up a devoted Carlton star, he was overlooked by the Blues and made his debut with St Kilda as a 17-year-old in 1910, but that was his only game for the year. He was recalled the next season and went on to captain the side before switching to South Melbourne when a clearance application to Carlton was rejected.

### John Coleman:

Born: November 28, 1928.  
Played: 98 games with Essendon, 1949-54, for two premierships.

Coached: 134 games with Essendon, 1961-67, for two premierships.

Despite his rather short career, Coleman was regarded as the classic full-forward. A brilliant high

mark, a long and accurate kick and a clever user of his body, he was a constant danger around the goals. He kicked 537 majors for the Bombers in his six years. But he could have been a Richmond champion, as it took him two years to break into the Bombers line-up after kicking 160 goals for country club Hastings. After a 14-goal effort against Fitzroy in Round 7 of the 1954 season – and with five goals against his name in the clash with North Melbourne – he fell awkwardly after taking a mark and dislocated his knee. He never played again.

### Jack Dyer:

Born: November 15, 1913.  
Played: 312 games for Richmond, 1931-49, for one premiership.

Coached: 225 games with Richmond, 1941-52, for one premiership.

A player who lived up to his nickname of Captain Blood – because of his swashbuckling style – Dyer was a fearsome ruckman who let no opponent stand in his way. He typified the hard times around Richmond in the tough 1930s era and though he was skinny and 19th man when he first played seniors, he quickly settled into the side, leading by fierce example. He took over as captain-coach in 1941 and proved his versatility by being the club's leading goalkicker in 1947 and '48.



Jack Dyer... earned a reputation for fierce ruck work.

Continued Page 12

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# Legend recognised in Hall of Fame list

From the scrapbook... one of the epic duels between Polly Farmer and Jack Clarke.



At home by the pool... Graham and Marlene Farmer

**YARNING** about football with old-timers is a marvellous past-time; talking football with a legend like Graham Farmer is even better.

The champion ruckman rose from the ranks of the orphans at St Kate's Boys Home in suburban Queen's Park to be the nation's No. 1 footballer in a period of excellence in the 1960s.

He has been named as one of 12 legends of the Australian game – the only West Australian to be so honoured in the launch of the AFL's Hall of Fame.

This collection of Farmer comments and stories provides an insight to the remarkable man's achievements.

## Changes:

Talking with George Grljusich on radio 6WF, Farmer suggested that the change in football boots style, from high ankles to low-cut, has helped ruin the art of kicking in football.

"When the boots change came in, coaches allowed players to get away with not learning the proper kicking skills," he said.

The man who won two Sandover Medals on the votes of umpires – but could only finish runner-up in a Brownlow Medal despite his dominance of Victorian football in the 1960s – has a shot at the umpires.

"They are running the game these days, but they don't have the credentials to do so," he said.

"They are ruining the ruck duels because they cannot control the wrestling and other interference that prevents what should be a feature of the game from becoming a focal point.

"Wrestling is against the rules, but the umpires can't stamp it out," he said.

Farmer also says that just playing against men like Jack Clarke, Merv McIntosh, Brian Foley and Keith Slater helped him.

"Just by watching them, you learnt," said Farmer.

"If they had something good going for them, you tried to emulate them. I used to watch all footballers and when I saw them do something I couldn't do, I practiced till I could.

"Even at the interstate level, you watched fellas like Roy Wright, from Richmond, he used to be a dominating player; Jim Taylor, from South Melbourne. They were outstanding and I used to watch the way they played.

*In an interview with radio 6NR's Colin Minson, the great Graham Farmer had these answers to some wide-ranging questions:*

## Early memories:

My great want was to try and get a game.

I started playing at the Kenwick State School; went to Forrest High, in Mt Lawley and then with Kenwick in B-grade in the old South Suburban competition.

I had a couple of years at Maddington, where they had an A-grade side and then went down to East Perth because Ted Kilmurray had played a game in the reserves.

Even though I trained for a year with Perth, I always thought I'd like to play with East Perth.

I enjoyed watching players like Steve Marsh and Bernie Naylor; absolute champions.

And also Jack Sheedy, Jim Conway and Merv Cowan and people like that who were playing for East Fremantle; they were the icons of football.

## At West Perth:

As playing-coach of West Perth, I really was dependent on the people around me. When I was out in the field, my main commitment was to play the game and help my team win.

I could use my voice to tell the players what to do, but someone had to come out and tell me if there was an obvious weakness somewhere that I didn't see.

I had good support off the field and when you're successful, it's enjoyable, because when you're losing obviously it's demoralising and people don't want excuses; they want to kick you out.

## The handball art:

I used handball for my own benefits. I didn't consider I was good enough to get the ball, beat the other player, run, steady and kick. But I thought I was good enough to get the ball and obviously the next thing was to dispose of it.

I had good co-ordination and I thought I could do something with it as I came down from the ruck knock.

I also thought about the smaller players; I didn't think it was right they should suffer physical harassment to get the ball when I could give it to them.

Being taller and heavier, I could handle the physical contact better and the basis of my game was to get the ball and give it out.

I chose to give it to a player who was running in the direction of our goals; I would put the ball a couple of steps in front of them.

There were some great players around in the mid-50s, especially under Jack Sheedy – players like Paul Seal, Brian Ray, Ted Kilmurray and Kevin McGill; players who knew that I would give them the ball.

## The Geelong move:

I went in 1962, when I was 27 years of age and, as it turned out, in some ways it was a disaster because in my first game, I dislocated my knee and ended up playing just five matches for the year.

I was carried off the ground three times, so it wasn't a good season.

There was a fair amount of adverse publicity about my ruck style because I used to run and jump and get the ride off other players.

I was always going for the ball, but some coaches suggested I was cheating. But they didn't give me credit for 12 years of learning how to do those things; they just said the guy's cheating and should stop it.

From the first game, I decided play from the front and I got caught up in a mass of legs and a couple of players landed on top of me and I dislocated my knee.

It was tragic; but I was lucky because there were another five Victorian players at that time who had the same operation and none of them played again. I recovered to continue playing because that's all I had going for me – a promising football career.

## Biography:

A fascinating biography written by Steven Hawke about the great Graham (Polly) Farmer is must-reading for lovers of the game.

Titled simply Polly Farmer, the book unveils many interesting snippets about life in the football arena over the last 40 years.

Farmer, still a keen footy student as he operates the Southway Auto Lodge, in South Perth, reveals that he was subject to racist remarks back in the 1950s and '60s when he first broke into the WAF scene.

I was convinced that weight training would help, so I built my thighs up to take over the job of the knee, of locking it up with the muscle.

But I also changed my style because my ligaments had stretched and I had a loose knee and couldn't land on my left leg.

I became more of a physical player; I only jumped when I was in complete control of the way I landed. If I couldn't land on my right leg, I'd land on my back.

I couldn't afford to land on my left leg because it would mean the end of my career.

I was lucky and I'm just grateful I came back and I played with Geelong because it was one of my dreams to play a VFL premiership team.

## Highlights:

PLAYING football at East Perth was a great highlight, so was getting my first league game. I went out onto the field as a very inexperienced player and was grateful for the opportunity.

Playing in East Perth's first premiership side was a highlight.

However, I remember my disappointments more than I remember my successes.

I remember the 1961 grand final. We were the best side in the competition, losing two games for the whole season and beating Swan Districts three times by an average of five goals.

We beat them in the second semi, but the problem was everyone told us we were going to win by 10 or 15 goals. No-one prepared us for the fact that there was a chance we could be beaten.

Swans led us all game by two or three goals, so there was always the chance of us winning if some of us had the get up and go. But no one did and Swan Districts had an exciting win.

It was great for football because Swans had gone for nearly 30 years without winning and suddenly it made them into a magic side.

## The Perth AFL scene?

The competition between the Eagles and the Dockers

But he says they never worried him – in fact, they made him play better.

The book reveals that East Fremantle champion Jack Clarke used racist comments in a bid to unsettle Farmer and while the two men indulged in some public verbal warfare in their playing days, they are now good friends and can look back on those days with humour.

"It's all fair on the field," says Farmer, who admits that opposition taunts and tactics simply made him play better to prove that he could rise to any challenge.

is a game where all West Australians can win.

It's probably the most exciting thing that has happened in sport in the last 20 years.

From my point of view I was a West Coast supporter before I was a Dockers supporter, but I'm supporting both of them now.

In any game of Australian Rules, it's important to put on a good display because it's not only played and viewed here, it's viewed around the world.

We've got a unique game that isn't played anywhere else.

In American grid-iron if you can run 100-metres in nine seconds, you can get a game. In rugby it's almost the same because they are looking for someone who can carry the ball down field.

In Australian Rules, not only do they take the ball down the field, but you must have the ability to beat the player you're on and also execute the fundamentals, which aren't easy under pressure.



## 1996 EMU EXPORT SERIES

ROUND 1 SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1996	ROUND 2 SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1996	ROUND 3 SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1996	ROUND 4 SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1996	PLAY-OFFS (Top four sides at the end of Rounds 1-4) FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1996
East Perth vs Perth Bassendean Oval 2.00pm	Subiaco vs Perth Bassendean Oval 2.00pm	Perth vs Swan Districts Gingin 3.00pm	East Perth vs West Perth Manjimup 2.15pm	Minor Final 3rd vs 4th WACA 5.45pm
Swan Districts vs Claremont Bassendean Oval 4.00pm	Swan Districts vs East Perth Bassendean Oval 4.00pm	West Perth vs Subiaco Joondalup** 2.50pm	East Fremantle vs Swan Districts E Fremantle Oval 3.00pm	Grand Final 1st vs 2nd WACA 8.00pm**
East Fremantle vs Subiaco Fremantle Oval 5.00pm	West Perth vs Claremont Fremantle Oval 5.00pm	East Fremantle vs East Perth Fremantle Oval 4.55pm	Claremont vs Subiaco Claremont Oval 3.00pm	These fixtures are subject to amendment without notice if necessary
South Fremantle vs West Perth Fremantle Oval 7.00pm	South Fremantle vs East Fremantle Fremantle Oval 7.00pm	South Fremantle vs Claremont Fremantle Oval 5.00pm	SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1996 South Fremantle vs Perth Pingelly 3.00pm	**ABC TELEVISED GAMES Tickets: Adults \$4 Concession \$2 U/15 - FREE



Nothing changes between old friends



# Legends of the game



## From Page 9

### Bob Pratt:

Born: August 31, 1912.  
Played: 158 games with South Melbourne, 1930-39 and '46, for one premiership.

Regarded as the focal point of his team, the high-flying Pratt drew the crowds through the turnstiles in their thousands. He had an uncanny ability to "hang" in the air, often taking a flying leap from well behind the pack. He boasted an exceptionally good kick, often sending his spiral punts more than 70 metres goalwards. Despite kicking just 66 goals in his first two years, he topped the century mark in 1933 and then kicked his record tally of 150 majors in 1934. His best bag was 15 and he had four other double-figure hauls that year.

### Graham Farmer:

Born: March 10, 1935.  
Played: 356 games for East Perth, Geelong, West Perth, 1953-71, for six premierships and two Sandover Medals.

Coached: 190 games with West Perth, Geelong and East Perth, 1968-77, for two premierships.

Though he went to Victoria at the relatively 'old' age of 27, Farmer had a huge impact on the game. His handball was revolutionary and his ability to either palm the ball to his running rovers or to take clean possession and fire out a long handpass before hitting the ground changed the nature of the game. A Tassie Medallist, four times a Simpson Medallist and 10 fairest and bests confirmed his status in the game. He created great controversy in Victoria with his ability to jump early and use his opponent's body to stay up in the air.

### Leigh Matthews:

Born: March 1, 1952.  
Played: 332 games with Hawthorn, 1969-85, for four premierships.

Coached: 224 games with Collingwood, 1986-95, for one premiership.

While the tough and unrelenting roving skills of Matthews will long be a feature of the mighty

Hawthorn era, it is at Collingwood that he may be best-remembered. It was at Victoria Park in 1990 that he broke the most-talked-about premiership drought of all time, ending a 32-year run of outs by coaching the Magpies to the flag. With a nickname of Lethal, the strongly-built Matthews played the game hard but fair and spent many of his games playing out of a forward pocket. He posted 915 goals - sixth on the all-time list of goalkickers.

### John Nicholls:

Born: March 10, 1935.  
Played: 328 games with Carlton, 1957-74, for three premierships.

Coached: 97 games with Carlton, 1972-75, with one premiership as captain-coach.

Almost unwanted by Carlton when their recruiting people went to Maryborough to sign his older brother Don, Nicholls went on to be a tower of strength for the Blues. He inspired courage and determination in his team-mates - and fear in the opposition, especially with his frightening glare. He was a ruckman who stood tall on the field, winning five club best and fairest and he showed that he was far from over the hill when he led the Blues to the 1972 premiership in his first year as a playing-coach. He produced some masterful tactics and kicked six goals from a forward pocket.

### Dick Reynolds:

Born: June 20, 1915.  
Played: 320 games with Essendon, 1933-51, for four premierships.

Coached: 420 games with Essendon, 1939-60, for four premierships as captain-coach.

A triple Brownlow Medallist and seven-times best and fairest at Essendon, the legendary Bomber was aptly named "King Richard". He was the game's leading rover of his era, even though he was probably a ruck-rover by today's standards. He formed a lethal combination with co-rover Billy Hutchison as they fed ace full-forward John Coleman with frequent deadly foot-passes. Reynolds, full of courage and cleverness, had tremendous ball skills on both sides of his body and was an inspirational team leader.

### Bob Skilton:

Born: November 8, 1938.  
Played: 237 games with South Melbourne, 1956-68.

Coached: 66 games with Melbourne, 1974-76.

A triple Brownlow Medallist, Skilton ranks as one of the most accomplished rovers the game has seen. Scrupulously fair, tough and determined, his skills were regarded as being near perfection, especially with his ability to spear drop-kick passes accurately with both feet. He was an immediate success after graduating from a local under-19s side and 25

matches for Victoria confirmed his big-game status. It was sad that Skilton played just one finals match in his career - a losing effort against St Kilda in 1970.

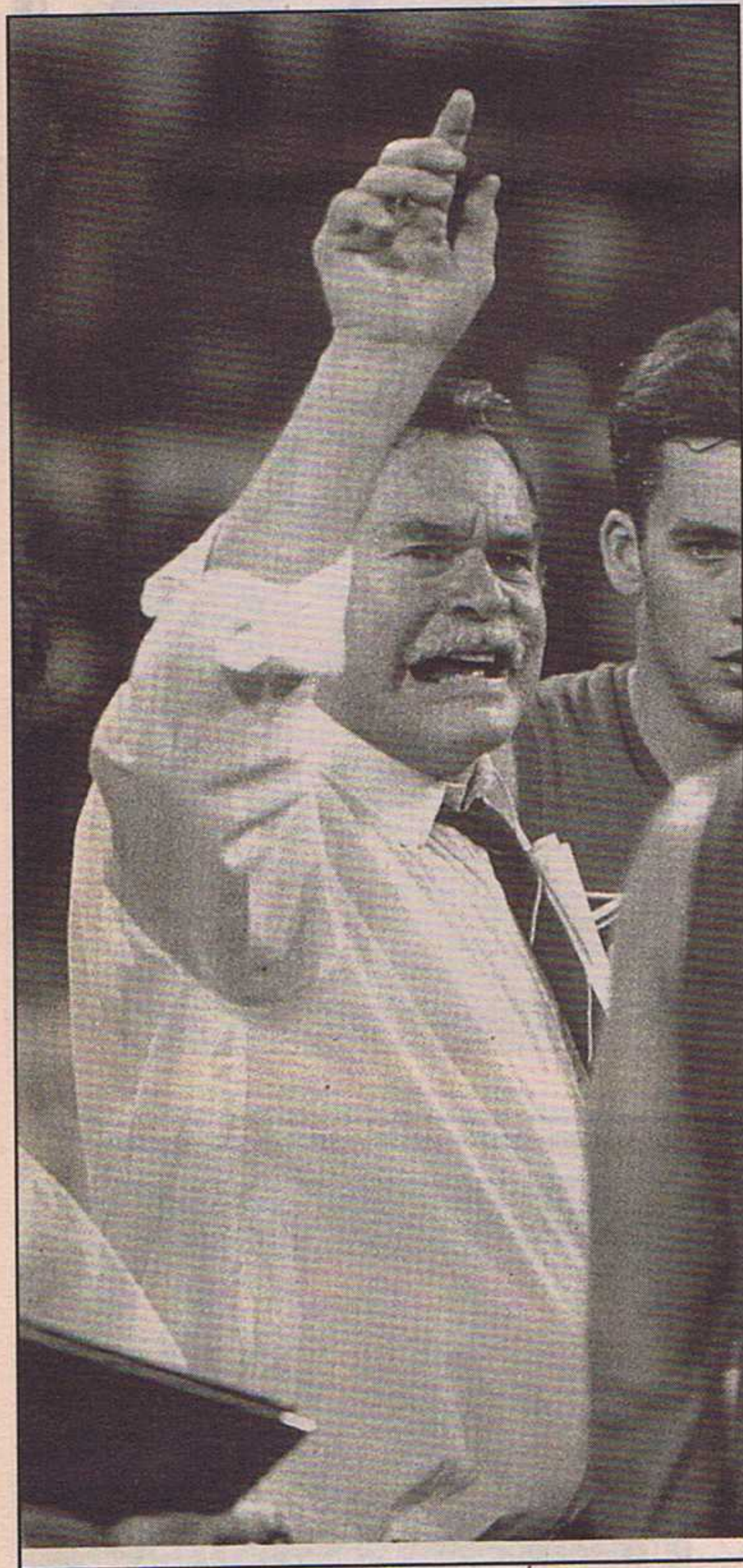
### Ted Whitten:

Born: July 27, 1933.  
Played: 321 games with Footscray, 1951-70, for one premiership.

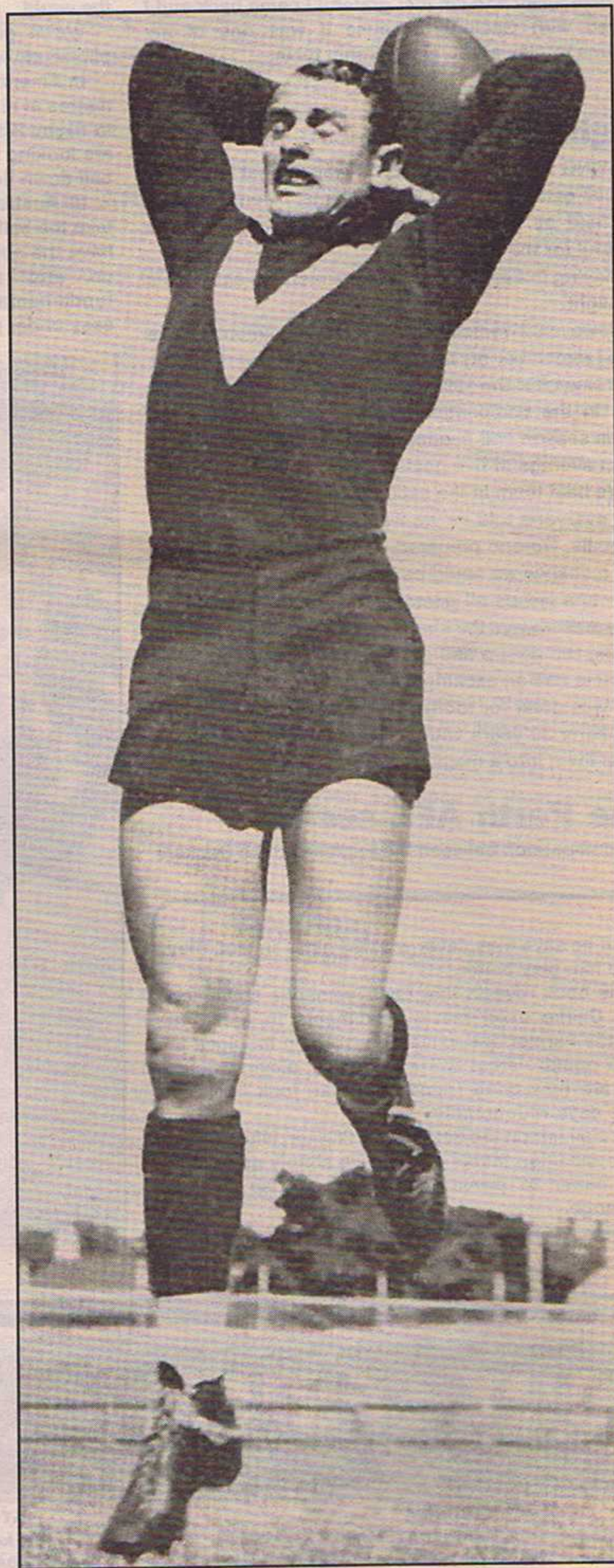
Coached: 228 games with Footscray, 1957-66 and 1969-71.

The man they called Mr Football, Whitten was a local legend at Footscray and when he died last year was probably the game's best-known personality. Many critics rated Whitten as the great-

est all-round footballer ever, with his strong marking and flawless kicking matched with strength, agility and versatility. He could play in any key position, but was probably best-known as a centre-half-forward, winning the club's best and fairest in their 1954 premiership side. He could have been a Collingwood player, but was told by the Magpies to go away and build up his body strength. He became a passionate supporter of interstate football with the Big V his great love after his retirement. He also did considerable media work.



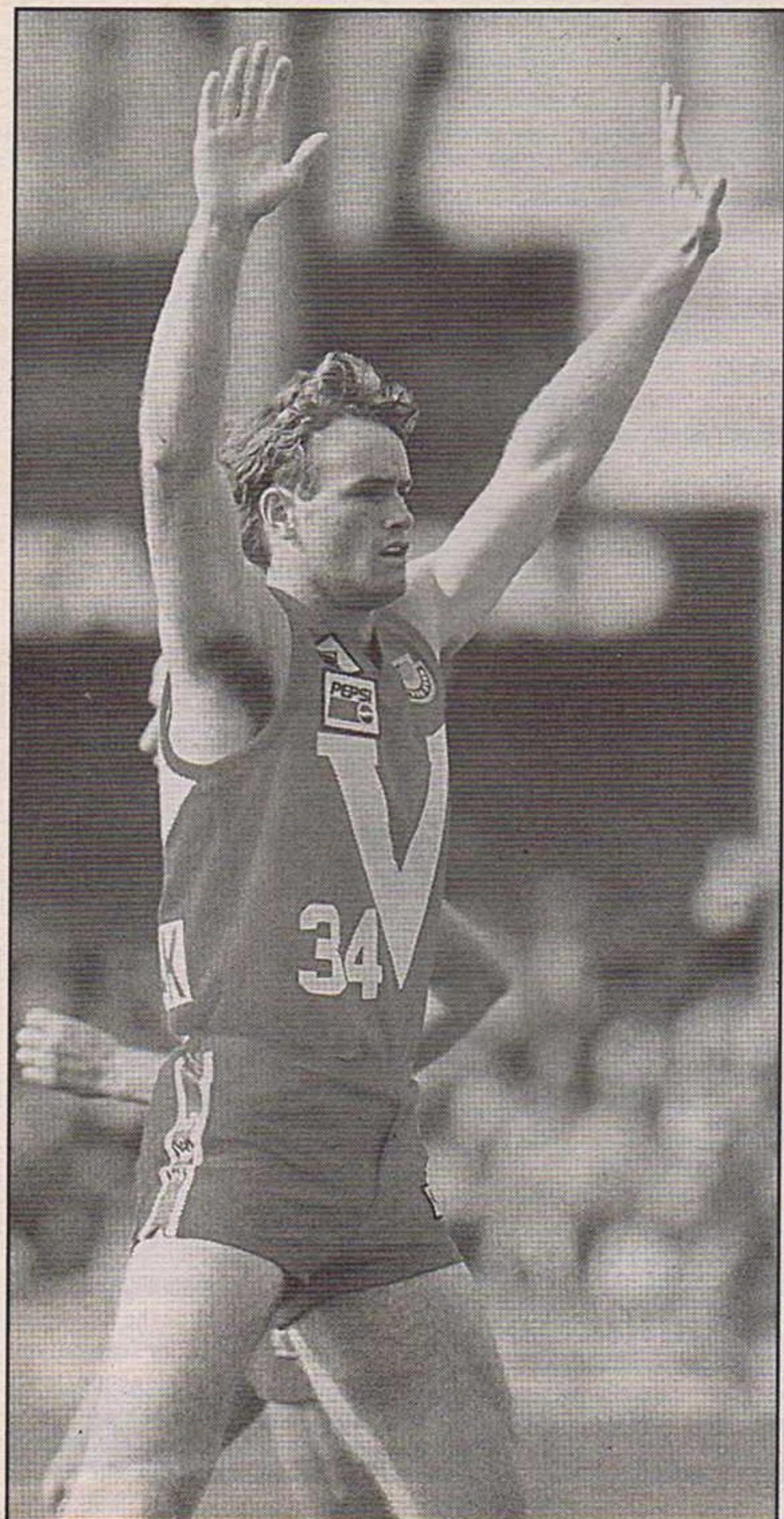
Ron Barassi... top player turned master coach.



Haydn Bunton sr... described as the classical footballer.

## Next week: The Hall of Fame line-up





Second chance ... displaced Docker Brad Cassidy is doing well at Fitzroy.

# Draft comes under fire

**THE AFL draft system has been designed to balance up the competition and most pundits claim some success over recent seasons.**

However, the scheme has many critics, including Fremantle coach Gerard Neesham.

The former Claremont mentor, who has produced more AFL players in the last decade than anyone, is strongly opposed to forcing players as young as 17 to relocate across the country if they wish to play AFL football.

The disruptions to study programmes, career potential and family life are obvious and some youngsters just can't cope.

Original Dockers Antony Ljubic and Brad Cassidy (now with Fitzroy) are examples of those who did not settle well in Perth and were delisted.

Even No.1 draft choice Jeff White struggled with home sickness in 1995, especially when affected by injury.

Fremantle has now used up all the draft concessions given to them as a new club.

The right to recruit up to 12 out-of-contract players over two seasons has ended, as has the automat-

## Sprigg Marks

with  
**Trevor Sprigg**  
former State  
and East  
Fremantle  
defender



ic No.1 draft selection.

Fremantle can only get further concessions if they perform poorly this season and are assessed as a development club, as Sydney and Brisbane have been.

With this background, the club faced the dilemma at the December draft - they could have selected young Victorian talent, but morally they don't accept the philosophy of picking teenagers and relocating them in a strange city.

No.1 choice Clive Waterhouse was generally regarded as a good selection, especially with his ability to turn a game with brilliant bursts of speed.

Tony Godden, ultimately

swapped by the Eagles for outstanding youngster David Wirrpunda, will add depth and ball-carrying ability to the Dockers midfield.

The Dockers didn't receive value for their second (and No.7) pick, opting for Claremont youngster Ben Edwards and subsequently de-listing him.

There was no need to use a draft choice on Edwards; he could have been claimed as part of the Dockers zoned clubs.

The No.7 choice could have gained the Dockers the best available 17-year-old in Victoria, as Collingwood selected Commonwealth Bank Cup star Simon Prestigiacomo at No.9.

Similarly, the Dockers could have picked another youngster at No.13, in preference to former Brisbane and Collingwood forward Brad Rowe, who had been delisted by the Magpies.

While Rowe could yet prove a valuable player for the Dockers, he is in reality another small forward option adding to an already formidable list of Gary Dhurrkay, Winston Abraham, Andrew Wills, Quenton Leach, Ben Allan, Luke Toia and Waterhouse.

## Complete History of the Claremont Football Club

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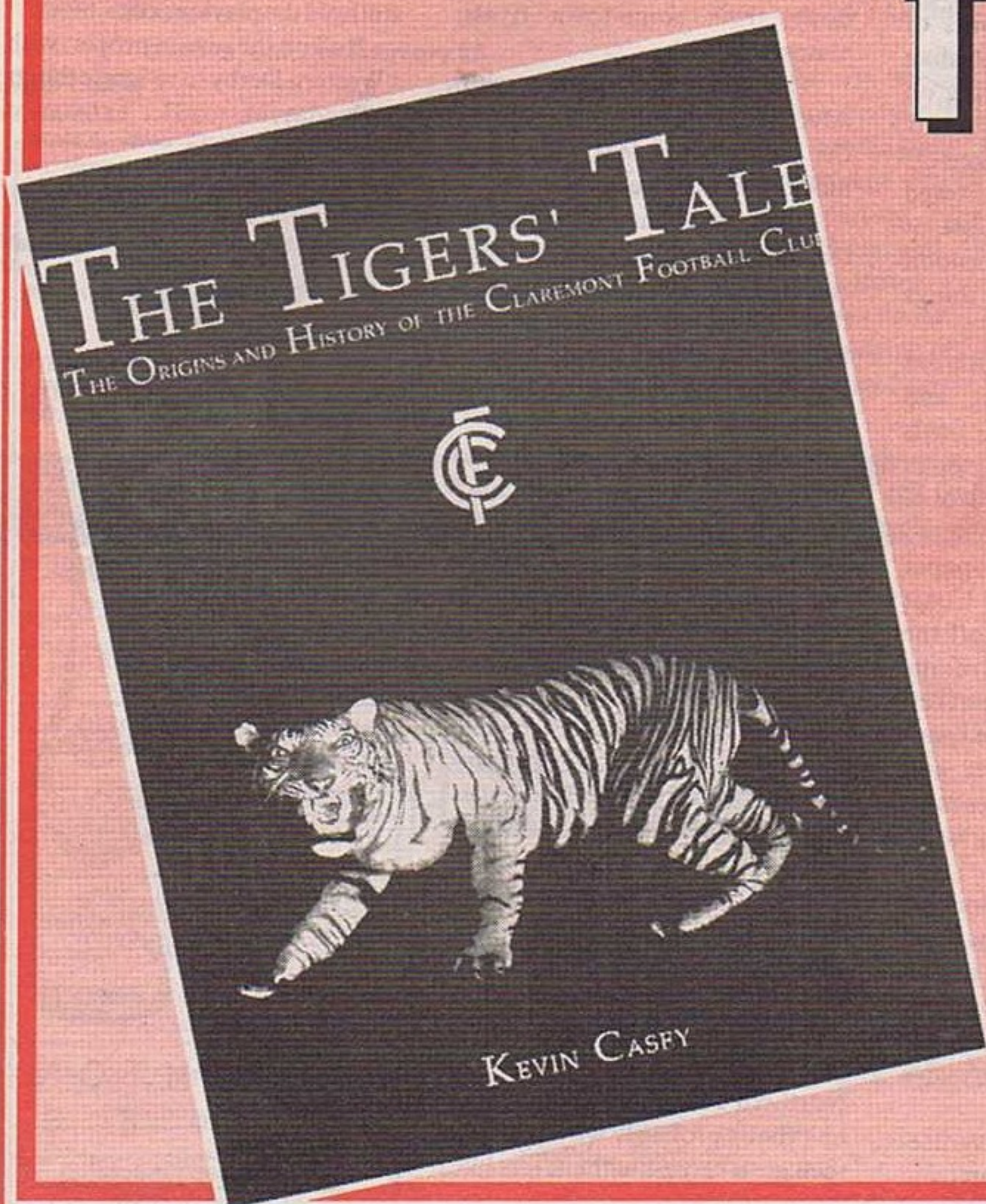
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# Saints aim for early success



Happy Saint... Stewart Loewe is pleased with his decision to stay at St Kilda and is excited about the Saints prospects.

ST KILDA'S demolition of Hawthorn in the Ansett Cup was part of a plan to have the Saints in form and focused for the bounce-down to the premier-ship season on March 30.

The Saints blew their chances of playing in the finals in 1995 by losing their first six games.

"We've talked about the start of the year and it's very important," said star spearhead Stewart Loewe.

"We realise we had a pretty ordinary season last year, but there were deficiencies which we have plugged.

"The young guys have kicked on, but we need a further 10 per cent improvement across the board.

"The middle of the range players have got to take the next step and offer more support for blokes like Harvey, Winmar and Burke."

The Saints showed promise in the concluding stages of 1995, winning six of their last nine matches.

But the highlight came in Round 9 when they thrashed eventual premiers Carlton by 56 points. (The Blues only other loss in their record-breaking season was to Sydney.)

"That shows we can do it," Loewe said. "Now we've got to concentrate on winning the games we are expected to win."

The 27-year-old's contract expired at the end of last year and rival clubs were desperate to entice him into new colours.

But the encouraging finish to last season and the abundance of talented young players at Moorabbin were key factors in Loewe deciding to stay.

And Loewe is excited about the Saints prospects.

"With the spirit and competition for spots, things are looking positive," he said.

"It's the best it's been in the 11 years I've been at the club."

- CRAIG NITSCHKE

# Western Derby will fuel the fire

**SOME interesting things have happened in the world of football on the West coast over summer.**

We've seen a turning of the wheel in terms of publicity and exposure as the new boys on the block, Fremantle, take the lime-light away from the established champs, West Coast.

We all knew things would change when the Dockers rolled their rock-and-anchor on to the football fields a year ago; after all, they had been in planning mode for six months with plenty of innovative hype.

It was a pleasant relief for all major media to have two teams to talk about, criticise, praise and dissect and, more importantly, predict their week-by-week prospects.

The old one-team-town syndrome had driven relationships between a few footy officials and media people to the depths of despair - ask The West Australian about how they were getting on with the Eagles a year ago!

But when the action kicked off in season '95 and the Eagles showed who was boss with a couple of destructive Sunday afternoon jaunts against the rookies, things were back to normal.

Despite the fact Fremantle did make a lunge at the top eight - and West Coast bowed out of the finals in disappointing fashion - there was no doubt who had control of the strings.

As reported in this newspaper two editions back, West Coast enjoyed a successful year off the field, despite the arrival of the opposition in the money-market. The Eagles generated more sponsorship revenue than ever and showed impressive increases in all off-field activities, including membership.

But now we see the Dockers doing their best to remedy that.

The TV commercials urging people to sign up were almost non-stop over the weekend, thousands of dollars going in an aggressive marketing campaign.

Newspaper and radio advertisements seeking similar support from

## Thinking Aloud

with Westside Football editor

**Alan East**

presented by



Scott Chisholm and Gary Dhurrkay.

The Dockers publicity machine was in full swing as the two teams invaded the Territory's capital; you hardly saw an Eagle in action (apart from Ryan Turnbull grappling with a crocodile) and it was clear that Fremantle won the media stakes.

It was rare, indeed, to see book-makers frame a market that had Fremantle at shorter odds than their illustrious rivals, even given they had a more comprehensive build-up to the season.

But, once again, footy boots did the talking as the Eagles quelled the Dockers spirit with a hard-fought 14-point win in humid conditions that certainly made both teams sweat.

So we're back to square one.

The Dockers are setting a hectic pace off the field... but the Eagles still hold the playing aces.

Roll on the season proper, with a Western Derby to re-ignite things on Sunday, March 31.

would-be fans were frequent and while the absence of the Eagles in that department was conspicuous, it probably showed that the dual AFL champions were pretty happy with their lot.

In fact, it's a touch ironical that much of the Eagles advertising over summer was targeted at shooting down their home-town rivals; almost political.

The full-page membership advertisements run in The West by the Eagles were clearly aimed at mocking the Dockers.

And what about the not-so-subtle full-page advert in the modest Avon Valley newspaper suggesting that Northam people should "make the Dockers sweat" by joining a "real" team who can handle the heat?

That was a quick reaction to Fremantle and Essendon switching their Northam practice match to the Port to beat the heat - a late decision that cost the Avon region thousands of dollars in revenue.

West Coast's astute chief executive Brian Cook - one of the brains behind the club's resurgence since their 1989 financial woes - made no secret of the fact that both advertising campaigns were directed at the opposition.

Then came the Ansett Cup trip to Darwin, where the Dockers were determined to capture the loyalty of the Top End fans.

Gerard Neesham has long been a Darwin man, he loves the Northern Territory and its people and that's probably why he's had such great success with players like

**AFL:**  
Ansett Cup - Saturday: Carlton v Essendon, Waverley; Sydney v North Melbourne, Canberra.  
Sunday: Adelaide v St Kilda, Football Park. Monday: Brisbane v Geelong, Gabba. Wednesday: West Coast v Footscray, Waverley.

**WAFL:**  
Emu Export Cup - Saturday: Bassendean Oval - 2pm East Perth v West Perth, 4pm Swan Districts v Claremont. Fremantle Oval - 5pm East Fremantle v Subiaco, 7pm South Fremantle v West Perth.

**South Australia:**  
Round 1: Saturday, March 30 - Centrals v Norwood, Football Park; West Adelaide v Eagles, Richmond; South Adelaide v Sturt, Noarlunga; bye - Glenelg, Port Adelaide, North Adelaide.

**WA Amateur League:**  
Round 1: Saturday, April 13 -

## What's on

A round-up of fixtures from all the leagues

presented by



Trinity-Aquinas v West Coast, Bill Grayden Res; North Fremantle v Nollamara, Gil Fraser Oval; Mt Lawley v North Beach, Hamer Park; University v Wembley, McGillivray Oval; Scarborough v Swan Athletic, Millington Res.

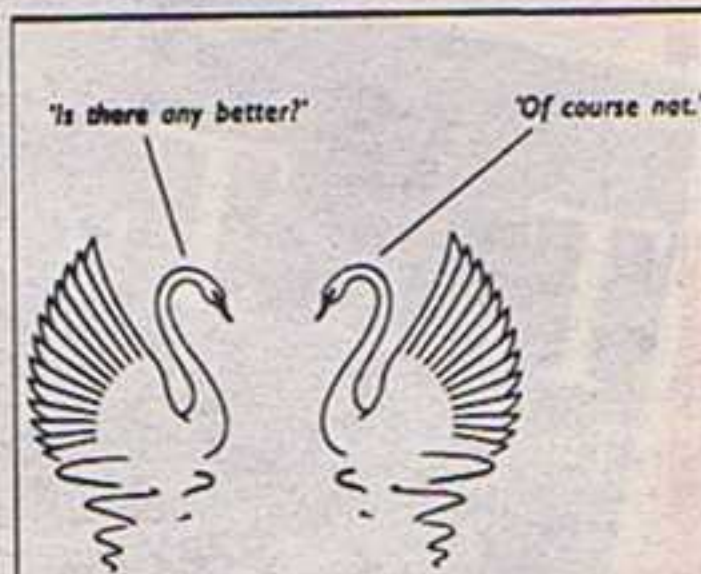
**Sunday League:**  
Start on April 14.

**Peel League:**  
Start on April 13.

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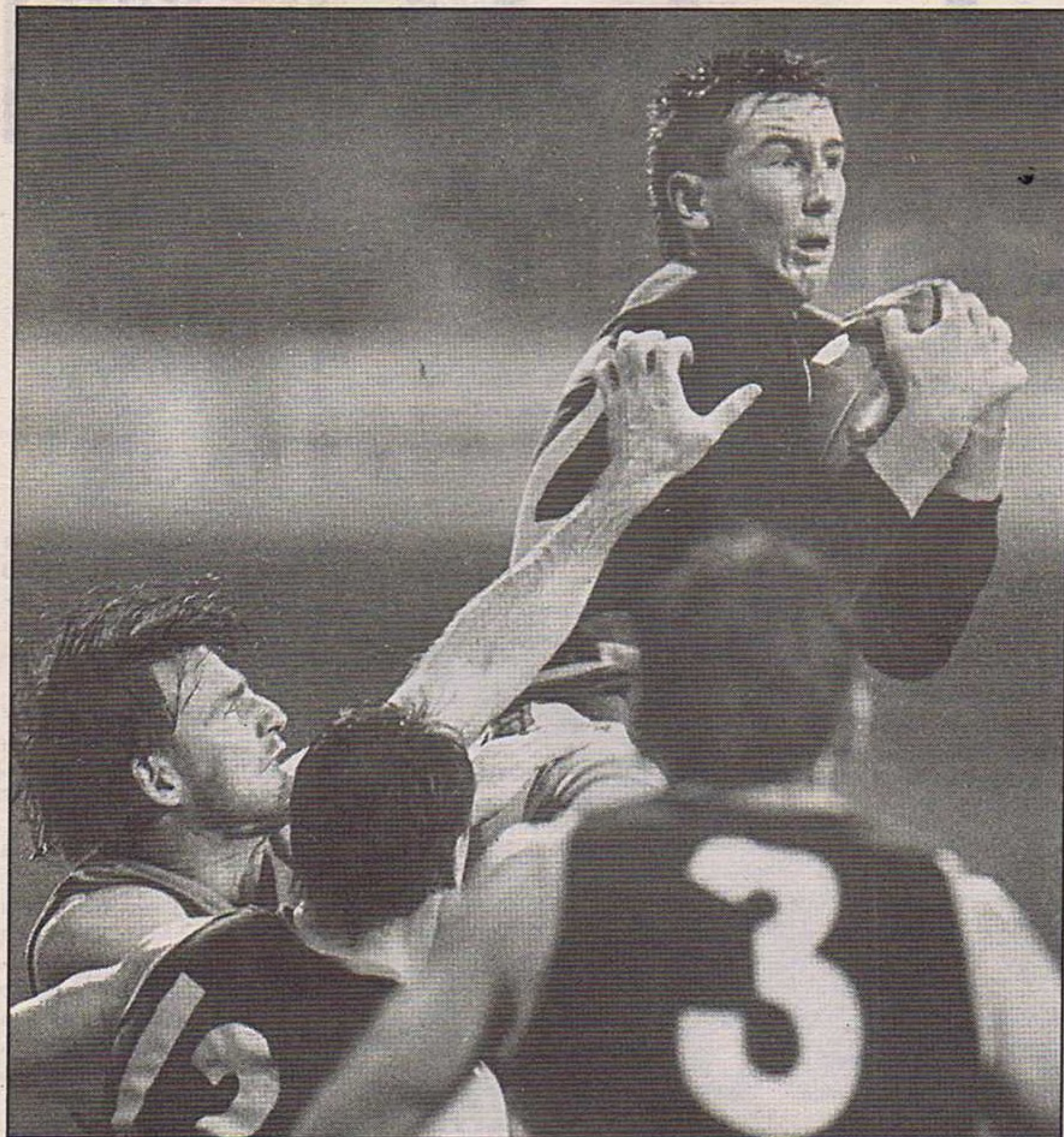
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# Crows eyes on cup



Big comeback... Adelaide's Shaun Rehn looks to have fully recovered from a knee operation.

**ADELAIDE** look to be on the way to their third consecutive Ansett Cup grand final.

They have been outstanding pre-season performers, but have lost the last two premiership play-offs to Essendon and North Melbourne.

The Crows 59-point win over Melbourne in the opening round of this season's event makes them favourites to win their first premiership.

The Demons have had a disappointing pre-season and struggled in the second half, kicking just 2.2.

Some of the names of the Crows best players would have put a smile on coach Robert Shaw's face.

Shaun Rehn (three goals) looks to be back to his best, while recruits Kym Koster (Footscray) and Darren Jarman (Hawthorn) seem set for big seasons.

Garry Lyon and David Neitz were good up forward for the Demons, with former North Melbourne player Alastair Clarkson and Paul Hopgood also playing well.

The Crows win sets up a quarter-final showdown with an in-form St Kilda.

The Saints showed top form against Hawthorn, winning by 64 points.

Stewart Loewe was the difference between the two sides, kicking eight goals in an awesome display - before leaving the field midway through the final term with a minor leg injury.

The Hawks looked good early, leading by eight points at the first break.

Recruits Paul Salmon (Essendon) and Darren Kappler (Sydney) were playing well, as was veteran John Platten, up-and-

## Ansett Cup

**Brad Elborough**

sums up the Ansett Cup scene



presented by

**ANSETT AUSTRALIA**

coming star Shane Crawford and another promising youngster in Shannon Gibson.

Kristian Bardsley helped Loewe on the scoreboard with three goals, while talented recruit Jason Trianidis kicked two.

## Eagles win:

WEST Coast showed against Fremantle that they are as fit as any side in the competition.

There were many fans keen to see the Eagles form after reports that they had taken a light pre-season, choosing only intra-club matches for practice.

And at one stage, when Fremantle hit the front in the final term, it looked as though the Eagles perfect record against their home-town rivals would be tarnished.

The Dockers had their chances early in the game to kick clear (2.9 in the first half), with Scott Chisholm, Ben Allan and Gavin Mitchell starting well.

The class and experience of the Eagles shone through, with Dean Kemp (in his first pre-season game in seven seasons), Peter Matera and Melbourne recruit Andy Lovell getting plenty of the ball.

The Eagles will meet Footscray in the second quarter-final after the Bulldogs downed a spirited Fitzroy.

Footscray won by 24-points after the Lions had led by 32-points midway through the second quarter.

Former Dockers recruit Brad Cassidy, now with Fitzroy, is making the most of his second chance in the AFL.

Footscray's Richard Osborne was the difference between the sides, especially late in the game, kicking five goals and being prominent in others.

Chris Grant was arguably best-afield at centre-half-back and said after the game that he enjoyed the new role.

Another former Docker in Brad Wira was impressive in defence for the Bulldogs.

## Ansett Cup

### Game 1, Friday February 23

ADELAIDE .....5.2 6.5 11.11 18.16 (124)

MELBOURNE .....3.1 8.3 8.3 10.5 (65)

**GOALS - Adelaide:** Rehn 3, Caven, Hodges, Smart, Koster, Pesch 2, Anderson, D. Jarman, Modra, Pitman, Connell.

**Melbourne:** Clarkson, Lyon 3, Farmer 2, Stynes, Hopgood.

**BEST - Adelaide:** Koster, Smart, Rehn, Hart, Bickley, Ricciuto, Pitman, D. Jarman. **Melbourne:** Hopgood, Clarkson, Prymke, Neitz, Lyon, Turley.

Played at Football Park

### Game 2, Saturday February 24

ST KILDA .....1.4 7.7 13.10 19.13 (127)

HAWTHORN .....2.6 3.10 7.14 9.19 (73)

**GOALS - St Kilda:** Loewe 8, Bardsley 3, Everitt, Traianidis 2, Smith, Jones, Winmar, Young. **Hawthorn:** Dunstall 3, Crawford, Hargreaves 2, Gibson, Salmon.

**BEST - St Kilda:** Loewe, Burke, Winmar, Everitt, Smith, Traianidis. **Hawthorn:** Gibson, Hargreaves, Platten, Pritchard, Dunstall, Crawford.

Played at Waverley.

### Game 3, Sunday February 25

WEST COAST .....1.2 2.4 7.7 10.11 (71)

FREMANTLE .....1.5 2.9 5.12 7.15 (57)

**GOALS - West Coast:** Phillip Matera 3, Kemp, Lyle, Dunstan, Peter Matera, Heatley, Waterman, Lovell. **Fremantle:** Allan 2, Wills, Ridley, Mann, Godden, Waterhouse.

**BEST - West Coast:** Kemp, Peter Matera, Lovell, Phillip Matera, Jakovich, White. **Fremantle:** Allan, Kickett, Chisholm, Mitchell, Bandy, Mann.

Played at Murrara, NT

### Game 4, Monday February 26

FOOTSCRAY .....3.1 9.6 10.11 16.15 (111)

FITZROY .....4.4 9.6 11.10 12.15 (87)

**GOALS - Footscray:** Osborne 5, Darcey, Dimattina, Grgic,

Jakovich 2, Kolyniuk, Martin, Kellett. **Fitzroy:** Hogg 3, Molloy, Hawking 2, Atkins, Cassidy, Baldwin, Morton, Lamb.

**BEST - Footscray:** Grant, West, Osborne, Darcy, Grgic, Wira.

**Fitzroy:** Mellington, Primus, Bamford, Boyd, Cassidy, Dent.

## Sports Odds

The following prices apply for the Ansett Cup: 5/1 Adelaide; 6/1 Essendon; 7/1 North Melbourne; 10/1 West Coast, Footscray; 12/1 Carlton, Richmond, Brisbane, St Kilda; 14/1 Sydney; 16/1 Geelong; 25/1 Collingwood.

Individual games:

1/1 Sydney v 4/6 North Melbourne

6/4 Carlton v 4/9 Essendon

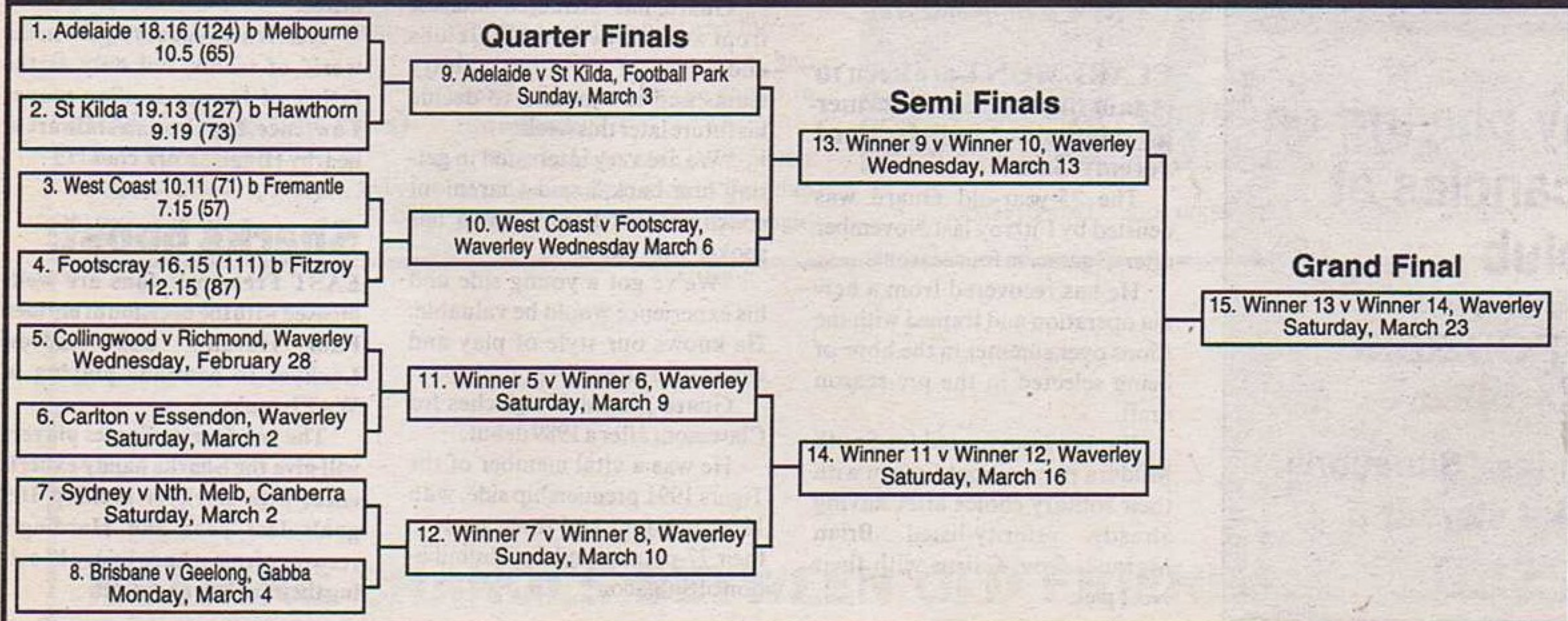
1/1 Brisbane v 4/6 Geelong

Darwin Allsports bookmaker Richard Holmes says: "Adelaide are the best-backed team to win the Ansett Cup. We're banking on a team in the second half of the draw to emerge victors."

Westside's punting expert Martin Young says: "Adelaide (70-percent) and Essendon (62-percent) have the best match-winning ratios of the teams remaining in the Ansett Cup and could repeat their 1994 effort by playing off in the final."

Prices supplied by Darwin Allsports. Telephone (089) 418 330.

## YOUR 1996 ANSETT CUP FIXTURES GUIDE





# Gerreyn makes bold switch to East Perth

By BRAD ELBOROUGH

**IT'S one of football's toughest decisions - to leave a club where you have played 60-odd senior games after starting there as a youngster.**

But that's the choice former Claremont forward Chris Gerreyn has made; a move based on the belief that his opportunities were limited at Tigerland.

WAFU fans will see Gerreyn in different colours this season, wearing the blue and black of East Perth in a bid to resurrect an AFL career that never really got started.

Gerreyn has been training with the Royals, even though he is still officially on Claremont's books - and he says the move was not easy.

"There are a lot of mates who I've played in premierships with at Claremont, in colts and league and I played State football with them too," he said.

"But it was time to start thinking about myself.

"A few clubs chased me, with

West Perth, Subiaco and, to a lesser extent, Perth showing interest.

"However, East Perth made me the best offer, on the playing side, with the opportunity to play in positions that I believe will enhance my chances of being drafted again."

Gerreyn was picked up by Hawthorn in the 1992 draft, but stayed with Claremont to see out his apprenticeship in the WAFL - and was a casualty when clubs cut their lists to 42.

He has since trained with Fremantle, but was unable to win a spot in their squad.

"I want to kick a lot of goals and help get East Perth into the finals for a change," Gerreyn said.

"That's the main aim for us - to make the finals - and I want to kick enough goals to give myself a chance of getting drafted."

The last time the Royals played in the finals was in 1991, the first year of the final five, when they scraped into fifth place.

Glen Bartlett led the scoring for East Perth that season, with 88

majors and the year before he topped the WAFL goal-kicking with 69 goals.

Last season Gerreyn played 17 games with Claremont, kicking 50 goals to take his tally to 151 in 67 games.

"Claremont are keen to keep me," Gerreyn said.

"They were fine when I was going to leave and play in the country for a bit of money, which was my first option. But when they found out I was going to another WAFL club, they toughened up.

"I can understand it because football is a business. They're trying to get into the finals too."

Gerreyn's pre-season has been interrupted as the clearance dispute lingers on.

The Royals will let the matter go to the WAFL arbitrator, but he could be given permission to play for East Perth in this week's Emu Export Cup game against Perth.

"I want to play this week," Gerreyn said.



Chris Gerreyn ... looking forward to more opportunities wearing the blue and black of East Perth in a bid for an AFL career.

## KICKING AROUND

### Foster injury a blow to Royals

**EAST Perth received a major blow in an intra-club practice match at Leederville Oval last Saturday when utility Dale Foster dislocated an elbow.**

Foster made his debut with the Royals in 1994, playing 18 games, but returned home to Yarra Glen, in Victoria, last season for family reasons.

The injury could see him out from six to 12 weeks.

"It's pretty disappointing, both for him and us," said East Perth football manager Anthony Hayes.

"His versatility was valuable and we were hoping to use him as a replacement for Clint Johnston, who has returned home to Karratha."

Foster had showed good pre-season form, kicking five goals at full-forward in an earlier practice match.

### Colts challenge:

**FORMER** Claremont premiership ruckman Barry Beecroft has taken on the job of colts coach at Swan Districts.

Beecroft, who played 71 games with South Melbourne in the mid-1970s, stepped in to fill the vacancy when former Claremont and West Coast player Geoff Miles was forced to relinquish the post.

Miles, who had returned to Victoria to play with Geelong in 1991 after 71 games with the Eagles, was unable to sell his business in Victoria and was forced to abandon plans to coach in the West.

### Demons helper:

**YOU** never know who you're going to run into in the world of football these days, what with changing administrations and volunteers helping out.

A new face around Lathlain Park is former tennis guru Ron Hall, who is giving old friend Mick Devine, the new Demons general manager, a helping hand in the office.

Hall is a legendary figure in the world of tennis, not only as the father of former leading player Lawrence, but also as a stalwart at nearby Higgins Park club.

### Sharks boost:

**EAST Fremantle fans are well-pleased with the decision of big men Paul Harding and Andrew Lockyer to continue playing in WAFL ranks.**

The two former Eagles players will give the Sharks handy experience, with Lockyer kicking 105 goals last year and Harding's recovery from a knee injury boosting their ruck department.

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## Tigers move on Guard

By CRAIG NITSCHKE

**CLAREMONT** are keen to regain the services of former premiership half-forward Jeremy Guard.

The 25-year-old Guard was delisted by Fitzroy last November after 68 games in four seasons.

He has recovered from a hernia operation and trained with the Lions over summer in the hope of being selected in the pre-season draft.

But the Lions opted for South Mildura player Brent Frewin with their solitary choice after having already priority-listed Brian McInnes from Cairns with their No. 1 pick.

Guard has attracted interest from at least two SANFL clubs and a host of Victorian country teams and is expected to decide his future later this week.

"We are very interested in getting him back," said Claremont coach Darrell Panizza who has spoken with him.

"We've got a young side and his experience would be valuable. He knows our style of play and would fit in nicely."

Guard played 56 matches for Claremont after a 1989 debut.

He was a vital member of the Tigers 1991 premiership side, with 18 possessions and three goals in their 77-point grand final humiliation of Subiaco.





Daniel Parker ... gets the opportunity to show WAFL fans what he can do when Subiaco take on East Fremantle on Saturday.

# Subi big-man set to show his style

**IT'S going to be an important year for Subiaco big-man Daniel Parker.**

Like his brother Shane, Daniel is on the Fremantle list and is keen to make a name for himself in the AFL.

Strangely, Daniel was given a chance at the top level in the AFL lightning premiership, before he had played in the WAFL.

This Saturday he gets the opportunity to show local fans what he can do when Subiaco take on East Fremantle in an opening round of the Emu Export Cup, at Fremantle Oval.

Shane was quite prominent last season, playing 11 games with the Dockers, mostly in defence.

Daniel is a completely different player.

At 203cm (6ft. 8in.) he looks a promising ruckman for both Fremantle and Subiaco.

"He's put in a big pre-season and we expect him to play this week, providing the Dockers clear him," said Subiaco football manager Wayne Loxley.

"Jason Featherby (son of former Lions and Geelong champion Peter) is another player to watch.

"He played in our reserves premiership last season and he's coming along quickly as a midfielder.

"And there's also Rob Hansen, who played seven league games last season.

"We expect him to step up this year and we're more than happy with his form in intra-club games."

Subiaco fans going to Fremantle Oval should also watch out for Jarrad Shawcross and Anthony Shields, who both had league experience last year and are pushing for regular senior spots.

Subiaco are still waiting results of tests on Paul Ridley's injured knee. They won't know the results until the weekend.

■Subiaco and Swan Districts will meet with the WAFL arbitrator on Thursday to finalise the move of David Snow to Bassendean.

While the Lions have accepted the fact that Snow, a former captain, wants to leave the club, they are demanding a fair fee for his services.

—Brad Elborough

## Emu Export Cup fixtures

### ROUND 1—Saturday, March 2:

Bassendean Oval, 2pm East Perth v Perth; 4pm Swan Districts v Claremont. Fremantle Oval, 5pm East Fremantle v Subiaco; 7pm South Fremantle v West Perth.

### ROUND 2—Saturday, March 9:

Bassendean Oval, 2pm Subiaco v Perth; 4pm Swan Districts v East Perth. Fremantle Oval, 5pm West Perth v Claremont, 7pm South Fremantle v East Fremantle.

### ROUND 3—Saturday, March 16:

Gingin, 3pm Perth v Swan Districts. Joondalup, 3pm West Perth v Subiaco. Fremantle Oval, 5pm East Fremantle v East Perth; 7pm South Fremantle v Claremont.

### ROUND 4—Saturday, March 23:

Manjimup, 2.15pm East Perth v West Perth. East Fremantle Oval, 2.50pm East Fremantle v Swan Districts. Claremont Oval, 3pm Claremont v Subiaco.

### Sunday, March 24:

Pingelly, 3pm South Fremantle v Perth.

### FINALS — (top four sides) Friday, March 29:

WACA Ground, 5.45pm 3rd v 4th; 8pm 1st v 2nd.

# Falcons struggle to cover losses

BY BRAD ELBOROUGH

**ALL eyes will be on West Perth at Fremantle Oval on Saturday when they begin their Emu Export Cup title defence against South Fremantle.**

The Falcons may have been big winners last September, taking the double with the Pepsi Cup premiership, but they were big losers in the AFL drafts.

They have to cover the loss of midfielders Todd Curley, Craig Turley, Darren O'Brien and Brendan Logan, who were all picked up by AFL clubs.

And there's every chance they will lose Sandover Medallist Neil Mildenhall, who is still considering his options.

The Falcons targeted Swan Districts veteran Steven Bazzo to balance those losses.

Bazzo played 158 games with Swans, after a debut in 1988. He played mainly as a wingman.

In the trade, the Falcons gave up their reserves best and fairest, big-man Ben Sykes, who had notched just six league games in two seasons.

The Falcons still have plenty of big-man talent such as Brendan Fewster, Ian Downsborough,

Ryan Smith, Martin Whitelaw and newcomer Ryan Webb.

"Although a few of these will play in the AFL, there are still a lot of bigs at our club," said Falcons football manager Scott Ballem.

"Sykes was concerned about his opportunities and thought it would be better if he looked for another club.

"We lost a few midfielders in the draft and it's hard to replace their experience and leadership.

"We think Bazzo will be a great acquisition to our midfield for those reasons."

Sykes is the second big man to move from West Perth to Swans.

Shane Green, a brother of Falcons forward Trevor, made the swap last season due to lack of opportunity.

He had a good season at Bassendean, playing 10 league games and winning their reserves best and fairest.

The Falcons are pleased with

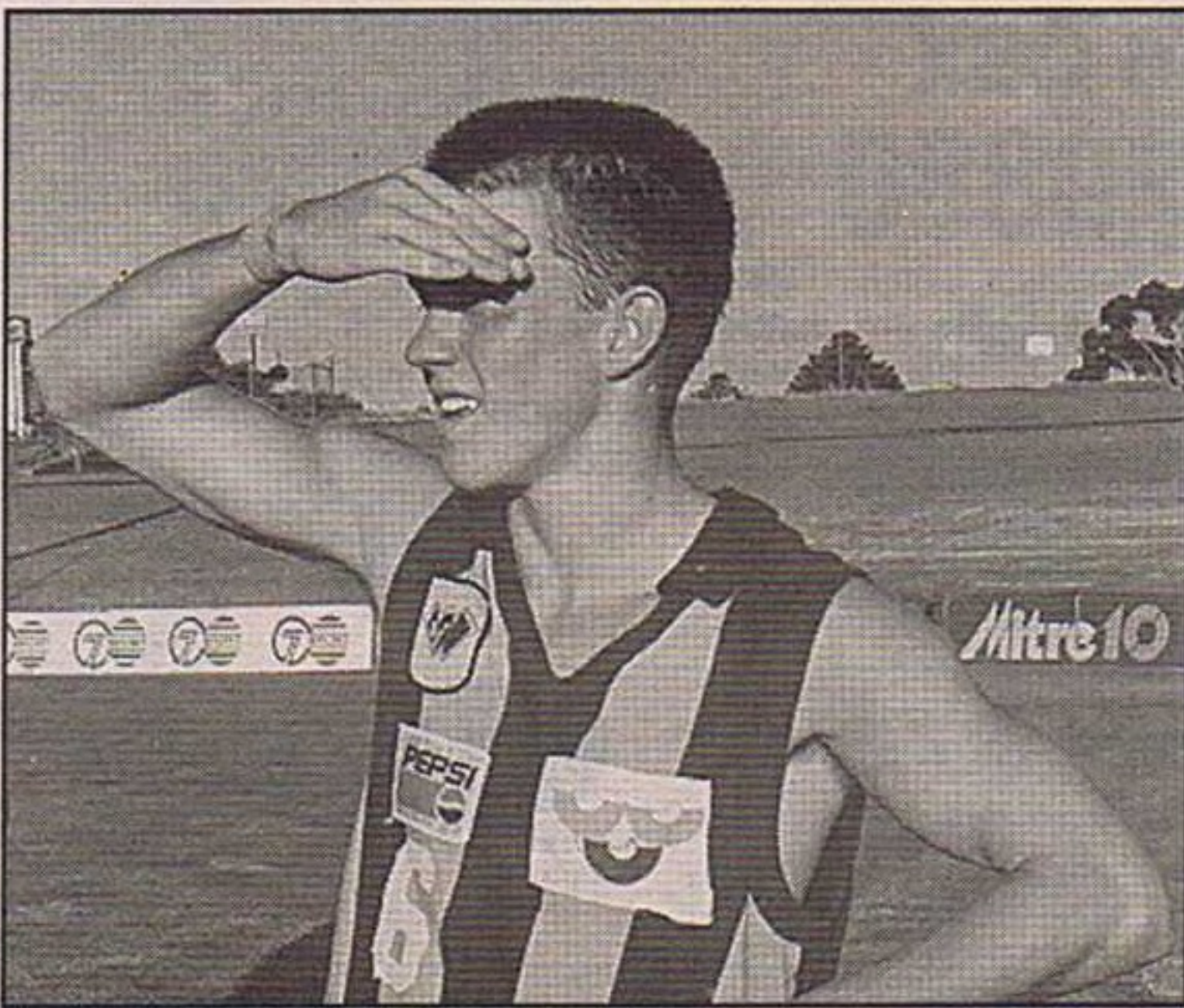
some of their other recruits.

"Look out for Subiaco recruits Peter Julian and Prendergast Medal winner Jon Langer," said Ballem.

"They have been training well and have fitted in nicely.

"Young AFL draftee Craig Smoker should play league this year, as should Steven Koops.

"Dudley Ah Chee played just eight games last season, but is shaping up for a good year."



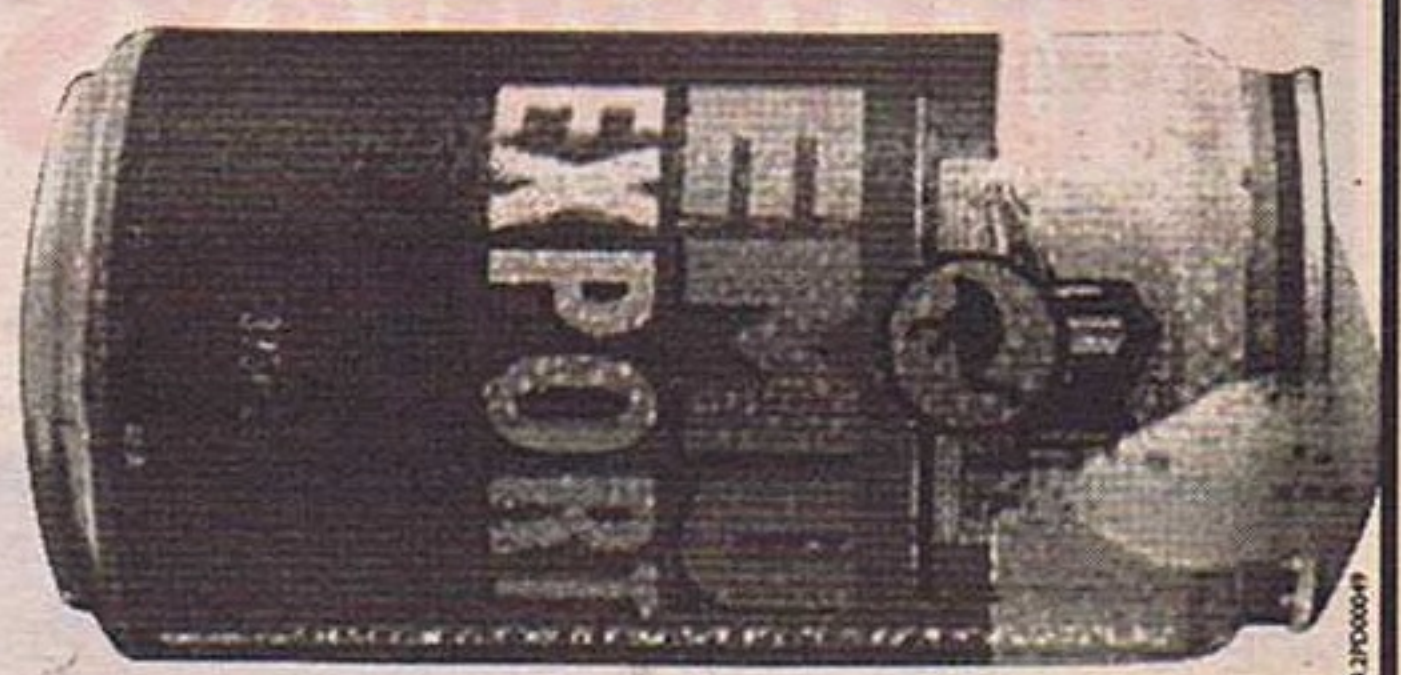
Looking ahead ... Jon Langer is hoping for better prospects.

## WESTSIDE FOOTBALL WA's most comprehensive coverage

IF you like football, you'll definitely love Westside Football's mobile pictorial display. And simply having a glance at our display at the Mirrabooka Square shopping centre next Thursday and Friday, could win you some passes to the WAFL ... or even a VIP day at an Eagles or Dockers match in Perth.

There are more than 120 magnificent photographs of current players — and yesterday's heroes — and there's a special new segment on some of the great marks of the game. If you miss Mirrabooka, catch the Westside pictures at the Westfield Carousel shopping centre on March 14 and 15.

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- 1.6 litre twin cam fuel injected motor

### \$69 WKLY

9DA 610

## 93 CAMRY STATION WAGON



### \$21990

### \$69 WKLY

- Electric mirrors
- UV window tint
- Air conditioning
- Power steering
- Radio cassette

9EO 927

## 95 CAMRY CSI SEDAN



### \$25990

- Automatic
- Power steering
- Electric mirrors
- Radio cassette

9DA 987

### \$75 WKLY

## 95 VIENTA V6 CSX SEDAN

### \$29880



- V6 quad cam 24 valve EFI
- Power steering
- Power windows
- CD player • Cruise control
- Electric mirrors • Central locking
- Under Toyota Warranty

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9AT 117

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- 1 Tonne
- No FBT
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- Complete with body & Dropsides

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# WESTSIDE FOOTBALL



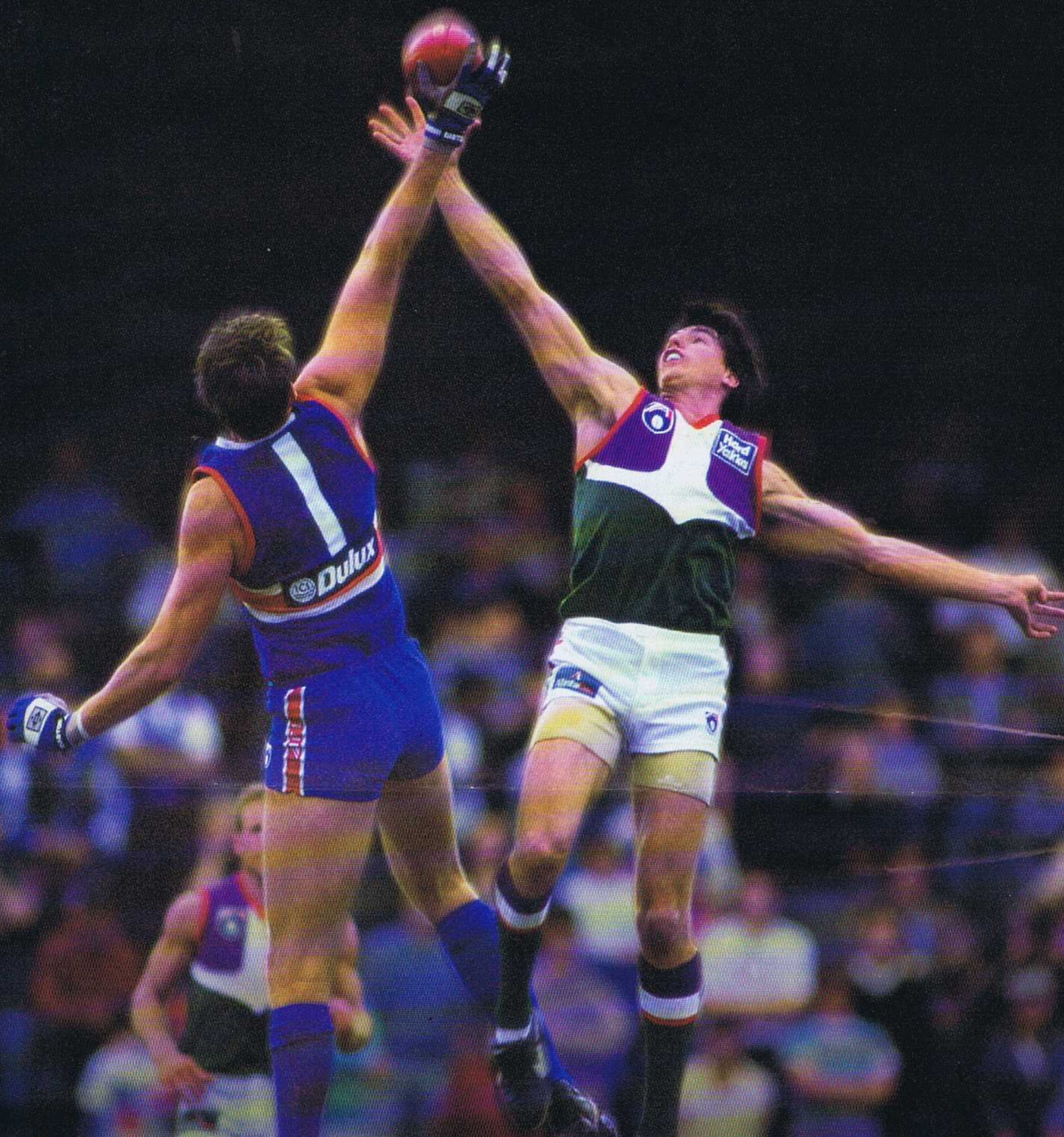
## PLAYER PROFILE

Chad Morrison – Eagles  
Born: Melbourne, Vic  
Date: March 29, 1978  
Height: 180cms  
Weight: 80kgs  
Recruited from: Dandenong  
Stingrays  
Nickname: Morro  
Other sports: Cricket; golf  
Favourites:  
TV show – Simply  
Irresistable  
Movie – Shawshank  
Redemption; Seven  
Music – Red Hot Chili  
Peppers; Nirvana  
Holiday – Yarrowonga;  
Phillip Island  
Most admired footballer:  
Wayne Carey

PHOTO: BRUCE HUNT







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