

HEARTBEAT



A Newsletter For Past Players and Officials
of the West Perth Football Club

CELEBRATING THE WEST PERTH PREMIERSHIPS OF THE 1990s

In this Issue

A special four-part
bumper edition

PART I

Your regular HeartBeat

PART II

Celebrating 1960

PART III

Celebrating 1969

PART IV

Celebrating the 1990s
1990 Colts
1995
1999

In this edition of HeartBeat, we focus on premierships won by our Club in the 1990s.

In the 14 seasons following 1975, the Club frequently made finals however failed to go deep into September. The 1990s offered fresh opportunities and our Colts provided a taste of things to come by winning the 1990 flag. In the 1990s, our League team appeared in grand finals in 1993, 1995, 1998 and 1999 for wins in 1995 and 1999.

In Part Four of this edition of HeartBeat we reflect on the 1990s and our Club's successes in that memorable decade.

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Celebrating the 1990s

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Celebrating 1990 Colts' premiership success

Jim DiCarlo remembers...

Jim DiCarlo, former West Perth player and coach of the 1990 Colts premiership team, takes us back to 1990 and his memories of that successful season.

The West Perth Colts (or thirds as they were once known) have only ever won two premierships... the first in 1968 and second in 1990. My one “claim to fame” is that I have an association with both. I played in the 1968 winning team and coached the 1990 team. It has now been 30 years since that win and plans are underway to have a reunion of the players and those who were a part of our support team.

I began coaching the West Perth Colts in 1985, coinciding with the arrival of John Wynne as senior coach, who had returned to the Club after many years playing football for Norwood in South Australia. I replaced the late Tom James as coach. Tom was a very special and influential person within my football life. I first met Tom in 1963 when I tried out for the Osborne Park under 14s. He went out of his way to convince my parents to allow me to play football and was to be my only coach during my six years at the club. In 1968, my first year at West Perth, Tom and I continued our relationship when he was appointed coach of the Fourths team. I was fortunate enough to make the Thirds side and was a member of the 1968 premiership winning team. I often refer to Tom as my football father figure because of the influence and support he gave me over many years.

During my six years as coach of the West Perth Colts we had three senior coaches, John Wynne, Bruce Monteath and George Michalczyk. All three had very different approaches to the development and coaching of the Club's elite junior players. In 1989 the



Coach Jim DiCarlo and team manager Noel Miller watching from the boundary line on Grand Final day

“Positive thoughts →
Positive actions →
Positive results →
Premiership!”

West Perth Colts had a successful year, playing in the preliminary final, losing by just two goals. We then looked to 1990, a season full of promise with the arrival of several talented country boys and a strong group of players who had played in 1989.

The 1990 season began with a 12 goal win over East Fremantle followed by a draw with strong opponents, East Perth. The season was looking promising, however the team would lose the next four games and after Round Six we were sitting on the bottom of the ladder. We knew we were better than a bottom-of-the-ladder side and we managed to scrape home in Round Seven against Subiaco. This was the beginning of a seven match winning streak that would eventually return us to the top four. That win also gave our players the confidence and belief that we could beat any team we had to play, in particular Claremont and Swan Districts. We were brought back to earth in Round 14 with a four goal loss to Subiaco. This proved to be a spur and was to be our last loss for the season.

It was around this time that the Club made a key decision in respect to the Colts team. Club President, Tom James and senior coach George Michalczyk met with me to discuss prospects for the Colts team for 1990 and they wanted to understand how the Club could help us win a premiership. It was decided to keep the Colts players together for the remainder of the season and to add Paul Dean, who was playing Reserves, to the squad. There had been some lack of success for the Club for a number of years and the Club saw the 1990 Colts team as representing an opportunity to win a premiership. At that stage we were sitting in second position on the ladder. The team went on to win their final seven qualifying games to finish on top of the ladder, which included ten goal wins over Perth, South Fremantle and Subiaco.

MICHALCZYK LOOKS ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

TAKING the tag of WA's Rookie Coach-of-the-Year from last season into this year's competition was a title that didn't bother West Perth's George Michalczyk.

But going into this Saturday's Round 5 without a 1990 success, the former cool-headed veteran player could be excused for pushing the panic button.

Michalczyk, who retired from playing in 1986, took over as coach of the Falcons at the start of 1989 and moulded his side into a strong combination that made a late run for the finals, evicting Swan Districts from fourth spot in the last qualifying game.

That first-up coaching performance by Michalczyk was naturally going to lead to hopes of further glory this year, but success has eluded the camp.

Michalczyk is a calculating coach who searches for answers, not excuses and he calmly points out that West Perth's first round draw has not been in favour of his Falcons.

HOME GAMES

In the first month of football action, the Falcons have only played one game on their hallowed Leederville Oval turf, compared with arch rivals East Perth, who have had played three out of four at Perth Oval and every other side has had at least two home games.

"No-one's had a tougher run up to the fifth game than we have," Michalczyk said.

"Everyone's already written us off, but last year we won three out of seven

in the first round and made the finals. This year we've got a better run home to finish the round."

Michalczyk describes himself as a positive thinking coach who enjoys his role and he says that enjoyment is the most important part of his job.

"I get a lot of enjoyment from coaching, just as the guys have to enjoy playing — if you don't enjoy it, you don't get the best out of yourself," he said.

Getting senior Falcons players match fit is high on Michalczyk's list at present with key performers such as Denis Repacholi, Paul Mifka, Gavin Howlett, Wayne Dayman, Darren O'Brien and David Palm all underdone.

"They've all been playing, but they missed a lot of pre-season training and pre-season matches."

Derek Hall and Basil Zempilas have been Michalczyk's best finds so far this season and Glen Bewick, Paul Hazell and Richard Higgins have all shown promise.

ASSISTANT'S ROLE

Peter Curley has been assistant coach of the Falcons throughout Michalczyk's reign and sees his role as one of producing young players for league ranks.

He had limited success with his reserves side last year and is yet to coach a winning team this season, but there have been many young players develop under his control and stake a claim for league ranks.

"I enjoy coaching, though it can be very frustrating at times," Curley said.

"It is hard to get a team spirit going with guys coming in and out of the side. But I enjoy seeing my players move up

Know your club

by Tania Armstrong



Falcons coach George Michalczyk is still in a confident frame of mind, despite the team's poor start. His assistant coach, Peter Curley (below) is proving to be an able deputy.

into the league side and when they are dropped back, it's my job to build their confidence up again.

"Developing league footballers is my job even though we all like to win from time to time."

There are a lot of new faces in Curley's side, which lacks big men and Burracoppin recruit Graham Kerse had been the team's outstanding player before he had a baptism of fire when he made his league debut against Claremont last Saturday.

Mike Patterson has been performing well, as has 17-year-old Hale School recruit Dale Warren.

STALWART

Falcons under-19s coach Jim Di Carlo is a West Perth stalwart who has become a regular contributor at Leederville Oval. After five years experience at junior level, he is now into his sixth season with the Falcons under-19s side, and displaying his usual enthusiastic approach.

The enthusiastic school teacher's love of the game is obvious and he is the only coach at the club who has recorded a win so far this season. His 1990 record could have been healthier had his side not faltered against the Royals in round two and salvaged a draw.

Di Carlo took his under-19s side to the finals last season before they were ousted by runners-up East Perth in the preliminary final.

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and Jeremy Crawley. We'd beaten Claremont in two of our three games in 1990, including a one point win in Round 11 and we went into the Grand Final with confidence.

On Grand Final day, the rooms were full of senior players and Club officials who had come to support us. There were red and blue balloons and streamers everywhere which helped to create a terrific grand final atmosphere. We followed the same process as we had in all games that season in respect to our warm-ups,

We lost key player Paul Dean for the semi-final but managed a four goal win over East Fremantle. Better players on the day were Andrew Figliomeni with five goals, Jamie Merillo, Justin Drifill, David Marriot, Gavin Bailey, Nathan Howat and Adam Fallows.

Claremont accounted for East Fremantle in the preliminary final, winning a tight battle by just five points. The Claremont team was strong and included Ashley McIntosh, Quentin Leach, Brad Wira, Matt Connell, Brendan Hendry, Chris Gerry

Westside Football

26th April 1990

Freak goal gives Royals late draw

Westside Football,

12th April 1990

A FREAK goal by East Perth's Alec Yarran tied the scores in the Pepsi under-19s match at Leederville Oval last Saturday to give East Perth and West Perth the first drawn game of the season.

As the siren sounded to end the match, Yarran was 25 metres out and running away from the goals. He screwed a kick over his left shoulder and watched it sail through the opening to tie the scores at 8.11 each.

The draw is the first in the under-19s competition since East Fremantle drew with Claremont, with scores on 10.10 (70), in round seven on May 14, 1988.

DISAPPOINTED

West Perth were justified in being disappointed with the result as they should have won easily, having dominated for most of the match.

Royals coach Greg Henderson was quite relieved to salvage a draw.

"West Perth should have won by four or five goals," Henderson said.

"If you watched the game and didn't look at the scoreboard, you would have thought that West Perth had won quite easily. But I was happy to come out of the match with some premiership points.

"I don't recall being involved in a draw with East Perth's under-19s before and I've been coaching them for the past seven seasons."

POTENTIAL

Best players for the Royals were Graham McKnight, who regularly sets up attacking moves off the half-back line and Alex Casella, who is showing enormous potential on a wing.

Henderson said that his side had to concentrate on consistency and put their first win on the board after losing to reigning premiers Subiaco in the opening round.

"We've got a lot of players to chose from, with a squad of around 50 guys on the track, so there will be a few changes in the sides as we juggle everyone around."

Tigers after third pennant

Pepsi Under-19s round-up with GAVIN EBBS

CLAREMONT earned the chance to challenge for their third under-19s premiership in five seasons when they survived a tight and tough preliminary final last Sunday.

The Tigers ousted East Fremantle from the finals battle with a 7.4 (46) to 6.5 (41) victory at Subiaco Oval.

A slippery surface meant that most of the first-half ball-contesting was decided at ground level and players showed great commitment.

Claremont's first quarter effort set up their victory — kicking four goals to one, with the Sharks producing too many errors.

The Tigers dominance was such that Sharks coach Richard Morphet was forced to move forward Darren Collins into defence; a move that slowed the Tigers attacks down.

OPPORTUNITIES

The two sides went goal-for-goal till three-quarter-time, but the Sharks could make up little ground as they squandered too many opportunities in the forward line.

The best football came in the deciding term, especially from a rejuvenated

East Fremantle, who constantly attacked and gradually cut down Claremont's lead.

The Sharks got to within five points of the Tigers and had chances to take the lead for the first time when Darren Collins marked from 45-metres out.

But it was a tough shot and registered only a point, enabling the Tigers to rebound immediately and present Jeremy Crawley with the chance to seal the game.

However, Crawley's shot also missed and the Sharks tried desperately to score a major, but the siren sounded to end their season.

SPECTACULAR

Match-winners for the Tigers included Rohan Klemm, who produced a spectacular mark and minutes later ran down the speedy Jeff Morris to give his side a morale-boosting goal.

West Coast Eagles draftee Ashley McIntosh played well up-forward, kicking three goals and he had strong

support in wingman Anthony Hewett, centreman Justin Pass, forward Jeremy Crawley and Medallists Medal winner, Brendan Hendry.

Jon Stagg was again effective on a wing for East Fremantle and centreman Glen Davies and rover Jeff Morris worked hard, while Nick Litis and Damien Clark found form in the second half.

FAVOURITES

Claremont now go into this Sunday's grand final against hot favourites West Perth, but they are in with a strong chance if they can reproduce the same form.

The Falcons have been the trend-setters for most of the season and their comfortable 24-point win over East Fremantle in the second semi-final indicated their strength.

Andrew Figliomeni was a focal point in attack with four goals and he is a man that must be watched, with Jeremy Sheldrick also a danger-man in attack.

Ruckman Chad Innes and mobile men Justin Drifill and Jamie Merillo are also in good form and provide the Falcons with strong midfield opportunities.

Westside Football,

20th September 1990

Top quality in Falcons victory

THE future looks more than promising for West Perth and East Fremantle if last Sunday's Pepsi under-19s second semi-final is anything to go by.

The prospect of playing in a grand final fired-up the two sides and the game begun at a furious pace.

The first quarter was goal-for-goal with neither side wanting to give the other a lead to build on.

West Perth had the better of East Fremantle in the second term — keeping the ball in their forward-line for most of the quarter to go into the half-time break as 18-point leaders.

They maintained the pressure on the Sharks throughout the third term to lead by 25 points at three-quarter-time, setting up the victory with some exciting play.

West Perth's Andrew Figliomeni played outstanding football for four quarters, snapping two brilliant goals while under pressure from Sharks defenders and finishing with five goals.

Jeremy Sheldrick played a significant role, kicking three goals, two of which inspired his team-mates.

Sheldrick's first effort was a skilful snap and his second came from a booming 50-metre kick.

The best piece of play came in the third quarter when East Fremantle rebounded strongly from defence, to turn what looked to be a certain Falcons goal into six points to their own scoreline with an encouraging display of team-work.

The Sharks threw everything they had at the Falcons in the deciding quarter, getting to within two goals, but the minor premiers pulled away with two quick goals to win, 15.10 (100) to 12.4 (76).

East Fremantle wingman Jon Stagg was easily the best afield, constantly finding fellow Sharks and working hard for the ball.

Pepsi Under-19s round-up with GAVIN EBBS

Stagg also kicked three impressive goals and can consider himself unlucky not to have finished with more — in the first term he found open space near the goals, but was ignored by team-mates coming downhill.

Jeff Morris, Carl Cicanese and Glen Davies were others who fought hard for East Fremantle.

Match-winners for West Perth included ruckman Shane Liddle, Gavin Bailey, Chad Innes (ruck and forward) and Todd Curley, who found form in the second half.

East Fremantle were far from disgraced and go into this week's do-or-die preliminary final against Claremont full of confidence.

Westside Football,

13th September 1990

Jim's final address focussed on these game day strategies:

- **AGGRESSION**
- **BRING THE BALL TO GROUND**
- **TEAMWORK**
- **PERSIST**
- **OPEN THE FORWARD LINE**

- **POSITIVE THOUGHTS ->**
- **POSITIVE ACTIONS ->**
- **POSITIVE RESULTS ->**
- **PREMIERSHIP!**

- **OUR CHANCE TO CREATE HISTORY ...**
- **DON'T LET ANYONE TAKE IT FROM YOU**

one to one talks with every player and a final address to the team before the players ran out onto Subiaco Oval.

In my final address, I asked the players to focus on:

Aggression

- Towards the ball... be first to the ball
- Towards your opponent... fairly

Bringing the ball to ground

- Get numbers to the contest
- This is our main strength

Teamwork

- Be self-disciplined for the team
- Man up on your opponent
- Share the ball

Persistence

- One of our main strengths
- Keep pressure on them

Open forward line

- Kick to Jeremy Sheldrick's body
- Forwards must pressure opponents to stop run out of defence

Other messages included:

- Positive thoughts ->
- Positive actions ->
- Positive results ->
- Premierships!

This is our chance to create history... don't let anyone take it from you.



The first half of the Grand Final was a tight, low scoring affair with just five points separating the two teams at half time. We were struggling with the Neesham style of play that Claremont adopted, where they placed extra players in defence to run and carry the ball forward. Our defensive six however, were outstanding and kept us in the game.

During the half time break it was important we remain calm and positive and not allow negative thoughts to creep into our minds. We also identified changes needed to be made to how we approached and played the second half.

We changed the structure of our forward zone and kept our players forward of centre in traditional positions, forcing Claremont into a one

to one situation with half forwards and forward pockets playing wide and close to the boundaries. This allowed key forwards Chad Innes and Jeremy Sheldrick plenty of space to move and provided other forwards with opportunities to play one on one.

The key message at half time was to win our one on one contests, especially in our forward zone. Our defence had to continue with their great work of the first half. I believed in our players winning these contests as we had a number of strong bodies, particularly Anthony Boyatsis, Andrew Figliomeni, Ian Kerin and Nathan Howat. We needed to play to our strengths. The third quarter was most certainly the premiership quarter for us. We were able to control the ball, defend it strongly and won

numerous one on one contests all over the ground. Chad Innes at centre half forward played an outstanding quarter kicking five goals while our defence kept Claremont goalless.

At three quarter time it was important we not get carried away with the five goal lead we had. We made a few changes and throughout the final quarter every player kept the pressure on Claremont and restricted them to just three points.

It was a fantastic effort by our back line, Craig Rinder, Shane Liddle, Adam Fallows, Justin Driffill, Jason Colbung, Gavin Bailey and Dean Brunton.

I traditionally coached from the boundary line and not from the coach's box. When the final siren was blown I couldn't help myself and sprinted out to the centre of Subiaco Oval to share in the joy and happiness of the players and support team in our magnificent premiership win. Sadly for me, it was to be the last game of Colts I was to coach due to pressure of a young family and work promotion as a leader in a Catholic school.

A special note of thanks to my support team in 1990:

Assistant Coach	Adrian Scott
Team manager	Noel Miller
Runners	Ray Garcia and Paul Sanzone
Property steward	Joe Barron
Trainer	John Magor

These men provided outstanding assistance and counsel.

West Perth			PEPSI UNDER 19's		Claremont		
¼ time	½ time	¾ time	Final	¼ time	½ time	¾ time	Final

Jim Di Carlo (West Perth)

WEST Perth's march into the 1990 Pepsi under-19s grand final is a fitting reward for a Falcons plan to keep their young talent together throughout the season in order to build success at the bottom rung of the club.

The Falcons started the year slowly and at one stage were last on the ladder, after six games. But then they started their move upwards and by round 12 they were on top of the ladder — a position they held at the end of the season after a few weeks of juggling with South Fremantle.

Falcons coach Jim Di Carlo has been at the helm for six seasons, taking West Perth to last year's preliminary final.

The team has knitted well together in the last two seasons, providing six members of this year's Teal Cup side in Todd Curley, Dean Brunton, Craig Rinder, Adam Fallows, Anthony Peou and Shane Liddle.

They reached the grand final with a 24-point win over East Fremantle, with forward Andrew Figliomeni kicking five goals and top games coming from Jamie Merillo, captain Justin Driffill, ruckman Shane Liddle and Chad Innes, both in the ruck and the forward line.

Today's coaches



Coach: JIM DICARLO



Coach: LARRY KICKETT

PEPSI UNDER-19s PREVIOUS PREMIERS

1958 Swan Districts	1974 Subiaco
1959 Perth	1975 East Perth
1960 Perth	1976 Claremont
1961 Perth	1977 Claremont
1962 East Fremantle	1978 Claremont
1963 Perth	1979 Claremont
1964 Perth	1980 East Perth
1965 Perth	1981 East Fremantle
1966 East Fremantle	1982 South Fremantle
1967 East Perth	1983 South Fremantle
1968 West Perth	1984 South Fremantle
1969 East Fremantle	1985 South Fremantle
1970 South Fremantle	1986 Claremont
1971 Swan Districts	1987 East Fremantle
1972 Perth	1988 Claremont
1973 East Fremantle	1989 Subiaco

Larry Kickett (Claremont)

WHEN Claremont, one of the most consistent under-19s side in recent years, were sitting on the bottom of the table after three matches without a win, the end of an era was predicted. But four games later they were in second position on a very tight premiership table.

However, it was a yo-yo competition and very little separated all sides, with the Tigers even slipping back to seventh position at one stage before climbing back into third place.

They made the grand final with a comfortable win over South Fremantle and then a tight five-point margin over East Fremantle.

For coach Larry Kickett, who guided the team to their 1988 premiership, it has been an exciting fourth season, having seen a lot of his young stars from recent years graduate to the seniors.

The Tigers star player has been Ashley McIntosh, a gangly ruckman who is already tied to the West Coast Eagles, but there is plenty of support for him, particularly in defence where players like Jason Keys, Cameron Mitter and Stuart Ringholt are stalwarts. Rohan Klemm and Christo Rowley have been in good form, with rover Paul Leuba a driving force.

UNDER 19 TEAMS — Grand Final

West Perth

- 1 — BAILEY, Gavin
19, 175cm, 73kg, Innaloo
- 2 — BRUNTON, Dean
17, 186cm, 82kg, Carline
- 3 — FALLOWS, Adam
17, 177cm, 78kg, Osborne Park
- 4 — BOYATSI, Anthony
19, 180cm, 79kg, Trinity
- 5 — EGERTON, Les
18, 178cm, 79kg, Burracoppin
- 6 — DRIFILL, Justin (C)
18, 185cm, 83kg, Warwick
- 7 — DEGOIS, Brendan
16, 176cm, 74kg, West Coast
- 8 — BLURTON, John
18, 186cm, 80kg, Cardinals
- 9 — DEAN, Paul
19, 189cm, 80kg, Innaloo
- 10 — CURLEY, Todd
17, 185cm, 74kg, Warwick
- 11 — MARRIOTT, David
19, 184cm, 79kg, Subiaco
- 12 — WINNER, Rod
17, 188cm, 74kg, Warwick
- 13 — O'NEILL, Brett
17, 187cm, 90kg, Innaloo
- 15 — MCCALLUM, Glen
17, 190cm, 84kg, Balga
- 16 — HOWAT, Nathan
19, 185cm, 80kg, North Beach
- 17 — HARBAY, Adam
17, 176cm, 74kg, Warwick
- 19 — RINDER, Craig
17, 186cm, 84kg, Collie
- 20 — FIGLIOMENI, Andrew
18, 178cm, 89kg, Osborne Park
- 21 — LIDDLE, Shane
17, 189cm, 83kg, Southern Cross
- 22 — KERIN, Ian
17, 174cm, 80kg, Darwin
- 23 — MINCHIN, Aaron
19, 184cm, 76kg, Karratha
- 24 — COOLEY, Jason
18, 186cm, 80kg, Christ Church
- 25 — INNES, Chad
18, 190cm, 76kg, Collie
- 26 — PEOU Anthony
17, 180cm, 75kg, Balcatta
- 27 — HYNAM, Troy
19, 184cm, 75kg, North Beach
- 28 — MARTIN, Chris
18, 183cm, 79kg, Bayswater
- 29 — SHELDRIK, Jeremy
19, 187cm, 88kg, John 23rd
- 30 — COLBUNG, Jason
18, 182cm, 82kg, Bayswater
- 32 — MERILLO, Jamie
17, 183cm, 82kg, Aquinas

Claremont

- 1 — WIRA, Brad
18, 182cm, 75kg, North Albany
- 2 — BOLTON, Shane
18, 173cm, 71kg, Guildford Grammar
- 3 — LEUBA, Paul
18, 166cm, 63kg, Hale School
- 4 — CONNELL, Matthew
18, 180cm, 76kg, Marist
- 5 — HENDRY, Brendan
19, 170cm, 72kg, Bremer Bay
- 6 — TSOKOS, Chris
19, 170cm, 75kg, North Beach
- 7 — LEACH, Quentin
18, 182cm, 80kg, Marist
- 8 — CRAWLEY, Jeremy
17, 183cm, 75kg, Swanleigh
- 9 — BROWN, Quentin
19, 180cm, 81kg, Jerramungup
- 10 — PASS, Justin
19, 182cm, 81kg, North Albany
- 11 — ALLEN, Jude
19, 184cm, 79kg, Hawks
- 12 — KLEMM, Rohan
19, 180cm, 68kg, North Beach
- 13 — WYNNE, Craig
19, 173cm, 70kg, Innaloo
- 14 — MCINTOSH, Ashley
17, 192cm, 89kg, Scotch
- 15 — VANIRSEN, Adrian
18, 178cm, 72kg, Karrinyup
- 16 — KEYS, Jason
19, 184cm, 75kg, Scotch
- 17 — RINGHOLT, Stuart
19, 182cm, 76kg, Innaloo
- 18 — ADAMS, Michael
18, 192cm, 85kg, Collie
- 19 — GERREYN, Chris
19, 198cm, 87kg, Nollamara
- 20 — MITTER, Cameron
19, 188cm, 86kg, South Perth
- 21 — CREED, Tim
18, 181cm, 83kg, Marist
- 22 — ROWLEY, Christo
19, 189cm, 90kg, Hawks
- 23 — HEWITT, Anthony
19, 182cm, 82kg, Scotch
- 24 — ANGUS, Chris
19, 190cm, 82kg, Marist
- 26 — ROGERS, Michael
16, 174cm, 70kg, Karrinyup
- 28 — LAPKO, Jeremy
18, 181cm, 74kg, Carine

UMPIRES: 1—B. Hadji, 2— M. Ball, 3—D. Johnson, 4—A. Binks, 5—W. French, 6—G. Scroop, 7—P. Repper, 8— T. Garrett, 9— S. Gill, 10—P. O'Reilly, 11—S. Kronja, 12—G. Vernon. BOUNDARY: A. Neale, B. Roberts. GOAL: F. Centinich, G. Rothnie. EMERGENCY: T. Hall.



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1990 WASFL GRAND FINAL BUDGET — Page 39

1990 COLT'S GRAND FINAL TEAM LINE-UP



GRAND FINAL MATCH SUMMARY

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
West Perth	3.3	3.5	9.7	11.9	75
Claremont	3.1	4.4	4.7	4.11	35

What "Westside Football" said...

Falcons gamble pays off

Pepsi Under-19s round-up with GAVIN EBBS

WEST Perth's bold gamble to keep their under-19s side together for a whole season paid handsome dividends when the Falcons won the grand final on Sunday.

West Perth clinched their first premiership in the colts grade in 22 years when their future stars accounted for Claremont, 11.9 (75) to 4.11 (35) at Subiaco Oval.

Claremont looked to be the superior side when the game opened up, breaking away by two goals.

But the Falcons replied with two goals from accurate kicks from forward Nathan Howat.

Scrappy football dominated the second quarter, with the Tigers being the only side to register a goal — leaving them five-point leaders at half-time.

Whatever West Perth coach Jim Di Carlo said to his young charges at the interval obviously fired them up as they came out aggressively in the third term.

The Falcons seemingly scored at will in that quarter, with gangly forward Chad Innes proving to be a focal point in attack, posting five match-winning goals in 20-minutes.

SUPERIOR

Innes had superior judgement — plus a height advantage — on his Claremont opponent Michael Adams and though the Tiger tried desperately, he was out-classed on a number of occasions.

The Falcons inspiring third quarter knocked the spirit out of the Tigers and

the final term saw West Perth players running free all over the ground.

Jeremy Crawley's unsuccessful attempt from 25-metres out was indicative of Claremont's lack of confidence.

The Tigers, however, were not without their share of good performers such as centreman Brad Wira, who ran hard all day; Quentin Leach, with a four-quarter effort; Justin Pass, who had the unenviable task of minding explosive Falcon Andrew Figliomeni; half-back Stuart Ringholt and burly ruckman Michael Rogers, who worked hard around the ground.

West Perth's other top players included Jamie Merillo, the elusive Gavin Bailey, Paul Dean, Justin Driffill and the promising Todd Curley.

JUBILANT

Falcons captain Driffill accepted the under-19s flag and it was a jubilant Jim Di Carlo who led his players on a victory lap of League Headquarters as they belted out their version of the West Perth anthem.

Ironically, Di Carlo was a member of the last victorious West Perth under-19s side that won the colts premiership 22-years ago — and he now steps down from the coaching job.

After the match, the elated Falcons coach said he was proud of his players for their efforts all season.

"It's been a long time between drinks," said Di Carlo.

"Next year I won't be coaching, as I plan to spend some time with my family, but I'm hoping to do some development work for the club in Wanneroo."

Westside Football, 27th September 1990

Team Photo

1990 Colts' premiership team



Back Row

Noel Miller, J Braithwaite, Nathan Howat, Shane Liddle, Miguel Hulm, Aaron Minchin, Craig Rinder, Jeremy Sheldrick, Paul Dean, Glenn McCallum, Todd Curley, Brett O'Neil, Jason Cooley, Jason Colbung, Adrian Scott

Middle Row

Joe Barron, David Marriott, Rod Winner, Anthony Boyatsis, Jim DiCarlo, Justin Driffill, Adam Harby, Paul Peou, Jamie Merillo, John Magor, Ray Garcia

Front Row

Chris Martin, Gavin Bailey, Ian Kerin, Andrew Figliomeni, Les Egerton, Brendan DeGois, Dean Brunton, Troy Hynam, Adam Fallows

From the vault... Joe Barron's memories of Leederville

Joe Barron is the property man pictured in the Colts premiership team photo. Joe maintained a razor sharp eye on jumpers, shorts and socks... a covert operation was required by any player wanting to retain a souvenir of their playing days at West Perth. In this Sunday Times article from August 1993, Joe reflects on his time at our Club.

Farewell to Leederville

Falcon legend goes over some old ground

By KIM HAGDORN

FROM snake-charming to premiership celebrations and now the historic move to Joondalup... Joe Barron has seen it all in the West Perth Football Club at Leederville Oval.

The 69-year-old propertyman admits, however, there are a few missing jumpers he hasn't seen for a while.

But he harbours high hopes of getting a few of the famous red and blue guernseys back today when many of the past West Perth greats engage in one of the biggest reunions staged in local football.

Former premiership rover and three-times fairest-and-best winner Bill Valli will be one of the first Joe will "quiz" over a missing guernsey.

Joe has managed, however, to keep a close check on 31 of the 1946 jumpers fans can see on show in today's "past players" game before the historic league clash between West Perth and Subiaco, the last game to be played at Leederville.

Joe, made a life-member of the club in West Perth's centenary year in 1985, is one of West Perth's longest serving behind-the-scenes men that every club needs.

He has survived 20 league coaches, six presidents, seen six premierships and handed jumpers to some of the State's all-time greats.

He's been doorman, propertyman, junior ranks committeeman, past players and officials committeeman, been responsible for general maintenance around Leederville Oval for almost 30 years and a part-time plumber.

Now, after living in Leederville just a short stab-pass from the ground, he's moving to Joondalup.

"Got to be close to the club," he says.

He's the type of stalwart every club has, but so seldom surface when the bouquets are handed out.

Barron, like so many West Perth fans, will take a host of fond memories to Joondalup.

All stories will hold special pride of place as the last hoorays are sung at Leederville today.

Memories of premiership victories in 1949, 51, 60, 69, 71 and 75 stand the proudest.

But plenty has gone on behind the scenes for Joe and West Perth.

If walls could talk, all would be revealed. But they can't, so Joe is the next best thing.

Like the time former winger Russell Aitken, nicknamed "Paki" for his resemblance to a Pakistani because of a dark complexion, was coaxed into a snake charmer's act for a player's review.

Like all good propertymen Joe had access to every need of the players.

This occasion called for a snake. And Joe obliged. His son Ray had a pet serpent named Elizabeth.

"The members hall was packed," Joe recalled.

"I was crouched in a big cardboard box with these socks painted to look like snakes. Paki, turban and all,



Joe Barron reflects on the passing of an era as West Perth bid farewell to Leederville Oval today. Picture by IAN CUGLEY.

charmed the fake snakes from this box, painted up like a big cane basket," Joe recalled.

"Everything went fine. Recorded snake charmers music and my arm twirling around with these socks on."

"That is until Elizabeth took her turn."

"She (the snake) was five foot long and reared up out the box completely unannounced to Paki."

"He caressed her once, as he had done with the fake snakes, before someone in the audience yelled out the truth."

"His hasty departure from the stage was the fastest he moved in his career."

But that's not all. Joe reveals a host of tales from almost half a century behind the scenes at Leederville.

Back pocket specialist Tony Dragon brought the trainers room to tears of laughter one night in the early 1970s.

"Tony arrived for training bragging about the new pair of boots he had bought from Betts and Betts on the way to training," Joe said.

"He put them on, pranced around the rooms a few times saying they felt great and ran off to run some laps to break in the boots."

"Ten minutes later, he's back. Complaining of how uncomfortable the boots are all of a sudden."

"Roy Ennis, our head trainer, told him 'they'll feel a lot better if you put them on the right feet.'"

Barron and present-day Sunday Times football writer Laurie Heal, a member of the 1975 premiership

team, have never got to the bottom of a lost contact lens.

"Laurie lost his lens on the ground during a game," Barron remembered.

"Trainers, propertymen and everybody we could get on the ground searched for the lens at a break in play."

"Amazingly we found it. We decided to put it in a glass of water to clean it."

"When we turned around, the glass was empty."

"To this day, we don't know if the water was drunk by someone or poured out."

"I grabbed my tool box and quickly opened up the sink nearest the glass, but didn't find the lens."

In his time at West Perth, Barron has seen many greats through the club.

Graham (Polly) Farmer, club games record holder Mel Whinnen, Bill Dempsey, Les Fong, Peter Stewart and John Duckworth to name a few.

Joe, however, dubs former champion all-rounder Fred Buttsworth as the best he has seen.

"They're all great players and great blokes," he added.

"But Freddie was the best. He could play anywhere and his foot passing from anywhere on the ground was classic."

Past players and present, supporters or committee personnel. You name it, Joe Barron has a special place in his heart for everybody connected with West Perth.

For more than three decades he used to cook breakfast for players

eaten after traditional Sunday morning training sessions.

Dempsey was someone extra special on Sundays.

"I used to cook Demo a special curry lunch every Sunday as well," he recalled.

"Demo was a sensational guy and still is."

"He had a special sense of humour and always had a smile on his face."

Joe recalls the time Dempsey, who finished with 343 league games to his credit, played several weeks with a broken bone in his leg.

"He played for a few weeks and then after two games in a row against John McIntosh (Claremont) and Jack Clark (East Fremantle) we had to have his leg X-rayed."

"The doctor drew this big arrow down his leg pointing to the problem spot and when Demo arrived back at Leederville Oval that night the drawing was still quite visible."

"Demo reckoned it was a spear from his childhood days in Darwin."

The recollections could roll on. The best coaches, the players, the grand finals.

The moves coaches and players made. Like Farmer's shock choice of Bryan Pleitner, a 186cm (6'3") follower to play on a wing against East Perth in the 1969 second semi-final.

Pleitner is said to have turned to Joe Barron and muttered "I'm going home" on hearing the tactic.

Joe hasn't missed much and like all WA footy fans, looks to the future for the legends that have made West Perth continue into the developing northern suburbs.

Remember when ... Jim DiCarlo returned to coaching?

Jim DiCarlo was adamant his coaching days had come to an end after his successful tilt at the 1990 Colts flag. Roll forward to August 1992, and the Mariah Carey ballad "I'll Be There" sits in the upper echelon of the music charts and the Western Australian

state schoolboys football team are looking for a coach. "I'll be there" Jim says when the call comes.

The team Jim took to Sydney for the national carnival boasted several teenagers who would go on to become

well-known names in football. Ben Cousins and Jeff Farmer were two members of that squad, and they were joined by two West Perth stars of the future, Brett Cousins and Adam Curley. Here's how Westside Football previewed the carnival.

State schoolboys off to Sydney

Balance the key to WA side

By BASIL ZEMPLAS

UNDER SCRUTINY... the State schoolboys come under close scrutiny from Graham Hadley, Ian Temby and Jim di Carlo as they go through their paces

Claremont: Mark Dimmock, Scott Patterson, Darren Dimasi (Newman College), Trent Browne, Steve Foster (Katanning SHS), Craig Nelson (John Forrest SHS), Sam Quinn (Aquinas College), Ashley Baldwin (Jerremangup DSH), Perth: Miles Metcalf (Wesley College).

West Perth: Brett Cousins, Adam Curley, Wade Spilcker (Warwick SHS), Andrew Degruy (Narrogin SHS), Chris Bibby, Chris Carron (Greenwood SHS), Lloyd Ugle (Collier SHS).

South Fremantle: Stephen Thompson (Kwinana SHS), Jeff Farmer (Cooranup SHS).

Practice series without a loss

THE KFC State Schoolboys side completed their undefeated build-up for the national championships in Sydney with an effortless win over a combined Associated Catholic Colleges side on Saturday.

The schoolboys won a scrappy game by 13 goals and coach Jim Di Carlo now looks forward to Sydney with a fair amount of confidence after an encouraging series of practice matches.

The side, comprised of boys in year 10 (15 and under), have played and

beaten some of the best 17-year-old teams in Perth.

Their campaign began with a win over a Swan Districts combined side, followed by victory against the strong Fremantle Districts side.

On Saturday they again demonstrated that they are a very even team, with a convincing performance against the Catholic Colleges side.

Best players for the schoolboys were rover Ben Cousins, full-forward Sam Quinn with six goals, half-forward Jeff Farmer and centreman Trent Browne.

RIGHT WAY... State schoolboys coach Jim di Carlo shows his young team the right way to play

ON THE RUN... off to Sydney this weekend are the WA schoolboys to do battle in the national Commonwealth Bank championships

From the vault...

It wouldn't take long before several of the players from the successful 1990 Colts team would begin making their mark on senior football. Two such players were Jamie Merillo and Todd Curley, who were profiled in Westside Football in 1991.



Jamie Merillo



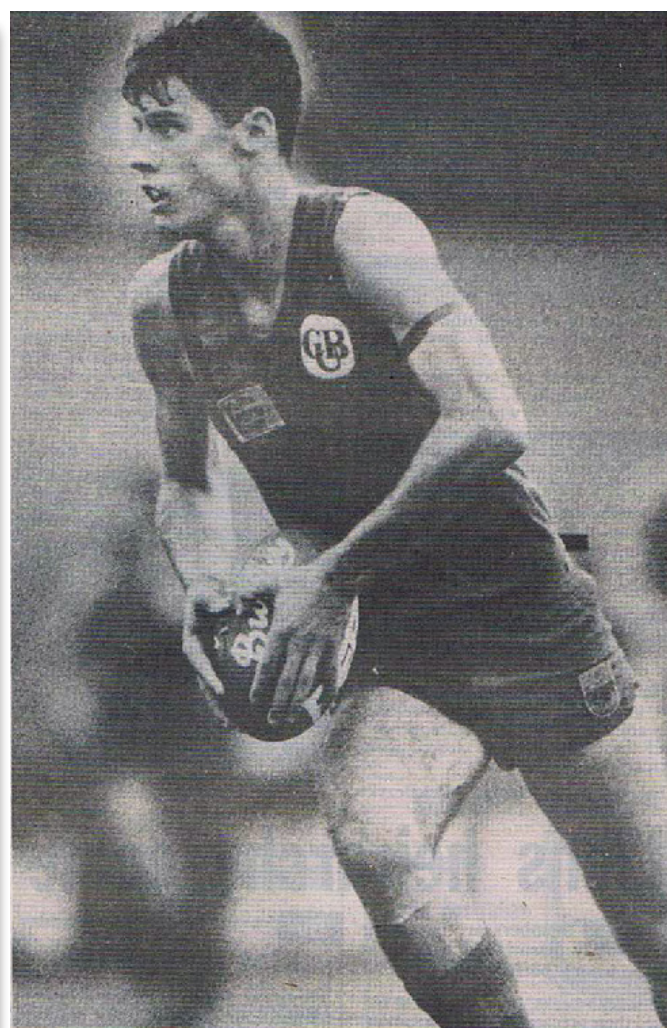
Nickname: **Helmet** Why: **Because of my haircut**
 Date of birth: **27.11.72** Place of birth: **Perth**
 Height: **183cm** Weight: **90kg**
 Previous club: **Applecross** Junior club: **Aquinas College**
 Age started playing: **Aged 5yrs**
 Marital status: **Single** Girlfriend's name: **Michelle**
 Occupation: **Storeman** Place of work: **Industrial Protective Products**
 Other sporting interests: **Swimming, water polo, surfing**
 Favourite position: **Centre** First position: **Back-pocket**
 Current position: **Back-pocket**
 League debut: **1991** Versus: **South Fremantle**
 Games played: **9** Goals kicked: **2**

FAVOURITES

Actor: **Kim Basinger** TV show: **Col'n Carpenter**
 Music: **Ratcat, Dead Kennedys** Drink: **Chocolate FM**
 Food: **Pasta** Book: **Stephen King's It**
 Holiday resort: **Margaret River** Ground: **Leederville Oval**
 Your car: **Valiant** Favourite car: **BMW Sports**
 Worst moment in football: **Getting taken from the ground**
 Hard things in football: **Training**
 Football idols: **Tim Watson, Stephen Silvagni**
 Toughest opponent: **Adrian Barich** Most respected opponent: **All**
 Most respected umpire: **Sam Kronja**
 Most memorable game: **League debut, 1990 colts grand final with West Perth** Ambitions: **To play AFL**
 What do you like about football: **Competitiveness**
 How do you mentally prepare for a game: **Listen to music, imagine playing the game**
 Who influenced your career: **My father - Joe, John Wynne, Peter Spencer** Guernsey number: **44** Why: **Closest I could get to my dad's old number 4** Superstitions: **None** Worst injury: **Ankle**
 Luckiest break: **Getting the chance to play league football**

Picture: GREG WOOD

Westside Football, 15th August 1991



Todd Curley



Nickname: **Curls** Date of Birth: **14.1.73** Place of Birth: **Perth**
 Height: **186cm** Weight: **74kg**
 Age started playing: **Aged 7yrs**
 Previous club: **Warwick** Junior club: **Warwick**
 Marital status: **Single** Girlfriend's name: **Kylie**
 Occupation: **Storeman**
 Other sporting interests: **Cricket, basketball**
 Favourite position: **Centre** First position: **Wing**
 Current position: **Wing**
 League debut: **1991** Versus: **East Perth**
 Games played: **9** Goals kicked: **7**

FAVOURITES

Actor: **Eddie Murphy** Movie: **Silence of the Lambs**
 Music: **Cold Chisel, Midnight Oil** Drink: **Diet Pepsi**
 Food: **Italian, especially lasagna** Book:
 Holiday resort: **Gold Coast** Ground: **Leederville Oval**
 Your car: **Toyota Corolla** Your favourite car: **Porsche**
 Career highlights: **Playing in the 1988 State Schoolboys, 1990 Teal Cup, 1990 colts premiership with West Perth**
 Worst moment in football: **Back injury**
 Football idols: **Malcolm Blight, Dermott Brereton**
 Toughest opponent: **All**
 Most respected opponent: **All**
 Most memorable game: **1990 Teal Cup versus Victoria**
 Ambitions: **To win a premiership with West Perth, play AFL**
 What do you like about football: **Comradeship**
 How do you mentally prepare for a game: **Relax, watch television**
 Who influenced your career: **My mother and father, all coaches** Guernsey number: **11** Any reason: **No** Worst injury: **Slipped discs in my back** Luckiest break: **The opportunity to play league football**

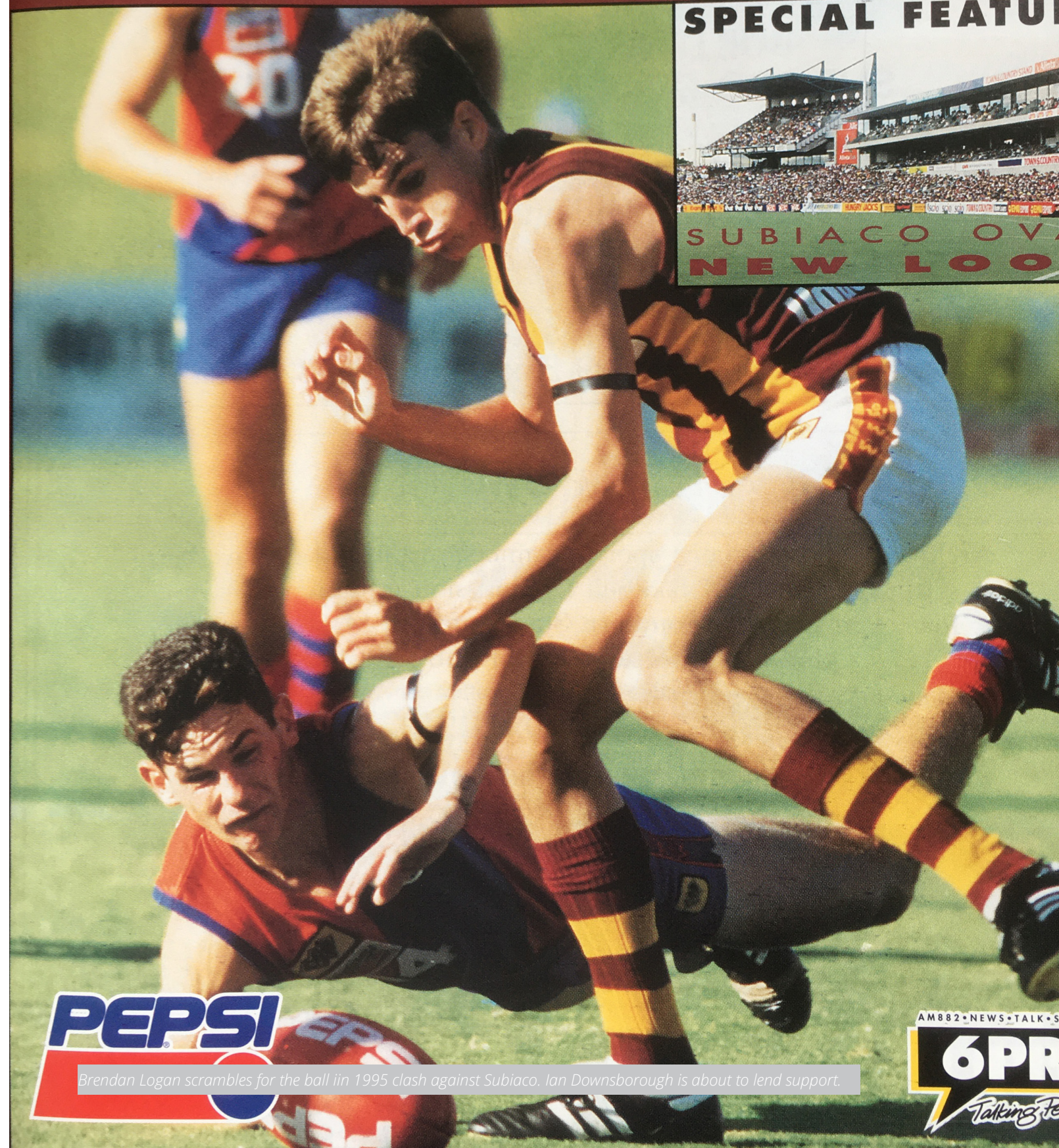
Westside Football, 13th June 1991

WARWICK FOOTBALL BUDGET

SPECIAL FEATURE



SUBIACO OVAL NEW LOOK



PEPSI

Brendan Logan scrambles for the ball in 1995 clash against Subiaco. Ian Downsborough is about to lend support.

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Talking Football

Celebrating 1995 premiership success



West Perth finished the 1980s on a promising note, unlucky to not advance to a preliminary final in 1989. The early 1990s was a challenging time at the Club, the loss of a group of experienced players of the ilk of Peter Menaglio, Ray Holden and Sean King ultimately impacting on-field performance. The team needed time to rebuild, initially under senior coach George Michalczyk and from 1992, under the direction of Jeff Gieschen. West Perth finished the 1990, 1991 and 1992 seasons at the bottom of the competition ladder. In 1992, the Club won seven games, up from five wins

in 1991. The maturing player group then went from bottom to top of the ladder in 1993 with 13 wins, playing in the premiership decider. In 1994, the Falcons advanced as far as the preliminary final.

At the end of the 1994 season, Jeff Gieschen accepted an assistant coaching role at Geelong and John Dimmer was appointed as his replacement... an inspired appointment. The 1995 season began with West Perth victory in the Emu Escort Cup pre-season competition and by close of the qualifying rounds

of the season proper, the Club found itself in second position, having won 13 of 21 games. Subiaco finished top with 19 wins. West Perth met Subiaco in the second semi-final and advanced to the grand final following a one point win.

We'll let Darren Harris and the photos and articles of 1995 complete the story.



The Falcons celebrate their Emu Export Cup victory.

West Perth captain, Darren Harris, proudly holds the Emu Export Cup accompanied by WAFC Commissioner, former West Perth Football Club president and Club historian, Brian Atkinson.

EMU EXPORT SERIES

Falcons taste early glory

WEST Perth's achievement in beating Claremont by 18 points in last week's final of the Emu Export Cup series must be considered somewhat of an upset.

The Falcons were deserving winners of the pre-season competition, scoring wins over Swan Districts, East Perth and Perth, losing just one game, to Subiaco.

Their new coach John Dimmer seems to have them working well in their lead up to the Pepsi Cup and they will be a strong contender for this year's crown.

Among their better players throughout the series were Craig Turley, Paul Symmons, Ryan Smith, Ian Downsborough and Bryce Steele.

Two of their more experienced players in captain Darren Harris and vice captain Darren O'Brien spent some time on the bench and will be fresh and eager for their first game this week.

The Tigers had gone undefeated through qualifying games on the way to the final, with impressive wins over East Fremantle, Subiaco, South Fremantle and Swan Districts.

They will be very tough to beat again this season and will go into the Pepsi Cup series as favourites.

They have been fortunate to have the services of several of their Dockers

By
BRAD ELBOROUGH

members each week, but have also unveiled some talented new players such as Ben Howard, James Ferguson, Greg Harding and Dean Trovarello, plus the emergence of the John Worsfold Medal winner Rhys Croxford.

Their experienced players have also done well, including Darren Klemm, Joe Smith, Gary Edwards, Chris Gerreyn and Andrew McGovern.

Perth impressed by finishing third in the Emu Export Cup, scoring wins over East Perth, East Fremantle and South Fremantle in the third place play-off.

The Bulldogs had previously beaten the Demons in their qualifying round game by just one point.

Among their best in these games have been Nathan Mourish, Jeremy Smith, Lee Cannon and Wayne Allard.

As well as the close victory against Perth, South Fremantle also enjoyed wins over Subiaco and East Perth under new coach John Todd.

Todd has the Bulldogs working well together and they should figure prominently this season. Among their better players at this early stage have been Darryn Rennick, Peter Worsfold, Owen Woods, Dean

Ercegovich and Vance Davison.

Last year's Pepsi Cup premiers East Fremantle are taking a little time to settle into this football season, winning just two games in the Cup qualifiers, beating Swan Districts and Subiaco.

They will be keen to get a good start to the season proper this week when they tackle Claremont, at East Fremantle Oval.

Some of their better players leading up to their title defence have been Stephen Bilcich, Chris Smith, Denis Repacholi, Simon McCormack and Leigh Willison.

Both Subiaco and Swan Districts struggled a bit during the series, recording just the one win each.

The Lions beat premiers West Perth and should improve on their Cup performances early in the season proper.

New captain Dwayne Lamb has been in great form for Subiaco, as have Jarrad Schofield, Jason Heatley and Daniel Metropolis.

The Swans won their game against East Perth and have also had good players in Grant Bradbrook, Damian Dimer, Craig Callaghan, Peter Kelly and Joel Cornelius.

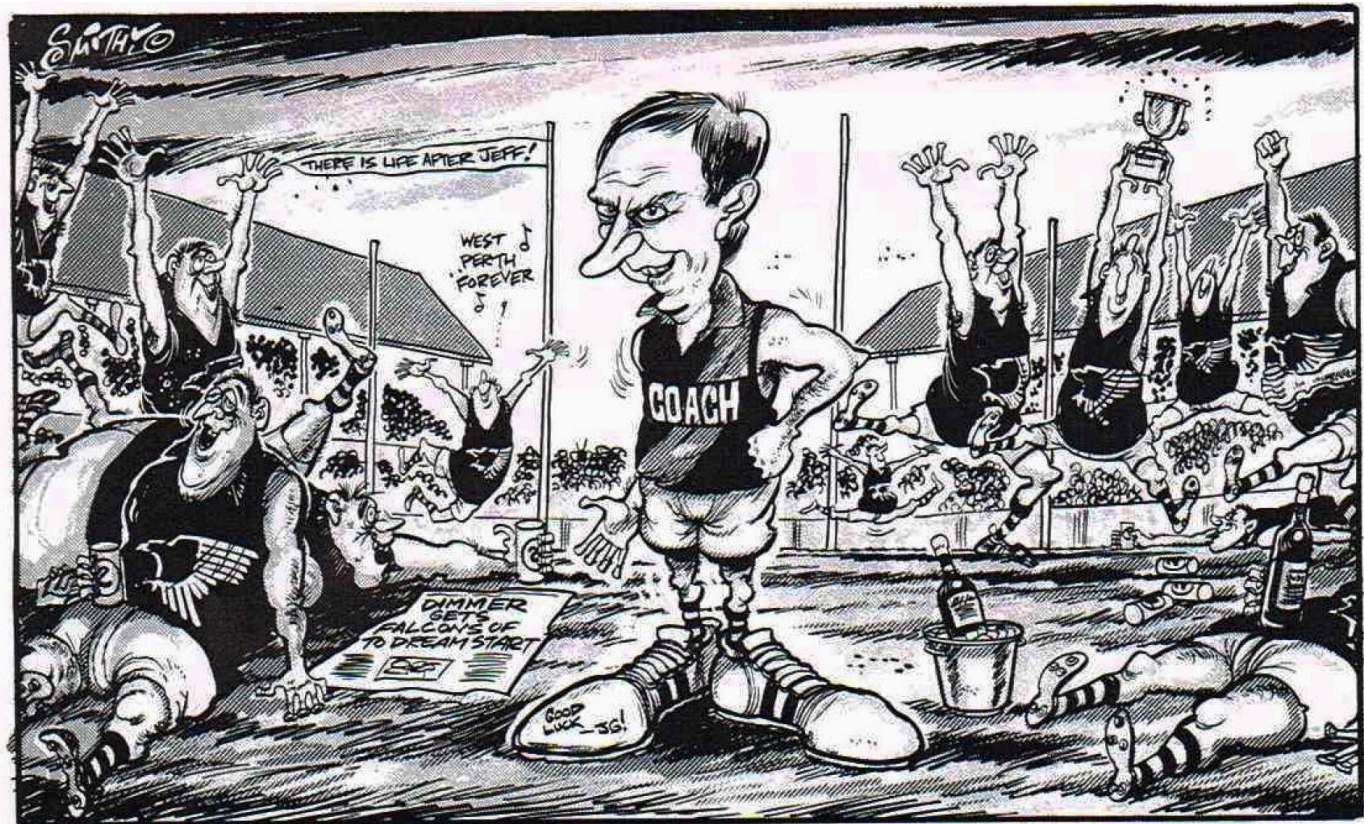
The Royals failed to win a



TOP DEFENDER ... Todd Curley one of the Falcons best in the Emu Export Series grand final.

game during the pre-season competition — though they did beat Swans in their final practice match.

They had good players in Scott Loving, David Swan, Shaun Colbung and Brayden Lyle.



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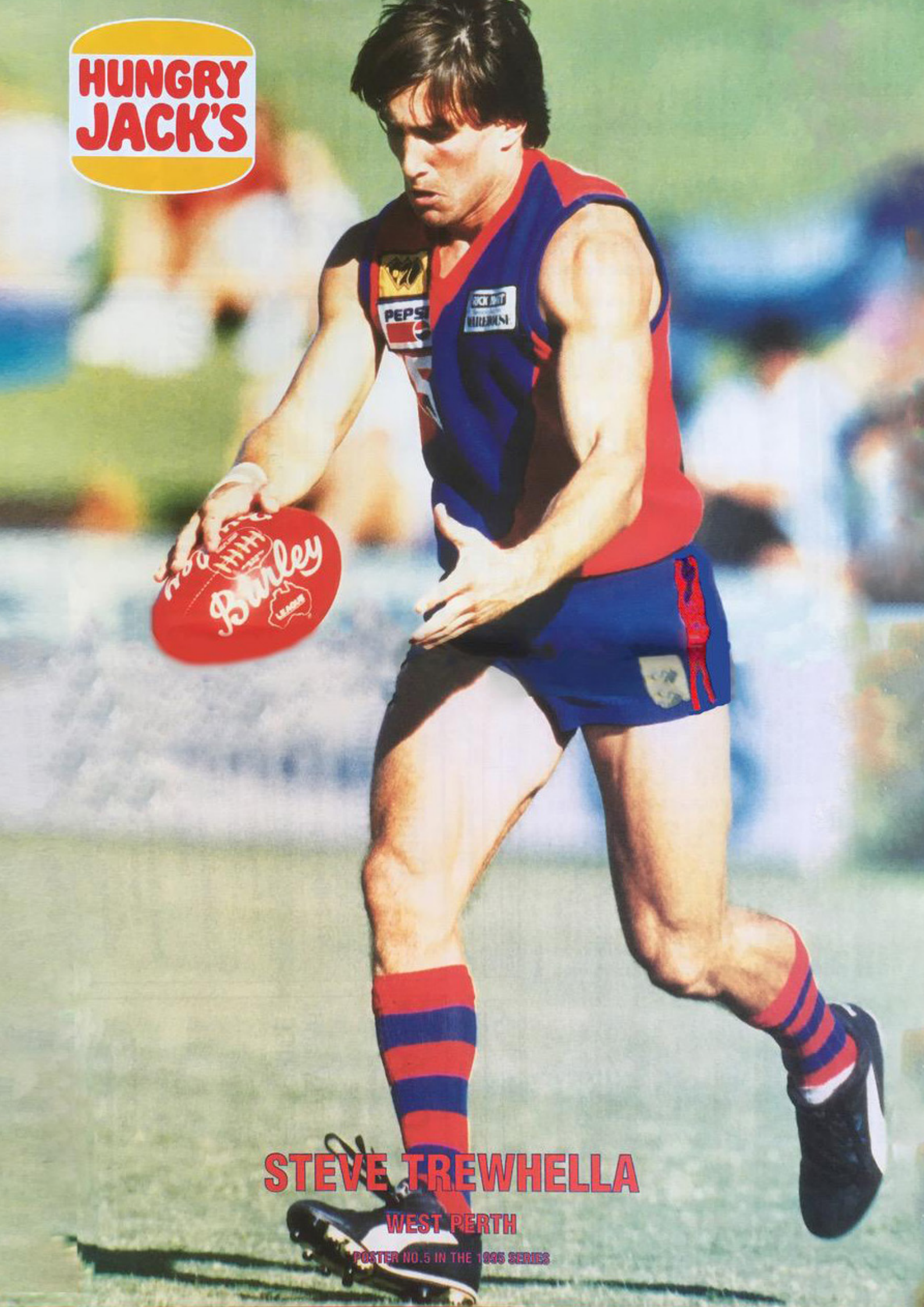
Michael Lourey

M: 0448 354 506 | E: michael@loureyelectrical.com.au

A grand final appearance in 1993 and top two finish in 1994 had given Falcon's supporters great confidence in the direction in which the Club was heading under the tutelage of Jeff Gieschen. His return to Victoria to take up an assistant coaching position at Geelong caused some consternation however as this cartoon conveys, fears were short-lived following the Club's performance in winning the Emu Export Cup.

*The Football Budget,
8th April 1995*

*The Football Budget,
8th April 1995*



STEVE TREWHELLA

WEST PERTH

POSTER NO.5 IN THE 1995 SERIES

From the Vault...Steve Trewhella in profile

Steve Trewhella debuted as a 20 year old in 1994, playing ten seasons for his 174 games prior to retiring after captaining our Club to the 2003 premiership. Steve also captained West Perth in the 2001 and 2002 seasons, and won three Breckler Medals, in 1996, 1997 and 2000. He has also served as a board member and now runs the Club's football operations. In this 1995 interview, Steve reflects on the coaching transition from Jeff Gieschen to John Dimmer.

Trewhella's new approach

By SCOTT COGHLAN

IT'S one of football's oldest cliches.

Every player has heard it from coaches a thousand times and commentators constantly espouse its importance - playing in front.

Yet when West Perth coach John Dimmer was addressing much improved defender Stephen Trewhella before their crucial game with South Fremantle, he threw that theory out the window.

Trewhella was preparing to line up on dangerous Bulldogs goalsneak Phil Matera when Dimmer gave him some unusual advice.

"JD said to play Matera from behind, because he always runs towards goals," Trewhella said.

"I tried to keep him in front of me and it worked.

"He's pretty quick, so you have to keep your eye on him all the time."

Trewhella did an excellent job on the highly-rated Matera, keeping him to a handful of possessions and just one goal to be his side's best player.

Although the Falcons lost, curbing the talented Matera was another triumph for the unheralded Trewhella, who has been one of the Falcons' steadiest players.

After graduating from the Warwick juniors, Trewhella made his league debut in 1993, playing just the one game.

He then played 20 games last season and has missed only the one outing this year.

The change of coaches at Joondalup unsettled him for a while, but he regrouped and is now playing the best football of his short career.

"At the start of the year it was hard to adjust because the coaching styles of Dimmer and Jeff Gieschen are totally different," he explained.

"However, we adopted John's style of play and it's starting to work for us."

The Falcons have emerged from a mid-season slump in the last month, something Trewhella puts down to over-confidence.

"I think we were a bit cocky after winning four out of five at the start," he said.

"It was a mental thing, we weren't going in as hard as we should have been.

"John got everyone together and said we had to get back to basics and it has worked for us."

The business end of the season beckons and Trewhella is looking forward to a big finish.

"We've set ourselves to win five out of the last six," he said.

"In the last three weeks we've got Claremont, East Fremantle and Subiaco, which is good lead up to the finals."

First though, they have to conquer East Perth, who will be keen to keep their own

finals hopes alive at Perth Oval.

"They always seem to lift against us and they're a pretty tough team.

"We certainly won't be

taking them lightly."

Trewhella could get the job on yet another State player, with the Royals Shawn Colbung a likely opponent for the tenacious defender.



West Perth's Stephen Trewhella is one of the Pepsi Cup's big improvers.

Football Budget, 29th July 1995

1995 GRAND FINAL WAFL FOOTBALL BUDGET



PREVIEW

Pepsi Cup Grand Final

Lions had the right target

By SCOTT COGHLAN

SUBIACO were always destined to play in the Pepsi Cup grand final.

From the time the season kicked off, the Lions were consistently the best side.

With new coach Gary Buckenara finding the right mix of players, something that eluded Tony Solin in 1994, the Lions won 19 qualifying games and entered the finals as the team to beat.

West Perth had other ideas however and upset the applecart with a thrilling win in the second semi, forcing the Lions to face reigning premiers East Fremantle in the preliminary final.

They would have been devastated had they not got over the top of the Sharks, after finishing six games clear at the top of the ladder.

Pressure mounted on them during the week, but they remained focussed to down East Fremantle by 13-points in an impressive display.

The Lions have endured two hard finals, but Buckenara had them well prepared for such an eventuality and they are the fittest side in the competition.

On paper, the Lions have one of the strongest sides seen in the WAFL for several years, with names like Donnelly, Heatley, Breman, Macnish, Burton, Godden, Lamb and Schofield forming an impressive list.

Several of their key players were a little down in the second semi loss and Buckenara will be confident that they are capable of beating the Falcons if they play up to their best form.



West Perth's Neil Mildenhall tries to evade the tackle of Subiaco's Hamish Stuart

Falcons out to end drought

WEST Perth will go into the 1995 Pepsi Cup grand final full of confidence ... and hope.

The Falcons haven't won a flag since 1975 and feelings are high at Joondalup that this could be the year.

It has been a remarkable turn-around for a club that was in the depths of despair and finished last in 1992.

Former coach Jeff Gieschen got the club back on track after some tough times and now first-year coach John Dimmer is taking them even higher.

They have already tasted success this year, winning the Emu Export Cup pre-season series, beating favourites Claremont.

Despite their thrilling win over Subiaco in the second semi-final, the Falcons will go into this game as outsiders.

Few people thought they would upset the Lions two

weeks ago, but they led for most of the game, eventually winning a classic contest by just one point.

That win also gave them the benefit of a week's rest.

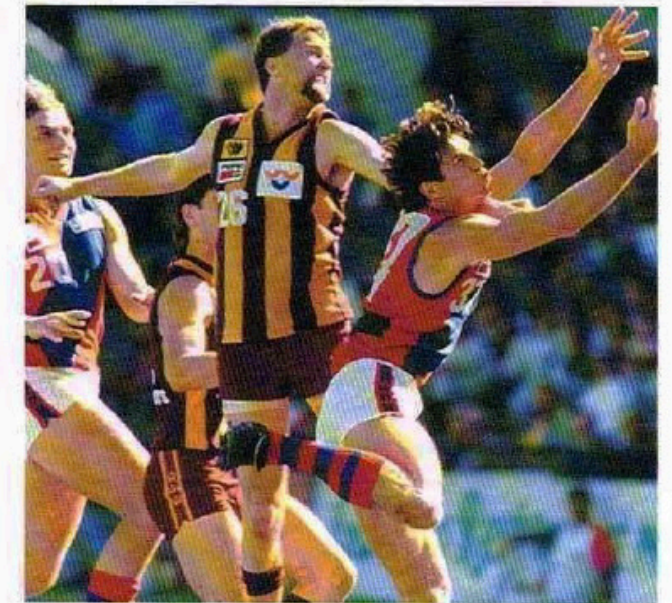
They have the right to be confident, as they are one of only two sides to beat the Lions this year and have done it twice.

While the game is held at Subiaco's home ground, that certainly doesn't hold any fears for the Falcons, as they have won both the encounters at league headquarters.

They had no shortage of heroes in the second semi and those players will be required to step up again.

Brendan Barrows, Darren Harris, Chris Groom, Todd Curley and Paul Mifka were superb in their upset win and will again be key players.

Despite the fact that Dimmer has tried to keep a lid on it, the Falcons will



Subiaco's Rod Willet comes over the top of Falcons' veteran Paul Mifka

charge onto Subiaco Oval full of emotion.

They will be welcomed by

an appreciative crowd who will, in the majority, be urging them to victory.

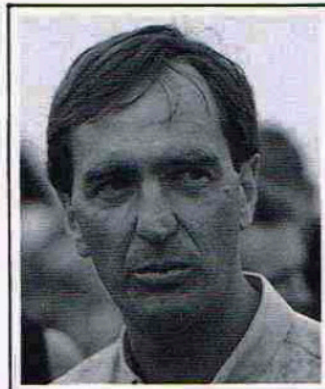
WAFL Grand Final Budget — 7

SUBIACO OVAL • SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER, 1995



WEST PERTH 1995

Premierships: 1897, 1899, 1901, 1905, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1960, 1969, 1971, 1975.
Sandover Medallists: Harold Boyd 1922; Jim Gosnell 1924; Jim Craig 1927; Ted Flemming 1930; E. Checker O'Keefe 1940; Laurie Bowen 1942; John Loughridge 1946; Fred Buttsworth 1951; Brian Foley 1959; Robbie West 1992; Neil Mildenhall 1993.
Games record holder: Mel Whinnen — 371. **1994 Fairest and Best:** Darren O'Brien.



John Dimmer (West Perth)

THERE were six new coaching appointments at the start of this season and new West Perth man John Dimmer had one of the hardest jobs of them all.

He has some big shoes to fill, with Jeff Gieschen leaving for Geelong, having turned the Falcons into a force in the Pepsi Cup competition.

Dimmer had the challenge ahead of him, with the Falcons losing the 1993 grand final and missing out by one game last year.

Success is something Dimmer is used to, having taken A-grade amateur side West Coast to a premiership in 1994 and Claremont's reserves to four grand final appearances, for two premierships, in seven years.

Dimmer is a former State schoolboys coach, with deep-thinking characteristics that won him the JJ Leonard Award for excellence in coaching last season.

1. Rob Malone

Born: 4.5.70
 Height: 185cms
 Weight: 87kgs
 Comes from: Claremont-Marist

2. Neil Mildenhall

Born: 8.9.68
 Height: 175cms
 Weight: 70kgs
 Comes from: Traralgon, Vic

3. Todd Curley

Born: 14.1.73
 Height: 188cms
 Weight: 81kgs
 Comes from: Warwick

4. Tony McConnon

Born: 16.5.69
 Height: 184cms
 Weight: 80kgs
 Comes from: Clarence, Tas

6. Darren Harris

Born: 18.7.68
 Height: 174cms
 Weight: 70kgs
 Comes from: Wodonga, Vic

7. Darren O'Brien

Born: 22.3.69
 Height: 1178cms
 Weight: 81kgs
 Comes from: Collie

8. Craig Turley

Born: 24.8.65
 Height: 185cms
 Weight: 80kgs
 Comes from: Nollamara

9. Bryce Steele

Born: 24.3.73
 Height: 175cms
 Weight: 70kgs
 Comes from: Bairnsdale, Vic

13. Brendan Barrows

Born: 17.10.70
 Height: 185cms
 Weight: 80kgs
 Comes from: Claremont-Hale

14. Brendon Logan

Born: 17.2.75
 Height: 180cms
 Weight: 70kgs
 Comes from: Lynwood-Ferndale

15. Stephen Trehwella

Born: 28.5.73
 Height: 175cms
 Weight: 75kgs
 Comes from: Subiaco

20. Ian Downsborough

Born: 19.1.72
 Height: 195cms
 Weight: 82kgs
 Comes from: Burracoppin

21. Gavin Bell

Born: 20.8.73
 Height: 180cms
 Weight: 79kgs
 Comes from: Warwick

22. Ryan Smith

Born: 21.2.72
 Height: 190cms
 Weight: 88kgs
 Comes from: Wanneroo

23. Chris Groom

Born: 28.8.73
 Height: 194cms
 Weight: 95kgs
 Comes from: Adelaide-Sth Adelaide

24. Dudley Ahchee

Born: 21.10.73
 Height: 186cms
 Weight: 83kgs
 Comes from: Sturt, SA

25. Martin Whitelaw

Born: 22.5.76
 Height: 200cms
 Weight: 89kgs
 Comes from: Ocean Ridge

27. Geoff Valentine

Born: 6.1.70
 Height: 180cms
 Weight: 78kgs
 Comes from: North Beach

29. Brendan Fewster

Born: 4.1.74
 Height: 194cms
 Weight: 93kgs
 Comes from: Gingin

30. Ben Sykes

Born: 8.10.74
 Height: 195cms
 Weight: 90kgs
 Comes from: Benalla, Vic

34. Ashley Blurton

Born: 5.3.75
 Height: 175cms
 Weight: 80kgs
 Comes from: Balga

31. Dean Brunton

Born: 22.7.73
 Height: 182cms
 Weight: 85kgs
 Comes from: Carine

37. Paul Mifka

Born: 8.6.65
 Height: 186cms
 Weight: 81kgs
 Comes from: Balcatta

38. Darren Thomas

Born: 21.12.72
 Height: 185cms
 Weight: 95kgs
 Comes from: Burracoppin

46. Ronnie Burns

Born: 13.3.73
 Height: 170cms
 Weight: 70kgs
 Comes from: St Mary's Darwin

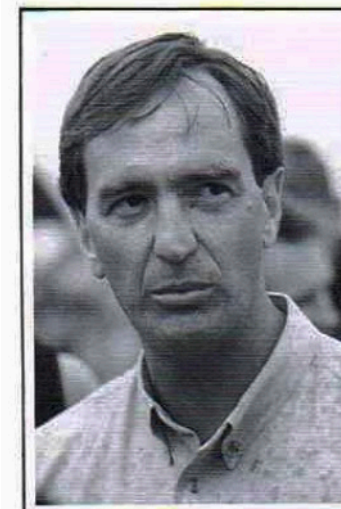
47. Ben Stewart

Born: 20.10.71
 Height: 178cms
 Weight: 86kgs
 Comes from: Mt Lawley

PROFILE OF A COACH

Cool-hand Dimmer

By SCOTT COGHLAN



John Dimmer ... a rookie with immediate success

A coach taking part in his first finals campaign could be forgiven for being a little up-tight.

Yet when West Perth football manager Scott Ballem had an important message to relay to Falcons coach John Dimmer in the dying minutes of the second semi-final, he was surprised by the first year coach's placid nature at a crucial time in the game.

Dimmer certainly knows how to keep his cool and his ability to remain calm in all circumstances is one of his most defining qualities.

He said he couldn't see any advantage in getting worked up as the Falcons tried to

hold the Lions at bay.

"There is no point getting excited," Dimmer said.

"You don't think about it being exciting or close or whatever, you just do your job."

In fact, there were times when Dimmer found himself acting more like a spectator than a coach.

"There were times in the game when I just sat back and thought, hey this is one very good game of football people are getting to watch here," he said.

"The skills were top class, the pressure was good and the general use of the footy was good."

"It had everything you could ever want, with two sides going at it for four quarters right down to the last few seconds."

Although this is his first year coaching at senior level, Dimmer has already had an impressive coaching career.

He coached the Claremont reserves for seven seasons, for four grand final appearances and two flags and then coached West Coast to the A-grade amateurs premiership last season.

In between those commitments he has also found time to coach at junior level.

He was rewarded for his efforts by being named the Australian Football Coaches

Association coach-of-the-year in 1994, picking up the JJ Leonard Medal, an award given for general coaching excellence and helping to develop the game.

Dimmer was quietly confident at the start of this Pepsi Cup season, but believes the Falcons efforts have exceeded even his expectations.

"I knew we had a chance of playing in the finals based on what I'd seen," he said.

"But there had been quite a player drain."

"We lost Derek Hall, who had been a prominent forward and there were quite a few players who the club had imported in the last few years who went back to Victoria."

"There was a bit of doubt about other players who hadn't been given opportunities in recent years — whether they could come up to the required standard."

"I'm pleased that they have, the fact that we are in a grand final shows they have."

"It's a good reflection of their attitude. From a coaching point of view you couldn't ask for anything more."

One look around the Falcons rooms after their win over the Lions showed the toll the game had taken.

Most of the players were too tired to celebrate,

choosing to rest their weary legs and the week's rest they earned will certainly help their cause. But Dimmer is trying to guard against over-confidence.

"It's always a bonus physically, but you have to guard against it mentally," he says.

"Hopefully, because it was such a good game and so close the players will think we've still got a fair bit of work to do."

"If you win the second semi by quite a bit, there's always a chance mentally you might slip, but I don't think that will happen."

It has been 20 years since West Perth won a league flag and the club now carries an enormous burden of expectation into the grand final, something Dimmer is trying to keep a lid on.

"We just keep saying to the players that it's another game of football," he said.

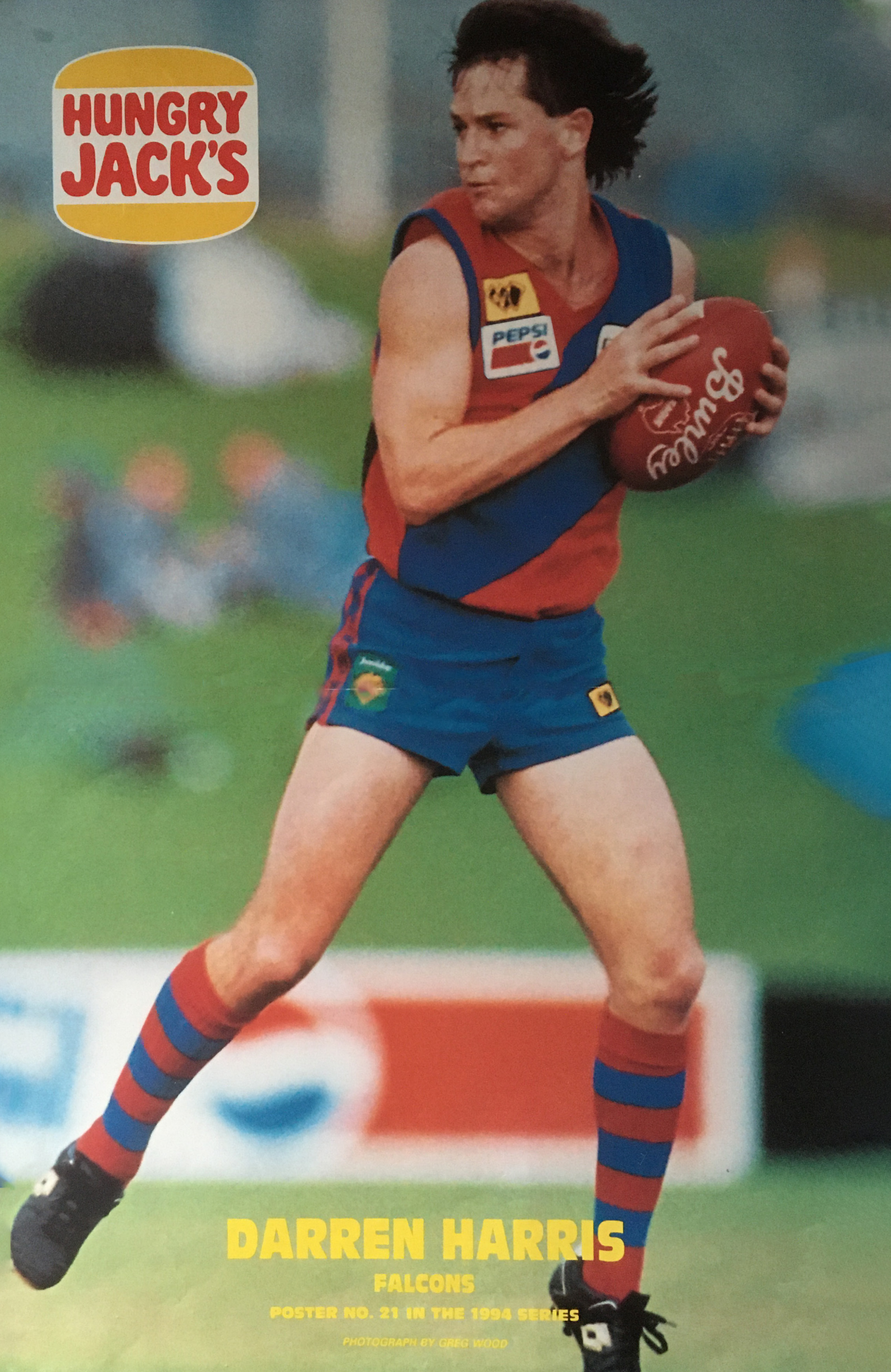
"It is a little more important than other games have been, but you can't go reading things like that into it."

"We've just got to go out there and play as well as we can, if it comes our way it comes our way."

Dimmer says that he personally isn't feeling the pressure.

"It's the biggest game of the year," he said.

WAFI Grand Final Budget,
24th September, 1995


**HUNGRY
JACK'S**


DARREN HARRIS
FALCONS

POSTER NO. 21 IN THE 1994 SERIES

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG WOOD

Heading West... with Darren Harris

Darren Harris played the first of his 99 games for West Perth in 1992. He quickly established himself as an on-field leader, assuming captaincy of the Club for the 1995 and 1996 seasons prior to returning to Victoria. Darren played his best football for West Perth in 1995, captaining the Club to its first premiership since 1975, and winning the Breckler and Simpson medals. Darren was to later return to the Club as coach between 2002 and 2005, coaching the Club to the 2003 premiership. We asked Darren about his memories of playing at West Perth and more particularly, about the 1995 flag win.

Can you tell us the background to your arrival at the Club in 1992?

In 1991 I was playing for the Wodonga Football Club in the Ovens and Murray Football League under Jeff Gieschen. At the time there were no teaching jobs in Victoria, and I had recently graduated. Jeff was appointed as head coach of West Perth and it was my father, Herb who rang Jeff and asked if I could come to the West and have a crack at the WAFL. My Dad knew I needed to get out of Wodonga and get some purpose. Teaching opportunities and a higher level of football were the opportunities and it would prove to be a turning point in my life. My girlfriend at the time Gael, who is now my wife, was also a teacher and she was a big encourager of us coming to the west.

Your first game for the Club was a tight win over East Perth in round one of the 1992 season. What can you recall of your first game and what appears would have been a challenging first season?

To be honest I can't actually remember that first game. I know we won it and then lost the next five or six games. I think at the time everything was pretty intense for me trying to fit in, a bit homesick, wanting to play well etc. Glen Bewick and Paul Sanzone took me under their wings for which I will always be grateful. There were a few Wodonga boys in Andrew Nicholls and Rob West running around, too. I also really appreciated the way big Craig Nelson looked after me. As the year progressed, we started to build some belief and won three games in a row late in the year against top sides. This was the catalyst to build



Darren Harris

on for the next season. Ironically, we played off for the wooden spoon against Claremont who we would face the next year in the grand final. Unfortunately, we lost both of these games. Personally I didn't realise how fit you needed to be for WAFL footy and once I got really fit I started to contribute more.

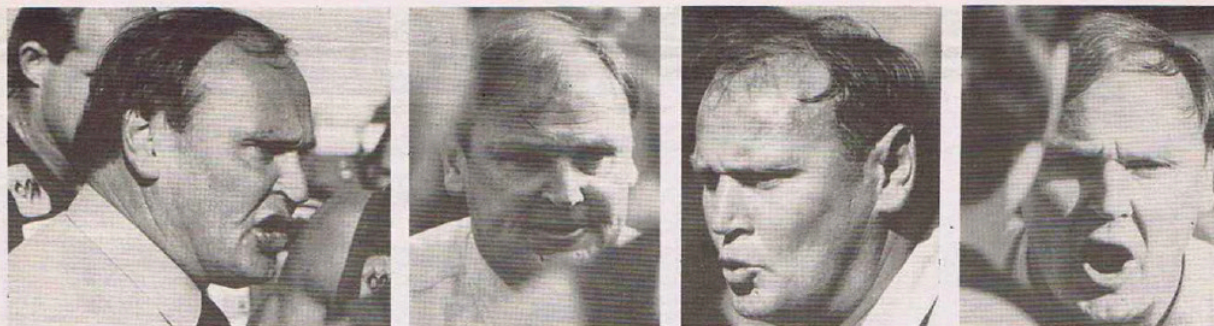
Jeff Gieschen seemingly quickly developed a young crop of players, in fact quickly enough to qualify for the 1993 grand final. What are the attributes that made Jeff the coach he was?

Jeff turned up at the Wodonga Football Club in 1986. We had just come off a wooden spoon. He transformed the Club and took it to a whole new level professionally. He was very demanding and challenged us to be better and it was just what we needed. We lost a preliminary final in 1986 and won the grand final by a record margin in 1987. He knew every

person's name, made them feel valued and ensure they understood how important they were to our success. At West Perth he was no different. He turned up, got great buy-in of the people and you were either in or out. Thirty-odd players were turned over in 1992 and the ones who were left were up for the challenge and the hard work. Jeff really created a strong US v THEM mentality. He hated losing and so did we. He was also quite innovative at the time with regard to set plays, which would soon become the norm. He would do anything to help the team win. There were a few times I found myself at the Gieschens' home for a meal, also receiving a massage when I was sore from the coach himself. He left no stone unturned and that was the foundation of the culture that still exists today. His legacy was big.

West Perth finished second on the ladder in 1994 but fell out of the premiership race losing the preliminary final. Can you share with us the disappointment of that 1994 season and the extent to which that drove the team in 1995?

I think it was a culmination of the hard times and wooden spoons in the early 1990s, followed by understanding what success felt like in the lead up to the 1993 grand final. We then had a very good season in 1994 with inaccuracy costing us that preliminary final. We would have gone onto win the flag that season. That was close to the toughest loss in my career. It did drive us to not want to feel that again. Giesch came to us at training, well after our pre-season for 1995 had started, and said he was going to be an assistant at Geelong.



NOW LOOK ... this is how you do it ... this is when you do it ... this is why you do it ... and this is your reward

Failure ... or future?

WEST Perth's gripping first semi-final win over Subiaco may have cost them a crack at this year's WAFL Pepsi Cup, according to coach Jeff Gieschen.

The Falcons mentor said as much in the wake of last Saturday's meek second-half capitulation to East Fremantle at Subiaco Oval.

The Falcons led by 36-points at the long-interval, but were overrun by a rampant East Fremantle in the second-half to ultimately suffer a 23-point loss.

"It indicated that our performance last week took a lot out of us both mentally and physically," Gieschen said.

"Subiaco are a fantastic side. The preparation put into last week was just extraordinary to get a result. We got that and maybe it took its toll in the second half."

Gieschen conceded that the Falcons' inaccurate tally of 4.10 in the opening term was costly.

"Today was a result of missed opportunities," he said. "Our preparation was superb. The way we played the first half in terms of getting numbers to the ball and dominating play showed that we were very well prepared, but unfortunately we just couldn't put them away."

"Inadequacies come back to haunt you." He was taking nothing away from the Sharks' persistence.

"East Fremantle were wonderful," Gieschen said. "They just kept boxing on. They did in the second half what we have done in the past."

"Full credit to them for that."

Apart from Darren Harris, who had 31 possessions, West Perth's key playmakers had no impact in the second half.

Craig Treleven worked his way on top of Darren O'Brien, Clayton Anderson out-tagged Craig Turley and winger Shaun McManus beat Paul Symmons.

"We went the whole second half with our so called jets contributing very, very little," Gieschen said.

"It is a loss that will haunt us for some time."

Gieschen, a school teacher, is one of the most astute and affable coaches in the WAFL, but could be tempted to return to his native Victoria.

"You give as much as you can give and when you are not getting results you have to question how far do you want to go in this caper," he said, despite lifting the Falcons from last to second and third.

"We have given all we can give."

"It just depends where I'm at now and where the club's at."

The Falcons will not win a WAFL premiership until they recruit goalkicking talent, a fact Gieschen acknowledged after the loss.

"We definitely need some finishers up front. We need men who know how to play in the forward line," he said.

"You can have blokes who can take big marks and blokes who are quick."

"But if they don't know how to play forward play and they not goal scorers or goal opportunists they may as well not be there."

"We don't have too many blokes in a forward line with a history of kicking a lot of goals."



WEST Perth coach Jeff Gieschen has lifted the Falcons from the doldrums to be competitive Pepsi Cup campaigners. But, in the light of their departure from this year's finals series, he sees need for change. GLEN QUARTERMAIN reports

A knee injury to Ian Downsborough and the retirement of Basil Zempilas due to work commitments robbed the Falcons of goalkicking depth this season.

"We haven't got anyone who can consistently kick goals," he said.

"We have got to be on the lookout for one or two who can catch the ball and turn around and kick a goal."



NO LOOKING BACK ... Jeff Gieschen has given West Perth the impetus to plan confidently for the future

Gieschen guides the Falcons to brighter pastures

Gieschen said West Perth improved on last year's grand final effort, despite a mass exodus of players over the summer.

"Apart from 60 minutes or two quarters on the weekend and a blowout against Subiaco near the end of the year, the rest of the season was quite magnificent," Gieschen said.

"We won more games than last year and we lost 27 of our 52 players over the summer and to regroup and be within an ace of going to another grand final, we are pretty proud of it."

The Falcons lost Robbie West (Footscray), Mark Merenda (Richmond), Todd Curley (Collingwood), Troy West (Williamstown), Wayne Dayman, Paul Hasler and Zempilas (all retired).

Gieschen said losing players was a problem all WAFL coaches faced.

"The continuity factor is the hardest that coaches have to come to grips with in the WAFL," he said.

"The clubs and the coaches that are able to group together and make them strive together for the one goal are the ones who have success at the end of the year."

"When you look at clubs like Claremont and even East Fremantle they have done that very well."

"We were fortunate this year that we regrouped very quickly."

Gieschen said his job was made easier through the groundwork laid down by his predecessor George Michalczyk.

"I owe a lot to George ... he was at the club at a time when we were really struggling for personnel and he moulded a few young players," Gieschen said.

"Obviously Derek Hall, Darren O'Brien and Paul Mifka developed under George."

"After that what we endeavoured to do was develop a code of ethics that would help us become a consistent club."

"Then we set about improving our skill level, discipline and pattern of play and we have achieved that to the point where people would regard us as one of the most powerful clubs at this point in time."

"I'm not saying we are the most powerful club, but we are right there among them."

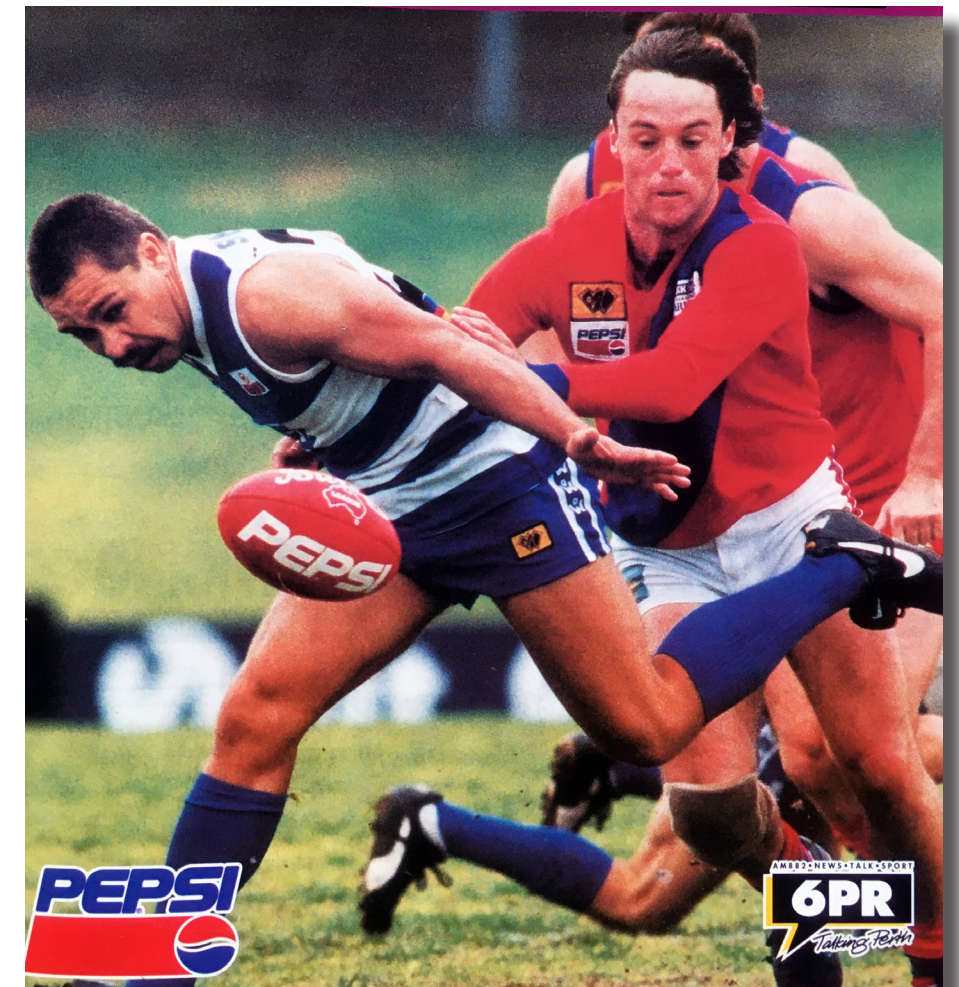
Craig Nelson and Wayne Dayman retired, Derek Hall and Robbie West were drafted. These were substantial changes, but we had become a more mature and very close knit unit. We really wanted to win, and we trained and prepared like it. John Dimmer was a massive breath of fresh air but it did take us a while to realise this and to then value his style and plans.

John Dimmer was appointed coach for the 1995 season. Was there anything from a game plan perspective that John tweaked as coach?

John Dimmer not only brought with him a whole new methodology around how we would play but a whole new coaching style. Gieschen had hardened us up and John gave us a plan and let us own it. We did the same drills over and over and they all linked to the way we wanted to play both offensively and defensively. We became super fit and connected. All the repetition helped our decision making under pressure. John had us take training, help pick the team, give feedback. I was voted captain that year and this style of coaching meant I had bought in stronger than ever before and felt ultimately responsible for our success. It helped set me up and the team up for success. Our confidence grew enormously under John.

The Club finished second on the League ladder at the end of the home and away series, six games shy of Subiaco. In those qualifying fixtures, West Perth had suffered a 71 point defeat in round six, won by 25 points in round 14 and then lost to Subiaco in a three point nail-biter in round 20. The early season defeat would have been disappointing but the win and narrow loss must have given the team confidence going into the final series?

A turning point for me was the Swan Districts game. We were about five or six goals down at half time and I remember getting really emotional on the ground just before the third quarter got under way. The way we played in the second half was a real



Gavin Bell in a contest for the football at East Fremantle in the Round 19 contest. West Perth ran out winners by 54 points.

sign of things to come. Ronnie Burns kicked five or six goals in that second half. Then that game against Subiaco in round 20 was a real turning point again with regard to our self-belief. Being ten goals down and losing by just three points showed our best was more than good enough. From memory Ian Downsborough and Brendan Fewster kicked 4 goals each in that last quarter, so adding the form of Chris Groom, who kicked 72 goals in 14 games, we knew if we got it in there quick and went at the game we could beat anyone. That last quarter was extremely significant in the big picture.

What do you recall of the one point win over Subiaco in the second semi-final?

I just remember it being elite. The ball hardly touched the ground. It was up

and back all day. We went really hard at each other. It was a hot dry day with two quality teams at their best going head to head. I remember thinking we could have taken our opportunities better. I believed we should have won by more than the rushed point we got from the efforts of Robbie Malone and Ryan Smith in the last couple of seconds. This again gave me a lot of confidence that we could get it done in the grand final. Subiaco having won so many games in the home and away season so comfortably definitely took a hit in losing that game. Paul Mifka went to play on the dangerous Jason Heatley in the second half, who had kicked ten goals from memory and that would help set up a key match-up come grand final day. That one point win was another significant moment for season 1995.

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THE FALCONS OF '95

Player	D.O.B.	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Came from	Debut	Games played	Goals kicked	State games	Occupation	Position
AHCHEE, Dudley	21.10.73	188	83	Sturt,SA	-	-	-	-	Clerk	Rover
ANTONIO, Glen	3.9.70	193	91	Burracoppin	-	-	-	-	Truck driver	Key position
ASTBURY, Sam	28.1.76	183	84	Wickepin	-	-	-	-	Gardner	Half-back
BAILEY, Glen	20.2.73	189	80	Wanneroo	-	-	-	-	-	Utility
BARROWS, Brendan	17.10.70	185	80	Claremont/Hale	1994 West Perth	18 WP	4 WP	-	Salesman	Utility
					1989 Claremont	30 CI	59 CI	-	-	-
BELL, Gavin	20.8.73	180	79	Warwick	1994	1	1	-	Teacher	Rover
BLURTON, Ashley	5.3.75	175	80	Balga	1994	16	7	-	-	Rover
BROOKS, Nathan	13.2.69	188	81	East Perth	1987 East Perth	37 EP	6 EP	-	Salesman	Utility
					1990 Claremont	6 CI	1 CI	-	-	-
BRUECHLE, John	24.6.74	175	73	Claremont	-	-	-	-	Plumber	Rover
BRUNTON, Dean	22.7.73	182	85	Carine	1993	24	14	-	Public Servant	Half-back
BURNS, Ronnie	13.3.73	170	70	St Mary's, Darwin	1993	5	4	-	-	Half-forward
CHEESEMAN, Louis	17.1.75	182	82	East Perth	-	-	-	-	Shop assistant	Half-back
CHEFFERS, Darian	19.1.72	185	83	Mt Lawley	-	-	-	-	Gardener	Half-back
COUSINS, Brett	6.3.77	187	83	Warwick	-	-	-	-	Student	Defender
CRUTHERS, Trevor	19.3.69	190	89	Maffra, Vic	1994	1	-	-	Lab. Manager	Centre-half-forward
CURLEY, Adam	5.9.77	189	79	Warwick	-	-	-	-	Student	Forward
CURLEY, Todd	14.1.73	188	81	West Perth/Collingwood	1991 West Perth	59 WP	52 WP	-	-	-
					1994 Collingwood	3 Coll	1 Coll	-	-	-
DEGOIS, Brendon	14.3.74	170	71	West Coast	1994	2	2	-	Student	Centre
DOBSON, Daniel	19.7.72	173	76	Wanneroo	-	-	-	-	Gardener	Rover
DOWNSBOROUGH, Ian	19.1.72	195	82	Burracoppin	1993	32	21	-	Landscape gardener	Ruck
FARRELL, Brian	26.8.75	186	83	Sorrento	-	-	-	-	Student	Utility
FEWSTER, Brendan	4.1.74	194	93	Gingin	1994	7	1	-	Beekeeper	Half-forward
FONG, Matthew	16.5.75	179	81	Wesley College	-	-	-	-	Insurance Officer	Utility
GOBBY, Stephen	21.1.76	183	72	Kingsley	-	-	-	-	Student	Rover
GREEN, Trevor	7.12.70	189	84	Osborne Park	1991	14	10	-	Cabinet maker	Forward
†GROOM, Chris	28.8.73	194	95	Adelaide/South Adelaide	1992 South Adelaide	49 SA	72 SA	-	-	Forward
					1993 Adelaide	2 Adel	8 Adel	-	-	-
HARRIS, Darren	18.7.68	174	70	Wodonga, Vic	1992	66	49	1	Teacher	Rover
HARRIS, Mark	1.7.71	183	84	East Perth/Bunbury	1993 West Perth	6 WP	- WP	-	Teacher	Ruck-rover
					1990 East Perth	6 EP	1 EP	-	Teacher	Ruck-rover
HASKETT, Lloyd	16.10.69	185	84	East Perth/Morley	1988 East Perth	68 EP	55 EP	-	Teacher	Wingman
HIGGINS, Richard	12.8.71	184	86	North Innaloo	1990	32	3	-	Student	Centre-half-back
IVULICH, John	2.11.73	180	85	Osborne Park	1992	22	28	-	Student	Half-forward
JEFRIES, Darren	3.3.74	182	88	South Bunbury	-	-	-	-	Clerk	Half-back
KEDDIE, Paul	3.5.74	189	88	Kalgoorlie	-	-	-	-	Mechanic	Defender
KERNS, Mark	23.3.76	178	81	Warwick	-	-	-	-	Student	Midfielder
LANGLANDS, John	17.4.73	183	60	Wanneroo	-	-	-	-	Horticulturist	Wingman
LOGAN, Brendon	17.2.75	180	70	Lynwood-Ferndale	-	-	-	-	Student	Wing
MALONE, Robert	4.5.70	185	87	Claremont/Marist	-	-	-	-	Valuer	Centre
McCONNON, Anthony	16.5.69	184	80	Clarence, Tas.	1990 Claremont	68 CI	25 CI	-	-	Full-back
MEAD, Steven	16.5.69	166	66	Claremont/South Mt Barker	1994	3	1	-	-	Rover
MIFKA, Paul	8.6.65	186	81	Balcatta	1990 Claremont	11 CI	12 CI	-	-	-
					1984 West Perth	199 WP	66 WP	3	Policeman	Half-back
					1987 WCE	1 WCE	- WCE	-	-	-
MILDENHALL, Neil	8.9.68	175	70	Traralgon, Vic	1993	45	30	1	Cabinet-maker	Centre
MORPHETT, Kane	17.3.72	184	78	Christ Church/East Frem	1994 West Perth	8 WP	-	-	Physiotherapist	Ruck-rover
					1990 East Fremantle	44 EF	8 EF	-	-	-
MURDOGH, Brodie	29.2.76	195	97	Edith Cowan	-	-	-	-	Student	Forward
O'BRIEN, Darren	22.3.69	178	81	Collie	1988	121	55	-	Salesman	Centre
PAICE, Michael	2.1.72	185	85	Wanneroo	-	-	-	-	Bobcat operator	Half-forward
PICKETT, Alistair	4.8.72	172	67	Nollamara	-	-	-	-	-	Rover
QUINN-SCHOFIELD, Justin	19.1.72	188	97	Wanneroo	-	-	-	-	Plumber	Full-forward
RAMSHAW, Lucas	29.10.73	175	74	Collie	-	-	-	-	App.Mechanic	Midfielder
REUBEN, Clayton	20.4.74	194	90	Collie	-	-	-	-	Student	Ruck
ROTUMAH, Michael	11.8.74	186	85	Darwin	-	-	-	-	Recreation Officer	Half-back
SANDWELL, Mark	23.3.76	185	77	Warwick	1994	1	-	-	Sales rep.	Wing
SAUNDERS, Andrew	29.12.73	177	74	Margaret River	-	-	-	-	Ceiling ficer	Midfielder
SMITH, Mark	5.11.78	181	79	Kingsley	-	-	-	-	Student	Ruck-rover
SMITH, Ryan	21.2.72	190	88	Wanneroo	1994	20	5	-	Butcher	Utility
SPIPKER, Wade	12.6.77	178	69	Warwick	-	-	-	-	Student	Wing
STARR, Wade	17.7.68	180	75	Pingelly/East Perth	1988	44	17	-	Teacher	Ruck-rover
STEELE, Bryce	24.3.73	175	70	Bairnsdale,Vic	-	-	-	-	Electrician	Centre
STEWART, Ben	20.10.71	178	86	Mt Lawley	1994	5	1	-	Accountant	Centre
SYKES, Ben	8.10.74	195	90	Benalla, Vic	1994	4	-	-	Veterinarian	Ruck
* SYMONS, Paul	2.9.73	185	75	Warwick	1992	50	15	1	Insurance clerk	Wing
					1994 WCE	4 WCE	-	-	-	-
THOMAS, Darren	21.12.72	185	95	Burracoppin	1993	14	22	-	Clerk	Half-forward
TIEFENBACHER, Eric	1.6.75	196	92	Kalgoorlie	-	-	-	-	Electrician	Key position
TOOVEY, Rick	31.3.68	184	78	West Coast/Subiaco	1990	78	21	-	Accountant	Ruck-rover
TREWHELLA, Steve	28.5.73	175	75	Subiaco	1994	20	1	-	-	Rover
* TURLEY, Craig	24.8.65	185	80	Nollamara	1985 West Perth	84 WP	34 WP	2	Promotions officer	Ruck-rover
					1989 WCE	98 WCE	72 WCE	-	-	-
VALENTINE, Geoff	6.1.70	180	78	North Beach	1992	40	12	-	Student	Half-back
WEBB, Ryan	7.5.76	186	84	Warwick	-	-	-	-	Shop assistant	Half-forward
WHELAN, Martin	22.5.76	200	89	Ocean Ridge	-	-	-	-	Usher	Ruck
WILSON, Troy	19.1.72	188	99	Nollamara	-	-	-	-	Postman	Forward
WINNER, Rod	12.6.73	195	85	Warwick	1992	2	-	-	Student	Utility

* West Coast Eagles squad member; † Fremantle Dockers squad member. All games and goals as at the start of the 1995 season.


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Todd Curley spoils and Steve Trehwella arrives on the scene to ensure Andrew Macnish doesn't get his hand on the footy in the Round 14 clash at Subiaco. West Perth won by 25 points.

In the grand final, after a tight first quarter West Perth ran away with the game in the second and third quarters. Can you tell us about the team's build-up for that game and your memories of that day?

There is not enough space to write my memories of this day. Sincerely, in sport for me as a player this was as good as it could ever get, and I remember nearly everything about it. In the build-up I remember we trained on the Saturday morning of the preliminary final at Churchlands High School.

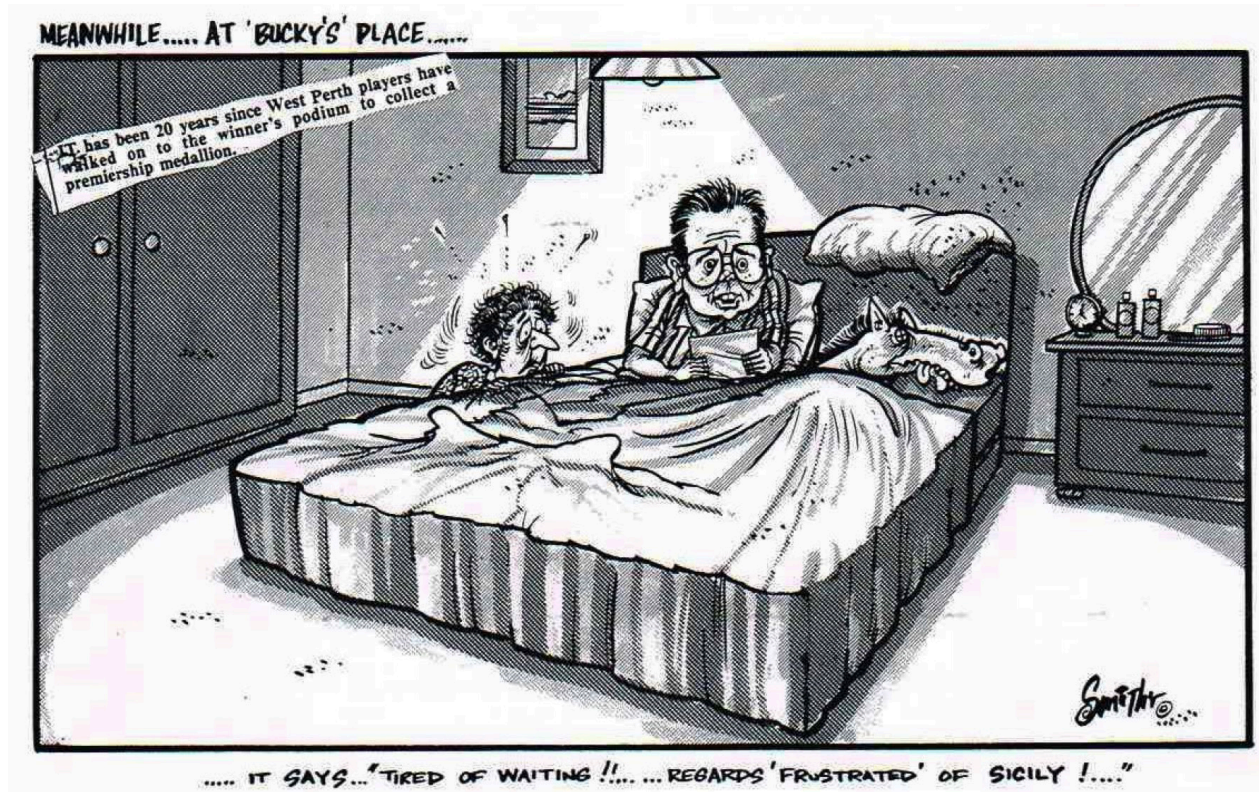
We trained terribly. It was a shocker but I think that was important to let us know we still had a lot of work to do. Put us back on edge. We then went

and watched the game Subiaco versus East Fremantle. It was a good physical game. Subiaco didn't have it all their own way and that's when it was game on for us. I remember during the week being really nervous at work and home but every time I got around the boys I felt supremely confident and relaxed. I didn't go to any of the functions, the Sandover, parade, media, etc. My job was to play well and the other stuff was just going to distract me because I can get quite nervous.

Watching our boys on television in the week made me smile. They were loving the whole thing. Pre-game I remember again being really focussed. I picked Geoff Valentine up in Hamersley and he played me some heavy metal song

that was not for me but I said "you beauty". We drove to the game and ran into Neil (Billy) Mildenhall who found \$20 on the ground. Then there was this loud roar from outside the ground from the reserves game and that was the thing that got me right in the zone.

We were relaxed, confident and focussed. I believed in my teammates and our plans. Before we ran out Geoff Valentine grabbed me and said if it's on out there at the start get out of there. You can't fight and we don't need you getting belted. "No worries Joffa", I said. Sure enough, we're on the ground before play gets under way, there's a loud roar, and Todd Curley



The Football Budget, 24th September 1995

is shaking his head as Paul Mifka belts Heatley. Meanwhile, I'm on the outer wing looking at the crowd taking it all in. I think Denis Bautista even belted one of their trainers. Then the first bounce was a beauty, Todd Curley charged in and hit Sam McFarlane straight down the middle, Darren O'Brien jumped over the pack and tried to smash Karl Langdon, Geoff (Roey) Valentine came off the square and picked off Dwayne Lamb and it was game on. All I did was receive the first of many handball receives for the day from Rob (Molly) Malone.

The game had everything. When Craig Turley hit a pack, the ball spilled, he found his feet and the ball really quickly, handballed underground to Todd who kicked a great goal. It was like I was watching something at a completely different level, and I was. I ran back to the centre square and asked Karl Langdon who was playing on Todd Curley, and where he was when Todd kicked that goal to which he replied, "I will break your f.... jaw". He nearly did, too. I remember Chris Groom absolutely dominating Billy Monaghan. He kicked five goals in the



Moments before the final siren, coach's assistant Glen Cox, team manager Neil Bryant, John Dimmer and football manager Scott Ballem take a moment to savour the Club's win.



Geoff Valentine

first half. If he hadn't been king hit he would have kicked ten. Everyone had their moment from Brendon Logan kicking a late goal to Todd's mark on Langdon's head late, even the streaker had a moment. Paul Mifka held Heatley to one late goal, Molly Malone racking them up, amazing backline of Curley, Blurton, Barrows, Trehwella, Mifka, Ryan Smith kicking four, the list goes on. When that siren went and the crowd ran on the ground, including our great teammates who had missed out, well that was as good as it gets.

What were the attributes of that 1995 premiership side that made the team successful?

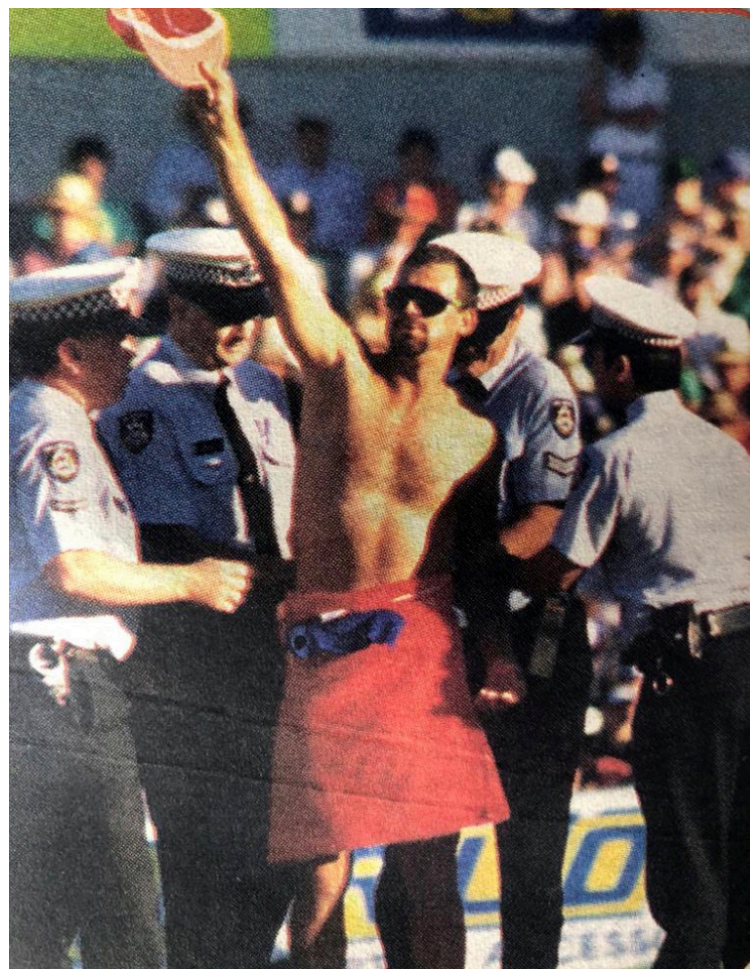
Everyone played their role, we bought into WE not ME. Our mateship was awesome. We spent a lot of quality social time together, knew each others' partners and families. We also believed in our ability. We had done the work. Examples of this are Ben Stewart coming off the bench on grand final day and then racking up the possessions, and Gavin Bell coming off the bench and then competing as hard as anyone. Everyone was 'IN'. Then you look at the talent... Ronnie Burns, Darren O'Brien, Ash Blurton, Todd Curley, Brendon Fewster, Craig Turley, Chris Groom, Ryan Smith, Neil Mildenhall, Ian Downsborough, Brendon Logan all went to AFL Clubs and had AFL careers. We could genuinely play the game. Others went on to coach at AFL or WAFL level. It was the start of one of the great eras of the West Perth Football Club.

You played the 1996 season and then left to continue your football journey. Can you fill us in on your years away from the Club until your appointment to the position of West Perth coach in 2002?

I'd always wanted to coach and John Dimmer had whet my appetite even more for this. When I had an opportunity to go home with my wife Gael and coach a club that had never won a flag (the club for which my Dad was a foundation member) I just had to have a crack at it. I coached Wodonga Raiders for three years, and we had a great West Perth connection.

Geoff Valentine, Ben Stewart, Rod Winner, Andrew Nicholls and Vin Glass all played in the 1998 premiership we won, the first in the club's history. Then I felt like I needed to be a better teacher of the game so I took a job based in Wagga working for the AFL running talent and development programs. This was also a great learning opportunity. I unsuccessfully applied for the coaching role at West Perth after my three years at Wodonga Raiders but was told I was not ready by Neil Bryant and Andrew Lockyer was appointed to the role. Then Molly Malone rang and asked me to apply and I moved the family back to Perth. That was five years and two children later.

A grand final loss in your first year as coach was followed by a top two

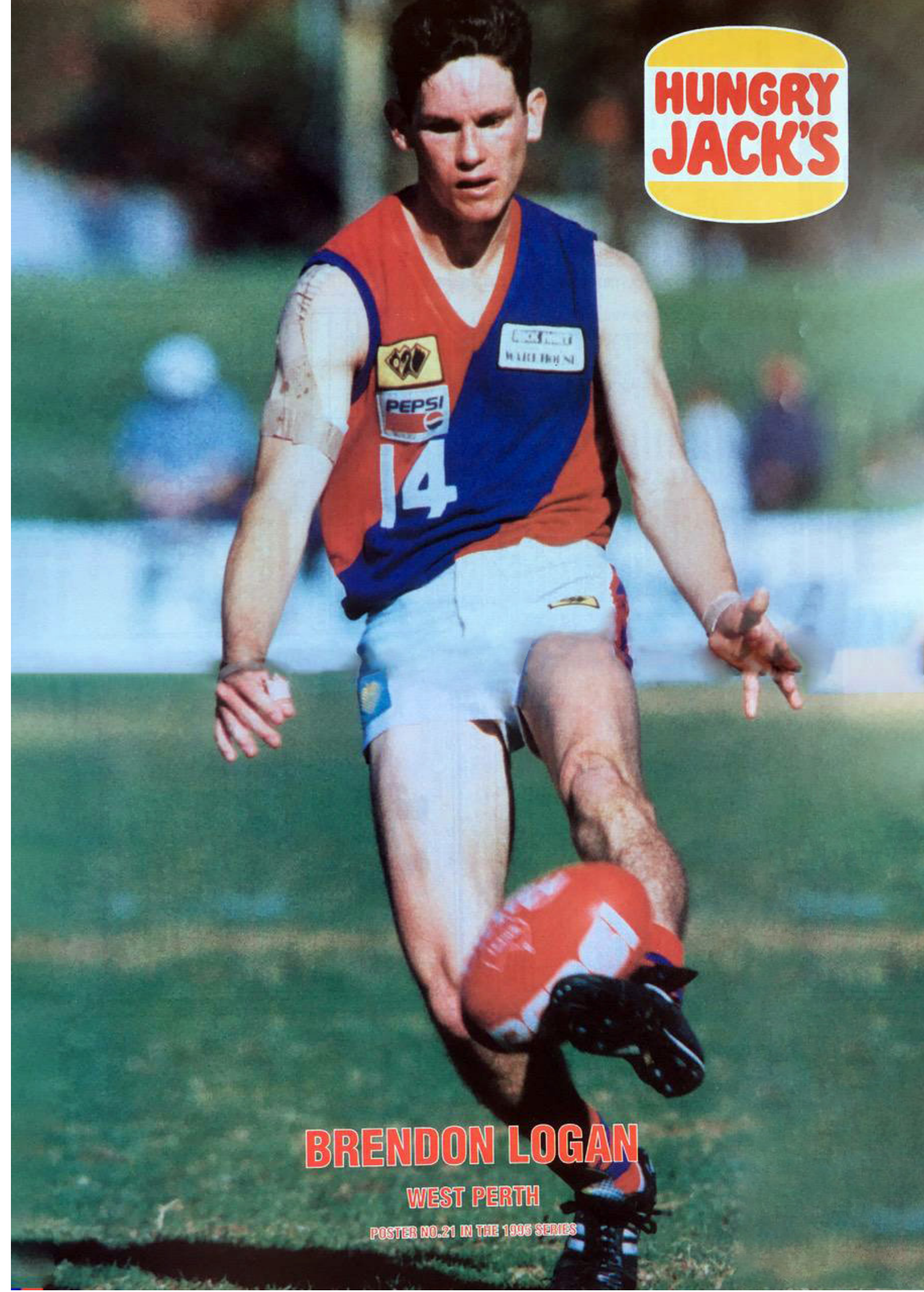


The red cap is the giveaway... this exuberant Falcons' supporter is unable to hide his joy (or much else) as it becomes clear his team is about to win its first flag since 1975. What better than to join your heroes out on the ground?

finish in 2003, an eight point loss to Subiaco in the second semi-final and a commanding win over East Perth in the preliminary final. What changed between 2002 and 2003?

There were a few things. I think we grew belief in one another. We recruited some quality in Brad Murray and Kim Rigoll returned. The planets aligned and we had Quentin Lynch, Steven Kooops, Troy Longmuir, Brendan Fewster, Mark Seaby and Callum Chambers all available from AFL duties.

We had worked bloody hard, were great mates and wanted to win really badly. That was a very good football team. A reflection of how good it was is the players who missed out that day, Corey Johnson, Adam Curley, Phil Smith, Christian Kelly, Ron Skender and Dustin Burns to name a few.



BRENDON LOGAN

WEST PERTH

POSTER NO.21 IN THE 1995 SERIES

What are your recollections of that 2003 grand final?

In the lead-up to the finals we lost our last three games and the first final so I was pretty angry about the fact we weren't playing to our ability. So after sharing that I thought the group's response in the preliminary final win over East Perth was enormous. We belted them in the third quarter and the belief we could do it grew from there. My memories are of being really calm and focused. My best mates in Geoff Valentine, Gavin Bell and mentor John Dimmer were in the box with me. Todd Curley taking out Brad Smith early with a tackle and Brad Murray knocking out their captain Mark Webb had big impacts on the result. Our back line was amazing. Brent LeCras, Steven Kooops, Todd Curley and Simon Duckworth were all outstanding. Troy Longmuir kicked a bag, everyone played well and did their job. When Buzzy Fewster kicked a goal early in the wet I felt like the cup was heading to Joondalup.

As Claremont's coach, how much of what you learned in your time at West Perth from the coaches and players you had around you, have influenced the way you coach?

Massively. I have learnt so much off so many good people in my life, all in different ways. From my under 9s coach who bought me my first pair of footy boots, my Dad is the reason I still love the game. My mates who backed me in and challenged me, Jeff Gieschen, John Dimmer, Geoff Valentine, Todd Curley, Stevie Trehwella, Craig Turley, Darren O'Brien, Craig Nelson, Kim Rigoll, Gavin Bell, Derek Hall, how do you discriminate? All these experiences and lessons make you who you are. John Dimmer probably had the biggest impact from a coaching point of view and all the others on the journey reinforce and mould your values which at the end of the day influence how you live your life. I will always be indebted to the West Perth Football Club for my sense of self-esteem and identity. I still love the footy club.

1995 GRAND FINAL TEAM LINE-UP



Ruck
Martin Whitelaw, Darren Harris, Darren O'Brien

Interchange
Ryan Smith, Ben Stewart, Gavin Bell

GRAND FINAL MATCH SUMMARY

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
West Perth	4.3	9.7	15.9	21.11	137
Subiaco	3.4	5.6	7.6	12.9	81

West Perth

Chris Groom (5), Darren Harris (4), Ryan Smith (4), Ian Downsborough (3), Neil Mildenhall (2), Todd Curley (1), Brendon Logan (1), Darren O'Brien (1)

Subiaco

Paul Miller (2), Rod Willett (2), Dwayne Lamb (1), Andrew Donnelly (1), Jarrad Schofield (1), Andrew Macnish (1), Jason Heatley (1), Bill Monaghan (1), Todd Berman (1), Karl Langdon (1)

Best players

West Perth

Darren Harris, Rob Malone, Todd Curley, Brendon Logan, Ashley Blurton, Phil Smith

Subiaco

Nathan O'Connor, Dwayne Lamb, Jarrad Schofield, Sam McFarlane, Paul Miller, Jay Burton

Umpires



Darren Harris was awarded the Simpson Medal

Sam Kronja, Darren Starcevich, Trevor Garret

Free kicks

West Perth (31), Subiaco (20)

Attendance

30,712

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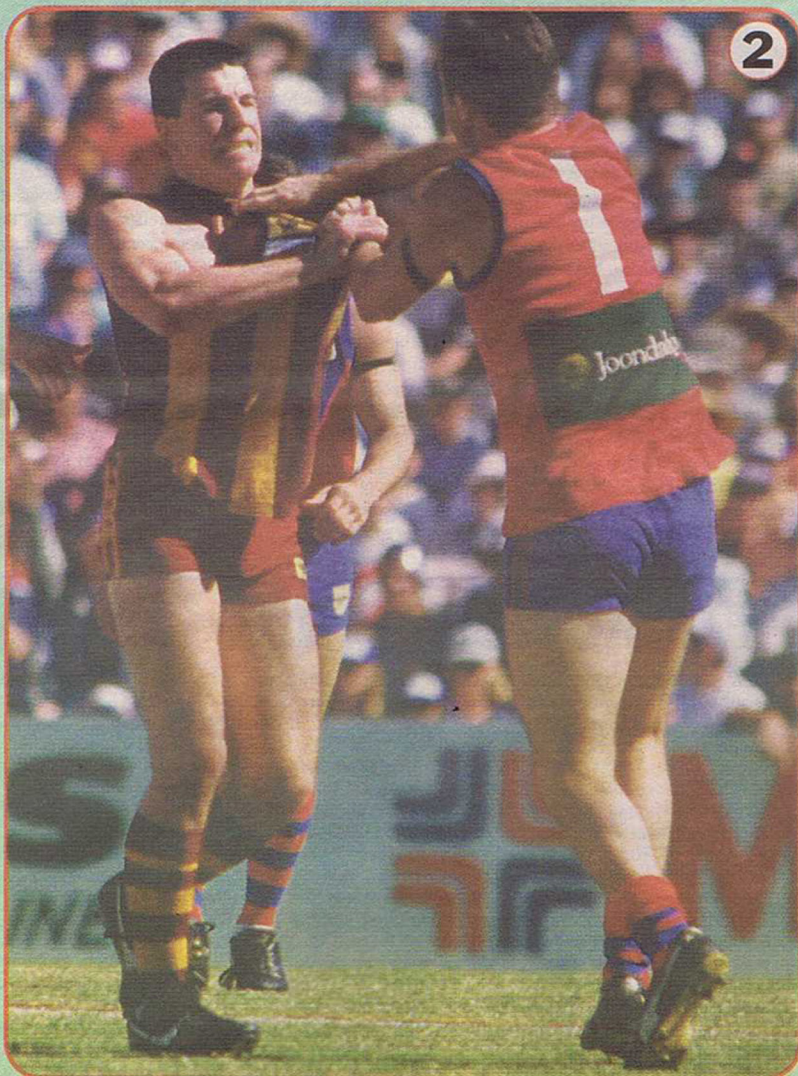


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What the papers said ...



1



2

Fabulous Falcons

It was the end of a 20-year drought as West Perth surged to an emotional Pepsi Cup grand final at Subiaco Oval on Sunday.

In front of a crowd of 30,712 fans, mainly West Perth supporters, the Falcons set the scene early in the fierce contest.

It was a grand final battle worthy of any past premiership play-offs and the long journey to Joondalup on Sunday evening was well worth the effort.

Westside's award-winning photographer Greg Wood has captured all the action, all the fights, all the emotion... and even the presence of a male streaker, who was obviously a fanatical Falcons fans

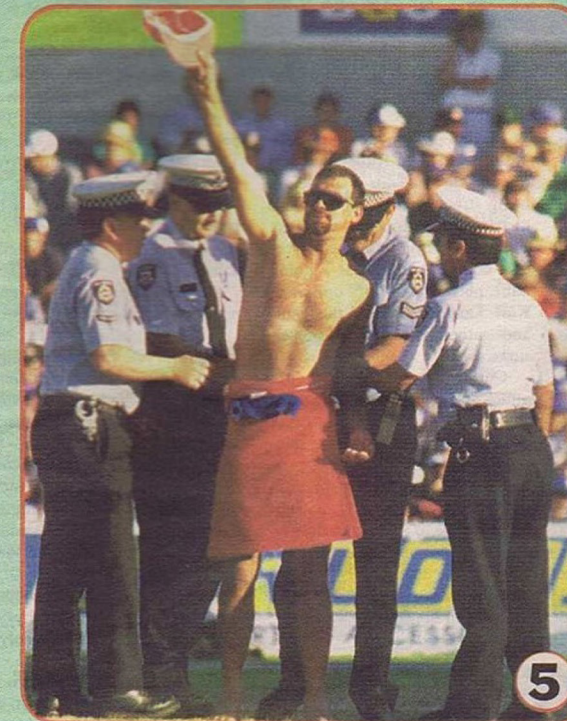
1. Craig Turley uses his body superbly to hold out Sam McFarlane in this contest for the Pepsi Cup leather.

2. There were plenty of heated moments and here rival No. 1s David Snow and Rob Malone have some pleasant words to each other.

3. Paul Mifka and Darren Harris (centre) lead the Falcons in song, with coach John Dimmer adding voice.

4. Todd Curley has the roar of a Falcon as big team-mate Brendan Fewster applies a bear hug.

5. Hail the Falcons heroes... that's football's streaker for '95.



5



3



4

70 THE WEST AUSTRALIAN MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1995

Football '95

Dynamic Falcons break the drought

BY STEVE LAGUE

WEST Perth broke a 20-year premiership drought yesterday with an emphatic 56-point win over Subiaco in one of the toughest grand finals in the WAFL for many years.

The game, played in front of 30,712 people, started with an all-in-brawl before the first bounce and was marred by several ugly off-the-ball incidents.

But while frustrated Subiaco players were more intent in trying to hurt their opponents, the Falcons remained focused on the ball and were justly rewarded with several easy free kicks.

The Falcons, who lost the 1993 grand final and were eliminated in the preliminary final last year, finally achieved the goal that had eluded them since 1975 with a 21.11 (137) to 12.9 (81) win.

In probably the most fierce start to a grand final since 1981 when South Fremantle's Basil Campbell cleaned up Claremont ruckman Bob Beecroft in the opening minutes of the game, fights broke out all over the ground as players were moving into their positions.

It took umpires Sam Kronja, Darren Starcevic and Trevor Garrett several minutes to regain order, but fiery Subiaco forward Karl Langdon was the only player to have his number taken.

Langdon was reported by umpire Starcevic and emergency umpire Cameron Dawe for striking Falcons defender Todd Curley.

When the game did get under way, it was Subiaco which appeared to settle first but it missed too many easy scoring opportunities.

By the 15-minute mark of the first quarter, West Perth started to take control with its midfield players leading the way.

Captain Darren Harris was inspirational in the middle and was getting tremendous support from Darren O'Brien, Rob Malone and Brendon Logan.

The Falcons defence was also well in control and Subiaco's Jason Heatley could not gain a possession against Paul Mifka in the first half.

And as they have done all season, Steve Trehwella, Todd Curley and Ashley Blurton provided plenty of run from defence.

West Perth turned at quarter time with a well-earned five-point lead.

It extended that to 25 points in the next 30 minutes with desperate football.

The Falcons started to get on top all over the ground, putting enormous pressure on the Lions and



It's ours: West Perth captain Darren Harris and coach John Dimmer hold the premiership trophy after yesterday's brilliant 56-point victory against Subiaco at Subiaco Oval. PICTURE: GREG BURKE

forcing them into uncharacteristic errors.

But it was in the third quarter that West Perth put the result beyond doubt. Harris kicked a freak goal from deep in the right pocket in the opening minute and that seemed to break Subiaco's spirit.

It almost became a procession from that point with Falcons full forward Chris Groom adding two more goals in quick succession. They were followed by goals from Ian Downsbrough, Neil Mildenhall and Ryan Smith, who finished the match with three.

Smith had a horror start to the second semi-final playing at full back on Heatley, who kicked four early goals and had the Falcon shifted off him.

In stark contrast yesterday, Smith

DETAILS

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Pts
WEST PERTH	4.3	9.7	15.9	21.11	137
SUBIACO	3.4	5.6	7.6	12.9	81
GOALS — WEST PERTH: Groom 5; D Harris, Smith 4; Downsbrough 3; Mildenhall 2; Curley, O'Brien, Logan. SUBIACO: Miller, Willett 2; Lamb, Donnelly, Schofield, Macnish, Heatley, Monaghan, Brennan, Langdon.					
BEST — WEST PERTH: D Harris, Malone, Mifka, Trehwella, Logan, Smith. SUBIACO: O'Connor, Burton, Parker, Schofield, Lamb, Langdon.					
REPORTS: Langdon (Subiaco) for striking Curley (West Perth). Miller (Subiaco) for using an insulting gesture to an umpire.					
UMPIRES: Kronja, Garrett, Starcevic. CROWD: 30,712 at Subiaco Oval. West Perth won the toss and kicked to the eastern end.					

started in a forward pocket and was damaging all day. He took several telling marks deep in attack and was also handy in the ruck.

"They were committed from the first bounce," Falcons coach John

Dimmer said. "There were a few scuffles out there, a few blokes got whacked but they knew what they had to do to win it and they just kept at it."

"Even in the third quarter when Subi started throwing a few things at them, they still just kept at it and was tremendous to see."

It was a disappointing finish to the season for Subiaco which finished the qualifying rounds six games clear of West Perth in second place.

But the Lions lost both their final matches to West Perth, and Lions coach Gary Buckenara conceded they were the better and more desperate side in the finals.

"Finishing on top of the ladder after the qualifying round counts for nothing in the finals — especially the grand final," he said.

Falcons triumph in battle of Subiaco



Flying high: Full back Paul Mifka, who kept Subiaco full forward Jason Heatley to one goal, celebrates after West Perth's grand final victory at Subiaco Oval yesterday. PICTURE: JOE WHEELER

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Fantastic Falcons



®



Jubilant Falcons (from left), Neil Mildenhall and Paul Mifka with the Pepsi Cup trophy; Rob Malone and Stephen Trehwella and the premiership cup; Ian Downsborough and his medallion; .



What the winners said

Darren Harris: I might always be a Victorian, but I love West Perth, especially right now. The boys were just great. I came for one year and it's four now, so I'll find it hard to go back.

Darren O'Brien: Brilliant, absolutely brilliant. I've been playing eight years for it. This is sensational. This medal is the best. Fantastic, absolutely fantastic.

Rob Malone: Just terrific, it's an unbelievable feeling.

Neil Mildenhall: It's great to be part of something like this, even though I haven't played a lot of games with the club this season. It's a great relief after a long season.

Todd Curley: Fabulous. That last mark was a great way to cap it off, but everyone just played so well. Sensational, the boys worked hard for a long time for this and we'll make the most of it, I can tell you.

Craig Turley: I'm rapt in the West Perth Football Club and it's

a great way to finish a hard season. The pressure was on from the start. This is fantastic. A lot of the boys have been working at this for 10 years and it's a fantastic way to finish the year.

Brendan Barrows: Sensational. There is nothing better than working all year with all the lads and coming out and playing as a team and winning the grand final.

Brendon Logan: It hasn't really sunk in yet, but if I had to find one word - unreal. It's especially good for me because my father (Ian) played in the 1975 grand final, so I've followed in his footsteps.

Stephen Trehwella: Unbelievable, a great feeling, the boys put in. It hasn't sunk in yet, but it's going to be a great party. The pressure was on us, but now the monkey's off our back.

Ian Downsborough: This is what I've played football for. I didn't think it would blow out like that, but it's great that it did. I was still worried at the 20-minute mark of the final term.

Gavin Bell: It was hard sitting on the bench; but once I got out there it was okay, I was a bit nervous; it was hard to watch. It was a matter of keeping up the pressure. It's the best thing that has ever happened to me and I'm over the moon. I played at Subiaco for four years, so it's even more special.

Ryan Smith: The atmosphere was loud that I couldn't hear myself think. It was sensational. I can't explain it. I'm afraid I'm going to wake up in the morning and find out someone has taken it off us. It's unbelievable.

Chris Groom: It's very exciting. You play all your life for premier- ships; this is what you work all year for and this is what you are going to remember all your life.

Martin Whitelaw: It's a big opportunity to play in a grand final and I've achieved it in my first year. It's great; the best feeling I've ever had. I've got the medal and I'm going to cherish it for the rest of my life.

Geoff Valentine: It was a terrific feeling out there; I can't believe it now. The boys were great.

Brendan Fewster: An unbelievable feeling, you can't describe it. Just brilliant. I'm over-awed with everything. You name it, it could happen tonight.

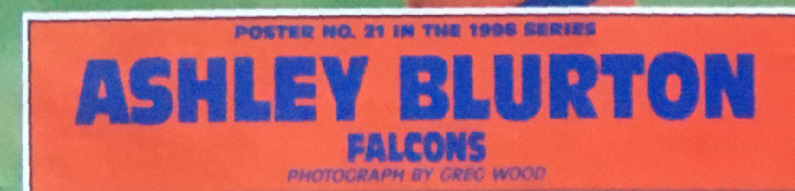
Ashley Blurton: You can't describe it; it's beautiful. I don't remember much after I came off, but the boys did very well.

Dean Brunton: Very relieved. We kept our cool even though it was a bit physical; certainly worth the effort.

Paul Mifka: It's just unbelievable. The boys were fantastic. It will hit me later and I'll break down, I know I will.

Ronnie Burns: It feels good, I'm still on cloud nine, I don't know what to say.

Ben Stewart: Unbelievable, fantastic, I couldn't ask for any more.



Team Photo

1995 premiership team



Back row:

Neil Bryant (League team manager), Tony McConnon, Neil Mildenhall, Mark Kerns, Ryan Webb, Brendan Barrows, Rob Malone, Wade Starr, Darren Thomas, Eric Tieffenbacher, Mark Harris, Dean Brunton, Gary Patterson, Paul Keddie, Andrew Saunders, Terry Taylor (chairman of selectors), Glen Cox (coach's assistant)

Third row:

Ross Humphries (strength and conditioning coach, and runner), Ross Prunster (assistant coach), Ryan Smith, Richard Higgins, Troy Wilson, Glen Antonio, Ben Sykes, Martin Whitelaw, Brendan Fewster, Trevor Crothers, Clayton Reuben, Adam Curley, Mark Sandwell, Brian Farrell, Ben Stewart, Mark Washfold (Reserves assistant coach)

Second row:

Corey Johnson, Steve Trehwella, Todd Burgess, Matthew Fong, Louis Cheeseman, Brendon Logan, Darren Harris (Captain), John Dimmer (Coach), Darren O'Brien (Vice-Captain), Paul Mifka, Geoff Valentine, Dudley Ahchee, Ronnie Burns, Michael Rotumah, Todd Curley

Front row:

Dennis Bautista (assistant coach), Lucas Ramshaw, Rod Winner, Brendon De Gois, Gavin Bell, John Langlands, Bryce Steele, Brett Cousins

Absent:

Lloyd Haskett, Nathan Brookes, Ashley Blurton, Ian Downsborough, Craig Turley, Paul Symmons, Stephen Gobby, Kane Morphet, Trevor Green, Fred Murphy, Chris Groom

From the Vault

1995 Grand Final Gallery



Remember when ... WA won the Australian State Schools' national championships?

Jeff Gieschen can rightly claim some credit for West Perth's premiership win in 1995. HeartBeat has discovered Jeff had established a link to our Club that dates back to the early 1970s. It was August 1971, Daddy Cool were atop the charts with Eagle Rock and some young men from Western Australia and Victoria were starting to make names for themselves in the football world.

The national State Schools' championships were held in Launceston in 1971 and featured Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland. Western Australia claimed its title with an eight-point win over Victoria, 8.4 (52) to 6.8 (44). The best players in that win included Les Fong and future opponent (at Perth) and later teammate, Neil Fotheringham. Other players to represent WA in that championship were Mario Turco and Alan Reid (East Fremantle), Geoff Gillies (South



Les Fong takes possession in the school boys' game against Tasmania.

Fremantle), Allan Walker (Claremont) and Stephen Skulley (Swan Districts). The team was coached by the highly respected Jack Ensor, who had been associated with Perth's consecutive premiership wins in the mid-1960s, later to coach Swan Districts and Subiaco.

Best players for Victoria in that game were Jeff Gieschen (24 games for Footscray between 1974 and 1978), Phil Manassa (122 games for Collingwood between 1973 and 1979, remembered most for his incredible run and goal in the 1977 VFL grand final replay), Kelvin Templeton (143 games for Footscray and 34 for Melbourne between 1974 and 1985, and winner of the 1980 Brownlow Medal), Don Whitford (42 games for Fitzroy and ten for Melbourne between 1974 and 1981), and Geoff Burdett (37 games for Essendon between 1976 and 1981).

Our attention has also been drawn to another game, played earlier that season, a curtain-raiser to the Western Australia - Victoria game played at Subiaco Oval on 17th July. Two teams comprised of high school lads represented the North and South zones of the Perth metropolitan area. Those who turned up early for the state game saw some future champions take to the big game stage for the first time. The North Zone team included Les Fong (Balcatta), Kevin Bryant (Mount Lawley), West Perth 1995 and 1999 premiership coach John Dimmer (Scarborough) and future Australian cricket captain, Kim Hughes (City Beach). The South Zone side included players of the ilk of Bruce Monteath (Hamilton Hill), Ken Inman (Bentley) and Ray Bauskis (Cannington).

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South Zone v North Zone High Schools

AT SUBIACO OVAL — 12.20 p.m.

Field Umpire: R. CAPES.
Boundary: R. Dawbarn, G. Tipping. Goals: J. Bruce, L. Morris.

SOUTH ZONE H.S.		NORTH ZONE H.S.	
(Green and Gold)	Glks. Kckd.	(Red and Gold)	Glks. Kckd.
1 SYMONS, S. (Kent St.)	1 FONG, L. (Balcatta)	.....
2 SIMPSON, R. (J. Curtin)	2 HALLIDAY, T. (Scarb.)	.....
3 POPE, S. (Cyril Jackson)	3 GUPANIS, W. (Mt. Law.)	.....
4 DAY, G. (Kent St.)	4 MORAN, J. (Ch'lands)	.....
5 FORMATO, T. (C. Jack.)	5 TYSON, B. (Balcatta)	.....
6 ATKINSON, P. (A'dale)	6 ADAMS, W. (Modern)	.....
7 BENNETT, P. (R'moyne)	7 COLLINS, P. (Hampton)	.....
8 TAYLOR, A. (Mel.) (Cpt.)	8 HEWITT, B. (Mt. Law.)	.....
9 WORTHINGTON, G. (Can.)	9 WATROBA, R. (J. Forr.)	.....
10 BURTON, G. (Belmont)	10 HUGHES, K. (City Bch.)	.....
11 MORGAN, R. (Melville)	11 VARIAN, B. (Tuart Hill)	.....
12 FITZGERALD, R. (J.C.)	12 BRYANT, K. (J. Forrest)	.....
13 KNEALE, B. (Bentley)	13 BARCHAM, R. (H'wood)	.....
14 ORWIN, C. (Kwinana)	14 DIMMER, J. (Scarb.)	.....
15 INMAN, K. (Bentley)	15 THOMPSON, A. (C. Bch.)	.....
16 RILEY, K. (Kwinana)	16 BAYENS, J. (Modern)	.....
17 RITCHIE, L. (Ap'cross)	17 VISSER, M. (Ch'lands)	.....
18 BELLAMY, P. (Hamil.)	18 ATKINSON, G. (S'brne)	.....
19 COFFEY, J. (Belmont)	19 WARNER, R. (M'booka)	.....
20 LUCAS, S. (Applecross)	20 FROST, D. (Hampton)	.....
21 TWYGCROSS, M. (G. St.)	— MERRITT, P. (H'wood)	.....
22 COFFEY, G. (Armadale)	— BRIMAGE, G. (S'bourne)	.....
23 BAUSKIS, R. (Can'ton)	1st Qtr..... Goals..... Behinds	
24 MONTEATH, B. (Hamil.)	2nd Qtr..... Goals..... Behinds	
25 MURRAY, G. (Gov. St.)	3rd Qtr..... Goals..... Behinds	
26 FISHER, K. (R'moyne)	Final.....	
1st Qtr.....	2nd Qtr.....		
3rd Qtr.....	Final.....		

BOND 7
Australian
WHISKY

THE FOOTBALL BUDGET

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THE FOOTBALL BUDGET

W.A. STATE SCHOOLS' 1971 AUSTRALIAN CARNIVAL WINNER



Back row (left): B. Andrews, D. Heise, G. Gillies, G. Satori, G. Parnell, G. Taylor, J. Bailey, G. Jarvis (Reserve), M. Turco. Middle row: J. F. Ensor (coach), M. Franklin, D. Parry, S. Franklyn, A. Reid, H. Van-der-Wiele, K. Cardy, D. Smith, C. Dowson (Reserve), T. Morgan, F. Colyer, Mr. L. Hayward (Manager). Front row: N. Fotheringham, N. Bienvenu, G. Symons (Captain), L. Fong (vice-captain), D. Andrijich, A. Walker, S. Skulley. (Absent: D. Salisbury).

From the Vault

100 years ago at Leederville

The 1990s marked the departure of West Perth from Leederville, the last home game being played in the final qualifying fixture of the 1993 season. West Perth played the first of its home games at Leederville on 24th July 1915. HeartBeat hasn't seen any photos of the earliest of our seasons at Leederville but recently stumbled upon a copy of The Western Mail from 12th August 1920. The sport pages feature a full page of photographs of the Round 13 (7th August) game between West Perth and South Fremantle played at Leederville.

George Tyson was captain-coach of West Perth and South Fremantle were led by Wally Gunnyon. This was a contest between the fifth and six-placed sides in a six team competition, perhaps explaining the few spectators on Leederville's unmistakeable eastern bank. The forerunner of The Football Budget, The WA Footballer, came into print from 1921 and so we're unfortunately unable to correctly identify players in these photos. Importantly, West Perth won this game by 30 points, 8.14 (62) to South Fremantle's 4.8 (32).

The 1920 season wasn't especially successful for our Club, West Perth missing the top four by considerable percentage. The foundation had been built however. Harold Boyd had debuted in 1919, joining Jim Gosnell and Jim Craig, who had both played their first games in 1918, all players who would ultimately play significant roles in West Perth's success in the decade ahead.



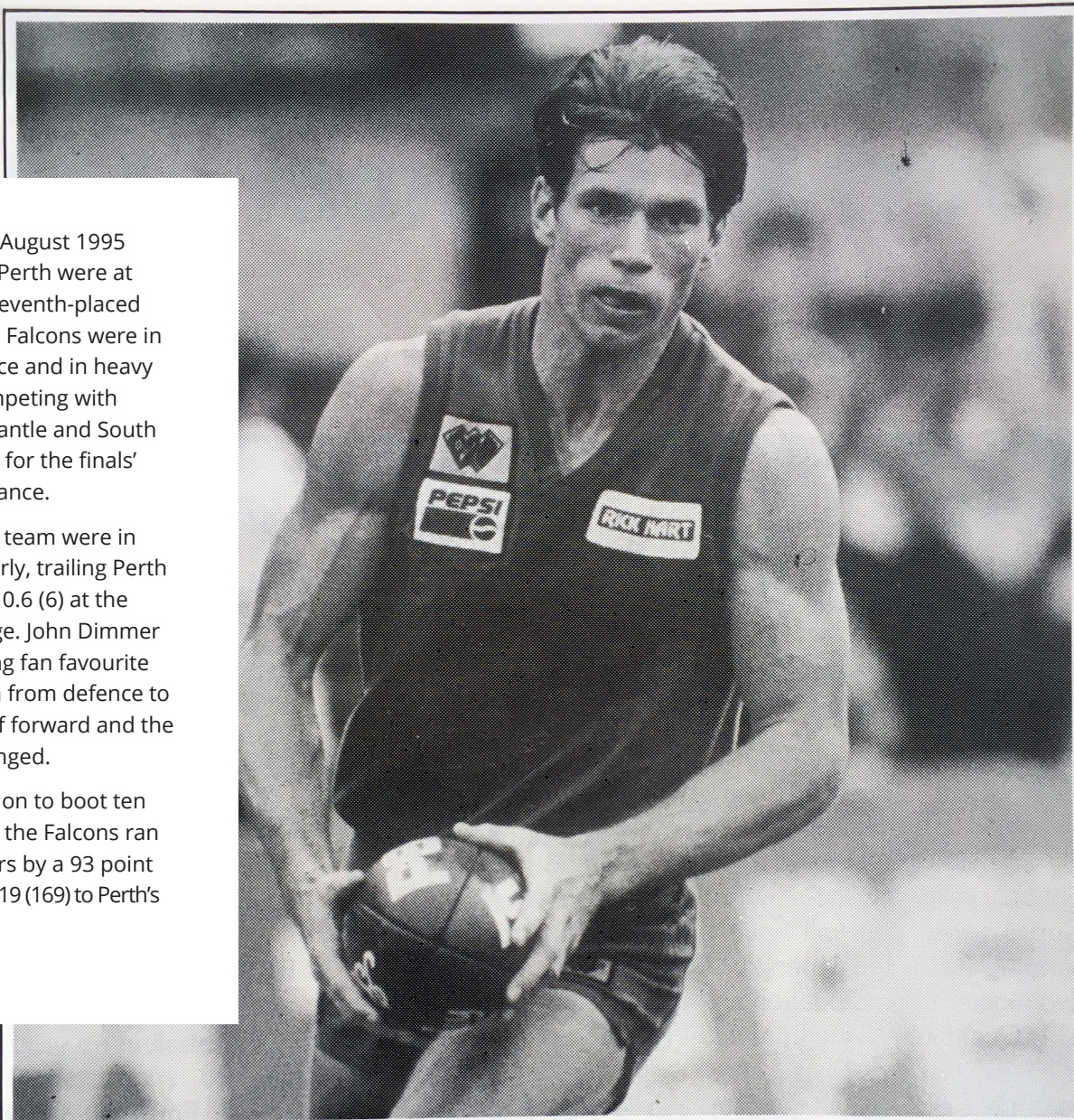
Remember when ...

Paul Mifka hauled in a ten goal bag?

It was 5th August 1995 and West Perth were at home to seventh-placed Perth. The Falcons were in fourth place and in heavy traffic competing with East Fremantle and South Fremantle for the finals' double chance.

The home team were in trouble early, trailing Perth 5.3 (33) to 0.6 (6) at the first change. John Dimmer then swung fan favourite Paul Mifka from defence to centre half forward and the game changed.

Paul went on to boot ten goals, and the Falcons ran out winners by a 93 point margin, 25.19 (169) to Perth's 11.10 (76).



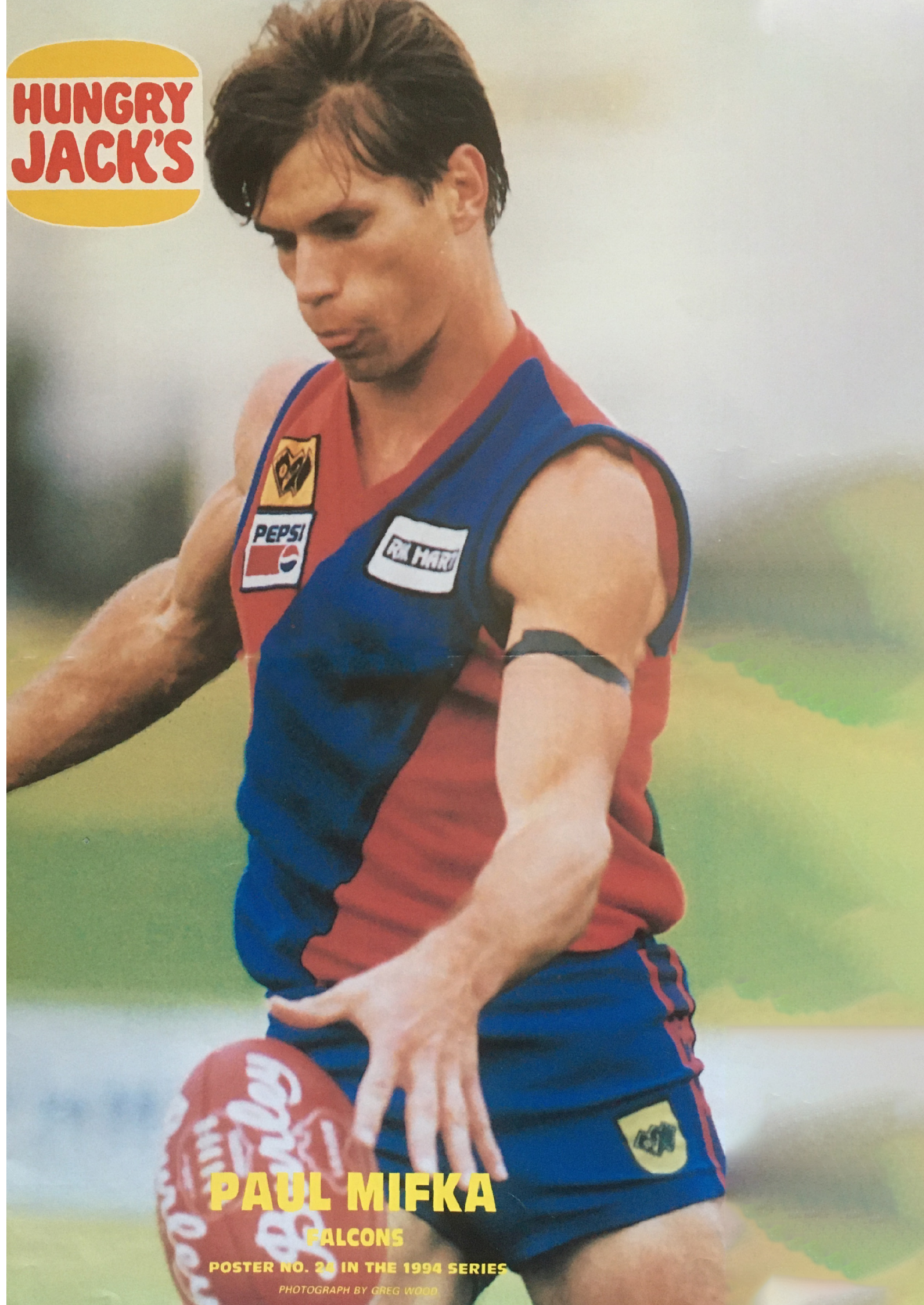
MAN OF THE MOMENT

PAUL MIFKA

West Perth's Paul Mifka carved a niche into football's record books when he joined those players to kick double-figures in a WAFL match. The one-time defender relished a move into attack at quarter-time against Perth and set about hauling in the goals, posting 10.4 in the three remaining terms. It was Mifka's biggest haul in 213 games and took his goals tally to 89.

The Football Budget, 12th August 1995

**HUNGRY
JACK'S**



PAUL MIFKA

FALCONS

POSTER NO. 24 IN THE 1994 SERIES

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG WOOD

Celebrating 1999 premiership success

John Dimmer and Luke Rayner remember...

After the glory of the Club's success in 1995, the 1996 season was somewhat disappointing, culminating in a 70 point loss to East Fremantle in the first semi-final. That fourth placed finish was followed in 1997 by the Club missing the finals altogether, ending the home and away season in sixth position.

New recruits underpinned expectations for a successful 1998, the Club ultimately falling to East Fremantle in the grand final by 43 points. Hopes remained high for 1999 and the team delivered, finishing second on the ladder and booking an appointment with South Fremantle in the second semi-final. A meritorious 15 point defeat at the hands of a South Fremantle outfit laden with

Fremantle AFL listed players provided optimism that the Falcons remained a legitimate premiership threat. This optimism grew in the wake of a 65 point demolition of Subiaco in the preliminary final.

John Dimmer and Luke Rayner share memories of their time at our Club and the 1999 premiership season.



John Dimmer at home with his West Perth memorabilia.

Source: Perthnow.com

John Dimmer's football career began as a player with Subiaco in 1973. Moving to East Perth for the 1980 season, John finished his playing days at the Royals in 1983 having played 171 games (90 for Subiaco and 81 for East Perth) plus four games for Western Australia.

Stints as coach within school and junior football, reserves at Claremont and then at West Coast Amateur Football Club in 1994 were followed by his appointment as senior coach at West Perth for the 1995 season. John was to coach West Perth to two premierships and followed these with a further two flags, as coach at South Fremantle. He also coached Western Australia in 1996 and 2010.

We asked John for his recollections of those premiership years at Joondalup, but began by asking him about his early days in League football.

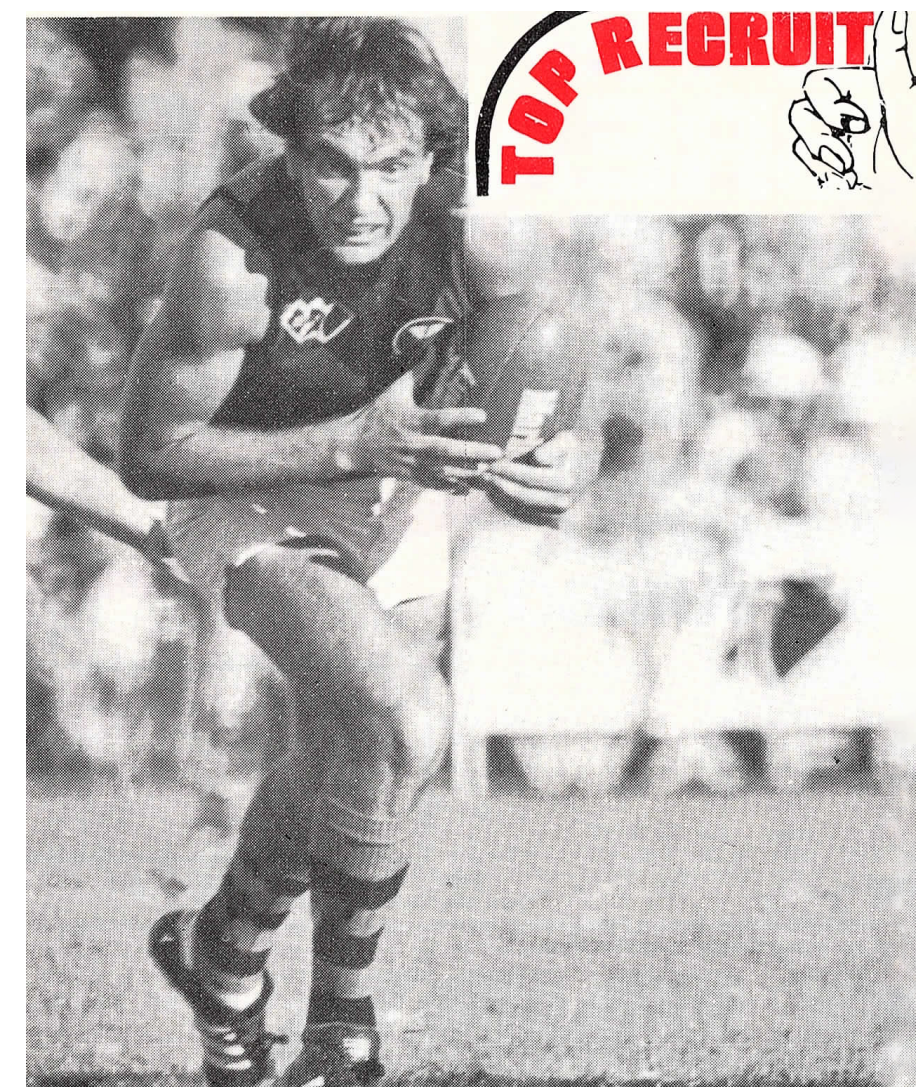
Before we get to your time at West Perth, we'd like to explore your career as a league footballer. You debuted for Subiaco in Round 16 in 1973, the Lions recording a six point win against a wayward kicking Perth at Lathlain. That Perth team included some champions of the game including Barry Cable, Greg Brehaut, Murray Couper, Colin Loft, Ian Miller, Bob Shields and Chubby Stiles. What do you remember of your debut?

That was an interesting first game. The coach, Ross Smith, told me I would be on the ground once Subiaco had gained control of the game. As the game went on the team never gained control and fell over the line on the siren. So, I didn't actually make it onto the ground (in those days the bench was a substitution bench and not an interchange). Coincidentally, I actually made my way onto the ground a few weeks later against West Perth.

You played six games in 1973, the last of these six being the grand final. It's not a game we're keen to dwell on in this publication but... how is it that Subiaco overcame West Perth in that grand final?

Subiaco had been beaten in the three home and away games as well as the second semi-final. I think those four losses, especially the second semi loss, spurred the players on and the team was able to break a 49 year premiership drought.

Ross Smith, 1967 Brownlow Medallist and St. Kilda premiership star, coached Subiaco for the first of two seasons in 1973. Was there any aspect of Ross Smith's coaching philosophies



John Dimmer in his first season at East Perth
Football Budget, 20th September 1980



that were to ultimately help you prepare for coaching?

I always found Ross to be a calm and considered coach who also had some tactical ploys to use against specific opponents and to take into account the weather conditions. These attributes were something that I saw as being important and they fitted my own thoughts and personality.

In 1980, and after 90 games with Subiaco, you joined East Perth. What was behind your change in clubs?

At that stage Subiaco were struggling financially and also in playing strength. I also had a range of injuries that limited the number of games I played and I felt it was time for a change. The chance to play finals football was also a motivation.

You seemed to play your career best football while at East Perth, representing the state four times, including a state-of-origin match against Victoria in 1981. What drove you to play your best football?

That fact that I was injury free for most

of the time certainly helped, plus I was in my mid-twenties which is usually a key time in a footballer's life.

And what are your memories of that state-of-origin game at Subiaco, won by Western Australia?

State of Origin was certainly a big game in those days, played on a Tuesday afternoon in front of a big crowd. The Victorian team had to fly to WA in a number of small chartered planes with several stops on the way due to one of the major airlines having a strike (I think). I always felt we were in control of the game and ended up with a relatively comfortable win.

You played the last of your 171 WAFL games in 1983. What did you do between finishing up your playing career and arriving at West Perth in 1995?

After retiring from playing I moved into coaching. My first appointment was with the Karrinyup U18s team that played in the Claremont District as well as taking on the State Schoolboys team. I coached both groups for

two years. After having a year off I resumed coaching in 1987 with the Claremont reserves with Gerard Neesham in charge of the league team. I was there for seven years and served what I felt was a strong apprenticeship. My next team was the West Coast amateurs who played in the A Grade competition and we went on to win the 1994 Premiership. I also coached my son's Whitfords U13s team. The Amateurs played on Saturday and the juniors on Sundays so the weekend was pretty full!

You assumed coaching duties following the departure of Jeff Gieschen. To what extent did the team's playing list and game plan evolve through that 1995 season?

When I arrived at West Perth I felt the squad was talented and were keen for success. They had been close the year before and the motivation to win a premiership was high, especially from the senior players led by Darren Harris. I brought a couple of youngsters into the team, most noticeably, Brendan Logan. Ronnie

Burns also returned to the club and we recruited Robert Malone from Claremont. Chris Groom came to us via the Fremantle Dockers and was a key target for the players up the ground. The actual game plan was not particularly different to what I had used at the Claremont reserves and also at the amateur level.

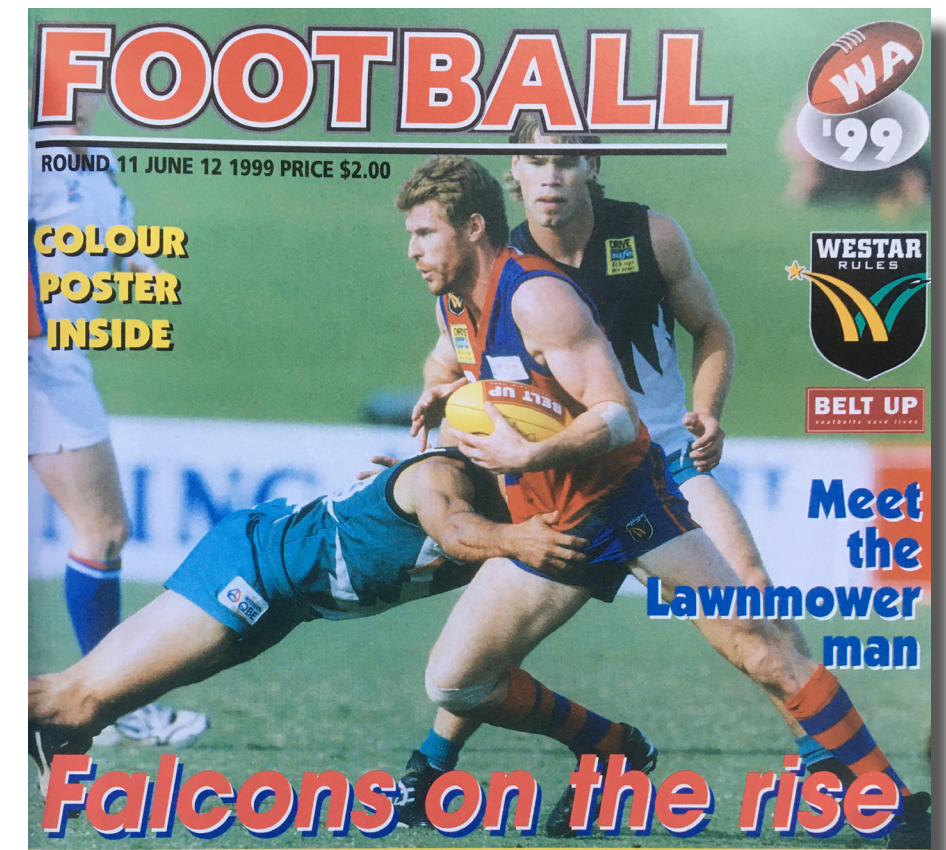
What were the main factors behind West Perth's grand final win?

We had played well for most of the year, however, ironically (think back to 1973!), we struggled against Subiaco. The pleasing aspect of the playing group was that they saw the games against Subiaco as a real challenge and every time we played them the losing margin was reduced. Going into the second semi-final against them was always going to be a difficult game, however, the players had gained a great deal of confidence from the last home and away game against them when the team powered home only to fall agonisingly close to victory. The one point win in the second semi (kicked by Robert Malone) gave the players an immense amount of belief and they all played extremely well to come away with a great win in the Grand Final.

The club finished fourth in 1996 and sixth in 1997 before making another grand final in 1998, this time a 43 point loss to East Fremantle. What learnings did you take from that game and season that informed preparation and planning for 1999?

The playing group stayed very similar to the team that lost the Grand Final in 1998 and with the addition of a couple of recruits we always felt we could challenge again in 1999.

West Perth and South Fremantle were clearly the two dominant teams in 1999. South Fremantle had beaten West Perth in three outings prior to the grand final, including by a 15 point margin in the second semi-final. That all changed on grand final day. Can you take us through your preparation for that game... what did consider you needed to do to win the flag?



Get on the Dogs and Falcons

If you were a betting man, the odds of a West Perth-South Fremantle Grand Final later this year wouldn't be too enticing.

But, as they say, it's better to back a short-priced winner than a long-priced loser.

On Saturday, the two teams most likely to be at Subiaco Oval on the first Saturday in October will stand toe-to-toe at Arena Joondalup in a match that should not only attract a big crowd, but help shape the respective sides home-and-away seasons.

If West Perth, which fell five points short of the Bulldogs at Fremantle Oval in round 5, are victorious on the weekend, it will move to the top of the ladder because of a superior percentage.

However, if South Fremantle becomes only the second team to win at Arena Joondalup, it will move eight points clear, almost certainly enough to secure the minor premiership, and ensure West Perth continues its dog-fight with Subiaco for a top-two berth and with it, a cherished Second Semi-Final berth.

While other anticipated finalists in Subiaco and East Fremantle have their weaknesses, the same criticism cannot be levelled at South Fremantle and West Perth.

Blessed with high class and disciplined talent all over the ground, both are renowned fighters - teams which rarely give an inch and if they happen to do so, make up metres.

A fortnight ago, West Perth had been towelled up by Subiaco in the first half, only to stun the Lions with a second-half that had premiership football written all over it.

Then last Saturday, the Bulldogs, hindered by late withdrawals, were in real trouble during the first two terms courtesy of inspired football from Claremont, before turning the screws in the final half to prevail by a remarkable 35 points.

The return from injury in recent weeks of Paul Maher has been a bonus for the Bulldogs, with his strong marking and long kicking causing opposition backlines trouble.

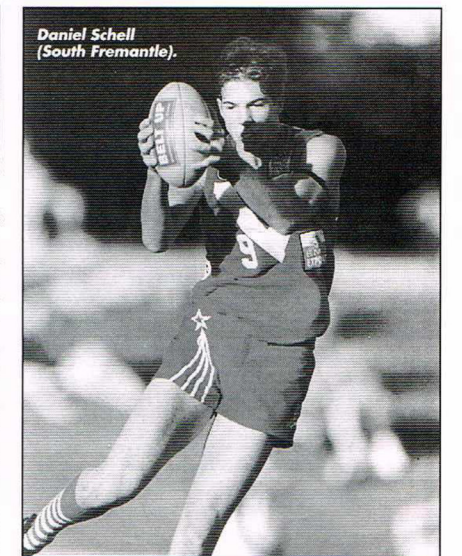
Maher's presence has released the pressure on Daniel Schell, who has rediscovered some of his early season form.

State full-back Tray Wilson is a candidate for Schell, while the under-rated Adam Curley could stand Maher should the Fremantle Dockers' squad member start at centre-half-forward.

At the other end of the ground, the Falcons have a viable forward option in Jeff Bruce.



Daniel Schell
(South Fremantle).

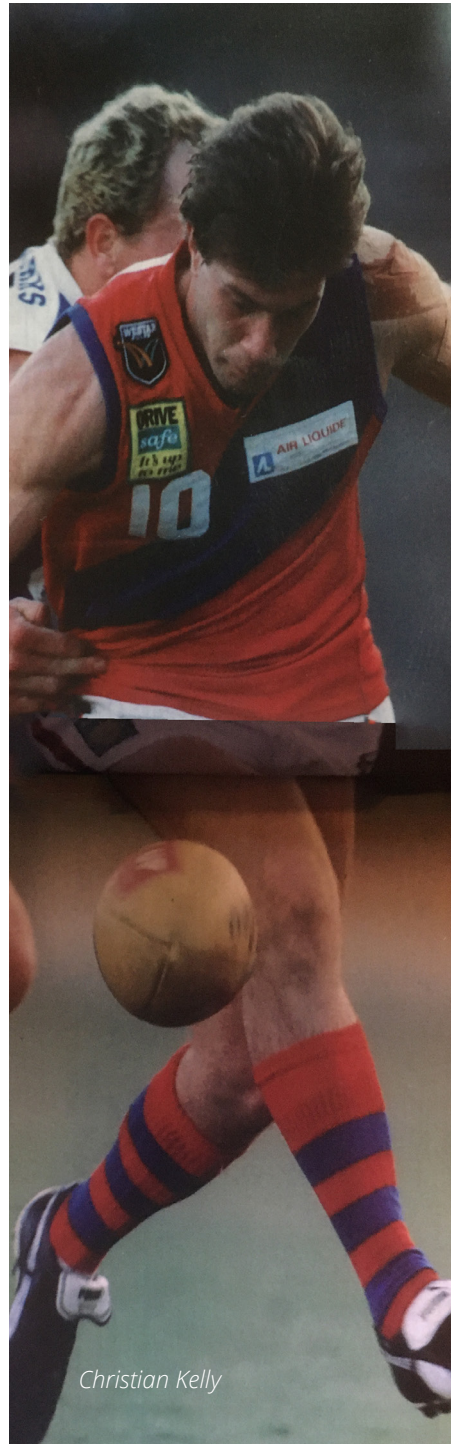


The Eastern States recruit is quick on the lead, possesses clean hands and with 32 goals so far this year, is the only real threat to Rod Tregenza for the mantle as the competition's leading goalkicker.

Bruce's input will rely again on the disposal of his midfielders, although the calibre of James Ferguson, not immune himself to kicking goals, Paul Symmons, Christian Kelly, Kim Rigall, Anthony Alvaro and Corey Johnson is invariably crisp.

John Porter is likely to get first crack at Bruce, although Bulldogs' coach Tony Micalle will have options should he struggle, with a healthy and inform Peter Mann another possibility.

The Football Budget, 17th July 1999



Christian Kelly

I thought we played well in the second semi-final, but made too many mistakes with our ball use and we worked at improving that aspect of our game which included viewing video footage from the second semi. The players displayed an incredible motivation to take on South Fremantle in the Grand Final and after disposing of Subiaco in the Preliminary Final they did everything that was asked of them and came away with one of the big upsets in Grand Final history, defeating a Dockers loaded South Fremantle team.

Did your plans come to fruition on game day? It seems an early jump (six goals to three) on the Bulldogs was key to that win. What are your memories of that game?

As indicated above everything came together extremely well. If Brendan Fewster could have kicked straight we would have won by even more.

The 1999 grand final was to be your last as senior coach at West Perth. Had you decided prior to the grand final that you would be finishing up?

No, the only reason I left was to take up a position as an assistant coach at Fremantle.

What are your best memories of your five years at Joondalup?

The two premierships were obviously great with 1999 being a real highlight. But it wasn't just that. I met a great number of people who I still consider friends as well as seeing players from my time go on to become coaches in their own right.

You stepped back into senior coaching at WAFL level in 2004, taking the helm at South Fremantle until 2011 and in that time won another two premierships (in 2005 and 2009). What was behind your decision to coach again?

When I left Fremantle at the end of 2000 I started a new job at Christ Church Grammar School and wished to focus on that for a while. However at the end of 2001 I helped Darren Harris secure the coaching job at West Perth and was appointed as the Director of Coaching for two years. It was a great feeling to see Darren win the Grand Final in 2003. Being involved with West Perth and Darren gave me the motivation to coach again and when the South Fremantle job became available I applied and was appointed.

What involvement do you have with the game these days?

These days I am on the Football Affairs Committee of the West Perth Football Club and also serve as a sounding board for the coach Geoff Valentine and the Football Manager, Steve Trehwella.

I also have the occasional chat with Darren Harris and keep an eye on Todd Curley's efforts at South Fremantle. I watch my grandsons play on Sunday morning (once they resume after the lockdown) and also attend premiership reunions.

Ha ha!



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From the Vault...Ron Skender in profile

THE LAWNMOWER MAN

MONDAY to Friday, Ron Skender is a lawnmower man. At the weekends, he cuts opponents down to size when he slips into his No.26 guernsey with West Perth and leads the ruck department. Glen Quartermain spoke with one of the Falcons' trumps in their quest to reverse last year's grand final result.

RON Skender discovered just how fickle football fate can be in seven amazing days last September.

The West Perth ruckman led a stunning revival in the Preliminary Final as the Falcons ran over the top of a stumbling Subiaco.

Just seven days later he experienced the ultimate low when East Fremantle took the flag by 43 points over West Perth.

While Skender topped off a memorable finals campaign with another sterling display in the Grand Final, it wasn't enough to mask the agony.

"The Preliminary Final was amazing. We just lifted a couple of notches," Skender said.

"It was like the Grand Final the year before when South Fremantle ran over East Fremantle.

"The ('98 Grand Final) loss was pretty tough after that.

"In hindsight, winning the Preliminary Final might have been like winning a grand final for some of the guys.

"We stuck with East Fremantle up till half-time, but they ran away with it after that. Now that I look back, the win the week before might have taken a bit out of the guys."

Skender's efforts throughout the September campaign - his first finals series - convinced him he could mix it with the best at Westar level and the results are evident so far this season as he has emerged as one of the early Sandover Medal candidates.

He is in strong contention for the Football WA-Qantas Player of the Year award.

"It's the best start I've had in my eight seasons at WAFL or Westar," he said.

"It's mainly just confidence gained with the years and the finals last year - they gave me confidence.

Despite being named in the Falcons' best on Grand Final day, the big fellow was far from happy with his performance.

"I was a little bit disappointed in it," Skender said. "Obviously because we didn't win and our big goal this year is to rectify that, but I was disappointed in some areas where I could have given the team a little bit more."

Skender's impressive start to '99 is even more so given he had a calf injury throughout most of the pre-season.

He is enjoying his most consistent form under John Dimmer, who is his

third league coach behind Graeme Melrose and John Todd.

"JD has shown me some new ways about my game," Skender said.

"He lets me know what I am doing right and what I am doing wrong."

The mobile ruckman was recruited from Swan Districts after the '96 season.

While he played his junior footy from age 10 at Bassendean Junior Football Club and progressed to the Swans' colts, he was a Falcons' follower as a kid.

"My father was a West Perth supporter and I grew up barracking for them," he said.

"I used to follow Craig Nelson, Les Fong and Peter Menaglio."

A member of the WA Under 18s side in '91, he had been considered AFL potential, but the nibbles never came.

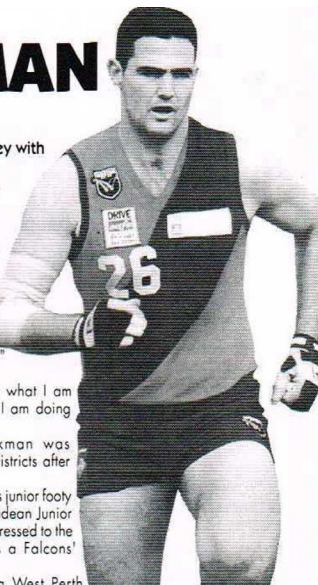
"That's been very disappointing. Just not getting the opportunity. The AFL all comes down to just getting the opportunity," Skender said.

He has no regrets about leaving Bassendean Oval.

"I appreciated my time at Swans. They gave me my first chance at league level and I've still got some good friends who played with Swans, although there's not many left because they get turned over pretty quickly these days," he said.

"It was purely for the challenge. I got a little bit stale at Swans."

"I wasn't going anywhere and... I really wanted to play finals football and the squad they had at West Perth gave me a big chance of playing finals football."



Ron Skender played 101 games for the Club between 1997 and 2003. In 1999, he finished third in the Sandover Medal, just two votes behind winner Gus Seebeck. In this 1999 profile, Ron talks about his early days in League football and the team's prospects for 1999.

Continued from Page 7

Skender had to wait 12 months as the Falcons didn't participate in September '97, but he got his big chance last season.

The Falcons wasted their first chance at revenge when they were outclassed by the Sharks in round 4 by 33 points at The Arena, Joondalup.

Their next confrontation, in round 14 at East Fremantle Oval, couldn't come quickly enough.

"They've just got the wood over us at the moment," Skender said.

"We haven't beaten them since the pre-season Grand Final last year.

"They beat us twice last year in the qualifying rounds, then in the second-semi and the granny. They beat us in the pre-season by a point and then at Joondalup.

"We're going to have to work at nullifying their running players. The win against them has to come."

Skender said the Falcons had held their status from last season, a good effort given the calibre of players who departed the club post September - Brendan Barrows, Dean Brunton, Darren O'Brien, Heath Younie, Andrew Williams, Callum Chambers, Simon Duckworth, Mark Pearson, Justin Longmuir, Spiro Mallis and Wade Spilcker.

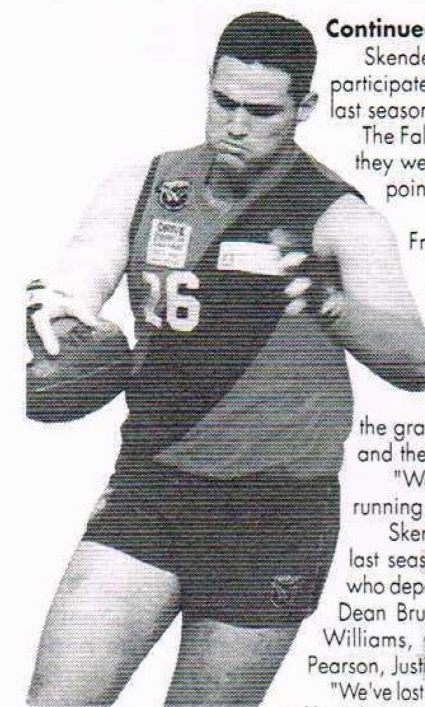
"We've lost some quality players, but others are starting to stand up like Adam Curley and Brett Cousins. They have filled a couple of holes left by blokes like 'Bunny' (Barrows). Jeff Bruce has helped in that area too," he said.

The arrival of James Ferguson and Darren Payne (Claremont) and Glenn Wallace (South Barwon, Geelong) and the return of Phil Smith from Hawthorn has also helped.

Skender, who has just turned 25, has lofty aims for the remainder of the season. "We'd like to finish in the top two," he said. "That's going to be tough because of the quality of the teams up there, but that's where we'd like to finish."

"If we can finish in the top two we can aim for a Grand Final berth and look at avenging last year."

For the moment, he is happy trimming lawns and cutting opponents down to size.



The Football Budget,
12th June 1999



Digby Morrell



Troy Wilson



Heading West ...Luke Rayner remembers

Luke Rayner played 43 games for West Perth in seasons 1998 and 1999. Initially drafted by Carlton at pick 61 in the 1992 national draft, Luke returned to Victoria in 2000 where he coached Myrtleford in the Ovens and Murray League for three seasons. Since then, Luke has become a widely respected and highly sought after senior coach in community football in Victoria. HeartBeat asked Luke to recall his time at West Perth.

I was recruited to the Falcons in 1998 by then Football Manager Cameron Knapton from my local club Grovedale in the Geelong Football League. I had strong approaches from both West Perth and East Perth at the time and am I glad I went the way of the Falcons.

Having been listed with both Carlton and North Melbourne and then spending two seasons with my local club I was extremely motivated to get back to a high standard of football and with my brother living in the West, my then girlfriend Andrea and I decided to pack the bags and head over.

I must say in my time in football the two years spent with the West Perth Football Club, working at Joondalup Country Club and forming many lifelong friendships would without doubt be my most enjoyable time in the game.

Over the two seasons I played we were able to enjoy many victories and be fortunate enough to play in grand finals both seasons. Our group in general was quite young with just a sprinkling of the older boys to help shape the group into what became a very driven and hungry team.

John Dimmer on reflection is without doubt the best coach I played under. JD had this knack of being able to get each and every individual to play their part, their role and fulfil the needs of the team. He was relaxed and calming, but extremely smart and he was able to get the best out of the group. This was clearly demonstrated by the results of the team which in many ways lacked the big name stars of other clubs but who were able to gel to produce winning outcomes.



Luke Rayner

The group itself over this two year period became a very tight knit team that played hard. By that I mean we worked very hard on the training track, worked really hard for each other in games and also played fairly hard off the field which in my view is where a lot of the love and care for each other was generated and allowed us to achieve the ultimate success.

Both years saw us go into the grand finals as underdogs. In 1998 East Fremantle were a great team, clear favourites and deservedly went on to comfortably win the premiership. Personally I had a solid game and I remember us playing the contest, the game right out to the very end and in many of the wake discussions after that grand final loss, we as a team talked about getting back on that stage and having another shot at the title.

Kim Rigoll was an amazing leader of our group in 1999. Given we were

relatively young there was a level of confidence and arrogance about our group and Kim never shied away from pulling us into line if we were getting away from what the team needed. In 1999, South Fremantle were littered with Dockers players whilst we had three AFL listed players. The rest of us were a group formed from many different paths and who had formed an amazing bond. The build up again saw us enter grand final day as underdogs but a steely determination, confidence in our ability and many learnings from the previous year had us ready for the challenge.

There is no doubt we were a team, ready to play for each other and ready to win at all costs. To the boys' credit we delivered on this - Critter Kelly's game for obvious reasons stands out however I remember all players at different times having an impact and executing on inspirational plays. Personally it was a dirty day really - I had dislocated my shoulder in the preliminary final and will be forever grateful to JD and the selectors for giving me the opportunity to play and be a part of the Club's history. I will never forget the 25,000-odd people in the stands, most of whom were on our side, creating an amazing atmosphere and experience for us all to remember.

What a great two years these were. Strong bonds between players were formed, as were friendships that exist to this day, and provide memories we now all share. I look forward to our reunions every 10 years... they're like we've never been apart. I love the Club for my experiences and I love my team mates for being who they were at the time and giving me an opportunity to be part of something truly memorable.



John Dimmer
(West Perth)

THE West Perth mentor is the most underrated coach in the State, having guided the Falcons into three grand finals in five seasons.

He tasted victory in '95 when the Falcons beat Subiaco, but experienced defeat last season at the hands of East Fremantle.

Dimmer played 171 games with Subiaco (91) and East Perth (80) before embarking on an illustrious coaching career.

He made his debut with the Maroons in 1973 and played in their premiership side the same season.

A winger/half-back, he also played three State games in 1980, '81 and '82.

An employee with the Department of Sport and Recreation, Dimmer began his coaching career with the WA State Schoolboys in 1984 and '85.

He was an assistant to Gerard Neesham from 1987 to '93 when the Tigers won four flags.

He also coached Claremont to two reserves premierships in the same period.

After coaching West Coast amateurs to a flag in 1994, his only season at the helm, Dimmer replaced Jeff Gieschen at The Arena, Joondalup, and steered the Falcons to a drought-breaking flag.

They were eliminated in the First Semi-Final in '96, finished sixth in '97 and second last season.

He is also a winner of the Australian Football Coaches' Association Coach of the Year Award.

A meticulous planner and man of carefully spoken words, Dimmer guided the Falcons to this year's Grand Final via a 10-goal rout of Subiaco in the Preliminary Final.

Many good judges believe Dimmer has the ability to coach at AFL level, just like Gieschen, his predecessor at West Perth.

WEST PERTH 1999

Premierships: 1897, 1899, 1901, 1905, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1941, 1942, 1949, 1951, 1960, 1969, 1971, 1975, 1995. **Sandover medallists:** Harold Boyd 1922, Jim Gosnell 1924, Jim Craig 1927, Ted Flemming 1930, E. "Checker" O'Keefe 1940, Laurie Bowen 1942, John Loughridge 1946, Fred Buttsworth 1951, Brian "Blue" Foley 1959, Robbie West 1992, Neil Mildenhall 1993.

Games record holder: Mel Whinnen 371 games. **Captain:** Kim Rigoll.

1. James Ferguson

Born: December 30, 1971.
Height: 175cms.
Weight: 77kgs.

2. Neil Mildenhall

Born: September 8, 1968.
Height: 178cms.
Weight: 75kgs.

3. Corey Johnson

Born: October 3, 1974.
Height: 178cms.
Weight: 78kgs.

4. Steve Trehwella

Born: May 28, 1973.
Height: 176cms.
Weight: 79kgs.

5. Ryan Webb

Born: June 7, 1976.
Height: 188cms.
Weight: 92kgs.

6. Luke Rayner

Born: April 6, 1975.
Height: 178cms.
Weight: 78kgs.

7. Adam Curley

Born: September 5, 1977.
Height: 188cms.
Weight: 87kgs.

9. Bryce Steele

Born: March 24, 1973.
Height: 179cms.
Weight: 76kgs.

10. Christian Kelly

Born: July 31, 1974.
Height: 180cms.
Weight: 86kgs.

12. Steven Koops

Born: July 24, 1978.
Height: 186cms.
Weight: 80kgs.

13. Phil Smith

Born: August 7, 1978
Height: 183cms.
Weight: 82kgs.

14. Brendon Logan

Born: December 17, 1975.
Height: 179cms.
Weight: 74kgs.

15. Jeff Bruce

Born: November 9, 1973.
Height: 188cms.
Weight: 87kgs.

16. Paul Symmons

Born: September 2, 1973.
Height: 188cms.
Weight: 85kgs.

17. Glenn Wallace

Born: February 23, 1976.
Height: 187cms.
Weight: 77kgs.

18. Peter Julien

Born: March 31, 1976.
Height: 179cms.
Weight: 80kgs.

19. Paul Stockden

Born: June 2, 1978.
Height: 190cms.
Weight: 94kgs.

20. Paul Whitelaw

Born: February 15, 1978.
Height: 202cms.
Weight: 98kgs.

22. Brett Cousins

Born: March 6, 1977.
Height: 185cms.
Weight: 87kgs.

23. Brendon Fewster

Born: April 1, 1974.
Height: 193cms.
Weight: 98kgs.

24. Troy Wilson

Born: January 19, 1972.
Height: 191cms.
Weight: 98kgs.

25. Martin Whitelaw

Born: May 22, 1976.
Height: 201cms.
Weight: 93kgs.

26. Ron Skender

Born: March 26, 1974.
Height: 195cms.
Weight: 92kgs.

29. Ryan Lasscock

Born: February 2, 1977.
Height: 190cms.
Weight: 92kgs.

32. Digby Morrell

Born: October 10, 1979.
Height: 190cms.
Weight: 95kgs.

34. Anthony Alvaro

Born: May 28, 1976.
Height: 178cms.
Weight: 84kgs.

35. Bill Parker

Born: January 2, 1980.
Height: 186cms.
Weight: 90kgs.

36. Glenn Britten

Born: February 28, 1976.
Height: 178cms.
Weight: 72kgs.

37. Paul Mifka

Born: May 16, 1965.
Height: 188cms.
Weight: 85kgs.

38. Kim Rigoll

Born: April 1, 1973.
Height: 183cms.
Weight: 87kgs.

39. Damien Casson

Born: November 23, 1978.
Height: 179cms.
Weight: 76kgs.

45. Robert Hunt

Born: June 13, 1980.
Height: 177cms.
Weight: 80kgs.

47. Clayton Lasscock

Born: April 26, 1979.
Height: 185cms.
Weight: 82kgs.

1999 GRAND FINAL TEAM LINE-UP



Ruck

Ron Skender, Christian Kelly, Peter Julian

Interchange

Glenn Britten, Ryan Webb, Luke Rayner

GRAND FINAL MATCH SUMMARY

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
West Perth	6.4	9.8	11.9	14.13	97
South Fremantle	3.1	8.1	10.5	11.6	72

Goals

West Perth

Christian Kelly (4), Paul Symmons (2),
Brendon Fewster (2), Glenn Britten (2),
Brendon Logan (1), Jeff Bruce (1),
Ron Skender (1), Digby Morrell (1)

South Fremantle

Garth Taylor (3), Michael Clark (2),
Brad Bootsma (1), Daniel Schell (1),
Paul Maher (1), Peter Worsfold (1),
Antoni Grover (1), Zane Parsons (1)

Best players

West Perth

Christian Kelly, Kim Rigoll, Brendon
Fewster, Todd Curley, Clayton
Lasscock, Paul Mifka

South Fremantle

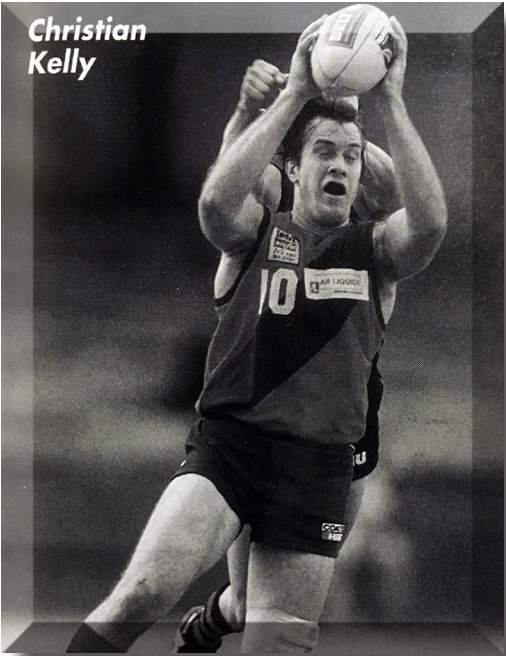
Toby McGrath, Cory McGrath, Peter
Mann, Garth Taylor, John Porter,
Matthew Clucas

Umpires

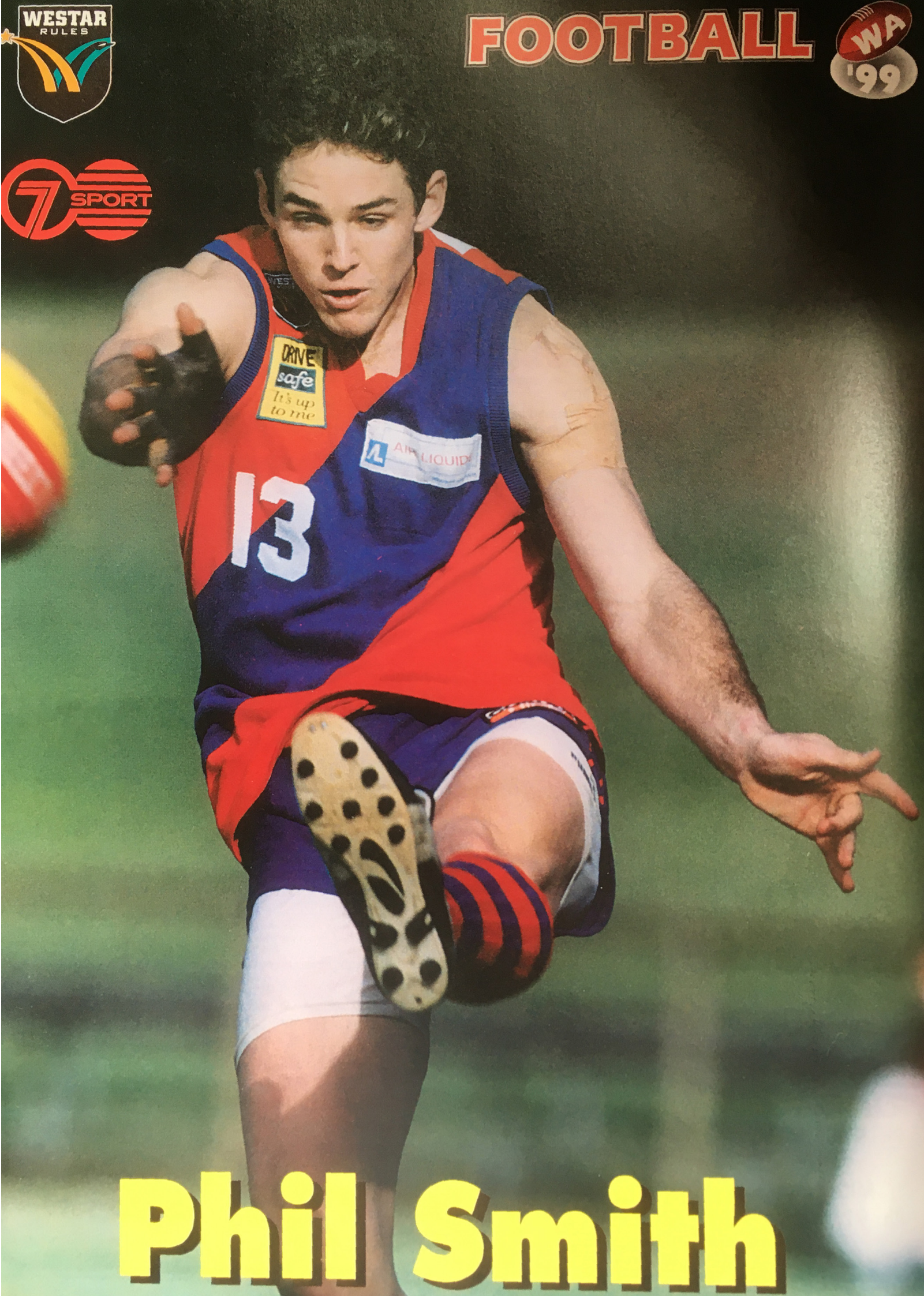
Brett Rosebury, Mitch Fussell,
Wayne French

Attendance

25,473



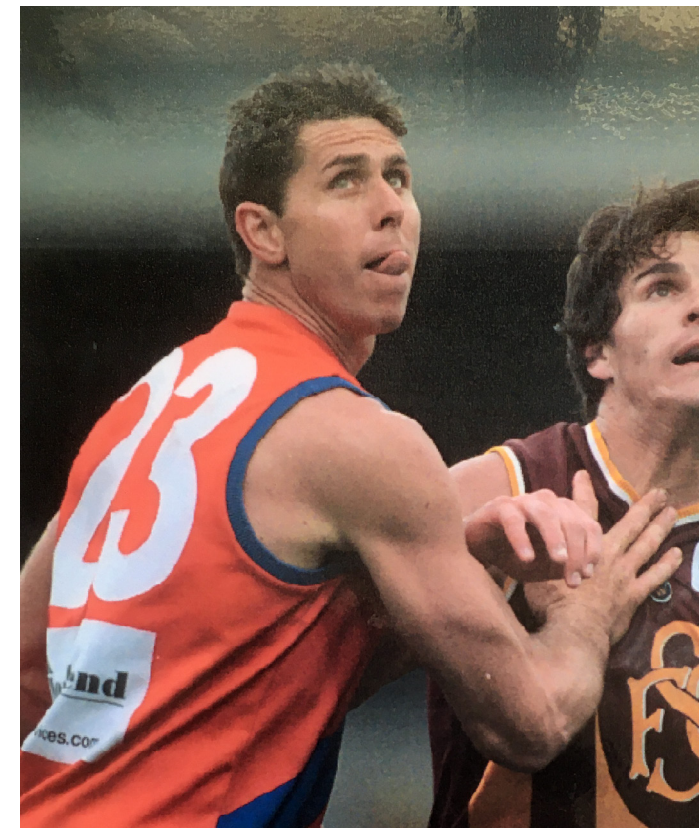
Christian Kelly was awarded the
Simpson Medal



From the Vault...

1999 Grand Final Gallery

*Captain Kim Rigoll
in the 1999 grand final
at Subiaco Oval.*



*Brendon Fewster contests a
boundary throw-in during
the 1999 Grand Final.*

*Below: Teammates congregate to accept
their premiership medals. From left to
right are Ron Skender, Paul Hasler (slightly
obscured), Luke Rayner, Peter Julian, Glenn
Britten, Brendon Logan, Christian Kelly,
Steven Koops (slightly obscured) Phil Smith
and Ryan Webb (slightly obscured).*



Lasscock heroics inspire the Falcons

What the papers said ...



Brothers in arms: West Perth's Steve Trewheila, left, and Clayton Lasscock hold up the Westar Rules premiership cup after their win over South Fremantle at Subiaco Oval on Saturday. PICTURE: IAN GILLESPIE



CUP CAPERS

The Falcons shed their feathers after yesterday's 25-point victory over South Fremantle in the Westar Rules grand final at Subiaco Oval. Match report: Pages 82-83

Now it's Kelly country

Simpson joy for Falcon

By PETER SWEENEY

CHEF Christian Kelly yesterday dished up his best recipe — and it won him a Simpson medal.

Kelly, 25, was best on ground in West Perth's 25-point win over the odds-on premiership favourite, South Fremantle.

Ironically, Kelly was born in the year these last two traditional clubs played in a grand final.

This week Kelly will cook up another storm — though not as public as yesterday's midfield effort.

Kelly, who has played in a losing and now winning grand final team with West Perth since crossing from Swan Districts, is about to buy Gourmet Professionals.

"The head chef and I are set to buy it. We might get some catering work out of this," a beaming Kelly said.

Kelly, whose favourite meal is steak, salad and chips, has a penchant for making desserts.

Yesterday he produced a real sweet dish for Falcon followers.

Kelly was part of West Perth's midfield, which Bulldogs coach Tony Micale said beat his side.

"They gave their forwards so many opportunities," Micale said.

Kissing his Simpson Medal — which swung from his neck with a premiership medallion — the boy from Ballajura said: "This is just it."

"I've been told winning the Simpson medal is something special. Now I know it is."

"I would love to be picked up by an AFL club but I'm getting on."

"We had 21 great mates out there today working together."

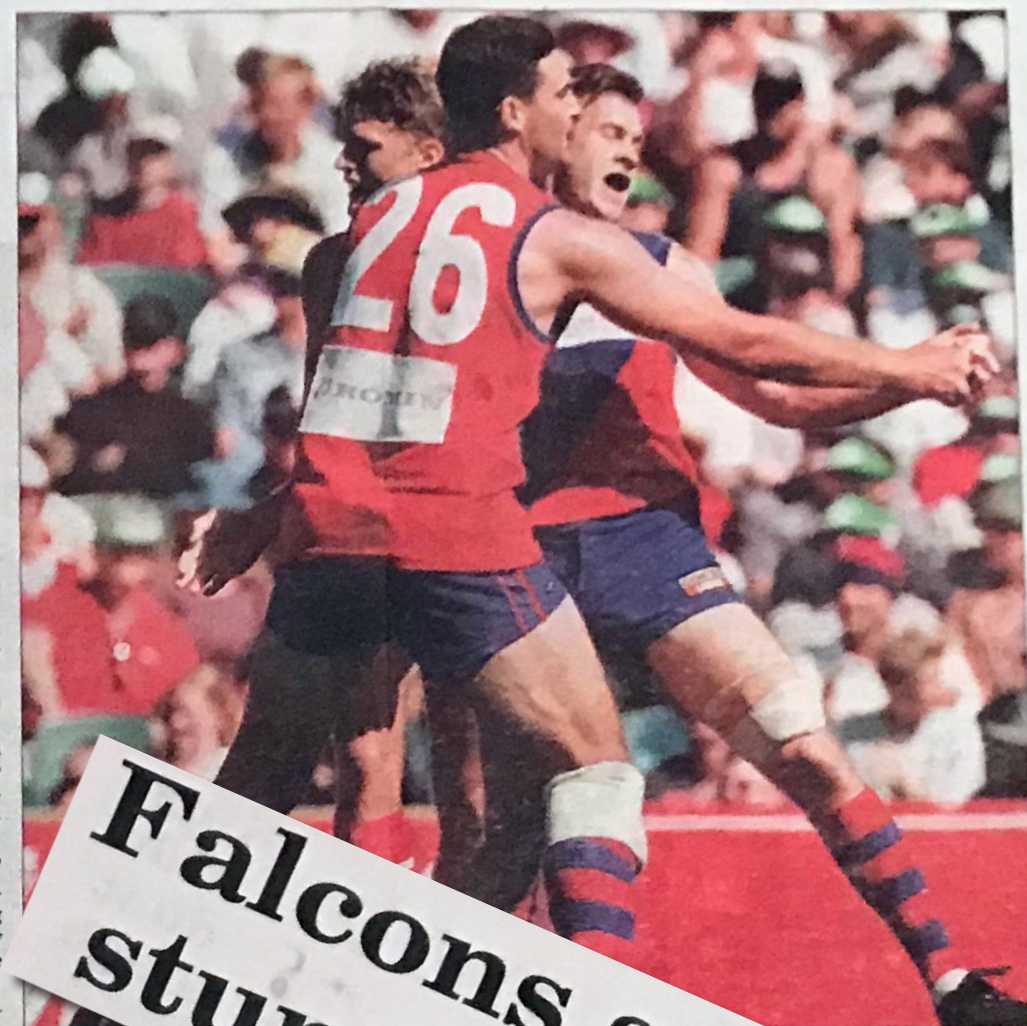
"And when you do that you will win."

"My ex-Swan Districts teammate David Snow told me winning a Simpson would be the ultimate," Kelly said.

"Now I know it's true."

Kelly said his workload, both at training and at work, was very heavy leading into the second semi-final.

But it was much lighter heading into the grand final.



Falcons swoop to stunning victory

DANCE: Ron Skender and Christian Kelly celebrate the Falcons' win.



FOND FAREWELL: Paul Milka, who

From the vault... Paul Mifka retires

Paul Mifka played the last of his 283 games for West Perth in the 1999 Grand Final. Debuting in Round One 1984, Paul made an immediate impact on the WAFL competition, winning several WAFL media awards for best first year player and finishing behind only Peter Menaglio and Les Fong in the Breckler Medal.

One of our Club's finest servants, Paul was instrumental in the premiership wins of 1995 and 1999, and he was appropriately chaired off after his final game. Earlier in 1999, Basil Zempilas writing for the Football Budget spoke of his memories of Paul Mifka.



A TRUE GRASS ROOTS FALCON

IF you've ever been to a West Perth game, you would have heard the famous chant: "Mifka, Mifka, Mifka!"

Paul Mifka is as much a part of the Falcons as the famous red and blue.

That's why the club is holding a special tribute evening in honour of one of its favourite sons tonight.

He is certainly the most famous of Westar's post-Eagles' era.

Like some mythical children's character, Paul seems ageless.

Since his debut season way back in 1984 under then coach Dennis Cometti, the famous No.37 guernsey has thrilled almost three generations of Falcons' fans.

I was in first year high school when "Mif" burst onto the scene.

I remember sitting on the bank at Leederville Oval watching his debut game against Perth.

Five years later as part of West Perth's Under 19s team, it hit home that I was actually playing at a league club when I crossed Paul in the car park.

And a season later, even though it still hadn't really sunk in, I was proud to be able to call him a teammate.

Now I commentate and write about Westar as part of my job and yes, he is still running around for West Perth.

At this rate, "Mif" may well play footy with my kids ... and they are not even thought about yet!

It's a tremendous credit to this remarkable athlete that his body has kept going for 15 seasons, but even more credence must be paid to his attitude.

Despite playing WAFL footy in its golden era and representing the West Coast Eagles in their debut season, he never allowed his ego to get in the way of West Perth. Most others would have given it away, but Paul just kept on going.

Many people have asked me about the secret to his longevity.

The answer is simple - he loves playing football and he loves West Perth.

Like Earl Spalding at East Fremantle and Steve Malaxos before him, Paul plays Westar Rules because he truly enjoys the camaraderie of his teammates, even though most of them are 10 years his junior.

I hope Paul Mifka continues on long enough to play 300 games and I hope the legend lives on long after he kicks his last footy in the blue and red colours.

When I think of West Perth, I conjure names like O'Keefe, Schofield, Farmer, Whinnen, Dempsey and Fong. Add to that list the name Mifka - a true champion, and a true Falcon.

WITH BASIL ZEMPILAS

BASIL'S BEAT

The Football Budget, 7th August 1999



Paul Mifka is chaired from the ground after the 1999 premiership win

Remember when... Rob Hunt won the Prendergast Medal - twice!

The Prendergast Medal was awarded for the first time in 1947 in recognition of the best and fairest player in the WAFL's Reserve grade competition. In that time, just eight West Perth players have won the medal.

Rob Hunt was awarded the Prendergast Medal in 1999 and he won again in 2000. Rob went on to play 78 senior games for the Falcons and was a member of the Club's 2003 premiership side.

The other West Perth players to have won the Prendergast Medal are:

- Keith London (1951)
- Don Cox (1956)
- David Price (1958)
- Gary Cripps (1973)
- David Vogel (1981)
- Frank Stockley (2013)
- Aiden Lynch (2014)

*The Football Budget
2nd October 1999*

Prendergast Medal 1999

CLUB TALLIES:

CLAREMONT: James McRae 14; Andrew Taylor 14; Ben Edwards 13; Nick Dunn 11; Mark Pearson 9; David McLean 8; Paul Drury 8; Scott Mollard 7; Jamie Christopher 6; Simon Duckworth 5; Scott Gibson 5; Frank Delaney 5; Myles Harvey 5; Damian Crimmins 5; Jason Oxenham 4; Michael Pell 4; Ben Cunningham 4; Brandon Hill 4; Sam Quinn 4; Peter Duzevich 4; Troy Carlow 4; Richard Harvey 4; Nick Stone 3; David McRae 3; Simon Nimmo 2; Jye Glaskin 1; Scott Smith 1.

EAST FREMANTLE: Glen Waters 24; Andrew Cutten 18; Mark Winnett 15; Michael Saunders 13; Ryan Phelps 8; Nathan Hebbard 8; Karl Pirrottina 8; Aaron Glass 7; Jeff Johnston 7; Chris Ryan 5; Kerem Baskaya 5; Rod Tregenza 5; Jon Stagg 4; Linc Gibellini 4; Dale Baynes 4; Warren Bank 3; Craig McNaughton 3; Julian Murphy 2; Dwayne Kretschmer 2; Nathan Cicerello 2; Drew Slater 2; Don Crutenden 1; Brett Warren 1; Michael Keig 1.

EAST PERTH: Tim Lyster 23; Spiro Mallis 16; Richard Peck 12; Shawn Colbung 11; Jamie Nani 11; Troy Butcher 9; George May 9; Brendan Thomas 8; Luke Dwyer 8; Nigel Browning 7; Geoff Narkle 5; Peter Hare 5; Chad Duxbury 4; Devan Perry 4; Peter Quartermaine 3; David Swan 3; Damian Katich 3; Troy Hiscock 3; Buddy Petkovic 2; Brad Hardingham 1.

PEEL THUNDER: Daniel Baker 17; Dean Buszan 7; Richard Wilson 6; Broc Agnew 6; Tyson Dennis 5; Shannon Whitby 5; Chad Baker 4; Tyron Bolton 4; David McPharlin 4; Simon Teakle 4; Brendan Degois 3; Wesley Miller 3; Vance Davison 3; Wesley Teakle 3; Greg Atkinson 2; Nigel Eades 2; Bruce Briene 2; Kim Eades 1; Denym Witherow 1.

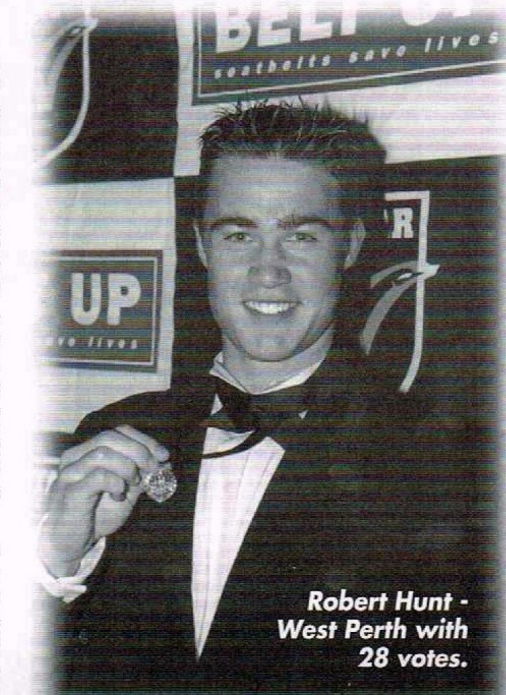
PERTH: Troy Stubberfield 25; Caine Miller 25; Gary Hill 22; Russell Walton 16; Nathan Mourish 13; Chad Broughton 10; William Hansen 10; Keren Ugle 8; Dean Brennan 6; Drew Cornelius 5; Jason Peake 4; Chad Harding 4; Vince Proud 3; Glen Collins 3; Darren Kirkham 3; Andrew Clifford-Smith 2; Tim Lees 2; John Morison 1; Andrew Jacobs 1; Andrew Hayes 1; James Jaworski 1; John Stephens 1.

SOUTH FREMANTLE: Stephen Pears 13; Jeremy Deceglie 12; Xavier Teague 10; Roland Hall 8; Ricky Mott 8; Frank Morellini 8; Nathan Burrigge 8; Daniel Sesko 7; Daniel Hargraves 7; Ashley Clancy 6; Travis Gaspar 6; Jon Price 5; Andrew Smith 5; Darryn Rennick 5; Jason Whitehead 5; Cameron Buss 5; Peter Kelly 4; Ben McNamara 4; Malcolm Bubb 4; Ray Smithers 4; Brent Henwood 3; Chris Tindale 2; Kinglsey Hutcherson 2; Craig Civich 2; Justin Longmuir 1; Cam Allen 1; Sheay Kent 1.

SUBIACO: Dean Haydock 19; Craig Richardson 16; Christian Woodley 13; Simeon Botsis 12; Travis Young 10; Ryan Pitcher 9; Scott Thomson 9; Matt Nettleton 9; Brant Chambers 8; Clayton Byrne 6; Craig Nunn 5; Gavin Milentis 5; Nathan O'Connor 4; Joel Taylor-Rennie 4; Daniel Forrest 4; Paul Baker 4; Mark Attard 4; Brad Smith 4; Jarrad Hocking 3; Glen Davies 3; Peter Bird 3; Jarrad Hubble 3; Aaron Bester 3; Ben Dagliesh 2; Todd Bennett 2; Jamie Merillo 1; Paul Blair 1.

SWAN DISTRICTS: Shane Sadowski 13; David Snow 12; Trent Cooper 11; Darrin Finlayson 9; Wesley Kestel 9; Silvio Lombardi 8; Wayne Wilson 6; Josh Ryder 5; Brett Beecroft 5; Dale Watkins 5; Adam Hunter 4; Cameron Bennell 4; Jason Morgan 4; Timothy Morton 4; Justin Parsons 3; Stephen Kelderman 3; Ross Adam 3; Dean McDonald 3; Matt Barnett 3; Peter Kelly 3; Mark McQueen 3; Chris Vlahov 2; Ben Piggott 2; Rodney O'Neil 1.

WEST PERTH: Rob Hunt 28; Paul Whitelaw 18; Brett King 16; Digby Morrell 15; Paul Stockden 14; Marty Whitelaw 12; Paul Mifka 11; Aaron Hewitt 9; Glenn Wallace 9; Ryan Lasscock 8; Damien Casson 8; John Martino 8; Bryce Steele 7; Clayton Lasscock 7; John Langlands 6; Mark Smith 6; Daniel Bales 5; Bill Parker 5; Peter Julian 4; Neil Mildenhall 4; Justin Connell 3; Glen Brixton 3; Tom Parker 1; Darren Payne 1; Liam Casson 1.



**Robert Hunt -
West Perth with
28 votes.**

WEST PERTH FOOTBALL CLUB

1999 WESTAR RULES LEAGUE PREMIERS



BACK ROW: Angelo Del Borrello (Runner), Phil Crannage (Coaches Assistant), Ryan Webb, Brett Cousins, Ron Skender, Troy Wilson, Phil Smith, Clayton Lassecock, Paul Hasler (Asst. Coach), Gavin Bell (Runner), Lloyd Page (Chairman of Selectors).

CENTRE ROW: Jeff Bruce, James Ferguson, Steve Trehwella (Vice Captain), John Dimmer (Coach), Kim Rigoll (Captain), Paul Mifka, Digby Morrell.

FRONT ROW: Luke Rayner, Adam Curley, Glenn Britten, Brendon Logan, Peter Julian (D. Vice Captain), Christian Kelly.

INSET: Brendon Fewster, Paul Symmons, Steven Koops.



Paramount Media Perth

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to the following contributors to this edition of HeartBeat [Part IV]:

Jim DiCarlo
John Dimmer
Steve Trehwella

Darren Harris
Luke Rayner
Bill Spittles

Print quality and previous editions of HeartBeat

Print quality files of this emailed version of *HeartBeat* can be found on the Club's website:

westperthfc.com.au/the-club/past-players-officials-association

You'll also find back copies of all previous *HeartBeat* editions here too.

Signing off

In the absence of live footy, we hope you have enjoyed reflecting on our Club's premiership wins from the 1960s and 1990s.

As this COVID-19 disrupted WAFL season is scheduled to commence on Saturday, 1st August, we'll be packing away our footy archives for a short while to focus on the future of our great Club.

Our next edition of *HeartBeat* will be sent out later in 2020.

This period of COVID-19 has done nothing to dim the enthusiasm and motivation of our playing and coaching group, who have continued to work hard though this period of uncertainty. Your support - vocal or financial - is welcomed and we look forward to seeing you at our games.

The *HeartBeat* team.

Upcoming Events

Round 1 2020 WAFL Season
Saturday 1st August, 2020

.....
Dominish Medal and Awards Dinner
Friday 2nd October, 2020

Breckler Medal and Awards Dinner
Saturday 3rd October, 2020

.....
Please refer to the club's website for updates as dates are subject to change.

