

*Full Points Footy's*

# **WA Football Companion**

by

**John Devaney**

*Full Points Footy*  
*<http://www.fullpointsfooty.net>*

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Several of the photographs in this book originally appeared in 'The West Australian'.

# Book Format And Style

Highlighted capital letters are used for club headings, e.g. **SUBIACO**

Biographical entries have headings in bold capital letters, e.g. **CABLE, BARRY**

Other subject entries are headed in bold lower case lettering, e.g. **Simpson Medal**

Entries are arranged alphabetically. You will find an Index of Entries towards the end of the book, beginning on page 337.

A club's current name - or, in the case of a former club, the name by which it was last known - is shown in highlighted capital letters at the start of its entry, with any previous names listed after it in brackets.

# Introduction

The history of Australian football in Western Australia dates back at least a hundred and forty years and has yet to be explored in more than cursory detail. Moreover, much recent work on the subject has been sullied by a misguided preoccupation with the V/AFL as the presumed epicentre of the football universe. Such a view needs challenging, not least because it grossly undervalues the scale of Western Australia's impact on and contribution to the history and development of a game that stopped being 'Victorian' much longer ago than any human being alive today can possibly remember.

This book will, in itself, do nothing to alter things, but it is offered in the way of an *hors d'oeuvre*. I leave the task of producing the main course in the hands of others more capable and better qualified than I am.

**John Devaney**  
**April 2008**



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# A

**ADAMSON, BRIAN** is undoubtedly best remembered for being at the centre of a huge clearance controversy in 1978, when he wanted to transfer from West Perth to Norwood. The matter was ultimately decided, in Norwood's and the player's favour, by the Supreme Court. Ironically, Adamson spent just two seasons with the Redlegs, playing a mere 20 games.

Of rangy build at 190cm and 82kg, and renowned for his spectacular aerial ability, Adamson began and ended his league football career at West Perth. He joined the Cardinals from South Perth, made his senior debut in 1975, and was a member that same year of the club's grand final winning team against South Fremantle. After returning from his two season stint in South Australia he resumed at West Perth, but over the final half a dozen years of his career he was badly hampered by injury. In his final season, 1984, he only managed a single senior game, and although he was keen to try again in 1985 his body told him otherwise. All told, he played 125 games for the Falcons, as West Perth had become known in 1980, and booted 252 goals. He was the club's leading goal kicker on a couple of occasions, and played 2 interstate games for Western Australia.

**AITKEN, MICHAEL**, known as 'Doc' because of his profession, was a versatile and extremely reliable centre half back and utility who played 109 league games for Claremont during the late 1970s and into the '80s. He also represented Western Australia on 3 occasions. In the 1981 grand final he was at centre half back as the Tigers came from a point down at the final change to overcome South Fremantle by 15 points. Aitken also had a brief stint with Carlton, playing 1 senior VFL game in 1985.

**ALDERMAN, BILL** was one of the most accomplished Subiaco footballers of the

immediate post-war period. Strong overhead, solid, and exceptionally pacy, he was among the foremost defenders in Western Australia at the time. Best suited to centre half back, where he used his judgement to sterling effect, he played a total of 91 games for the Maroons between 1946 and 1951. He also made half a dozen interstate appearances for Western Australia. In 1952 he left Subiaco in order to take up the position of reserves coach at West Perth.

**ALEXANDER, RON** was a formidable, highly team-orientated ruckman whose qualities of leadership were evident from very early in his career. That career commenced in 1971 with East Perth for whom he played a total of 98 senior games in five seasons, including the winning grand final of 1972 against Claremont. Alexander won his club's fairest and best award in 1974, the same year that saw him awarded a Simpson Medal after a fine performance for Western Australia against the VFL at Subiaco. After captaining the Royals in his final season he transferred to Fitzroy where he spent six highly successful years, captaining the side in 1979 and 1980, and winning a club champion award in 1981. Somewhat perversely, he was also chosen to represent Victoria. In 1982, after 133 VFL games for the Lions, he returned to the west as captain-coach of East Fremantle, a role he ended up undertaking for four seasons, culminating in the 1985 grand final defeat of Subiaco. Alexander continued to perform with great credit and consistency as a player, although at this stage in his career he tended to spend more time resting up forward. In 1984 he booted 52 goals for the year to be the Sharks' joint top goal kicker along with Jeff Cassidy. When he retired after the 1985 grand final Alexander had added 77 WAFL games to the 98 he had played previously with East Perth. He continued at East Fremantle as



*Ron Alexander  
(East Perth, Fitzroy, East Fremantle)*

non-playing coach in 1986, and the following year was appointed as the inaugural coach of Western Australia's fledgling VFL club, West Coast. However, despite overseeing a highly respectable return of 11 wins from 22 home and away matches for eighth position on the ladder he was replaced at season's end by John Todd.

**All Australians:** An official All Australian team was first selected after the 1953 interstate carnival in Adelaide, and thereafter following the 1956, 1958, 1961, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 championships. West Australian representative players gained a total of 71 places in these teams.

See also individual club entries for lists of all players to have achieved All Australian selection whilst playing in the WA(N)FL.

Since 1991 the AFL has selected its own All Australian combination at the end of every season. West Coast players have, to date, been selected in such teams on 35 occasions, while both Michael Malthouse and John Worsfold gained selection as coach of the year. Fremantle players have occupied 7 places in these teams.

**ALLAN, BEN** commenced his senior league career with Claremont in 1987 and played 63 games there in three years, including the winning grand finals of 1987 and 1989. He rounded off the first phase of his career with the Tigers by winning a Simpson Medal, his second, in the 1989 grand final victory over South Fremantle. Drafted by Hawthorn in 1990 Allan endured a tough first season in which he managed just half a dozen senior appearances, but in 1991 he really came into his own, winning the club's best and fairest award and maintaining his record of playing in a premiership team every other year as the Hawks overpowered West Coast in the only AFL grand final ever to be played at Waverley. A smoothly skilled, industrious centreline player or on-baller, Allan was consistently one of the Hawks' top possession getters, and arguably the side's most important single player. He emphasised his stature by winning AFL All Australian selection in 1993 and 1994 before seeking pastures new with AFL debutant Fremantle, which appointed him as its inaugural captain, in 1995. Allan's career with the Dockers was undermined by injury and he managed just 47 games in three seasons to add to the 98 he had played with the Hawks. While with the Dockers he added another 3 WAFL games for Claremont. Ben Allan represented Western Australia 6 times. He returned to top level football midway through the 2001 season when he replaced Damian Drum as coach of Fremantle, but he spent just half a year in the role before giving way to Chris Connolly.

**ALLEN, ERNEST 'IKE':** A clever, elusive wingman with pace to burn, East Perth's 'Ike' Allen was, for a time, arguably the finest exponent of his position in Australia. He commenced with the Royals in 1916, but his peak years coincided with Phil Matson's initial term as the club's coach between 1918 and 1924. Under Matson, East Perth went top for five successive seasons from 1919 to 1923, with Allen playing - and

starring - in the last four of these flag-winning combinations. He was also a 'shoe-in' for Western Australia during this time, and was a key member of the state's victorious 1921 Perth carnival team. Had the Royals seen fit to bestow annual fairest and best awards during this stage of their history it seems reasonable to imagine that 'Ike' Allen, who had played a total of 124 WAFL games and kicked 25 goals by the time he retired in 1924, would have been the recipient of several. As it is, in June 2006 he was a fairly predictable selection on the wing in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1906 to 1944'.

**ALLEN, FRANK:** Undoubtedly one of the foremost East Perth players of his generation, Frank Allen was a fixture in the side for over a decade. He was also a regular on the interstate scene, representing Western Australia a total of 11 times, including games at both the 1950 Brisbane and 1956 Perth carnivals. Skilful, pacy and creative, he played most of his football across centre, although towards the end of his career in particular he also played some fine games on a half forward flank. He commenced with the Royals in 1943, when the underage wartime competition was running, and was a member in 1944 of the club's unbeaten premiership side in that grade. He missed the 1945 and 1946 'open age' seasons while serving in the Navy, but when he resumed he performed with the assurance of a veteran allied to the verve and sparkle of a spring colt. By the time Allen retired in 1956 had amassed 152 WANFL games, and kicked 30 goals. He was the winner of his club's fairest and best award in 1950, and finished runner-up on a countback in the Sandover Medal the same year to East Fremantle's Jim Conway. Just over forty years after his retirement, however, he, along with all the other players who had originally lost a Sandover either on a countback of votes or the decision of the league president, received the unexpected fillip of a retrospective

Medal. Allen also came third in the Sandover Medal count in 1951. His career ended in disappointment when, owing to a knee injury, he missed out on the 1956 grand final win over South Fremantle which brought the Royals their first senior premiership for twenty years.

**ANDERSON, DOUGLAS 'DUGGAN'** played for most of his 210 game league career as a defender. Given that over the course of the twelve year period that that career lasted his club, Swan Districts, managed an overall success rate of just 22.9%, it seems reasonable to suppose that Anderson found himself in the thick of the action more often than not. Moreover, the fact that he was three times adjudged Swans' fairest and best player, and was selected to represent his state on 4 occasions, makes it clear that his contribution to that action was conspicuous and telling. Presumably, his club's success rate would have been even worse had he not been around to bolster its backlines so superbly.

Anderson made his debut with Swans in 1945, the season that saw the WANFL senior competition restored after three years of underage football. At season's end he enjoyed major round participation for the first and only time in his career, but his sterling work at centre half back was insufficient to prevent a first semi final loss to South Fremantle.

Besides his fairest and best awards and interstate involvement, the highlight of Anderson's career was probably his two season stint as club captain in 1951-2. The importance of his all round contribution to Swan Districts was later commemorated by his inclusion on the interchange bench in the club's official 'Team of the Century'.

**ARMSTRONG, KEN:** As both player and coach, Ken Armstrong was Perth through and through. After supporting the Redlegs as a boy he enjoyed a dream start to his league career with them in 1955 by helping them achieve their first flag since 1907.

Armstrong played most of his eventual tally of 170 WANFL games as a centreman. Combining courage, flair and cleverness to an impressive degree, he was an enormously damaging footballer who always seemed on the fringe of interstate selection, but only actually achieved it once, against South Australia at Subiaco in 1959.

Having captained Perth in 1961, Ken Armstrong retired as a player two years later. In 1971 and 1973 he coached the club's reserves to premierships, and in 1974 he was appointed coach of the senior side. In six seasons in charge, Ken Armstrong led the Demons to two flags from four grand finals, a run of success that has only been bettered once in the entire history of the Perth Football Club. He undertook a second spell as coach from 1991 to 1993 but this proved rather less successful.

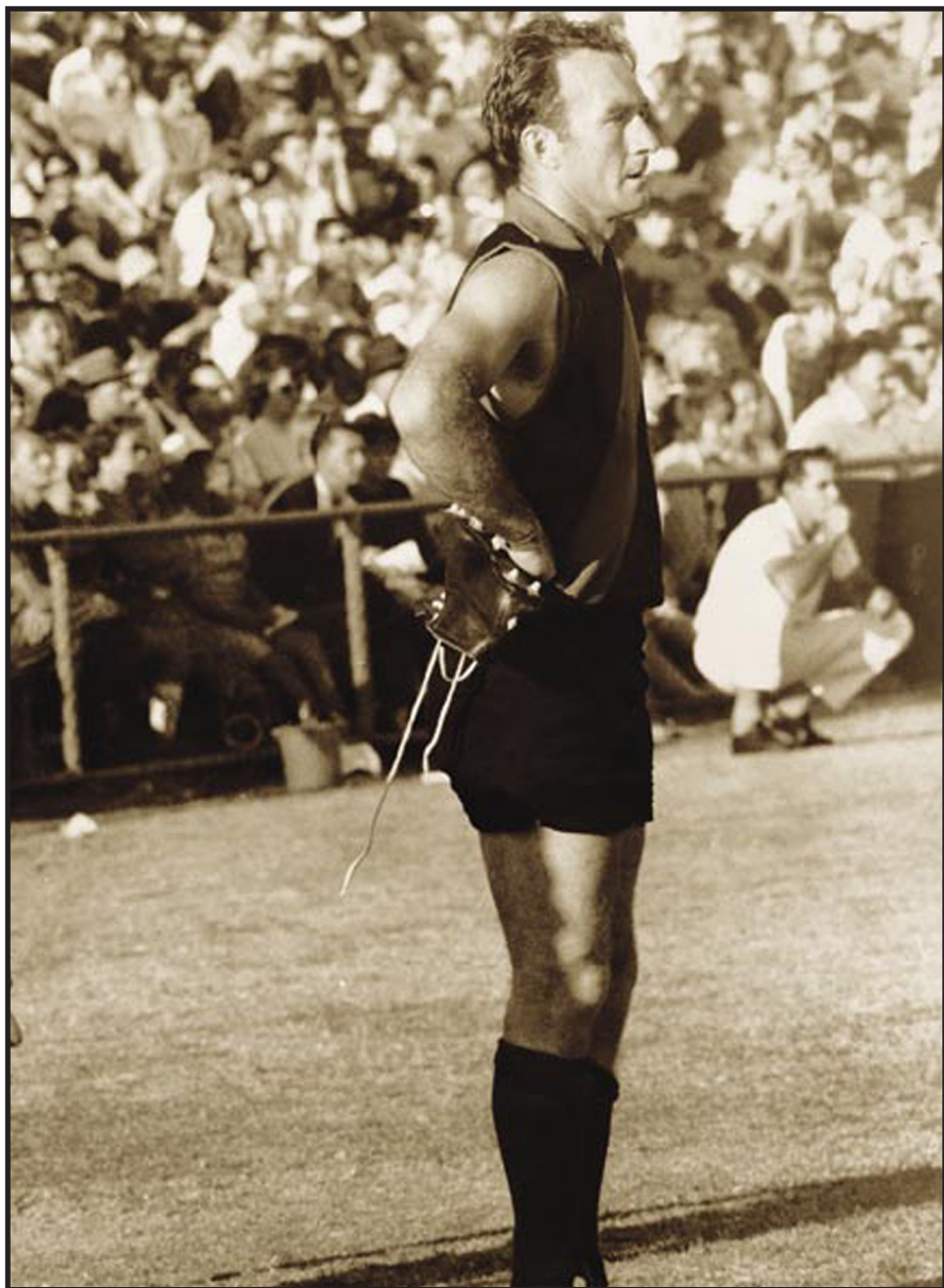
**ASHDOWN, KEN:** Superbly adaptable, and red and blue to the core, Ken Ashdown was without doubt one of the all time greats of the West Perth Football Club. He made his league debut midway through the 1949 season, and at the end of the year lined up at full forward in the grand final against South Fremantle as the Cardinals sought their first open age premiership for eight years. Proving far from overawed, he did everything coach Stan Heal asked of him, and contributed 3 goals to his team's eventual 16.13 (109) to 12.7 (79) win. Two years later, Ashdown again helped the Cardinals to a flag at South Freo's expense, this time at centre half forward, and indeed it was across the half forward line that he played much of his early football before being transformed into an assured and commanding centre half back or half back flanker. The 1951 season also saw Ashdown make the first of an eventual 9 interstate appearances for Western Australia. These included games at both the 1953 Adelaide and 1956 Perth carnivals, for the former of which he was accompanied by half a dozen

club colleagues, but for the latter of which - reflecting a temporary downturn in his side's fortunes - he was the only Cardinal selected.

Ken Ashdown continued to produce consistently eye-catching football as he entered the veteran stage, and in 1960 he had the satisfaction of lining up on a half back flank as West Perth overcame arch rivals East Perth by 32 points in the grand final. Much of the satisfaction would have derived from the fact that not only was he the only survivor of the club's previous premiership in 1951, he had actually played in the flag win before that as well. Ashdown carried on for another year with the Cardies, and when he retired he had played a total of 218 senior games. In October 2000 he was named on the interchange bench in West Perth's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

**ASTONE, PAT:** Although not tall or heavily built for a ruckman, Pat Astone had the rare ability to 'hang' in the air and deliver the ball perfectly to his rovers. He gave an early sign of his promise by winning Perth's fairest and best award at Colts level in 1961, two years before he made his senior debut. His 215 WANFL games included telling performances in Perth's winning grand finals of 1966-7-8. He captained Perth in 1970, and represented Western Australia twice. The last of his 215 league appearances came in 1972. The high esteem in which he was held at Perth was evidenced in 1999 by his selection in a forward pocket in the club's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

**ATKINS, MARTY** was a key feature of the football landscape at South Fremantle for over a decade. Recruited from Kwinana, the 189cm, 92kg Atkins was a former soccer goalkeeper whose determination and adaptability made him equally adept in key positions at either end of the ground. His promise was immediately recognised when he was awarded the Arthur Hankinson 'Player of the Future' Medal at the end of his debut season with the Bulldogs in 1990.



*Malcolm Atwell (East Perth & Perth)*



Tough and resilient, Atkins embraced few frills in his approach to the game but was almost invariably effective.

First chosen to represent Western Australia in 1992, Atkins made a total of 6 appearances for his state in an era when interstate representative football was in decline. After the 1993 state league clash with South Australia at Subiaco, a game which Western Australia won by 24 points, he was awarded the Simpson Medal as best afield. A policeman, he also represented the Western Australian police team at a number of interstate carnivals, gaining All Australian selection several times. By the time of his retirement he had played a total of 266 WAFL games, breaking a long standing club record held by Tom Grljusich.

The highlight of Atkins' career came in 1997 when he was one of his team's best players in an emotionally charged come-from-behind grand final victory over perennial arch rivals East Fremantle. Two years later in South Freo's centenary season, Atkins was controversially forced to miss the Bulldogs' premiership showdown with West Perth when he incurred a suspension following an apparently innocuous incident in the second semi final game against the same club. Without his experience and steadying influence, the Bulldogs narrowly lost a match they might otherwise have won.

**Attendances:** The highest crowd to attend a football match in Western Australia was 52,781 for the 1979 WAFL grand final in which East Fremantle 21.19 (145) defeated South Fremantle 16.16 (112) at Subiaco Oval. The 50,000 barrier was also broken for the grand finals of 1969, 1971, 1975, 1981 and 1982.

Other attendance records include:

**Interstate Match** - 44,891 at Subiaco Oval for VFL 23.16 (154) defeated WA 13.13 (91) in 1977

**State of Origin** - 44,231 at Subiaco Oval for WA 16.22 (118) defeated Victoria 16.19 (115) in 1983

**WAFL Home and Away Match** - 26,760 in round 9 1969 at Perth Oval, East Perth vs West Perth

**WAFL First Semi Final** - 32,860 at Subiaco Oval for South Fremantle 19.14 (128) defeated East Perth 13.10 (88) in 1981

**WAFL Second Semi Final** - 35,740 at Subiaco Oval for West Perth 12.11 (83) defeated East Perth 7.15 (57) in 1969

**WAFL Preliminary Final** - 34,193 at Subiaco Oval for Swan Districts 28.13 (181) defeated East Perth 15.15 (105) in 1980

**V/AFL Home and Away Match** - 43,027 at Subiaco Oval for Fremantle 14.12 (96) defeated West Coast 11.16 (82) in 2003

**V/AFL Finals Match** - 44,142 at Subiaco Oval for Hawthorn 18.16 (124) defeated West Coast 15.11 (101) in the 1991 qualifying final

**ATWELL, MALCOLM:** Fiercely tenacious and competitive, Malcolm Atwell was said during his playing career to be the West Australian player the Victorians most respected and feared, presumably because his approach was so similar to their own. He made his interstate debut in 1960, and the following year was a member of the Western Australian party which travelled to Brisbane to contest the Australian championships. After playing at full back in the opening game against Tasmania, which the sandgroppers won by 111 points, he was dropped to the bench for the clash with South Australia, only to be recalled for the decisive match against the Big V after a 2 point loss to the crows was felt to necessitate a re-shuffle.

At half time of the crunch encounter, the VFL led 11.3 to 5.8, and looked 'home and hosed'. During the second half, however, the West Australians, to a man, raised both their tempo and their intensity, forcing the Vics onto the back foot. With Atwell in near impassable



form at full back, West Australia rallied to get within 3 points at the final change, before clinching victory with as potent and devastating a last quarter as you could wish to see. For the twenty-three year old Atwell - the best player afield in the estimation of most observers - it was a vital and significant lesson, one from which he would extract much benefit in years to come.

Malcolm Atwell began his league football career at all conquering East Perth in 1958, and had the good fortune of participating in premiership wins in both of his first two seasons. Thereafter, however, things began to go wrong for the Royals, who despite being perennial finals contenders would not manage to procure another flag until 1972, by which time Atwell had been retired as a player for three years and was coaching South Fremantle. Prior to that, between 1966 and 1971, he undertook the task for which he is best remembered, steering persistent under-achievers Perth to a position of greatness in Western Australian football. In so doing, he implemented many of the lessons he had learned in the interstate arena, particularly against the VFL, and most especially in that memorable Australian championship year of 1961. Perth under Atwell combined what might be termed a traditional West Australian approach to the game, rooted in skill, pace and fluent movement of the ball, with a heightened awareness of, and concentration on, elements like shepherding, backing up, spoiling, talking, pressurising the ball carrier, and tackling - cornerstones, it might be said, of the typically Victorian approach to football. All in all, it was a heady and compulsive mixture, and it earned the Demons three successive flags, all courtesy of wins over Atwell's old club, East Perth.

Between 1966 and 1969, Atwell continued as a player, adding 76 games to the 162 he had played with the Royals. He continued as non-playing coach in 1970-71, but other clubs, notably 'Polly' Farmer's West Perth, and 'Hassa' Mann's South Fremantle, had by then wised up to Atwell's approach and

devised effective counter measures, and he was unable to add to the club's haul of premierships.

In 1972 and 1973 he oversaw a rebuilding programme at South Fremantle which eventually saw the club re-emerge as a force from 1975 onwards. It is for his impact at East Perth and Perth, however, that Malcolm Atwell is best remembered today, a fact endorsed by his selection in official 'best of' combinations for both clubs, the Royals' 1945 to 2005 side in the back pocket, and the Demons' 'Team of the Century' as coach.

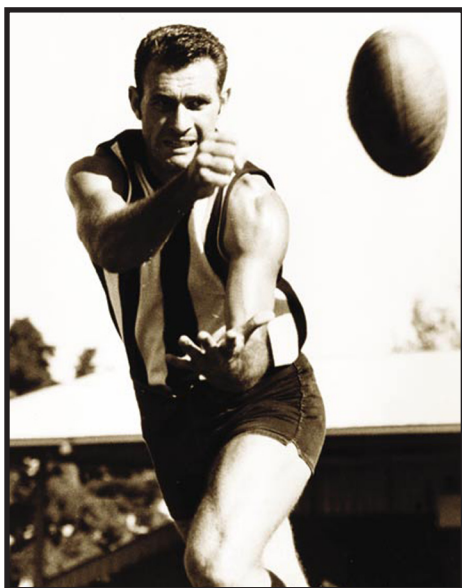
**Avon Football Association:** Established in 1959, the AFA serves a broad geographical area 100-170 kilometres east of Perth.

Current clubs, with senior premiership tallies in brackets, are: Beverley (7), Cunderdin (8), Northam Federals (4), Kellerberrin-Tammin (2), Quairading (7), Northam Railways (5), York (4).

The 2007 grand final saw Railways 15.12 (102) defeat Quairading 10.13 (73).

Senior premiers 1959 to 2006 were:  
 1959 Northam Unions 1960 Beverley  
 1961 Beverley 1962 Quairading 1963 Meckering  
 1964 Cunderin 1965 Cunderin 1966 Tammin  
 1967 Meckering 1968 Meckering  
 1969 Northam Unions 1970 Tammin  
 1971 Kellerberrin 1972 Kellerberrin  
 1973 Beverley 1974 Quairading  
 1975 Cunderin 1976 Beverley 1977 Cunderin  
 1978 Cunderin 1979 Quairading  
 1980 Brookton 1981 Brookton 1982 Brookton  
 1983 York 1984 Northam Railways  
 1985 Cunderin 1986 Cunderin 1987 Cunderin  
 1988 York 1989 Tammin 1990 Quairading  
 1991 Quairading 1992 Beverley  
 1993 York 1994 Quairading 1995 Northam Railways  
 1996 Beverley 1997 Quairading  
 1998 Kellerberrin-Tammin 1999 Northam Railways  
 2000 Northam Federals 2001 Northam Federals  
 2002 York 2003 Beverley 2004 Kellerberrin-Tammin  
 2005 Northam Federals 2006 Northam Federals

# B



*Ken Bagley (Swan Districts)*

**BAGLEY, KEN:** Renowned for his versatility, Ken Bagley played in virtually every position on the ground in his thirteen season, 232 game league career with Swan Districts. Such versatility made him an invaluable player in state matches, and he occupied a total of eight different positions in his 13 game interstate career for Western Australia, which took in both the 1961 and 1966 carnivals.

At club level, Bagley was a key contributor towards Swan Districts' first three senior premierships in 1961-2-3. He was named among the best players in all three grand finals, and his performance from centre half forward in 1963 against East Fremantle earned him the Simpson Medal. Two years later, his big game reputation was further enhanced when he was Swans' best player in a losing grand final, once again against Old Easts.

Ken Bagley's key strengths were his aerial ability and his kicking prowess, both reinforced by an undying and expressively visible commitment to the team cause.

**BAHEN, CLEM** was a highly skilled wingman and half forward flanker who gave fine service to Subiaco in 158 games between 1917 and 1928. A combination of electrifying pace and spectacular leaping ability made him one of the most eye-catching players of his generation, and it was once written of him that "there is no greater stylist in the game".<sup>1</sup> The biggest disappointment of his career came in 1924, when an ankle injury forced him out of the Maroons' challenge final team against East Fremantle, a match which Subiaco won by 27 points. Clem Bahen's 10 interstate appearances for Western Australia included the decisive match of the 1921 Perth carnival against South Australia.

**BAILEY, GEORGE** was an extremely talented defender and occasional ruckman who enjoyed considerable success in two states. After making his league debut with Perth in 1937, he crossed to Carlton on a war permit in 1941, and spent a couple of seasons in the VFL. Wartime commitments precluded his fronting up in 1943 and 1944, but in 1945 he resumed with Perth and enjoyed the best season of his career, winning both a Sandover Medal and his club's fairest and best award. The following year saw Bailey forced to stand out of football as he sought, but was refused, a clearance back to Carlton. The clearance was finally granted in 1947 and he spent another two seasons with the Blues highlighted by participation in Carlton's 1 point victory over Essendon in the 1947 VFL grand final.

The 1949 season saw George Bailey back 'home' with Perth where he spent the final three years of his career as a player. In 1949 he was in a back pocket as the Redlegs lost to West Perth in the premiership decider, and the following year, having assumed the coaching reins but not the captaincy, he starred at full back in a 6 point grand final

loss to South Fremantle. Bailey carried on as playing coach in 1951 (steering the side to third place), and in a non-playing capacity the next year (when the side slumped to sixth). In 1953 he was replaced as coach by Ern Henfry, who two years later would steer the Redlegs to a long overdue flag.

George Bailey, who played a total of 110 WANFL games during the Perth phases of his career, somewhat surprisingly never represented his state. However, his high reputation at Perth was emphasised in 1999 with his selection in a back pocket in the club's official 'Team of the Century'.

**BAIN, DAVID:** Originally from Maylands, David Bain made his league debut with East Perth in 1985, and went on to play a total of 72 games with the club over the next four seasons. His final season with the Royals was his best, as he won both the club's fairest and best award, and the Sandover Medal. In 1989 he joined Brisbane, winning a best and fairest award in his second season, and belying his lightweight (177cm, 76kg) frame with his consistently courageous and often overtly physical performances. After 86 games with the Bears he crossed to Fitzroy in 1994 and added a final dozen AFL games to his tally. His senior career was still far from over, however, as he spent the period from 1995 to 2000 with QAFL power side Southport, winning two Grogan Medals, and the club's 1995 best and fairest award. He also captained the Sharks to no fewer than four premierships in succession, earning inclusion for himself in the club's official Hall of Fame. Bain also played briefly for NTFL side Waratah.

**BAIRSTOW, MARK** commenced his league career at South Fremantle where he won the best first year player award in 1985 and both the club fairest and best and Sandover Medal the following year. A smooth running, prolific ball-winning on-baller, he crossed to Geelong in 1987 and was an immediate success, achieving All Australian selection in his debut

season, and earning a reputation as one of the premier midfielders in the game. Always a country boy at heart, however, he caused something of a stir immediately after playing in the losing grand final of 1989 against Hawthorn by returning to his home town of Lake Grace where he spent the entire 1990 season. In 1991, the Cats coaxed him back into the fold, and he made up for lost time by producing some of the best football of his career, earning AFL All Australian selection in both 1991 and 1992. By the time of his retirement in 1994, Bairstow had played 146 V/AFL games and kicked 172 goals. He captained the Cats in his last three seasons in league football.

**BAKER, LEON:** One of those prodigiously talented individuals who seem able to rack up numerous possessions almost without trying, Leon Baker might conceivably have achieved much more in league football had he not been such a late starter. When he made his debut with Swan Districts in 1981 he was already approaching twenty-five years of age, having played all his earlier senior football with such country teams as Avenel, Seymour and South Bunbury.

He was an immediate and pronounced success at Swans, vying for best afield honours with team mate Graham Melrose in the 1982 grand final win over Claremont, and earning a club fairest and best award the following year. Courageous, tough and abundantly skilled, he was as close to the ideal centreman as could be imagined.

A five season, 86 game stint with Essendon in the VFL followed, and did nothing to diminish his reputation.

Leon Baker represented West Australia at state of origin level on three occasions, and was selected in the 1985 All Australian team. Despite the brevity of his stay at Swan Districts, he was chosen as centreman in the club's official 'Team of the Century'.

**BALME, GERALD:** A product of Brighton Grammar School in Melbourne, Gerald

Balme enjoyed an illustrious top level career in two states. He commenced with St Kilda in 1902, and in five seasons with the club established himself as a dashing and authoritative defender. Upon moving to West Perth in 1907 he continued as a defender at first but soon developed into a first rate centreman. He is reputed to have captained the Cardinals for several seasons, although records are unclear as to precisely which ones. In 1911 he played in all 4 of Western Australia's matches at the Adelaide carnival. He also played 3 times for league representative combinations against visiting clubs from interstate. Balme returned to Victoria in 1915, and fronted up with the Saints for one last season, taking his final tally of VFL games with the club to 91.

**BALME, NEIL** had played just 4 senior games for Subiaco when he turned up on Richmond's doorstep as a seventeen year old in January 1969. The recruitment of such young players from interstate was comparatively rare at the time, but the Tigers, perhaps recognising that Balme was mature, both physically and mentally, beyond his years, took a punt and signed him up, a decision for which they would have ample cause to congratulate themselves over the course of the next decade.

Tall (194cm) and hefty (99kg or more), Balme was far from shy in exploiting his physical attributes to the full in the services of his team. The fact that he also possessed considerable football ability made him one of the most formidable talents in the game, especially during his peak years of the early to mid-1970s. A highly capable knock ruckman, Balme was more commonly used near the goal front where he specialised in intimidating and terrorising the opposition, often enabling team mates to procure easy goals. He was also more than happy to chip in with a goal or two himself, and in 1972 (jointly with Ricky McLean) and 1973 he topped the Tigers' goal kicking.

Given the generally raw and robust nature of his approach, Balme's true worth as a player tended to come most noticeably to the fore during the finals. He booted 5 goals in a losing team in the 1972 grand final, while a year later his controversial flooring of Carlton full back Geoff Southby made a significant contribution to Richmond's eventual 30 point win. Balme was also named among the best players in the Tigers' 1974 grand final defeat of North Melbourne. He was a member in 1977 of Western Australia's first ever state of origin team.

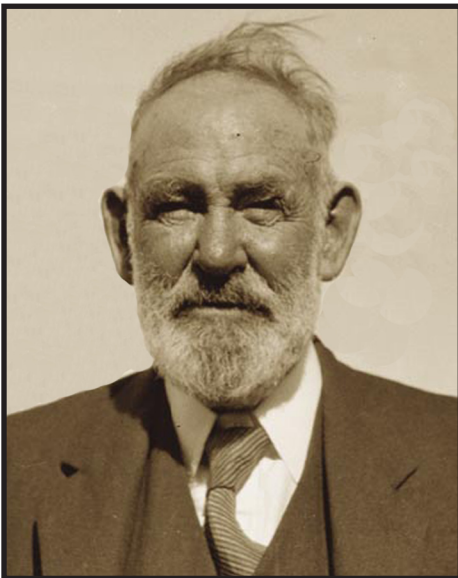
His roughhouse image notwithstanding, Balme had always thought deeply about his football, and had long nursed an ambition to coach. In 1980 an opportunity arose at Norwood, and Balme was quick to seize it. He would go on to achieve considerable success in the coaching sphere, but his playing days were not quite over either, and despite the inconvenience of an arthritic left knee he would go on to play a further 13 league games in 1981 and 1982 for a career total of 176.

**BARKER, E.A. 'TIM'** was a fine full back and great club man for Swan Districts in 239 WANFL games between 1944 and 1959. As this was an almost entirely bleak era for the club, he presumably would have had ample opportunity to shine. Winner of a fairest and best award in 1952, Barker, who was unwaveringly dedicated to the Swans' cause, was club captain for part of 1957 and all of 1958. His 7 interstate appearances for Western Australia included games at the 1956 Perth carnival. 'Tim' Barker was succeeded in the Swan Districts team by another great full back in Joe Lawson.

**BARRETT, ROD** was a performer of consistently high quality for South Fremantle in 177 games between 1975 and 1983. Most effective and most commonly used as a back pocket player, he represented Western Australia on 5 occasions, and was a member of South's 1980 premiership team. He ran

equal third with 15 votes (4 off the pace) in the Sandover Medal voting in 1982.

**BARRON, DENNIS:** Recruited from Towns Football Club in Narrogin, Dennis Barron joined Subiaco in 1957. Quite tall at 182cm, and exceptionally strong, he began on a half back flank, but later made his name as a formidably commanding centre half back who could also take a turn in ruck to good effect. One of the most popular players at Subi because of his overtly wholehearted commitment to the team cause, Barron had played a total of 166 WANFL games by the time he retired at the end of the 1967 season. His 4 interstate appearances for Western Australia included all 3 matches at the 1961 Australian championships in Brisbane, from which the sandgropers emerged unexpectedly but heroically triumphant.



*Bill Bateman  
(Fremantle & Fremantle/Unions)*

**BATEMAN, BILL:** Arguably the highest profile footballer in Western Australia during the first decade of the game there, Bill Bateman was the inaugural captain of the Fremantle Football Club in 1885. In 1887, when Fremantle disbanded, he joined Unions

(which changed its name to Fremantle in 1890), and carried on playing with distinction for a further eight seasons. In a total of ten seasons in the game, Bateman was a member of a remarkable eight premierships sides.

Bill Bateman learned to play football when he attended Prince Alfred College in Adelaide, "one of the cradles of the Australian game".<sup>2</sup> He was fanatically devoted to the code, and was instrumental in seeing it supplant rugby as 'flavour of the west'. His importance to the growth, indeed even the existence, of West Australian football would be difficult to over stress.

**BAYENS, RON** was an extremely fit, mobile footballer who was a mainstay of Subiaco's league teams throughout the 1970s. Between 1969 and 1981 he played a total of 184 games for the club, as well as representing Western Australia 4 times. Bayens, who was equally effective either as a ruckman or in a key forward position, lined up at centre half forward in the 1973 grand final when the Lions broke a premiership drought stretching back forty-nine years with a 10.12 (72) to 6.4 (40) defeat of West Perth.

**BEARD, NEVILLE:** Whether as a defender or a ruck-rover changing in defence, Neville Beard gave the Perth Football Club fine service in 126 WANFL games between 1956 and 1963. The highlight of his career came in 1961 when he was a surprise winner of the Sandover Medal. Beard polled 22 votes, the same as East Fremantle's Ray Sorrell, but won on a countback. (Sorrell was later awarded a retrospective Medal.) Selected in Western Australia's 1961 Brisbane carnival squad, Beard was forced to withdraw because of injury. His only interstate appearance for Western Australia came in the following year's match against South Australia in Perth. The main strengths of his game were his superb overhead marking and his penetrative left foot kicking.



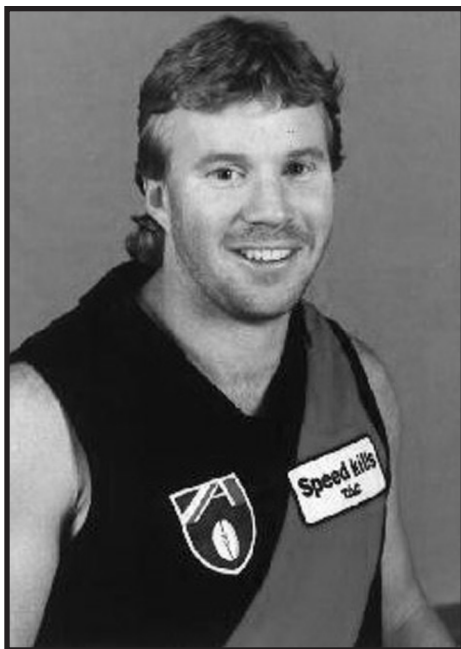
**BEECROFT, BOB:** Swan Districts recruited Bob Beecroft from Williams as an eighteen year old in 1970. Beecroft had won Williams' senior fairest and best award the previous season and, playing mainly as a ruckman, he soon developed into a handy player for Swans. His best season in the black and white colours came in 1972 when he matched or beat the best ruckmen in Australia at the Perth carnival, earning All Australian selection in the process. He also won the Swan Districts club champion award that same year.

Over the next few seasons, Beecroft's form fell away somewhat, and it was something of a surprise when he was selected in West Australia's team for the 1975 knock-out carnival clash with the VFL in Melbourne. However, he performed with considerable credit in a well beaten side, and this may have helped persuade Fitzroy, where he ventured in 1976, that he was a worthwhile acquisition. Beecroft spent five seasons with the Lions, followed by five seasons in South Australia with Woodville, performing creditably with both clubs.

Tough, persistent and reliable, he was perhaps better suited to the hurly-burly world of VFL football than the more skill-orientated Western Australian or South Australian manifestations of game. At any rate, he probably played his best football during his time in Melbourne, although his performances with Swans (for whom he played 126 games and booted 164 goals) were still deemed sufficiently noteworthy for him to secure selection in the club's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

**BEROS, SHANE:** Current Swan Districts skipper Shane Beros joined the club from West Coast Amateurs and has been a mainstay of the side ever since. The highlight of his career to date came in 2003 when he became the most recent Swans player to win the Sandover Medal. Beros also counts Swan Medal wins in 2003 and 2005 among his football achievements. A tough, resolute

footballer with a penchant for tackling hard, effectively and often, he is also a quick thinker who almost invariably uses the ball purposefully. Most commonly deployed as a rover, he also gives excellent value when playing out of a back pocket. Shane Beros made his interstate debut for Western Australia against South Australia in 2003 and has been a regular selection ever since.



*Darren Bewick (West Perth & Essendon)*

**BEWICK, DARREN:** After three years with West Perth, during which time he also made his West Australian interstate debut, Darren Bewick ventured to VFL side Essendon at the end of the 1987 season. Between 1988 and 2000 he played 238 V/AFL games and kicked 332 goals for the Bombers, tallies that would have been considerably higher had he not been such a frequent victim of injury, the most serious of which necessitated a full knee reconstruction in 1995. Boasting explosive pace, smooth ball handling skills, and an eye for goal, he was the sort of footballer who could single-handedly turn the course of a match. An Essendon premiership

player in 1993 and 2000, Bewick also played in three pre-season premierships for the Bombers. He was runner-up in the club's 1991 best and fairest count. He played 4 state of origin and 2 state league matches for Western Australia.

**BILCICH, STEPHEN** commenced with East Fremantle in 1898 and was an extremely valuable player for the Sharks throughout the ensuing decade. His 215 senior games for the club, spread over twelve seasons, included the triumphant grand finals of 1992 against South Fremantle when he was best afield in the opinion of many observers after doing a comprehensive blanketing job on Bulldogs danger man Wally Matera, 1994 against Claremont, and 1998 versus West Perth. He was chosen in Western Australia's state league interstate team on 4 occasions.

**BLACKWELL, WAYNE:** Recruited by Claremont from North Beach, Wayne Blackwell made his senior league debut in 1978, and went on to play a total of 112 senior league games for the club in six seasons. Tenacious, dogged and courageous, he could fill a variety of positions or do a more than useful job on the ball. He was in the centre when Claremont beat South Fremantle in the 1981 WAFL grand final. Blackwell represented Western Australia on 8 occasions. Between 1984 and 1990 he played 110 senior games with Carlton in the V/AFL.

**BLAKEMORE, CAM:** A triple Subiaco fairest and best award recipient, Cam Blakemore had the singular misfortune to retire the season before the Lions won their first flag in almost half a century. He made his league debut in 1963 having served an apprenticeship in the club's junior ranks and immediately caught the eye as a centreman of rare talent, winning a major 'best first year player' trophy, sponsored by a Perth radio station, in his debut season. Boasting all the skills of the game, and presenting them as

a highly polished, eye-catching package, Blakemore's is perhaps best remembered today for his superb delivery of the ball to team mates, which was characteristically accomplished with a combination of precision and firmness which only very rarely left anything to be desired.

For most of his league career Subiaco struggled, but this was scarcely Blakemore's fault. He was regarded as providing a perfect example to youngsters on how the game should be played, and it was perhaps a touch surprising that he did not make the first of just 3 interstate appearances until 1970.

Tragically, when Subiaco announced its 'Greatest Team 1946-76', with Blakemore in the centre, he was already dead, a tragically premature victim of cancer.

**Book Medal:** East Perth's annual senior fairest and best player award.

**BOSUSTOW, PETER:** Probably best remembered for his spectacular aerial feats, Peter Bosustow delighted fans in two states for more than a decade. He joined Perth from Victoria Park and made his league debut in 1975. At first he struggled to hold a regular place in a team that was being moulded by Ken Armstrong into arguably the finest in Western Australia since the previous decade. He was not selected in the team which downed East Perth to claim the 1976 premiership, while a year later he started the grand final clash with East Fremantle on the bench. However, once he established himself he became a lynchpin of the side, topping its goal kicking list twice, and overall impressing sufficiently to earn selection in Perth's official 'Team of the Century'. A little too inconsistent to poll heavily in fairest and best counts, his peak form was nevertheless almost unmatchable. For instance, his dazzling 7 goal performance for a losing Demons side in the 1978 grand final against East Perth must have come extremely close to earning him a Simpson Medal.

Bosustow's Perth career comprised 141 senior games from 1975 to 1980, 1984 to 1985, and in 1987, and saw him kick 357 goals, with a season's high of 75 in 1980. He represented Western Australia 8 times, booting 17 goals. Between 1981 and 1983 he played 65 games in the VFL with Carlton, where he did well.

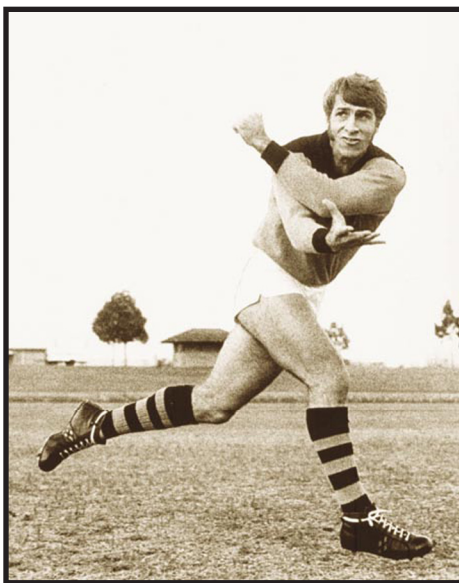
**BOUCHER, RON:** Recruited from North Albany, Ron Boucher made his league debut with Swan Districts in 1971. Extremely powerfully built at 192cm and 102kg, he used his strength to awesome effect, most notably during Swans' halcyon period under John Todd in the early 1980s. He was one of his team's best in the losing grand final against South Fremantle in 1980, and was a key contributor to premiership wins in 1982-3, despite having to battle for much of the time with persistent niggling injuries. He was equally effective as a knock ruckman or a strong marking forward, and was selected in a forward pocket in Swan Districts' official 'Team of the Century'.

Ron Boucher played 190 games for Swan Districts between 1971 and 1983, as well as representing Western Australia twice. He won the club's fairest and best award in his penultimate season.

**BOYD, HAROLD:** One of three Sandover Medal winning half backs to play for West Perth during the 1920s, the ultra assured and reliable Harold Boyd was arguably the pick of the bunch. He won his medal in 1922, with Jim Gosnell and Jim Craig following suit in 1924 and 1927 respectively. Boyd spent the first seven seasons after World War One with West Perth, winning the club's fairest and best award in 1923, the same season in which he captain-coached the club. He also captained the Cardinals in 1924. Boyd counted both matches at the 1921 Perth carnival, which the home state won, among his 7 appearances for Western Australia. In 1928, three seasons after retiring as a player, he took over as West Perth senior coach, steering the side to fifth, third and last place finishes in his three seasons in

charge. It was as a player that he established his reputation, however, and he was a worthy inclusion, on a half back flank, in his club's official 'Team of the Century'.

**Breckler Medal:** West Perth's annual senior fairest and best player award.



*Greg Brehaut (Perth & Woodville)*

**BREHAUT, GREG** was a strong, graceful, physically tough left-footed wingman who was a driving force in Perth's great teams of the mid- to late 1960s. His 16 interstate appearances for Western Australia included games at the 1966, 1969 and 1972 carnivals, and he achieved All Australian selection at Adelaide in 1969. Brehaut was a member of Perth premiership teams in 1966, 1967 and 1968, and played a total of 157 games for the club. In 1974 he crossed to Woodville as captain-coach but was prevented by injury from producing his best form. The following season saw him back at Perth but he once again struggled for form and fitness and was restricted to a handful of appearances. At his peak, however, Greg Brehaut was one of the best and most effective wingmen in Australia, and his selection in Perth's official 'Team of



the Twentieth Century' was both predictable and warranted.

**BRENTNALL, REGINALD 'NASHY':** A tough, hard-hitting defender with a touch of class, 'Nashy' Brentnall was arguably the most noteworthy of several prize recruits secured by South Fremantle in 1914 who would collectively help propel the club to its most successful era up to that point. The red and whites contested premiership deciders in 1914-15-16, winning the last two, and Brentnall was a key player for them in all three seasons. In 1918, however, he transferred to East Perth, where he would enjoy an even more auspicious time, contributing to no fewer than half a dozen premiership triumphs in ten seasons. He was also an important player for Western Australia in interstate games, playing at centre half back in both of the state's matches at the 1921 Perth carnival, from which it emerged victorious. He retired after the winning challenge final of 1927 against his former club South Fremantle having played a total of 161 games for the Royals as well as 6 state matches for Western Australia. In June 2006, Brentnall was selected on a half back flank in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1906 to 1944'.

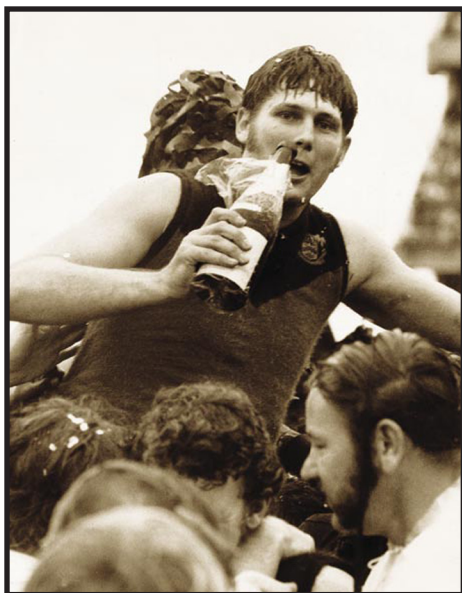
**BROPHY, WILFRED 'BILL'** was a great servant of the Subiaco Football Club in three different capacities. As a player he was acknowledged as one of the most polished and assured defenders going 'round. He played 154 league games for the Maroons between 1922 and 1933, among them the triumphant challenge final of 1924 against East Fremantle. Brophy made his interstate debut for Western Australia in a home match against South Australia in 1925 and went on to make a total of 5 appearances for his state including a couple at the 1927 Melbourne carnival. Other highlights of his playing career included a fairest and best award in 1925, and the club captaincy in 1931-2.

After his retirement as a player 'Bill' Brophy had three separate stints as a Subiaco committee man as well as serving as coach of the club's wartime under age team from 1942 to 1944.

**BROWN, CLINTON:** Dual premiership player Clinton Brown began his league career with Subiaco as a forward, and indeed he topped the club's goal kicking list in both 1983 (with 59 goals) and 1984 (54). However, it was as a hard running, close checking defender that he eventually found his true niche. Between 1980 and 1990 Brown, who hailed originally from Scarborough, played a total of 204 senior games for Subi, plus 2 for his state. He was in a back pocket when the Lions overcame East Fremantle by 69 points in the 1986 grand final, and at centre half back for their next premiership triumph, achieved at the expense of Claremont two seasons later.

**BROWN, MALCOLM:** After a football career laced with more than its share of controversy it is all too easy to lose sight of the fact that Malcolm Brown was actually both a highly talented footballer and a wily and inspirational coach. Powerful overhead and a prodigious punt kick, he excelled at reading the play, and relished being in the thick of the action.

Brown's league career commenced with East Perth in 1964 and he was first chosen to represent his state two years later at the Hobart carnival. Along with regular trips to the Tribunal he won a Sandover Medal in 1969, and the following year, aged just twenty-three, he became the Royals' captain-coach, steering his team to a drought-breaking premiership just two years later. The fact that that 'drought' had involved no fewer than seven losing grand finals over the previous twelve years gives some indication of the significance of Brown's impact on the team. That same year his leadership qualities were further recognised when he was chosen as captain of the All Australian team after the Perth



*Malcolm Brown (East Perth, Richmond, Claremont, South Fremantle, Perth)*

carnival. The other side of Brown's character was starkly and memorably revealed at the end of the season during a championship of Australia semi final against Carlton in Adelaide when, for a time, 'Mad Mal' seemed intent on single-handedly turning each and every one of his illustrious opponents into mince meat.

Two years later, Brown enjoyed an entire season - minus the odd appointment at the Tribunal, of course - of this kind of activity when he joined Richmond. After one such Tribunal visit he incurred a suspension that, tragically for Brown, took in the Tigers' winning grand final against North Melbourne.

Back in the west in 1975 he took over as coach of Claremont where, a season later, he was personally responsible for the unilateral, if completely unlawful, introduction of the interchange rule, sending a previously replaced player back into the fray after his team was reduced to seventeen fit men. Brown's 'inventiveness' eventually cost him his job, but he returned to football the following year as coach of South Fremantle, where he proved himself an excellent leader, steering the Bulldogs to the 1980 flag.

Mal Brown later took over as coach of a struggling Perth side, but his efforts to resurrect the Demons' fortunes were stymied by the degradations wrought on the WAFL competition by the inception of the West Coast Eagles. Back at South Fremantle for one season in 1992 he managed to steer the Bulldogs to that year's grand final, but a 24 point loss to 'derby' rivals East Fremantle spoiled what until then had been a fairytale return.

Football has perhaps had more accomplished and skilful performers than Malcolm Brown, but few as colourful or entertaining. His selection at centre half forward in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005' was hugely justified, and ought to have surprised no-one.

**BROWNING, CLINTON:** An accomplished aerialist, Clinton Browning began his league career with East Fremantle as a forward, but later played many fine games in key defensive roles. He was also eminently capable of performing effectively on a wing or in the centre. Recruited from Mingenew, he made his WAFL debut in 1981, and by the time he retired in 1993 had played a total of 223 senior club games, including 4 in the VFL for West Coast in 1989. He won the Lynn Medal for the Sharks' fairest and best player in 1984, and enjoyed another stellar year in 1985, making the first of an eventual 3 interstate appearances for Western Australia, and starring at full forward in the grand final as East Freo overcame Subiaco by 5 points. Browning booted 6 goals in that game to be a popular choice as East Fremantle's best player; although the Simpson Medal went to the Lions' Brian Taylor. Browning finally got his Simpson seven years later when he starred at full back in the Sharks' 24 point grand final defeat of arch-nemesis South Fremantle.

**Brownlow Medal:** The Brownlow Medal has been awarded annually since 1924 (apart from the period 1942-4) to the best and

fairest player in the VFL/AFL as adjudged by the field umpires. The medal is named after prominent Geelong Football Club and VFL administrator, Charles Brownlow.

To date, a total of six Western Australian players have won the award. They are:

Graham Moss (Essendon) 1976  
Ross Glendinning (North Melbourne) 1983  
Brad Hardie (Footscray) 1985  
Shane Woewodin (Melbourne) 2000  
Simon Black (Brisbane) 2002  
Ben Cousins (West Coast) 2005

In addition, Chris Judd, originally from Sandringham in Victoria, won the 2004 medal whilst playing for West Coast.

**BUCKENARA, GARY** commenced his senior league career at Subiaco, where he played 61 games from 1979 to 1981, mainly in losing teams. Things were very different at Hawthorn, where he moved in 1982, and among Buckenara's 154 V/AFL games (for 293 goals) in nine seasons were appearances in the winning grand finals of 1983, 1986, 1988 and 1989. Strong overhead, and a magnificent kick, he was a big game player par excellence, well remembered in particular for his feat in kicking a long winning goal after the siren in the 1987 preliminary final against Melbourne. A regular state of origin representative for Western Australia, Buckenara was selected in three All Australian sides.

In 1992, Gary Buckenara was appointed coach of Sydney, but early the next season, with the Swans rooted to the bottom of the ladder, he was replaced by Ron Barassi. He spent the 1995 and 1996 seasons as coach of his original club, Subiaco.

When Hawthorn announced its official 'Team of the Century' in 2003, Gary Buckenara was included on a half forward flank.

**BUHAGIAR, TONY:** Despite his diminutive stature - TV commentator Lou Richards

famously dubbed him 'the little budgie' - Tony Buhagiar was worth the equivalent of his weight in gold to three league clubs during his career. He began with East Fremantle, earning the nod for best afield from many pundits in that club's 1979 grand final win over arch rival South Fremantle, and finishing runner-up to Brian Peake in the following season's Lynn Medal voting. He also represented Western Australia in interstate and state of origin matches and earned All Australian selection after the 1979 Perth carnival before moving to Essendon in the VFL in 1981. In four seasons and 83 games with the Bombers Buhagiar became a firm fan favourite for his pluck, determination, skill and never-say-die attitude. His feat in kicking 135 goals during those four seasons highlights another key aspect of his play, namely the considerable danger he posed to opposition sides when resting up forward.

The final phase of Tony Buhagiar's VFL career came with 25 games and 36 goals for Footscray in 1985. The 1986 season saw him back home with East Fremantle and he rounded off his playing days by bringing his final tally of games with that club to 138 by the end of the year.

**BUNTON JUNIOR, HAYDN:** Following in the footsteps of a famous father is never easy, even at the best of times, but Haydn Bunton junior, son of the player whom some regard as the most audaciously gifted of all time, had more obstacles to overcome than most. As a boy he had suffered from Perthe's disease, and had spent six years trapped within leg-irons or a frame before making use of crutches in order gradually to re-acquire the ability to walk. By the time he was fifteen he was not only playing high school football with and against boys who were, on average, two or three years older than he was, he had also made some telling adaptations to his style of play in order to compensate for his perhaps understandable lack of leg speed. Chief among these adaptations was his uncanny proficiency

at handball, which in terms of its accuracy and the speed with which it could be implemented was ahead of its time. Quick to note its effectiveness, Bunton would later, when coaching, accord intelligent use of handball pride of place among his teams' arsenal of attacking weaponry. He was also one of the first coaches in Australia to discourage and eventually ban completely the use of the erratic and unreliable drop kick by his players.

Bunton was already an eight year veteran of league football, and had overcome life threatening injuries sustained in a car crash in 1959, by the time he decided to embrace a fresh and, on the face of it, supremely daunting challenge by accepting an offer to coach WANFL club Swan Districts, which at that point in time had yet to win a senior flag. Bunton's achievement in lifting Swans from last place in 1960 to an odds-defying grand final defeat of East Perth in 1961 seems, if anything, even more miraculous in hindsight than it probably did at the time. Further premierships followed in 1962 and 1963, and Haydn Bunton's reputation as a master coach was born. Of almost equal significance, his form as a player was consistently superb, earning him the 1962 Sandover Medal as Western Australia's pre-eminent footballer together with three consecutive club fairest and best awards.

The 1965 season saw Bunton back at Norwood where, although he failed to achieve success in premiership terms, he played a major part in establishing the youth policy that would prove to be the foundation of the club's eventual return to greatness in the 1970s. It was a similar story at Bunton's next port of call, Subiaco, where he remained from 1968 to 1972, the last two years of which saw him coaching from the sidelines. In 1973, with Bunton's replacement Ross Smith at the helm, the Lions broke through for their first flag in almost half a century, but few people were in any doubt that it was the man affectionately dubbed 'the little master'

who had in actual fact been the principal architect of the victory.

Haydn Bunton's coaching reputation was further enhanced by stints at South Adelaide (from 1975 to 1982) and back again at Subiaco, where he masterminded premierships in 1986 and 1988. In many ways the antithesis of his flamboyant, some might even say egotistical father, Haydn Bunton junior was like him in one respect: his contribution to the game he loved was significant, unique and enduring.

**BUNTON SENIOR, HAYDN:** In the opinion of many Haydn Bunton senior was, quite simply, the finest Australian footballer ever. It is therefore extremely ironic that he was born in Albury, New South Wales, a state where rugby has traditionally been the king of winter sports.

Bunton's peak years as a player were spent with Fitzroy, where he became the game's first ever triple Brownlow Medallist, and Subiaco. He joined Subiaco as captain-coach in 1938 and promptly won back to back Sandover Medals, followed by a third in 1941. His four season stint in the west netted him 72 league games as well as 3 interstate appearances for Western Australia. He was voted Subiaco's fairest and best player three times, and topped the club's goal kicking list in 1938 with 51 goals, 1939 (59), 1940 (34) and 1941 (46). After leaving the Maroons he again played briefly with Fitzroy before rounding off his career with a one season stint at Port Adelaide, but his best days as a player were by then behind him.

**BUSHELL, WILLIAM 'JOE':** Christened William, but more usually referred to as 'Joe', Bushell commenced his senior league career with North Fremantle where he made a favourable impression as a dashing, purposeful defender. In 1908 he was selected in the Western Australian squad for the inaugural Australasian championship series in Melbourne, and although not actually selected to play in any of the state's matches, he





*Haydn Bunton junior (North Adelaide, Norwood, Launceston, Swan Districts, Subiaco)*



*Haydn Bunton senior (Fitzroy, Subiaco, Port Adelaide)*

found himself the focus of attention in another sense when Arthur Thomas, secretary of the Sturt Football Club, sought to procure his services. The upshot was that Bushell spent the 1909 season with Sturt and the following year at St Kilda without really managing to do himself justice in either case. In 1911 he returned home to Western Australia with his football career clearly at the crossroads. He ended up joining his brother Harry at Subiaco, which, like Sturt a couple of years earlier, was just beginning to flex its economic muscles in a bid to establish itself as a bona fide league force for the first time. By 1912, with Joe Bushell proving an outstanding success as a hard running, creative half back flanker, the Maroons had started to display many of the hallmarks of greatness, a status they confirmed by taking out that season's premiership with a hard fought 5.8 (38) to 4.5 (29) challenge final defeat of East Fremantle. Bushell was a significant contributor to Subiaco's victory that day, as he was a year later when another premiership was secured, this time at the expense of Perth. When Perth was vanquished again in the premiership decider of 1915, Harry Bushell could claim the rare distinction of having contributed to each of the Maroons' first three flag successes. He continued playing until 1920, by which time he had amassed 153 league games in the Subi colours, as well as emphatically obliterating the memory of his somewhat stuttering early progress in the game.

**BUTTSWORTH, FRED:** After seeing older brother Wally embark on what would develop into an illustrious football career with West Perth and, later, Essendon, young Fred was determined to do the same. In 1942 he joined West Perth's war time under age side and helped the Cardinals to a premiership; two years later he won a club fairest and best award, but the following year he was old enough to enlist, and joined the navy. As chance would have it, he was posted to Melbourne for a time and Essendon, fully aware of his talent, gave him the opportunity to play in the VFL alongside his brother.

Strongly built and hard to beat, especially in the air, Fred Buttsworth played much of his early football across half forward, but when he resumed in the WANFL - which had by then reverted to a full scale senior competition - in 1946 it was as a centre half back, and it was in that position that he really made his name.

West Perth during the immediate post-war period boasted an immensely powerful side, with Fred Buttsworth's indefatigable performances on the half back line often a key to its success. When the Cardinals won flags in 1949 and 1951, Buttsworth's contributions were telling, as they were on numerous occasions for Western Australia, notably in the famous 1947 carnival win over the VFL, and in a 1951 meeting with the Vics when he earned a Simpson Medal.

That 1951 season was easily Buttsworth's most memorable. In addition to the Simpson Medal and a premiership, he won his second West Perth best and fairest award, and finished a comfortable 7 votes clear of runner-up Frank Treasure in the Sandover Medal voting. Given this, it seems somewhat surprising that, just two years later, after 182 WANFL games, but still aged only twenty-five, and fighting fit, Fred Buttsworth retired. Perhaps he felt he had nothing left to achieve, but his untimely departure left the football world in general, and West Perth in particular, the poorer.

**BUTTSWORTH, WALLACE:** Wally Buttsworth's senior football career began with West Perth in 1935. After being named as nineteenth man in the Cardinals' flag-winning team that year his career blossomed over the next couple of seasons when he became a regular Western Australian interstate representative and, in 1937, won West Perth's club champion award.

In 1938 Buttsworth headed east to Essendon but was forced to stand out of football for a season awaiting a clearance. He made his VFL debut in 1939 only to suffer a broken arm which kept him out of action for much of the year. On his resumption, however, he soon established himself as one of the key cogs in an Essendon machine which was tuning up to become the

dominant force in Victorian football for much of the ensuing decade.

Three times an Essendon best and fairest award winner, Buttsworth was a formidable, resolute defender who was rarely beaten. Whilst rugged to the point of ferocity in his overall approach, there were nevertheless aspects of his play, such as his high marking and exemplary drop kicking, which brought to mind converse adjectives like 'graceful' and 'elegant'. Formidably powerful, it was a rare player indeed who was able to interrupt his progress when, body hunched low, he embarked on one of his trademark, careering runs out of defence before propelling the ball deep into his team's attacking zone.

Buttsworth was at his best in important games and his name featured prominently among the best players in all but one of the six VFL grand finals in which he participated.

After leaving Essendon he captain-coached Leeton from 1950 to 1952 and then Beckon.

Brother Fred was an equally accomplished footballer who stayed with West Perth for most of his career, winning the 1951 Sandover Medal. He joined his brother briefly at Windy Hill while stationed in Melbourne during the war.

Both of the Buttsworth brothers were also highly proficient cricketers, representing Western Australia, while Fred was a Victorian representative at lawn bowls.

**BYFIELD, DON:** Had South Fremantle not boasted one of the greatest teams in football history during the early 1950s Don Byfield might well have made his senior debut somewhat earlier than he did, in which case he might feasibly have finished his career with approaching 300 games under his belt. As it is, when he retired at the end of the 1963 season, his actual tally of 239 games had been exceeded by only one South Fremantle player, Frank Treasure.

Byfield made his league debut in 1950, but did not become a regular until 1953, the season after he had helped the seconds to a premiership. He made the victorious league grand final side in '53, as twentieth man. The

following season saw him lining up in a back pocket on grand final day as South trounced arch rivals East Fremantle by 78 points to claim their fifth senior flag in seven years. After that, it was all downhill as far as club achievements went, although later in the decade Byfield would embark on a successful interstate career that saw him installed as Western Australia's first choice permanent back pocket player between 1957 and 1959. All told, he represented his state 9 times, including games at the 1958 centenary carnival in Melbourne. He also played 2 games for Western Australian number two sides against visiting clubs from interstate.

**BYGRAVES, GARRY:** At a time when Western Australian football was bursting at the seams with top quality rovers, East Perth's Garry Bygraves was among the best. Between 1968 and 1976 he played a total of 166 WANFL games and booted 379 goals for the Royals, as well as representing Western Australia against South Australia at Subiaco in 1973. Nicknamed 'Cowboy', he was an energetically eye catching footballer who was especially hard to contain when resting in a forward pocket. He topped East Perth's goal kicking list in 1970 with 56 goals, and in 1976 with 65. After producing a fine performance in a losing team against West Perth in the 1969 grand final he again came up with the goods three years later when the Royals beat Claremont to secure their first senior flag since 1959. East Perth beat the Tigers 9.17 (71) to 8.8 (56), with Bygraves, who booted 4 goals, his team's only multiple goal kicker. Three of his goals came during the third term, when the Royals were kicking into the wind, and these ultimately proved decisive in determining the eventual result of the match. Garry Bygraves' last game in a Royals jumper came in the 1976 grand final against Perth, but it proved to be a sour ending to a fine career as the Demons won comfortably.

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#### Footnotes

1 Cited in *Diehards 1896-1945* by Ken Spillman, page 79.

2 *The Footballers* by Geoff Christian, page 6.



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# C

**CABLE, BARRY:** In 1970, Barry Cable, having already achieved virtually everything in football that was open to him - Tassie Medal, dual All Australian status, two Sandovers, five successive club champion awards, and participation in three premiership teams - moved from Perth to North Melbourne. Former Collingwood identity Lou Richards, then a media commentator, and renowned for his 'kiss of death' predictions, famously contended that Cable, who "lacked pace", would end up languishing in the back pocket for North's reserves.

Cable duly added a North Melbourne best and fairest award to his list of achievements, besides running fourth in the Brownlow, while Lou Richards went on doing what he did best, and most entertainingly - shooting himself repeatedly in the foot.

The contention that Cable lacked pace was not without some justification. Certainly he was slower than some of the other great rovers of the time, like Bill Walker, Bob Skilton and Keith Doncon. However, what he may perhaps have lacked in pace he more than made up for in other areas. Few players in the history of the game have matched Cable's uncanny ability for being where the ball was. Moreover, his disposal skills by hand and foot were little short of impeccable. Small wonder he attracted the attention of umpires - for the right reason - when Sandover or Brownlow votes were being allocated.

On returning home to Perth in 1971 Cable carried on more or less where he had left off, winning yet another club fairest and best award. Two years later he did it again, and added a third Sandover for good measure.

As far as Barry Cable was concerned, there was only one major ambition remaining, and he needed to return to Victoria, and North Melbourne, in order to achieve it. That ambition, needless to say, was involvement

in a VFL premiership, and in his second stint at Arden Street he managed this not just once, but twice, in 1975 and 1977.

Returning home once more in 1978 Cable surprised many observers by accepting an offer to coach East Perth. Yet again, however, it proved to be an informed decision as, after a tentative start to his coaching career, he took the Royals to the 1978 grand final, where they duly won a titanic tussle against, of all teams, Cable's old club, Perth. Seriously inconvenienced as he was by a strained leg muscle and a broken bone in the hand, Cable's experience and calmness were nevertheless vital during a tempestuous final term in which East Perth had to hang on for dear life, eventually scraping home by just 2 points.

Cable played on for one further season, eventually retiring after 384 senior club games (225 for Perth, 116 for North Melbourne, and 43 with East Perth). For the majority of his career he had been a genuine superstar, and if the game over its history has seen any finer rovers it would be hard to imagine them being countable on the fingers of more than one hand.

As a non-playing coach Cable experienced significantly less success than as a player, although he did at least manage to get North Melbourne into the finals in two of his three full seasons in charge during the early 1980s.

Barry Cable was catapulted back into the headlines as a sixty-three year old in July 2007 when the Western Australian Football Commission decided to retrospectively award him a Simpson Medal for his performance in Western Australia's defeat of Victoria in the inaugural state of origin match at Subiaco Oval in 1977. The decision served to reinforce Cable's status as one of the all time great players in football history as it meant that he had now won the award a record five times.



*Barry Cable (Perth, North Melbourne, East Perth)*

**CAIN, TOM:** On a per capita basis, Western Australia has, over the years, produced more top quality ruckmen than any other state, and Tom Cain affords an excellent early example. His name may not carry quite the same resonance as the likes of McIntosh, Farmer, Clarke or Moss, but he was in some ways the template on which all of them - particularly Farmer - were based. An extremely tactically astute footballer, his masterful use of attacking handball was arguably ahead of its time, and his reading of the play was superb - qualities he put to good use as a coach after his playing days were over.

Those playing days commenced in 1912 with Subiaco, with his arrival representing one of the final pieces in a jig-saw that was to bring the club its first ever league pennant that very year. The Maroons secured that pennant with a 5.8 (38) to 4.5 (29) challenge final defeat of East Fremantle, with Tom Cain being listed high among the victors' best players. When Subiaco went 'back to back' the following year with a 2 goal challenge final victory over Perth, Cain was again a conspicuous and wholehearted contributor, with his passion for the cause being amply evidenced by his getting reported for using foul language.

In 1914 Cain was one of seven Subiaco footballers selected to represent Western Australia at the 1914 Sydney carnival, where he played in 4 of the team's 5 matches. He continued in good form in 1915 when he helped the Maroons, who had slumped to third the previous year, mount a renewed assault on the premiership. That assault was ultimately successful, but sadly for Cain he missed the flag-clinching win over Perth with injury.

The 1916 season found Tom Cain at East Fremantle, where his 56 games included the losing grand finals of 1917 and 1919, and the premiership victory of 1918 against East Perth. In 1920 he joined South Fremantle where he added 17 games in two seasons, besides captain-coaching the side (to fifth

place) in 1921. His final season as a player came in 1922 back at Subiaco where he took his final tally of league appearances with that club to 62.

As a non-playing coach, Cain had stints at two of the three clubs for which he had played. He commenced with Subi in 1924, and in three seasons at the helm oversaw first, second and second place finishes. His coaching pedigree was further reinforced in 1927 when, in his sole season in charge of South Fremantle, he managed to get the team into its first grand final in a decade, only for East Perth to prove too strong on the day. Subiaco meanwhile commenced a gradual period of decline from which the club would not fully recover for the better part of half a century.

During his comparatively brief involvement in top level football, Tom Cain's impact, as both player and coach, was considerable, and it is at least arguable that his name ought to be somewhat more celebrated today than it is.

**CAMPBELL, GRANT** was a shining light for East Perth over the course of what developed into an almost uniquely dreary period for the club. He joined the Royals from Dianella, and made the first of an eventual 208 league appearances in 1978, the year East Perth downed Perth by 2 points in one of the most memorable of all grand finals, played in monsoon conditions. Campbell, who had not yet done enough in the selectors' eyes to warrant regular selection, did not take part in that match, and when he retired eleven seasons later it would be without a senior premiership to his name.

He achieved virtually everything else on offer, however. A tall, powerful figure with more than adequate skill, he sometimes lacked consistency, but at his best was one of the most imposing and effective key position players in the state. He played most of his football at centre half forward, but towards the end of his career he developed into a fine centre half back. Winner of the

Royals' fairest and best award in 1984, he was actively courted by a number of VFL clubs, and in fact was drafted by St Kilda, but he elected to remain in the west. Not really what you would call an out and out goal kicking forward - his game was much too varied and adaptable for that - he nevertheless topped East Perth's goal kicking list three times, and booted a total of 320 goals in his league career. He represented Western Australia 5 times in the interstate arena, kicking 1 goal.

**CAMPBELL, HUGH 'BONNY':** If today he tends to be best remembered for his remarkable feat in kicking 23 goals for Western Australia against Queensland at the 1924 Hobart carnival, Hugh 'Bonny' Campbell actually achieved considerably more than that in a 188 game league career with three clubs.

That career commenced at North Fremantle, where he played 12 games, but when that club went into mothballs at the end of the 1915 season he transferred to South Fremantle. His acquisition by South helped transform the club from pretenders into genuine premiership contenders, and in that year's challenge final against East Fremantle, 'Bonny' Campbell made a telling contribution on a half back flank as the southerners registered their first ever flag with a convincing 19 point win. A year later, again on a half back flank, Campbell was similarly conspicuous as South backed up with another comfortable win over their arch rivals.

Despite his success on the half back line, 'Bonny' Campbell was convinced that he could serve the club better as a full forward. Once given a chance to prove himself, he never looked back: in 1921 he was at the goalfront for the state side as it defeated both the VFL and South Australia to claim the Australian championship; the following year he both captained his club, and topped the league goal kicking list with 42 goals. Quick on the lead, strong

overhead, and a deadly accurate shot for goal, whether from a set position or on the run, he was arguably the first truly great goalsneak in West Australian football.

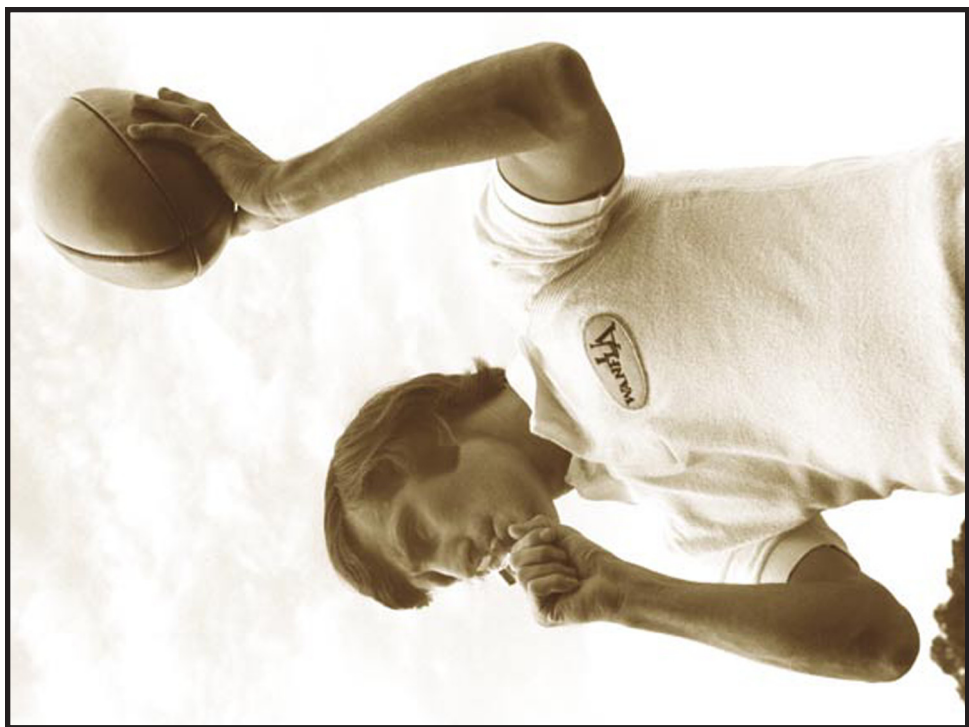
In 1923, Campbell requested a clearance to East Perth, and when this was refused opted to stand out of the game for a year in order to get his way, rather than continue with the southerners. He resumed in 1924 as good as ever, performing superbly at the Hobart carnival with 51 goals in 5 games,<sup>1</sup> and topping the league's list of goal kickers for a second time. He was at full forward in East Perth's grand final winning teams of 1926 and '27, and topped the WAFL goal kicking list in both of those years as well. All told, he managed 630 goals in his 188 league games, a total that appears all the more creditable when you consider that he played much of his early football as a defender.

In later years, full forwards like George Doig, Bernie Naylor and Austin Robertson junior repeatedly set new standards of goal kicking excellence in Western Australian football, but there is a sense in which Hugh 'Bonny' Campbell was the template on which all of them were based. His importance in the history of the game was recognised in June 2006 with his inclusion, at full forward, in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1906 to 1944'.

**CAPES, ROSS** was the highest profile and by popular consent the finest West Australian umpire of the 1970s. His career, which saw him umpire a total of 275 senior WANFL games, witnessed the seminal changeover from the single to dual umpire system. Capes umpired grand finals under both systems, and a total of eight in all, including seven in a row from 1973 to 1979. He also umpired numerous interstate matches.

*OPPOSITE PAGE: Two highly renowned umpires from different eras, Ivo Crapp (bottom/left) and Ross Capes.*





**CAPORN, KEN 'MOOSE'** began his Claremont career in 1943, when the WANFL was operating as an under-age competition only. He went on to play a total of 273 games for the club before hanging up his boots at the end of the 1958 season. He also played a dozen interstate matches for Western Australia.

Powerful, tenacious and extraordinarily fit, Caporn played as a ruckman for many years before developing into one of the finest post-war full backs in West Australian football, and arguably the best ever to take the field for the Monts, winning the club's fairest and best trophy in 1951 and 1954. By the later years of his career he had developed his physique to Herculean proportions, and was rewarded by his team mates with the nickname 'Moose':

Despite playing alongside such high quality footballers as Les McClements, Bill O'Neill and Gordon 'Sonny' Maffina for much of his career, Ken Caporn never experienced the satisfaction of playing in a premiership team, or indeed even went close to so doing.

**CARBON, HARRY:** Nicknamed 'Hobart Harry' following his sensational, match-winning performance for Western Australia against the VFL at the 1947 Hobart carnival, Harry Carbon was a dynamic, exquisitely two-sided, hyper-aggressive rover well versed in a multitude of techniques for unsettling opposition players. During South Fremantle's halcyon post-war era he combined with fellow rover Steve Marsh to provide unequalled strength around the packs, coupled with a formidable extra goal kicking option when resting in a forward pocket.

A member of three red and white premiership teams, Carbon was skipper in 1952 when South overcame West Perth by 21 points in the grand final after trailing by 5 goals at half time. He played 141 league games for South, plus 9 state games for Western Australia, for whom his performance in knee deep Hobart mud in just one of them

was sufficient to earn him a unique and enduring place in football folk lore. Legend has it that during that remarkable display against the Big V the opposition defenders were becoming increasingly frustrated at Carbon's brilliance, and began, with a minimum of subtlety and subterfuge, to 'line him up'. "Take your time fellas," was the diminutive Carbon's cheeky retort, "you'll all get a turn!"

It was largely on the basis of his reputation for arrogant toughness that Carbon was hired as coach by Claremont in 1954. It was hoped that he would manage to inject some steel into a team with a reputation for flaccidity, but in the event all Carbon managed in his sole season in charge was to maneuver the side one rung up the premiership ladder, from seventh to sixth. Toughness and courage can neither be bought or taught it seems; you either possess them, or you don't. South Fremantle's 'Hobart Harry' undoubtedly possessed both in abundance.

**Carnivals:** See Interstate Carnivals.

**CARTER, NOEL:** Tasmanian rover Noel Carter played top level football in three states, beginning with Ulverstone in the NWFU, whose best and fairest award he won in 1972. The following season saw Carter venture across the Bass Strait to the 'big time' of the VFL and one of the bona fide 'power' clubs of the era in Richmond. Over the course of the next five seasons, Carter played 49 games for the Tigers, including the 1973 grand final win over Carlton.

The final, and by far the most auspicious, phase of Carter's career was spent with South Fremantle where he earned a reputation as one of the most inspirational on-field leaders in the game. Tough, hard at the ball, and almost fanatically determined, he led from the front as the Bulldogs established themselves as one of the leading sides in the WANFL, and indeed Australia. Between 1979 and 1981

Carter captained South to three successive grand finals which produced a loss against East Fremantle, a comfortable win over Swan Districts, and, finally, an atrocious display of kicking for goal, which effectively handed the 1981 premiership to Claremont on a plate. Carter, who was high among his team's best players in each match, could certainly not be blamed for the losses, and his high reputation was further enhanced with club fairest and best awards in 1980 and 1984.

In nine seasons at South Fremantle, Noel Carter played a total of 155 league games, besides representing both Western Australia (twice) and Tasmania (a total of 7 times) in the interstate arena.

**CASSERLY, TONY** began his senior football career with East Fremantle where he played a total of 154 league games during the 1960s. Playing as a ruck-rover he was one of Old Easts' best in the 1965 grand final defeat of Swan Districts. He also represented Western Australia 10 times. Tough, creative and hard at the ball, Casserly was a highly respected figure both in his home state, and in South Australia, where he played (with Central District) for the final six seasons of his league career.

**CASTLEDINE, FRED:** A powerful and versatile footballer, and a thoroughly dedicated clubman, Fred Castledine was a pivotal figure at Swan Districts for over a decade. He made his league debut in 1958, and had played a total of 162 games and kicked 44 goals by the time of his retirement in 1969. During his career he would undoubtedly have experienced the full gamut of human emotion, as he began and ended it in teams that endured repeated flirtation with the wooden spoon, while between 1961 and 1965 he played in arguably the greatest sides in the club's history. When Swans beat East Perth in the 1961 grand final to record their first ever senior premiership Fred Castledine played a key, if largely unheralded role, for it was he who willingly sacrificed his own

game in order to curtail the impact of the Royals' champion ruckman Graham 'Polly' Farmer. With Farmer embroiled in a continual series of physical tussles with Castledine, eventual Simpson Medallist Keith Slater was left free to win the lion's share of the hit-outs.

Castledine went on to play in Swans' 1962 and 1963 flag triumphs, with his performance at centre half back in the 1963 grand final defeat of East Fremantle being particularly noteworthy. From 1965 until 1967 he captain-coached the side, steering it as far as a losing grand final in his first year, only to see its fortunes dip markedly in the ensuing seasons.

Fred Castledine's 4 interstate games for Western Australia emphasised his versatility as he was selected in a different position (follower, centre half forward, centre half back and nineteenth man) in each of them. However, he arguably played his best football either as a key position defender or a negating ruckman, and there would have been few surprises when he was selected as centre half back in Swan Districts' official 'Team of the Century'

**Central Kimberley Football League:** The CKFL was established in 1991, and is based in and around the port of Derby, 2,391 kilometres to the north of Perth, and Fitzroy Crossing, which lies some 250 kilometres to its east.

Current clubs are: Bayulu Bulldogs, Eight Mile Saints, Fitzroy Magpies, Goonian Power, Noonkanbah Blues, Walmajarri Bombers, Wangkatjungka.

In 2007, Noonkanbah Blues defeated Walmajarri Bombers in the grand final, 7.13 (55) to 8.5 (53).

**Central Midlands Coastal Football League:** The CMCFL was formed in 1992. Its clubs cover a fairly narrow coastal strip 170 to 300 kilometres to the north of Perth.

Current clubs, with number of senior premierships so far claimed in brackets, are: Cervantes (9), Dandaragan, (2) Jurien Bay

(1), Leeman (0), Moora Rovers (0), Moora Warriors (2).

The reigning premiers are Dandaragon who overcame Jurien Bay in the 2007 grand final, 13.11 (89) to 12.7 (79).

Previous senior premiers were: 1992 Moora Warriors 1993 Bindi Miling 1994 Dandaragon 1995 Cervantes 1996 Jurien Bay 1997 Bindi Miling 1998 Cervantes 1999 Cervantes 2000 Cervantes 2001 Cervantes 2002 Moora Warriors 2003 Cervantes 2004 Cervantes 2005 Cervantes 2006 Cervantes

**Central Wheatbelt Football League:** The CWFL was formed at the end of the 1967 football season, when the Dampier Football Association and the Koorda-Wyalkatchem Football Association merged. The central wheatbelt region is located 250-300 kilometres and more to the north east of Perth.

Current clubs, with premierships tallies in brackets, are: Beacon (13), Bencubbin (5), Kalannie (3), Koorda (1), Mukinbudin (8), Towns (4).

In the 2007 grand final, Mukinbudin 12.15 (87) defeated Koorda 8.12 (60).

Senior premiers: 1968 Wyalkatchem 1969 Mukinbudin 1970 Wyalkatchem 1971 Towns 1972 Wyalkatchem 1973 Towns 1974 Towns 1975 Wyalkatchem 1976 Mukinbudin 1977 Mukinbudin 1978 Mukinbudin 1979 Beacon 1980 Beacon 1981 Mukinbudin 1982 Nungarin 1983 Towns 1984 Koorda 1985 Bencubbin 1986 Beacon 1987 Bencubbin 1988 Bencubbin 1989 Beacon 1990 Southern Cross 1991 Beacon 1992 Beacon 1993 Beacon 1994 Beacon 1995 Beacon 1996 Beacon 1997 Beacon 1998 Mukinbudin 1999 Beacon 2000 Beacon 2001 Bencubbin 2002 Bencubbin 2003 Kalannie 2004 Kalannie 2005 Kalannie 2006 Mukinbudin

## CENTRALS

**Affiliated:** WAFA 1891

**Colours:** Black and red

**Premierships:** Nil

**C**entrals spent just one season as a senior club in the Western Australian Football Association, winning 2 and drawing 1 of 12 matches to finish fourth in a five team competition.

**Century Goalkickers:** The first footballer to kick 100 goals in a season in senior league competition was East Fremantle's George Doig in 1933. Doig tallied 106 goals, 102 in the qualifying rounds, and 4 in the finals.

The all time record for the number of goals kicked in a season is 167, established in 1953 by Bernie Naylor of South Fremantle. Subiaco's Austin Robertson junior holds the record for the most goals kicked during the qualifying rounds; he booted 157 in 1968.

The most recent WAFL player to 'top the ton' was Brad Smith of Subiaco who kicked 126 goals in 2007.

*See also Naylor Medal.*

**CHADWICK, DEREK:** Ask virtually any footballer what his single greatest ambition in the game is and he will likely reply, "To play in a premiership team". Doubtless that ambition held true of former East Perth great Derek Chadwick who, in the fourteen seasons between 1959 and 1972, played a record 269 games for a club that failed to contest the finals on only three occasions during that time. In the other eleven seasons, the Royals reached the grand final no fewer than nine times, but were successful only twice, in 1959, when eighteen year old Chadwick missed selection, and in 1972, a couple of months after his retirement. All of which makes the supremely talented Chadwick arguably one of the most unfortunate players in the history of the game, and given the fact that he was also intensely competitive - he was notorious for approaching even an ostensibly casual kick to kick session as if it was the last quarter of a grand final - this must have hurt like mad.

Playing mainly on the wing, Derek Chadwick was in many ways a prototype



of the sort of wingman who was to come - tough, tenacious, physically strong and ultra aggressive, much less a Clem Bahen or a 'Pops' Heal than a Schimmelbusch, an Ayres, or even a pint-sized Dipierdomenico. In interstate matches against the VFL and South Australia he was consistently good, and often brilliant, and when the finals came around it was certainly not Chadwick's fault when, as invariably happened in the end, the Royals got beaten.

While his style of play was probably not designed to attract Sandover votes - although he did run third behind Barry Cable and Mel Whinnen in 1964 - his importance to his club was twice recognised with fairest and best awards, while he earned a Simpson Medal in 1964 after two blistering displays for Western Australia in Melbourne and Adelaide. In June 2006 he was chosen in his favoured wing position in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005'.

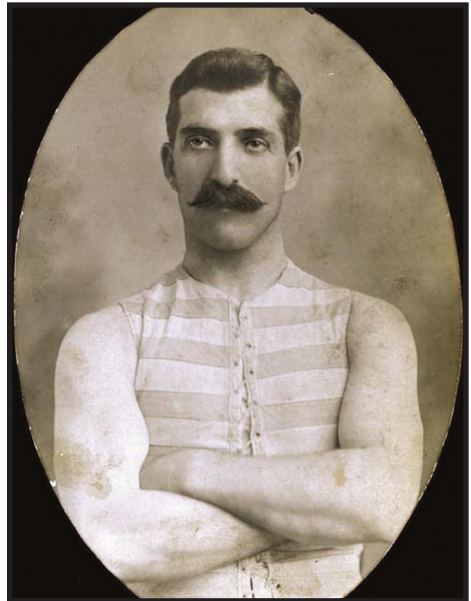
Aside from his football ability, Derek Chadwick was also an extremely accomplished cricketer, making numerous Sheffield Shield appearances for Western Australia, but never quite managing to break into the Australian Test team.

**CHERRY, REGINALD:** The most noteworthy and successful of four brothers to play for Perth during the first decade of the twentieth century, Reg Cherry was an outstanding all round footballer who played a key role in the club's gradual emergence as a power. He made his senior debut in 1900, and was at full back when the red and blacks controversially overcame East Fremantle in the 1907 challenge final. An extremely adaptable footballer, Cherry could play in most positions on the field, and was often used to fill in where the club most needed him. In the 1908 finals series, for example, he played in the centre in the 4 point semi final win over West Perth, and was on a half forward flank in the grand final meeting with East Fremantle, which Old Easts won comfortably. When Reg Cherry retired in 1911 he had played a club record 160 senior games, a tally

that was to be overhauled by Alex Clarke the following year.

**Chesson Medal:** Annual fairest and best player award in the short-lived WANFL fourths competition. Recipients were:

- 1965 Neil Bailey (East Perth)
- 1966 Jim Hatton (Perth)
- 1967 Jim Bowdler (Subiaco)
- 1968 Terry Woodhams (Swan Districts)
- 1969 Milan Trifunovic (Swan Districts)
- 1970 Neil Pendriegh (Swan Districts)
- 1971 Kim Hough (Claremont)
- 1972 Greg Brown (East Fremantle)
- 1973 Douglas Winning (East Fremantle)
- 1974 Brett Olsen (West Perth)



*Dave 'Dolly' Christy (Melbourne, Fremantle, Imperials, East Fremantle)*

**CHRISTY, DAVID 'DOLLY':** Originally from Ballarat, Dave 'Dolly' Christy began his senior football career with the club of that name before joining Melbourne, where he was a key player for over a decade. In 1896, he headed west, playing briefly with Fremantle and Imperials, before joining the newly formed East Fremantle Football Club in 1898, and it was there in 196 games over the ensuing sixteen seasons that he carved out a

reputation for himself as one of the bona fide early champions of the game. All told, the remarkably athletic and fit Christy, "that marvellous specimen of perennial youth" according to a contemporary observer, played senior football for twenty-seven years. Equally at home on a half forward flank or as a follower, he was prominent among East Fremantle's best players time and time again throughout the early 1900s.

In the view of Dolph Heinrichs, who played alongside Christy on many occasions:

*He (Christy) was a very great player; comparable with any of the football giants who have worn the Blue and White. In physique he was slightly below the average height, but weighed about 13 stone. He was tremendously strong in the back muscles and in the arm and shoulders, and it was almost impossible to unbalance him ..... is great value was his ability to force his way out of a pack with the ball by sheer strength and tenacity; and particularly if the position was in front of goal, where he was a fine snapshot. He lived for football. On the field he was dour and seldom spoke and there was no joy in the game if the match wasn't won.*

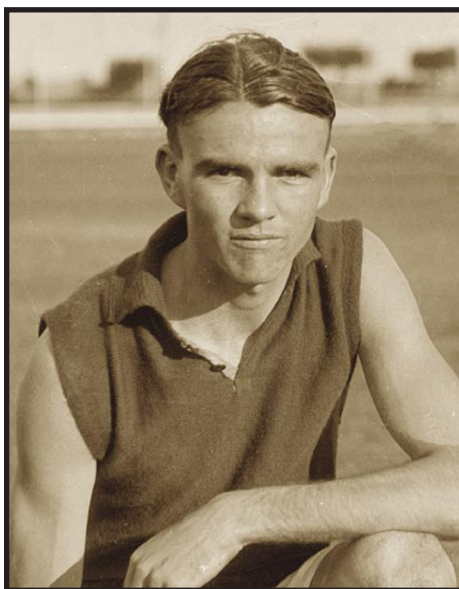
**CICCOTOSTO, BRIAN:** A fast, elusive rover who marked and kicked well, Brian Ciccotosto was a firm favourite at South Fremantle during the late 1960s and early '70s. He played 211 club and 5 state games, earning All Australian selection after the 1972 Perth carnival. Ciccotosto was South Fremantle's top goal kicker, with 35 goals, in 1972, and served as club skipper from 1975 to 1977. Arguably his most memorable moment in football came in 1970 when he was the Simpson Medallist following an all action, 4 goal performance for South in their grand final defeat of Perth.

**CINORIS, LEN** was a tireless battler in the ruck, initially at Subiaco, where he played 12 WAFL games in 1917, and after that for East Fremantle, where he added a further 165 games over the ensuing eleven seasons. He played in a premiership team in his first season at Old Easts as they overcame East Perth 11.8 (74) to 8.5 (53) in the challenge final after the teams had

been deadlocked on 8.5 apiece at three quarter time. Playing as a ruckman resting in the forward pocket, Cinoris booted 4 of his team's goals in a performance replete with courage, energy and determination - qualities he would go on to display with admirable consistency for many subsequent seasons.

The early 1920s in West Australian football were dominated by East Perth, but Old Easts, with Cinoris very much to the fore, were far and away the Royals' closest challengers. However, they did not break through for another premiership themselves until 1925, when Subiaco was vanquished in the challenge final to the tune of 27 points. Len Cinoris led the East Fremantle rucks that day to great effect, as indeed he had done for most of the 1920s.

Superb overhead, both in marking contests and while rucking, Cinoris was also a superb kick, and was renowned for his great stamina and fortitude. The fact that he only represented Western Australia once in interstate contests is surprising, but his value to his beloved Old Easts, whom he continued to serve with great energy and devotion in a number of off-field roles after his retirement as a player, was unquestioned, and within the confines of the club almost legendary.



Sydney 'Sammy' Clarke (Claremont)

# CLAREMONT (Claremont-Cottesloe)

**Affiliated:** Second Rate Junior Football Association/WAFA 1906-20; second Rate Junior Football Association/WAFA 1906-20; WANFL/WAFL/WASFL/Westar Rules 1921-present ('B' grade only 1921-5)

**Club Address:** P.O. Box 59, Claremont 6910, Western Australia

**Website:** www.claremontfc.com

**Home Ground:** Claremont Oval

**Formed:** 1906

**Colours:** Navy blue and gold

**Emblem:** Tigers

**Premierships:** WAFA - 1907-8-9-10 (4 total); WAFL - SENIORS 1938-9-40, 1964, 1981, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1996 (10 total) RESERVES (from 1925) 1937, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1987, 1990, 2000 (7 total) COLTS (from 1957) 1976-7-8-9, 1986, 1988, 1993-4-5-6-7 (11 total) OTHER PREMIERSHIPS - second Rate Junior Football Association - 1906 (1 total); R.P. Rodriguez Shield: 1972, 1979, 1981-2, 1987-8-9-90-1, 1993-4 (11 total)

**Sandover Medallists:** Keith Hough 1932; 'Sammy' Clarke 1933 & 1934; George Moloney 1936; Gordon Maffina 1949; John Parkinson 1967; Steve Malaxos 1984#; Michael Mitchell 1984#; Jaxon Crabb 2005; Anthony Jones 2007 (9 Medallists/10 Medals)

**Tassie Medallists:** Les McClements 1947 (1 total)

**All Australians:** John McIntosh 1966 & 1969; Ken Hunter 1979 & 1980; Steve Malaxos 1986; Michael Mitchell 1985 & 1986 (7 total)

**League Top Goalkickers:** George Moloney (129) 1940; Robin Farmer (97) 1943; Norm Uncle (91) 1976; Warren Ralph (127) 1981, (115) 1982 & (128) 1983; John Hutton (100) 1991; Paul Medhurst (78) 2001 (8 total)

**Highest Score:** 39.20 (254) vs. Perth at Claremont Oval in round 17 1981

**Most Games:** 274 by Darrell Panizza from 1979 to 1995

**Record Home Attendance:** 18,268 vs. South Fremantle in round 7 1983

**Record Finals Attendance:** 50,883 for 1982 grand final at Subiaco Oval: Swan Districts 18.19 (127); Claremont 11.12 (78)

**Overall Success Rate 1926-2007:** 48.0%

*# indicates tied for the Medal*

*\* indicates achieved during the wartime under-age competition which ran from 1942 to 1944*

For much of its history, if Dave Warner is to be believed, "Claremont's supporters would arrive at the outer of other clubs, erect their deckchairs and then complain when other fans stood in front. Prior to the 1980s Claremont were cream-puff, card-carrying nancy boys, but that has all changed and nowadays Claremont are rarely seen down the puce end of town."<sup>2</sup>

This quasi-mythological view of Claremont as ineffectual weaklings might arguably be said, in part, to have a geographical basis: the suburb of Claremont is one of the most tranquil and outwardly genteel in Perth. Moreover, Claremont was, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, one of very few genuine soccer strongholds in the colony/state of Western Australia, so that many of the young men of the district were, from an early age, presumably encouraged to believe that sporting success could be achieved by deliberately kicking one's opponents or, if that failed, or indeed if one was the apparent victim of such behaviour, by convincingly feigning

injury. Whatever the reason for the 'cream-puff' theory, the fact that it was essentially mythological in nature needs to be stressed. Premiership pennants in elite Australian football competitions such as the Western Australian Football League quite simply do not end up in the possession of ineffectual weaklings, and Claremont produced a number of flag-winning combinations well before the 1980s.

The earliest recorded mention of a Claremont Football Club came in 1897, but no detail of the club's activity survives. As for the origins of today's club, one needs to go back to 1906 when a group of men living in the Cottesloe-Claremont district formulated a desire to play competitive football during the winter months. The result of this aspiration was the establishment of the Cottesloe Beach Football Club, which was almost immediately admitted to the Perth metropolitan area's third tier of organised football, the Second Rate Junior Football Association (the term 'junior' meaning 'of lower standing than senior', rather than implying anything about the participants' ages).

After taking several weeks to find its feet the new team improved steadily, eventually finishing in fourth place at the conclusion of the minor round, with 7 wins and 7 losses, before - presumably to the surprise of almost everyone - improving still further to go on to secure the flag. Promotion to the Western Australian Football Association followed and over the course of the next four seasons Cottesloe Beach established itself as probably the best team in Western Australia outside of league ranks.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, a case could be made out for it being a bona fide league standard club, for not only did it win four consecutive WAFA premierships from 1907-1910, in 1908 it comprehensively overcame WAFL wooden spooner Subiaco in a pre-season challenge match. Despite this, admission to the top flight was not forthcoming, and in the years leading up

to the outbreak of the first world war on field fortunes declined.

Along with the majority of other sporting clubs in Western Australia Cottesloe Beach Football Club went into voluntary recess for most of the war years. After the war, the continued popularity of soccer in the district was a key factor in limiting the club's development, not to mention its on field success. Despite this, there remained a solid groundswell of passion for the sport of Australian football in Claremont, not all of it directly associated with the Cottesloe Beach Football Club. Indeed, the primary impetus which eventually led to the admission to the WAFL of a side based in the Claremont-Cottesloe region, and comprised almost entirely of Cottesloe Beach footballers, came from outside the club. As the 1919 football season drew to a close a group of local football supporters not connected with the Cottesloe Beach organisation sought, and received, permission from the WAFL to attend a meeting to consider whether or not the admission of a seventh league club, based in the Claremont-Cottesloe district, was both desirable and feasible. The main 'carrot' which the group dangled before the league was that it claimed to have procured the use of the Claremont Showgrounds as a home ground for its team. The Claremont Showgrounds was, by the standards of the time, a high quality venue which would have enhanced the WAFL's status as Western Australia's primary sporting organisation. The only thing the consortium needed in order to obtain WAFL approval was a team.

Given the situation, a merger between the Claremont-Cottesloe consortium (the club without a team) and Cottesloe Beach Football Club (the team devoid of political influence) seemed the logical way forward, and so it proved. In 1921 this newly merged entity, known as the Claremont-Cottesloe Football Club, and boasting the same blue and gold colours as the local swimming club, was admitted to the WAFL 'B' grade where it was intended that it should serve a brief

probation in order to build up its strength as well as have its viability assessed. However, the club found it hard to develop its strength for the simple and obvious reason that few players of real talent were content to play seconds football for Claremont-Cottesloe when they could be embarking on league careers elsewhere. Consequently, the club's probationary period kept being extended. It was not until 1925, after the WAFL had been re-organised along district lines, that Claremont-Cottesloe was finally given permission to participate in 'A' grade from the following year, presumably in order to ensure that its sizeable catchment area had a discernible and active league presence.

Coached by former South Fremantle and Richmond player Norm McIntosh (the only player with previous senior league experience in the side) Claremont-Cottesloe Football Club made its senior bows against East Perth in 1926. Not surprisingly, given that the Royals were one of the strongest teams in Australia at the time, a substantial defeat was sustained, and this set the pattern for most of the fledgling club's debut season. Claremont-Cottesloe's only win in that debut season came against South Fremantle at Fremantle when the margin was the narrowest possible.

Between 1926 and 1935 the 'babies', as they were often patronisingly described, won just 40 and drew 2 of 183 games for an overall success rate of 22.4%. The nearest they came to qualifying for the finals was in 1929 when, with 8 wins and 10 defeats, they finished just 4 points plus percentage behind fourth placed Subiaco. Even when Swan Districts was admitted to the competition in 1934 Claremont-Cottesloe continued to underachieve, ending up with the wooden spoon for the seventh time in nine seasons. The club was close to being a laughing stock.

That said, there had been a number of high points, mainly relating to individual performances. Between 1932 and 1934 the club had provided a notable hat trick of Sandover Medallists in the shape of Keith



*George 'Specka' Moloney*

Hough (1932) and Sidney (usually referred to as 'Sammy') Clarke (1933-4). Hough was a half back whose rebounding style was arguably ahead of its time, while Clarke was a slightly built former champion junior footballer who possessed abundant skill and excelled as an aerialist. Perhaps even more noteworthy than both, however, was George Michael Moloney, who during a 278 game league career with Claremont(-Cottesloe) and Geelong proved to be equally adept as a goalsneak and a centreman, positions requiring significantly different abilities and approaches. Sandover Medallist in 1936 Moloney topped the league goalkicking in two states and was best and fairest at Geelong in 1932 and Claremont in 1936 and 1938. Despite his comparatively small stature (174cm and 72.5kg) Moloney was an



excellent high mark and this, combined with his pace, elusiveness and uncanny ability to kick goals from all kinds of seemingly impossible angles and positions made him a genuine champion in one of the game's true golden eras.

During Moloney's first stint at Claremont (1926-30) the club was perennially unsuccessful but by the time of his return in 1936 things were at last beginning to improve. In 1935 the club officially dropped the 'Cottesloe' from its name, becoming simply 'Claremont', and although it would be difficult to argue persuasively that this particular change, in and of itself, produced an improvement in on field fortunes, what cannot be debated is that it did in fact coincide with such an improvement. As for the reasons, George Moloney's return home in 1936 was undoubtedly a significant factor, his five seasons with Geelong in Australian football's 'big league' having quite obviously taught him much, a fact he immediately emphasised by winning the Sandover Medal.

Claremont enjoyed its best WANFL season to date in 1936, winning 12 and losing 8 of its home and away matches to qualify for the finals in second place. A 5 point second semi final defeat of minor premier East Fremantle then earned the Monts premiership favouritism, a state of affairs which intensified still further when it was learned that their grand final opponents would not be Old Easts, but the previously unheralded East Perth, which had finished the minor round in fourth place, but had surprisingly overturned the blue and whites in the preliminary final by a solitary point.

The 1936 WANFL grand final attracted 20,874 spectators to Subiaco Oval, the majority of whom would doubtless have been extremely disappointed to witness the Royals eking out a scratchy 11.5 (71) to 9.6 (60) victory. However, if Claremont had not exactly 'arrived' as a premiership winning combination they had at least, and at last, earned the respect of the rest of the Western Australian football community.

Claremont again finished runners-up a year later after raising hopes, first by finishing the home and away rounds with a 13-5-1 record to qualify for the finals as minor premiers, and then by overcoming East Fremantle in the second semi final by 14 points. However, when the stakes were raised a fortnight later against the same opponent the Monts were found lacking, eventually going under by 10 points.

The Claremont hierarchy reacted to this disappointment with surprising ruthlessness and incisive, proactive determination, dismissing coach Dick Lawn and, when applications of sufficiently high quality were not forthcoming, actively - and ultimately successfully - pursuing the individual they regarded as the most appropriate replacement, John Leonard. Clearly it was believed that the team had come as far as it could under Lawn and that a fresh approach was needed if the players were to take that all important, often elusive 'final step'.

Johnny Leonard, a former Sandover Medallist (and later to be awarded another retrospectively), had already coached successfully in country Victoria and at West Perth. If it can ever truly be said that the arrival at an organisation of a single person represents the 'final piece of the jig-saw', then this, arguably, was it. Almost from the outset, Leonard seemed to imbue his players with an elevated steeliness, fortitude and mental rigour. After comfortably qualifying for the finals in second place Claremont scored its by now traditional second semi final victory over East Fremantle, winning this time - somewhat ominously - with comparative ease, 17.19 (121) to 13.18 (96). It looked to be well on the way to repeating the dose a fortnight later when it led the same opposition by 19 points late on only to succumb to a sudden, intense bout of stage fright and, after squandering a number of opportunities to put the result beyond doubt, allow the legendary Old East resolve to kick in and go within an ace of stealing the game. As it was, the final siren sounded with - for only the second time



in WA(N)FL history - the scores deadlocked, albeit that the Monts had, overall, seemed to enjoy rather more of the play, managing 5 more scoring shots than their opponents.

It was at this point that the Claremont sides of previous seasons might conceivably have wilted. However, under Leonard the team's undoubted talent was reinforced with formidable mental toughness, a quality which, perhaps more than any other, is needed in abundance in order to transform potential into achievement. In the grand final replay East Fremantle provided stern and spirited opposition, but it was always Claremont which appeared to be in control.



*The great Johnny Leonard*

In the end the Monts won well by 22 points, 14.17 (111) to 11.13 (79), with George Moloney, Jack Reeves, Jim Reid and Harold Lovegrove especially prominent. It was a

classic case of 'third time lucky'. As far as Claremont's long suffering supporters were concerned, the ice had been broken, credibility had finally been achieved, and - dare one hope? - prolonged success was just around the corner.

The 1939 season brought another minor premiership for Claremont, but any kudos deriving from this achievement was sullied by the onset of a second global conflagration. Nevertheless, top level sport continued in Australia, at least for the time being, and large crowds attended major round senior football matches throughout the country.<sup>4</sup> For Claremont the 1939 major round began in quite a novel way - with a 37 point second semi final loss to East Fremantle, the club's first ever finals defeat other than in a grand final. More worrying than the defeat, however, was its manner: Claremont had been out-hustled, outmaneuvered, and outplayed, a state of affairs which - potentially, at any rate - created a formidable mental barrier to be overcome by the players on the next occasion that the two sides met.

First, though, there was a preliminary final to be won, and the fact that this was not a foregone conclusion was quickly emphasised as a resolute, determined East Perth side made all the early running. In the end, Claremont managed to edge home by a single straight kick, albeit that its players had seemingly done their utmost to kick themselves out of contention. The final scores of a tempestuous, sometimes spiteful encounter were Claremont 10.17 (77) to East Perth 11.5 (71); Australia may have been at war with Germany, but apparently this did not prevent her citizens from engaging in sometimes acrimonious physical combat with each other.

The fiery nature of the preliminary final arguably provided the Claremont players with the kind of wake up call they needed. In the grand final re-match with East Fremantle - another torrid affair - the blue and golds always appeared to have their opponents' measure, finally pulling away after a closely

fought first half to win by 19 points, 14.11 (95) to 11.10 (76). Half backs 'Sammy' Clarke and Bill O'Neill vied as best for the Monts. Despite, or perhaps partly because of, the war the match was watched by 19,193 spectators, the biggest grand final crowd since 1936.

Claremont was now indisputably the team to beat but, in 1940, took the situation in its stride, once again heading the list going into the finals (this time with a 15-5 record). South Fremantle, however, which had proved to be the surprise packet of the home and away season, enhanced its growing reputation with a hard fought 15 point win over the Monts in a high scoring second semi final, effectively winning the game in the second term with a devastating burst of 9 goals to 1. From the Claremont perspective, such a dramatic lapse in concentration was highly uncharacteristic, and therefore somewhat worrying; however, at least it had the virtue of rendering the defeat explicable, and hence of giving the club's 'brains trust' a readily accessible fulcrum for improvement.

The preliminary final brought a comfortable 6 goal win over East Fremantle, after Claremont had trailed by a similar margin at the long break. For the grand final, war time restrictions notwithstanding, a sizeable crowd of 19,876 turned up hoping to witness another closely fought tussle. They were not disappointed. In a tense, often vigorous encounter which saw Claremont enforcer Johnny Compton - just back from a five week suspension - reported early on for striking,<sup>5</sup> the blue and golds were never headed and, although South Fremantle remained within striking distance for most of the game, there was an element of seeming inevitability about Claremont's eventual 17 point win.

After serving an extended apprenticeship in the big time Claremont's future now looked distinctly rosy. Its recent premierships teams had arguably been as good as any so far to grace the WANFL, and given normal conditions there is no reason to suppose that

the club's dominance would not have been maintained. Sadly, the exigencies of war were making greater and greater inroads into clubs' playing resources; between 1942 and 1944 the WANFL would operate on a limited, under age only basis, and Claremont's fourth place finish in 1941 would prove to be one of only two occasions during a twenty-one year period that the side would even so much as contest the finals, let alone challenge for the flag.

Most of the highlights of the next two decades, as far as the Claremont Football Club was concerned, related to the exploits and achievements of individual players. Notable among such achievements were Les McClements' Tassie Medal at the 1947 Hobart Carnival, and George Maffina's Sandover - the club's fifth - in 1949. Moreover, players of the calibre of Les Mumme, Ken Caporn, Bill O'Neill, John O'Connell, Lorne Cook, John McIntosh, Denis Marshall and Kevin Clune were all regular, and often noteworthy, interstate representatives, and the equal of almost any players anywhere.

The eleven year period between 1953 and 1963 was particularly inauspicious for Claremont as the side never finished higher than sixth, never won more games in a season than it lost, and finished irrevocably last on three occasions. As far as most, if not all, of the WANFL's other seven clubs were concerned Claremont was, not to put too fine a point on it, something of a soft touch, and it was no doubt during this period in the club's history that the 'ineffectual, gentrified, chardonnay sipping image' so beloved of opposition supporters originally came to the fore.

The improvement in fortunes, when it came, was hardly seismic at first, but ultimately the club's achievements in 1964 probably exceeded even the wildest expectations of the most optimistic of its supporters. After claiming the wooden spoon in 1962 and 1963 Claremont undertook the apparently desperate measure of appointing a complete outsider as coach in the shape

of former East Fremantle rover Jim Conway. The move was far from universally popular, but Conway soon had his charges playing competitive, if hardly spectacular or even consistent, football. By the end of the minor round the Tigers had scraped into the finals in fourth place<sup>6</sup> but it would have taken a very brave person indeed to wage money on their going on to lift the flag, or even progressing any further. In this context Claremont's hard fought 10.13 (73) to 8.13 (61) first semi final defeat of Subiaco was probably perceived as little more than an unexpected, if gratifying, bonus by most of the club's supporters. However, when the club followed this up a fortnight later with a 9 point win over Perth in the preliminary final expectations among the Tiger faithful soared.

The 1964 grand final presented the Australian public, which traditionally identifies with and affirms the underdog, with a classic 'David and Goliath' scenario. Claremont, which had not participated in a senior grand final since 1940, was given little serious chance of upsetting minor premier and perennial finalist East Fremantle, which was aiming to secure the twenty-second senior flag in its history. Old East had contemptuously brushed aside Perth's challenge in the second semi final to the tune of 43 points, having earlier vanquished Claremont by a similar margin on the teams' last meeting in the minor round. A near record crowd of 45,120 turned up at Subiaco Oval on grand final day and many would have derived enormous satisfaction from witnessing the underdogs, whose skipper Kevin Clune had won the toss and elected to kick with the aid of an appreciable breeze, dominate early proceedings. Indeed, had the Tigers players managed to kick straighter the match might have been virtually over by quarter time. As it was, Claremont led by 25 points, 4.9 to 1.2, but by half time East Fremantle had edged into a 2 point lead and things were beginning to look ominous. The third term - so often the decisive phase

of a match - did not on this occasion prove conclusive, and at three quarter time there were only 5 points in it as Claremont led 10.13 (73) to 10.8 (68).

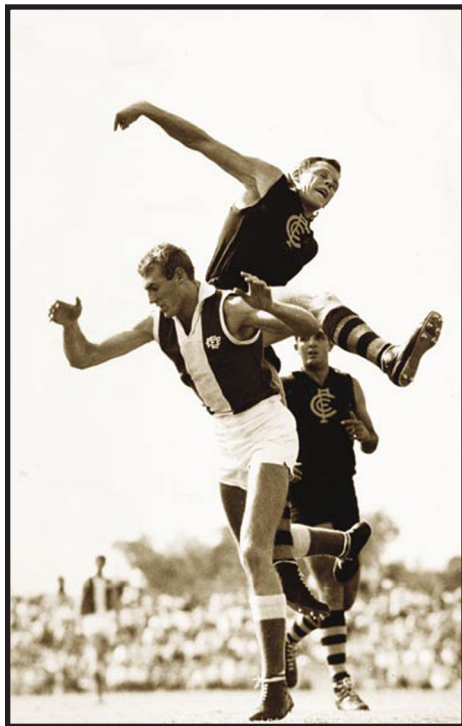
The final quarter saw the two sides matching one another stride for stride and score for score. Twenty-three years on George Grljusich recalled the closing moments of a game with one of the most dramatic climaxes in history:

*"I'll never forget that game. I was covering the game for ABC television and (former Claremont and Geelong champion) George Moloney was my expert comments man. It was well into the time-on period and Claremont were down by 8 points. They needed 2 goals to win and at that point Moloney conceded defeat. But (East Fremantle's) Norm Rogers who had been a tower of strength at centre half back suddenly cramped up and Claremont centre half forward Ian Brewer broke loose to kick 2 angled goals which gave Claremont victory. Claremont had fought back gallantly ..... When Moloney had conceded defeat I, too, was sure that it was going to be East Fremantle's victory."*<sup>7</sup>

Claremont won 14.18 (102) to 15.8 (98) with the only marginally sour point being that it was East Fremantle's Norm Rogers who claimed the Simpson Medal for best afield. Claremont was best served by 5 goal full forward Wayne Harvey, centreman Dale Edwards, wingman Brian Fairclough, and the redoubtable and versatile John McIntosh. The Claremont Football Club, which around this time became known as 'the Tigers', seemed on the verge of a second era of pre-eminence.

Claremont was again a genuine contender for the flag in 1965, finishing the home and away rounds in second spot on the ladder before, depressingly, bowing out in straight sets to Swan Districts and East Fremantle in the finals. Thereafter, however, it was 'business as normal' for the remainder of the decade as the Tigers failed to contest the finals in 1966 (fifth), 1967 (fifth), 1968 (sixth), 1969 (seventh) and 1970 (fifth) before briefly

returning to the September action in 1971 for a 47 point first semi final defeat at the hands of East Fremantle.



*John McIntosh wins a hit-out against East Fremantle.*

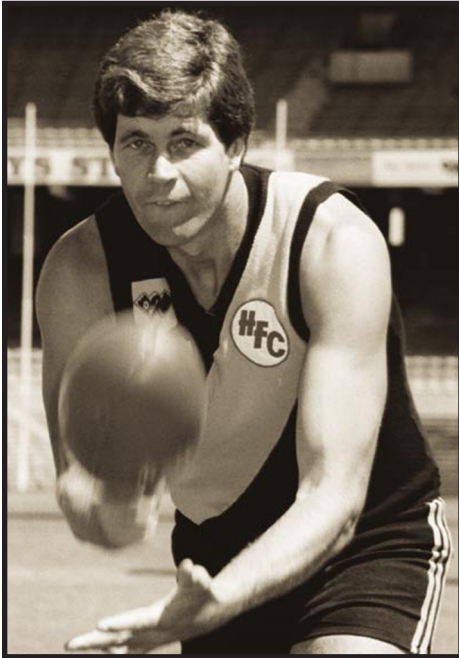
October 9-11 1971 saw the staging in Perth of a mini carnival, the Channel 7 Rothmans Cup, to commemorate the career of one of Australian football's all time greats, Graham 'Polly' Farmer. Claremont was one of eight clubs to participate in the carnival where it was successful in defeating North Adelaide and Port Adelaide to qualify for the grand final where it lost to Hawthorn. Matches were played over two thirty minute halves.

Former St Kilda player Verdun Howell was appointed senior coach in 1972 and it was widely felt that, with the wealth of talent available to him, he should prove eminently capable of overseeing a genuine premiership assault. Among the large number of highly talented players at Howell's disposal were:

Graham Moss, arguably Australia's finest ruckman of the '70s; Bruce Duperouzel, a highly talented rover; Russell Reynolds, a muscular utility player; and former Victorians Colin Tully (92 games with Collingwood - perhaps best remembered for his prodigious kicking which, on one occasion, saw him claim the national champion kick title), Daryl Griffiths (123 games with St Kilda), Robert Greenwood (Essendon - 62 games), Peter Hines (12 games with Footscray), and John Evans (St Kilda - 14 games). This combination of local skill and Victorian grit inspired a superlative home and away season which brought 18 wins from 21 games and firm premiership favouritism going into the finals. During the run up to September Howell allegedly intensified the players' training routine in a bid to augment fitness; however, in the view of some the actual effect of the change was the exact opposite of what was desired in that the team succumbed to fatigue whilst hard earned skills were diluted. Whatever the actual cause, the Tigers' displays in the major round, when faced by the power, vigour and conviction of Mal Brown's East Perth, were, by the standards set earlier in the year, anaemic and disordered. They succumbed to the Royals in both the second semi final (by 17 points) and grand final (by - given that they managed only 16 scoring shots to the opposition's 26 - a somewhat flattering 15 points) causing many supporters to question Howell's coaching methods. Such criticism seems a mite unfair when you consider that Howell had inherited a talented but notoriously inconsistent team and transformed it into a genuine, if ultimately unsuccessful, flag contender.

Claremont's days of challenging seriously for flags were over, however, at least for the time being. The loss in 1974 of Graham Moss (to Essendon) and Stephen Reynolds (to St Kilda) was scarcely compensated for by the recruitment of a willowy, bespectacled full forward in the shape of ex-Essendon star Geoff Blethyn. Although, viewed from

a personal standpoint, Blethyn enjoyed a relatively successful season, kicking 71 goals from comparatively limited opportunities, what Claremont needed more were players capable of bringing the ball efficiently and regularly into the forward lines. With a dearth of such players the Tigers plummeted down the list to finish bottom with just 4 wins, the club's first wooden spoon in over a decade.



*Graham Moss*

The return of 1976 Brownlow Medallist Graham Moss to coach the club was hailed as a major coup by everyone associated with Claremont. Aged just twenty-five, Moss was still very much at the apex of his abilities as a player, while lessons learned during four seasons and 88 games in Australian football's 'big league' could reasonably be expected to provide formidable fuel for his coaching endeavours. Moss coached Claremont for ten seasons, during which time the club fielded some of the most star-studded line ups in Western Australian football history. Among the bona fide 'greats' to don the navy and gold, besides

Moss, were the mercurial Ken Hunter, the explosively talented Krakouer brothers, Phil and Jim, Warren Ralph, an exceptionally gifted goalsneak, and an array of talented midfielders including Steve Malaxos, Allen Daniels, John Annear and Wayne Blackwell.

Despite having such a galaxy of talent at his disposal only once, in 1981, was Moss successful in steering Claremont to a premiership. That year the Tigers went on a scoring spree, accumulating an Australian record 3,352 points during the minor round, and in the process producing some of the most spectacular football ever seen in Western Australia. No fewer than five Claremont players managed 50 or more goals for the season, and for once the dazzling skills and formidable scoring did not abate once September arrived. The Tigers needed to play just two finals to secure the flag, downing Swan Districts by 27 points in the second semi, and edging out South Fremantle by 15 points in a free-flowing roller coaster of a grand final which saw the southerners effectively kick themselves out of contention with a 6.12 second term. Claremont's Gary Shaw, a Queenslander, won the Simpson Medal for best afield, with Graham Moss, Phil Krakouer and Steve Malaxos also prominent.

For much of the last half century the WAFL has consistently been the most evenly contested of Australia's three major football competitions.<sup>8</sup> One of the few sides to seriously buck that trend was Claremont during the late '80s and early '90s, a period which coincided with a massive overhaul of Western Australian football in the wake of West Coast's formation and admission to the VFL. The prime architect of Claremont's success at this time was Gerard Neesham, who was appointed coach in succession to Graham Moss in 1987. At first the appointment of Neesham was, to put it mildly, somewhat controversial; a former East Fremantle, Swan Districts and Sydney player his approach to the game was not exactly what could be described as genteel, and



among Claremont supporters in particular he was almost universally regarded with distaste, if not indeed disdain.

Opposition to Neesham's appointment soon evaporated, however, as the Tigers followed up a victory in the WAFL's pre-season competition with a display of awe-inspiring consistency during the home and away season during which they compiled a hitherto unequalled 19-1-1 record. Neesham was hardly the sort to allow things to slip in the finals either, and Claremont were seldom troubled in securing the flag in straight sets after comfortable wins over Subiaco in both the second semi final and the grand final.

Winning a state league premiership has, since the 1980s, been something of a two-edged sword, as along with the premiership cup and all the attendant glory of winning a flag goes an inevitable and almost immediate exodus of key players to the V/AFL. Thus it was that the Tigers in 1988 embarked on their premiership defence without a nucleus of half a dozen of their most noteworthy performers from the previous year, but despite this they remained very much the team to beat, finishing the minor round atop the ladder once again, and overwhelming Subiaco in the second semi final by 25 points. Such a performance emphasised the depth of talent at Claremont Oval and bore testimony to the effectiveness of Neesham's coaching methods, and the innovative 'chip and draw' style of football on which it was based (and which Neesham himself, allegedly, had pioneered).<sup>9</sup> Unfortunately, the Achilles heel of this particular style of football was its occasional tendency to come undone under pressure, a tendency which, unfortunately for Claremont, was all too graphically illustrated in the 1988 grand final which Subiaco won with ease.

Maintaining a full head of steam in the new, VFL-dominated football environment of the 1980s and '90s was a virtual impossibility for state league clubs like Claremont. Nevertheless, the Tigers' record

since the admission of West Coast to the 'big league' is unsurpassed.<sup>10</sup> In 1989, they again annexed a premiership after annihilating South Fremantle by 67 points in an anti-climactic grand final. Poor kicking for goal undermined the 1990 flag bid as Swan Districts with 4 fewer scoring shots won by a flattering 26 points. The Tigers were back were they felt they belonged in 1991, however, overturning Subiaco by 77 points in an exemplary display of modern, relentless, hard running football. As Gary Stocks observed:

*"Like bees around a honey pot, the Claremont midfield players swarmed on Subiaco Oval yesterday and then firmly planted the sting into the tails of grand final opponents Subiaco.*

*"Every time the football hit the sandy surface at League headquarters a squadron of Claremont players zeroed in, shared it around and worked it purposefully in attack.*

*"It was like a feeding frenzy, with all the Claremont players anxious to make a contribution - and Subiaco crumbled in the face of the onslaught." <sup>11</sup>*

An uncharacteristic slump to seventh place in 1992 was only a temporary hiccup as Claremont surged back to pre-eminence the following year with a solid 13.14 (92) to 8.14 (62) grand final defeat of East Perth. The player drain did not abate, but neither did Claremont's dominance, or at any rate not quite yet. The club contested the grand finals of both 1994 (lost narrowly to East Fremantle) and 1996 (won a thriller by 2 points over East Perth), before the attrition of talent finally started to have an impact. From 1997 to 2003 the Tigers tended to struggle somewhat, both on and off the field of play, and there was even intermittent talk of a merger with Subiaco, a prospect which only the most soulless among football supporters could regard with anything other than extreme unease.

Thankfully the 2004 season brought a modicum of long overdue improvement as the Tigers mounted a legitimate challenge



for the flag. The fact that that challenge was ultimately de-railed in somewhat conclusive fashion on grand final day was arguably attributable almost entirely to the fact that Claremont's opponents, Subiaco, had enjoyed a substantially richer recent finals pedigree. The same could not be said a year later, however, and the Tigers' 56 point capitulation to South Fremantle in the 2005 grand final could not really be regarded as anything other than a major disappointment.

In 2006, the Tigers' bid to reach a third successive grand final was scuppered in heart-breaking fashion by their 2005 nemesis, South Fremantle, who edged home in the preliminary final by 3 points, 16.13 (109) to 16.10 (106). A year later, the Tigers seemed well on course to claim an eleventh senior flag when they topped the ladder after the home and away rounds and proceeded straight to the grand final on the strength of an impressive 16.13 (109) to 14.10 (94) defeat of reigning premiers Subiaco in the second semi final. However, when the same two sides fronted up a fortnight later it was the Lions who proved to have all the answers as they led at every change en route to a comfortable 15.13 (103) to 9.8 (62) success.

Over recent seasons, only Subiaco has displayed greater consistency than Claremont, but the Tigers are still waiting for that elusive eleventh senior flag. Had that flag materialised in 2006 it would have been signally appropriate given that the club was formed precisely a hundred years earlier, but Claremont fans will no doubt be every bit as gratified if their team 'brings home the bacon' in 2008. Given the Tigers' recent history of near misses, a premiership in the near future, if not necessarily 2008, would arguably be the very least that they deserve.

#### **CLARKE, ALEXANDER 'SQUEAKER':**

Known as 'Squeaker' because of his high-pitched voice, ruckman Alex Clarke was arguably Perth's greatest player during the club's first decade, an assertion that was seemingly endorsed in 1999 when he

was the only pre-World War One player selected in the club's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'. He was a member of the club's first ever WAFA line-up against Fremantle on 15 July 1899, and was rated close to best afield in a 3 point loss. When the red and blacks broke through for a premiership with a controversial grand final victory over East Fremantle in 1907, Clarke was again one of the foremost players on view. By the time of his retirement in 1912, he had played a then club record 161 senior games. There is little doubt that 'Squeaker' Clarke would have been a regular interstate footballer had Western Australia engaged in such contests more regularly during the course of his career. In 1909 he was the fifth person and the first player to be made a life member of the Perth Football Club.

**CLARKE, JACK:** Nicknamed 'Stork', East Fremantle's Jack Clarke belied his somewhat ungainly appearance with supreme agility and formidable ball skills. Moreover, in an era boasting many high quality knock ruckmen Clarke had few peers in the role.

Jack Clarke's many playing achievements, which included a Sandover Medal in 1957 and selection in no fewer than four All Australian teams, appear all the more remarkable in light of the fact that he played his entire ten season, 206 game career as an amateur. He was hotly pursued by a number of VFL clubs but later maintained "I was never interested in going to Victoria. I was West Australian. Loyalty was most important in that era. No one shifted clubs or went to Victoria. The thing that induces players to change clubs is money - there wasn't any about when I played."<sup>12</sup>

Always quintessentially a team-orientated player, the highlights of Clarke's career were the five East Fremantle grand finals in which he participated (albeit for only one flag), and the 1961 Brisbane carnival in which Western Australia reigned supreme.

# Jack Clarke Medallists

## Year Winner

1957 Peter Ridley (Swan Districts)  
 1958 Phil Kirkham (West Perth)  
 1959 Graeme John (East Perth)  
 1960 Brian Ham (Claremont)  
 1961 Pat Astone (Perth)  
 1962 Ivan Glucina (South Fremantle)  
 1963 Ron Harding (Perth)  
 1964 Reg Firth (Subiaco)  
 1965 Ron Viney (Perth)  
 1966 Gordon Bancroft (South Fremantle)  
 Tie Errol Hammond (Subiaco)  
 1967 Kerry McCarthy (East Perth)  
 1968 John Bell (East Perth)  
 1969 Robbie Becker (Claremont)  
 1970 Max Ford (South Fremantle)  
 1971 Brian Bushell (Subiaco)  
 1972 Leon Henry (Perth)  
 1973 Greg Wright (Subiaco)  
 1974 Neil Taylor (Subiaco)  
 1975 Craig Holden (Swan Districts)  
 1976 Tony Capriotti (East Perth)  
 1977 Phil Narkle (Swan Districts)  
 1978 Chris Stasinowsky (West Perth)  
 1979 John Bengough (Subiaco)  
 1980 Laurie Keene (Subiaco)  
 1981 David O'Connell (Claremont)  
 1982 John Rioli (South Fremantle)  
 1983 Derek Collard (South Fremantle)  
 1984 Stephen Rowe (South Fremantle)  
 1985 Mark Amaranti (East Fremantle)  
 1986 Grant Robson (Subiaco)  
 1987 Nicky Yarran (Claremont)  
 1988 Rob Malone (Claremont)  
 1989 David Ham (Claremont)  
 Tie Graham Ralph (East Fremantle)

## Year Winner

1990 Brendan Hendry (Claremont)  
 1991 Paul Leuba (Claremont)  
 1992 Austin Kelly (Perth)  
 1993 Damon Squires (Perth)  
 1994 Todd Burgess (Swan Districts)  
 1995 Mark Dimmock (Claremont)  
 Tie Kevin Humphries (East Perth)  
 Tie Jason Musca (Subiaco)  
 1996 Haaron Bokhari (Claremont)  
 1997 Michael Pell (Claremont)  
 1998 Jamie Christopher (Claremont)  
 1999 Andrew Catalano (Perth)  
 2000 Matthew Cremin (East Fremantle)  
 2001 Andrew Green (East Fremantle)  
 2002 Keppler Bradley (West Perth)  
 2003 Matthew Spencer (Swan Districts)  
 2004 Andrew Ruck (Claremont)  
 2005 Ryan Brabazon (Claremont)  
 2006 Ian Richardson (Claremont)  
 2007 Adam Cockie (Subiaco)

**(Jack) Clarke Medal:** Originally known as the Medallists Medal, and for a time as the Burley Medal, this award, named in honour of former West Australian and East Fremantle great Jack Clarke, is made each year to the player adjudged fairest and best in the WAFL colts competition. A complete list of winners is shown opposite. See *also* Chesson Medal, Prendergast Medal, Sandover Medal.

**CLARKE, SYDNEY 'SAMMY':** Touted as the greatest junior footballer in Western Australia in 1932, while playing with Bunbury team Pastimes, Sydney Campbell Clarke (invariably known as 'Sammy') made his senior debut with Claremont-Cottesloe the following year and promptly enhanced his reputation still further by winning the Sandover Medal. Built along the lines of a stick insect, Clarke could lift his skeletal frame to prodigious heights, and once he got his hands around the ball they stayed there.

Many outstanding debutants suffer second season blues; not so 'Sammy' Clarke, who in 1934 became the first ever dual winner of the Sandover Medal.<sup>13</sup> He made his interstate debut at Perth Oval the same year, lining up on a half back flank, and being named high among Western Australia's best players, in a comfortable 46 point win over South Australia.

That game was on the Saturday, and on the following Tuesday, at Leederville, 'Sammy' Clarke, still just twenty years of age, was chosen to captain his state in a second game against the crows. Once again he put in a characteristically spectacular aerial display to be selected as one of Western Australia's best, although on this occasion it was the South Australians who prevailed.

Clarke went on to represent Western Australia 8 times, including both matches at the 1937 Perth carnival.

Twice a winner of Claremont-Cottesloe's fairest and best award, 'Sammy' Clarke played 133 games for the club between 1933 and 1941, and was at the forefront of its emergence as a league power. Sadly,

when the side finally broke through for a premiership in 1938, Clarke was away in England, training to be a pilot. He returned the following year, however, and, playing in his customary centre half back position, was one of the best players afield as the Monts overturned East Fremantle in the grand final by 19 points.

During the war, 'Sammy' Clarke served in the RAF as a pilot, but on his first active flying mission in 1942 he tragically lost his life.

**CLUNE, KEVIN:** One of Claremont's favourite sons, Kevin Clune was known by various nicknames during his career, including 'Tiger', 'Mr. Claremont' and 'the Carnamah Kid'. This last was a tribute to Clune's town of origin in Western Australia's North Midlands region.

With his tough, direct, relentless approach to the game, Clune was a great favourite among Claremont's supporters. For much of his 231 game league career, which began in 1954 and ended in 1966 (with a one year gap in 1963, which he spent with Northam club Towns), he played in persistently losing teams, and was often seen as mounting almost a lone, semi-heroic, semi-hapless stand against the inevitable. In 1964, however, the Tigers suddenly found their roar, making it as far as the grand final where they scored an upset win over East Fremantle. No-one made a greater contribution to this triumph than Kevin Clune, who played every match of the year and won his second club fairest and best award after a season of sustained brilliance.

Clune, who captained Claremont in 1958 and for part of the 1960 season, played a total of 8 state games for Western Australia. He was hampered by injury towards the end of his career, and the infrequency of his league appearances was a major contributory factor in the club's sliding down the ladder once more. Nevertheless, there have been few more popular players at Claremont, and he would, one imagines, be

a walk-in start in any official 'Team of the Century' or 'best of' combination chosen by the club.

**COFFEY, DENIS**, invariably referred to as 'Dinny', was an extremely gifted footballer who began his league career with East Fremantle as a forward before developing into one of the finest and most damaging centre-men in the game. In his debut season of 1923 Coffey amassed 46 goals to top Old Easts' list. He was at full forward in the losing challenge final of 1924 against Subiaco, but by the time of the 'revenge' victory over the same opponent a year later he had replaced the legendary 'Nipper' Truscott in the pivot. Pacy and decisive, he kicked superbly with both feet, and his all round attitude and approach to the game were invariably beyond reproach.

Coffey went on to play in two further premiership sides during the course of his 118 game league career with Old Easts which ended after the triumphant 1929 flag decider against South Fremantle. He represented Western Australia in the interstate arena 7 times.

**COLEMAN, BOB** was singularly unfortunate in that his league career with Perth, which commenced in 1957 and ended after 155 league games in 1965, slotted neatly into the gap between that club's 1955 premiership win and its halcyon era of the mid to late 1960s. Nevertheless, it was an auspicious career. Coleman, who could play equally well at both ends of the ground, was the Redlegs' leading goal kicker on four occasions, kicking 44 goals in 1960, 52 in 1961, 44 in 1962, and 46 in 1964. He also won his club's 1960 fairest and best award, and was a West Australian interstate representative 4 times.

**COLGAN, JOHN:** After half a season with Boulder City in 1950 John Colgan moved to the coast the following year where he attracted the interest of no fewer than half a dozen WANFL clubs. He eventually opted to play for South Fremantle after the club

promised him an open clearance at the end of his first season if he wished to move on. In the event, however, Colgan played out his entire, 220 game league career at South, establishing himself as one of the club's all time favourite sons. A shrewd, speedy wingman, he starred in the grand final wins over West Perth and East Fremantle in 1953 and 1954 respectively, and also played well in the team that lost narrowly to East Perth in the 1956 play-off. The biggest disappointment in Colgan's career came when he was chosen in Western Australia's squad for the 1961 Brisbane carnival, but then was injured and had to pull out. The Western Australians, of course, subsequently went on to win the carnival. His total of 10 interstate appearances did include matches at the 1953 Adelaide and 1958 Melbourne carnivals, however. A highly respected figure at Fremantle Oval, John Colgan captained South in 1957 and 1960.

**Colts Grade:** The WANFL introduced its colts competition - known originally as the thirds - in 1957. A complete list of premiership-winning teams is shown on the page opposite.

**CONWAY, JIM:** East Fremantle's 1950 Sandover Medallist Jim Conway was a highly skilled, elusive, goal kicking rover who represented his club on 180 occasions, initially in 1943, when the WANFL's wartime under-age competition was still in operation, and then from 1946 to 1956. In his first season of full scale, open age competition he was a member of Old Easts' winning grand final side against West Perth.

Best remembered as a rover, Conway was, despite his small physical stature, sometimes used at centre half forward, in which position he was surprisingly effective. Besides winning a Lynn Medal (East Fremantle's fairest and best player award) in the same year as his Sandover, he twice topped the club's goal kicking list (his 77 goals in 1951 being especially

# WAFL Colts Premiers

## Year Premiership Team

1957 Swan Districts  
 1958 Swan Districts  
 1959 Perth  
 1960 Perth  
 1961 Perth  
 1962 East Fremantle  
 1963 Perth  
 1964 Perth  
 1965 East Fremantle  
 1965 Perth  
 1967 East Perth  
 1968 West Perth  
 1969 East Fremantle  
 1970 South Fremantle  
 1971 Swan Districts  
 1972 Perth  
 1973 East Fremantle  
 1974 Subiaco  
 1975 East Perth  
 1976 Claremont  
 1977 Claremont  
 1978 Claremont  
 1979 Claremont  
 1980 East Perth  
 1981 East Fremantle  
 1982 South Fremantle  
 1983 South Fremantle  
 1984 South Fremantle  
 1985 South Fremantle  
 1986 Claremont  
 1987 East Fremantle  
 1988 Claremont  
 1989 Subiaco  
 1990 West Perth  
 1991 Swan Districts  
 1992 East Fremantle  
 1993 Claremont  
 1994 Claremont  
 1995 Claremont  
 1996 Claremont  
 1997 Claremont  
 1998 East Fremantle  
 1999 Perth

## Year Premiership Team

2000 East Perth  
 2001 East Fremantle  
 2002 South Fremantle  
 2003 South Fremantle  
 2004 Peel Thunder  
 2005 Peel Thunder  
 2006 East Perth  
 2007 Swan Districts

## SUMMARY OF WINS

11 Claremont  
 9 East Fremantle  
 8 Perth  
 7 South Fremantle  
 5 East Perth  
 4 Swan Districts  
 2 Peel Thunder, Subiaco, West Perth

meritorious), and represented Western Australia in the interstate arena 15 times. He captained the club in 1948, 1951 and 1956.

After one particularly dazzling display it was noted: "East Perth had as much chance of bottling up Conway as a cat would have of catching an asbestos mouse through a furnace at the East Perth powerhouse."<sup>14</sup>

After leaving Old Easts at the end of the 1956 Conway spent some time in country New South Wales before being somewhat surprisingly appointed non-playing coach of Claremont in 1964. He promptly lifted the Tigers, who had finished last the previous year, to their first premiership since 1940 (achieved, somewhat ironically - and no doubt especially sweetly - at the expense of his former club, East Fremantle). An innovative and adventurous coach, he spent five seasons at the helm at Claremont, but things gradually went downhill after 1964 with the side finishing third, fifth, fifth and sixth.

When East Fremantle announced its official 'Team of the Century' in 1997 few if any long-standing supporters would have been surprised to see Jim Conway named as first rover.

**Cook Medal:** Claremont's annual senior fairest and best player award.

**COOK, BRIAN:** A stalwart at Perth for a dozen seasons, Brian Cook was a sometimes underrated, but consistently effective, footballer, who improved as he got older. He made his league debut in 1971, and played on a wing in the 1974 grand final which Perth lost to East Fremantle. He later developed into a strong marking, commanding key position player, performing creditably at centre half back in the winning grand finals of 1976 and 1977 against East Perth and East Fremantle respectively. A Western Australian interstate representative on 5 occasions, Cook had played a total of 181 senior games by the time he retired in 1982, with one of the highlights being a club fairest and best award in 1980.

**COOK, LORNE:** After working his way through the ranks at Claremont, Lorne Cook made his senior WANFL debut in 1959 en route to a fourteen season, 230 game league career. Extremely versatile, he played in most positions on the field during that career, excelling in nearly all of them, but was perhaps at his best across half back. Sometimes too courageous for his own good, he sustained numerous injuries, with undoubtedly the most upsetting being that sustained in the 1964 preliminary final which ruled him out of the Monts' grand final winning team the following week. A fine overhead mark, he combined considerable pace with smooth ball handling skills, and was a useful kick, particularly with his favoured left foot.

Cook was captain of Claremont in 1967-8 and again in his final season of 1972, and won a fairest and best award in 1968. His 10 interstate appearances for Western Australia included all three matches at the 1961 Brisbane carnival, which the Western Australians won.

**COULSON, FRANK** was a valuable and versatile performer for East Fremantle in a career stretching from 1954 to 1966, encompassing exactly 200 league games. Equally at home in the ruck, or holding down a key position, he was a member of Old Easts premiership teams in 1957 and 1965, and was a Western Australian state representative on 3 occasions. During the 1964 grand final against Claremont he was forced to leave the ground with an injury and East Fremantle supporters argued that this contributed in no small measure to their team's eventual loss.

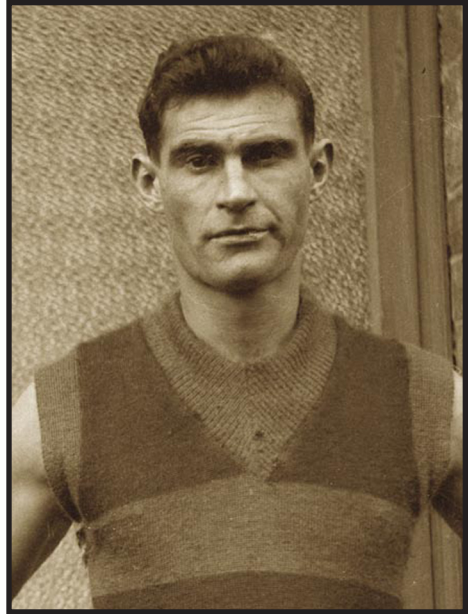
**COUPER, MURRAY** was a mercurial and highly damaging forward who was a key factor in Perth's emergence as a league power under Ken Armstrong during the 1970s. He commenced with the club in 1971 and over the course of his nine season stint played 134 games and kicked 459 goals.



He was Perth's leading goal kicker on three occasions, with his tally of 63 goals in 1975 also good enough to top the WANFL list. His 13 goal haul in a match against South Fremantle in 1975 has only been bettered once by a Perth player. Couper also broke into double figures against Subiaco in 1977 and West Perth two years later. He was the Demons' top goal kicker in their grand final wins of 1976-7, booting 4 goals against East Perth in the former season and 6 against East Fremantle in the latter. Couper was also a member of Perth's losing grand final team against Old Easts in 1974. His only interstate appearance came in 1973 when he contributed a couple of goals to Western Australia's narrow home win over South Australia. After leaving the Demons he spent the 1980 season with East Perth, playing 14 games and kicking 45 goals, and then ended his career with a single game for East Fremantle in 1981.

**COUSINS, BRYAN:** Armadale boy Bryan Cousins made his league debut with Perth in 1970, the same season that saw him win the club's fairest and best trophy at reserves level, and went on to become one of the club's most noteworthy and respected performers. Dynamic, pacy and a penetrative kick, he won the Demons' fairest and best award in 1972, and played in the centre in the losing grand final of 1974 against East Fremantle. In 1975 he moved to VFL club Geelong where he spent five seasons and played 67 games, many of the best of them in his final year. He continued to play good football when he returned to Perth in 1980 although he had had the bad fortune to miss the club's halcyon spell of the late 1970s. He won a second club fairest and best award in 1982, the same season that saw him assume the senior team captaincy, a role he retained for three years. In 1983 he lost the Sandover Medal to East Perth's John Ironmonger on a countback; fourteen years later he joined all other such runners-up in being awarded a retrospective Medal by the Westar Rules authorities. Cousins continued playing with the Demons until 1987, by which time he had amassed 238 senior games for the club. After playing as a centreman

or on-baller for the majority of his career, he developed into a solid, rebounding back pocket player in his later years. Somewhat surprisingly, Bryan Cousins made just one interstate appearance for Western Australia, against South Australia at Subiaco in 1985.



*Jim Craig (West Perth)*

**CRAIG, JIM:** Along with Jim Gosnell and Harold Boyd, Jim Craig gave the West Perth teams in which he played during the 1920s one of the strongest half back lines in Western Australian football history. All three players won Sandover Medals, and were regular interstate representatives. Craig won his Medal in 1927, and played for Western Australia 17 times, including games at the 1924 Hobart and 1927 Melbourne carnivals. At his best he was well nigh impassable at centre half back, and it is therefore somewhat surprising to note that the nearest he got to playing in a premiership side was his membership of the Cardinals' losing grand final team of 1922. Craig captained West Perth for part of the 1928 season, and again in 1930. He played a total of 216 league games. In October 2000, he was included in his club's official 'Team of the Century'.

**CRAIG, WILLIAM:** East Fremantle's Billy Craig was a talented rover who played in premiership teams in four of his six seasons with the club. His 89 game league career climaxed with Old Easts' victory over local rivals South Fremantle in the 1914 flag decider. Craig had earlier played in a hat trick of premiership triumphs from 1909 to 1911. His interstate career comprised 4 games, all at the 1911 Adelaide carnival.

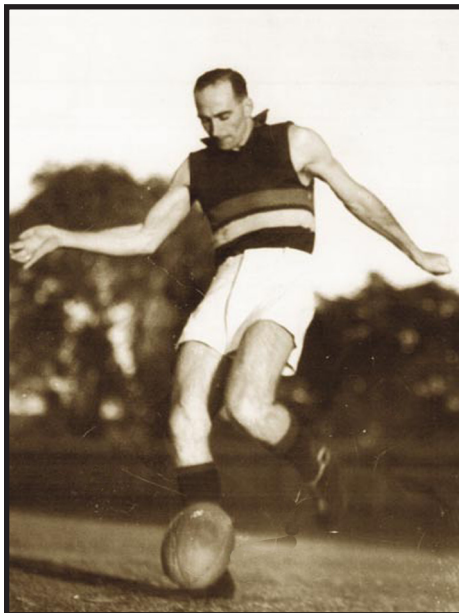
**CRABB, JAXON:** An industrious and influential midfielder who rarely puts in a bad game, Jaxon Crabb has currently played in excess of 150 league games for Claremont over eleven seasons. A triple winner of the club's fairest and best award, his career highlight came in 2005 when he claimed the Sandover Medal. Besides his time at Claremont Crabb has played AFL football with West Coast and Port Adelaide, in the SANFL with South Adelaide, and for the Western Australian state league team on 4 occasions.

**CRAPP, HENRY 'IVO':** Known during his career as 'the prince of umpires', 'Ivo' Crapp arrived in the west in 1906 after a highly noteworthy career in Victoria which had seen him officiate in seven of the first eight VFL grand finals. During his time in Western Australia he was an almost automatic choice to umpire in the most important matches of every season, whether finals games or tour matches involving visiting teams from interstate. Between 1906 and 1914 Crapp took charge of every WAFA/L final round fixture - a total of 30 in all - including 9 premiership deciding matches. He also umpired the 1918 flag decider.

Crapp's contribution to the game was not restricted to umpiring. During the 1911 season he was employed by West Perth for a time as coach and managed to get his charges as far as the ultimate match of the season against East Fremantle. However, despite the fact that their coach was also the match umpire, the Cardinals lost.

**CRASE, HAROLD 'BULL':** One of Perth's finest early players, 'Bull' Crase was with the club when it made its WAFA debut in 1899,

and went on to enjoy a fine ten season top level career during which he is believed to have played in excess of 100 games. A powerful, authoritative figure, he typically held down one of the two key defensive positions. When Perth overcame East Fremantle in controversial circumstances to claim the 1907 premiership Crase produced a superb performance on the last line of defence to be some observers' nomination as the best man afield.



*'Mick' Cronin (East Perth)*

**CRONIN, DEVERICK 'MICK':** East Perth centremen Deverick Cronin (invariably referred to as 'Mick') was at the peak of his form during the 1937 interstate football carnival in Perth when he put in two near best on ground performances in helping Western Australia to annihilate South Australia by 19 goals, and get to within 8 points of al powerful 'Big V' combination. A forceful, energetically dynamic performer, Cronin was just as much at home on the half forward line as in the centre, and it was as a half forward flanker that he represented the Royals in their winning grand final team of 1936. In 1939, he took over as coach of the

club from the legendary 'Jerry' Dolan, steering his side to two finals appearances in his three years at the helm. He also continued playing, but a series of bad leg injuries limited his availability, and adversely affected his form when he did manage to front up.

After retiring as a player, 'Mick' Cronin took up umpiring for a time, and it was in this capacity that he ventured to Hobart in 1947 for the first post-war Australian interstate championship series. He returned to East Perth as non-playing coach in 1951 but in five seasons in charge he was unable to lift his charges above fourth place on the ladder. Besides his Tassie Medal, Cronin also won the Royals' fairest and best award in 1931, and represented Western Australia in the interstate arena on 12 occasions. He also coached the state in 1951.

In June 2006, Cronin was included at half forward right in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1906 to 1944'.

**CURTIS, STEPHEN** was a powerful, purposeful defender who enjoyed an auspicious 300-plus game league career in two states. That career began in 1973 at East Perth where, over the course of the next ten seasons, he played a total of 215 senior games and kicked 61 goals. Lining up in a back pocket, he was among the Royals' best players in an 11.15 (81) to 12.7 (79) grand final defeat of Perth in 1978. Undoubtedly one of the finest West Australian defenders of his generation, he represented his state 12 times, including the inaugural state of origin match against Victoria in Perth in 1977. Curtis won the Royals' fairest and best award in 1977 and 1982. In 1983, he transferred to Port Adelaide, where he played out the final half a dozen seasons of his career. He did well in South Australia, even earning All Australian selection on one occasion, but overall his best and most consistent football was produced during his time with East Perth, a fact that was recognised in 2006 with his selection in a back pocket in the Royals' official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005'.

## Footnotes

- 1 Campbell began quietly with 3 goals against South Australia, but came alive against the VFL in Western Australia's second match, booting 8. Then came the record-breaking tally of 23 against the hapless Queenslanders, followed by bags of 7 and 10 against Tasmania and New South Wales respectively.
- 2 *Footy's Hall of Shame* by Dave Warner, page 243.
- 3 It should be borne in mind that, in Western Australia at this time, football of what might be termed 'league standard' was played in the goldfields region as well as in Perth.
- 4 Grand final crowds in both Perth and Adelaide were higher in 1939 than the previous year.
- 5 The charge was eventually dismissed at the tribunal.
- 6 The distance between finals qualification and September mothballs was, arguably, as narrow as the goalpost against which West Perth's John Vuckman sent his shot from point blank range in the dying moments of a game against Perth in the penultimate round of the home and away season. Had Vuckman kicked truly then the Cardinals, and not Claremont, would have participated in the 1964 major round.
- 7 Quoted in 'the 1987 WAFL Grand Final Football Budget', 19/9/87, page 11.
- 8 Namely the Victorian (later Australian) Football League, the Western Australian Football League, and the South Australian Football League.
- 9 Neesham later employed much the same methods, with a moderate degree of success, during his stint as Fremantle's inaugural AFL coach between 1995 and 1998.
- 10 In the fifteen season period from 1987 to 2001 Claremont contested 8 WAFL grand finals for 5 flags. Next best, in order, were East Fremantle (4-3), West Perth (4-2), East Perth (3-2), South Fremantle and (4-1), and Swan Districts (1-1). Perth did not contest a grand final during this period.
- 11 From 'The West Australian', 22/9/91.
- 12 Quoted in *Football Greats of Western Australia volume one* by Anthony James, page 21.
- 13 When retrospective Sandover Medals were awarded in 1997, Subiaco's Johnny Leonard, who had originally been placed second to 'Billy' Thomas of East Perth in 1929, became, technically, the first player to win the award twice.
- 14 *Celebrating 100 Years Of Tradition* by Jack Lee, page 227.

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# D

**DAILY, LOU:** A much-travelled footballer, Lou Daily enjoyed notoriety and success in three competitions. He began his senior career with Subiaco in 1931 and rapidly established himself as one of the finest defenders in the WANFL. Next he headed for the VFL, where he played 7 games for Collingwood in 1933, and 19 for Geelong the following year. Although primarily a defender, in his first match for the Cats he booted 10 goals.

Daily returned to Subiaco in 1935 a much better all round player, a fact he emphasised by promptly winning both the club fairest and best award and the Sandover Medal (jointly with Swan Districts' George Krepp). He also made the first of an eventual 7 interstate appearances for Western Australia. His good form continued in 1936 and 1937 when he won two further Subi fairest and best awards. He spent most of this phase of his career playing at full back, where he combined strength in the air, superb kicking, and a keen awareness of when to leave his man and chase the ball, and when to stay firmly at 'home'.

In 1938, after 92 WANFL games, Daily crossed to Mines Rovers in the GNFL as captain-coach, where he continued to play excellent football, winning a league fairest and best trophy in 1939. He also captained a goldfields representative side to a memorable win over Port Adelaide that same year.

Although his playing career was comparatively short, there can be little doubt that, for three or four seasons at least, Lou Daily was one of the finest footballers of his generation. At his peak, he was often compared, in terms of technique and ability, to the great Jack Regan - and full backs do not come any better than the erstwhile Collingwood champion.

**DAILY, STEWART** made his Subiaco debut early in the 1928 season and within

a few weeks was being described in the 'WA Footballer' as "something above the ordinary".<sup>1</sup> Tall and powerfully built, he played most of his early football as a defender, but later developed into a top quality ruckman who could also perform with credit as a key position forward. A peerless high mark, and a superb long kick, when Daily was firing, so were the Maroons. In 1931 he topped the club's goal kicking list with 44 goals, and the following season he is shown in official club records as having won the fairest and best award (although other sources list Peter Mackay as the winner). Between 1928 and 1940 Stewart Daily played a total of 202 league games. He also made 13 interstate appearances for Western Australia, including games at the 1933 Sydney and 1937 Perth carnivals.

**DALTON, PAT:** Centreman Pat Dalton was a key member of Perth's 1966-7-8 premiership teams. Renowned for his work ethic and excellent team sense, he played a total of 217 games for the Demons, winning the club's fairest and best award on two occasions. He enjoyed an especially noteworthy 1970 season, winning not only his second club champion award, but the Sandover Medal, on a countback from Bill Walker of Swan Districts (who was later awarded a retrospective Medal), as well. Somewhat surprisingly, given his reputation as one of the most effective and damaging centremen in the game, Dalton only represented Western Australia once.

**DANIELS, ALLEN 'SHORTY':** Almost universally known as 'Shorty', Allen Daniels was an extremely talented wingman who began with Claremont in 1979 and was on the interchange bench two years later when the Tigers downed South Fremantle to win their first grand final since 1964. After two seasons with Footscray in the VFL Daniels

returned to Claremont in 1987 but after just 3 games, which took his final tally with the club to 105, he crossed to Perth. Daniels spent the remainder of the 1987 season and the whole of 1988 with the Demons, playing a final 34 WAFL games. He represented Western Australia on 5 occasions.



*Bill Dempsey (Darwin & West Perth)*

**DARGIE, IAN:** Dual Sandover Medallist Ian Dargie was a forceful and effective on-baller and centreline player for Subiaco in 131 senior games from 1986 to 1988 and between 1991 and 1994. Originally from North Beach, he was hampered by injury in his debut season, but recovered in time to feature in the club's grand final triumph over East Fremantle. Dargie also played in the Lions' 1988 premiership team and represented Western Australia against the VFA the same year before embarking on a two season stint in the V/AFL with St Kilda. In 1991 he returned to the west, ostensibly to continue his AFL career with West Coast, but he ended up playing virtually the whole season back with Subi where he showed that he improved markedly as a player by

claiming his first Sandover win. His second, which followed in 1994, was accompanied by victory in the club's fairest and best award. Dargie, who had resumed full time with Subiaco in 1992, finished his senior league career with a four season stint in the QAFL with Southport.

**DAVIS, TOM:** Hard working and tough as nails, with an excellent leap, ruckman Tom Davis was the only Perth player to feature in both the club's 1955 and 1966 premiership teams. Indeed, his 220 game, 129 goal league career ran between the two years in question, ending with an appearance as nineteenth man in the 1966 grand final defeat of East Perth. A Western Australian interstate representative on a couple of occasions, he was perhaps overshadowed during his career by the likes of Farmer, Clarke, Foley and Slater, but opponents underestimated him at their peril.

**DEMPSEY, BILL:** After leaving the Darwin Football Club as an eighteen year old in 1960 Bill Dempsey went on to become one of the finest ruckman to play in Western Australia since the war. Whether on the ball or resting in a back pocket he was an imposing, formidable presence, who inspired his team mates. Cardinals best and fairest in 1966, he won a Simpson Medal after the 1969 grand final in which he formed part of an irrepressible first ruck combination with the legendary Graham 'Polly' Farmer, and Bill Valli. West Perth won that game by 73 points, and would go on to lift further premierships, with Dempsey a prominent contributor both times, in 1971 and 1975. He also returned home to the Top End occasionally, and was a member of Darwin's unbeaten 1967/68 premiership team.

After making his interstate debut in an ignominious home defeat against Tasmania in 1963, Dempsey went on to more than make amends with some superb performances in a total of 14 state appearances over the course of the next decade.



The last game of Bill Dempsey's illustrious 343 game WANFL career came in the losing 1976 first semi final against Perth. Only Mel Whinnen, with 371 games over eighteen seasons, represented West Perth on more occasions than Dempsey.

**DETHRIDGE, JOHN:** A dynamic and hard working ruckman whose energetic approach helped compensate for a lack of inches, John Dethridge was a key player for Claremont in 157 games between 1959 and 1968. The twin highlights of his career were helping Western Australia to its famous 1961 carnival win, and playing for the Tigers in the victorious grand final of 1964 against East Fremantle. Dethridge represented his state on 5 occasions.

**DIGGINS, BRIGHTON:** Debuting with Subiaco in 1927, Brighton Diggins immediately captured attention with his robust, energetic and dashing play. Midway through the year he was selected in a West Australian 'second string' combination to take on Collingwood at Subiaco Oval, with 'The WA Footballer' reporting that "playing on the half back line he was brilliancy personified in every department of the game" as he helped his side to a crushing win.

Diggins made his debut for Western Australia's first choice side in 1928 against Canberra, and went on to play a total of 8 interstate matches. His approach to the game was felt to be more typically Victorian than West Australian, and his emphasis on vigour and physicality certainly helped his club to emerge from a sustained period of under-achievement to mount a long overdue legitimate assault on the flag. In 1931, the Maroons reached the grand final, only to lose by 18 points to East Fremantle, and the following year, after 88 WANFL games, Brighton Diggins joined his former coach Johnny Leonard as a member of the rapidly expanding 'foreign legion' at South Melbourne.

The 1932 season was not a good one for Diggins: forced to stand out of football until round 7 while he awaited ratification of his clearance, he managed only a handful of games before a fractured leg undermined what, until then, had been solid progress. The following year, however, he was strongly instrumental in South Melbourne's march to a first flag in fifteen years. On grand final day, he was at centre half forward, rather than his more usual position of ruckman, and was close to best afield as South led from start to finish in securing a comfortable 42 point win over Richmond.

At the end of the 1936 season, after 65 games for South, Diggins sought a clearance to Carlton, where he was wanted as captain-coach, but he was forced to stand out of football for twelve months before getting his way. As far as the Blues were concerned, it was to be well worth the wait, as the tough, honest and resolute Diggins proved to be exactly the kind of leader they needed. Having failed to contest the finals the previous year, Carlton won all bar 4 matches in 1938 to top the ladder before trouncing Geelong in the second semi final, and scoring a tenacious and gripping victory over arch rivals Collingwood in the 'big one'. As was ever his wont, Brighton Diggins led from the front, putting in a stirring, four quarter effort in the ruck which was a key factor in the win. In helping the club to break a twenty-three year premiership drought, Diggins became a Carlton hero overnight.

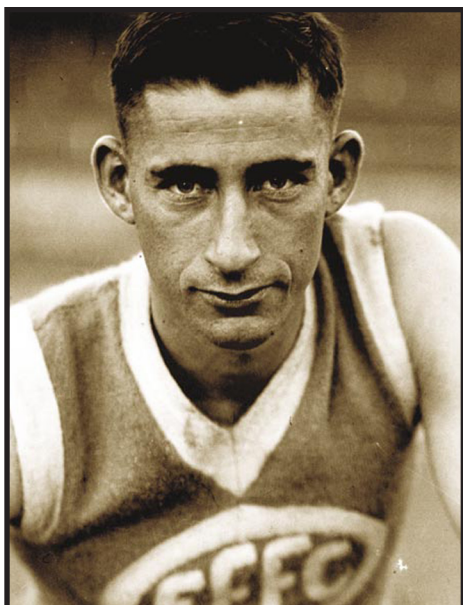
After another couple of seasons with the Blues, which brought his final overall tally of league games to 184, Diggins retired in order to join the armed forces. However, after just three months he was discharged on medical grounds when it was felt that his ankle, which he had injured in a match in 1934, would be unable to withstand the rigours of infantry training.

**DOIG SENIOR, CHARLES:** An early member of the famous Doig clan, Charles 'Chas' Doig senior was an extremely talented



forward who played a total of 209 games for East Fremantle between 1903 and 1915, and then in 1919 and 1921. During that time he was a member of no fewer than seven premiership teams, as well as in three losing grand finals. His 8 interstate appearances for Western Australia included games at the carnivals of 1908 in Melbourne, 1911 in Adelaide, and Sydney in 1914. Goal kicking records in Western Australian football during the early twentieth century were not always assiduously maintained, but it is known that Doig topped East Fremantle's goal kicking list in 1913 with 36 goals and in 1914 with 34. More than likely, he would have been the club's leading goal kicker on several other occasions as well, although he was far more than just a goalsneak, being capable of playing in any position on the forward lines to equivalent effect.

Charles Doig senior was non-playing coach of Old Easts for one season in 1940, when they finished third. His son, Charles Doig junior, also enjoyed a fine career with Old Easts, playing a total of 196 senior games for the club on either side of World War Two.



*George Doig (East Fremantle)*

**DOIG, GEORGE** was popularly referred to during his career as 'football's Bradman', and his goal kicking achievements in the 1930s and early '40s certainly endorse the comparison.

A left footer, Doig favoured the torpedo punt, which he could execute with almost unwavering accuracy, whether from a set shot or on the run. Unlike many prolific goalsneaks he did not rely heavily on any one specialist means of getting the ball, but was a true all rounder, as much at home on the ground as jostling for position in a huge goalmouth pack.

George Doig arrived at East Fremantle in 1933 and set his stall out right away by becoming the first Western Australian player to kick a century of goals. He went on to repeat this achievement in every one of his first nine league seasons, topping the WANFL list on six occasions.

Doig's career total of 1,111 League goals in 201 games included a then record 19 in one game against Claremont-Cottesloe. He also kicked goals with unfailing regularity in interstate football, ultimately amassing a total of 62 from 14 appearances, all of which were against either the VFL or South Australia.

Football, however, is a team sport, and Doig never let the pursuit of individual achievements blind him to team goals. Indeed, he was the consummate team man, and probably gave away almost as many goals as he scored. If you asked him to choose, he would probably have accorded pride of place among his many achievements to his participation in three East Fremantle premiership teams.

**DOIG, JAMES 'SCOTTY':** A prodigiously talented centre half back, 'Scotty' Doig was one of the earliest members of arguably the most famous clan in Australian football. He was a member of East Fremantle's grand final winning teams of 1904, 1906, 1909, 1910 and 1911, having earlier also been a regular in the side during its 1900, 1902 and 1903 premiership years, when

no grand final was played. In 1904, when Western Australia embarked on its first ever interstate tour, playing matches in Melbourne against the VFL and an augmented University eighteen, Ballarat and Stawell against local combinations, and Adelaide against South Australia, 'Scotty' Doig was a key member of the team.

**DOIG, JOHN 'HOOKY':** Invariably known as 'Hooky', John Doig commenced with East Fremantle in 1899, and thereafter was a stalwart of the side for fourteen seasons, amassing a total of 225 appearances. Never averse to a stoush (one cannot help but feel compelled to wonder at precisely how he came about his nickname!), he was once ordered from the field, along with teammate Tom Keenan, during a match against Fremantle. A versatile player, Doig could perform with equal effectiveness on the last line of defence, across half back, on the wing or in the centre. A member of no fewer than nine Old Easts premiership sides, he played alongside three other members of the Doig clan at various stages of his illustrious career. 'Hooky' Doig's failure to earn a state jumper during his career probably owed as much to the fact that Western Australia seldom ventured into the interstate arena at the time as to understandable concerns over his questionable temperament.

**DOLAN, JOHN 'JERRY':** John 'Jerry' Dolan's only serious challenger for the accolade of doyen of Western Australian football coaches would probably be Phil Matson, but whereas Matson hailed from South Australia, Dolan was locally born and bred.

Like Matson, Jerry Dolan was an excellent player as well as coach - a fact worth highlighting, as it is perhaps a little surprising how often the one does not seamlessly lead to the other.

Dolan arrived at Old Easts in 1923 after two seasons with GFL side Kalgoorlie City, and went on to play 166 games for the club,



*'Jerry' Dolan (East Fremantle & East Perth)*

in addition to representing the state 10 times. However, in the coaching sphere his achievements, and more importantly perhaps his legacy, were unparalleled. While still a player, Dolan coached East Fremantle to the 1930 and 1933 premierships, before joining East Perth as non-playing coach in 1934. In five seasons with the Royals he oversaw five finals campaigns, including one flag, but at heart he was still an East Fremantle man, and, after a couple of years out of football, he returned 'home' in 1941, steering his club to a grand final in his first year back.

Because of the war, the three years from 1942 to 1944 saw the WANFL operate an underage competition only, but Dolan stayed on as coach, and steered his youthful charges to the 1943 flag.

It is primarily for his role in shaping the great East Fremantle sides of 1945 and 1946 that Jerry Dolan's name is venerated, however. In 1945 the club made a slow start before cruising to the premiership with 10 consecutive wins. In 1946 it became the only Western Australian side of the

twentieth century to procure an unbeaten premiership. Admittedly, apart from grand final opponents West Perth, the standard of most opposition teams, who were still recovering from the inroads made by the war, left something to be desired, but statistically the achievements of the 1946 East Fremantle team are beyond comparison.

Dolan, a school teacher by profession, thought deeply about the game, which he always saw in quintessentially team terms. His teams invariably exhibited great collective strength, and were carefully structured so as to mask or minimise any deficiencies. In this respect, it could be argued that he was ahead of his time.

In his seventeen seasons as a league coach, Jerry Dolan never once failed to steer his team to the finals, while overall his sides enjoyed a phenomenal success rate of 68.2%, which compares more than favourably with the success rates of other great coaches.<sup>2</sup>

**DONCON, KEITH:** Country boy Keith Doncon joined East Perth from Scotch College and made his WANFL debut in 1963. He impressed, but in 1964, feeling homesick, he decided to return to his home in the country, and played no football for the year. Wooed back to the city by the Royals in 1965, he continued where he had left off, proving himself a physically tough and pacy rover of the highest order. Despite his somewhat diminutive (174cm, 71.5kg) physique, he was strong overhead, and kicked many goals from marks taken while resting in a forward pocket. Along with the likes of Barry Cable and Bill Walker he gave Western Australia arguably the most potent roving division in interstate football during the 1960s, a fact emphasised by his All Australian selection following the 1966 Hobart carnival. In 1970, aged just twenty-five, Keith Doncon was compelled to retire after he was injured in a farm accident; he had played 75 league and 6 state games, and kicked 136 goals for East Perth, and 13 for Western Australia. The disproportionately significant

impact he made during his brief career was recognised in 2006 with selection in his club's official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005'.

**DUCKWORTH, BILL:** A tough, hard hitting defender who was an inspiration to his team mates, Bill Duckworth is probably best remembered by many for his superb, Norm Smith Medal-winning performance in Essendon's 1984 grand final victory over Hawthorn. He made his league debut with West Perth in 1980, and went on to be rated one of the season's most promising debutants. He spent two seasons with the Falcons, as West Perth had become known in 1980, playing a total of 35 games. In 1982 he crossed to Essendon, where he made a sound start, only to suffer a bad ankle injury in his second season which forced him to miss 14 games, including the losing grand final clash with Hawthorn. He recovered well in 1984, however, enjoying a fine season which culminated in his best afield performance in the grand final defeat of the Hawks. The fact that this was no mere flash in the pan was emphasised by his selection at full back in 'The Sun' All Stars Team of the Year. A straight ahead, relentlessly aggressive type of player, he thrived in the intense pressure cooker atmosphere of the VFL, and went on to enjoy premiership success for a second time in 1985, when the Bombers again accounted for the Hawks on grand final day. Duckworth also played in Essendon's victorious night grand final side of 1984. When he returned to Western Australia at the end of the 1990 season he had played a total of 126 VFL games and kicked 64 goals. He carried on for two further years at West Perth, taking his final tally of games with the club to 51. He made 1 state of origin appearance for Western Australia, against the Big V in 1987. Bill Duckworth was the younger brother of John Duckworth.

**DUCKWORTH, JOHN:** While engaged in National Service training in Melbourne, West Australian John Duckworth turned up at

Fitzroy Football Club asking for a game. He had already had a couple of trials with East Perth and failed to impress, but the Lions brains trust liked what they saw, and signed him up. Volatile, dynamic and robust, he also possessed plenty of flair, and would probably have enjoyed a highly auspicious VFL career had his National Service commitments not repeatedly interfered. As it was, Duckworth performed serviceably in 58 VFL games in 1970 and between 1974 and 1976, kicking 24 goals. Some of the intervening time was spent fighting in Vietnam.

In 1977 Duckworth - who gloried in the nickname 'Whatsa' - returned home to Western Australia and joined West Perth, the team he had supported as a boy. He enjoyed a fine year, representing the state, and running fifth in the Sandover Medal voting. After just two years and 44 WANFL games, however, he decided he wanted to leave, and Central District won the race to procure his signature.

John Duckworth spent just two seasons at Elizabeth but created a significant impression. His coach at Centrals, Darryl Hicks, said of him, "I doubt if a bigger, truer or more real personality has ever played the game in South Australia".<sup>3</sup> In 1979, Duckworth represented South Australia, headed his club's goal kicking list with 41 goals, and topped things off by becoming a surprise, but highly popular, winner of the Magarey Medal. The following year, however, he suffered a ruptured kidney early on, after which he was never able to produce his best form. At season's end, now aged thirty-one, he decided it was time to return home and finish his career with West Perth. He continued playing league football for the Cardinals for three more years, took a year off, and then made a one season comeback at the behest of club coach John Wynne, who needed an experienced hand to help steady his predominantly young team. All told, John Duckworth played a total of 120 senior games for West Perth to add to the 42 he had played with Central District. He also represented both Western Australia and South Australia on 3 occasions.

**DUFFY, LARRY 'PLUM':** During the course of his 147 game league career with East Perth from 1919 to 1929 rover Larry Duffy achieved virtually everything the game had to offer. In 1926, he was the first recorded winner of the Royals' fairest and best award, and he served as club captain in 1929. Thin and wiry, Duffy had ample pace, and was a tremendous ball getter. He was one of only three players to play in all seven of East Perth's premiership teams between 1919 and 1927, and more often than not he featured high in the list of best players. Larry Duffy made 9 interstate appearances for Western Australia, and also represented the state in a total of 3 matches against visiting club sides from South Australia and Victoria. In June 2006 he was named first rover in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1906 to 1944'.

**DUPEROUZEL, BRUCE:** A dynamic, audaciously talented rover, Bruce Duperouzel commenced his senior league career with Claremont where he played 86 WAFL games between 1969 and 1973. He enjoyed a particularly noteworthy season in 1971, topping the club's goal kicking list with 36 goals, and winning the fairest and best award. In 1974 he crossed to the VFL where he played successfully with both St Kilda and Footscray. He represented Western Australia half a dozen times.

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#### Footnotes

1 'WA Footballer', 2/6/28.

2 Examples include: Phil Matson 74.1%; Ross Hutchinson 72.4%; Dick Reynolds 67.0%; Jack Oatey 66.4%; Fos Williams 66.3%; Jock McHale 66.1%; 'Checker' Hughes 65.1%; Tom Hafey 64.7%; Allan Jeans 62.3%; and Norm Smith 56.7%. While Hutchinson's success rate was excellent, it needs to be pointed out that he only coached for eight seasons, compared to Dolan's seventeen.

3 'Football Times', 28/6/79, page 3.



*Two of the game's all time great ruckmen, East Perth's Graham 'Polly' Farmer (dark shorts) and Jack Clarke of East Fremantle.*



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# E

**EAKINS, PETER:** Archetypal 'blond bombshell' Peter Eakins burst onto the WANFL football scene with Subiaco in the opening round of the 1966 season when, although shaded on the day by East Perth's Mal Brown, he displayed enough skill and poise to serve notice of a noteworthy career in prospect.

Tall, strong and perfectly balanced, Eakins could also kick the ball a proverbial 'country mile', was an excellent spoiler, and would become one of the primary ingredients in Haydn Bunton junior's rebuilding programme at the club, which began with his arrival in the coaching hot seat in 1968. That same season, Eakins made the state team for the first time, while the following year saw him achieve his career highlight, victory in the Tassie Medal (jointly with South Australia's Graham Molloy), after a sequence of performances of great verve and authority at the Adelaide carnival.

Consistently eye catching performances at interstate level were increasingly becoming passports to the VFL at this time, and it was small surprise that the 1970 football season saw Eakins relocating to Melbourne, where he lined up with Collingwood. The Magpies reached the grand final that year, losing one of the most famous VFL grand finals of all time to Carlton after leading by more than 7 goals at half time. In common with many of his team mates, Eakins was a conspicuous performer during the first two quarters of the game, but faded badly in the second half.

It was a similar story with his VFL career: after a promising start, a succession of injuries undermined his performances, and after just three seasons and 32 games he returned home to Subiaco. Unfortunately, however, the pressure and intensity of VFL football had taken their toll, and after just one senior and three reserves appearances he was forced into premature retirement, aged just twenty-six.

## EAST FREMANTLE

**Affiliated:** WAFA 1898-1907; WAFL/WANFL 1908-present

**Club Address:** P.O. Box 43, Palmyra 6157, Western Australia

**Website:** [www.effc.com.au](http://www.effc.com.au)

**Email:** [admin@effc.com.au](mailto:admin@effc.com.au)

**Home Ground:** East Fremantle Oval

**Formed:** 1898

**Colours:** Royal blue and white

**Emblem:** Sharks (formerly 'Old Easts' or 'Old East')

**Premierships:** SENIORS 1900, 1902-3-4, 1906, 1908-9-10-11, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1928-9-30-1, 1933, 1937, 1943\*, 1945-6, 1957, 1965, 1974, 1979, 1985, 1992, 1994, 1998 (29 total)  
RESERVES (from 1925) 1926, 1938-9-40, 1950-1, 1962, 1970, 1989, 1993-4, 2001 (12 total)  
COLTS (from 1957) 1962, 1966, 1969, 1973, 1981, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2001 (9 total) Western Australian State Premierships - 1904, 1906, 1909-10 (4 total) OTHER PREMIERSHIPS - R.P. Rodriguez Shield: 1957, 1977, 1985, 1996, 1997, 1998 (6 total)

**Sandover Medallists:** Lin Richards 1931; Jim Conway 1950; Jack Clarke 1957; Ray Sorrell 1961# & 1963; David Hollins 1971; Graham Melrose 1974; Brian Peake 1977; Murray Wrensted 1985; Craig Treleven 1995; Adrian Bromage 1998 (10 Medallists/11 Medals)

**Tassie Medallists:** Brian Peake 1979 (1 total)

**All Australians:** Jack Clarke 1953, 1956, 1958 & 1961; Alan Preen 1958; Norm Rogers 1958; Ray Sorrell 1958 & 1961; Brian Peake 1979 (captain) & 1980; Tony Buhagiar 1979; Kevin Taylor 1983; Peter Wilson 1986 (13 total)



**League Top Goalkickers:** Ernest Kelly (25) 1904; Harry Sharpe (50) 1905, (34) 1906, (48) 1907 & (22) 1908; Arthur Rawlinson (32) 1917; Joe Lawn (47) 1919; 'Dinny' Coffey (36) 1923; George Doig (106) 1933, (152) 1934, (113) 1935, (109) 1936, (144) 1937 & (141) 1941; George Prince (82) 1949; Bob Johnson (92) 1966; Kevin Taylor (102) 1979; Neil Lester-Smith (90) 1989; Rod Tregenza (57) 1999 & (86) 2000 (20 total)

**Highest Score:** 32.23 (215) vs. West Perth 19.12 (126) at East Fremantle Oval in round 19 1979

**Most Games:** 304 by Brian Peake 1972 to 1980 and 1985 to 1990

**Record Home Attendance:** 21,317 in round 3 1979: East Fremantle 17.18 (120); South Fremantle 14.19 (103)

**Record Finals Attendance:** 52,781 for 1979 grand final at Subiaco Oval: East Fremantle 21.19 (145); South Fremantle 16.16 (112)

**Overall Success Rate 1898-2007:** 61.5%

*\* indicates premiership won during the war years of 1942-4 when the WANFL operated as an under age competition*

*# indicates awarded retrospectively by Westar Rules authorities in 1997*

**A**t a time when hyperbole is very much in vogue it is comparatively rare to come across an organisation genuinely deserving of the highest commendation and praise. Such an organisation is the East Fremantle Football Club. Consider its record:

- 28 senior premierships and 28 times runners up<sup>1</sup> since 1898; in the three major football states only Port Adelaide/Port Magpies (35/6) have won more
- 35 consecutive league victories between 28 July 1945 and 17 May 1947, including an unbeaten premiership in 1946
- The only WAFL club to have achieved a positive win/loss record against all other league clubs
- Between 1900 and 1951 the club failed to contest the finals on only one occasion - in 1915, when all sides were depleted because of the war
- In the first twelve seasons of this century East Fremantle won no fewer than nine flags, while the premierships of 1905 and 1907 were only lost in the most questionable and controversial of circumstances

There were few immediate signs of future greatness when the club was first formed in 1898. With the exception of captain Tom Wilson, vice-captain David Christy, and Jim Mullaney, all of whom had played for the recently disbanded Imperials Football Club, the new side boasted little experience and this was plainly evident as it managed just 1 win from 15 games in its debut year. However, the gradual emergence of district football in Western Australia, whereby players represented their local club, proved to be the making of East Fremantle, as Fremantle-based players who had been playing their football for clubs across the river returned home to bolster the ranks.

In 1899 the side won 12 and lost 5 matches for the year to finish second before going one better in 1900.

In just three seasons the club appeared to have established itself as a power and the remaining years of the first decade of the century only served to reinforce this impression.

After finishing second in 1901 East Fremantle embarked on a sequence of success which many at the time felt by rights ought to have yielded an incredible ten flags in succession. As it was, the club was robbed of success on two occasions under circumstances of the utmost controversy.

In 1905 the scoreboard at the end of the challenge final showed East Fremantle on 6.5 (41) having defeated West Perth 5.10 (40). However, after conferring the goal umpires announced that the scoreboard operators had erred - West Perth had actually scored 5.11 (41), meaning that the correct result was a draw. East Fremantle's protests went unheeded and, presumably still unsettled by the whole affair, they lost the replay.

Two years later there was an even more controversial ending to the premiership decider between East Fremantle and Perth. The final scoreboard read East Fremantle 6.11 (47); Perth 6.6 (42) but, sensationally, post-match claims by Perth that one of East Fremantle's goals had been kicked after the half time bell were upheld by the WAFA Appeals Board and the result of the match - and the destiny of the 1907 flag - was reversed.

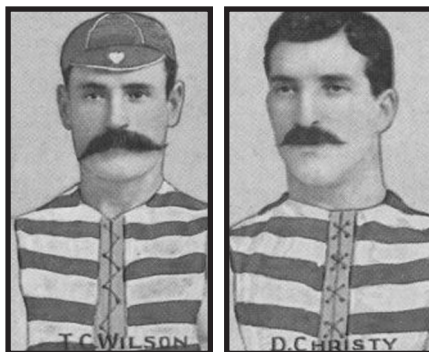
During this era East Fremantle were renowned for a 'down the centre' style of play which no other team in the competition could live with.

Prominent 'Old Easts'<sup>2</sup> players from the pre-World War One era included rover Charles 'Dick' Sweetman, who was to die tragically after sustaining serious injuries in a match in 1911; centreman W.J. 'Nipper' Truscott, who shares with Arthur Hodgson (Tasmania) and Fos Williams (South Australia) the record of appearing in five interstate carnivals (and would arguably have appeared in six had it not been for the Great War); full forward Harry Sharpe who, after sharing WAFA goalkicking honours with South Fremantle's 'Duff' Kelly in 1905 topped the list in his own right in each of the three subsequent years; and bullocking ruckman

James 'Carbine' Gullan who, like Sweetman, was to die tragically at an early age.

East Fremantle's 1914 premiership was the tenth achieved by the club in its first seventeen years of existence but the following year the club dipped out of the finals for the first time since their debut season.

Successive grand final<sup>3</sup> losses to arch rivals South Fremantle followed before there was a return to the winners' circle in 1918 with an 11.8 (74) to 8.5 (53) victory over emerging power East Perth.



*Two of East Fremantle's early greats, Tom Wilson and Dave 'Dolly' Christy.*

The Royals had their revenge in 1919 to the tune of 22 points and this supremacy was repeated in each of the next three seasons. Subiaco emerged as a surprise force in 1924, downing East Fremantle 7.9 (51) to 3.6 (24) in the grand final, but in 1925 Old East returned the 'favour' in stunning fashion. Indeed, 1925 was the first occasion on which an East Fremantle premiership could genuinely have been said to have been won 'against the odds'. Only third on the ladder after the home and away matches with 9 wins and 6 losses Old East scored resounding wins over West Perth (6.22 to 2.9) in the semi final and East Perth (12.10 to 5.7) in the final to earn a challenge final tilt against the reigning premiers. Most people expected Subi to prove too strong but in the event it was precisely the reverse as East Fremantle romped to a 27 point triumph, 10.10 (70) to 6.7 (43).

After missing out in 1926 and 1927 East Fremantle topped the ladder - significantly as it turned out - by half a win from East Perth in 1928. A loss to the Royals in the final meant that the right of challenge had to be exercised and Old East duly made amends by 17 points, 10.13 (73) to 8.8 (56). The victory marked the onset of another era of spectacular dominance for Western Australian football's most feared and respected club.

Between 1929 and 1931 Old East completed a sequence of four successive premiership triumphs with wins over South Fremantle by 31 and 25 points and Subiaco by 18 points. The run of success looked set to continue in 1932 after the side qualified for the finals in pole position only to lose both finals contested and end up third.

The following year full forward George Doig took his bows, the latest in a long line of Doig family members to make it to league ranks.<sup>4</sup> His impact was immediate as he kicked more than 100 goals (106 to be precise) for the year, a feat he was to repeat in each of the next eight seasons.

East Fremantle roared back to the top in 1933 with a 10.13 (73) to 7.7 (49) defeat of Subiaco in front of 15,919 fans, meaning that the club had now won no fewer than seventeen senior premierships in its first thirty-six seasons to make it by some measure Australia's most successful top level club up to that point.

West Perth got the better of the blue and whites in the 1934 grand final by 34 points, 11.7 (73) to 5.9 (39). This heralded a brief two year decline during which East Fremantle finished fourth and third before returning as a force the hard way in 1937. After losing a fiercely fought second semi final to Claremont by 14 points Old East despatched East Perth 11.12 (78) to 7.19 (61) the following week and then gained revenge over Claremont by 10 points, 14.13 (97) to 13.9 (87) in the grand final.

It would be Claremont supporters who would have the last laugh, however, as

their club would go on to win the next three premierships in succession, their first at league level. On all three occasions the Monts were directly responsible for ending Old East's season. In 1938 the two sides met in the grand final, with Claremont winning 14.17 (101) to 11.13 (79) in a replay. The following season Claremont again triumphed in the final match of the season after East Fremantle had looked to be on course to gain revenge following a comfortable win over the premiers in the second semi final.

In 1940 Old Easts only got as far as the preliminary final before Claremont ousted them from premiership contention by 6 goals.

The following year, with John 'Jerry' Dolan, who had previously been playing coach of the club in 1930 and between 1932 and 1933, back at the helm the side again featured in the action on grand final day, but West Perth proved too strong, emerging 21 points to the good.

The WANFL operated on an under age basis between 1942 and 1944 with East Fremantle finishing third, first and second.

With Dolan still in charge on the resumption of full scale senior football in 1945 Old Easts made an immediate impression, winning 16 out of 20 minor round matches to top the ladder. The side's consistent form continued into the finals where it comfortably defeated both West Perth and South Fremantle to take out the flag. The encounter with South Fremantle was the first 'derby' grand final since 1930 and took East Fremantle's record in these contests to 4 wins and 2 defeats. The 1945 grand final also saw the Simpson Medal being presented for the first time. East Fremantle ruckman Alan Ebbs was the inaugural recipient, while team mates Don Gabrielson, Gordon Mann, 'Charles' Strang and Salvatore Soltoggio would also have figured prominently in the judges' calculations. Final scores were East Fremantle 12.15 (87) to South Fremantle 7.9 (51). The red and whites' day would soon arrive, but for now it was the blue and white fraternity who were clearly 'cocks of the port'.

East Fremantle's dominance continued in 1946 in a fashion which has rarely been equalled in any of Australia's major football competitions. Some have argued<sup>5</sup> that the standard of football being played in Western Australia at the time was low, and that therefore it was comparatively easy for one side to dominate. However, such claims are impossible to verify. What does seem clear is that the best Western Australian players of this time were capable of producing football of comparable standard to that being displayed in any of the other major football states.<sup>6</sup>

Another factor to bear in mind is that East Fremantle's superiority in 1946 was not always as conclusive as its overall record might lead one to suppose. True, it managed to win all 21 WANFL matches contested, but not all of the victories were by hefty margins. West Perth in particular afforded stern resistance, as was clearly evidenced by both meetings between the sides in the major round. Old Easts scraped home in the second semi final by 4 points, 9.21 (75) to 10.11 (71), and the grand final a fortnight later was just as tight. The Cardinals threw down the gauntlet in no uncertain terms in the opening term when they kicked 4 goals to 1, and thereafter it took all of East Fremantle's courage, desperation and resilience to eke out victory by a single kick.

Final scores in the 1946 grand final were East Fremantle 11.13 (79) to West Perth 10.13 (73) with the victors best served by ruckman Alan Ebbs, rover Vic French, and half back flankers Charlie Doig and Don Gabrielson. However, the Simpson Medal was awarded to John Loughridge of West Perth.<sup>7</sup>

East Fremantle's winning streak at WANFL level continued for a total of 35 successive matches before being brought to an end by South Fremantle on 17 May 1947. A then record crowd for a port 'derby' of 17,538 packed Fremantle Oval for the clash, which in retrospect might be seen as constituting the 'passing of the baton' in terms of Western Australian football supremacy. At the end of the season

East Fremantle had slumped to fourth while, for South Fremantle, an era of unparalleled dominance had dawned.

East Fremantle's fortunes continued to wane in 1948 as the club ran third, before embarking on an unusually long period of comparative anonymity between 1949 and 1952 which, after three consecutive fourth place finishes, ended with the unconscionable depths of fifth position and failure to contest the finals for the first time since 1915. The great 'Jerry' Dolan coached the club for the last time in 1950 (having missed the 1949 season, when Jack Sheedy took the reins). All told, he coached or captain-coached the East Fremantle senior team in a total of 166 games over eight seasons for a success rate of 73.2% and four flags. He also coached the 1943 under age premiership team. In the view of many it would be a line ball decision between Dolan and Phil Matson for the mantle of Western Australian football's greatest ever coach.

The most significant event of the 1953 season was the club's relocation from Fremantle Oval, which it had shared with South Fremantle since the start of the century, to its own home ground of East Fremantle Oval. It celebrated by making a return to the major round but after comfortably defeating East Perth in the first semi it was no match for West Perth in the preliminary final and went down by 52 points.

Things were definitely moving in the right direction again, however, and the trend continued in 1954 and 1955 when, with players like Jack Sheedy, Con Regan, Alan Preen, Jack Clarke and Ken Ebbs to the fore, Old Easts contested consecutive losing grand finals. It was hard to say which of the two losses was the more upsetting: getting thrashed by arch rivals South Fremantle in 1954 or falling short by just 2 points against Perth the following year. In any event, the tangible upshot both years was identical - no additions to the honour board at East Fremantle Oval.



*Jack Sheedy*

Although East Fremantle gained a small measure of revenge against the Demons the following year by winning comfortably in the first semi final (en route to an eventual third place finish) it was not to be until 1957 that the memory was more irrevocably consigned to oblivion. In that season's preliminary final the Demons looked to be comfortably on course for a sizeable win as they led 16.17 to 9.6 at three quarter time, only for East Fremantle to unleash a miraculous brand of football in the final term to add 10.4 to 1.1 and sneak over the line by 4 points. Buoyed by this achievement the players carried on the momentum into the following week's grand final when warm pre-match favourites East Perth were overcome by 16 points after a dour, low scoring war of attrition. Old Easts were captain-coached in 1957 by ex South Fremantle star Steve Marsh who thereby became arguably the most popular Bulldog ever to don the blue and white of their arch rivals.

It was a similar type of grand final a year later but on this occasion it was the

Royals who emerged victorious by a mere 2 points. East Fremantle's status as one of Australian football's leading clubs had been emphasised earlier that same year when no fewer than four of its players - Jack Clarke, Alan Preen, Norm Rogers and Ray Sorrell - were included in the All Australian team selected after the Melbourne carnival.

The 1959 and 1960 seasons ended with preliminary final defeats at the hands of Subiaco and East Perth respectively while the Lions were also responsible for ending Old East's season in 1961, this time at the first semi final stage. New kids on the block Swan Districts proved to have East Fremantle's measure in the grand finals of both 1962 (by 18 points) and 1963 (22 points), securing a premiership hat-trick in the process, while in 1964 it was Claremont's turn to administer the coup de grace with a heart-stopping 4 point triumph.

The 1965 season saw East Fremantle, which had finished the minor round in fourth place, participate in the ultimate game of the year for the fourth successive time. The opposition was once more provided by Swan Districts, and at three quarter time it appeared certain that Old Easts would again be leaving Subiaco Oval empty handed. True, the margin between the sides was only 21 points, but given that Swans would be kicking with the aid of a substantial breeze in the final term this seemed of minimal relevance. The events of that final quarter were such as to knit themselves into the very fabric of the East Fremantle club identity: players who had hardly been sighted suddenly tapped into resources they were unaware they had, while even those who had been playing reasonably well managed to take their performances to another plane altogether. In this context, the breeze might as well have been non existent, as indeed might the opposition afforded by most of the Swan Districts team. East Fremantle added 9.4 to 2.1 for the term to win 'going away' by 24 points in what was arguably the club's finest hour. Best afield and winner of

the Simpson Medal was beanpole ruckman Dave Imrie, who later added the Lynn Medal for club champion for good measure. Other prominent performances came from captain-coach and full forward Bob Johnson, who booted 8 goals, ruck rover 'Bert' Thornley, centreman Harry Neesham, and centre half back Norm Rogers.

It was to be six long years - arguably, the longest, bleakest six years in the entire history of the club - before East Fremantle would again be in a position to mount a serious challenge for the flag. After dropping to fourth in 1966 - bad enough in itself - the side spent the next four Septembers watching the finals action from the outer rather than participating at first hand. At the time, it was the longest concerted period of non finals participation in East Fremantle's illustrious history (eventually surpassed in 2007).

By 1971, however, there was a new generation of exciting talent at the club. With players like Dave Hollins (who won the Sandover Medal), Max Van Helden, Graham Melrose and Les Holt to the fore, and under the astute coaching of a young Victorian by the name of Allan Joyce, East Fremantle overcame Claremont by 47 points in the first semi final and with a bit of good fortune would have tumbled eventual premiers West Perth in the preliminary final. As it was the Cardinals sneaked home by 3 points after a seemingly goal bound kick from East Fremantle's Gary Fenner floated off course at the last moment and went through for a point; it proved to be the final kick of the match.

The WAFL during the early 1970s was the most intensely competitive and unforgiving of Australia's major football competitions.<sup>8</sup> East Fremantle's level of performance dropped only slightly in 1972 but it was enough to bring them 10 fewer wins overall for the season and to catapult them out of the four. There was a slight improvement in 1973 as the side squeezed into the finals but East Perth achieved almost effortless supremacy in the first semi, winning by 59 points.

With skipper Graham Melrose playing probably the best football of his life to secure not only the Sandover Medal but virtually every media award going East Fremantle at long last returned to the winners' list in 1974. In what, even for the era, was an extraordinarily closely contested season, East Fremantle finished the home and away rounds in pole position half a game clear of Perth (and, indeed, just six and a half games ahead of wooden spooners West Perth, who had managed seven wins for the season and had actually lowered Old East's colours on one occasion). Once the finals arrived, however, East Fremantle became pre-eminently, as the cliché has it, "a team on a mission", downing Perth in remarkably similar fashion and by near identical margins in both the second semi final (by 23 points) and grand final (by 22 points). The flag decider, watched by a surprisingly small crowd of 40,758, was hard fought for three quarters with the Demons enjoying a narrow 2 point lead at the final change, but the last quarter brought that traditional Old East 'lift' all over the ground which saw them quickly achieve an unassailable lead. Three late goals to Perth made the final scoreline respectable. East Fremantle youngster Brian Peake was many people's choice as best player afield but the Simpson Medal was split between Perth's Dave Pretty and Old East centreman Gary Gibellini. Others to do well for the victors included ruckmen Bob Becu and Ferguson, ruck rover Dave Hollins, and 4 goal full forward Paul Nicholls.

After the grand final East Fremantle headed to Adelaide for the Australian club championships where it lost to Sturt by 9 points and overcame a Tasmanian combined side without even needing to try.

The second half of the 1970s was especially noteworthy for the emergence of Brian Peake as one of the most prodigious talents in the game. However, not even Peake could enable East Fremantle to maintain a position of pre-eminence in Western Australian football. After failing to



qualify for the finals in both 1975 and 1976 the side's next involvement in the September action proved to be an unmitigated disaster as it was twice (in both the second semi and the grand final) annihilated by Perth. Brian Peake's Sandover Medal win that year afforded scant consolation.

The 1978 season brought yet another in the sequence of spectacular nosedives which have tended to beset East Fremantle over the past four decades or so. The side finished sixth, with just 10 wins, and looked to be well and truly on the skids, but the following year was to bring yet another spectacular reversal of fortune, only this time of the right kind. Under new skipper Brian Peake, now sporting trademark seventies facial hair, Old East fielded an all Western Australian combination in 1979 in what was a noteworthy season all round for Western Australian football.<sup>9</sup> Peake himself enjoyed another memorable year, winning his fourth consecutive Lynn Medal as East Fremantle's best and fairest player, and rounding off the season by winning the Tassie Medal at the Australian championships, the first - and only - Old Easts player to do so.

East Fremantle's 1979 premiership victory was by no means the consummation of a season's dominance. As a matter of fact, the side looked distinctly mediocre at times during the home and away rounds, losing on one occasion to Claremont by 86 points, and on another even less auspicious occasion to East Perth by 103 points. This latter defeat was the first ever time that East Fremantle had lost a game by more than 100 points. Once the finals arrived, however, it was a different story. Old East achieved revenge against both their minor round conquistadors in quick succession, overcoming the Royals in the first semi final by 2 points in a high scoring thriller, and then, responding vibrantly to the incentive of a potential 'derby' grand final, emphatically downing Claremont by 27 points in the preliminary final.

The blue half of Fremantle had enjoyed marginal supremacy over the red half

during 1979 (2 wins to 1) and grand final day saw their dominance extended. In a high standard, see-sawing tussle Old Easts ultimately displayed superior fitness and desperation to see off their opponents with an 8 goal to 2 final term after trailing by 4 points at 'lemon time'. Forward pocket/rover Kevin Taylor booted 7 goals to earn the Simpson Medal and take his season's goals tally to 102, while not far behind him were Tony Buhagiar, the irrepressible Brian Peake, and Doug and Stephen Green. If it was not exactly the club's finest hour, it was certainly one of the most highly satisfying.

The Old East yo-yo syndrome quickly reasserted itself in 1980 as the club endured one of its worst ever senior campaigns, finishing seventh with just 5 wins from 21 starts. Things were not quick to improve either as the side went on to miss the finals in both 1981 (seventh again - 5 wins and 16 losses) and 1982 (for sixth place with 8 wins, 13 losses).

In 1983 the Western Australian club with arguably the richest tradition of all took the drastic measure of divorcing itself to some extent from that tradition by adopting a new emblem, that of the arch predator of the sea, the shark. It was felt by the newly expanded club board that the introduction of this emblem would render the club more attractive to potential sponsors at a time when the sponsorship dollar was becoming increasingly critical to achieving and maintaining success. It was probably entirely coincidental, but in 1983 the side's on field performances improved sufficiently to enable participation in the major round for the first time since the premiership year of 1979. There was to be no return to premiership glory, however: in the first semi final reigning and eventual back to back premiers Swan Districts emphasised that the Sharks still had something of a mountain to scale by winning easily by 59 points.

A year later and it was once again the Swans who were responsible for ending East Fremantle's bid for the flag, but on

this occasion it was on the final Saturday of the season. The Sharks had performed consistently well for most of the 1984 season to finish the home and away rounds in second spot, a single win behind the Swans. They then astounded most observers by going straight into the grand final with a 15.12 (102) to 10.16 (76) second semi final win. The premiership seemed there for the taking. However, when the big day arrived, with Swan Districts predictably again providing the opposition, many of the younger East Fremantle players froze; by quarter time, the match was as good as over, with Swans having surged to a 10.7 (67) to 0.3 lead. Even in the second term, when the Sharks fought back determinedly to get to within a couple of straight kicks, it was clear that the finals hardened men from Bassendean held too much in reserve. After half time they again kicked clear and although East Fremantle ultimately managed to equal their tally of a fortnight previously, on this occasion it left them 6 goals adrift, Swan Districts winning 20.18 (138) to 15.12 (102).

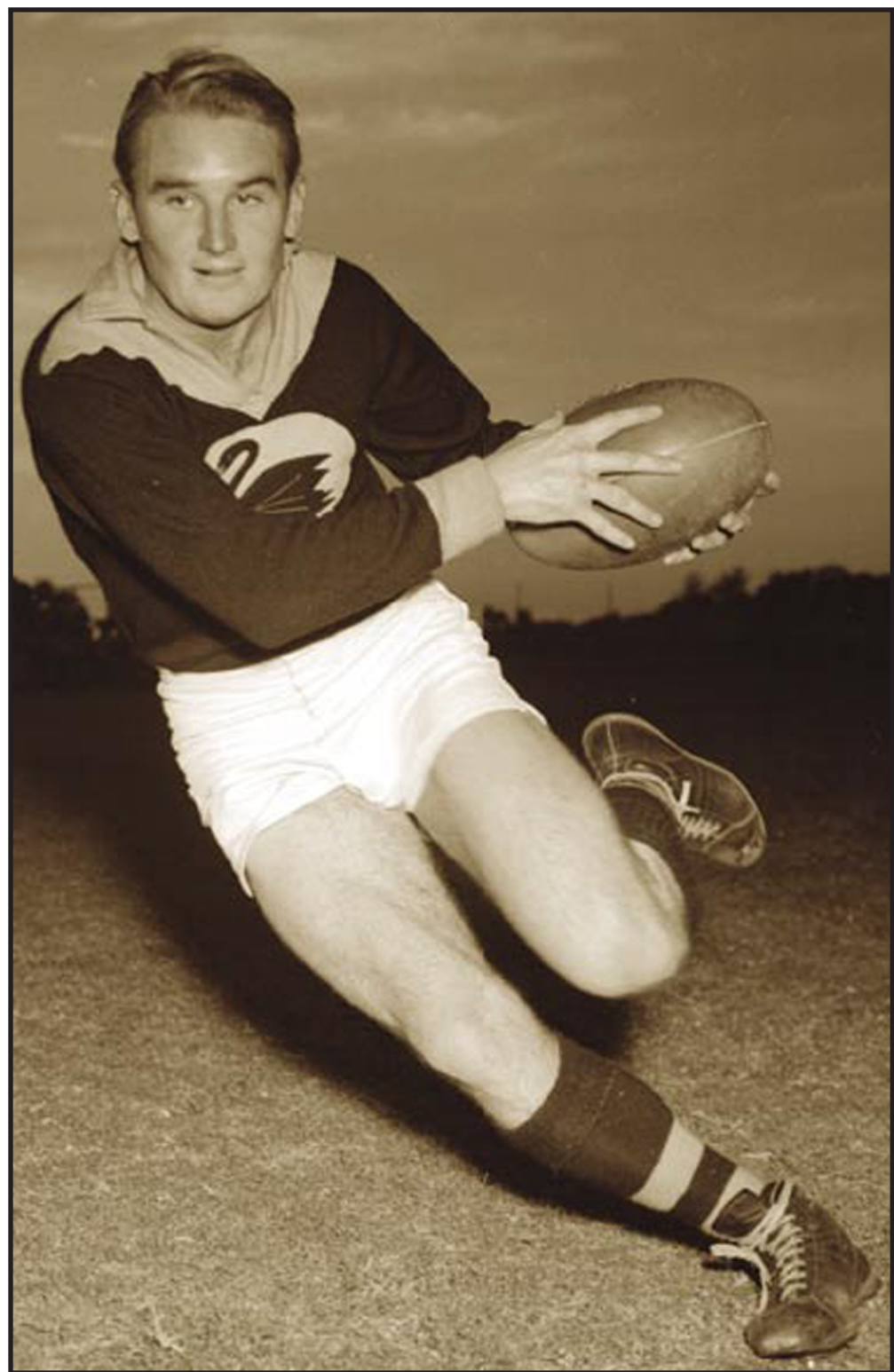
Despite the disappointment of a losing grand final there was considerable optimism at East Fremantle Oval as the team prepared for the 1985 season. It was widely believed that the squad of players at the club was the strongest for many years, and that with the inevitable honing of skills that a further season's experience would bring, coupled with the insatiable hunger brought about by going so close in 1984, the Sharks would prove to be well nigh unbeatable in 1985, and so in fact it proved. Indeed, after opening the season with a 79 point mauling of their previous season's nemesis East Fremantle remained unbeaten until round 13 when West Perth edged home by 2 points. The side lost on only 3 further occasions all year, with 2 of those defeats coming in the final 2 rounds of the season after the minor premiership had been clinched.

The finals did not prove to be quite the cakewalk expected, however. Subiaco, which had lowered its colours to the Sharks

in 2 out of 3 meetings during the minor round,<sup>10</sup> provided stern opposition in both the second semi final, which it lost by 12 points, and grand final, when both sides had 27 scoring shots and the margin was just 5 points. Midway through the final quarter of the grand final East Fremantle enjoyed a comfortable lead only for the Lions, if the pun can be excused, to come roaring home; with the scores at 15.12 (102) to 14.13 (97) in the Sharks' favour and the ball on the Subiaco forward lines the siren sounded. Best players for the victors were Clinton Browning, Murray Wrensted and Colin Waterson, but the Simpson Medal went to Brian Taylor of Subiaco.

The Lions had ample revenge over the Sharks in 1986 winning an anti climactic grand final by 69 points, this after the Sharks had triumphed with deceptive ease in the second semi final, winning 20.13 (133) to 12.11 (83).

The seeping alterations to the football landscape which had been occurring since the 1960s suddenly burgeoned into a full scale cataclysm in 1987 with the admission of West Coast and Brisbane to an expanded VFL. At a stroke, the WAFL competition was denuded of more than forty of its best players, with East Fremantle, which lost no fewer than fourteen members of its 1986 squad,<sup>11</sup> among the worst affected. Despite this, the Sharks ran a creditable third in 1987, as indeed they did in 1988 and 1989. The 1989 season saw Brian Peake, who in the minds of some was the greatest player the game has seen, play his 300th WAFL match for East Fremantle. Peake, who also spent four seasons with Geelong, was certainly a highly decorated player, winning six Lynn Medals, a Sandover, and the 1979 Tassie Medal, as well as making 22 interstate appearances for Western Australia, gaining selection in three All Australian teams, and playing in three East Fremantle premiership teams. In 1990 he moved to Perth where he played a further 10 games for a career total of more than 400.





*ABOVE: Defender Doug Green in action against Perth.*

*PREVIOUS PAGE: Old Easts' star centreman of the 1950s and '60s, Ray Sorrell.*



The Sharks' fortunes declined somewhat in 1990 (fourth) while in 1991, for the first time ever, not one of East Fremantle's three sides (seniors, reserves and colts) qualified for finals participation. Things could hardly have been more different a year later, though, as all three sides made it through to the September action, with both the seniors and the colts ultimately going top. As far as the senior side was concerned the 24 point 'derby' grand final victory over South Fremantle was a testimony to the judicious (pun intended) coaching of Ken Judge, who comprehensively won the strategic battle of wits with his opposite number, Malcolm Brown. In the second semi final a fortnight earlier the Bulldogs running brigade had been in irrepressible form, but on this occasion Judge firmly and decisively seized the initiative from the start by instructing players like Steven Bilcich and Clayton Anderson to suppress their own game and apply themselves single-mindedly to the task of quelling the effectiveness of their immediate opponents. Anderson succeeded to the extent of restricting his direct opponent Mark Collins to just a couple of kicks to three quarter time, while Bilcich, who was commissioned to mind Wally Matera, did so effective a job that he was most people's choice as best afield).<sup>12</sup> After a closely fought first three quarters which ended with South Fremantle a single goal to the good the Sharks, with the aid of a fairly stiff breeze, added 5.3 to 0.3 in the final term to win with deceptive comfort, 12.19 (91) to 9.13 (67).

Two years later East Fremantle would win yet another flag, but this time there would be no comfort about it, deceptive or otherwise. After qualifying for the finals in third spot it proved necessary to negotiate three tough fixtures in order to secure involvement in the grand final. First, West Perth were overcome by 28 points in the qualifying final, only for flag favourites Claremont to put a proverbial spanner in the works the following week in the second semi. The Tigers won with some ease, 17.13 (115) to 11.2 (68), and looked

odds on to win the premiership. Not that East Fremantle even looked likely to be contesting the premiership at half time of the preliminary final a week later against the Falcons. West Perth had had winners all over the ground and led by 36 points, 9.15 (69) to 5.3 (33); only a slight waywardness in front of goal on the part of certain Falcons forwards had kept East Freo in the game, albeit tenuously. In the third term though the game began to change as the Shark midfielders started to get a run on. At the final change West Perth still led, but the margin was down to 13 points and it seemed clear that the momentum was with the easterners. Perhaps predictably, the last quarter was one way traffic, East Fremantle adding 6.3 to 0.3 to win with a comfort that, at half time, would have been almost impossible to imagine.



*Martin Mellody*

The momentum carried on throughout the first three quarters of the following week's grand final as the Sharks led Claremont a merry dance to rattle on 12 goals to 3 and effectively put a mortgage on the destiny

of the 1994 premiership. Although the Tigers rallied somewhat in the final term their improvement was of purely academic interest and a final margin of just 21 points was scarcely a reflection of East Fremantle's superiority. Best for the Sharks in a match that attracted just 17,594 spectators to Subiaco Oval were Mark Amaranti (4 goals and the Simpson Medal), Justin Sanders, Craig Trevelen and veteran skipper Steve Malaxos.

With newcomers like Martin Mellody featuring prominently East Fremantle mounted genuine premiership challenges in each of the following three seasons only to fall at the penultimate hurdle in 1995 and 1996 and, most disappointingly of all, in the grand final of 1997 to arch rivals South Fremantle. The Sharks had more than enough chances to win in 1997 but ended up 6 points adrift after the Bulldogs staged a titanic last term recovery. If salt for the wound were needed it was provided by the fact that, in 1997, East Fremantle Football club was celebrating its official centenary. The level of disappointment felt by all those associated with the Sharks can clearly be inferred from reading Jack Lee's review of the 1997 season in his otherwise meticulously thorough history of the club, *Celebrating 100 Years of Tradition*. Other than recording the line scores, no mention of that year's grand final is made.

East Fremantle's domination of the 1998 Westar Rules<sup>13</sup> season was consummate. Having qualified for the finals in pole position, with only 2 losses for the year, the side went on to reach the grand final almost effortlessly after a 53 point second semi final defeat of West Perth in which the Falcons were restricted to just 3.17 (35). When the Sharks and Falcons met again on grand final day it was a similar story, albeit after West Perth had firmly thrown down the gauntlet late in the second term. At that stage East Fremantle, having looked comfortable early on, were reeling after the loss of three players with debilitating injuries; the Falcons

failed to press home their advantage, however, and an 11 point deficit at half time was as close as they got. The final siren saw

East Fremantle 43 points to the good, 20.10 (130) to West Perth's 13.9 (87). The Simpson Medal went to Sharks on baller Adrian Bromage, with other significant contributions coming from skipper Steve Bilcich, centre half forward Scott Spalding, and wingman Gary Dhurrkay.

During the period 1991 to 2000 the Sharks were Western Australian football's most successful club with five grand final appearances for three flags, and an overall success rate of 61.4%. Despite this - or, rather, because of factors outside the club's control - attendances at East Fremantle Oval plummeted, from an average in 1991 of 4,430 per game, to significantly less than half of that a decade later. On a perversely positive note, since the arrival on the scene of the West Coast Eagles East Fremantle has probably produced as many AFL draftees as any other club in the land, and the battle hardened club hierarchy seem under few illusions as to the harsh realities of life for those who inhabit what might be called 'Australian football's second tier'. If being a regular and reliable contributor to the AFL treadmill constitutes a somewhat less high profile vocation than a club of East Fremantle's pedigree warrants, it nevertheless at least represents a valid survival mechanism at a time when 'survival' has very much become a watchword for virtually every sporting organisation in the land.

As far as on-field performances go, the twenty-first century has, to date, been far from auspicious, with the club failing to qualify for the finals every season since 2002, and even succumbing to the rare, if not quite unique, indignity of wooden spoons in 2004 and 2006. Restoring the club to what many would argue is its rightful place at the forefront of the West Australian game is going to be far



from easy, but the Sharks have faced stiffer challenges over the years, and triumphed, and it would surprise no one to see them challenging seriously for premierships again with in the next two or three seasons, particularly in the wake of a much improved 2007 campaign that produced a 9-11 win/loss record and an extremely healthy percentage, good enough for sixth place on the ladder.

**East Kimberley Football League:** Formed in 1970, the EKFL currently boasts seven clubs, all based in a region roughly 3,000 kilometres north-east of Perth. Ord River, with five of the last eleven premierships, has been the most successful club of late. The other member clubs are Halls Creek, Kununurra, Port Wyndham, Timber Creek, Waringarri and Warmun. The 2007 grand final saw Ord River 11.10 (76) defeat Warmun 10.7 (67).

## EAST PERTH - 19th Century

**Affiliated:** WAFA 1891-2

**Colours:** Blue and white

**Premierships:** Nil

The first team to bear the name of East Perth bore no relation to the illustrious club which has made such a significant contribution to Western Australian football since 1906. The original East Perth club was far from illustrious, spending a mere two seasons as members of the Western Australian Football Association, and managing just 1 win and 2 draws from a total of 24 matches, for a woeful success rate of 8.3%. Needless to say, the side ended up with the wooden spoon in both years.



*Triumphant East Perth players after the 2002 grand final in which they had thrashed West Perth by 10 goals.*

## EAST PERTH

**Affiliated:** Perth Third Rate Association 1902-03; Perth First Rate Association 1904-05; WAFA/WAFL/WANFL 1906-present

**Club Address:** P.O. Box 447, Leederville, Western Australia 6903

**Website:** www.eastperthfc.com.au

**Email:** info@eastperthfc.com.au

**Home Ground:** Medibank Stadium (formerly known as Leederville Oval). The club was based at Perth Oval between 1910 and 1999.

**Formed:** 1902 (as Union Football Club)

**Colours:** Blue and black

**Emblem:** Royals

**Premierships:** SENIORS 1919-20-1-2-3, 1926-7, 1936, 1944\*, 1956, 1958-9, 1972, 1978, 2000-1-2 (17 total) RESERVES (from 1925) 1932-3-4-5, 1948, 1961, 1965-6-7, 1976, 1978, 1981, 1983 (13 total) COLTS (from 1957) 1967, 1975, 1980, 2000, 2006 (5 total) Western Australian State Premierships -1919, 1922-23 (3 total) OTHER PREMIERSHIPS - Third Rate Association: 1902-03 (2 total); First Rate Association: 1904 (1 total); R.P. Rodriguez Shield: 1958-9, 1961, 1966-7, 1969, 1971, 1976, 2000 (9 total)

**Sandover Medallists:** William 'Digger' Thomas 1923; George 'Staunch' Owens 1925; William 'Billy' Thomas 1929; Frank Allen 1950#; Graham 'Polly' Farmer 1956, 1957# & 1960; Ted 'Square' Kilmurray 1958; Malcolm Brown 1969; Alan Quartermaine 1975; Peter Spencer 1976 & 1984; Phil Kelly 1978 & 1979; John Ironmonger 1983; David Bain 1988; Brady Anderson 1997; Ryan Turnbull 2001 (14 Medallists/18 Medals)

**Tassie Medallists:** D.J. 'Mick' Cronin 1937; Graham 'Polly' Farmer 1956; Ken McAullay 1972 (3 total)

**All Australians:** Graham 'Polly' Farmer 1956, 1958 & 1961; Kevin Murray 1966; Keith Doncon 1966; Malcolm Brown 1972 (captain); Ken McAullay 1972; Barry Cable 1979 (non-playing coach) (8 total)

**League Top Goalkickers:** Sam Sloss (30) 1909; Hugh Campbell (67) 1924, (89) 1926 & (87) 1927; Alan Watts (101) 1944\*; Bill Mose (115) 1958; Neil Hawke (114) 1959; Phil Tierney (119) 1967; Glen Bartlett (69) 1990; Troy Wilson (74) 2006 (10 total)

**Highest Score:** 32.19 (211) vs. Claremont 9.10 (64) at Perth Oval in round 10 1958

**Most Games:** 269 by Derek Chadwick from 1959 to 1972

**Record Home Attendance:** 26,760 in round 9 1969 at Perth Oval: West Perth 16.15 (111); East Perth 12.11 (83)

**Record Finals Attendance:** 51,385 for 1969 grand final at Subiaco Oval: West Perth 21.21 (147); East Perth 10.14 (74)

**Overall Success Rate 1906-2007:** 55.0%

*\* signifies that this was achieved during the wartime under-age competition which ran between 1942 and 1944*

*# indicates awarded retrospectively by Westar Rules authorities in 1997*

**K**nown as the Royals, East Perth have one of the proudest traditions in Western Australian football, but the club has also endured its share of hard times. Among the unique achievements of the East Perth Football Club are:

- providing the winner of the Sandover Medal for the outstanding player in the WAFL on a record eighteen occasions
- providing more Eric Tassie Medallists (three) than any other club in Australia
- winning a record five consecutive WAFL premierships between 1919 and 1923

In addition, East Perth is unique among Australian football clubs in having an official heraldic symbol of coat of arms and crest, thereby further emphasising the 'royal' connection.



*'Fabulous Phil' Matson, one of the truly great Australian sporting identities of the 20th century.*

East Perth's origins, however, were anything but regal. In 1902, with the population of Perth standing at little more than 10,000, employees of the Union Soap Factory and the nearby Excelsior Confectionery Factory joined forces to form

the Union Football Club, which over the course of the next four seasons experienced considerable success at junior level.

Encouraged by this success the club made an application to join the Western Australian Football Association in 1906 as 'East Perth' and, despite reservations on the part of some WAFA delegates who considered that the new club would be out of its depth, this application was accepted.

Concern about the new club's ability proved unfounded. Appearing in patriotic red, white and blue playing uniforms (which may have given rise to the nickname 'Royals') the team rapidly became competitive, and indeed reached a premiership play off in only its fifth season. The Royals lost to East Fremantle on that occasion, 2.10 (22) to 4.5 (29), but the team's supporters could have been excused for believing that success was just around the corner. However, over the course of the next seven seasons East Perth were to contest only one finals series (in 1915) and win just 38 of 101 matches played; it was not to be until after World War One that the Royals were first to savour the taste of premiership glory.

The man generally accorded most credit for guiding the Royals to the top of the tree is Phil Matson.<sup>14</sup> Born in South Australia, Matson had a varied and highly successful playing career in both his home state and Western Australia before taking up the reins as playing coach of East Perth in 1918. With all clubs having suffered serious player losses during the first World War the standard of the competition inevitably deteriorated, and, as has frequently been shown throughout football history, such circumstances frequently encourage domination by a single club. In the WAFL between 1919 and 1923 that club was East Perth.

In Matson's first season as coach the Royals reached the challenge final only to lose to East Fremantle by 21 points, 8.5 (53) to 11.8 (74), having previously succumbed by 26 points against the same

club in the final a week earlier. One year later, however, the club broke through for its first ever WAFL pennant, defeating East Fremantle in the premiership decider by 22 points, 10.8 (68) to 7.4 (46). The Royals then went on to defeat both the premiers of the Kalgoorlie competition (which in those days was virtually as strong as the WAFL) and a combined goldfields team to earn the title of state champions, an achievement they were to repeat in both 1922 and 1923.

After defeating East Fremantle by 22 and 7 points in the premiership deciders of 1920 and 1921 respectively the Royals arguably reached their peak during 1922, and this was clearly evidenced during a five week mid-season tour of the goldfields and eastern states. During this tour East Perth lost only 1 of 5 matches played, recording excellent wins against a combined goldfields team, a Bendigo Football League representative side, and South Australian clubs Norwood and West Adelaide, which later in the season would contest the SANFL grand final. The solitary loss was by a single point against middle ranking VFL club St Kilda, and given that the match was played in conditions completely foreign to the Royals - wet, cold, and extremely muddy - the result could hardly be regarded as ignominious.

The extent of East Perth's perceived dominance of the competition was clearly illustrated in 1924 when a record eight Royals players were included in the state team which travelled to Hobart for the interstate carnival. A few months later, however, the five in a row era came to an abrupt end in a semi final when East Fremantle scraped home by 8 points.

The Royals were by no means a spent force, however. In the 1926 final they annihilated Subiaco by 50 points to clinch the flag without needing to exercise their right of challenge, and they won again a year later when South Fremantle were the victims. After a hard fought loss against arch rivals East Fremantle in the challenge final of 1928, however, the club, minus the

sage and energetic guidance of Matson, plummeted to last in 1929, and it was clear that a fundamental re-building process was called for.<sup>15</sup>



*George 'Staunch' Owens*

The Royals did not remain in the doldrums for long. In 1932 they once again reached the ultimate game of the season, but on this occasion, as indeed in every subsequent grand final clash with West Perth until 2002, the Cardinals proved to have the Royals' measure.<sup>16</sup>

Between 1933 and 1935 East Perth finished fourth, fourth and third, the top sides always proving that bit too accomplished, and 1936 gave no indication of being any better when the team just scraped into the four by one win from West Perth. Under the canny guidance of former East Fremantle player 'Jerry' Dolan however, the Royals were establishing a reputation as a team of battlers, and events over the course of the following month were to confirm this. Indeed, the 1936 WANFL<sup>17</sup> finals series would surely have to be ranked as one of the most sensational in the entire history of Australian football anywhere.

In the first semi final East Perth were pitted against Subiaco, and after a dour struggle emerged a single point to the good, despite having 4 fewer scoring shots in a low scoring game. The consensus then was that the team had already achieved more than might reasonably have been expected. However, astonishingly, the preliminary final (or 'final' as it has often tended to be known in Western Australia) saw the Royals again emerge with a 1 point victory, this time against East Fremantle.

In the grand final East Perth faced Claremont, a side which was to go on to appear in every subsequent grand final until 1940, winning the premiership on three occasions. This year, however, belonged to the Royals, although once again the game was tight, tense, and dramatic, Herb Screaigh's goal with the last kick of the match giving East Perth the unaccustomed breathing space of 11 points, 11.5 (71) to 9.6 (60). After entering the finals as complete outsiders the Royals had sensationally managed to land the flag with a total winning margin over 3 games of just 13 points.<sup>18</sup>

The years leading up to the onset of World War Two saw East Perth rejoin the pursuing pack, although with the exception of the 1941 season they always at least managed to contest the finals before the cessation of senior football in 1942. From 1942-4 the WANFL conducted an under age competition only, although records for those seasons continue, somewhat contentiously, to be deemed 'official' by the league. Thus the Royals' 1944 premiership, which was secured with a 56 point grand final victory over East Fremantle in front of 8,991 spectators, is officially accorded the same status as the club's thirteen open age triumphs.<sup>19</sup>

The years immediately following World War One had yielded considerable success for East Perth, but in the wake of a second global conflict there was to be no repetition. Indeed, it was not to be until 1952 that the Royals would again contest a finals series,

and even then they were quickly bundled out of contention by Claremont.



*Larry 'Plum' Duffy*

Three years earlier the East Perth committee, in an attempt to provide the club with a fiercer image, had proposed the adoption of a new nickname, 'the Eagles'. However, this never really caught on, and indeed the club's supporters were jokingly wont to refer to the team as "seventeen galahs and a sparrow", the 'Sparrow' concerned being Frank, the East Perth captain of the time.

Many Australian football clubs of the 1940s and '50s sought to instigate an improvement in fortunes by introducing new, tougher-sounding nicknames,<sup>20</sup> but what was actually needed in such instances was more a change in attitude, coupled as often as not with the recruitment of better players.

Both these developments coincided happily at East Perth in the mid 1950s. At the end of the 1955 season favourite son 'Mick' Cronin concluded his second term as coach having only managed to get his team into the finals once in four years. However, in hindsight it is possible to see how he was responsible for laying the foundations for the



success which was to come the Royals' way during the second half of the decade. For example, it was under Cronin that such top class players as 1958 Sandover Medallist Ted Kilmurray, Paul Seal, Kevin McGill, John Watts, and most notable of all perhaps, Graham 'Polly' Farmer, took their senior bows.

The 1956 season was, in numerous respects, a seminal one for the East Perth Football Club. In the first place, it was precisely fifty years since the club had joined the WANFL (or the WAFA as it was then known), and to commemorate this the club opened a new all brick grandstand at Perth Oval. In order to enhance spectators' views from this new edifice the oval was re-aligned to run from north to south, and at the risk of sounding crass it would perhaps be fair to observe that this was symbolic of an impending change of course, not only for East Perth but also for the sport as a whole.

Australian football in the early twenty-first century is big business, but the process leading to this state of affairs has been prolonged and complex. In Western Australia one of the key stages in this process occurred in 1956 when, thanks chiefly to the largesse of committeeman Roy Hull, East Perth became the first WAFL club to introduce an official system of payment to players. Prior to that, there is no doubt that methods of conferring financial rewards on players had existed, but these had been essentially covert in nature, and it was only with the implementation of the East Perth scheme that the whole matter was rendered 'above board'.<sup>21</sup>

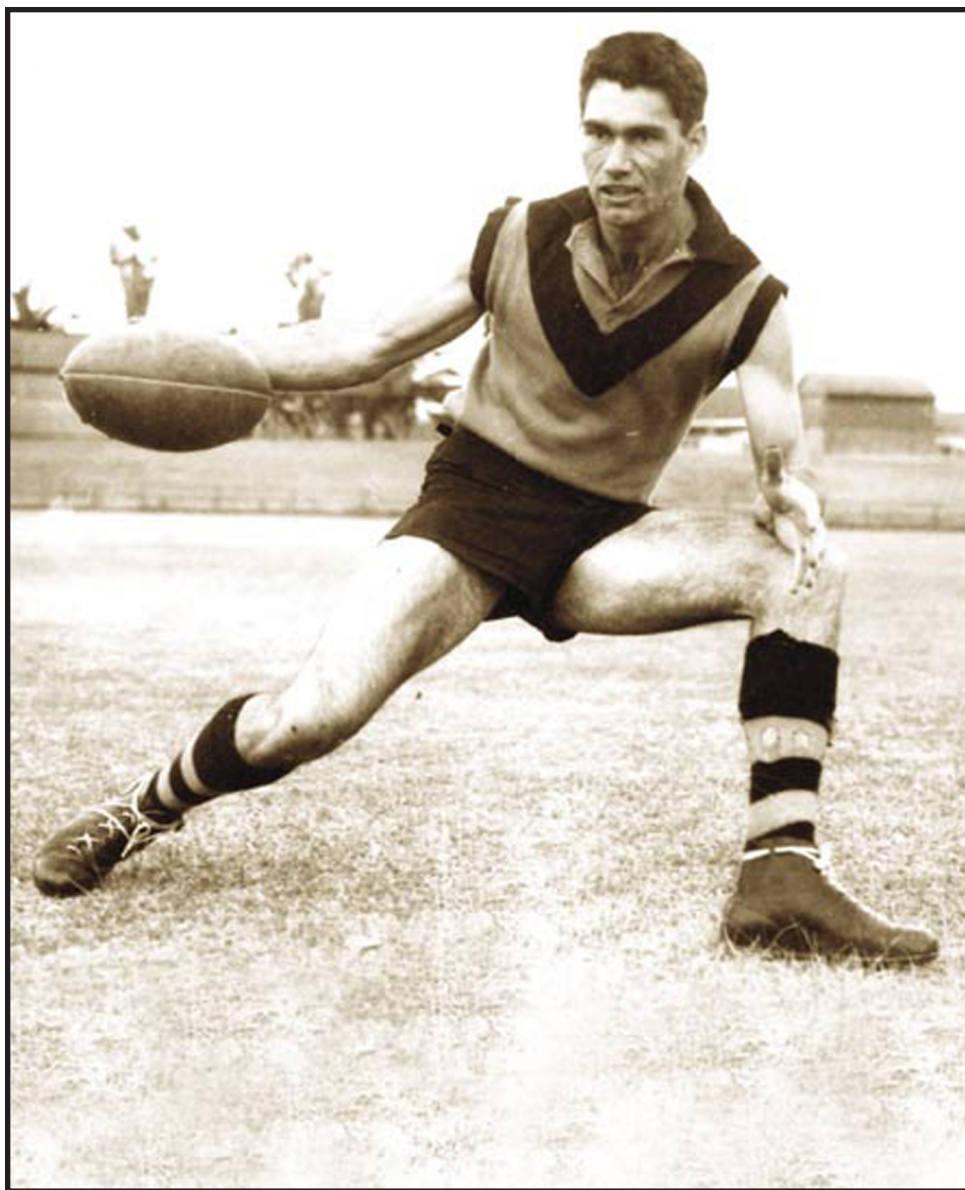
Developments off the field are all very well, but it is achievements on it which are a football club's *raison d'être*. Often it is only by abandoning old methods and implementing totally new ideas that such achievements are realised, and this is precisely what the East Perth committee did in December 1955 when it appointed Jack Sheedy as playing coach for the 1956 season. Sheedy was a 210 game veteran from arch rivals

East Fremantle, and this fact on its own was enough to fuel a certain amount of controversy among Royals supporters.<sup>22</sup> However, the battle-scarred veteran did not waste any time in showing that he meant business. After putting the players through a tougher pre-season than any of them could remember he was soon involved in an incident which, in retrospect, can be seen as having played a large part in breaking the ice, and, moreover, in according him what amounted to hero status at Perth Oval. During the opening round of the season he was reported by field umpire Ray Montgomery for allegedly using abusive language toward him. At the tribunal hearing Sheedy produced a bible on which he solemnly swore that he had not been the player responsible, Montgomery having mistaken him for an (unnamed) team mate. In the upshot, the tribunal's guilty verdict was almost irrelevant when compared to the legend of 'Bible Jack' to which Sheedy's colourful defence gave rise.

More tangibly, Jack Sheedy's vibrant personality and intense, almost fanatical determination to succeed had a direct and discernible impact on the team. East Perth won 14 out of 19 home and away matches in 1956, twice as many as from one game more a year earlier, to head the ladder going into the finals. Once there they proved their superiority with two hard fought wins against South Fremantle by 7 and 13 points to cap off what had been in every sense a complete year. In addition to the premiership, the club had provided in the person of Graham Farmer both the Sandover Medallist as the best and fairest player in the WANFL, and the Eric Tassie Medallist for the outstanding player at the Perth carnival.

Farmer was in every respect the epitome of the champion player. Possessed of supreme all round ability, he also boasted a rare and special talent that few others have shared. Put simply, he was an innovator, who by means of great imagination and





*ABOVE: East Perth's 1958 Sandover Medallist Ted 'Square' Kilmurray.*

*NEXT PAGE: Ralph Rogerson effects a fine spoil against South Fremantle.*



what amounted to a kind of intuitive genius took the game of Australian football along avenues no one had hitherto been aware existed. If any single individual can be said to have played the major role in transforming Australian football from what was basically a stop-start, prop and kick affair into the fluid, play on style which is now the norm, that player was Farmer. East Perth team mate John Watts described Farmer's uniqueness thus:

*"He would evaluate the best player.....to give it to. He never got rid of the ball to get himself out of trouble..... He always managed to get the ball away to an advantage to the team..... He played the game correctly..... Even when he fell to the ground he was still thinking, he'd still have possession of it, and (be) thinking where he was going to place it."*<sup>23</sup>

Jack Sheedy's coaching philosophy admirably reinforced and complemented Farmer's approach. Under Sheedy, East Perth played a style of football which in many ways was fifteen or twenty years ahead of its time. For one thing, handball was used as an offensive weapon, rather than merely as a last resort when a player got into trouble.<sup>24</sup> Other sides had difficulty coping with this style and in Sheedy's first six years as coach the Royals were easily the outstanding side in the competition. Out of a total of 138 matches played between 1956 and 1961 East Perth won 106, drew 2, and lost just 30. In addition, the team headed the ladder after the home and away rounds in four out of those six seasons, reaching the grand final every time for wins in 1956, 1958 and 1959.

In 1961 the Royals put in one of the finest home and away campaigns in the club's history, winning all but 2 of 21 games for the season. A 48 point win over Cinderella club Swan Districts in the second semi final earned them odds on favouritism for the grand final re-match a fortnight later, but the Royals were on the wrong end of one of the

biggest upsets in Western Australian football history as Swans won by 24 points to record their first ever WANFL premiership.

That 1961 grand final was 'Polly' Farmer's last ever game for East Perth, the star ruckman transferring to Geelong in the VFL where he went on to enhance his reputation still further. Farmer's importance to the Royals was emphasised in 1962 when the team missed the finals for the first time since 1955. Sheedy's impact was also beginning to wane, and after the club slumped to the wooden spoon in 1964 with just 3 wins out of 21 he was replaced as coach by Kevin Murray.

Murray, an experienced campaigner from Fitzroy in the VFL, gave East Perth needed impetus both on and off the field. After narrowly missing the finals in 1965 the Royals re-emerged as a top league power a year later, losing narrowly to Perth in both the second semi and the grand final. Murray returned to Victoria in 1967 but the bitter taste of defeat was to linger at Perth Oval for some time, the Royals going down in the 'big one' in each of the following three seasons. Perth in '67 and '68 and West Perth in '69 were the Royals' conquerors, and rarely if ever can a side have experienced so much difficulty in taking that vital final step to success.

Unusually, at least in the modern era, the 1969 grand final did not mark the end of the season for East Perth, as the club was involved in an historic trip to Delhi in India where it engaged in two exhibition matches against Subiaco, the first ever official Australian football matches to be played on the sub-continent. A total of approximately 8,000 spectators watched the two games.

Back to more familiar surroundings in 1970 the Royals again fell short of the mark when they failed by 4 points against Perth in the preliminary final. A grand final loss against perennial nemesis West Perth followed in 1971, but in 1972, at long last, the team returned to the winners enclosure with a 9.17 (71) to 8.8 (64) grand final defeat of Claremont.

Coached by 'Mad Mal' Brown, one of the most colourful personalities ever to represent the club, East Perth had a half back line second to none, with half back flanker Ken McAullay securing the Simpson Medal for best afield in the grand final to go with the Tassie and Simpson Medals he had won earlier in the season while representing Western Australia at the Perth interstate carnival.<sup>25</sup>

Immediately following their premiership victory East Perth became the first Western Australian club to participate in the Australian club championships in Adelaide, and although the Royals lost their semi final to Carlton the series tends to be remembered more for the sight of Malcolm Brown going berserk and laying into every Blues player within reach than it is for the results on the scoreboard.

Brown's antics on this occasion were by no means unprecedented. Over the course of his entire career he made more appearances before the WANFL tribunal than any other player in history (the precise number of these appearances is disputed, but they seem certain to have at least numbered in the twenties). Brown transferred to Richmond in 1974 where he maintained his reputation in every sense, missing his new club's grand final triumph over North Melbourne that year through suspension. All this said, it would be unfair to classify Brown as nothing more than a football thug. In 1969, for example, he won the Sandover Medal for *fairest* and best player in the WANFL, and he was runner up for the same award in 1972. He also won East Perth's individual award on three occasions. Without him in 1974 the team struggled, slipping out of the four and managing only 10 wins out of 21 matches for the year.

'Mad Mal' returned to Western Australian football in 1975, but it was Claremont rather than East Perth which benefited from his services. Instead the Royals, now coached by Ray Giblett, were forced to concentrate on re-building, a process which was to bear

earlier fruit than even the most optimistic of their supporters might reasonably have anticipated. In 1975 the Royals reached the first semi final before losing to South Fremantle, but then prior to the start of the 1976 season came the moment East Perth fans could have been excused for dreaming about for fifteen years, the return of 'the prodigal son', Graham 'Polly' Farmer, to Perth Oval.



*Gary Malarkey*

This time around, however, things would inevitably be different: there would be no deft palming of the ball straight into the eager path of a sprinting team mate, no forty metre handpasses splitting opposition backlines asunder, for Farmer, now into his forties, was returning 'home' as non-playing coach, a role he had performed with only limited success at Geelong in 1974 and 1975. Prior to that he had been playing coach of West Perth from 1968-71, steering that club to grand final triumphs (over the Royals) in both 1969 and 1971.

Farmer's return to his original stamping ground had an immediate impact. In the opening match of the 1976 season

the Royals dispensed a 14 goal hiding to reigning premier West Perth and thereafter never looked back. With 16 wins from 21 games the side finished 2 wins clear of second placed South Fremantle against whom a comfortable 31 point second semi final win set up what ought on the face of things to have been the formality of a grand final meeting with the season's surprise packet, Perth.

The reality of the situation, however, was that the Royals had emerged from the South Fremantle clash with what the club's annual report described as:

*..... a team decimated in victory. The respite of two weeks produced an urgency of 'repair and maintenance' on bruised and broken limbs ..... The doctors and trainers worked days, nights and weekends to try and repair what, in some cases, proved to be impossible in the short time available.<sup>26</sup>*

The upshot was that, despite trailing by only 11 points at quarter time after the Demons had enjoyed first use of what seemed a 5 or 6 goal breeze, the Royals never managed to get a run on - an eventuality rendered increasingly less likely after the rains came during the second term - and ended up losing by 23 points, 11.3 (69) to 13.14 (92).

The grand final issue of the 'Football Budget' for 1976 called East Perth under Farmer "one of the best teams in the club's history",<sup>27</sup> but unfortunately history only truly ratifies such assertions when they are backed up with premierships. Sadly, East Perth under Farmer were not to get another chance at glory.<sup>28</sup> In 1977 the team just scraped into the four but were comfortably accounted for by West Perth in the first semi before, in somewhat controversial circumstances, Farmer was displaced as coach and the position handed to Barry Cable.

In 1978 Cable was nearing the end of an illustrious playing career in which he had

played for Perth (225 games) and North Melbourne (116 games) as well as winning the 1966 Tassie Medal, three Sandovers and no fewer than eight club fairest and best awards; Cable, who had been an ardent Royals supporter as a boy, now had a burning ambition to coach a premiership team, but two thirds of the way through the season it appeared he would have to wait at least a little while longer to realise that ambition as the Royals languished in sixth spot with only 6 wins from 14 games. Victory in each of the final 7 home and away matches of the season was essential if the club was to have any realistic hope of contesting the finals - and, sensationally, this is just what was achieved, with the side actually gaining the double chance on percentage after a 9 point triumph over West Perth in the last round.

East Perth suffered their first defeat since round 14 in the second semi final when reigning premiers Perth confirmed their flag favouritism to the tune of 29 points. This was followed, however, by a 112 point annihilation of South Fremantle in the preliminary final a week later, and there was not surprisingly a mood of considerable optimism in the Royals camp prior to the grand final re-match with the Demons.

The 1978 grand final was the fifth since 1966 to feature East Perth and Perth, and ominously all four previous clashes had gone the way of the Demons. This time, however, the Royals showed great resolve in atrociously wet conditions to run out winners by 2 points, 11.15 (81) to 12.7 (79). Ruck-rover Ian Miller won the Simpson Medal for best afield, while East Perth were also well served by wingman Phil Kelly, ruckman Wayne Duke, centre half back Kevin Bryant, and centreman Larry Kickett. Barry Cable had thus achieved his ambition at the first time of asking, but it would be a long time before Royals' fans could again rejoice after a grand final.

Cable remained at Perth Oval for a further two seasons, with the Royals contesting the



finals both times but falling a long way short of premiership contention.

In the sixteen seasons between 1980 and 1995 East Perth got no further than two third place finishes in 1981 and 1992. The side also contested the major round in 1982, 1984 and 1991, but failed to win a single finals match in any of those years. Not until 1996, when the team finished the home and away rounds at the head of the ladder, was there genuine cause for optimism at Perth Oval. This optimism was reinforced when the Royals scored a hard fought second semi final win over Claremont but a fortnight later finals inexperience showed through allowing the Tigers to gain their revenge by just 2 points after a tight contest. Nevertheless, for the first time in nearly two decades it seemed that East Perth supporters had sound reason to feel confident about the future.

Unfortunately, the 1997 (fourth), '98 (fourth) and '99 (eighth) seasons did nothing to reinforce this optimism. However, following a pre-season alignment with West Coast, whereby newcomers to the Eagles camp were assigned to undertake Westar duty - when required - with East Perth, the Royals were many pundits' favourites for the final flag of the millennium. Ultimately, the pundits were to be proved right, but not for the reasons anticipated, as it was actually the Royals 'old guard' - players like David Swan, Rod Wheatley, and skipper Jeremy Barnard - who were primarily responsible for bringing the flag back to Perth Oval.<sup>29</sup>

After finishing 3 games clear of second placed Subiaco after the home and away rounds East Perth confirmed their pre-eminence over the Lions with a comfortable 12.9 (81) to 9.7 (61) victory in the second semi final. Subiaco then lost to East Fremantle in the preliminary final.

Two weeks later on grand final day the Royals - coached, ironically, by an ex East Fremantle stalwart in Tony Micale - fronted up against their old rivals in pursuit of a fourteenth<sup>30</sup> senior flag. Early on the Sharks seemed to be in the ascendancy but East

Perth defended well and, thanks more to a series of breakaways than any sustained attacking effort, led 4.1 to 1.4 at the first break. Eleven minutes into the second term the Royals had stretched their lead to 41 points and the game seemed virtually over. However, East Fremantle, spurred on by ruckman Jason Morgan, fought back well to close the gap to just 11 points at half time.

The third quarter saw tough, uncompromising, 'Victorian style' footy, with a series of delays owing to the blood rule. While general play was fairly even the Royals kicked better to add 3.2 to 1.6 for the term and extend their lead to 19 points. Thereafter it was a blue and black procession as East Perth assumed full authority all over the ground to win 18.11 (119) to 11.14 (80). West Coast rookie Dean Cox won the Simpson Medal for East Perth after a sterling effort in ruck, while Rod Wheatley, Callum Chambers, Devan Perry and Grant Holman also performed with distinction. The only upsetting aspect of the day from an East Perth standpoint was the broken jaw sustained by Kaine Marsh during the third term which prevented him receiving his premiership medallion alongside his team mates after the match.

All told, this was the eleventh time the Royals and Sharks had contested a grand final, with the score now 7-4 in East Perth's favour.

Much more importantly, however, the club had firmly re-established itself as one of the competition's heavyweights, a position it reinforced in 2001 with a convincing second successive premiership. The victims on grand final day on this occasion were East Fremantle's near neighbours South Fremantle, whom the Royals held to just 3 points after half time en route to a 17.18 (120) to 5.8 (victory). It was the third occasion East Perth and South Fremantle had met on grand final day, and the third time East Perth had emerged victorious.

In 2002 the Royals, Subiaco and West Perth staged a three way battle for



supremacy for most of the season, with East Perth finally clinching the minor premiership on percentage from the Lions, with traditional rivals West Perth a win further back in third place. The Royals then secured a third consecutive flag in straight sets, overcoming Subiaco in the second semi final and the Falcons with unexpected comfort in the grand final. Final scores on grand final day were East Perth 15.14 (104) to West Perth 5.14, with Ryan Turnbull claiming a Simpson Medal to add to the Sandover won in 2001. It was the second time the Royals had won three consecutive premierships; on the previous occasion, between 1919 and 1921, they went on to add two more. This time round, however, such sustained pre-eminence proved beyond them, and in 2003 the Royals' 2002 grand final victims, West Perth, had the satisfaction of ending East Perth's season at the preliminary final stage.

Things got even worse in 2004 as, after a season of irritating inconsistency, the Royals missed out on the finals for the first time since 1999, with their record of 11 wins from 20 matches only proving good enough for fifth place on the ladder. Then, in 2005, the side finished even further off the pace, winning just 6 of its 20 matches to finish sixth, albeit no fewer than 20 premiership points adrift of fifth placed West Perth. After that, there was a nominal improvement in 2006 as the Royals managed 7 wins to claim fifth place on the ladder before returning to the September fray in 2007 with an 11-9 record, good enough for fourth spot heading into the finals. However, despite coach Darren Bewick's pre-match assertion that his side would not be out of its depth in its first semi final clash with a much more experienced South Fremantle combination, that is more or less how things transpired. Admittedly, until half time the Royals were well in contention, trailing by a mere 3 points, but in the second half the Bulldogs proved immeasurably superior, adding 10 goals to 3 to win convincingly by 49 points.

East Perth supporters can feel justified in deriving a fair measure of comfort from their team's steady upward progress over the past three seasons, but with a significant gulf in ability still apparent between the league's three four clubs and the pursuing pack much work remains to be done if the Royals are to resume the position they have enjoyed for much of their history, that of realistic premiership contenders.

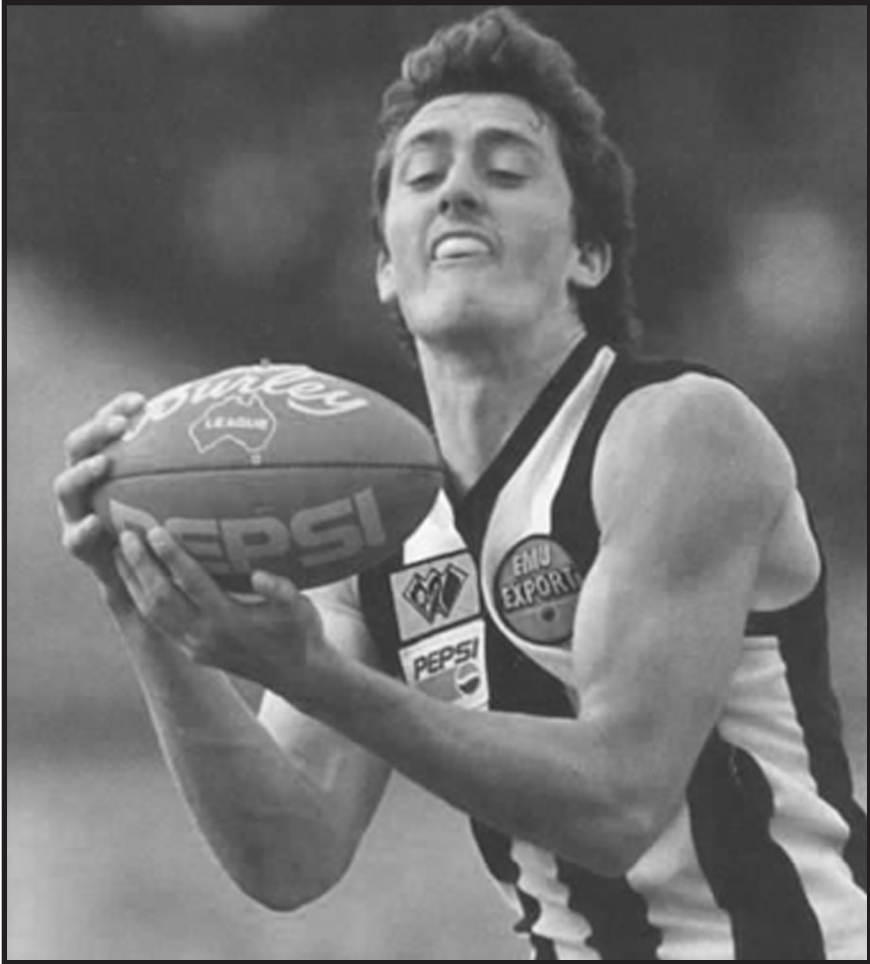
These days, the fortunes of clubs like East Perth are determined at least as much by the policies and activities of the AFL as by any strategies implemented by their own management teams. Nevertheless, for a short time at least all Royals supporters will doubtless feel well justified in basking in the remembered glory of the 2000-1-2 premiership trifecta.

**Eastern Districts Football League:** The EDFL, which was formed in 1960, currently comprises eight clubs: Bruce Rock, Burracoppin, Corrigin, Hyden-Karlgarin, Kulin-Kondinin, Narembene, Nukarni and Southern Cross. The league serves an area lying some 230-300 kilometres east of Perth.

Narembene claimed the 2007 senior premiership, the club's eighth, with a resounding 23.13 (151) to 10.6 (66) grand final defeat of Kulin-Kondinin. For good measure, the club also won the reserves flag at the expense of the same opposition.

The most successful club overall has been Nukarni, with a total of eleven senior premierships.

Senior premiers to date have been: 1960 Narembene 1961 Nukarni 1962 Nukarni 1963 Nukarni 1964 Shackleton 1965 Bruce Rock 1966 Nukarni 1967 Shackleton 1968 Nukarni 1969 Narembene 1970 Narembene 1971 Merredin Towns 1972 Narembene 1973 Kondinin 1974 Narembene 1975 Merredin 1976 Corrigin 1977 Bruce Rock 1978 Kondinin 1979 Kondinin 1980 Kondinin 1981 Burracoppin 1982 Merredin 1983 Merredin 1984 Kulin 1985 Kulin 1986 Nukarni 1987 Nukarni 1988 Burracoppin 1989 Burracoppin



*Much decorated former Swan Districts star Travis Edmonds.*

1990 Nukarni 1991 Burracoppin 1992 Burracoppin 1993 Nukarni 1994 Nukarni 1995 Nukarni 1996 Corrigin 1997 Kondinin 1998 Narembeen 1999 Narembeen 2000 Bruce Rock 2001 Southern Cross 2002 Hyden-Karlgarin 2003 Hyden-Karlgarin 2004 Kulin 2005 Hyden-Karlgarin 2006 Kulin-Kondinin 2007 Narembeen

**EBBS, ALLAN** is probably best remembered for being the first ever winner of the Simpson Medal, which he collected after helping East Fremantle to a 36 point win over South Fremantle in the 1945 WANFL grand final. Agile and, especially in his early years, notably

quick for a big man, he was a formidable knock ruckman whose clever work at boundary throw-ins was especially noteworthy. A powerful overhead mark, he was a long if not always accurate kick, and invariably teamed effectively with his rovers. He played 128 league games for Old Easts between 1938 and 1941, and from 1945 to 1948, captaining the side in 1947, and winning the fairest and best award in 1946. He had a strong claim to a second Simpson Medal after putting in a Herculean performance in the 1946 grand final, in which East Fremantle beat West Perth by a goal, but the Cardinals' John Loughridge became the first ever winner from a losing team.

Allan Ebbs, who actually commenced his senior football career with East Fremantle Amateurs before undertaking a one season stint with Kalgoorlie Railways in 1937, was included as a ruckman changing in the forward pocket in East Fremantle's official 'Team of the Century'. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, unlike his younger brother Ken, he was never selected to represent Western Australia in the interstate arena.

**EBBS, KEN:** Less immediately eye catching and imposing than his older brother Allan, Ken Ebbs was every bit as important to East Fremantle, and enjoyed a longer and arguably even more illustrious playing career. Whether in defence or attack or as a ruck-rover type on the ball he was lively, shrewd and almost always effective. He made his league debut in 1945, and experienced the thrill of playing in a premiership team in his very first season when he lined up on a half back flank in the grand final defeat of South Fremantle. Twelve months later he was at centre half back as Old Easts edged out West Perth on grand final day by a goal. The 1949 season saw him make his interstate debut for Western Australia in a 53 point victory over New South Wales at the Sydney Cricket Ground. He went on to play a total of 4 state games. When he retired at the end of the 1956 season he had made 159 appearances in an Old Easts jumper, winning a fairest and best award in 1949. He finished fourth in the voting for the Sandoval Medal in 1953. Ken Ebbs might be adjudged slightly unfortunate not to have been chosen in his club's official 'Team of the Century', but few Team of the Century selection panels had a more thankless task than East Fremantle's, given the embarrassment of riches from which they were required to select just twenty-one players and one coach.

**EDMONDS, TRAVIS** retired from the WAFL competition at the end of the 2005 season, bringing down the curtain on a 262 game WAFL career that saw

him overcome significant personal disappointment early on to become acknowledged as one of the greatest champions in the club's history. At the end of his debut season of 1990, the nineteen year old Edmonds came within an ace of being selected for Swans' grand final team against Claremont, only to be excluded at the eleventh hour. Swans went on to win the game, and Travis Edmonds' only chance of playing in a premiership team had gone. However, over the course of the fifteen seasons that followed, he procured virtually every other distinction the game has to offer. A Swan Medallist as the club's fairest and best player on a record (shared with Bill Walker) five occasions, he captained the side in 2000, 2001 and 2002, and represented Western Australia at state league level 4 times. In 1995 he was included on Fremantle's inaugural AFL list, but played just 1 game, and while this would almost certainly have been a disappointment to him, one presumes that no-one at Bassendean was complaining.

A hard working, dependable, extremely consistent footballer, Travis Edmonds would almost certainly have been a strong contender for inclusion in Swan Districts' official 'Team of the Twentieth Century' had the selection process for that team been undertaken in 2005 rather than five years earlier. Nevertheless, he deserves to be remembered as one of the club's all time favourite sons, as well as serving as a conspicuous recent reminder that notoriety in football is not, as some would maintain, the exclusive preserve of those who ply their trade in the national competition.

**ELLIS, SHANE:** One of the most reliable West Australian half backs of his era, Shane Ellis played a total of 204 league games for East Fremantle between 1980 and 1991. A fairest and best award recipient in 1982, he represented his

state on 5 occasions, typically with great distinction and effectiveness. He also played briefly in the VFL with West Coast.

**ERIKSSON, ERIC** was a classy wingman who commenced with South Fremantle during the WANFL's wartime under age competition before progressing to the seniors when full scale football returned in 1945. At the end of that season he produced a fine display in the grand final against East Fremantle, but could not prevent his side from losing by 6 goals. Two years later he again produced the goods on grand final day, and this time had the satisfaction of helping South secure their first premiership since 1917 thanks to a 13.8 (86) to 9.17 (71) defeat of West Perth. Eriksson was a widespread choice as best afield, and received the Simpson Medal - no mean feat when you consider that his direct opponent was Cardinals skipper Stan 'Pops' Heal, indisputably one of the finest wingmen in the history of the game.

With Eriksson as a stalwart of the side South Fremantle remained a dominant force in Western Australian football for a decade, winning flags in 1948, 1950, 1952, 1953, and 1954. Eriksson was a member of all these premiership combinations except the last, and also played in the losing grand final of 1951. His form in finals was almost invariably superb, and there were few opposition wingmen who could live with him when he was on top form. He represented Western Australia on 5 occasions, and had played a total of 210 WANFL games - including a number in the wartime under age competition - by the time he retired in 1954. He also played 7 games for Western Australian representative combinations against visiting club sides from interstate. Lively, an extremely adept ball handler, and a beautiful drop kick, one imagines he would be an extremely strong contender for inclusion in any official South Fremantle all time great selection.

## Esperance Districts Football

**Association:** Based in and around the beautiful coastal town of Esperance 720 kilometres south-east of Perth, the EDFA currently boasts four senior clubs: Condingup-Newtown, Esperance, Gibson and Ports.

The 2007 grand final saw Esperance score a comfortable win over Gibson, 17.7 (109) to 7.12 (54), thereby claiming their second flag in three years, and their twenty-first in all.

Previous premiership teams have been: 1956 Gibson 1957 Esperance 1958 Esperance 1959 Esperance 1960 Newtown 1961 Esperance 1962 Esperance 1963 Newtown 1964 Esperance 1965 Esperance 1966 Newtown 1967 Esperance 1968 Newtown 1969 Newtown 1970 Esperance 1971 Esperance 1972 Esperance 1973 Ports 1974 Esperance 1975 Ports 1976 Esperance 1977 Esperance 1978 Ports 1979 Gibson 1980 Gibson 1981 Gibson 1982 Gibson 1983 Norseman 1984 Gibson 1985 Gibson 1986 Gibson 1987 Esperance 1988 Esperance 1989 Gibson 1990 Gibson 1991 Gibson 1992 Gibson 1993 Ports 1994 Newtown 1995 Newtown 1996 Ports 1997 Ports 1998 Ports 1999 Esperance 2000 Esperance 2001 Esperance 2002 Gibson 2003 Ports 2004 Ports 2005 Esperance 2006 Gibson

**EVANS, ALLAN:** Despite standing only 170cm in height, Alan Evans played most of his 153 game league career with Perth, which began in 1917 and ended in 1929, as a full forward. He originally hailed from Boulder in the West Australian goldfields region, where he played with distinction as a junior. All of his senior football was played with Perth, however. Between 1920 and 1929 he headed the club's goal kicking ladder half a dozen times, while his tally of 69 majors in 1921 was good enough to top the league list. Given that Perth finished last in 1921, this was a noteworthy achievement.

**EVERETT, JIM:** A stalwart of West Perth's strong early twentieth century combinations, Jim Everett was on a half forward flank when the Cardinals came from behind to draw with East Fremantle in the 1905 grand final. In the following week's replay he lined up at centre half back on Old Easts great Dolph Heinrichs, who later somewhat bitterly recalled that "West Perth's defenders were allowed to pull and reef with impunity". Whatever the reason, West Perth scored a highly popular 4 point victory over the team that had dominated Western Australian football since the turn of the century.

In the following year's grand final, once more against Old Easts, Jim Everett again had his hands full as he lined up on Dave Christy, the redoubtable former Melbourne champion. On this occasion he was unable to prevent the blue and whites surging to victory on the strength of a 7 goals to 1 second half performance.

From 1901 to 1915, Everett played a total of 178 senior games for the Cardinals. He also represented Western Australia twice.

**EVERETT, TOM** was a fine centreman who performed to a consistently high standard with two WANFL clubs for almost a decade. He began with East Perth in 1953, and was a key factor in the club's emergence as a power three years later. He included membership of the Royals' 1956 and 1958 premiership teams among his career tally of 117 senior games with the club. After a particularly fine 1956 season he finished joint second with Perth's Reg Zeuner in the Sandover Medal voting, just one vote adrift of Royals team mate 'Polly' Farmer. In 1959 he crossed to East Fremantle where he spent three seasons, adding another 55 league games. Everett's 8 interstate appearances for Western Australia included games at the 1956 Perth carnival. In 2006 he was named on the interchange bench in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005'.

## Footnotes

- 1 These totals do not include the under age premiership won in 1943 nor the grand final loss incurred in 1944.
- 2 East Fremantle became known affectionately as 'Old East' (or 'Old Easts') after the admission to the competition in 1906 of East Perth. The nickname continued to be used until 1983, when the emblem of the Shark was adopted.
- 3 The term 'grand final', while not technically entirely accurate, is used here - and throughout the pre-1931 section of this entry - to mean 'premiership deciding match'. Depending on the circumstances, this could actually be either the final or the challenge final.
- 4 Eleven members of the Doig family played league football in Western Australia, mostly for East Fremantle; together they featured in no fewer than 39 premiership sides.
- 5 See, for example, *The Tiger's Tale* by Kevin Casey, page 60.
- 6 Western Australia were victorious in 5 out of their first 6 post-war interstate encounters with the acknowledged 'major states' of Victoria and South Australia, their only defeat coming against the South Australians at the 1947 Hobart carnival.
- 7 Between 1945 and 2001 the Simpson Medal was awarded to a losing player in the grand final on only 7 occasions, 5 times as outright winner, and twice as a joint recipient.
- 8 It is comparatively easy to bear out this assertion. In the five seasons between 1970 and 1974 the WAFL premiership was won by five different clubs, two of which (South Fremantle and West Perth) also gained a wooden spoon during the same period. All eight clubs contested at least one finals series, while no club qualified for the major round every season. The Success rates of the clubs were also remarkably even.
- 9 Among the season's highlights were Western Australia's 17.21 (123) to 16.12 (108) vanquishing of Victoria in the inaugural state of origin championship final, and East Fremantle's 32 point defeat of St Kilda in Melbourne in the VFL night series. Over the years, victories by Western Australian club sides over their Victorian counterparts were rare enough; wins in Melbourne, however, were like hen's teeth. Another

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memorable feature of the 1979 football season was the establishment of an all time WAFL aggregate attendance record of 1,013,615 which included an all time high of 52,817 at the grand final.

10 Subiaco's win came in the final home and away fixture of the year when East Fremantle were, by common consent, relaxing. Earlier, when the stakes were arguably higher, the Sharks had won by 97 points in round 7, and 71 points in round 14. Finals football is an altogether different affair, however.

11 Not all of these departing players joined West Coast, but the Eagles were nevertheless by some measure the single biggest source of the 'player drain', as indeed they would continue to be, season in, season out, for some considerable time.

12 Not the Simpson Medal voting panel's though. They plumped for evergreen Shark ruckman Clinton Browning - not that any members of the blue and white fraternity really cared much either way.

13 The brief change of the competition's name from Western Australian Football League to Westar Rules was an ill-conceived attempt to update the local game for a supposedly more discerning, sophisticated clientele. Hardly anyone was fooled.

14 During his playing career Matson represented West Perth, Boulder City, Sturt, North Fremantle, Subiaco and East Perth at club level, and both South Australia and Western Australia in interstate football. He coached Subiaco to the 1913 WAFL premiership, and East Perth to a total of seven flags. He died after a motor accident in 1928, aged just forty-three.

15 The 1929 season did, however, contain at least one bright spot, with W. 'Billy' Thomas winning the club's third Sandover Medal to add to those won by (near) namesake W. 'Digger' Thomas in 1923 and George 'Staunch' Owens in 1925.

16 Those subsequent grand finals were in 1960, 1969 and 1971.

17 The WAFL changed its name to the WA *National* Football League in 1932, reverting to WAFL in 1980.

18 Even the one final not involving East Perth was a thriller, Claremont downing East Fremantle in the second semi by just 5 points, 11.13 (79) to 9.20 (74).

19 This state of affairs is rendered all the more interesting in hindsight by the news that, in 1994, there was serious talk about introducing an upper age limit for players in the WAFL, a reaction this time not to the exigencies of war, but to the impact of the AFL in denuding the local competition of its better players, a process exacerbated by the formation in 1995 of a second Western Australian AFL club, the Fremantle Dockers.

20 In the VFL, for instance, Hawthorn ceased to be the Mayblossoms and became the Hawks, the Maroons of Fitzroy became the Gorillas for a time and later the Lions, and Melbourne introduced the Demons emblem in place of the Fuchsias.

21 Just by way of comparison it is interesting to note that payments to players became officially sanctioned in the VFL in 1911.

22 Not that the appointment of an outsider was unprecedented. As was noted above, former Old Easts player Jerry Dolan had coached East Perth to the 1936 premiership.

23 From *Polly Farmer: a Biography* by Steve Hawke, page 20.

24 Perhaps East Perth concentrated on handball too much, to the detriment of other skills - like kicking for goal! In one match against Swan Districts in 1957 the Royals had 33 scoring shots to 16 but, in one of the most atrocious bouts of inaccuracy in senior Australian football history, scraped home by just 7 points, 3.30 (48) to 5.11 (41).

25 This meant that up to this point in time East Perth players had won the Eric Tassie Medal at every Perth carnival since the award's inception in 1937.

26 *East Perth Football Club Annual Report 1976*, page 3.

27 'WANFL Football Budget', 25/9/76.

28 Unless you count the 1977 Ardath Cup, a competition for club sides from WA, SA and the VFA, in which the Royals got to the grand final before losing to Norwood by 8 points.

29 East Perth actually played its home matches at Leederville during season 2000 owing to Perth Oval being consigned to the heretics, i.e. it was needed for the ineptly named 'Perth Glory's' soccer fixtures.

30 Not including the 1944 war time under age premiership.



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# F

**FANCHI, JOE:** Joe Fanchi's name became immortalised at the 1961 Brisbane carnival when he kicked the decisive goal for Western Australia against the VFL to hand the sandgroppers the title on percentage. It was the highlight of a stellar season for Fanchi, who also won West Perth's fairest and best award, and kicked 48 goals to top its goal kicking list.

Fanchi joined the Cardinals in 1959 after two seasons with GNFL side Mines Rovers. While with the Diorites, he had finished second in the league fairest and best count in 1957, and helped a goldfields representative team to a highly creditable draw against Swan Districts the following year. From 1959 to 1965 Fanchi played a total of 129 WANFL games for West Perth, including the winning grand final of 1960 against arch-rivals East Perth. He represented Western Australia 5 times.

**FARMER, GRAHAM 'POLLY':** The dictionary definition of a 'legend' when applied to an individual human being is "a person having a special place in public esteem because of striking qualities or deeds". Such a definition arguably applies to very few exponents of any sport (and certainly not to every one of the individuals so aggrandised by the AFL) but if any player in history is worthy of the accolade it is Western Australia's Graham 'Polly' Farmer.

There have been more highly decorated individuals in the history of the game and arguably more gifted all round performers (though not too many of them) but in terms of impact, style and influence one is hard pressed to think of anyone to equal the East Perth, Geelong and West Perth great. As a ruckman during the 1950s and 1960s Farmer was unexcelled, with not even compatriot Jack Clarke or Victorian superstar John Nicholls being capable of living with him when he was fully fit and focused. Moreover,

with his innovative and incomparably effective use of handball - often over prodigious distances - Farmer almost single-handedly revolutionised the sport. When you superimpose over all of this a resolute, almost regal demeanour and an unremitting determination to succeed - albeit without any of the egocentricity all too often associated with such traits - then Farmer's right to be considered a bona fide legend of the game becomes irresistible.

He made his league debut with East Perth in 1953 but it was twelve months before he settled down to become a regular. By 1955 he was recognised as one of the most effective knock ruckmen in Western Australia, earning state selection for the first time, and running second to South Fremantle's John Todd in the Sandover Medal voting. At the end of the year he signed for Richmond, and actually crossed to Victoria in order to prepare for the 1956 season with the Tigers. However, East Perth refused to clear him, and he was forced to return home.

Graham Farmer's 1956 season was almost the stuff of legend. While representing Western Australia at the Perth carnival he won both the Simpson Medal as his state's best in the win over South Australia, and the Tassie Medal as the top player of the series. Needless to say, All Australian selection also followed. Later in the year, he won the first of three Sandover Medals (one of which was awarded retrospectively), and helped the Royals to a grand final victory over South Fremantle. In nine seasons with East Perth Farmer would win the club's fairest and best award no fewer than seven times, besides enjoying premiership success on three occasions. He won further Simpson Medals while representing Western Australia against the VFL at the 1958 Melbourne carnival, and after East Perth's 1959 grand final defeat of Subiaco. He continued to

represent Western Australia regularly, securing All Australian selection in both 1958 and 1961. At the 1961 Brisbane carnival he helped his state to an unexpected but wholly meritorious series win.

When Graham Farmer's contract with East Perth expired at the end of the 1961 season he advised the club that he would be moving to Victoria to play with Geelong. The Royals agreed, on condition that the Cats pay them the then unprecedented fee of £2,000 (\$4,000) in order to procure his services. After witnessing Farmer's stellar form in the club's five pre-season matches, the Geelong hierarchy had no hesitation in agreeing to East Perth's terms.

Farmer's six season stint with Geelong was not all plain sailing, but there were nevertheless numerous highlights, including participation in a premiership team in 1963, representing the VFL, winning two consecutive club best and fairest awards, and captaining the Cats for three seasons. With plenty of football still left in his legs he returned to Western Australia at the end of a 1967 season that had seen Geelong narrowly lose the grand final to Richmond. To many people's surprise, however, he did not resume with his former club, East Perth, but accepted the job of playing coach at arch-rivals West Perth. In four seasons with the Cardinals he oversaw two premierships - both secured with grand final victories over his former club - and added a club fairest and best award in 1969 to boot. When he retired at the end of the 1971 season, the WANFL organised an eight club interstate 'premiers carnival' to commemorate and celebrate his playing career.

That playing career saw Farmer play a total of 356 club games -176 with East Perth, 101 for Geelong, and 79 for West Perth. In the interstate arena he played 31 times for Western Australia, including games at four interstate carnival series, and 5 times for the VFL. While representing his home state at the 1969 Adelaide carnival he won his fourth Simpson Medal.

Graham Farmer's coaching career was less auspicious, but still had its noteworthy moments. Besides leading West Perth to the 1969 and 1971 WANFL premierships, in October 1977 he was at the helm of Western Australia's team for the first ever state of origin match, in which the sandgropers trounced Victoria 23.13 (151) to 8.9 (57) at Subiaco. From 1973 to 1975 he coached Geelong with minimal success, and although he managed to get East Perth into the finals in both of his seasons (1976-7) in charge he was unable to deliver the premiership the club's fans craved. Such comparative failures are of scant account, however, when viewed in the context of a two decade playing career that made Graham 'Polly' Farmer, in the view of many, the greatest individual exponent of the sport of Australian football ever known.

**FEATHERBY, PETER:** Recruited by Subiaco from powerful amateur club Wembley, where his father Brian had been a prominent identity for many years, Peter Featherby made his league debut in 1970, but an ankle injury sustained against Swan Districts on 2 May effectively ruined his season, as, although he recovered from the injury, he was unable to force his way back into the side. Prior to the start of the 1971 season he sought, and was refused, a clearance to Claremont, after which he elected to buckle down and prove his worth. Over the course of the next three seasons he developed into one of the finest players in Western Australia, showing almost preternatural anticipation skills which often made it seem as though the football was sheathed in metal, and was incapable of resisting the magnetic pull of Featherby's hands.

The 1973 season saw Featherby selected to represent Western Australia for the first time, and earning a Simpson Medal for his best afield performance in the win over South Australia at Subiaco Oval. Later in the season he experienced an even greater thrill as he helped his club overcome a premiership hoodoo stretching back almost

half a century with a 10.12 (72) to 6.4 (40) grand final defeat of West Perth.

Featherby continued to perform brilliantly in 1974 and, given that he was rated as one of the most exciting talents in the land, it was perhaps no surprise that he was picked up by VFL side Footscray prior to the start of the 1975 season. In 42 games in two seasons with the Bulldogs, however, Featherby failed to justify his reputation, and in 1977 he was back home at Subiaco.

Despite his comparative failure in Melbourne, Featherby had clearly learned a great deal, and over the course of the next couple of seasons he played some of the finest football of his career, earning regular interstate selection, and winning back to back club fairest and best awards. After 10 games of the 1979 season he was enticed back to the VFL by Geelong, and this time he took his best form with him. After playing consistently well during the second half of 1979 and throughout 1980 - during which year he was selected to represent Victoria against his home state in a so-called 'state of origin' match - Featherby's performances reached a new level of excellence during a 1981 season that saw him claim the Cats' best and fairest award. In one noteworthy match against Melbourne on the MCG he garnered no fewer than 43 kicks, effected 8 handballs, and held a dozen marks.

At the end of the 1983 season, after 93 VFL games for Geelong, Peter Featherby returned to Subiaco where he would continue to perform with great consistency and distinction for another five seasons, highlighted by participation in another premiership team in 1986. In 1987, his penultimate season, he averaged 23.7 disposals a game, making him the most prolific ball-getter in the competition. Injury problems the following year restricted him to just 2 league appearances, however, taking his final career tally to 332 (197 of which were with the Lions), and with

perhaps a touch of reluctance he decided to retire.

**FITZPATRICK, MICHAEL:** Among the most vivid memories of Mike Fitzpatrick centre around his lion-hearted performances as captain of Western Australia in state of origin matches against Victoria, when he seemed to epitomise and personify the West Australians' hunger to succeed. However, Fitzpatrick himself was actually born in Victoria, at Hastings, which only goes to prove that things are not always as straightforward as they seem. His two state of origin appearances for Victoria therefore were perhaps not quite the anomaly they appeared.

As a Rhodes scholar, Mike Fitzpatrick would no doubt appreciate the complexities which often underlie the seemingly mundane, but his approach to football was unequivocally simple. Indeed, because of his wholeheartedly aggressive approach he was virtually tailor-made for the VFL where his performances in important games were frequently of a match-winning order.

Debuting with Subiaco in 1970, Fitzpatrick quickly developed into a key component in the team that Haydn Bunton was developing for a long overdue assault on the premiership. When that assault was finally mounted, in 1973 under Bunton's successor Ross Smith, Mike Fitzpatrick led the ruck and was one of his team's best players in a grand final defeat of West Perth that broke a forty-nine year premiership drought. Fitzpatrick also won Subiaco's fairest and best award in 1973, and duplicated the feat the following year, which proved to be his last in the west as he then shifted his allegiance to Carlton in the VFL, where he enjoyed a substantial amount of further success.

**FLEMMING, TED:** West Perth's 1930 Sandover Medallist Ted Flemming was a highly adaptable footballer who topped the WAFL goal kicking ladder in 1925 with 50 goals, but who

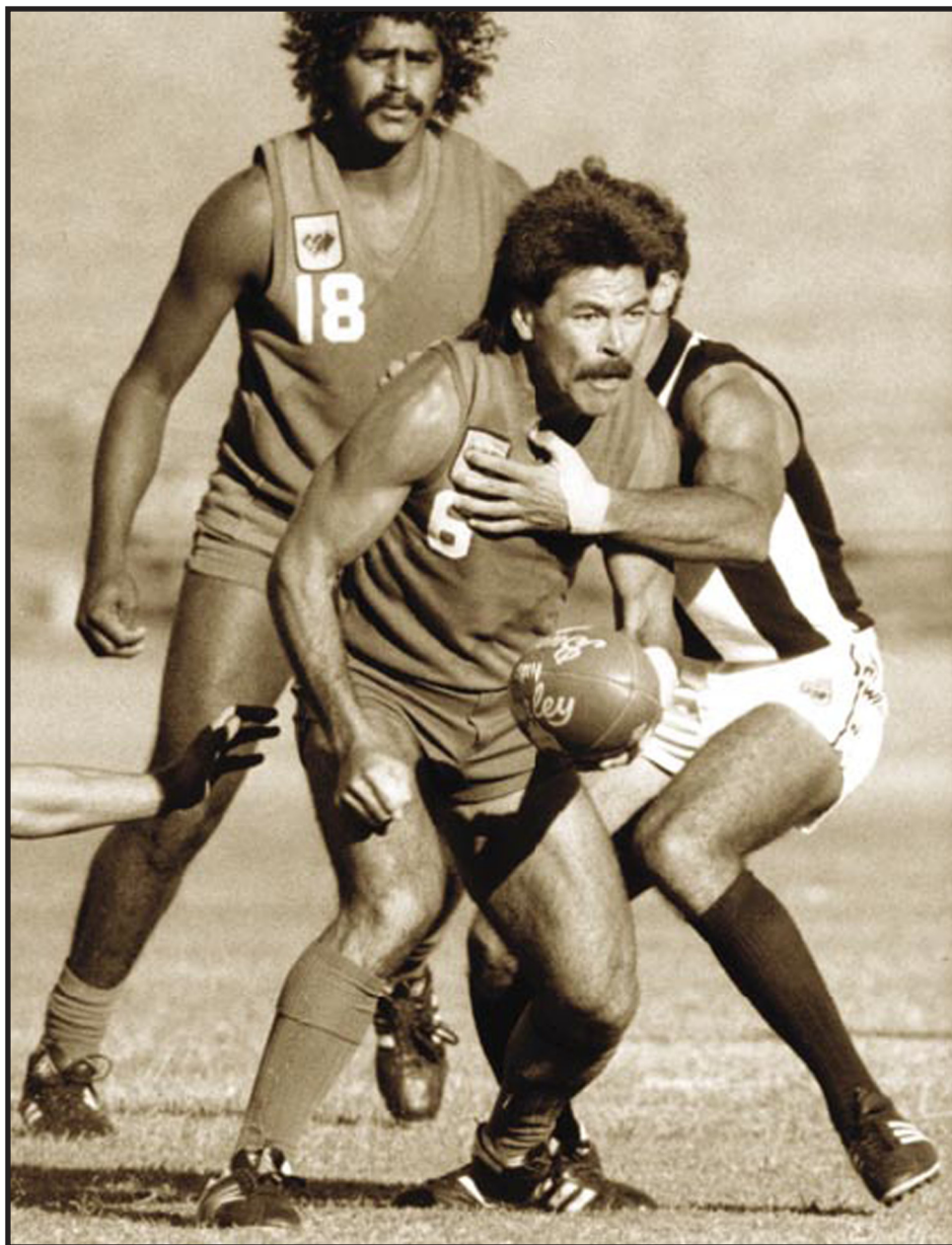


*West Perth's Brian Foley runs out onto Subiaco Oval prior to an interstate match.*

also played many fine games as a defender. Winner of Cardinals' fairest and best awards in 1928 and 1936, he captained the side in 1931, and was a member of premiership teams in 1932, 1934 and 1935. Flemming played a total of 248 league games for West Perth between

1922 and 1937. He also represented Western Australia 19 times, in five different positions, earning inclusion in the best player lists on numerous occasions. He was included on a half back flank in the Cardinals' official 'Team of the Century'.





*West Perth's Les Fong in action against Swan Districts.*

**FLETCHER, WALLY:** There were more eye catching members of East Perth's powerful post-World War One teams than Wally Fletcher, but few if any more reliable and important. The sort of backman who did his work to such a degree of perfection that

you scarcely noticed him, Fletcher counted membership of five 'Young Easts' premiership teams among his career highlights. He represented Western Australia at the carnivals of 1924 and 1927 in Hobart and Melbourne respectively, and all told played a total of a



dozen matches for the state. Fletcher, who occupies a back pocket in East Perth's 'Team of the Century Part One', played a total of 172 league games for the club between 1919 and 1931. He served as the Royals' skipper in 1928 and 1930.

**FOGARTY, JON:** Jon Fogarty was a hard working ruck-rover who was an important, if comparatively unheralded, member of Swan Districts' powerful early 1980s combinations. He arrived at Bassendean from Collie side Mines Rovers, and made his league debut in 1979. He played on a half back flank in the 1980 grand final, when Swans lost to South Fremantle, and was a useful contributor on the ball to the premiership triumphs of 1982-3-4. Tenacious in his attack on both ball and body, he also boasted good all round skills, and was a fine overhead mark. He played a total of 133 games and kicked 38 goals for Swans during a career which ended in 1985. He represented Western Australia against South Australia at Football Park in 1984, and at Subiaco a year later.

**FOLEY, BRIAN:** After a somewhat stuttering start to his league career, West Perth's Brian Foley developed into one of Australia's finest ruckmen. Making up in dogged persistence for what he may have lacked in raw talent, Foley gave as good as he got against the likes of Farmer, Clarke, McIntosh and Slater at home, and Nicholls, Schultz, Wedding and Wright interstate. The fact that Foley made no fewer than 22 interstate appearances for Western Australia in an era when the state was blessed with considerable ruck strength is perhaps the most persuasive testimony as to his prowess, as well as to the esteem in which he was held.

From an individual perspective, the highlight of Brian Foley's illustrious 202 game league career came in 1959 when he was a runaway winner of the Sandover Medal. Foley also won his second Cardinals fairest and best trophy that year, having

previously won the award in 1957. In 1960, he was one of the most conspicuous performers on the ground as West Perth overcame arch rivals East Perth by 32 points in the grand final.

Given that he was playing at a time when VFL clubs were beginning to make significant inroads into Western Australia's vast pool of playing talent it was inevitable that Foley should become a prime recruiting target. North Melbourne came closer than anyone to procuring him - Foley even signed a form four - but the Cardinals steadfastly refused to agree to a clearance. This, of course, was in the days when the ANFC was in ostensible control of interstate clearances.

Captain of West Perth from 1960 to 1964, Foley decided to play one last season in 1965 after Bob Spargo took over as captain-coach. He finished on a 'high', performing consistently well all year, as well as leading the ruck in typically resolute fashion when Western Australia came from behind to defeat the VFL in a mid-season interstate clash at Subiaco Oval.

**FONG, LES:** During an era when it was becoming increasingly taken for granted that the best West Australian footballers would migrate to the VFL, Les Fong - arguably a better player than many of those who headed east - spent his entire 284 game league career with West Perth. That career commenced in 1973 when, as a sixteen year old, he played the first 7 games of the season in the reserves before being promoted to the seniors where he spent the remainder of the year. His form during his brief stint in the reserves was so good that he ended up winning the club's fairest and best award for that level.

Nicknamed 'Choppy', Fong was an ebullient, intense, extraordinarily courageous performer. He had the satisfaction of playing in a premiership team in only his third season, but thereafter the Cardinals tended to struggle. Nevertheless,

Fong showed no desire to leave, and indeed for much of the 1970s and '80s he was almost a personification of the club, as well as a rare emblem of stability and loyalty in a time of sweeping change.

In 1980 Fong was appointed club captain and ended up serving for a record seven year term, proving himself in the process to be almost the consummate on-field leader. He peaked as a player during the late seventies and early eighties, making half a dozen interstate appearances for Western Australia, and winning West Perth's fairest and best award in 1982 and 1983. Popularly known as 'Captain Courageous' during his time as skipper, his importance in the history of the club was emphasised in October 2000 with his inclusion, as first rover, in West Perth's official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

After leaving West Perth Les Fong coached Wanneroo to two successive Sunday Football League premierships, the first of which, in 1991, was won unbeaten.

#### **Fortescue National Football Association:**

The FNFA was established in 1956 and currently boasts four member clubs, Panthers, Saints, Tigers and Townsite Eagles ('Towns').

The Eagles' 16.13 (109) to 9.9 (63) grand final defeat of Panthers in 2007 gave them their third consecutive premiership, and their sixth since the turn of the century.

**Fourths Grade:** The WANFL fourths competition ran for just ten seasons, from 1965 to 1974. Swan Districts, with 3 flags, was the most successful club, while Perth and South Fremantle were the only clubs not to enjoy premiership success. Premiers were:

- 1965 East Perth
- 1966 Claremont
- 1967 East Perth
- 1968 Claremont
- 1969 Swan Districts
- 1970 Subiaco

- 1971 Swan Districts
- 1972 East Fremantle
- 1973 Swan Districts
- 1974 East Fremantle

**FRANCE, BRIAN:** Known affectionately as 'Puffer', because of his habit of puffing up his cheeks when charging through packs in pursuit of the ball, Brian France was an archetypal key position defender whose ambition every time he took the field was to keep his direct opponent kickless. This was never better exemplified than during the 1966 Hobart carnival when Western Australia and the VFL met on the final day in what was effectively the championship decider. France was given the daunting job of minding Big V skipper Darrel Baldock, who had been in irrepressible form throughout the series, and for the better part of two quarters he almost literally wore 'the Doc' like an extra jumper. With their main route to goal nullified, the Vics looked uncharacteristically impotent, and the sandgropers, 5 goals in front and playing superbly, seemed well on course for victory. Early in the third term, however, France was badly injured, and had to leave the ground, whereupon the hitherto unsighted Baldock immediately began to impose himself, enabling the Vics to eke out a 15 point win that at half time had looked distinctly improbable.

After another injury twelve months later, Brian France's nine season, 159 game league career came to a premature end, although had the Cardinals allowed him the clearance he desired to arch rivals East Perth it may have provided him with the incentive he needed to continue. The fact that France had still been playing football of the highest order was emphasised when he finished just 1 vote adrift of joint winners John Parkinson and Bill Walker in the Sandover voting. Had he not missed 7 matches through injury there seems little doubt that he would have secured the Medal, which would have been an appropriate way of sealing a distinguished career that also brought involvement in a premiership in 1960, three club fairest and best awards, and 17 interstate appearances.

## FREMANTLE

**Affiliated:** WAFA 1885-6

**Home Ground:** Esplanade

**Formed:** 1882 (as a rugby club); converted to Victorian Rules in 1883

**Colours:** Blue and white

**Premierships:** 1886 (1 total)

Fremantle which, in 1883, had been the main instigator of a move to alter the allegiance of Western Australian football clubs from rugby to Victorian Rules, was a founder member two years later of the Western Australian Football Association. Within another two years it was defunct, having finished third (and last) in 1885, and premiers the following year. Overall, the club enjoyed a success rate of 71.8%, winning more games than it lost against each of four different opponents.<sup>1</sup>

Fremantle's brief history was intertwined almost from the beginning with that of the club which would, in some senses, become its successor (and with which, for many years, it would tend to be confused). Unions was formed in Fremantle in 1885, when it was described as a 'junior' club, but in a trial of strength against Fremantle in August of that year it emerged victorious. When Fremantle fell by the wayside at the end of the 1886 season many of its better players transferred to Unions.

Prior to that, however, Fremantle enjoyed one season of pre-eminent prowess, trouncing opposition teams by what for the time were substantial margins.<sup>2</sup> If ever a team went out on a 'high' therefore, it was the original Fremantle Football Club in 1886. Arguably the club's greatest son, and indeed one of the few bona fide early greats of the game, was Bill Bateman. A West Australian educated in Adelaide, where Victorian Rules already held sway, he was one of the arch advocates of the abandonment of the English game of rugby. After captaining Fremantle in both of its seasons in the WAFA he played with Unions/Fremantle for a further eight years.

## FREMANTLE (Unions)

**Affiliated:** WAFA 1886-99

**Home Ground:** Fremantle Park

**Formed:** 1882 (as Unions)

**Colours:** Red and white

**Premierships:** 1887-8-9-90, 1892-3-4-5-6, 1898 (10 total)

**WAFA Top Goalkickers:** P.Knox (10) 1893; A.Thurgood (53) 1895, (57) 1896 & (27) 1897 (4 total)

**Overall Success Rate 1886-99:** 68.7%

Admitted to the Western Australian Football Association in 1886, Unions gave the port city of Fremantle two representatives in the competition. When the second of those representatives, the Fremantle Football Club, disbanded at the end of the 1886 season, Unions acquired a large number of players from its erstwhile rival, and immediately sprang into prominence. Indeed, for the next decade, Unions enjoyed unprecedented success, both under its original name, which it bore until 1889, and under the new name of Fremantle which it subsequently adopted "because of the district".

In the ten seasons from 1887 to 1896, Unions/Fremantle failed only once, in 1891, to secure the premiership, and that it did so then was seemingly a prime case of shooting itself in the foot. Having commenced the season with its customary efficacy, Fremantle, as unbeaten ladder leaders, played host to its only serious challenger for the premiership, Rovers, in round 7. After a tumultuous encounter in which the umpire, Mr. Croft - a former Rovers player, no less - made several highly contentious decisions, the visitors emerged victorious, and a huge riot ensued. The police eventually managed to stymie the unrest, but could do nothing to quell the underlying feelings of injustice, which far from abating, grew more intense and extreme as the weeks passed. Fremantle duly engaged in, and

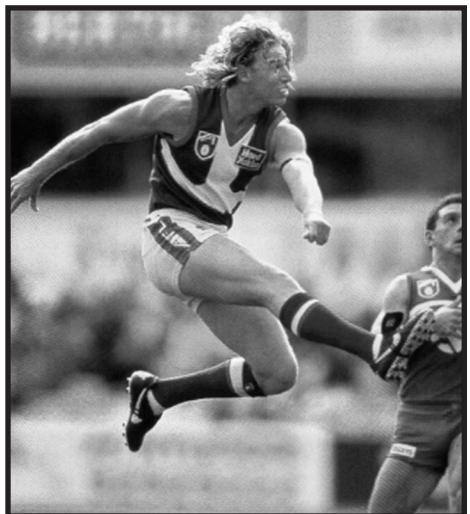
won, its next two fixtures, reinforcing its position at the head of the ladder. However, matters again came to a head when it refused to take the field under a certain umpire Croft for its third from last fixture of the season. Hardly surprisingly, the WAFA responded by awarding the match to Fremantle's opponents. Equally unsurprisingly, they then appointed Croft to officiate at Fremantle's last two fixtures as well, which Fremantle, "standing on principle", forfeited. With its last three games recorded as losses, Fremantle dropped to third place, behind Rovers and West Perth, in the final standings.

During the mid to late 1890s, the standard football in Western Australia, both on the coast and on the goldfields, reached unprecedented heights as a result of large numbers of eastern states footballers venturing west in pursuit of fortune. No club benefited from this migration process more than Fremantle, which at various times boasted in its line-up players of the calibre of Albert Thurgood (ex-Essendon), the former South Melbourne pair of Harry Duggan and Dug Irvine, brilliant centreman Harry Hodge, Tom Wilson (formerly of North Melbourne), Bob Byers, Paddy Knox, 'Spot' Chadwick, Jack Gibson and, albeit very briefly, Dave 'Dolly' Christy.

Not surprisingly, Fremantle proved to be the WAFA's dominant club for much of the 1890s, winning no fewer than seven of the ten premierships for the decade. However, the departure in 1898 of Thurgood and several of the other champions precipitated a marked downturn in fortunes, both on and off the field. With just 7 wins from 18 matches the side finished a distant third behind Imperials and premiers West Perth, but worse was to follow. At season's end, with debts mounting up, the club hierarchy saw no option but to pull the plug, bringing the reign of the most consistently successful team in Western Australian football history to a peremptory and, one is forced to suggest, premature end.

If any club can claim to have, in some small measure, perpetuated the traditions of the second club to bear the name of Fremantle it would have to be South Fremantle. Formed in 1900, and admitted to the WAFA senior competition the same year, the red and whites not only adopted identical colours to their extinct predecessor, they also inherited a large proportion of its playing list. Had this occurred just a couple of seasons earlier it would have placed the newcomers in a position of considerable strength, but as it was it would take them several years to develop into a power.

As for the club which began life as Unions, and which for a time at least was almost certainly capable of fielding the strongest collection of players in Australia, the importance of its role in the consolidation and development of the native code of football in Western Australia cannot be over-stressed. A detailed analysis of its exploits would make fascinating reading, and would perhaps act as a worthy counter-balance to the often outlandishly disproportionate claims of importance and value made by supposed experts on behalf of suburban Victorian football (or, as it seems to have been retrospectively re-christened today, with an earnest conviction that frankly defies belief, the 'Australian Football League').



*Fremantle's Shaun McManus*

## FREMANTLE

**Affiliated:** AFL 1995-present

**Club Address:** Level One, Wesley Way, 16 Market Street, Fremantle 6160

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 381, Fremantle 6160

**Website:** [www.fullpointsfooty.net](http://www.fullpointsfooty.net)

**Email:** [fremantlefc@fremantlefc.com.au](mailto:fremantlefc@fremantlefc.com.au)

**Home Ground:** Subiaco Oval

**Formed:** 1994

**Colours:** Purple, white, red and green

**Emblem:** Dockers

**AFL Premierships:** Nil (Highest position: fourth in 2006)

**Brownlow Medallists:** Nil

**AFL All Australians:** Matthew Pavlich 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006 & 2007; Peter Bell 2003; Paul Hasleby 2003 (7 total)

**Highest Score:** 28.12 (180) vs. Collingwood 10.8 (68) at Subiaco Oval in round 7 2005

**Most Games:** 238 by Shane Parker 1995-2007 (correct to the start of the 2008 season)

**Record Home Attendance (Home and Away Rounds):** 42,213 at Subiaco Oval in round 6 2006: Fremantle 12.16 (88); West Coast 12.11 (83)

**Record Finals Attendance:** 42,770 for the first elimination final on 5 September 2003 at Subiaco Oval: Essendon 15.11 (101); Fremantle 8.9 (57)

**Overall Success Rate 1995-2007:** 40.7%

Without the draft concessions enjoyed by their near neighbours West Coast almost a decade before, Fremantle's early years in the 'big time' proved to be significantly less auspicious, and overall it would probably be fair to suggest that they have not yet been able to do justice to the rich traditions of Fremantle football as exemplified over the years by 'Old Easts' (later the Sharks) and the red and whites (latterly the Bulldogs). Indeed, had a merged East and South Fremantle been able to participate in the VFL at almost any time since its inception there is little doubt that premiership cups would have been heading west across the Nullarbor well before the Eagles' eventual breakthrough in 1992.

Hypotheses aside, however, the story of football in Fremantle dates back at least as far as 1868, when a match is recorded as taking place between the Town of Fremantle and the Western Australian Temperance and Recreation Society. Although there is no record as to the type of football played on this occasion, it can be reliably assumed that it was not the game known at the time as 'Victorian Rules'. Indeed, for most of the first two decades during which organised football is known to have been played in the Perth-Fremantle area it was the English game of rugby that was favoured, with the indigenous code only gradually, indeed almost imperceptibly, finding favour.

By 1882 a total of five clubs in the Perth-Fremantle region were acknowledged as having senior status, and of these only one club, Unions, preferred the Australian, or 'bouncing', game. However, when the Western Australian Football Association was formed only three years later, its member clubs all agreed that matches should be played according to the Victorian-orientated rules of the Adelaide and Suburban Football Association, with just a few minor modifications being agreed to address local conditions. It appears that, during the intervening time, press and public dissatisfaction with the rugby code as a spectacle had mounted, while the number of influential individuals involved in the various football clubs who openly favoured Victorian Rules had risen rapidly. One such individual was the inaugural captain of the Fremantle Football Club,



Bill Bateman, who had been to school at Prince Alfred College in Adelaide, "one of the cradles of the Australian game".<sup>3</sup>

The first WAFA premiership was initially contested by four clubs: Rovers (precursors of the Perth Football Club), Victorians and Perth High School, all of which were Perth-based, plus Fremantle. However, Perth High School withdrew after only a couple of matches.

In 1886, a second Fremantle-based side, Unions, brought the number of clubs in the competition back to four. Bateman's Fremantle swept all before it this year, winning all 7 matches contested, most by huge margins. At season's end a representative game was arranged between 'Combined Perth' and 'Combined Fremantle', with the former winning 2.3 to 1.9 (behinds not counting in the score at this stage, of course). Such 'test matches', as they later became known, would, during the pre-World War One period of the twentieth century, become an important feature in each year's Western Australian football calendar.

In 1887, for reasons which remain unclear, the all conquering Fremantle side went into mothballs, leaving Unions as the port settlement's sole standard bearers. Three years later, Unions decided to adopt the same name as their predecessors, "because of the district".<sup>4</sup> By this stage the club was, by some measure, the competition's strongest, winning flags in 1888 and 1889 as Unions, and again in 1890 as Fremantle. It would almost certainly have made it four in a row in 1891 had it not been for a rather untoward sequence of events. Football by this stage was being marred by acts of premeditated violence, both on and off the field of play, and was losing popularity as a result, as well as attracting the same kind of press criticism that rugby had had to endure in the 1880s. Things really came to a head during the 1891 season when, with Fremantle unbeaten and seemingly comfortably on course to retain the premiership, Rovers threw a controversial and ultimately disabling

spanner into the works, downing the ladder leaders 1.3 to 0.7 after the umpire, Mr. Croft - a former Rovers player, no less - had repeatedly appeared to favour them. The match was played in Fremantle and, perhaps predictably, the majority of the spectators were far from overjoyed:

*The game between Rovers and Fremantle at Fremantle Park witnessed one of the most disorderly scenes that have ever occurred on the football field in this colony, and but for the presence of Constable Bonner, who was on mounted duty on the ground, serious injury would have been inflicted on the umpire, Mr. Croft.*

*As soon as the game had ended, a disorderly mob of larrikins, including many elderly men, surrounded the pavilion and asserted that the umpire had behaved with partiality and harshness towards the Fremantle team and had been unusually liberal towards the Rovers.*

*They yelled and shouted for the umpire, the din at times being deafening, and as each member of the Rovers came down the stairs he was hooted and hustled by the large crowd.*

*The president of the association, Mr. James, appeared (he was wearing a Rovers cap) and was mobbed.*

*The umpire next made his appearance and this was the signal for a general rush towards him, someone on the pavilion throwing a bucket of water on him as he emerged from the stairs.*

*The leaders of the crowd then threw him against the wall and a general rush was attempted to stem the onslaught.*

*Matters were beginning to look serious when Constable Bonner charged the mob, but his efforts at first were unsuccessful. Knox, Wehrstedt and Bateman, members of the Fremantle club, got beside Mr. Croft and at great risk succeeded in holding back some of the more impetuous spirits.*

*The umpire got away from the wall while mounted troopers held the crowd back. In this way, Mr. Croft got out of the Park, followed by the yells and jeers and sarcastic comments of the barrackers.*

*The mob, seeing that the Fremantle footballers were discouraging the hostile exhibition, gradually desisted from their unseemly behaviour.<sup>5</sup>*

The defeat in itself was by no means disastrous, and when Fremantle duly won its next two matches to consolidate its position at the head of the ladder there appeared to be no reason why expectations of a fourth consecutive premiership should not be realised. However, irritation still rankled among the club's officials and players, and it was decided that, as a protest, the club's final three games of the season should be forfeited. It is not clear precisely what the players and officials felt might be gained by this move, but intense feelings and logical actions rarely go hand in hand; the upshot was that Fremantle plummeted to third place on the ladder, with arch rivals Rovers being handed the flag. The reaction of umpire Croft is not known, but might readily be imagined.

Australia during the 1890s underwent its worst economic depression to date, with many inhabitants of the eastern states heading west in pursuit of fortune on the goldfields of Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie. Inevitably, some of these itinerants were footballers, and when the search for gold proved fruitless, as it did for many, a fair number of them gravitated further west, to the coastal settlements of Perth and Fremantle. One gratifying consequence of this was that the standard of football being played in the WAFA improved, while there was also a corresponding decline in on field violence. Perhaps the most famous eastern state footballer to head west was Albert Thurgood of Essendon, who was arguably the finest player of his era. Known as 'Albert the Great', Thurgood spent three and a bit seasons at Fremantle, topping the Association goal kicking list in 1895 (53 goals), 1896 (57) and 1897 (27). Other prominent eastern states footballers such as Tom Wilson (ex North Melbourne), Dave 'Dolly' Christy (ex Melbourne), and the former

South Melbourne pair of Harry Duggan and Dug Irvine made Fremantle the dominant team in the colony, and arguably the whole of Australia, for much of the 1890s. Between 1892 and 1896 the side won five successive flags and managed an overall success rate of 78.9%. It won again in 1898, but economic problems which had been simmering for some time came to a head the following season, which proved to be the club's last. In addition, several of Fremantle's more noteworthy players, including Wilson and Christy, had been founder members in 1898 of a new club based at the port, East Fremantle, which in due course would take over Fremantle's status as the leading team in the colony.

East Fremantle broke through for its first premiership in 1900, a season which also saw South Fremantle admitted to the competition, as well as the resumption of 'test' matches between Combined Fremantle and Combined Perth representative sides. Combined Fremantle emerged triumphant on this occasion by the substantial margin for the time of 55 points, 12.12 (84) to 3.11 (29).<sup>6</sup>

Besides these 'test' matches, the Fremantle sides would join together on at least one further occasion. While the 1924 Hobart Carnival was taking place, the North Adelaide and Essendon Football Clubs visited Western Australia, and East Fremantle and South Fremantle combined forces to meet them. Against a weak North Adelaide side which would eventually finish sixth in the SANFL the Fremantle combination scored a narrow win, but reigning VFL premiers Essendon proved much too strong. Despite inaccuracy in front of goal, the 'Same Old' won by 49 points.

Following the admission to the WAFA of North Fremantle in 1901, 50% of the clubs in the competition were located at the port. Playing initially in red, white and blue, and later in black and white, the northerners enjoyed only minimal success during their fifteen season tenure at the top level. East



*Scott Chisholm is set to take a fine mark, piggy-back style, during a Western 'derby'.*

Fremantle and South Fremantle, however, would go on to forge one of the greatest and most intense rivalries in Australian sport; known as 'Fremantle Derbies', their confrontations frequently produced the competition's highest attendances for the year, not to mention some of the best - and most bruising - football. The all time record attendance for a football match in Western Australia was set at the Fremantle Derby grand final of 1979, when 52,781 spectators turned up. This was just one of ten premiership-deciding matches between the clubs during the course of the twentieth century.<sup>7</sup>

In the period between Australia's emergence into nationhood in 1901 and the onset of World War One thirteen years later, Australian football had probably its best opportunity ever to transcend the straitjackets of parochialism and self interest which have stymied its development for much of its history. The spirit of nationalism which swept the country had a pronounced and legible effect on most sports, including football, where, for an all too brief time, there was a general and genuine desire to look beyond state boundaries and interpret the game in a national context. Alongside a fruitful and generally altruistic cross-

fertilisation of ideas, the comparative lack of restrictions over player movement meant that the spread of talent between the three major football states was, by 1910 or '11, more even than it had ever been before, or would ever subsequently be.

Interstate tours by clubs became a regular feature of the football calendar during this period, as players and officials sought to affirm their own and their club's identities and significance within a national framework, whilst simultaneously fuelling their nascent sense of patriotism by means of the establishment of links with fellow countrymen in other parts of the vast, enthralling landscape that they were gradually learning to think of as 'home'. Visits to Western Australia by club sides from South Australia and Victoria were eagerly anticipated during this period, and matches against these teams often attracted attendances in excess of those for WANFL finals matches.

In 1909, as reigning league and state premiers, the East Fremantle Football Club undertook its first interstate tour, visiting Broken Hill, where two matches were played, and Melbourne for a game against a VFL combination. The series in Broken Hill was squared, with many of the East Fremantle players expressing disquiet over the standard of the umpiring, but in Melbourne the side truly showed its pedigree, losing only narrowly (10.12 to 12.8) against a team containing a proliferation of household names.<sup>8</sup>

Of course, the travelling was not all in one direction. In 1910, a Port Adelaide team described by East Fremantle legend Dolph Heinrichs half a century later as "the best club 18 that has visited WA"<sup>9</sup> attracted huge interest when it journeyed across the Nullarbor. As reigning premiers, East Fremantle was given the honour of challenging the visitors, and after a splendid match went under by just 12 points. Some idea of just how good a performance this was can be gauged from the fact that, at Fremantle Oval a few days later, Port

Adelaide overcame a virtual state side by 5 points in a game that yielded a record gate for Australian football in Western Australia up to that point.

The 1910 season also saw South Fremantle venturing interstate for the first time and sustaining a narrow loss against Fitzroy in the only game played. Two years later, it was East Fremantle's turn to visit Victoria and take on both the Maroons and the Melbourne weather, the latter of which was at its uncongenial worst; needless to say, the match was lost, as was a game against West Torrens at the Adelaide Oval. Such interstate tours had less to do with winning games than winning friends, however, as well as reinforcing loyalty and camaraderie within the club. The links established between East Fremantle and Port Adelaide over the years, for instance, might be said to have contributed in no small measure to the rare, indeed almost unique, mutual rapport and respect which currently exists at AFL level between the Dockers and the Power.<sup>10</sup>

The 1912 season saw all three Fremantle teams participating in the finals for only the second (and, ultimately the last) time, but it was Subiaco which lifted the flag. Up to this point, East Fremantle, with premierships in 1900, 1902-3-4, 1906, and 1908-9-10-11 had been by some measure 'cock-o-the-port', a status that was emphasised with a 5.13 (43) to 3.6 (24) challenge final defeat of the Maroons in 1914. South Fremantle's moment was coming, however. In 1916 and 1917 the red and whites won consecutive flags, the taste of victory being rendered all the sweeter by virtue of the fact that the grand final opposition on both occasions was provided by their local rivals.

South Fremantle was also the first of the two clubs to provide a Sandover Medallist, with centreman Jack Rocchi taking the honours in 1928. By this stage, however, Old Easts had comprehensively re-established themselves as Western Australia's premier team, with players like Lin Richards, 'Bub'

Jarvis, 'Dinny' Coffey and Clarrie Reynolds propelling them to four successive flags between 1928 and 1931. The blue and whites won further pennants in 1933 and 1937, and were the dominant force in Western Australian football in the immediate post-World War Two phase. Indeed, East Fremantle's 1946 side was the only club in any of the three major football states ever to go through an entire post-war season unbeaten, although West Perth, with 4 and 6 point losses in the finals, came fairly close to upsetting the proverbial apple cart.

Between 1947 and 1954 it was South Fremantle's turn to dominate, and rarely can a team have done so with such consummate and unremitting energy, vigour and style; the red and whites won premierships in 1947 and '48, 1950, and from 1952 to 1954, besides finishing runners up (by 3 points) to West Perth in 1951. During this period the club gained an Australia-wide reputation for excellence, with Collingwood coach Phonse Kyne declaring, after watching his side lower its colours to the red and whites:

*"We all know South Fremantle would hold their own in Victorian football. They.....have some mighty fine players and have nothing to learn about system, pace and kicking - the main requirements of a first-class side."*<sup>11</sup>

Prominent among these "mighty fine players" were livewire rover Steve Marsh, indestructible defender Frank 'Scranno' Jenkins, evergreen ruckman Jack 'Corp' Reilly, Bradmanesque full forward Bernie Naylor, and deceptively casual, but highly effective, half back flanker Frank Treasure.

East Fremantle's record of at least one premiership in every decade of the club's existence continued with flags in 1965, 1974, 1979, 1985, 1992 and 1994. South Fremantle meanwhile proved somewhat less successful, even succumbing to the indignity of the wooden spoon on several occasions. However, it did also prove successful in winning three further flags before the turn of

the century, in 1970, 1980 and 1997. By the time of the last of these successes, though, neither South Fremantle or their century long rivals could any longer lay claim to being Fremantle's premier side, and within a couple of years there were even rumours that the unthinkable was being contemplated: a Bulldogs-Sharks merger.

The emergence on the scene of the Fremantle Dockers had, to a certain extent, already effected, if not quite a merger, then at least a unification of purpose, together with a heightened sense of shared traditions and values. The Dockers, from the start, were keen to enmesh themselves in the fabric of local football history by, for example, the establishment in 1995 of a 'Hall of Legends' which recognised and celebrated the contributions made to football in Fremantle by a range of former East Fremantle and South Fremantle identities. The inaugural inductees were East Fremantle's Jack Clarke, George Doig and Jack Sheedy, and the South Fremantle trio of Clive Lewington, Steve Marsh and Stephen Michael. Fresh additions to the 'Hall of Legends' have continued to be made since each year.

Speculation as to 'what might have been' is a notoriously idle pastime, but had a combined Fremantle side been able to participate in some kind of national football competition at virtually any time during the twentieth century, it is hard to resist the belief that it would have been extremely successful.

The formation of the West Coast Eagles in 1986 was heralded in certain quarters as being tantamount to a coming of age for Western Australian football. This attitude derived from the theory that the VFL was Australian football's only genuinely 'big time' competition, and thus the West Coast Eagles, as a VFL club, would be bringing 'big time' football to a Western Australian audience for the first time.

Leaving aside the fact that the term 'big time' is so difficult to define as to be almost meaningless, it is perhaps worth taking a moment to examine why such an



attitude should be so prevalent in Western Australia, thousands of kilometres from Melbourne, when in South Australia, which was geographically much closer to 'football's Mecca', it manifestly was not.

In the first place, it may be a somewhat facile observation, but one containing an element of truth nonetheless, to note that proximity often breeds disdain. Moreover, the converse of this - that distance generates allure - is also frequently the case. Dick Whittington's image of London was exaggeratedly enticing because all he had to go on was hearsay, and hearsay mingled with ambition and desire can be extraordinarily intoxicating. However, a state of intoxication is probably not the best condition in which to arrive at assessments which are objective and informed.

Neither, it must be admitted, does proximity automatically lend itself to accuracy of judgement. The inhabitants of Watford would doubtless have had a very different view of London to that which Dick Whittington nursed, one in which noises, smells and faintly seen images featured strongly, but this too would have been a distortion or, at very least, would have represented only a partial view of the whole; and to have a partial view of something is half way to being prejudiced.

Some of the above perhaps partly explains why, over the years, at least until the 1980s, proportionately many more Western Australian than South Australian players opted to try their luck in the VFL, although the lure of the dollar should also not be underestimated. (The wage differential between VFL and WA(N)FL remained, for many years, much wider than that between the VFL and SANFL.)

This analysis of causes and origins is purely speculative, of course, but what is difficult to deny is that, for many years, there was a prevailing attitude towards Victorian football in Western Australia in which feelings of inferiority and awe featured strongly. As long ago as 1955,

former Geelong player John Hyde, who had been lured over to Perth to coach Claremont, deplored "excessive WA interest in Victorian football to the neglect of the game in the west".<sup>12</sup> Moreover, he found himself "constantly chiding West Australians, particularly WA's state players, for investing the Victorians with super powers" when there was "no reason for WA having an inferiority complex about meeting Victoria".<sup>13</sup>

Meanwhile, East Fremantle's great ruckman Jack 'Stork' Clarke, when reflecting on a career which had seen him not only garner numerous accolades, but also repeatedly resist overtures from VFL clubs, pinpointed a key difference between Western Australian and South Australian football:

*When visiting South Australia when I was playing, their heroes were South Australian and not the Victorians. It was the opposite in WA. The media in this state pandered to the Victorians too much. In a similar manner we were induced into joining the VFL - they (South Australians) hung on for as long as they could. The Victorians had great players, but we had great players here too. And the South Australians had some wonderful players also.<sup>14</sup>*

When the West Coast Eagles were launched with Hollywood style glitz the acclaim was considerable but by no means universal. Many felt, with Les Everett, "that those in charge of the new VFL club believed they were the product of some sort of immaculate conception - as if football hadn't existed in WA before the Eagles came along".<sup>15</sup>

While it would be churlish to deny that the Eagles have done a certain amount of good in attracting a number people to football (or, at any rate, to some of the razzmatazz surrounding football), the club has arguably done little to enmesh itself in the rich fabric of the code's local traditions, history and heritage. Indeed, if anything, it has at times actively striven, as a willing agent of the AFL, to undermine and discredit those traditions, from the misguided perspective that in so

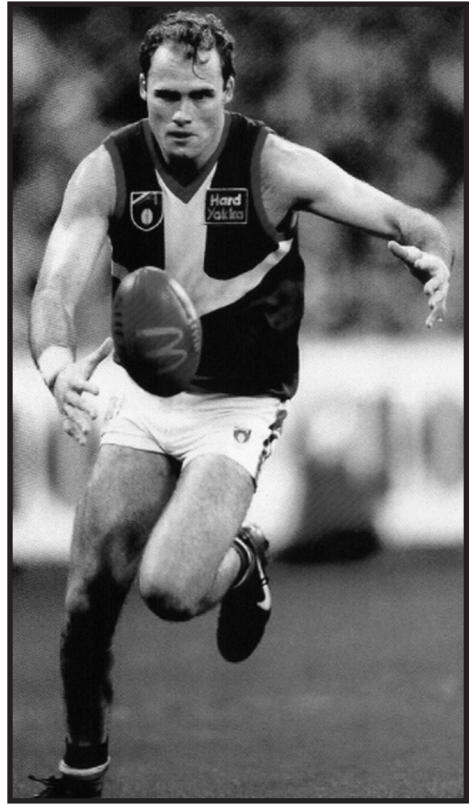
doing it is somehow augmenting its own position, identity and importance.

The thousands of Western Australian football supporters who found such an attitude anathema were desperately hoping for salvation through the agency of the state's second V/AFL club, the arrival of which was tacitly acknowledged as inevitable almost from the moment of West Coast's conception, immaculate or otherwise. However, would a second club be any more likely than the Eagles to identify itself with the state's true footballing heritage? The emergence of the first South Australian AFL club, an essentially soulless corporate entertainment machine, the Adelaide Crows, would have done little to encourage optimism.<sup>16</sup> Why should Western Australia's new club be any different?

The first good news came with the announcement that, the misgivings of some of the Perth-based WAFL clubs notwithstanding, the second club would be based in Fremantle, which had been a major hotbed of the code for over a century. Moreover, there was an intense historic rivalry between the football teams of Fremantle and those of Perth, a rivalry of a type that football - indeed, any kind of sport - at every level thrives on.

Eventually, it was decided that 1995 would be the year of the new Fremantle team's induction into the 'big time'. Traditional football supporters were given further heart when, from a shortlist of three candidates - Robert Shaw, Ken Sheldon and Gerard Neesham - for the club's coaching position Fremantle ignored pressure from the AFL to appoint a man with previous AFL experience and went for the only one of the trio without it. As coach of Claremont Gerard Neesham had built up an impressive portfolio of achievement - 11 wins in 14 finals matches, four premierships from six grand finals, and an overall success rate of 70.4% - and had developed an innovative 'chip and draw' style of play which featured similar counter attacking principles to those found

in sports like soccer, hockey, basketball and, more particularly in Neesham's case,



*Stephen O'Reilly*

water polo.<sup>17</sup> He also defiantly ignored some of the major tactical trends that had emerged in football in recent years, such as tagging. However, Neesham's theories and style remained untested outside Western Australia, a fact which, in the view of some, automatically discredited them. Neesham though was having none of it.

*"Graham Cornes is the ideal answer to anybody who believes that a new coach must have AFL coaching experience.....Balme's another. The bloke played a lot of AFL football (sic.), but his coaching background and strategies are all based on football in South Australia."*<sup>18</sup>

Initially, however, the club was faced with a much more urgent problem than who to

appoint as its first coach - what emblem to choose? Suggestions ranged from the bizarre (Doctors, Seals, Sea Lions), through the predictably Americanised (Dolphins, Mariners, Marines), to names which were intended to evoke something of Fremantle's heritage (Wharfies and Dockers). In the end, it was the name 'Dockers' which got the nod - not that any Fremantle wharfie worth his salt ever used such a term, but somehow the resonance seemed just right. With purple, red, green and white announced as their official colours, all the Fremantle Dockers needed was a team.

As mentioned earlier, Fremantle, unlike West Coast, was not accorded any significant draft concessions by the AFL, and its recruiting task was made even more difficult by virtue of the fact that its most logical source of talent, the WAFL, was, in terms of playing resources, at its lowest ebb in living memory, indeed arguably ever.

In Gerard Neesham, however, a man with unrivalled knowledge of local playing stocks, the club arguably had the ideal person to spearhead its recruiting initiatives. Of the 41 players who comprised the Dockers' initial squad, the overwhelming majority - 29 - hailed directly from the WAFL, while even the 11-strong 'ready made' AFL contingent possessed minimal league experience. Of this latter group, the most noteworthy catches included Hawthorn's 1991 best and fairest winner Ben Allan, who would skipper the Dockers in their debut season, strong running midfielder Andrew Wills and powerful defender Stephen O'Reilly, both from Geelong, the versatile Peter Mann from North Melbourne, and prolific possession winner Scott Watters from Sydney. In keeping with the overall tenor of the squad, all bar Wills hailed originally from Western Australia, as did six of the other eight recruits with previous AFL experience.

The first official outing for the new team took place in Darwin, one of Gerard Neesham's favourite close season haunts, where the Dockers lost to the Northern

Territory by a point. Several weeks later, the purple, red, green and white colours were unveiled to an adoring public at East Fremantle Oval, with a full scale practice match against Essendon. Despite the employment by visiting coach Kevin Sheedy of some provocatively controversial tactics, Fremantle won with ease, prompting the Western Australian media, with inane predictability, to launch into hyperbole:

*Flamboyant, dazzling, powerhouse, historic, brilliant, exciting, dynamic and fleet-footed were some of the descriptions used.*

*The (Fremantle) tactics were said to be baffling, cat-and-mouse and revolutionary.<sup>19</sup>*

Fully aware that, when all was said and done, the encounter had merely been a practice match, played at a fraction of the intensity of the 'real thing', and with absolutely nothing hinging on the result, Gerard Neesham's assessment was somewhat more realistic:

*"We did well but we know the opposition was undermanned. We physically have a long way to go and we really dropped off in the last half of the game."<sup>20</sup>*

By the time the season got underway a month and a half later some of the Dockers' stamina and staying power deficiencies had clearly been addressed. In round 1, the team was drawn to play Richmond at the MCG, and at three quarter time looked down and out, trailing 7.9 (51) to 10.15 (75). However, in the closing stanza the whole side lifted to outscore the Tigers 5.4 to 2.3, and fall short by just 5 points. With the Fremantle players seemingly still full of running it would appear that only lack of time prevented what would have been an historic triumph.

The club's inaugural home match the next week followed a similar pattern. In front of a crowd of 24,398 at the WACA the Dockers rounded off the game with 4 final

quarter goals to 2, ultimately finishing just 9 points adrift of an Essendon combination that, unlike on its pre-season visit, was at full strength, and widely acknowledged as one of the powers of the competition.

Fremantle's first win arrived the following week, as a desperately poor Fitzroy team was comprehensively swept aside to the tune of 43 points at the Western Oval. The Dockers were playing with a verve and a panache that were capturing the imagination of football supporters throughout the land. Ultimately, of course, when evaluated in terms of finals appearances and premierships, Neesham's methods were unsuccessful, but that they were revolutionary is hard to deny. Moreover, it is intriguing to speculate on what the Fremantle Football Club might have achieved, using Neesham's methods, had its list been stronger. Neesham's success using 'chip and draw' tactics with Claremont in the WAFL was arguably based more on the fact that the players he had at his disposal were among the finest in the competition than on any inherent superiority in the tactics themselves.

The Dockers' first home win, which once again derived largely from a powerful last quarter, came in round 4 against Geelong, and already it was clear that the side would not be jostling with Fitzroy for the wooden spoon, as had widely been predicted prior to the start of the season.

In round 7, Fremantle produced a superb performance to overwhelm and thoroughly bamboozle Sydney at the WACA. The Dockers' final tally of 25.13 (163) would remain a club record score for eight years. Despite the defeat, Sydney coach Ron Barassi could not help but be impressed, suggesting that:

*"Neesham's innovative and exciting brand is the first major change to football style in 20 years", adding, if the Dockers make this year's finals series, all clubs in the national league would be sure to change and follow Neesham's attacking strategies.*

*"They work the ball up from their backline and they are very patient with the ball," Barassi said. "They are well drilled to create space and to run, not all of them run though. They play through their quick runners.*

*"Their running players are their targets and they are very quick guys. It will take a while to work it out, and if there is a counter to it then we'll all be doing it."*<sup>21</sup>

The Freo style was also, in its way, quintessentially Western Australian - which, if anything, was the factor that ultimately became its Achilles heel, for accepted football 'wisdom' had long ago decreed that there was only one way to achieve success in the modern game, and that was by adhering to the tried and tested Victorian principles of power, pressure and, above all, physicality. Within this context, occasional flamboyance on an individual basis could be allowed, and even admired, but in the increasingly homogenous and hermetically sealed world of the AFL it was unthinkable that a whole team should endeavour to transcend accepted norms and expect to accomplish anything of any significance.

Fremantle ultimately won 8 of its 22 matches in 1995 to finish thirteenth. Peter Mann achieved a noteworthy 'double' by winning the inaugural best and fairest award, and topping the club goal kicking.

In 1996, the side finished thirteenth again, albeit with 1 fewer win, but in 1997 it came within the proverbial ace of making the finals, only to be ultimately de-railed by injuries to key players during the vital closing phase of the season. The Dockers went into the final match of the year, away to the league's bottom side Melbourne, knowing that, if other results went their way, a victory would secure a place in the eight. As it was, all the other results did go Freo's way, but the Demons were in uncompromising mood, and after a close first half they raced away to score a convincing 40 point win. "We just had too many people who played

badly today, some through injury, some through a lack of focus and belief," observed Neesham. Nevertheless, he was far from disconsolate. "This year has been quite heartening. The fact that we won 10 games with the amount of injuries we've had, well, it was a promising year."<sup>22</sup>

Sadly, however, that promise remained unfulfilled. In 1998, Neesham's last year as coach, the Dockers plummeted to second from last on the ladder, a result which, despite 71 goals from the new idol of the Fremantle fans, Tony Modra, was repeated under Damian Drum the following year. Season 2000 saw the side playing a steelier, and ultimately somewhat more effective brand of football to move up the ladder to twelfth place with 8 wins. A nucleus of extremely promising youngsters, notably the Norwich Rising Star winner of 2000, Paul Hasleby, rebounding defender James Walker, the Longmuir brothers, Justin and Troy, and the highly skilled and versatile Matthew Pavlich, gave everyone connected with the much apparent cause for optimism. However, in 2001, Fremantle began the season with an unprecedented sequence of 9 straight losses, precipitating coach Damian Drum's unceremonious and somewhat distasteful sacking; former club captain Ben Allan took over the coaching reins on a caretaker basis, but was unable to prevent the team sliding to its first ever wooden spoon.

The 2002 season brought a fair measure of improvement under new coach Chris Connelly, with Fremantle rising to thirteenth on the ladder with 9 wins, before qualifying for the finals for the first ever time in 2003, and ultimately finishing seventh. After a highly promising start to the 2004 season, however, during which the unprecedented luxury of a top four place looked to be well within reach, the Dockers somehow conspired to lose their way, and in the end suffered the agony of missing finals participation altogether after a last round loss to St Kilda. The 2005 season saw the

side finish tenth, effectively marking time. Nevertheless, the feeling persisted that the team had still to scrape the surface of its considerable potential, a feeling that was borne out in 2006 when the Dockers finished the home and away season in irrepressible fashion to qualify for the finals in third place with a 15-7 record. A convincing home semi final win over Melbourne was arguably the single greatest moment in the club's history to date, but the fact that it was sandwiched between away losses to Adelaide in a qualifying final and Sydney in a preliminary final meant that that elusive first premiership remained frustratingly just out of reach.

Fremantle entered the 2007 season as one of four or five teams popularly regarded as having a realistic chance of claiming the flag. However, an upset opening round loss at home to Port Adelaide was a prelude to a year of immense frustration during which the side managed just 10 wins, which was not even good enough to secure a place in the finals.

The history of football in Fremantle is long, colourful, vibrant and fascinating and, despite a disappointing lack of success so far, there seems every reason to expect that the future contributions made to that history by the AFL club which now proudly bears the port city's name will both conform to and enhance those traditions. Assuming they do, then genuine footballer supporters everywhere will have good reason to rejoice, although it will take a considerable amount of time before the exploits of the 'new kids on the block' come anywhere near matching those of the clubs which, for the better part of a century, flew the football flag for Fremantle.

**FRENCH, VICTOR:** One of East Fremantle's greatest ever rovers, and indeed players, Vic French played a total of 188 games for the club in 1940 and 1941, and from 1945 to 1952. He was first rover in Old Easts' premiership teams of 1945 and 1946. Fleet of foot, a smooth ball handler, and a superb exponent of



handball, he won the Lynn Medal, East Fremantle's fairest and best award, on three occasions. He was also extremely dangerous when resting in a forward pocket, and topped the club's goal kicking list in 1945 and 1946 with 70 and 60 goals respectively. He also booted a creditable 16 goals in his 4 interstate appearances for Western Australia. In 1997, he was included in a forward pocket in East Fremantle's official 'Team of the Century'.

#### Footnotes

1 See Steve Davies's 'Club vs. Club Summary' in the History section of the official WAFL website at <http://www.wafl.com.au>.

2 Geoff Christian in *The Footballers*, page 9, cites results of 6.16 to 2.2 and 3.11 to nil against Rovers, 4.20 to a goal against Victorians, and 6.15 to 2.0 versus Unions (behinds recorded, but not counting).

3 *The Footballers* by Geoff Christian, page 6.

4 *Ibid*, page 10.

5 *Ibid*, page 12. This is an allegedly contemporary report of the incident. However, the source is unspecified.

6 Behinds had been counted in the score in Western Australia from 1898, one season after the innovation was first introduced in Victoria and South Australia.

7 The complete list is as follows:

1914 EF 5.13 (43); SF 3.6 (24)

1916 SF 7.12 (54); EF 5.5 (35)

1917 SF 6.5 (41); EF 3.8 (26)

1929 EF 8.22 (70); SF 5.9 (39)

1930 EF 12.15 (87); SF 9.11 (65)

1945 EF 12.15 (87); SF 7.9 (51)

1954 SF 21.14 (140); 9.8 (62)

1979 EF 21.19 (145); SF 16.16 (112)

1992 EF 12.19 (91); SF 9.13 (67)

1997 SF 13.7 (85); EF 11.13 (79)

Note: In 1900, East Fremantle won the premiership, with South Fremantle second.

However, no finals matches were played, as the premiership at this time was still awarded to the team with the best overall record during the home and away season.

8 These included: Jim Sharp of Fitzroy, who was renowned as the finest defender in the VFL; Collingwood's champion full forward, Walter 'Dick' Lee, who had topped the VFL goal kicking list in each of the previous three seasons, and would go on to do so in total on ten occasions (including 1 shared); brilliant Carlton centremen Rod McGregor; and Melbourne's dashing forward Vince Couttie.

9 *Celebrating 100 Years of Tradition* by Jack Lee, page 65. Port Adelaide would later defeat Collingwood for the club championship of Australia, highlighting the evenness of standard in the game at the top level at this time.

10 East Fremantle and Port Adelaide continued to meet one another fairly frequently until the 1950s.

11 *The South Fremantle Story 1900-1975 Volume 1* by Frank Harrison and Jack Lee, page 81.

12 'Sporting Life', October 1955, page 39.

13 *Ibid*, page 39.

14 Quoted in *Football Greats of Western Australia: Volume One* by Anthony James, page 21.

15 *The Clubs* edited by John Ross and Garrie Hutchinson, page 164.

16 For example, in its official literature, such as annual yearbooks and so forth, the word 'Adelaide' was consistently and conspicuously missing from the club name; as far as the club was concerned, it was actually the (Major Sponsor's name)-Crows, a self-image which proclaims much about the organisation's real aspirations and attitudes, not least in relation to the rich football history of the state it was supposedly representing and endeavouring to augment.

17 Neesham played top grade water polo for nineteen years.

18 'Inside Football', volume 24 number 7, 8/4/94, page 26. Cornes had coached Adelaide to the previous season's preliminary final, while Balme would do the same in 1994 with Melbourne.

19 From a story by Jack Lee in the 'Fremantle Gazette' of 17 February 1995, under the heading '*Little General*' Gerard Truly Realistic.

20 *Ibid*.

21 'Football Plus', volume 1 number 15, 10/5/95, page 15.

22 *Fremantle Dockers 1997 Yearbook*, page 55.

# G

**GABRIELSON, DON:** Solidly built, speedy, and strong overhead, East Fremantle's Don Gabrielson was one of the best West Australian half back flankers of the immediate pre- and post-war periods. Despite a lack of inches, he could also do a more than serviceable job at centre half back when required. A superb kick with either foot, and a smooth ball handler, Gabrielson was a member of Old Easts' winning grand final teams of 1945 and 1946. Between 1938 and 1941 and from 1945 to 1951 he played a total of 183 WANFL games, and represented Western Australia in the interstate arena 4 times.

## **Gascoyne Football Association:**

The GFA currently boasts four clubs: Exmouth, Gascoyne, Ramblers and Warriors. Exmouth is the reigning premier following a 16.15 (111) to 9.9 (63) grand final defeat of Warriors in 2007. It was the Eagles' second straight flag, and their fifth in total.

Premiers from 1963 to 2006 were:

1963 Ramblers 1964 East Canarvon  
1965 Warriors 1966 East Carnarvon 1967  
Ramblers 1968 Ramblers 1969 East  
Carnarvon 1970 East Carnarvon 1971  
Ramblers 1972 East Carnarvon 1973  
Ramblers 1974 Ramblers 1975 Warriors  
1976 Warriors 1977 Ramblers 1978  
Ramblers 1979 Warriors 1980 Warriors  
1981 Ramblers 1982 Warriors 1983  
Ramblers 1984 Ramblers 1985 Ramblers  
1986 Warriors 1987 Ramblers 1988  
Ramblers 1989 Ramblers 1990 Ramblers  
1991 Ramblers 1992 Ramblers 1993  
Ramblers 1994 Gascoyne 1995 Exmouth  
1996 Exmouth 1997 Ramblers 1998  
Ramblers 1999 Exmouth 2000 Ramblers  
2001 Ramblers 2002 Ramblers 2003  
East Carnarvon 2004 Ramblers 2005  
Ramblers 2006 Exmouth

**GEORGE, MAX:** Overall, full forward Max George's league career failed to ignite to the extent that might have been expected, but it nevertheless had its memorable moments. In one game against West Perth in 1974, for example, he notched 14 goals. A spectacular high flier, and an excellent kick for goal, especially from distance, he topped the WANFL goal kicking ladder with 90 goals in 1974, having earlier headed Swans' list with 30 goals in 1969 and 46 in 1973. He played 3 interstate games for Western Australia, kicking 11 goals. In 1976 he moved to Fitzroy, where he booted 21 goals in 8 games. Always quick to pour scorn on interstate recruits, the Melbourne press branded him a 'flop', conveniently ignoring the obvious fact that a full forward needs good service in order to shine, something which the impoverished Fitzroy midfield of the mid-1970s was patently incapable of providing. After spending the 1977 season back in Western Australia with Geraldton, George moved to Central District, where he finished his league career.

**GEPP, HAROLD 'NUGGET':** Always referred to as 'Nugget', Harold Gepp was a stalwart of East Perth's majestic post-World War One combinations under Phil Matson. Gepp actually commenced his league career with the Royals in 1917, and by the time he bowed out after captaining the side to victory in the 1927 challenge final he had played a total of 162 WAFL games, kicking 131 goals. That 1927 triumph was achieved at the expense of East Fremantle, with Gepp having previously contributed to the victories of 1919 and 1920 against the same opposition, 1922 against West Perth, 1923 against Old Easts once more, and 1926 versus Subiaco as captain. Although primarily a forward, he could perform equally well either as a defender or across centre. He represented Western Australia in the interstate arena 3 times and also played for league combinations against visiting

teams from South Australia and Victoria on 4 occasions. In 1928 Gepp was appointed coach of league 'babies' Claremont-Cottesloe whom he led, without much in the way of on-field success, until midway through the 1934 season. He also donned the boots on occasion when required, adding a final 16 WA(N)FL games to his tally.

In 2006, 'Nugget' Gepp was named in a forward pocket in East Perth's official 'Team of the 20th Century 1906 to 1944'.

**GEROVICH, JOHN:** Arguably the most distinctive feature of Australian football is the high mark. Virtually every other facet of the game is shared by other sports, but the sight of a player taking a fingertip 'screamer' whilst perched on the shoulders of an opponent is unique to footy, and players who perfect this ability are among the code's most celebrated and well remembered.

John Gerovich, who played 221 league games for South Fremantle between 1955 and 1969, mastered the high flyer's art more completely and conspicuously than most. The photograph of a skyscraping mark taken by Gerovich during the 1956 preliminary final against East Fremantle remains one of the most visually stunning and indeed iconic in football history. The unfortunate 'step-ladder' was Ray French.

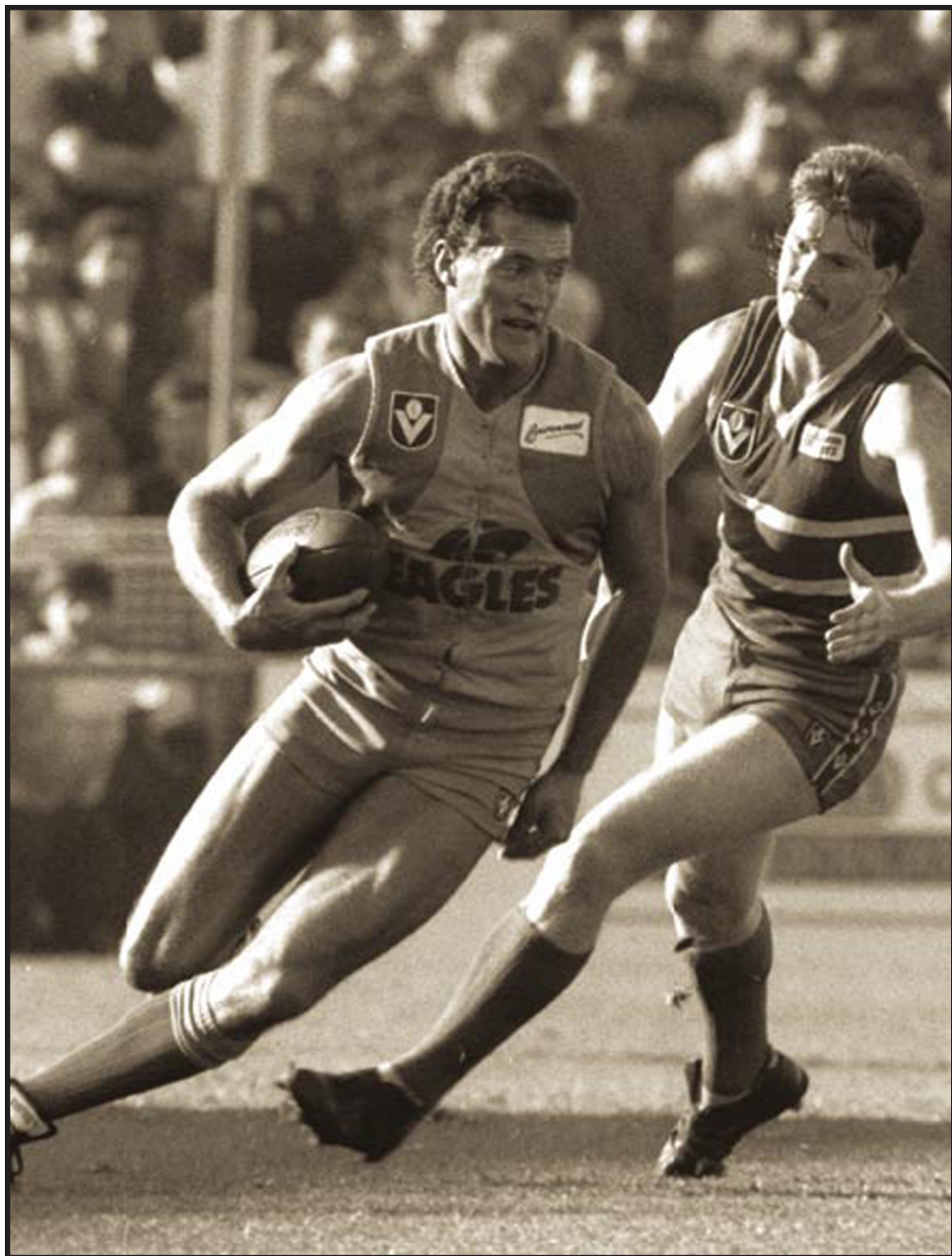
John Gerovich was much more than just a spectacular aerialist, however, as he "had superb balance, a blistering turn of speed and the ability to kick goals from long distances with either foot".<sup>1</sup> Equally at home either at centre half forward or the goalfont, he topped South Fremantle's list of goal kickers on eight occasions and the league list in 1956 (74 goals), 1960 (101) and 1961 (74). He booted 721 WANFL goals altogether, and was a regular interstate representative (18 games, 56 goals). When West Australia won the 1961 Brisbane carnival, John Gerovich played at full forward in all 3 matches, kicking 8 goals.

Perhaps the most persuasive testimony as to Gerovich's brilliance came from Marty McDonnell, who coached South during the early '60s, and who had played at full back on the great Essendon full forward John Coleman. McDonnell's unequivocal assessment was that "Gerovich was the most sensational forward he had seen in Australia".<sup>2</sup>

**GLASS, DONALD** commenced his senior WANFL career with South Fremantle's supremely powerful early 1950s combination, but he found it extremely hard to break into the side, and after just 14 games he crossed to Northam. In 1956, Subiaco invited him to have a second stab at league football, and he hit his straps immediately, proving himself over the next seven seasons and 136 games to be one of the competition's most versatile performers. Capable not only of filling, but of thriving in, virtually any position on the field, he was arguably Subiaco's most important and effective player of the late 1950s. Many of his best games were played at full forward, and he topped his club's goal kicking ladder on three occasions, with his tally of 83 in 1957 also good enough to head the league list. Voted Subiaco's fairest and best player in 1957 when he played mostly at the goal front, he repeated the achievement two years later as an archetypal 'spare parts' player, sometimes filling three or four different roles in the same match. Somewhat surprisingly for a footballer once described in 'The WANFL Football Budget' as "phenomenal", Don Glass was never selected to represent his state.

*NEXT PAGE: One of the most famous marks in Australian football history: South Fremantle's John Gerovich defies gravity to perch on the shoulders of his East Fremantle opponent Ray French during the 1956 WANFL preliminary final.*





*West Coast's Ross Glendinning attempts to out-manouver his Footscray opponent.*



**GLENDINNING, ROSS:** After joining East Perth under the father-son rule (Dad Angus played 69 games for the Royals in 1941 and from 1945 to 1951) Ross Glendinning made his WANFL debut on ANZAC Day 1974 against Subiaco, and immediately seemed right at home. Solidly built, he was nevertheless extremely quick, could take a grab, and kicked beautifully with both feet.

In 1975 he finished as a runner up to team mate Alan Quartermaine in the Sandover Medal count and VFL talent scouts began to take notice. Courted by several Victorian clubs, Glendinning ultimately opted to join North Melbourne in time for the 1977 season, but East Perth, understandably, refused to clear him. Having played only 46 WANFL games the Royals' hierarchy felt that Glendinning owed them at least another season, and so, after sitting out of the game until July, the prodigal son returned to play out the remainder of the year with East Perth. The understanding was that, in return for this comparatively meagre display of loyalty, Glendinning would be cleared to the Kangaroos in 1978, and this indeed was what transpired.

Sadly for Glendinning, playing the 1977 season with East Perth instead of North Melbourne meant involvement in a losing WANFL grand final team rather than, possibly, a VFL premiership. Glendinning did get to front up at the MCG on that 'one day in September' the following year, but North lost to Hawthorn, and it would be the club's last grand final appearance for two decades.

Ross Glendinning was a regular interstate representative, and, with 13 appearances, holds the record for the most state of origin games for Western Australia.

In 1987, after a stellar stint with North, he returned to his home state to join the newly formed West Coast Football Club where he spent the final couple of seasons of his league career.

Despite the brevity of his time with the club Ross Glendinning was chosen at centre half back in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005'.

**Goldfields Football League:** Few if any country football competitions around Australia have as proud and noteworthy a history as the Goldfields Football League (formerly known as the Goldfields Football Association and the Goldfields National Football League). Its standard of play was, for many years, acknowledged as being almost on a par with that of the major state competitions, and until 1919 it was a member, in its own right, of the Australasian Football Council. Western Australia's carnival teams at Melbourne in 1908, Adelaide in 1911 and Sydney in 1914 contained numerous goldfields footballers (33 out of a total of 72), and at the end of the majority of seasons between 1903 and 1924 the goldfields and WAFA/L premiers met one another to contest the state premiership. The strength of goldfields football is further emphasised by the success of its representative teams in matches against visiting combinations either from interstate or the coast. Some examples include:

1910 GFL 12.12 (84); Port Adelaide 9.13 (67)  
1920 GFA 9.14 (68); VFA 6.18 (54)  
1920 GFA 9.11 (65); VFA 9.11 (65)  
1920 GFA 11.6 (72); VFA 6.17 (53)  
1920 GFA 9.6 (60); East Perth 8.13 (61)  
1924 GFA 13.18 (96); North Adelaide 10.13 (73)  
1930 GNFL 16.15 (111); East Fremantle 15.13 (103)  
1934 GNFL 14.9 (93); Western Australia 13.14 (92)  
1937 GNFL 21.21 (147); South Australian XVIII 18.12 (120)  
1939 GNFL 17.19 (121); Claremont 15.12 (102)  
1939 GNFL 15.10 (100); Port Adelaide 14.13 (97)  
1945 GNFL 15.15 (105); Swan Districts 11.17 (83)  
1946 GNFL 12.12 (84); South Fremantle 9.13 (67)  
1952 GNFL 26.25 (191); East Fremantle 15.12 (102)  
1955 GNFL 18.18 (126); Claremont 10.4 (64)

Current GFL clubs are Boulder City, Kalgoorlie City, Kalgoorlie Railways, Kambalda and Mines Rovers.

Former clubs were Hannans 1896-9; Victorians 1896-7; White Feather 1896-8 and 1903-6; Bulong 1897; Rovers 1897; Britannia 1897; Cementers 1898; Kanowna/Kanowna Song (formed as a result of a merger between White Feather and Cementers) 1899-1901; Paddington 1899; Coolgardie 1901-3 and 1905-6; Trafalgar 1902-5; Horseshoe Warriors 1903-8; City 1903; Boulder Stars 1905-6; Norseman 1971-2 and 1974-82.

Mines Rovers claimed the 2007 premiership thanks to a 15.11 (101) to 4.9 (33) grand final demolition of Railways.

Premiers 1896 to 2006 were: 1896 Boulder City 1897 Hannans 1898 Boulder City 1899 Boulder City 1900 Mines Rovers 1901 Mines Rovers 1902 Mines Rovers 1903 Kalgoorlie Railways 1904 Kalgoorlie Railways 1905 Kalgoorlie Railways 1906 Mines Rovers 1907 Boulder City 1908 Boulder City 1909 Boulder City 1910 Boulder City 1911 Kalgoorlie Railways 1912 Kalgoorlie Railways 1913 Boulder City 1914 Mines Rovers 1915 Mines Rovers 1916-17 *Competition suspended owing to the war* 1918 Mines Rovers 1919 Kalgoorlie Railways 1920 Kalgoorlie Railways 1921 Mines Rovers 1922 Mines Rovers 1923 Mines Rovers 1924 Boulder City 1925 Boulder City 1926 Mines Rovers 1927 Kalgoorlie City 1928 Boulder City 1929 Kalgoorlie Railways 1930 Kalgoorlie City 1931 Kalgoorlie Railways 1932 Boulder City 1933 Boulder City 1934 Mines Rovers 1935 Boulder City 1936 Mines Rovers 1937 Mines Rovers 1938 Mines Rovers 1939 Kalgoorlie Railways 1940 Mines Rovers 1941 Kalgoorlie City 1942-44 *Competition suspended owing to the war* 1945 Kalgoorlie Railways 1946 Mines Rovers 1947 Mines Rovers 1948 Boulder City 1949 Mines Rovers 1950 Boulder City 1951 Mines Rovers 1952 Kalgoorlie Railways 1953 Kalgoorlie City 1954 Kalgoorlie City 1955 Mines Rovers 1956 Mines Rovers 1957

Mines Rovers 1958 Kalgoorlie Railways 1959 Boulder City 1960 Kalgoorlie Railways 1961 Mines Rovers 1962 Kalgoorlie City 1963 Kalgoorlie Railways 1964 Kalgoorlie Railways 1965 Mines Rovers 1966 Kalgoorlie Railways 1967 Mines Rovers 1968 Mines Rovers 1969 Mines Rovers 1970 Mines Rovers 1971 Kalgoorlie Railways 1972 Mines Rovers 1973 Kalgoorlie Railways 1974 Kalgoorlie Railways 1975 Kalgoorlie Railways 1976 Kambalda 1977 Boulder City 1978 Kalgoorlie Railways 1979 Kalgoorlie Railways 1980 Kalgoorlie City 1981 Kambalda 1982 Boulder City 1983 Kalgoorlie Railways 1984 Kalgoorlie City 1985 Kambalda 1986 Boulder City 1987 Kalgoorlie Railways 1988 Kalgoorlie City 1989 Boulder City 1990 Boulder City 1991 Mines Rovers 1992 Kalgoorlie City 1993 Mines Rovers 1994 Boulder City 1995 Mines Rovers 1996 Mines Rovers 1997 Boulder City 1998 Boulder City 1999 Kalgoorlie City 2000 Kalgoorlie Railways 2001 Mines Rovers 2002 Mines Rovers 2003 Kalgoorlie Railways 2004 Mines Rovers 2005 Boulder City 2006 Kalgoorlie Railways

Summary of senior flags won: 38 Mines Rovers; 28 Kalgoorlie Railways; 26 Boulder City; 10 Kalgoorlie City; 3 Kambalda; 1 Hannans

**GOOK, ALBERT:** Strong overhead, and abundantly skilled, Bert Gook was equally effective as a centreman or full forward. He played 143 league games for Perth between 1933 and 1940, kicking in the region of 500 goals. He topped the Redlegs' goal kicking list every year between 1934 and 1939, and twice booted in excess of 100 goals for the season. His tally of 102 goals in 1939 was good enough to top the WANFL goal kicking list, while his haul of 16 in a match against West Perth at Leederville that same year remains a club record. In his final league season, playing mainly as a centreman, he showed what an accomplished all round footballer he was by taking out Perth's fairest and best award. Gook represented Western

Australia in 7 interstate matches in which he kicked a total of 20 goals. In 1999, Bert Gook was granted the coveted full forward position in Perth's official 'Team of the Century'.

**GORMAN, ERIC** was a top quality full forward who amassed a club record 555 goals over the course of his nine season, 163 game league career with Swan Districts. After playing a handful of games in 1961, he made his mark in spectacular fashion in the second round of the 1962 season when he booted 6 goals in a high scoring 2 point win over Perth at Bassendean. When he kicked another 6 the following week it seemed clear that a major new talent had arrived. By season's end, Gorman had accumulated a total of 93 goals, and had played in a premiership team. He went on to top Swans' goal kicking list on seven consecutive occasions, with his highest tally being 97 goals in 1965. Probably his most memorable game came in the winning 1963 grand final against East Fremantle when he contributed 9 of his side's 17 goals in what many observers regarded as a best afield performance. The Simpson Medal, however, went to Gorman's team mate, Ken Bagley. Nine goals remains a record tally for one player in a WA(N)FL grand final. Perhaps surprisingly, Eric Gorman only made 1 interstate appearance for Western Australia, kicking 4 of the home state's 9 goals in a 16 point loss to South Australia at Subiaco in 1962.

**GOSNELL, JIM** began his league career with West Perth in 1918. In 1919 he moved to Kalgoorlie Railways where he spent two years, returning to the Cardinals a much more accomplished all round player. He made his interstate debut for Western Australia in 1922, and went on to make a total of 15 state appearances. In 1924 he won the Sandover Medal. Highly proficient at all the defensive aspects of the game, Gosnell joined with fellow Sandover Medallists Harold Boyd and Jim Craig to give the Cardinals arguably the finest half back line in Australia

at the time. He won West Perth's fairest and best award in 1927, and captained the club the following year. In 1930 he returned to Kalgoorlie Railways where he rounded off his career in style by winning the Dillon Medal as the fairest and best player in the goldfields competition. Jim Gosnell was named on the interchange bench in West Perth's official 'Team of the Century'.

**GOULDING, STEVEN** had already played league football with both North Launceston and North Melbourne by the time he commenced his WAFL career with Claremont in 1982. He went on to play a total of 122 games in six seasons with the Tigers, besides earning state selection for Western Australia twice. Goulding was a hard working on baller or centreman whose delivery skills were first rate.

**GRAHAM, BOB:** Robust, relentless and with pace to burn, Bob 'Dobbie' Graham was a back pocket specialist par excellence who gave East Perth estimable service in 211 league games between 1959 and 1971. He was arguably the best West Australian back pocket player of his generation, and represented his state on 11 occasions, including games at both the 1961 Brisbane and 1969 Adelaide carnivals. The sort of player who often reserved his very best for when it mattered most, such as the grand finals of 1961, 1966-7-8-9, and 1971 (he was a reserve for the 1960 grand final), it was something of a minor football tragedy that he never once played in a premiership team. (When East Perth won the 1959 premiership, Graham was still finding his way as a player, and did not feature on grand final day.)

In June 2006, he was included on the interchange bench in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005'.

**GRAHAM, ERNIE:** One of half a dozen pre-war South Fremantle footballers to resume in 1945, Ernie Graham's importance to the

club's emergence as Western Australia's, and arguably Australia's, pre-eminent football force would be hard to exaggerate. He took his league bows in 1940, and was a member that year of South's losing grand final side against Claremont. After the war, he developed into "a full back built along the lines of a young oak tree",<sup>3</sup> boasting a keen football brain and an energetic determination that refused to countenance second best. Undoubtedly one of the finest defenders of his era, he had played a total of 115 league games by the time he retired at the end of the 1949 season. Besides the 1940 grand final, he appeared in the losing one of 1945 against East Fremantle, and in the triumphs of 1947 and 1948 against West Perth. He represented Western Australia against South Australia in 1946.

**Grand Finals:** For convenience, the term 'grand final' tends to be used in these pages to describe any match which produced a premiership team. However, strictly speaking there were no WAFL grand finals prior to the implementation of the Page-McIntyre finals system in 1931. Between 1885 and 1903 there were no finals series; the premiership simply went to the team which finished the season at the head of the ladder. In 1904 the challenge system of playing finals was introduced whereby the team topping the ladder (the 'minor premier') was automatically entitled to play off for the premiership. Under this system a straight knock-out series was played involving the top four clubs, with the proviso that the minor premier was accorded a second chance if it lost in either the semi final or the final. Thus, in the period between 1904 and 1930 some finals series involved three matches, culminating in a final, while others necessitated an additional match, or 'challenge final'.

Results of all premiership-deciding matches between 1904 and 2007 are listed on the next four pages. Teams claiming

premierships between 1885 and 1903, when there were no finals matches, were:

- 1885 Rovers
- 1886 Fremantle
- 1887 Unions
- 1888 Unions
- 1889 Unions
- 1890 Fremantle/Unions
- 1891 Rovers
- 1892 Fremantle/Unions
- 1893 Fremantle/Unions
- 1894 Fremantle/Unions
- 1895 Fremantle/Unions
- 1896 Fremantle/Unions
- 1897 West Perth
- 1898 Fremantle/Unions
- 1899 West Perth
- 1900 East Fremantle
- 1901 West Perth
- 1902 East Fremantle
- 1903 East Fremantle

**GRAY, BRIAN:** Wingman Brian Gray was a Swan Districts stalwart for the better part of thirteen seasons. He commenced with the club in 1951, and played the last of his 205 WANFL games in the victorious 1963 grand final against East Fremantle. During that time he booted 87 goals. Somewhat surprisingly, despite being one of the most highly rated wingmen in the state for much of his career, Gray was never selected to represent Western Australia. The closest he came was in 1959 when he was initially included in a state touring party to South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania, but then was forced to withdraw owing to injury. During Gray's first ten seasons in the game his club never once qualified for the finals, and indeed finished last no fewer than half a dozen times. The arrival of Haydn Bunton junior as coach in 1961, however, saw Swans transformed almost overnight from easybeats to world-beaters, and simultaneously ensured that Gray's career ended in a blaze of glory, with participation in the premiership teams of 1961-2-3.

# WAFL Premiership Deciding Matches 1904-2007

KEY: F = Final; CF = Challenge Final; CFR = Challenge Final Replay; GF = Grand Final; GFR = Grand Final Replay.

An asterisk after an attendance indicates that this is an approximate figure only.

Year	Type	Venue	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Runner-up	G	B	Pts	Attendance
1904	F	Fremantle Oval	East Fremantle	12	11	83	Perth	3	7	25	Unknown
1905	CFR	North Fremantle	West Perth	4	7	31	East Fremantle	3	9	27	6,000*
1906	F	WACA	East Fremantle	12	3	75	West Perth	5	6	36	Unknown
1907	F	Showgrounds	Perth	6	6	42	East Fremantle	5	11	41	10,000*
1908	F	Fremantle Oval	East Fremantle	5	7	37	Perth	0	8	8	Unknown
1909	F	WACA	East Fremantle	8	8	56	Perth	4	6	30	Unknown
1910	F	Fremantle Oval	East Fremantle	5	5	35	East Perth	2	10	22	Unknown
1911	F	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	14	12	96	West Perth	7	3	45	Unknown
1912	CF	Perth Oval	Subiaco	5	8	38	East Fremantle	4	5	29	4,000*
1913	CF	WACA	Subiaco	6	7	43	Perth	4	7	31	10,000*
1914	CF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	5	13	43	South Fremantle	3	6	24	Unknown
1915	F	Perth Oval	Subiaco	3	3	21	Perth	2	7	19	Unknown
1916	CF	WACA	South Fremantle	7	12	54	East Fremantle	5	5	35	Unknown
1917	CF	WACA	South Fremantle	6	5	41	East Fremantle	3	8	26	Unknown
1918	CF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	11	8	74	East Perth	8	5	53	8,000*
1919	CF	WACA	East Perth	10	8	68	East Fremantle	7	4	46	Unknown
1920	F	WACA	East Perth	6	16	52	East Fremantle	4	6	30	12,000*
1921	CF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	5	9	39	East Fremantle	4	8	32	Unknown
1922	CF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	7	13	55	West Perth	5	9	39	12,721
1923	CF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	9	9	63	East Fremantle	7	4	46	16,371
1924	CF	Subiaco Oval	Subiaco	7	9	51	East Fremantle	3	6	24	10,500*
1925	CF	Perth Oval	East Fremantle	10	10	70	Subiaco	6	7	43	15,112
1926	F	WACA	East Perth	11	19	85	Subiaco	5	5	35	8,722



1927	CF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	10	12	72	South Fremantle	7	9	51	15,714
1928	CF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	10	13	73	East Perth	8	8	56	15,599
1929	F	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	8	22	70	South Fremantle	5	9	39	11,021
1930	F	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	12	15	87	South Fremantle	7	11	53	7,654
1931	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	9	13	67	Subiaco	7	7	49	10,859
1932	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	18	9	117	East Perth	11	8	74	16,755
1933	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	10	13	73	Subiaco	7	7	49	15,919
1934	GF	Perth Oval	West Perth	11	7	73	East Fremantle	5	9	39	10,464
1935	GF	Perth Oval	West Perth	11	8	74	Subiaco	7	9	51	19,154
1936	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	11	5	71	Claremont	9	6	60	20,874
1937	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	14	13	97	Claremont	13	9	87	16,460
1938	GFR	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	14	17	101	East Fremantle	11	13	79	15,402
1939	GF	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	14	11	95	East Fremantle	11	10	76	19,193
1940	GF	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	13	13	91	South Fremantle	9	20	74	19,876
1941	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	14	14	98	East Fremantle	10	17	77	15,835
1942	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	19	16	130	Claremont	11	13	79	5,308
1943	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	17	15	117	Swan Districts	11	11	77	8,415
1944	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	14	13	97	East Fremantle	4	17	41	8,991
1945	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	12	15	87	South Fremantle	7	9	51	19,509
1946	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	11	13	79	West Perth	10	13	73	24,841
1947	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	13	8	86	West Perth	9	17	71	25,112
1948	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	13	9	87	West Perth	8	15	63	28,660
1949	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	16	13	109	Perth	12	7	79	34,409
1950	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	12	23	95	Perth	13	11	89	31,325
1951	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	13	10	88	South Fremantle	12	13	85	30,006
1952	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	12	19	91	West Perth	10	10	70	29,701
1953	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	18	12	120	West Perth	8	13	61	34,207
1954	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	21	14	140	East Fremantle	9	8	62	36,098
1955	GF	Subiaco Oval	Perth	11	11	77	East Fremantle	11	9	75	41,659
1956	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	10	17	77	South Fremantle	9	10	64	34,959
1957	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	10	18	78	East Perth	9	8	62	38,021

Year	Type	Venue	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Runner-up	G	B	Pts	Attendance
1958	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	8	17	65	East Fremantle	8	15	63	36,668
1959	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	12	19	91	Subiaco	9	14	68	45,245
1960	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	17	13	115	East Perth	12	11	83	42,850
1961	GF	Subiaco Oval	Swan Districts	17	9	111	East Perth	12	15	87	41,102
1962	GF	Subiaco Oval	Swan Districts	14	10	94	East Fremantle	10	16	76	46,659
1963	GF	Subiaco Oval	Swan Districts	17	10	112	East Fremantle	13	12	90	41,101
1964	GF	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	14	18	102	East Fremantle	15	8	98	45,120
1965	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	18	18	126	Swan Districts	16	6	102	46,744
1966	GF	Subiaco Oval	Perth	11	25	91	East Perth	10	15	75	46,763
1967	GF	Subiaco Oval	Perth	18	12	120	East Perth	15	12	102	42,625
1968	GF	Subiaco Oval	Perth	16	14	110	East Perth	13	8	86	40,315
1969	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	21	21	147	East Perth	10	14	74	51,385
1970	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	15	7	97	Perth	6	18	54	40,620
1971	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	14	17	101	East Perth	9	15	69	50,975
1972	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	9	17	71	Claremont	8	8	56	46,055
1973	GF	Subiaco Oval	Subiaco	10	12	72	West Perth	6	4	40	46,885
1974	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	17	20	122	Perth	15	10	100	40,758
1975	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	23	17	155	South Fremantle	7	9	51	52,322
1976	GF	Subiaco Oval	Perth	13	14	92	East Perth	11	3	69	45,823
1977	GF	Subiaco Oval	Perth	26	13	169	East Fremantle	14	12	96	44,381
1978	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	11	15	81	Perth	12	7	79	45,126
1979	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	21	19	145	South Fremantle	16	16	112	52,781
1980	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	23	18	156	Swan Districts	15	8	98	46,208
1981	GF	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	16	15	111	South Fremantle	12	24	96	50,517

1982	GF	Subiaco Oval	Swan Districts	18	19	127	Claremont	11	12	78	50,883
1983	GF	Subiaco Oval	Swan Districts	15	14	104	Claremont	12	11	83	47,760
1984	GF	Subiaco Oval	Swan Districts	20	18	138	East Fremantle	15	12	102	41,831
1985	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	15	12	102	Subiaco	14	13	97	42,657
1986	GF	Subiaco Oval	Subiaco	19	16	130	East Fremantle	8	13	61	38,389
1987	GF	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	20	20	140	Subiaco	10	9	69	32,340
1988	GF	Subiaco Oval	Subiaco	19	8	122	Claremont	8	12	60	28,183
1989	GF	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	15	16	106	South Fremantle	5	9	39	38,198
1990	GF	Subiaco Oval	Swan Districts	16	7	103	Claremont	10	17	77	26,541
1991	GF	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	19	18	132	Subiaco	8	7	55	22,731
1992	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	12	19	91	South Fremantle	9	13	67	30,130
1993	GF	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	13	14	92	West Perth	8	14	62	32,404
1994	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	13	13	91	Claremont	10	10	70	17,594
1995	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	21	11	137	Subiaco	12	9	81	30,712
1996	GF	Subiaco Oval	Claremont	13	8	86	East Perth	12	12	84	29,771
1997	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	13	7	85	East Fremantle	11	13	79	32,371
1998	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Fremantle	20	10	130	West Perth	13	9	87	23,258
1999	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	14	13	97	South Fremantle	11	6	72	25,473
2000	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	18	11	119	East Fremantle	11	14	80	30,174
2001	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	17	18	120	South Fremantle	5	8	38	23,842
2002	GF	Subiaco Oval	East Perth	15	14	104	West Perth	5	14	44	31,382
2003	GF	Subiaco Oval	West Perth	13	9	87	Subiaco	9	10	64	17,750
2004	GF	Subiaco Oval	Subiaco	15	9	99	Claremont	7	9	51	21,507
2005	GF	Subiaco Oval	South Fremantle	17	8	110	Claremont	7	12	54	22,570
2006	GF	Subiaco Oval	Subiaco	24	9	153	South Fremantle	10	10	70	21,291
2007	GF	Subiaco Oval	Subiaco	15	13	103	Claremont	9	8	62	19,541

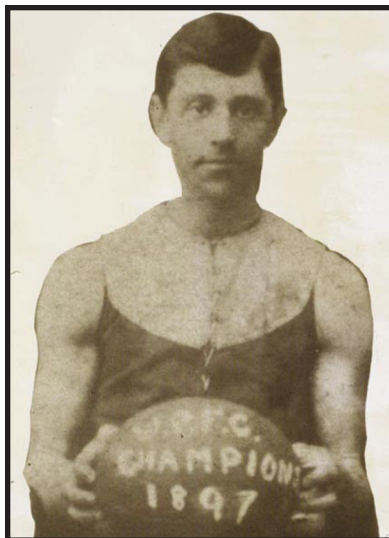
### Great Northern Football League:

The GNFL commenced operation in 1961 following the amalgamation of the Geraldton Football Association and the Northampton-Upper Chapman Football Association. Current member clubs are Brigades, Chapman Valley, Mullewa, Northampton, Railway, Rovers and Towns. In 2007 Towns claimed a second consecutive senior premiership when they overcame Brigades in the grand final by 45 points, 24.9 (153) to 16.12 (108).

Premiers prior to 2007 were: 1961 Railway 1962 Brigades 1963 Rovers 1964 Railway 1965 Railway 1966 Mullewa 1967 Northampton 1968 Northampton 1969 Railway 1970 Railway 1971 Brigades 1972 Chapman Valley 1973 Chapman Valley 1974 Chapman Valley 1975 Rovers 1976 Towns 1977 Northampton 1978 Northampton 1979 Northampton 1980 Railway 1981 Railway 1982 Railway 1983 Mullewa 1984 Mullewa 1985 Railway 1986 Brigades 1987 Mullewa 1988 Brigades 1989 Railway 1990 Rovers 1991 Mullewa 1992 Chapman Valley 1993 Towns 1994 Rovers 1995 Rovers 1996 Mullewa 1997 Rovers 1998 Rovers 1999 Towns 2000 Rovers 2001 Towns 2002 Towns 2003 Towns 2004 Northampton 2005 Mullewa 2006 Towns

### Great Southern Football League:

Formed in 1991 the GSFL currently comprises five senior clubs: Denmark-Walpole, Mount Barker, North Albany, Railways and Royals. The 2007 premiership was won by North Albany who defeated Railways in the grand final by 22 points, 18.19 (127) to 15.15 (105). Premiers 1991-2006 were: 1991 Tambellup 1992 South Mount Barker 1993 Royals 1994 Royals 1995 Royals 1996 Mount Barker 1997 Kojonup 1998 Tambellup 1999 Royals 2000 Royals 2001 Royals 2002 Royals 2003 Royals 2004 Royals 2005 North Albany 2006 North Albany



*Barney Grecian (West Perth)*

**GRECIAN, BARNEY:** In 1896, Barney Grecian, a dual VFA premiership player with Essendon, headed to Western Australia to join the swelling numbers of Victorian expatriot footballers taking advantage of the comparatively more buoyant economy that existed there in the wake of the Coolgardie-Kalgoorlie gold finds of 1892 and 1893 respectively. He joined West Perth, and was heavily instrumental in that club's emergence as a major power in West Australian football. Taking over as captain in 1897 he steered the Cardinals to their first ever flag, a success that was repeated two seasons later. In 1898, West Perth finished second, just half a win behind premiers Fremantle. In five seasons with the Cardinals Grecian played 65 games, and was club captain between 1897 and 1900. The importance of his contribution to football in Western Australia, at a time when it was still struggling to establish itself as the colony's major winter sporting preoccupation, was considerable, and was recognised more than a century later with his inclusion as an inaugural inductee in the WA Football Hall of Fame.

**GREEN, ARTHUR:** Arthur Green was Subiaco to the core. Recruited from

Holyoake in 1915, he spent the period from 1916 to 1918 serving in the AIF, before resuming his football career with the Maroons in 1919. When he retired at the end of the 1928 season he had played 187 league games. Pacy, determined and assured, he was one of the finest defenders of the 1920s. He won a Subiaco fairest and best award - one of the first to be presented by the club - in 1925, and was a member of both the 1915 and 1924 premiership teams. His 17 interstate appearances for Western Australia included both of the state's matches at the 1921 Perth carnival, from which the sandgroppers emerged triumphant. In 1930, Arthur Green returned to Subi as non-playing coach, and was responsible for guiding the team to the premiership play-offs of 1931 and 1933. Both, unfortunately, were lost. Green retired as coach at the end of the 1934 season, but made an unsuccessful one season comeback in 1940. He served as a club committeeman in 1939, 1941 and 1942.

**GREEN, DOUG:** Like all the best defenders, Doug Green combined an ability to keep even the most talented of opponents tightly under wraps with an instinctive awareness of when it was most appropriate to embark on a dashing downfield foray.

Green made his East Fremantle debut as an eighteen year old in 1970, when his tremendous fitness allied to great courage and dogged determination marked him out as a player of considerable potential. He made his interstate debut at the 1972 Perth carnival, and won Old Easts' top individual award, the Lynn Medal, the following year. In 1974 he was at centre half back as the side overcame Perth by 22 points in the grand final to lift its first flag in nine years.

Green's leadership qualities were recognised in 1975 when he took over from the departing Graham Melrose as East Fremantle's captain. The following year saw him take over as state captain and in 1977 he had the immense satisfaction of leading Western Australia

to a 7 point win over South Australia in Adelaide. Not only was it the sandgroppers' first win on South Australian soil since 1938, it came in a match that had been specially arranged to commemorate the centenary of the SANFL.

In 1979, Doug Green was among the best players afield as East Fremantle downed 'derby' rivals South Fremantle by 33 points in front of a record grand final crowd of 52,781. Shortly afterwards, Green announced his retirement.

Midway through the following season, however, Green received a surprise SOS call from struggling VFL side South Melbourne, who were in desperate need of greater experience in their backlines. Despite not having played or even handled a football for months, Green travelled over to Melbourne and gave the Swans solid service for the remainder of the year.

All told, Doug Green played a total of precisely 200 senior games: 180 with East Fremantle, half a dozen for South Melbourne, and 14 for Western Australia. His tremendous consistency is evidenced by the fact that, in addition to his 1973 Lynn Medal, he was runner-up in the award on no fewer than six occasions.

**GRIGG, HARRY** enjoyed a long league career with Perth during which he stamped himself as one of the finest centremen in the game. He won at least one fairest and best award with the club – in 1927 – but there might conceivably have been others as full records for seven of his fourteen seasons in the game cannot be traced. He played a total of 202 senior games between 1923 and 1936. Grigg's interstate career comprised 8 games including appearances at the 1933 Sydney carnival. He also played 3 times for league combinations against visiting club teams from interstate.

**GR LJUSICH, TOM:** As a strongly built key position player and occasional ruckman, Tom Grljusich played what at the time of his



retirement was a record 258 league games for South Fremantle (since overhauled by Marty Atkins) and another 49 for Central District, besides representing both Western Australia and South Australia in the interstate arena. He combined excellent aerial ability with an astute native football intelligence that was best exemplified by his deft and damaging use of handball. As a youngster, he idolised East Perth's Graham 'Polly' Farmer, consciously adopting many of that player's trademark traits and techniques, and if he was never perhaps quite on Farmer's level as a player, he nevertheless attracted considerable admiration from the purists as well as adulation from the fans thanks to his insatiably wholehearted approach to the game. If he had a weakness, it was that his kicking tended to be somewhat less reliable than his handball, so that on occasion he would disappoint supporters by winning the hard ball against all the odds, only to surrender it immediately with an ill directed kick.

During the South Freo phase of his career Grljusich won fairest and best awards in 1968 and 1972, and was the club's top goal kicker, with 36 goals, in 1967. However, the highlight of his career was undoubtedly the 1970 WANFL grand final when he was one of the best performers on view as South Fremantle broke a sixteen year premiership drought with a 15.7 (97) to 6.18 (54) defeat of Perth.

After retiring as a player, Grljusich served as South Freo's runner for a time. Had the Bulldogs ever saw fit to select a 'Team of the Century' it is hard to imagine 'Big Tom' not being a member.

**GUHL, JOHN 'JACKIE':** In 1924 'Jackie' Guhl followed his brother Avery to Subiaco, but, unable to break into the powerful Maroons combination, he returned home. The following year he was invited to try out with East Perth, a team that was ostensibly on the wane after its record-breaking five premierships in a row sequence from 1919 to 1923. The Royals brains trust saw something in the willowy wingman that they liked, and included him in

the starting line-up for the opening match of the season against Perth, which proved to be the first of an eventual then club record 234 senior appearances over fourteen seasons which included the premiership wins of 1926, 1927 and 1936. Smaller and lighter than most opposing wingmen, he triumphed by a combination of subtle, silken skills and the happy knack of frequently managing to be at the fall of the ball. The West Australian selectors thought so highly of him that they included him in no fewer than 21 state teams, the most by an East Perth player until the arrival on the scene two decades later of a certain Graham 'Polly' Farmer.<sup>4</sup> Guhl captained the Royals in 1933, a season which saw them finish fourth. It is perhaps a little surprising to note that he never won his club's fairest and best award, but he did tend to poll well in the Sandover Medal, finishing joint runner-up to team mate 'Staunch' Owens in his debut season, and running fourth in a very high class field in 1932. Moreover, his frequent inclusion in best player lists for finals and other important matches emphasises just how important he was to the club. That importance was later highlighted by his selection as a wingman in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1906-1944'.

#### Footnotes

1. 'WA Footballer', 2/6/28.
2. Examples include: Phil Matson 74.1%; Ross Hutchinson 72.4%; Dick Reynolds 67.0%; Jack Oatey 66.4%; Fos Williams 66.3%; Jock McHale 66.1%; 'Checker' Hughes 65.1%; Tom Hafey 64.7%; Allan Jeans 62.3%; and Norm Smith 56.7%. While Hutchinson's success rate was excellent, it needs to be pointed out that he only coached for eight seasons, compared to Dolan's seventeen.
- 3 *The South Fremantle Story Volume One* by Frank Harrison and Jack Lee, page 195.
- 4 Derek Chadwick also later overhauled Guhl's total, making 22 interstate appearances, 1 fewer than Farmer. By strange coincidence, Chadwick is also now East Perth's 'games played' record holder.

# H

**Hall Of Fame:** The first sporting halls of fame were established in the USA. The National Baseball League Hall of Fame, for example, was inaugurated in 1936, and the country's other major sports organisations soon followed suit. In Australia, the concept was appropriated by the AFL as part of its centenary celebrations in 1996. The West Australian football Hall of Fame was launched in 2004 with a total of eighty-one inaugural inductees. Additional inductions are made each year, and the number of members now stands at a hundred and eight. Most aspects of the game are recognised - playing, coaching, umpiring, administration and media involvement - and the membership spans all twelve decades of organised football's existence in Western Australia.

An alphabetical list of current West Australian football Hall of Fame members appears on pages 134-137. You will find profiles of most of these individuals elsewhere in the book. Cable, Doig, Farmer, Marsh, Moloney, Moss, Merv McIntosh, Sheedy, Truscott and Walker have all been named as Hall of Fame Legends.

**HALLIDAY, ALFRED** was a fine full forward who topped Perth's goal kicking list in four of his six seasons with the club, and was the league's top goal kicker in 1913 with 46 goals, 1914 (38) and 1916 (38). He played a total of 76 games for the Redlegs between 1911 and 1914 and in 1916 and 1922. He resumed his league career in 1922 despite the not inconsiderable handicap of having lost an eye in World War One. Alf Halliday remains the only Perth player to have topped the league goal kicking ladder on three occasions.

**HAMILTON, JACK 'SNOWY':** Possessed of exhilarating pace, extraordinary fluidity and grace of movement, deft ball handling skills, and aerial expertise of the highest order it is small wonder that Jack Hamilton was

accorded the title during his playing career of 'the Prince of Footballers'. Of course, this was very much a contemporary assessment, made at a time when footballers tended to be judged first and foremost in terms of the ability they displayed rather than the competition in which they performed. This perhaps goes a long way towards explaining the omission of 'the Prince of Footballers' (as he was widely known during his career) from the AFL's much vaunted, but often singularly myopic, 'Hall of Fame'.

Along with Walter Scott of Norwood and South Adelaide's Dan Moriarty Hamilton formed what, by common tradition, has tended to be regarded as South Australia's greatest ever half back line. Of the three players, Hamilton was arguably the most eye-catching (and not merely because of his blond, vote-attracting hair, which gave rise to the nickname 'Snowy'). During the 1921 Perth interstate carnival among the many pairs of eyes to be caught by Hamilton's effervescent displays included those belonging to the committee of the Subiaco Football Club. Negotiations soon began aimed at luring Hamilton west. However, for the 1922 season he contented himself with a much smaller move westwards – from North Adelaide to West Adelaide. At the end of the season Hamilton joined his West Adelaide team mates on an end of year jaunt to Perth, and once there the Maroons' courting could resume in earnest. The upshot of it all was that the 1923 season saw 'Snowy' Hamilton residing in Perth, and bedecked each Saturday afternoon in the famous maroon and gold of the Subiaco Football Club.

Had this move occurred half a century or more later there is no doubt that Hamilton would have ended up in Melbourne rather than Perth. However, the sport of Australian football in the 1920s was a much more egalitarian affair than it has since become, a fact for which supporters of the Lions can be eternally grateful.

# WA Football Hall of Fame

**ERAS:** One - 1877-1900; Two - 1901-30; Three - 1931-60; Four - 1961-2002

Name	Era	Inducted	Category	WA Club Affiliation
Ron ALEXANDER	Four	2004	Player/Coach	East Perth, East Fremantle
Mal ATWELL	Four	2004	Player/Coach	East Perth, Perth
Ken BAGLEY	Four	2004	Player	Swan Districts
Bill BATEMAN	One	2004	Player	Fremantle, Fremantle/Unions
Simon BEASLEY	Four	2007	Player	Swan Districts
Greg BREHAUT	Four	2006	Player	Perth
Reg BRENTNALL	Two	2004	Player	South Fremantle, East Perth
Mal BROWN	Four	2004	Player/Coach	East Perth, Claremont, South Fremantle, Perth
Dick BUCHANAN	Three	2004	Media	N/A
Gary BUCKENARA	Four	2004	Player	Subiaco
Haydn BUNTON senior	Three	2004	Player	Subiaco
Haydn BUNTON junior	Four	2004	Player/Coach	Swan Districts, Subiaco
Fred BUTTSWORTH	Three	2004	Player	West Perth
Bud BYFIELD	Four	2004	Administrator	N/A
Barry CABLE	Four	2004	Player/Coach	Perth, East Perth
Hugh CAMPBELL	Two	2004	Player	North Fremantle, South Fremantle, East Perth
Ross CAPES	Four	2004	Umpire	N/A
Derek CHADWICK	Four	2004	Player	East Perth
Geoff CHRISTIAN	Four	2004	Media	N/A
David CHRISTY	Two	2004	Player	Fremantle, Imperials, East Fremantle
Sydney CLARKE	Three	2005	Player	Claremont
Jack CLARKE	Three	2004	Player	East Fremantle
Merv COWAN	Four	2007	Administrator	N/A
Jim CRAIG	Two	2005	Player	West Perth
Henry CRAPP	Two	2004	Umpire	N/A
Mick' CRONIN	Three	2006	Player	East Perth
Bill DEMPSEY	Four	2004	Player	West Perth
George DOIG	Three	2004	Player	East Fremantle
John DOLAN	Three	2004	Player/Coach	East Fremantle, East Perth
Larry DUFFY	Two	2005	Player	East Perth
Ross ELLIOTT	Four	2004	Media	N/A

Name	Era	Inducted	Category	WA Club Affiliation
Graham FARMER	Three	2004	Player	East Perth, West Perth
Peter FEATHERBY	Four	2007	Player	Subiaco
Mike FITZPATRICK	Four	2004	Player	Subiaco
Ted FLEMMING	Three	2007	Player	West Perth
Brian FOLEY	Three	2004	Player	West Perth
Les FONG	Four	2006	Player	West Perth
Brian FRANCE	Four	2007	Player	West Perth
John GEROVICH	Four	2004	Player	South Fremantle
Ross GLENDINNING	Four	2004	Player	East Perth, West Coast
Jim GOSNELL	Two	2007	Player	West Perth
Barney GRECIAN	One	2004	Player	West Perth
Arthur GREEN	Two	2004	Player	Subiaco
Doug GREEN	Four	2006	Player	East Fremantle
H B GROSVENOR	Four	2004	Administrator	N/A
Jackie' GUHL	Three	2007	Player	East Perth
Brad HARDIE	Four	2004	Player	South Fremantle
Keith HARPER	Three	2004	Player	Perth
Stan HEAL	Three	2004	Player	West Perth
Ern HENFRY	Three	2004	Player/Coach	Perth
Ken HUNTER	Four	2004	Player	Claremont
Ross HUTCHINSON	Three	2004	Player/Coach	East Fremantle, West Perth, South Fremantle
Carlisle JARVIS	Two	2004	Player	East Fremantle
Frank JENKINS	Three	2004	Player	South Fremantle
Dean KEMP	Three	2005	Player	Claremont, West Coast
Laurie KETTLEWELL	Three	2005	Player	Subiaco
Ted KILMURRAY	Three	2006	Player	East Perth
Paddy KNOX	One	2004	Player	Fremantle/Unions
John LEONARD	Three	2004	Player/Coach	Subiaco, West Perth, Claremont
Clive LEWINGTON	Three	2004	Player	South Fremantle
Chris MAINWARING	Three	2005	Player	East Fremantle, West Coast
Steve MALAXOS	Three	2005	Player	Claremont, West Coast, East Fremantle
Steve MARSH	Three	2004	Player	South Fremantle, East Fremantle
Denis MARSHALL	Four	2004	Player	Claremont
Peter MATERA	Four	2006	Player	South Fremantle, West Coast

Name		Era	Inducted	Category	WA Club Affiliation
Phil	MATSON	Two	2004	Player/Coach	West Perth, North Fremantle, Subiaco, East Perth
Les	MCCLEMENTS	Three	2004	Player	Claremont
Jack	MCDIARMID	Two	2004	Player	West Perth
Merv	MCINTOSH	Three	2004	Player	Perth
John	MCINTOSH	Four	2004	Player	Claremont
Guy	MCKENNA	Four	2004	Player	Claremont, West Coast
Graham	MELROSE	Four	2007	Player	East Fremantle, Swan Districts
Stephen	MICHAEL	Four	2004	Player	South Fremantle
George	MOLONEY	Three	2004	Player	Claremont
Ray	MONTGOMERY	Four	2004	Umpire	N/A
Graham	MOSS	Four	2004	Player	Claremont
Phil	NARKLE	Four	2006	Player	Swan Districts, West Coast
Bernie	NAYLOR	Three	2004	Player	South Fremantle
Gerard	NEESHAM	Three	2005	Player/Coach	East Fremantle, Swan Districts, Claremont, Fremantle
Billy	ORR	Two	2004	Administrator	Also a player with Perth, North Fremantle, Subiaco
Tom	OUTRIDGE	Two	2004	Player	Perth, Subiaco
George	OWENS	Two	2004	Player	East Perth
Brian	PEAKE	Four	2004	Player	East Fremantle, Perth
Maurice	RIOLI	Four	2004	Player	South Fremantle
Austin	ROBERTSON junior	Four	2004	Player	Subiaco
Pat	RODRIGUEZ	Three	2004	Administrator	Also a player with Subiaco
Norm	ROGERS	Four	2004	Player	East Fremantle
Ray	SCHOFIELD	Three	2004	Player	West Perth
Ray	SCOTT	Three	2004	Umpire	Also a player with West Perth
Jack	SHEEDY	Three	2004	Player/Coach	East Fremantle, East Perth
Keith	SLATER	Four	2004	Player	Swan Districts, Subiaco
Ray	SORRELL	Four	2004	Player	East Fremantle, South Fremantle
Frank	SPARROW	Three	2004	Player	East Perth, Swan Districts, West Perth
Valentine	SPARROW	Two	2004	Player	East Perth



Name		Era	Inducted	Category	WA Club Affiliation
Peter	SPENCER	Four	2007	Player	East Perth, Subiaco, Claremont
Wally	STOOKE	Three	2005	Administrator	N/A
Peter	SUMICH	Three	2005	Player	South Fremantle, West Coast
Max	TETLEY	Three	2004	Player	West Perth
William	THOMAS	Two	2004	Player	Subiaco, East Fremantle, East Perth
Albert	THURGOOD	One	2004	Player	Fremantle
John	TODD	Four	2004	Player/Coach	South Fremantle, East Fremantle, Swan Districts, West Coast
Nipper'	TRUSCOTT	Two	2004	Player	East Fremantle
Charlie	TYSON	Three	2006	Player	South Fremantle, Subiaco
Ted	TYSON	Three	2004	Player	West Perth
Bill	WALKER	Four	2004	Player	Swan Districts
Mel	WHINNEN	Four	2004	Player	West Perth
Robert	WILEY	Four	2004	Player	Perth, West Coast
John	WORSFOLD	Four	2004	Player	South Fremantle, West Coast

Football history is replete with the stories of big name imports who flopped. 'Snowy' Hamilton was not one of them. Right from the very start he performed magnificently, and for two seasons he provided the Maroons with everything and more they could have wanted, winning consecutive club fairest and best awards, captaining the side to the 1924 premiership, and representing his adopted state with distinction in both years. In all, Hamilton played a total of 16 games of interstate football, 7 of which were for his home state, and 9 for Western Australia.

A hiccup came in 1925, however, when Hamilton decided to take up an offer to return home to coach West Adelaide, with a protracted, and ultimately unresolved, clearance dispute meaning that he was forced to undertake this role in a purely non-playing capacity. Frustration over this state of affairs, coupled with West's failure to qualify for the major round, saw Hamilton

returning to Subi in time for the start of the 1926 season. Playing chiefly as a centreman he spent a further five successful seasons in the west before returning to his original club, North Adelaide, in 1931. He retired just over a year later at the age of thirty-three.

In the opinion of many astute contemporary observers Jack Hamilton was not far short of being the greatest footballer ever. Perth journalist Harry Potter for instance rated Hamilton as better even than Haydn Bunton senior, calling him "the cleverest footballer.....a player of almost uncanny skills, cool and resourceful, whatever the situation."<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately the lenses through which most people are compelled to view the history of football, tinted as they are 'Big V blue' after years of unbridled revisionism and distortion, mean that assessments as ingenuous as Potter's are unlikely ever to be accorded the credence or the prominence they deserve.



*Brad Hardie (South Fremantle)*

**HARDIE, BRAD** is perhaps best remembered for being one of the most highly decorated footballers of all time. A member of South Fremantle's 1980 premiership team, for whom he booted 3 goals from a forward pocket after starting on the interchange bench, Hardie also won South's fairest and best award in 1982. He won both the Tassie Medal and a Simpson Medal (for Western Australia against Victoria) in 1984 and joined Footscray the following year, causing a sensation by winning the Brownlow Medal after a series of eye-catching, tear away performances from the back pocket. His fine form continued in 1986 when he created history by becoming the first, and to date only, player ever to win two Tassie Medals. For good measure, he also won a second Simpson Medal after another best afield performance against the Vics. However, a highly publicised contretemps with Footscray coach Michael Malthouse precipitated Hardie's departure from the Western Oval and the 1987 season saw him taking the field at Carrara with the fledgling Brisbane Bears.

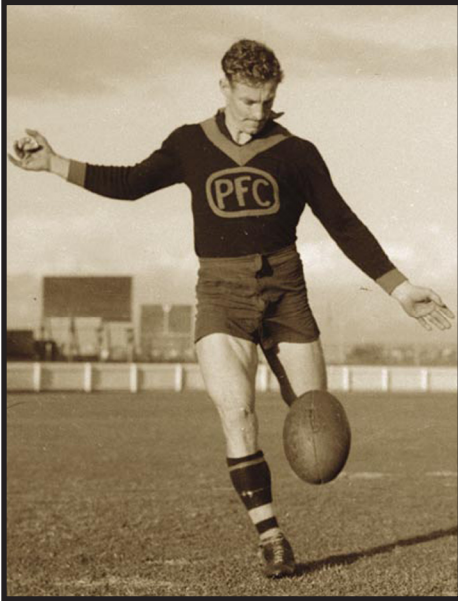
However, neither there nor with Collingwood, where he spent the 1991 and 1992 seasons did he consistently recapture his Brownlow and Tassie Medal winning form.

Overall, and perhaps ironically, given the fact that he was the recipient of so many awards, the consensus of opinion on Hardie's career would possibly be that he under-achieved. Nevertheless, during his peak years of the mid-1980s, with his trademark long-sleeved jumper,<sup>2</sup> flame red hair, and effervescent dashes out of the backlines, he was one of Australia's most instantly recognisable, and highly talented, footballers.

**HARMAN, LEN** commenced his career with West Perth in 1942 as captain of the club's under-age wartime combination, which he led to a premiership in his debut season. He continued with the Cardinals after the war when he became acknowledged as one of the best half back flankers going round. He played in senior flag-winning combinations in 1949 and 1951, and was listed among the best players both times. His reputation as a big game player was further enhanced with fine displays in the losing grand finals of 1946, 1947, 1948, 1952 and 1953. A West Australian carnival representative against both South Australia and the VFL at Hobart in 1947, Harman also played 8 matches for the state against visiting interstate clubs. When he retired in 1954 he was officially credited with having played a total of 201 WANFL games, although several of these occurred during the age restricted competition of 1942 to 1944.

**HARPER, BADEN:** Capable of doing a job in any key position on the ground as well as in the ruck, Baden Harper was a highly effective, if sometimes underrated, servant of the Claremont Football Club in 116 games between 1975 and 1985. A member of the Tigers' breakthrough premiership-winning team in 1981, he hailed from Albany in Claremont's country zone. Baden

Harper represented Western Australia in 1982 against both South Australia and Victoria.



*Keith Harper (Perth)*

**HARPER, KEITH** was a veritable football prodigy boasting all the skills of the game. Playing mainly as either a centreman or winger, he gave tremendous service to the Perth Football Club over 233 league games, and was a Western Australian interstate representative on no fewer than 18 occasions, earning a Simpson Medal for his display against the VFL at Subiaco in 1954. A Perth fairest and best award recipient in 1951, 1953, 1957 and 1959 Harper also captained the club for six consecutive seasons from 1955 to 1960. The first of those years saw the Redlegs 'bring home the bacon' in 1955 in the form of their first senior flag since 1907. Harper himself played a significant on-field role in the nerve-jangling 2 point grand final win over East Fremantle by booting a couple of crucial goals from his wing.

Strong, quick and extraordinarily determined, Keith Harper earned one of

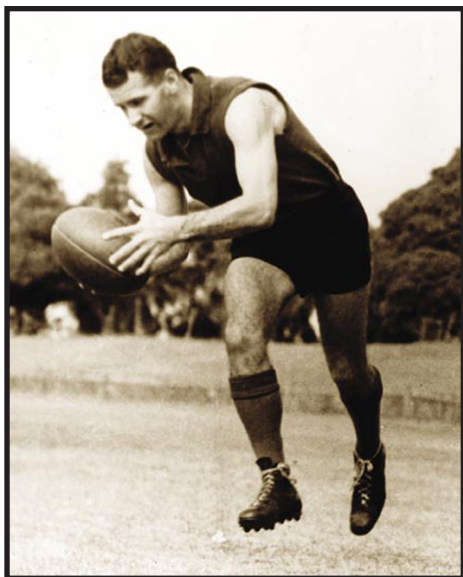
football's highest honours in 1956 with inclusion in the All Australian team chosen after that year's Perth carnival. In 1999 he was chosen on a wing in Perth's official 'Team of the Century'. His younger brother, Roy, also enjoyed a distinguished career with the Redlegs.

**HARPER, ROY:** The younger brother of club legend Keith, Perth's Roy Harper enjoyed an outstanding eleven season, 213 game league career of his own. Commencing in 1954, he played most of his football on a half back flank, but was on a half forward flank when the Redlegs broke through for their first flag in nearly half a century after a 2 point grand final win over East Fremantle in 1955. Extremely courageous and determined, he boasted excellent anticipation skills, and was a sure ball handler and fine left foot kick. The sort of player who improved noticeably with age and experience, he won his club's fairest and best award three times in succession between 1961 and 1963, and made the first of an eventual 3 interstate appearances for Western Australia in 1962. He won the Simpson Medal on his debut in a match against South Australia at Subiaco, although he could not prevent the visitors scoring a surprise 16 point victory.

**HARVEY, WAYNE:** Formidably built, extremely mobile, tremendous overhead, and a prodigious kick, Claremont's Wayne Harvey should really have been one of the game's all time greats, but lacked both the consistency and that bit of 'devil' that most if not all true champions possess. Nevertheless, he was a highly useful player, who for his performance in the winning 1964 grand final alone warrants a prominent place in the Tigers' 'hall of fame'. Many observers rated Harvey, who booted 5 goals that day, as the most effective player on the ground, but he was controversially pipped to the Simpson Medal by East Fremantle's Norm Rogers.

Between 1959 and 1970 Wayne Harvey played a total of 217 WANFL games. He also

represented Western Australia 4 times. At his peak during the mid-1960s, he topped Claremont's goal kicking list with 64 goals in 1964, 1965 (65), and 1966 (56).



*Stan 'Pops' Heal (West Perth)*

**HEAL, STAN 'POPS':** Pacy, courageous and highly skilled, Stan 'Pops' Heal was one of Australia's finest wingmen of the 1940s. His WANFL career with West Perth comprised 180 games between 1939 and 1953, with a break for the war.

In 1941 he accomplished the rare feat of playing in two premiership sides in different states in the same season. Whilst temporarily stationed in Victoria, Heal lined up with Melbourne, and was on a wing as the Redlegs defeated Essendon in that year's VFL grand final. A week later he was back home in Perth completing the second half of an exceptional double as West Perth accounted for East Fremantle in the WANFL grand final. This time Heal played as a rover, but it was as a wingman that he achieved his greatest notoriety.

The West Perth teams of the half decade or so following World War Two were among the finest in the club's history,

and Heal was very much a lynch-pin, both as player and coach. He played in two premiership sides for the Cardinals, and won their fairest and best award in 1947. He coached the victorious grand final teams of 1949 against Perth and 1951 versus South Fremantle. Heal was also a regular interstate representative (18 appearances) winning a Simpson Medal against South Australia in 1949 and leading the sandgroppers at the Brisbane carnival the following year. In October 2000 he was named – more or less inevitably one ventures to presume – on a wing in West Perth's official 'Team of the Century'.

**HEBBARD, WILLIAM 'PADDY'** was a top class centre half forward who began his senior career with goldfields side Boulder City. While with Boulder he made his interstate debut for Western Australia at the 1914 Sydney carnival, and won the league fairest and best award in 1919. In 1921 he crossed to East Perth, topping the club's goal kicking list with 23 goals in his first season. He was a member of the Royals' 1921, 1922 and 1923 premiership teams. He made further carnival appearances for Western Australia at Perth in 1921, and Hobart, as captain, in 1924, en route to a career tally of 14 interstate games. His final league season was 1925, when he captain-coached East Perth to third place on the ladder. He played a total of 72 WAFL games for the Royals, kicking 73 goals. In June 2006 he gained selection at centre half forward in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1906 to 1944'.

**HENFRY, ERN:** Without question one of the game's bona fide all time greats, Ern Henfry made his league debut for Perth, aged just seventeen, in 1937. He played just one game for the Redlegs that year, as indeed he did in 1938, preferring to concentrate on his football with local junior club Victoria Mets. In 1939, however, he commenced his league career in earnest, performing to such

good effect that in June he was selected to represent Western Australia in a two match home series against the VFL. The series was squared, with Henfry being particularly conspicuous in the first match which Western Australia won by 12 points. Quite astonishingly, these would remain the only two appearances made by Henfry for his home state as when he returned from Victoria in the 1950s he was in his early thirties, and considered 'too old'.

Henfry continued to play for Perth in 1940-1, winning the club's fairest and best award in the latter year, before the war more or less put paid to his football ambitions for a time. He did, however, manage to play a couple of games for Carlton in the VFL while on leave in Melbourne in 1944. When the war was over, as chance would have it - and it was by chance, not design - he was relocated to Melbourne in his employment, and the Carlton hierarchy, which had been impressed with the promise he had shown a couple of years earlier, was keen to sign him. Perth's committee, however, was initially reluctant to approve a clearance, and although Henfry eventually managed to elicit a change of heart, the WANFL clearance board refused to budge, forcing him to stand out of football for twelve months.

A key ingredient in Henfry's make-up, indeed one of the things that made him so great, was his eagerness to learn and absorb new ideas. Instead of clicking his heels waiting to front up in 1947, he spent his time wisely, watching games, making notes on different tactical approaches, and generally assimilating the unique atmosphere of VFL football. So impressed were the powers-that-be at Carlton by Henfry's attitude that they pulled a big surprise by appointing him as captain for the 1947 season. It proved to be a move of rare insight and inspiration, as Henfry enjoyed a stupendous season, culminating in a best afield performance as the Blues edged out Essendon by the narrowest of margins on grand final day.

Ern Henfry enjoyed a brief but remarkable 84 game VFL career with the Blues which yielded two best and fairest awards, the aforementioned flag, and not only membership of the VFL's interstate team, but its captaincy, a virtually unprecedented honour for a 'foreigner'.

In 1953 Henfry returned home to Western Australia and was appointed captain-coach of his old club, Perth. The Redlegs made the finals that season, and again in the following year, before making the big breakthrough in 1955 with victory in one of the most emotionally inspiring grand finals ever played in any competition. Henfry had made the move to an off-field role that year, with Keith Harper assuming the captaincy, and the move enabled him to apply all of his meticulously acquired tactical acumen to the Redlegs' cause. He continued as non-playing coach of the Perth Football Club until the end of the 1959 season. A second stint as coach between 1962 and 1965 was crucial in laying the foundations of Perth's greatest ever era, which was eventually masterminded by Henfry's immediate successor, Mal Atwell.

As a player, Ern Henfry was shrewd, assured and highly skilled - almost the perfect centreman, in fact. He carried many of the same qualities into the coaching sphere where his achievement in elevating perennial underachiever Perth to its first premiership since 1907 was alone sufficient to ensure his perpetual veneration by all West Australians with red and black blood flowing through their veins. More than a handful of Carlton aficionados would no doubt entertain similar sentiments.

**HILLIER, CLIFF** was a highly adaptable footballer whose 160 WANFL games for South Fremantle included the winning grand finals of 1952 (as a centre half forward), 1953 and 1954 (both at centre half back). He also played many fine games as a centreman. His dozen appearances for Western Australia included all four of the state's matches at



the 1956 Perth carnival, after which Hillier was awarded an All Australian blazer. His performances tended to become more consistently effective the longer his career went on, and in 1959, twelve months before his retirement, he won his club's fairest and best award.

**HILSZ, MARCEL 'NUGGET':** Best known as a rugged and dashing defender, 'Nugget' Hilsz was also extremely versatile as he proved in 1951 by topping Perth's goal kicking list with 65 goals after a season spent playing mainly at full forward. He commenced with Perth in 1938, but it was when football resumed after World War Two (during which he had played briefly with St Kilda) that he really came into his own. All 8 of his interstate appearances for Western Australia were made post-war and he was widely acknowledged as one of the pre-eminent defenders in the land. He retired in 1952 after 187 games in eleven seasons with the Redlegs (he did not play from 1942 to 1945). Capable of playing in any defensive position with equal effectiveness, Hilsz was chosen in a back pocket in Perth's official 'Team of the Century'.

**HODGE, MATTHEW 'HARRY':** Boasting the full given names of Matthew Henry Hodge, but invariably known simply as 'Harry', Hodge was a brilliant centreman, initially with Fremantle during that club's final years, and later with South Fremantle, for whom he played right from the club's inception in 1900. He later served with distinction as a club administrator, and was a West Australian selector for the triumphant 1921 Perth carnival. When he was made a life member of South Fremantle in 1906 he was only the second person to be accorded the honour.

**HOFT, CYRIL:** Cyril Hoft began his league career with North Fremantle for whom he played 11 WAFL games in 1914 before joining Perth, where he played in 1915 and 1916. He

spent the next couple of years undertaking military service overseas, during which time he took part in a number of battalion matches, before resuming his league career in 1919 with Perth. A talented, extremely pacy centreman, Hoft was particularly renowned for his strong high marking and prodigious place kicking. He tied for the inaugural Sandover Medal with Subiaco's Tom Outridge, only for the award to be conferred on the Maroons man on the casting vote of the league president. In 1997 the league made retrospective awards to all players who had originally been deprived of a Medal in such circumstances.

Hoft was a member of Western Australia's triumphant Perth carnival team of 1921, and also played in the match against South Australia in Adelaide two years later. During that game he sustained an eye injury and had to remain in Adelaide for treatment. For reasons which are unclear, he elected to settle in South Australia, and from 1924 to 1927 played successfully with Glenelg, as well as representing South Australia. In 1928 he returned home to the west where he played one final season with Perth, taking his total number of games with that club to 88.

**HOLDSWORTH, TED:** One of many fine full forwards to emerge during the 1930s, Swan Districts' Ted Holdsworth's undoubtedly impressive achievements were tempered by three constraining factors: first, he played in one of the less accomplished sides of his era, which inevitably meant that goal kicking opportunities were limited; secondly, he spent a considerable amount of time away from full forward, endeavouring to bolster deficiencies in a side that was often stretched to the limit; and thirdly, his career was interrupted by World War Two, just as he was commencing what might reasonably have been expected to be his peak years.

Holdsworth, in fact, finished his senior career playing at full back, in which position he was every bit as successful as at full forward. Indeed, he represented Western Australia in both positions.



Seven times Swans' leading goal kicker for the year, he topped the ton on two occasions, but never managed to head the WANFL list. In 1937 he booted 109 goals, but missed the last five games of the year through injury. Holdsworth interrupted his WANFL career in 1939 when he spent the season on the goldfields, coaching GNFL side Kalgoorlie City.

Not the most agile or fleet-footed of players, Holdsworth owed his success at the goal front to his strong overhead marking and accurate kicking. Like many full forwards of the time, he favoured the torpedo punt when kicking for goal.

Ted Holdsworth was non-playing coach of Swan Districts in 1952, and later served as club vice-president. He was the almost inevitable choice as full forward in Swans' official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

**HOLLINS, DAVID:** Recruited from South Bunbury, East Fremantle centreman and on-baller Dave Hollins played a total of 189 league games plus 5 for his state, was club champion in 1971 and 1975, and won the 1971 Sandover Medal. He was one of Old Easts' best in their 1974 grand final victory over Perth. An excellent all round performer, perhaps the most conspicuous feature of his play was his prodigious, and exceptionally accurate, drop kicking.

Hollins won his Sandover in style, finishing 10 votes ahead of runner-up Mel Whinnen. However, the win was attended by controversy after an alleged 'leak' elicited a late betting frenzy, with hordes of gamblers accruing an admittedly miniscule profit after jumping on the Hollins bandwagon.

**HOLMES, DON:** Originally from the Bassendean Football Club, Don Holmes made his league debut for Swan Districts as a nineteen year old in 1978. He took a while to establish himself but eventually developed into an extremely useful player, whether roving or as an opportunistic half forward flanker. He was a member of Swans'

losing grand final side of 1980 against South Fremantle, and in the winning grand finals of 1982, 1983 (both against Claremont) and 1984 (versus East Fremantle, when he booted 5 goals to be among the best players on view). His form in 1984 was exceptional, and he was chosen to represent Western Australia against South Australia that year at Football Park, a match which the visitors won by the narrowest of margins. When the West Coast Eagles entered the VFL in 1987, Don Holmes was an inaugural squad member, and although he never quite managed to achieve regular selection in the team, he invariably did a creditable job when called upon. In three seasons with the Eagles he played 23 VFL games and kicked 40 goals, all the while continuing a simultaneous WAFL career with Swans. That WAFL career, which comprised 158 senior games and saw him amass 323 goals, came to an end in the best imaginable way when he helped his club to a 16.7 (103) to 10.17 (77) upset grand final victory over Claremont in 1990. Don Holmes' impact at Swans was formally recognised with inclusion in the club's official 'Team of the Century'.

**HOLT, KEN:** Fast, elusive, and a noted exponent of the torpedo punt, East Fremantle's Ken Holt was one of the most damaging half forwards of his generation. He made his league debut in 1954, and topped the club's goal kicking list with 60 goals the same year, a feat he repeated in 1956 (with 61 goals) and 1961 (39). He was a member of Old East premiership teams in 1957 and 1965 (the last of his 202 senior games). Somewhat surprisingly, he made only one interstate appearance for Western Australia, against the South Australians at the 1961 Brisbane carnival.

**HOOPER, CLARENCE 'JACKIE':** Christened 'Clarence John Hooper', but invariably referred to as 'Jackie', Hooper commenced his league football career with Port Adelaide where he spent four

seasons before accepting an offer to play with Claremont, which was just about to embark on its tenth season in the WANFL, and was determinedly endeavouring to put together a side capable of challenging for the premiership for the first time.

Things took an unexpected twist early in Hooper's first season with the Monts when the club's coach, Charlie Parsons, had to stand down because of work commitments. After due deliberation, the club committee offered Hooper the role, and he accepted. It was not a successful season, however, as the team managed just 5 wins from 18 games to finish second from bottom. Nevertheless, on a personal front, Hooper enjoyed a fine season, crowned by his winning the club's fairest and best trophy.

In 1936, Hooper was replaced as coach by Dick Lawn, but he continued to give the club excellent service as a player. Indeed, he was one of the real cornerstones of what might be called Claremont's 'first golden era', playing as first rover in the losing grand finals of 1936 and 1937, and in the premiership sides of the ensuing three seasons. When he finally retired at the end of the 1946 season he had played a total of 162 WANFL games, and earned himself a prominent place in the club's unofficial 'Hall of Fame'. Hooper, who had played state football for South Australia before heading west, also played 8 interstate games for Western Australia, kicking 17 goals. He seemed to reserve his best interstate performances for clashes with his home state, with the most noteworthy being his 3 goal, best afield display in the opening match of the 1937 Perth carnival, a match which Western Australia won by a then record margin of 114 points. He was also listed high among the best players on view after a rare West Australian win in Adelaide in 1938, as well as when they established a new record margin of victory (123 points) later that same season at Subiaco.

Hooper's son Jeremy Hooper later extended the family tradition by playing 26 games for the Tigers between 1966 and 1970.

**HOPKINS, FRANK:** After playing mainly as a defender with Boulder City, Frank Hopkins was transformed into a key position forward by West Perth, where he went in 1926. The following year saw him make the first of an eventual 11 interstate appearances for Western Australia. Superb overhead, and a mighty kick, he topped the WANFL goal kicking list in 1930 with 79 goals, in spite of the fact that the Cardinals finished last. In a game against Perth that year Hopkins booted 14 goals but his side still lost. In the 1932 grand final against East Perth he booted 2 goals from centre half forward as West Perth came home with a wet sail to win 18.9 (117) to 11.8 (74) after leading by just 5 points at the last change.

After failing to win a place in the Cardinals' 1934 grand final team Hopkins transferred to Claremont where, over the next seven seasons, he added 70 WANFL games to the 145 he had played previously. Used more often at full forward by Claremont he topped the club's goal kicking list with 83 goals in 1936 and 119 the following year. When the Tigers won their first league flag by defeating East Fremantle in 1938 Frank Hopkins was nineteenth man for both the drawn grand final and the replay.

**HOUGH, KEITH:** After being recruited from the Pastimes Football Club in Bunbury, Keith Hough made his league debut with Claremont-Cottesloe in 1928. His impact was pronounced, as he won the club's fairest and best award in his debut season. Two years later he finished second in the Sandover Medal count to West Perth's Ted Flemming. An energetic, rebounding half back flanker, he was one of the few shining lights in a team of persistent under-achievers that finished bottom or second from bottom every season during his career except the last. The season of the sudden

and spectacular improvement was 1936 when inspired coaching from Dick Lawn guided the club to a losing grand final against East Perth. Keith Hough was on a wing that day, making the last of his 120 senior appearances for the club.

Many of the best of those performances came in a 1932 season that saw Hough earmarked as the best footballer in the state courtesy of a resounding Sandover Medal win which saw him procure a record 32 votes. For good measure, he also won a second club fairest and best award.

A Western Australian state representative 8 times, Hough was once described in 'The West Australian' as "a player who never gives up. His dogged persistence and fleetness of foot, sure hands and masterly disposal have made him one of the state's foremost players".

**HUNTER, KEN** survived a gruelling induction into league football to become one of the most exhilarating and eye-catching performers in the game.

After making 4 appearances in 1975 he became a Claremont regular the following year when he sustained a broken jaw on two separate occasions, two and a half months apart. He spent the southern states 'off season' in Darwin, endeavouring to rebuild his confidence.

In 1977 he played outstanding football, and was rewarded with selection in the Western Australian team to meet the VFL at Subiaco, in the last non-state of origin interstate match between the two sides. Starting on the bench, Hunter entered the fray in the third quarter, and moments later attempted to tackle Mark Maclure. His 'reward' for such impudence was yet another broken jaw - especially ironic this time in that Hunter and Maclure would go on to be team mates in a couple of VFL premierships.

Clearly, Hunter's courage could not be doubted, but there were some who felt he was too frail to succeed at the highest level. Over the next three seasons he

proceeded to prove the doubters wrong, playing consistently well for a Claremont team that was just beginning to emerge from the doldrums, as well as for Western Australia in interstate matches. For three consecutive seasons from 1978 to 1980 Hunter finished runner-up to Graham Moss in Claremont's best and fairest voting, while in both 1979 and 1980 he was accorded All Australian status. Hunter spent the 1979/80 close season with NTFL side North Darwin.

By this time VFL club Carlton, which had been watching Hunter closely since at least 1977, had seen enough, and he was lured to Melbourne in time for the 1981 season. His 99 game WA(N)FL career was over, but he continued to produce excellent football in the VFL for the remainder of the decade as well as to make further state of origin appearances for Western Australia, for whom he ended up playing a total of 10 games.

**HUTCHINSON, ROSS** shares with John Todd the distinction of having coached a record three different West Australian league clubs to premierships. Moreover, again like Todd, he was an excellent player, although he lost several of his best years to the war.

Hutchinson joined East Fremantle in 1935 and had a pronounced, immediate impact, winning the Lynn Medal for the club's fairest and best player both that year and the next. In 1937 he was appointed captain-coach, and promptly steered his side to a flag. Old Easts went into the finals in second place on the ladder with 14 wins and a draw from their 21 matches, and then had to recover from the setback of losing the second semi final to minor premier Claremont by 14 points. This they did in exemplary fashion, overcoming a stern but wayward challenge from East Perth in the preliminary final, and then turning the tables on the Tigers on grand final day with a 14.13 (97) to 13.9 (87) win, after Claremont had led by 11 points at the last change. Hutchinson, who had played in the centre in the grand final, moved to a half back flank for the

premiership decider and was a crucial steadying influence all day.

Remaining at the helm in 1938 and 1939, Hutchinson suffered the disappointment of overseeing consecutive grand final losses to Claremont. In 1940, RAAF duties prevented him from playing, and in 1941 he sought a clearance to West Perth, which wanted him as captain-coach, but this was refused. Hutchinson spent the season coaching from the sidelines as the Cardinals overcame his former club in both the second semi final and grand final to clinch what would undoubtedly have been an immensely gratifying premiership.

RAAF commitments kept Hutchinson out of the game until 1946, by which time he had been cleared to play. However, although the Cardinals fought their way through to the grand final, they ultimately found Old Easts to be just a little too strong, and went under by a goal.

In 1947 he took on what proved to be his final coaching challenge when he crossed to South Fremantle, and once more his impact immediate and considerable. After comfortably topping the ladder going into the finals with 16 wins from 19 games, 2 wins ahead of West Perth, South comfortably outclassed the Cardinals in the second semi final to the tune of 41 points. For the grand final re-match between the sides Hutchinson lined up on a half forward flank for his final game of league football, and contributed 2 goals at a vital stage of the match to help steer his side home by 15 points. Overall, it was felt to be one of the side's poorest performances for the season, but:

*South Fremantle's victory was recognised as a just reward for sound club organisation and teamwork. On the day the team disappointed supporters in that it failed to reveal its usual cohesion and pace, but it redeemed itself by making a strong finishing*

*effort. On the whole, it was a premiership well earned.*<sup>3</sup>

South repeated their premiership success in 1948 with Hutchinson as non-playing coach, and in 1949, his last season in charge, they ran third. His departure in 1950 to concentrate on his budding political career left football immeasurably the poorer.

There can be no doubt that Ross Hutchinson was one of the all time great coaches in Australian football history. His eight seasons as a coach yielded four premierships, three second places, and one third, for an overall success rate of 72.4% from 176 games. His teams played vibrant, cohesive, team-orientated football that continually established new benchmarks for excellence, and one feels forced to wonder just how successful Hutchinson might have been had not the war deprived him of another potential five seasons in top level football.

As a player, Hutchinson was both talented and versatile. He could play with equal effectiveness in the centre, across half back or half forward, or on the ball, but even more so than with his coaching his overall impact and importance were cruelly undermined by war. All told, Ross Hutchinson played a total of 127 WANFL games, comprising 93 with Old Easts, 16 with West Perth, and 18 for South Fremantle. He also played interstate football for Western Australia on 5 occasions.

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#### Footnotes

1 'The Western Mail', 19/6/24.

2 Hardie habitually wore a long-sleeved playing jumper in order to hide from view the scars which covered his arms, legacy of serious burns received as a child.

3 A contemporary press report cited in *The South Fremantle Story 1900-1975 Volume 2* by Frank Harrison and Jack Lee, page 31.

## IMPERIALS

**Affiliated:** WAFA 1895-7

**Colours:** Blue and white

**Premierships:** Nil

Imperials only had a brief, three season involvement in the Western Australian Football Association, but its team, which was bolstered by numerous recruits from the eastern colonies, performed respectably. Admittedly, its debut season was something of a struggle, but its record of 4 wins from 17 matches was nevertheless good enough to place it ahead of Association founder member West Perth on the ladder. In 1896 it finished runner-up to Fremantle, and the following year came second to West Perth, and when it disbanded at the end of the 1897 season it had achieved the respectable overall success rate of 41.7%. Many of its players continued their involvement in top level football, with the newly formed East Fremantle in particular inheriting some of the best former Imperials players such as 'Dolly' Christy, Jim Mullaney and Tom Wilson.

**Interstate Carnivals:** In 1908 the Australasian Football Council arranged a 'carnival of football' in Melbourne to celebrate the code's putative fiftieth anniversary. Representative teams from all six Australian states plus New Zealand contested a total of a dozen matches in as many days but the response of the public was poor. Nevertheless, the 'carnival' as it was termed was adjudged a success, and a second series was scheduled for Adelaide in 1911. Single city carnivals of this type continued intermittently until 1972, with all of the nation's state capitals playing host at least twice. Western Australia's record in these carnivals was bettered only by that of the VFL.

By the 1970s more and more of the country's top footballers, irrespective of their state of origin, were plying their trade in the VFL and as a result the VFL's interstate teams became virtually invincible. With interest in interstate football inevitably waning as a consequence the state of origin concept was launched in 1977 with a match between Western Australia and Victoria at Subiaco. The Western Australians, whose ranks were bolstered by the inclusion of eight VFL-based players, won resoundingly by an all time record margin of 94 points, and interstate football was instantaneously, if only temporarily, reprieved.

The first state of origin carnival was held in Perth in 1979, and won by Western Australia. A year later the Victorians won in Adelaide, but this proved to be the last carnival style state of origin series for eight years. In between, emphasising the fact that control over football's future had, in effect, been bought by the VFL, we had the ludicrous sight of WA, SA and Victoria engaging almost annually in contests supposedly designed to determine Australia's champion state. However, the selection rules governing the matches varied depending on whether or not Victoria was involved. When playing against Victoria, WA and SA were permitted to augment their teams with a number of VFL-based players (the precise number, as well as the limit per club, tended to vary from season to season). However, for matches between themselves the South Australians and West Australians only had access to players from their own local competitions. Effectively therefore the championships were contested not by three teams, as the official records imply, but five: Victoria, West Australia 'A', West Australia 'B', South Australia 'A' and South Australia 'B'. For the record, WA was successful in claiming three of the five championship titles contested under this farcical, virtually meaningless system.

The last ever single city carnival took place in Adelaide in 1988, ostensibly as part of Australia's bicentennial celebrations. For once, a genuinely even-handed state of origin format was applied, and all states and territories plus Australian Amateurs and the VFA took part. However, the fact that the carnival occurred in February meant that attendances were miniscule, notwithstanding the fact that the home state emerged victorious, and an excellent opportunity to showcase the very best of the code was lost.

In 1993, eighty-five years after it was born, the carnival concept spluttered and died with a desultory knock-out series played in Adelaide and Melbourne. By handing WA the 'short straw' of a semi final clash with SA in Adelaide the organisers got what they presumably wanted, which was a Victoria versus South Australia final at the MCG. However, far from capturing the imagination of the Melbourne public the match, played at twilight in front of a meagre, almost eerily silent crowd, seemed only to emphasise that top level interstate football had become - or, to be more strictly accurate, had been systematically transformed into - an irrelevance.

**Interstate Football:** Western Australia was the last state to engage in interstate competition but its debut was audacious and memorable. In 1904, captained by West Perth's Bill Plunkett, a mid-season tour of Victoria and South Australia was undertaken. Prior to its departure the team tuned up with a resounding 10 goal defeat of a 'next best' combination and this good form continued throughout the tour, which produced 4 wins from 5 matches, earning praise even from the normally purblind Victorian press. The solitary loss was sustained at the hands of a powerful VFL combination on the MCG, but the general consensus afterwards was that the Western Australians had had greater difficulty coping with the unfamiliar conditions than with the spasmodic and unconvincing Vics.

Western Australia's best performance came against South Australia in Adelaide in the

final match of the tour. The South Australians had played their first intercolonial match as long ago as 1877, and their recent form, which included three successive wins over the VFL in 1901-2, was good. However, against a WA side now playing with the conviction and cohesiveness of a settled club combination the locals were found badly wanting, albeit that a late flurry of goals gave something of a deceptive closeness to the scores. Western Australia emerged victorious by 9 points, 10.7 (67) to 8.10 (58), eliciting fulsome praise in the South Australian press which noted that "such brilliant and consistent high catching ..... had not been seen in Adelaide for years". Moreover, the visitors had "passed to one another with wonderful judgement", and had exhibited "a combination system as effective as any Victorian team had shown".

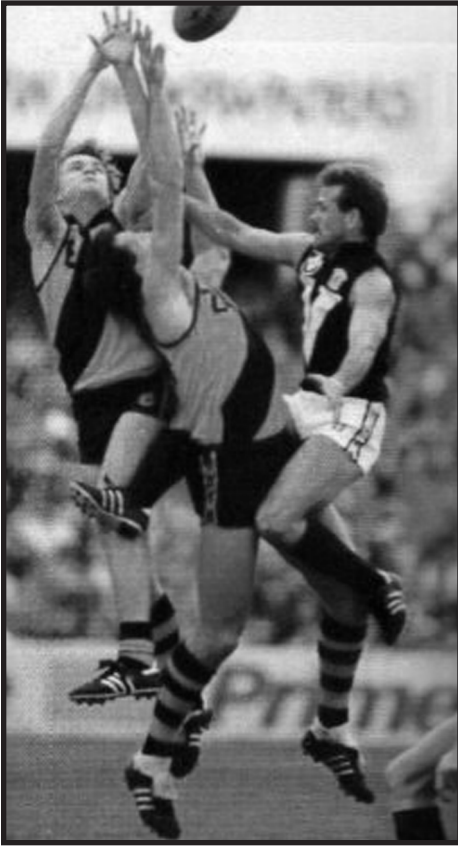
The 1904 tour proved to be Western Australia's last 'foreign foray', other than for carnivals, until the 1920s. The chief problem was Perth's isolation from the other state capitals, a state of affairs that was exacerbated by transportation difficulties. Until the completion of a trans-Australia rail link in 1912 most people travelling between Perth and the east or vice versa were forced to do so by ship, which was both slow and unpredictable.

The 1920s saw Western Australia stamp itself as the main rival to Victoria for the right to be called Australia's champion football state. After claiming the 1921 Australian championship on home soil WA provided the VFL with its only serious opposition at both the 1924 Hobart and 1927 Melbourne carnivals, and overall its record against the 'Big V' during the decade was a commendable 4 wins from 9 encounters. Against South Australia, WA managed 7 wins whilst losing on 5 occasions.

On balance, the 1930s proved somewhat less auspicious but WA finished the decade with a flourish, going close to a second carnival triumph in 1937, losing only narrowly against the VFL in Melbourne the following year, and proving its superiority over South Australia with a succession of slashing



victories in Perth supplemented by a couple of close ones in Adelaide in 1935 and 1938.



*WA versus Victoria at Subiaco Oval in 1986.*

WA's immediate post-war teams were among the strongest in the state's history as they emphasised with 3 successive wins over the VFL. The first of these came in ankle deep mud at the 1947 Hobart carnival, but the Vics had the last laugh as they went on to claim the title on percentage with the West Australians' earlier 6 goal loss to SA costing them dear.

The 1950s saw WA football blossoming as players of the calibre of 'Polly' Farmer, Bernie Naylor, Jack Clarke, John Todd, John Gerovich, Brian Foley and Merv McIntosh captured both the imagination and the headlines. In this context, the interstate teams performances were more than a trifle disappointing, with a 0-13 record against the VFL, a flattering 7-6 versus SA which simply

reflected the fact that only 4 of the matches took place in Adelaide compared to 7 in Perth (plus 2 at neutral venues), and even the indignity of a carnival loss to Tasmania in Melbourne in 1958, WA's first since 1911.

Against the backdrop of a VFL that was systematically denuding the other states of the cream of their playing talent WA produced what in hindsight must be regarded as the old order's last significant stand against the inevitable by claiming the 1961 Australian state title in Brisbane. Coached by Jack Sheedy and with Haydn Bunton junior as skipper the West Australians clinched their triumph with a gut-wrenching 9 point defeat of the VFL in the carnival's last match. It was WA's first victory over the Big V since 1948 and there would only be one more prior to the inception of state of origin rules in 1977.

The arrival of state of origin football brought a much-needed shot in the arm to the interstate game, and at first WA proved to be the principal beneficiary with long overdue victories over Victoria in 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984 and 1986. However, ultimately the state of origin concept was only ever going to survive if it enjoyed the wholehearted support of the VFL, and for various reasons - not least the troubling (to the VFL) intimation that state of origin football, and not the VFL, might well be the code's elite manifestation - there was never any chance whatsoever of this occurring. By the 1990s state of origin football had been calculatedly transformed into a mid-season sideshow of such scant appeal that the AFL had no difficulty at all in quietly dispensing with it. Had it been properly promoted and funded, however, it is at least arguable that state of origin football would have served the game inordinately well, particularly in those parts of the country effectively disenfranchised by the current set-up.

Western Australia, or more properly the WAFL, continues to engage in regular inter-league contests against the SANFL, VFL and others, but results of late have been unmemorable.

A complete list of WA's senior interstate match results from 1904 is shown on pages 150-159.

# WA's Complete Interstate Match Record 1904 to 2007

**VENUES:** BEG - Brisbane Exhibition Ground; MCG - Melbourne Cricket Ground; SCG - Sydney Cricket Ground; SRMSC Kalgoorlie - Sir Richard Moore Sports Centre

**CATEGORIES:** IL - Inter-League; ILC - Inter-League Carnival; SO - State of Origin; SOC - State of Origin Carnival

Date	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
6/8/1904	MCG	IL	VFL	14	10	94	Western Australia	8	12	60
20/8/1904	Jubilee Oval	IL	Western Australia	10	7	67	South Australia	8	10	58
23/8/1908	MCG	ILC	Western Australia	8	11	59	South Australia	8	5	53
25/8/1908	MCG	ILC	Western Australia	17	12	114	New South Wales	12	3	75
29/8/1908	MCG	ILC	VFL	13	22	100	Western Australia	6	8	44
1/9/1908	MCG	IL	Western Australia	6	9	45	South Australia	5	13	43
5/8/1911	Adelaide Oval	ILC	South Australia	13	18	96	Western Australia	3	5	23
7/8/1911	Adelaide Oval	ILC	Western Australia	9	13	67	New South Wales	8	18	66
9/8/1911	Adelaide Oval	ILC	VFL	10	15	75	Western Australia	8	9	57
12/8/1911	Adelaide Oval	ILC	Tasmania	8	14	62	Western Australia	8	9	57
5/8/1914	SCG	ILC	South Australia	13	16	94	Western Australia	12	11	83
8/8/1914	SCG	ILC	VFL	13	16	94	Western Australia	11	14	80
11/8/1914	SCG	ILC	Western Australia	33	21	219	Queensland	6	5	41
13/8/1914	SCG	ILC	Western Australia	29	14	188	Tasmania	12	8	80
15/8/1914	SCG	ILC	Western Australia	23	24	162	New South Wales	8	10	58

Date	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
10/8/1921	Subiaco Oval	ILC	Western Australia	6	16	52	VFL	6	11	47
13/8/1921	Perth Oval	ILC	Western Australia	12	3	75	South Australia	9	11	65
9/5/1923	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	10	13	73	Western Australia	3	5	23
21/6/1923	Perth Oval	IL	Western Australia	13	13	91	South Australia	4	3	27
6/8/1924	North Hobart Oval	ILC	Western Australia	16	13	109	South Australia	10	12	72
9/8/1924	North Hobart Oval	ILC	VFL	15	13	103	Western Australia	14	11	95
12/8/1924	North Hobart Oval	ILC	Western Australia	43	19	277	Queensland	2	1	13
14/8/1924	North Hobart Oval	ILC	Western Australia	27	21	183	New South Wales	9	12	66
16/8/1924	North Hobart Oval	ILC	Western Australia	13	5	83	Tasmania	5	14	44
20/6/1925	Subiaco Oval	IL	South Australia	8	9	57	Western Australia	7	12	54
25/7/1925	MCG	IL	VFL	22	11	143	Western Australia	8	10	58
1/8/1925	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	12	22	94	Western Australia	7	8	50
3/7/1926	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	8	10	58	Western Australia	4	17	41
24/7/1926	Perth Oval	IL	Western Australia	9	5	59	VFL	7	14	56
27/7/1926	Perth Oval	IL	Western Australia	11	10	76	VFL	10	8	68
28/8/1926	Perth Oval	IL	Western Australia	18	7	115	South Australia	10	5	65
10/8/1927	MCG	ILC	Western Australia	12	15	87	South Australia	9	18	72
13/8/1927	MCG	ILC	Western Australia	18	14	122	New South Wales	14	19	103
17/8/1927	MCG	ILC	Western Australia	12	16	88	Tasmania	12	15	87
20/8/1927	MCG	ILC	VFL	11	19	85	Western Australia	10	12	72
21/7/1928	MCG	IL	VFL	15	20	110	Western Australia	6	9	45
25/7/1928	Manuka Oval	IL	Western Australia	20	29	149	Canberra	9	19	73
28/7/1928	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	15	9	99	Western Australia	13	10	88
6/7/1929	Perth Oval	IL	VFL	15	19	109	Western Australia	13	8	86

Date	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
9/7/1929	Perth Oval	IL	Western Australia	5	12	42	VFL	5	9	39
10/8/1929	Perth Oval	IL	Western Australia	15	11	101	South Australia	14	12	96
13/8/1929	Perth Oval	IL	Western Australia	14	10	94	South Australia	6	9	45
30/7/1930	Adelaide Oval	ILC	South Australia	16	10	106	Western Australia	12	10	82
2/8/1930	Adelaide Oval	ILC	VFL	11	10	76	Western Australia	9	8	62
5/8/1930	Adelaide Oval	ILC	Western Australia	24	17	161	Queensland	16	9	105
7/8/1930	Adelaide Oval	ILC	Western Australia	8	9	57	New South Wales	7	8	50
9/8/1930	Adelaide Oval	ILC	Western Australia	20	6	126	Tasmania	10	7	67
2/8/1933	SCG	ILC	South Australia	13	17	95	Western Australia	10	24	84
5/8/1933	SCG	ILC	VFL	14	16	100	Western Australia	12	13	85
9/8/1933	SCG	ILC	South Australia	13	18	96	Western Australia	12	11	83
12/8/1933	SCG	ILC	Western Australia	17	22	124	New South Wales	16	18	114
14/7/1934	Perth Oval	IL	Western Australia	15	7	97	South Australia	7	9	51
17/7/1934	Leederville Oval	IL	South Australia	14	19	103	Western Australia	14	14	98
22/6/1935	Perth Oval	IL	VFL	18	18	126	Western Australia	13	10	88
25/6/1935	Leederville Oval	IL	VFL	12	13	85	Western Australia	11	6	72
20/7/1935	Adelaide Oval	IL	Western Australia	16	5	101	South Australia	14	12	96
18/7/1936	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	15	22	112	South Australia	8	18	66
21/7/1936	Subiaco Oval	IL	South Australia	9	21	75	Western Australia	11	8	74
7/8/1937	Subiaco Oval	ILC	Western Australia	25	13	163	South Australia	6	13	49
14/8/1937	Subiaco Oval	ILC	VFL	14	13	97	Western Australia	13	11	89
16/7/1938	MCG	IL	VFL	22	13	145	Western Australia	17	21	123
23/7/1938	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	18	14	122	Western Australia	14	17	101
26/7/1938	Adelaide Oval	IL	Western Australia	14	16	100	South Australia	13	12	90

Date	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
20/8/1938	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	29	23	197	South Australia	10	14	74
23/8/1938	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	20	15	135	South Australia	14	21	105
24/6/1939	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	11	9	75	Western Australia	7	13	55
26/6/1939	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	11	21	87	VFL	10	15	75
17/8/1946	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	20	17	137	South Australia	19	11	125
20/8/1946	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	16	18	114	South Australia	11	10	76
2/8/1947	North Hobart Oval	ILC	South Australia	20	18	138	Western Australia	15	12	102
4/8/1947	North Hobart Oval	ILC	Western Australia	17	24	126	Tasmania	11	12	78
6/8/1947	North Hobart Oval	ILC	Western Australia	16	10	106	VFL	15	12	102
31/7/1948	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	16	16	112	VFL	10	14	74
3/8/1948	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	11	17	83	VFL	7	18	60
25/6/1949	MCG	IL	VFL	21	18	144	Western Australia	8	9	57
29/6/1949	SCG	IL	Western Australia	15	24	114	New South Wales	8	13	61
2/7/1949	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	16	20	116	Western Australia	16	12	108
1949	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	34	28	232	Canberra	7	13	55
1949	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	22	27	159	Canberra	9	15	69
13/8/1949	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	22	20	152	South Australia	15	13	103
16/8/1949	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	18	22	130	South Australia	8	7	55
20/7/1950	BEG	ILC	South Australia	11	17	83	Western Australia	9	7	61
22/7/1950	BEG	ILC	VFL	18	10	118	Western Australia	10	5	65
27/7/1950	BEG	ILC	Western Australia	11	12	78	Tasmania	11	5	71
29/7/1950	BEG	ILC	Western Australia	15	20	110	VFA	6	6	42
30/6/1951	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	13	7	85	Western Australia	5	12	42
3/7/1951	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	14	14	98	Western Australia	8	12	60

Date	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
14/6/1952	MCG	IL	VFL	13	13	91	Western Australia	13	4	82
21/6/1952	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	16	6	102	Western Australia	12	10	82
16/8/1952	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	13	15	93	South Australia	4	9	33
19/8/1952	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	13	11	89	South Australia	13	9	87
8/7/1953	Adelaide Oval	ILC	VFL	13	15	93	Western Australia	5	6	36
11/7/1953	Adelaide Oval	ILC	South Australia	19	24	138	Western Australia	8	7	55
16/7/1953	Adelaide Oval	ILC	Western Australia	12	19	91	Tasmania	5	7	37
18/7/1953	Adelaide Oval	ILC	Western Australia	12	8	80	VFA	8	14	62
17/7/1954	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	16	22	118	Western Australia	11	10	76
20/7/1954	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	19	16	130	Western Australia	8	13	61
18/6/1955	MCG	IL	VFL	6	18	54	Western Australia	3	7	25
25/6/1955	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	14	9	93	Western Australia	12	12	84
13/8/1955	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	14	17	101	South Australia	12	19	91
16/8/1953	Subiaco Oval	IL	South Australia	14	11	95	Western Australia	14	8	92
14/6/1956	Subiaco Oval	ILC	Western Australia	14	19	103	Tasmania	11	14	80
16/6/1956	Subiaco Oval	ILC	Western Australia	11	9	75	South Australia	9	10	64
21/6/1956	Subiaco Oval	ILC	Western Australia	22	20	152	VFA	9	15	69
23/6/1956	Subiaco Oval	ILC	VFL	20	17	137	Western Australia	9	19	73
29/6/1957	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	15	25	115	Western Australia	6	12	48
2/7/1957	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	17	20	122	Western Australia	11	7	73
2/7/1958	Lake Oval	ILC	Western Australia	11	12	78	South Australia	7	18	60
5/7/1958	Lake Oval	ILC	Tasmania	13	16	94	Western Australia	11	12	78
9/7/1958	MCG	ILC	Western Australia	21	16	142	VFA	11	8	74
12/7/1958	MCG	ILC	VFL	14	13	97	Western Australia	11	12	78



Date	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
20/6/1959	MCG	IL	VFL	31	21	207	Western Australia	3	11	29
24/6/1959	North Hobart Oval	IL	Western Australia	25	15	165	Tasmania	13	16	94
27/6/1959	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	13	13	91	Western Australia	12	17	89
8/8/1959	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	15	21	111	South Australia	9	10	64
11/8/1959	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	18	19	127	South Australia	14	17	101
25/6/1959	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	18	15	123	Western Australia	12	17	89
15/6/1961	BEG	ILC	Western Australia	24	33	177	Tasmania	10	6	66
19/6/1961	BEG	ILC	South Australia	16	13	109	Western Australia	15	17	107
23/6/1961	BEG	ILC	Western Australia	15	14	104	VFL	14	11	95
16/6/1962	MCG	IL	VFL	26	9	165	Western Australia	9	9	63
23/6/1962	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	13	17	95	South Australia	8	15	63
4/8/1962	Subiaco Oval	IL	South Australia	12	12	84	Western Australia	9	14	68
8/6/1963	Subiaco Oval	IL	Tasmania	9	10	64	Western Australia	6	13	49
29/6/1963	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	14	11	95	Western Australia	13	16	94
2/7/1963	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	9	13	67	Western Australia	8	8	56
20/6/1964	MCG	IL	VFL	24	21	165	Western Australia	7	11	53
23/6/1964	North Hobart Oval	IL	Western Australia	24	15	159	Tasmania	5	7	37
27/6/1964	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	18	11	119	Western Australia	16	10	106
18/7/1964	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	8	8	56	South Australia	6	15	51
12/6/1965	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	12	17	89	VFA	12	8	80
3/7/1965	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	10	14	74	VFL	8	17	65
6/7/1965	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	18	21	129	Western Australia	17	8	110
9/6/1966	North Hobart Oval	ILC	Western Australia	26	18	174	VFA	5	11	41
13/6/1966	North Hobart Oval	ILC	Western Australia	13	11	89	South Australia	10	14	74

Date	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
16/6/1966	North Hobart Oval	ILC	Western Australia	17	13	115	Tasmania	16	10	106
18/6/1966	North Hobart Oval	ILC	VFL	15	10	100	Western Australia	13	7	85
17/6/1967	MCG	IL	VFL	20	15	135	Western Australia	11	16	82
22/7/1967	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	20	19	139	South Australia	10	5	65
15/6/1968	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	18	16	124	Western Australia	11	10	76
6/7/1968	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	13	21	99	Western Australia	13	12	90
7/6/1969	Adelaide Oval	ILC	South Australia	15	17	107	Western Australia	14	11	95
11/6/1969	Adelaide Oval	ILC	VFL	21	18	144	Western Australia	14	13	97
14/6/1969	Adelaide Oval	ILC	Western Australia	28	24	192	Tasmania	12	7	79
13/6/1970	MCG	IL	VFL	17	9	111	Western Australia	15	15	105
15/6/1970	North Hobart Oval	IL	Tasmania	18	10	118	Western Australia	17	14	116
18/7/1970	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	12	17	89	South Australia	13	7	85
3/7/1971	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	15	19	109	Western Australia	12	10	82
17/7/1971	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	18	16	124	Western Australia	13	8	86
17/6/1972	Subiaco Oval	ILC	Western Australia	15	11	101	South Australia	6	17	53
21/6/1972	Subiaco Oval	ILC	Western Australia	17	22	124	Tasmania	12	7	79
24/6/1972	Subiaco Oval	ILC	VFL	15	19	109	Western Australia	9	11	65
2/6/1973	VFL Park	IL	VFL	23	20	158	Western Australia	10	10	70
7/7/1973	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	11	14	80	South Australia	8	10	58
18/5/1974	Football Park	IL	South Australia	14	20	104	Western Australia	12	12	84
13/7/1974	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	11	13	79	Western Australia	10	12	72
14/6/1975	VFL Park	ILC	VFL	20	24	144	Western Australia	8	15	63
24/4/1976	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	21	18	144	Western Australia	11	21	87
16/5/1977	Football Park	IL	Western Australia	15	18	108	South Australia	15	11	101

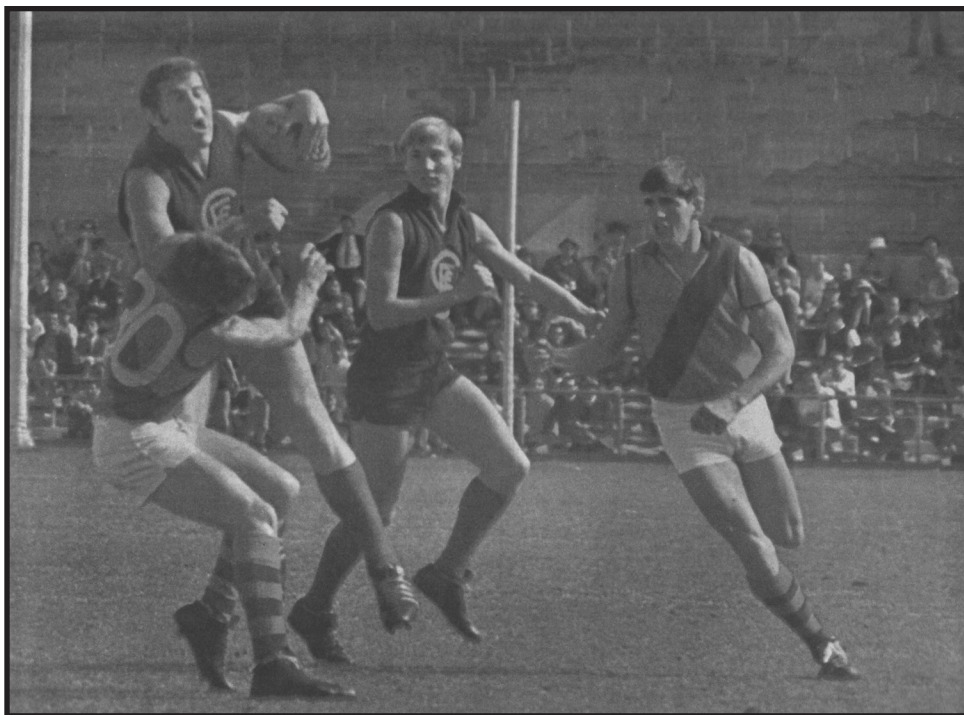
Date	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
25/6/1977	Subiaco Oval	IL	VFL	23	16	154	Western Australia	13	13	91
30/7/1977	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	18	17	125	South Australia	11	19	85
8/10/1977	Subiaco Oval	SO	Western Australia	23	13	151	Victoria	8	9	57
10/7/1978	VFL Park	SO	Victoria	25	13	163	Western Australia	8	15	63
15/7/1978	Football Park	IL	Western Australia	24	18	162	South Australia	13	15	93
7/10/1978	Subiaco Oval	SO	Victoria	17	13	115	Western Australia	14	17	101
7/7/1979	Subiaco Oval	IL	South Australia	15	15	105	Western Australia	10	15	75
6/10/1979	Subiaco Oval	SOC	Western Australia	23	23	161	Tasmania	9	10	64
8/10/1979	Subiaco Oval	SOC	Western Australia	17	21	123	Victoria	16	12	108
14/6/1980	Football Park	IL	South Australia	21	19	145	Western Australia	9	10	64
5/7/1980	VFL Park	SO	Victoria	18	15	123	Western Australia	15	12	102
11/10/1980	Football Park	SOC	Victoria	14	20	104	Western Australia	9	18	72
13/10/1980	Football Park	SOC	Western Australia	17	23	125	Tasmania	12	18	90
27/4/1981	Subiaco Oval	SO	Western Australia	16	23	119	Victoria	13	12	90
20/6/1981	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	21	30	156	South Australia	10	9	69
12/6/1982	Football Park	IL	South Australia	29	23	197	Western Australia	12	14	86
13/7/1982	Subiaco Oval	SO	Victoria	19	10	124	Western Australia	15	11	101
17/7/1982	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	21	18	144	South Australia	8	5	53
4/6/1983	Subiaco Oval	ILC	Western Australia	20	14	134	South Australia	16	14	110
12/7/1983	Subiaco Oval	SOC	Western Australia	16	22	118	Victoria	16	19	115
9/6/1984	Football Park	ILC	Western Australia	14	14	98	South Australia	14	13	97
17/7/1984	Subiaco Oval	SOC	Western Australia	21	16	142	Victoria	21	12	138
15/6/1985	Subiaco Oval	ILC	South Australia	30	18	198	Western Australia	16	15	111
16/7/1985	Subiaco Oval	SOC	Victoria	19	16	130	Western Australia	9	11	65

Date	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
27/5/1986	Football Park	ILC	Western Australia	18	19	127	South Australia	12	16	88
21/8/1986	Subiaco Oval	SOC	Western Australia	21	11	137	Victoria	20	14	134
16/6/1987	WACA Ground	ILC	South Australia	18	16	124	Western Australia	9	9	63
22/7/1987	Subiaco Oval	SOC	Victoria	16	20	116	Western Australia	13	14	92
2/3/1988	Football Park	SOC	Victoria	20	13	133	Western Australia	10	13	73
5/3/1988	Football Park	SOC	New South Wales	10	8	68	Western Australia	9	12	66
24/5/1988	Football Park	IL	South Australia	17	17	119	Western Australia	11	13	79
5/7/1988	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	24	19	163	VFA	11	11	77
5/7/1988	Subiaco Oval	SO	Victoria	21	23	149	Western Australia	15	9	99
16/5/1989	WACA Ground	SO	Victoria	19	12	126	Western Australia	10	12	72
26/6/1990	WACA Ground	SO	Victoria	14	13	97	Western Australia	8	12	60
8/7/1990	Football Park	IL	South Australia	17	19	121	Western Australia	14	16	100
11/6/1991	Subiaco Oval	IL	Western Australia	17	20	122	South Australia	11	12	78
16/7/1991	WACA Ground	SO	Western Australia	19	13	127	Victoria	7	9	51
12/5/1992	Football Park	IL	South Australia	9	18	72	Western Australia	9	12	66
26/5/1992	MCG	SO	Victoria	23	19	157	Western Australia	13	12	90
25/5/1993	WACA Ground	IL	Western Australia	15	20	110	South Australia	13	8	86
2/6/1993	Football Park	SO	South Australia	19	13	127	Western Australia	14	7	91
21/6/1994	Football Park	IL	Western Australia	10	14	74	South Australia	7	18	60
18/6/1995	Subiaco Oval	SO	Allies	13	14	92	Western Australia	8	13	61
2/7/1995	Gabba	IL	Western Australia	14	14	98	Queensland	9	17	71
2/6/1996	Football Park	SO	South Australia	20	6	126	Western Australia	13	13	91
29/6/1996	Subiaco Oval	IL	South Australia	15	20	110	Western Australia	6	9	45
20/6/1997	Subiaco Oval	SO	Allies	18	8	116	Western Australia	16	12	108

Year	Venue	Category	Winning Team	G	B	Pts	Losing Team	G	B	Pts
21/6/1997	North Hobart Oval	IL	Tasmania	19	6	120	Western Australia	10	13	73
11/7/1998	Football Park	IL	South Australia	17	13	115	Western Australia	10	10	70
11/7/1998	Football Park	SO	South Australia	22	13	145	Western Australia	16	13	109
19/6/1999	SRMSC Kalgoorlie	IL	Western Australia	20	12	132	Tasmania	10	14	74
12/5/2000	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	15	17	107	Western Australia	8	17	65
15/6/2002	Fremantle Oval	IL	Western Australia	24	15	159	Queensland	6	12	48
19/6/2004	Leederville Oval	IL	VFL	10	9	69	Western Australia	8	10	58
18/6/2005	Cararra	IL	Western Australia	18	21	129	Queensland	11	5	71
27/5/2006	Adelaide Oval	IL	South Australia	14	14	98	Western Australia	12	9	81
19/5/2007	Port Melbourne	IL	VFL	25	11	161	Western Australia	5	12	42

**ION, FRED 'FAT':** Known, unflatteringly but one assumes affectionately, as 'Fat', Fred Ion was, needless to say, a footballer of somewhat substantial build. He was also highly effective, and gave East Fremantle 85 games of sterling service in 1915 and from 1919 to 1923. During the early 1920s he was recognised as one of the pre-eminent ruckmen in West Australian football. He finished runner-up to West Perth's Harold Boyd in the 1922 Sandover Medal count, and he was selected to represent the state on 3 occasions. Included in that tally were both of Western Australia's matches at the 1921 Perth carnival, during which he applied his strength and weight to telling effect in helping his side to a noteworthy series victory.

**IRONMONGER, JOHN:** Massively built at 200cm and 105kg, John Ironmonger was a tap ruckman par excellence who made his league debut with East Perth in 1980, having been recruited from Margaret River. Less imposing and adept in his general field play than when he was engaged in straight ruck contests, Ironmonger nevertheless caught the eyes of the men in white with sufficient frequency to secure the 1983 Sandover Medal. As had become almost de rigueur for top Western Australian footballers at this stage in the game's history John Ironmonger, despite having played a mere 62 WAFL games for the Royals, then opted to sever his ties with the club and head east to the VFL, which was where he saw out the remainder of his career. That career also involved 4 interstate appearances for Western Australia.



*Subiaco's Bill Sierakowski has his progress halted by Alan Watling of West Perth in this action from a 1969 season that would see the Cardinals ultimately emerge as premiers.*



# J

**JACKSON, SYDNEY:** Originally from South Bunbury, Syd Jackson had already won two Hayward Medals as the fairest and best player in the South West National Football League by the time he arrived at East Perth as a nineteen year old in 1963. Before long, he had acquired a reputations as one of the finest attacking centremen in the game, and, at the end of his debut season with the Royals, he finished joint first in the Sandover Medal voting. However, having incurred a suspension earlier in the season, he was ruled ineligible. Voted his club's fairest and best player in 1966, Jackson was in the club's losing grand final teams both that year and in 1967. However, as early as 1965 he had been attracting attention from VFL clubs, most notably North Melbourne and Carlton. In the end it was the persuasive talking of Carlton coach Ron Barassi which settled the issue, and Jackson duly signed for the Blues in time for the 1968 season. Given that Jackson had given them more than 100 games service (104 to be precise), the East Perth hierarchy was prepared to clear him, but his VFL debut was delayed by twelve months because the WANFL clearance board refused to endorse the move. Jackson went on to give Carlton eight seasons of fine service, mainly as a half forward flanker, before rounding off his career with a season at Glenelg. Syd Jackson represented Western Australia once, against South Australia at Subiaco Oval in 1967 when he was one of the best players on view in the home state's crushing win.

In June 2006 he was named in the centre in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005'.

**JAKOVICH, GLEN:** Glen Jakovich commenced his senior league career with South Fremantle, playing in that club's losing grand final team of 1989 against Claremont when just sixteen years of age. However, he is best remembered for his outstanding,

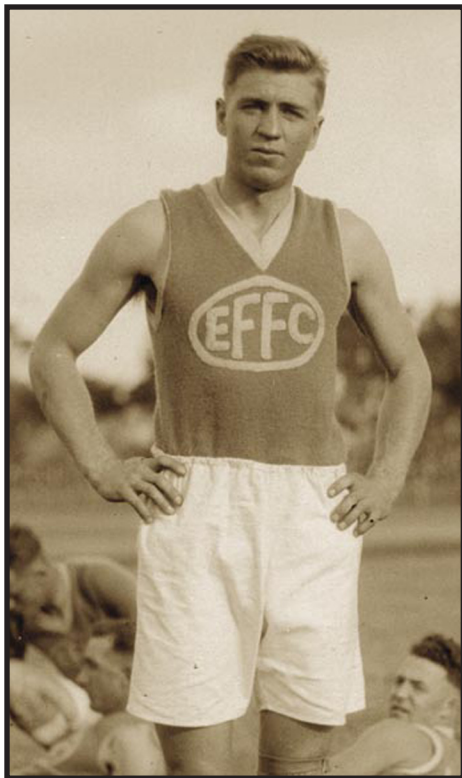
fourteen season, 276 game AFL career with West Coast.

An imposing physical specimen at 192cm and 100kg Jakovich was, almost beyond question, one of the greatest centre half backs of all time. Boasting all the assets of the top line defender - strength, mobility, pace, aerial prowess, and an unflappable disposition - Jakovich repeatedly rode rough-shod over even the most talented of opponents. His clashes with Wayne Carey, for example, were the stuff of legend, and common consensus has it that, overall, Jakovich had the better of them.

Joint club best and fairest in 1993, Jakovich won the award in his own right on three further occasions. He was at the peak of his game during the mid-1990s, making the AFL All Australian team in 1994 and 1995, before suffering a serious knee injury in 1996 which forced him to adapt his game to cope with the inevitable reduction in mobility and pace which ensued. He did this superbly, becoming one of the game's acknowledged masters at reading the play and maneuvering himself purposefully to the fall of the ball.

A member of West Coast premierships teams in 1992 and 1994 Jakovich was still playing excellent football towards the end of his career when he was a role model for a new generation of Eagles footballers.

**JARVIS, CARLISLE 'BUB':** Nicknamed 'Bub', Jarvis enjoyed an illustrious twelve season league career with Old Easts during which he gained almost universal recognition as Western Australia's foremost defender. A Lynn Medallist in 1934, his last full season, he was runner up in the Sandover Medal the same year. In the highly informed view of Dolph Heinrichs, Jarvis was "beyond any doubt (East Fremantle's) greatest defender". This assessment was rubber-stamped in 1997 with his inclusion at centre half back in the club's official 'Team of the Century'.



*'Carlisle Bub' Jarvis (East Fremantle)*

A key member of no fewer than seven blue and white premiership teams, Jarvis surprisingly only represented the state on 8 occasions, in large part because of his refusal to travel interstate. He also suffered several debilitating injuries, one of which barred him from selection for the 1927 Melbourne carnival (although it is quite likely that he would have refused to go in any case).

**JEFFREYS, HAROLD** made his league debut with East Fremantle in 1946, a season which saw the club procure the premiership unbeaten. The hardest fought match of the year was the grand final, in which Old Easts 11.13 (79) defeated West Perth 10.13 (73), with wingman Jeffreys one of the best players afield. The 1947 season saw him make his interstate debut for Western Australia at the Hobart carnival, and he went on to play a

total of 6 state games. Robust, sturdy and eminently resourceful, Jeffreys played a total of 155 WANFL games for East Fremantle between 1946 and 1953, excelling initially as a wingman, and later in the back pocket. He won the club's fairest and best award in 1952.

**JENKINS, FRANK 'SCRANNO':** Over the years Western Australia has arguably produced more of what, for want of a better expression, might be termed 'football artists' than any other state or territory. Players like Farmer, Walker, Michael, Peake, Cable, Marshall, Matera, Hunter, Jackson, Winmar and the Krakouer brothers have elevated the pure skills associated with the greatest of games to unparalleled pinnacles.

Frank 'Scranno' Jenkins of South Fremantle, by contrast, epitomised qualities more traditionally associated with Victoria Park or Glenferrie Oval on a cold, wet, windy afternoon in late July. Put colloquially, he was one tough cookie. In 150 games for the red and whites and numerous others for his state it is doubtful if he ever took a backward step. Every successful team needs players of Jenkins' ilk and it is arguable that South Fremantle's spectacular achievements of the immediate post World War Two period would not have been possible without the contribution of this unspectacular, somewhat dour, but remorselessly effective defender.

Named at centre half back in South Fremantle's 1947 and 1948 premiership winning teams, Jenkins was high on the best player lists both times.

Arguably, however, he was at his best when the chips were down, and it is perhaps significant that his Sandover Medal (1937) and three club fairest and best awards were won during the immediate pre-war period, when South Fremantle was not the force it would later become. Jenkins also finished runner-up in the Sandover Medal in this era, to Haydn Bunton in 1938.

**JOHNSON, ALAN** was a wingman or centreman who oozed both quality and



*Frank 'Scranno' Jenkins (South Fremantle)*

tenacity, and who was a major factor in Perth's rise to prominence under Ken Armstrong. His 140 senior games for the Demons between 1975 and 1981 were capped by fine displays in the winning grand finals of 1976 against East Perth and 1977 against East Fremantle. He also played well in the 1978 grand final, in which Perth suffered a heart breaking 2 point loss to East Perth. After winning the Demons' fairest and best award in his final year at the club Alan Johnson embarked on a successful nine season stint in the VFL with Melbourne. He represented Western Australia half a dozen times, and was named on the interchange bench in Perth's official 'Team of the Century'.

**JENZEN, GRAHAM:** Graham Jenzen was a speedy and talented rover who saw comparatively little time on the ball as he had the misfortune to play for Perth during the heyday of one of the greatest small men in the history of the game, Barry Cable. Actually, 'misfortune' is not really the right word as Jenzen comprehensively turned the situation to his advantage, becoming one of the most damaging half forwards and forward pockets in the WANFL. Moreover, not many players get to play in three senior league premiership teams, as Jenzen did in 1966-7-8. Perth's top goal kicker with 37 goals in 1965, 63 in 1966 and 68 in 1969, he played a total of 137 games and kicked 325 goals between 1965 and 1971 and in 1974. A clean ball handler who wore his heart on his sleeve, Graham Jenzen was perhaps a touch unfortunate never to gain interstate selection for Western Australia.

**JOHN, GRAEME:** Graeme John was a supremely talented centre half forward with a keen football brain who began with East Perth as a sixteen year old in 1959. In five seasons with the Royals he played 67 games and kicked 48 goals, as well as representing Western Australia on 4 occasions. His performances in state football attracted the attention of Victorian clubs, and the 1964 season saw him lining up for South Melbourne in the VFL. After taking a season or so to adjust to the faster tempo and unremitting physicality of Melbourne football he developed into one of the most exciting forwards in the league. In 1965 he was chosen to represent the 'Big V' in all four of its games for the season, and the following year he again gained interstate selection for the Hobart carnival, after which he was rewarded with All Australian selection. John spent six seasons with South, playing 74 games and kicking 90 goals. In 1970 he joined South's near neighbour Port Melbourne, where he played 8 games

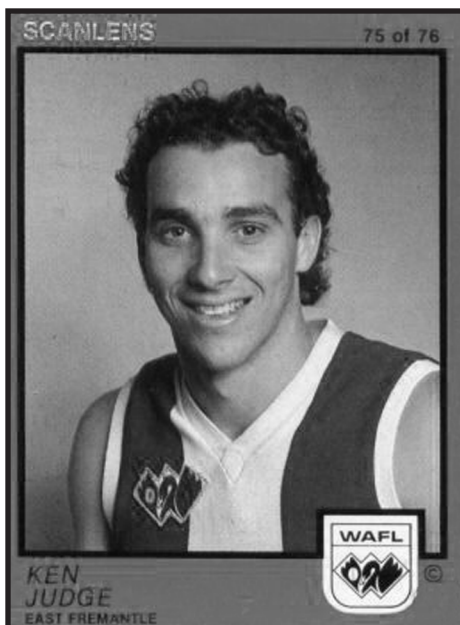
for the season to see out his playing career. He returned to South Melbourne as non-playing coach in 1973, still aged just thirty, but his three seasons at the helm were ignominious in the extreme, eliciting two wooden spoons and one ninth place finish. Graeme John later served as president of the club.

**JOHNSON, ROBERT:** In 1962, after a successful nine season stint with Melbourne in the VFL, 'Big Bob' Johnson was appointed captain-coach of East Fremantle where he enjoyed still further success, both individual and team-based, over the next five seasons, with the highlight being a premiership in 1965. He played much of his football with Old Easts at full forward, heading the club's goal kicking list on four occasions, and the league's, with 92 goals (including finals) in 1966. He also topped the century with 105 goals in 1965, and won the club's fairest and best award in his debut season.

Johnson moved to Allan Killigrew's Subiaco in 1967 where he added 19 games to the 106 he had played with East Fremantle. He later spent time as captain-coach of VFA club Oakleigh.

**JONES, ANTHONY:** Claremont's most recent Sandover Medallist commenced his league career with the club in 1994. Between 1995 and 2003 he alternated between the Tigers and AFL club Fremantle, but his appearances were limited owing to a succession of debilitating injuries. A defender for much of his career, he won the Sandover in 2007 while playing mainly at centre half forward. Almost thirty-three years of age at the time of his win, Jones entered the record books as the second oldest Medal recipient of all time, behind East Perth's 1923 winner, William 'Digger' Thomas.

**JUDGE, KEN** was a determined and highly skilled half forward, forward pocket



or ruck-rover who played his best football with East Fremantle in 1975 and between 1977 and 1982. He was named in a forward pocket in the club's 1979 grand final-winning team against arch rivals South Fremantle, and the following year saw him take out Old East's leading goal kicker award with a highly creditable 63 goals. From 1983 to '86 he played for Hawthorn before returning briefly to East Fremantle where he brought his final tally of WAFL games to 120. However, before long he was picked up by fledgling VFL club Brisbane, where he saw out his career. During his time in Western Australia he earned selection for the state on 3 occasions.

As a coach, Ken Judge enjoyed premiership success with his former club, East Fremantle, in 1992 and 1994 before turning his attention to the AFL where he was somewhat less successful, initially at Hawthorn, and later at West Coast.

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# K

**KEENE, LAURIE:** Extremely tall at 202cm but boasting surprising mobility and athleticism, Subiaco's Laurie Keene, when fully fit, was always a handful for opposing defenders or ruckmen. Equally at home leading the rucks or in a key forward position, he topped the Lions' goal kicking list with 70 goals in 1985, and won the club's fairest and best award the following year. He was a key contributor to Subiaco premiership-winning teams in 1986 and 1988. Recruited by West Coast as a member of that club's inaugural VFL squad he was cruelly undermined by injury in his efforts to establish himself and managed just 36 senior games on top of the 140 he played for Subiaco between 1981 and 1995. Four times a West Australian interstate representative during the mid-1980s, Keene was selected in the 1986 All Australian team.

**KEIGHTLEY, CYRIL 'SNOW'** was one of Perth's best players during a generally dismal time for the club. A rover with plenty of skill and dash, he played a total of 132 league games between 1932 and 1940, winning the Redlegs' fairest and best award in 1935. He played twice for Western Australia.

**KELLY, PHIL** commenced his league career with East Perth in 1975. After a slow start, he came good in 1978 under the coaching of Barry Cable. Kelly later admitted that Cable had inspired him to much greater levels of commitment and motivation, and this paid off handsomely in the form of Sandover Medal wins in both 1978 and 1979, together with the club's 1979 fairest and best award. Playing on a wing, Kelly was one of the Royals' best in their 1978 grand final win over Perth. He could also do a job on the ball, and knew how to kick goals, amassing a total of 73 in his 109 senior appearances for East Perth. In 1981 he crossed to North Melbourne where he spent the last five seasons of his career. Phil Kelly

was chosen to represent Western Australia 6 times. In June 2006, he gained selection as a wingman in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005'.

**KELLY, ROSS** was an outstanding success from the time he first donned a West Perth jumper in 1958. That season saw him chosen to represent Western Australia at the Melbourne carnival and he went on to make a total of 10 appearances for his state. He enjoyed an exceptional year in 1959, running fifth in the Sandover Medal voting, and in 1960 he was a key member of the Cardinals' first premiership team in nine years. Kelly missed the entire 1961 season whilst overseas, and in his absence the side finished a disappointing fifth, but his return the following year helped the team re-emerge as a contender, eventually getting as far as the preliminary final. Equally at home across half back or on the ball, Ross Kelly had played a total of 134 league games for the Cardies by the time he retired in 1965.

**KELLY, WILLIAM:** Invariably known as either Harvey or 'Duff', Kelly enjoyed an illustrious career in three states. Originally from Western Australia, he played a season with South Melbourne in 1902 before returning home and participating in East Fremantle's 1904 premiership win. The following year he was one of several players to leave Old Easts in controversial circumstances, and he spent the 1905-6 seasons at arch rivals South Fremantle, where he played a total of 33 senior games.

A brilliant forward, whose kicking, both out of the hand and from the turf, was exemplary, he returned to the VFL in 1907, this time with Carlton, and was a significant contributor from centre half forward to the club's 5 point defeat of his former team, South Melbourne, in that year's grand final.



After playing for the VFL at the inaugural interstate championship series in Melbourne the following year, Kelly continued his fine form at club level to help the Blues to what, at the time, was a record-breaking third successive VFL flag.

Between 1910 and 1911, Kelly fronted up for TFL side Lefroy, and in the former year he participated in his second carnival, this time for a Tasmanian side which performed heroically to claim third place after scoring an upset win over the powerful West Australians. His two season stint in Tasmanian football saw him play a total of 27 games, comprised of 18 for his club, 5 for the TFL, and 4 for the state.

Kelly returned to the mainland in 1912, and sought a clearance from Carlton to South Melbourne. When this was refused, he spent the season playing for Bairnsdale. In 1913, Carlton granted him his clearance and, after a break of almost a decade, he resumed with South Melbourne, where he gave excellent service for another two years. Somewhat ironically, his last game in a red and white jumper came in the losing 1914 grand final against Carlton when, as was almost invariably the case on big occasions, he was one of the most conspicuous performers on view, despite playing in the comparatively unaccustomed position of centre half back.

**KEMP, DEAN:** Dean Kemp commenced his senior football with a couple of seasons at Kalgoorlie Railways in the goldfields competition. He played in a premiership in 1987, and won a club fairest and best the following year, before joining Subiaco. After a season with the Lions he was drafted by West Coast and made an immediate impression, winning the Eagles' best first year player award. A smooth running, silkily skilled midfielder, Kemp was a key member of West Coast's renowned on-ball brigade, and a major reason behind the club's dominance during the early 1990s. In 1992 he played in a premiership team, gained AFL All Australian selection, and won a

best and fairest award, and two years later he gave an exhilarating performance as a ruck-rover as the Eagles beat Geelong in the grand final; the display earned Kemp the Norm Smith Medal. Undermined to some extent by injuries later in his career, Kemp nevertheless continued to give good value until he retired at the end of the 2001 season having played 243 AFL games and kicked 117 goals.

**KENNEDY, LAURIE** was a highly dependable defender who was at centre half back for East Perth in consecutive premiership-winning teams in 1958-9. He was also among the best players afield in the 1960 grand final, but was unable to prevent the Royals from going down by 32 points to arch rivals West Perth. Although not the sort of player to capture the eye in terms of soliciting fairest and best award votes Kennedy was a fine servant of East Perth in 213 league games. He also represented Western Australia in 2 games against South Australia in 1959.

**KETTLEWELL, LAURIE:** Some champions assume a mantle of greatness only gradually, whereas others, such as Subiaco's multi-talented Laurie Kettlewell, impose themselves on the game from the start.

Kettlewell made his league debut against Swan Districts at Bassendean Oval in April 1954. Aged just eighteen, he astounded onlookers with the scope and virtuosity of his performance, which was so outstanding that soon after the game there was already speculation that he might be good enough to be included in that season's state side.

It so transpired that Laurie Kettlewell was indeed considered good enough, and on 20 July 1954 he lined up at centre half back against the VFL at Subiaco Oval for the first of an eventual 15 interstate appearances. From a team perspective, it was a far from auspicious occasion: by quarter time the Vics had rattled on 10.12



without reply, and they went on to coast to victory by 69 points, but as far as Kettlewell was concerned it was an effective and highly creditable debut as he outpointed his direct opponent, John Brady, and was named high in his side's best players.

Over the course of the next dozen seasons, while Subiaco foundered consistently near the base of the premiership ladder, Laurie Kettlewell was a beacon of consistency and brilliance. Coupling strength with agility, he possessed tremendous anticipation, was superb overhead, and was a prodigious kick. He could also play virtually anywhere, and was widely considered to be "one of the greatest utility players to don a guernsey in this state".<sup>1</sup> His two club fairest and best awards would undoubtedly have been many more had he not been repeatedly moved from pillar to post in the interests of the team.

When Subiaco selected its 'Champion Team 1946-76', Laurie Kettlewell was named at centre half forward, but it could just as easily have been any one of about half a dozen other positions. The main tragedy of his glittering 205 game league career was that he never got to appear in a premiership team, with the losing grand final of 1959 against East Perth the closest he came.

**KILMURRAY, TED:** Dazzlingly skilful and inventive, Ted Kilmurray was a key member of East Perth teams during arguably that club's greatest post-war era. Between 1956 and 1960 the Royals contested every grand final, and were successful on three occasions. On a personal front, Kilmurray's best year was 1958, when he won both the Sandover Medal and the East Perth fairest and best award, and was on a half forward flank as the Royals beat East Fremantle by 2 points in a thrilling grand final.

A superb exponent of the flick pass, Kilmurray was one of the main reasons the laws of the game regarding handball were changed to insist on a clenched fist being used to strike the ball. He was also a

tremendous one grab mark, characteristically stretching his arms well out in front of himself to prohibit spoiling from behind. Another trait was his penchant for snatching the ball off the hands of a pack while running away from goals, and then screwing the ball back over his right shoulder with his left foot, often for full points. One goal kicked in this way sealed a memorable win over South Fremantle in 1956 on the day the new grandstand at Perth Oval was officially opened.

Kilmurray grew up with Graham Farmer at various orphanages administered by a Roman Catholic nun known as Sister Kate, and after demonstrating great prowess in country football the pair eventually went to East Perth together, with Kilmurray, initially at least, attracting more attention because of the eye-catching flamboyance of his game. All told, he played a total of 257 senior games for the Royals between 1953 and 1966, and was 4 times selected for Western Australia. Memorably nicknamed 'Square', owing to his ability to slip unnoticed, often to devastating effect, into the goal square, he was equally at home on a half forward flank or as a ruck-rover, and despite being only 117.5cm in height and weighing just 73kg he could also hold down a key forward position when required. In June 2006 he claimed a berth on a half forward flank in East Perth's official 'Team of the Century 1945 to 2005'.

**KIMBERLEY, BARRY** was a consistent, hard working rover who was capable of the odd burst of brilliance, and who typically collected a plethora of possessions, many of them hard won, during the course of a game. After working his way through the ranks at Perth he made his senior debut as a twenty-two year old in 1979. He spent four seasons with the Demons, during which he played a total of 76 league games and kicked 83 goals. At the conclusion of the 1982 season he fell out with the club's hierarchy over money, and transferred to reigning premier Swan Districts, where his arrival was seen as compensating the club to some extent

for the loss of VFL-bound on-baller Mike Richardson. After a slow start to his Swans career, Kimberley developed into a handy acquisition. He played in a premiership side in his first season, but it was in 1984 that he really came into his own with a series of highly damaging displays culminating in a best afield, Simpson Medal-winning performance in the grand final defeat of East Fremantle. He went on to play a total of 82 senior games and boot 72 goals for Swans before retiring in 1986.



*'Paddy' Knox (Fremantle)*

**KNOX, PADDY:** A noteworthy figure in the early history of the game in Western Australia, Paddy Knox only had a comparatively brief senior playing career, but it was laced with achievement. In seven seasons with Unions/Fremantle he played a total of 64 games, and was involved in no fewer than half a dozen premierships, four of them as club captain. He was the top goal kicker in the WAFA in 1893, albeit with only 10 goals. After retiring as a player he continued his involvement in football by serving the Association in a variety of administrative roles.

**KRAKOUER, JIM:** To suggest that the Claremont Football Club struck gold when it

procured the services of Mount Barker brothers Jim and Phil Krakouer would not be so much a case of stating the obvious as of understating it. Seldom, if ever, has football boasted a more exhilarating and potent 'double act'.

James Gordon Krakouer, the elder of the brothers, was the first to make his way to Perth, where it was anticipated that he would spend the 1977 season undergoing careful grooming in the Claremont colts team. However, it did not take long for club officials to recognise that here was a special and extraordinarily precocious talent who was already as good if not better than most of the current crop of league players. Moreover, it soon emerged that Jim Krakouer was unhappy with city life, and would probably have returned home to Mount Barker had he not been presented with the alluring inducement of regular senior football. It was thus in everyone's interests that Krakouer spend the 1977 season playing for a Claremont league side that was beginning to re-emerge as a force after several lack lustre years.

In 1978, Jim's younger brother Phil arrived at Claremont, and this had the simultaneous effect of calming Jim, and of eliciting his best form, although this was somewhat inconsistently displayed at first.

Nimble, quick, and with superb disposal skills, Jim Krakouer was also prone to aggressive outbursts, in consequence of which he was no stranger to the Tribunal. The problem was, if anything, exacerbated by his extraordinary courage, which often saw him ploughing in where angels, or at any rate footballers with more acute senses of self-preservation, would fear to tread; inevitably, he would end up getting hurt, and equally inevitably he would react with unrestrained violence, eliciting the ire of umpires and opposition players alike.

Overall, however, the positives far outweighed the negatives: Jim Krakouer made his interstate debut in 1979, and two years later was a key factor in the Tigers' surge - a long overdue surge, in the view of many - to the premiership. He won the Claremont fairest and best award that year, as well as running third in the Sandover Medal voting, and the

following season saw him venture east, along, almost inevitably, with his brother, to play out the remaining seasons of his career in the VFL. During his time with Claremont he played a total of 88 senior league games. He also played 6 times for Western Australia.

Jim Krakouer's son Andrew later carried on the family tradition by playing league football with South Fremantle and Richmond.

**KRAKOUER, PHIL:** More outwardly placid than his older brother Jim, Phillip Brent Krakouer played the game with equal vim, panache and effectiveness, most noticeably of all when in concert with his sibling. If his somewhat ungainly kicking style perhaps gave the misleading impression that he was a late convert to the sport, just about everything else he did suggested that he was a born footballer.

Recruited by Claremont from North Mount Barker Football Club, Phil Krakouer journeyed to the city to join his brother, who had already had a season in the big time, in 1978. Playing mainly on the half forward line, he was an immediate success, although it would probably be fair to suggest that, at this stage of his career, he was a less eye-catching performer than his brother.

Inevitably, throughout their respective careers, the vast majority of which were spent together, pundits and fans alike often posed the question, 'Which Krakouer brother is better'? It is quite a beguiling issue, no less so in hindsight, for while there can be no denying that, overall, Jim garnered more in terms of individual awards, he also undoubtedly let his team down on more occasions as a result of his frequent, often costly trips to the Tribunal. As to which of the brothers possessed the greatest amount of pure football talent, Jim at least had no doubts:

*I reckon (Phil) has a bit more skill than I have and he seems to be able to get out of a pack with the ball easier. He's not bad when it comes to kicking goals either.*

*Also, he's a bit better tempered than I am and this could help him .....*

Consequently:

*I'm sure Phil will prove to be the better player in the long run.<sup>2</sup>*

In 1982, having helped the Tigers to the previous season's WAFL premiership, both Krakouer brothers moved to the VFL, where they saw out the remainder of their playing careers. Phil Krakouer's senior WA(N)FL career with Claremont comprised 90 games. He also represented Western Australia 4 times.

Football in the twenty-first century has already given rise to some spectacular aboriginal 'double acts' - one thinks of the Materas, for example, and the Burgoynes - but the prototype, and still arguably the greatest such partnership, was provided by a pair of brothers from Mount Barker, who delighted football fans across the land for well over a decade, and whose surname still elicits a sense of both expectation and excitement in the minds of football supporters of a certain vintage.

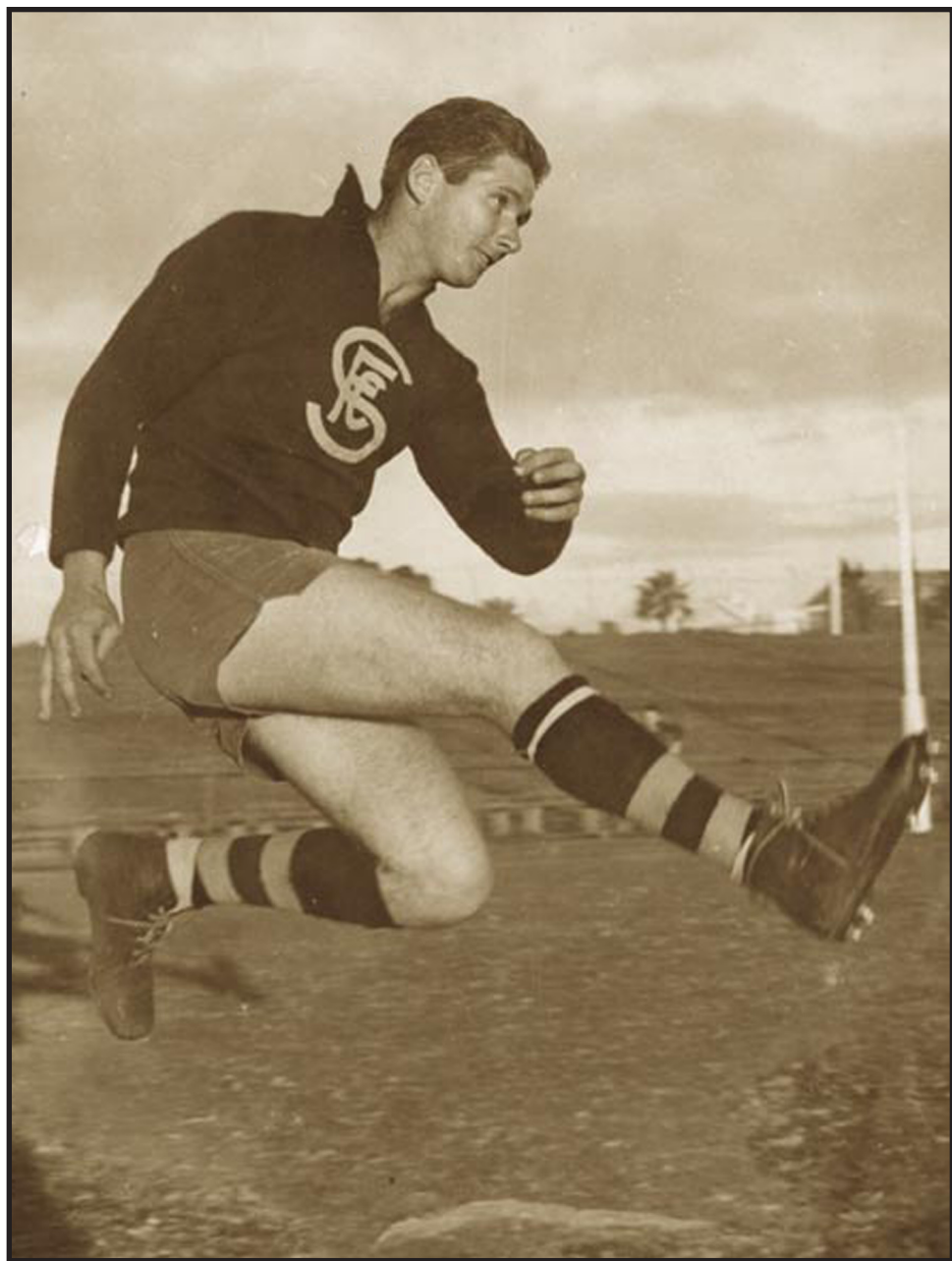
**KREPP, GEORGE:** Undoubtedly the finest of Swan Districts' early league players, wingman George Krepp won the club's first three fairest and best awards and tied with Subiaco's Lou Daily for the 1935 Sandover Medal. Although his career only lasted 109 games over half a dozen seasons his star remained firmly in the ascendant throughout that time, as is evidenced by the fact he was a near ever-present for Western Australia, fronting up for his state on 9 occasions. He was selected on a wing in Swan Districts' official 'Team of the Twentieth Century'.

George Krepp finished his senior career with Boulder City in the GNFL where he won successive Dillon Medals as the competition's fairest and best player in 1940-41.

#### Footnotes

1 'WA Football Budget', 25/6/60.

2 *The High and the Mighty* 1980, page 5.



*Subiaco's Laurie Kettlewell*

**LAING, LES 'BRUISER':** Evocatively nicknamed 'Bruiser', Les Laing was every opposition forward's nightmare, and a key if sometimes unheralded reason for Subiaco's dominance of the WAFL competition between 1912 and 1915. Recruited from Meekatharra, he made his senior debut during a 1911 season that saw the Maroons give the odd hint of what was to come by managing 5 wins, their best result since 1906. Most of his 89 games were played as a permanent back pocket, in which position he was resolute, aggressive, and arguably without peer in the state, although the dearth of interstate football engaged in by Western Australia during the course of his career meant that he was never given the opportunity to prove this at the game's highest level.

Laing's astute football brain coupled with his happy knack of being able to unsettle or intimidate even the most gifted of opponents made him a vital component in the Subiaco success story under Messrs Scaddan, Matson and Leckie. When the Maroons beat Perth by a couple of goals to win the 1913 premiership, Laing rated highly in most observers' best player lists, and he also performed creditably in both the 1912 and 1915 flag triumphs. His career continued after the Great War, but in some respects the boot was on the other foot by this time and he found himself frequently sidelined by injury. He finally retired in 1921.

**LANGDON, DON:** In Don Langdon, East Perth had a player who combined height, strength, pace and cleverness to admirable effect. Most of his football was played at centre half forward, where he acted as the fulcrum of the Royals' attack, expertly gaining possession whether in the air or at ground level, and typically feeding it off with lightning quick handballs before the opposition realised what was happening. He made his senior debut in 1959, and

was a key contributor later that year to the Royals 12.17 (89) to 9.14 (68) grand final defeat of Subiaco, booting 4 goals and being some observers' nomination as the best player afield. He went on to make a total of 69 league appearances and kick 99 goals. His last game for East Perth was the losing grand final of 1962 against Swan Districts, in which he once again booted 4 goals. Don Langdon represented Western Australia 5 times.

**LANGSFORD, DON:** Originally from Scotch College, Don Langsford debuted with Swan Districts in 1977 and went on to enjoy an auspicious, thirteen season career. Always hard at the ball and constructive, Langsford was a key component in the Swan Districts machine that landed a hat trick of flags between 1982 and '84. His best season was probably 1983 when he landed the prestigious 'Westside Football' Player of the Year Award, and represented the state. Appointed Swans skipper in 1985 Don Langsford led from the front both that season and next. In 1987 he was a member of West Coast's inaugural VFL squad, but never played a competitive match for the Eagles. He resumed with Swan Districts in 1989, and when he retired twelve months later he had played a total of 237 senior games for the club, kicking 60 goals. His fine career with Swans was later acknowledged with selection in the club's official 'Team of the Century'.

**LAWRENCE, RON:** Invariably known as 'Trizzie', Ron Lawrence served East Fremantle with distinction in 165 league games between 1956 and 1966. A hard working and tenacious rover who kicked plenty of goals while resting in a forward pocket, he was a member of Old Easts' 1957 premiership team, and also played in the losing grand finals of 1958 (as twentieth

man), 1962, 1963 and 1964. His best and most consistent football came during a 1964 season that saw him selected to represent Western Australia 3 times. Lawrence was East Fremantle's joint leading goal kicker in 1961 with 39 goals.

**LAWSON, JOE** was arguably the finest full back in Swan Districts' history. That, at any rate, was the opinion of the men arguably better placed than anyone to make such an assessment – the selectors who installed him in that position for the club's official 'Team of the Century'. Between 1955 and 1966 Lawson played a total of 235 WANFL games for Swans, winning a fairest and best award in 1958. These included the club's three successive winning grand finals of 1961-2-3, in the first two of which Lawson was rated high among the best players. Captain of his club for part of the 1959 season, Joe Lawson, perhaps surprisingly, made just one interstate appearance for Western Australia during his career. There can be little doubt, however, that overall he was one of the best and most consistent last line defenders in the league.

**LECKIE, JACK:** Born in Victoria, Jack Leckie played his early football in the VFA with Essendon and Fitzroy before following the well-worn path westwards to the West Australian goldfields town of Coolgardie where, in 1895, he was heavily instrumental in getting organised football underway via the formation of the three team Yilgarn Football Association. Initially a member of the Union team, he transferred in 1896 to newcomers Civil Service, and then in 1898 to Boulder City, which is the oldest surviving country football club in Western Australia.

Leckie later ventured to the coast and was a member in 1907 of Perth's controversial premiership-winning team, playing an estimated 75-80 games in four seasons with the City Reds. In 1910 he booted 19 goals to be the club's leading goal

kicker for the year. His most memorable exploits were as a coach, however: in 1911-12 he coached South Fremantle; he led Subiaco in 1915-16, annexing a premiership in his first year; other brief stints were with West Perth in 1923 and Perth in 1930. Undoubtedly his greatest achievement though was masterminding Western Australia's historic carnival success on home soil in 1921.

**LEONARD, JOHN:** Born in England, Johnny Leonard was a prodigiously talented rover for Subiaco during the 1920s. In 1926 he won a Sandover Medal, and was later awarded a retrospective Medal for the 1929 season after having initially finished second on a countback to East Perth's 'Billy' Thomas. Quick, intelligent and highly skilled, he was an automatic choice for Western Australia for much of his career, making a club record 25 interstate appearances, which was 1 more than the tally of champion ruckman Tom Outridge.

After playing a total of 146 games for Subiaco between 1922 and 1930, Johnny Leonard was enticed east to Ballarat, where he commenced what was to become an equally successful coaching career. His achievement in steering Maryborough to the 1931 Ballarat Football League premiership caught the attention of the powers-that-were at South Melbourne, and the 1932 season saw him replacing Paddy Scanlan as coach of the forward-thinking, ambitious Bloodstained Angels.

Leonard's acute inside knowledge of the Western Australian football scene was a key factor in his success with South. By recruiting players of the calibre of former Subiaco team mates Brighton Diggins and Billy Faul, and former South Fremantle follower Bert Beard, Leonard - who remained no mean player himself - was able to bolster South Melbourne's playing ranks sufficiently to propel the club to its first finals campaign in almost a decade. In doing so, he laid the foundations for arguably South's greatest



era of the twentieth century - the so called 'foreign legion years' - but Leonard's direct involvement with the team was limited to that single, 1932 season. The 1930s witnessed a severe economic depression and in 1933 Johnny Leonard, lured by the prospect of secure employment with Ross Faulkner Limited, returned home to Perth. His impact at the Lake Oval had, however, been significant:

*His legacy had been to lift the spirit at the Lake Oval and to forge a belief that success could be achieved despite the disappointments of the recent past. He had sensed the awesome potential of (Bob) Pratt, giving him space and responsibility up forward as well as providing opportunities and recognition to the skills of (Herbie) Matthews.<sup>1</sup>*

Perhaps even more importantly, however, that legacy was destined to endure, for:

*Leonard played his part in settling the interstate newcomers into the passionate football environment of Melbourne, bringing the best out of Diggins and Faul almost immediately. Significantly, he discouraged his Western Australian colleagues from following him back home and ensured that his departure did not unsettle the development of the club. As a sign of his affection for South Melbourne, he continued to publicly support the club in its interstate trading activities.<sup>2</sup>*

It may be a platitude, but loyalty of this nature tends to breed loyalty, and it may in small part help to explain Leonard's substantial success as a coach over the ensuing decade.

If the seeds of that success were sown on Victorian soil, they germinated and grew in Western Australia. In 1934 and 1935, Leonard steered West Perth to an overall success rate of 71.1% and successive premierships. Always quintessentially a 'players' coach', Leonard "believed that training throughout the season should be

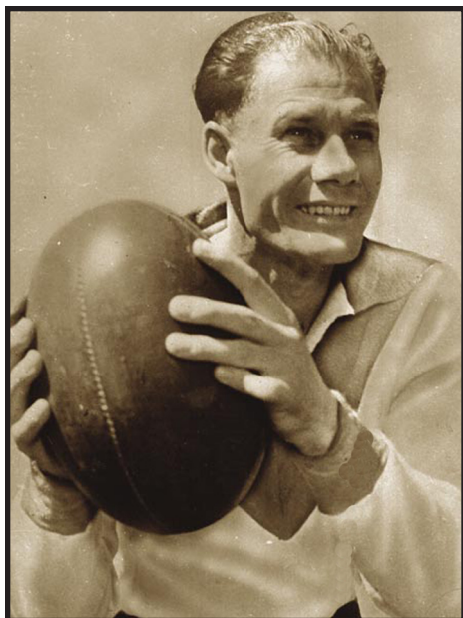
enjoyable, brisk, and involve as much ball-handling as possible",<sup>3</sup> a regime to which his charges responded with great energy and enthusiasm, both at the Cardinals, who Leonard coached for a third season in 1937, and even more so at Claremont, where he was to eke out a reputation for himself which placed him squarely and irrefutably amongst the immortals.

Prior to Leonard's arrival at Claremont Oval in 1938 the Monts had failed to secure a single flag. During his first three seasons there they were indefatigable, managing an overall success rate of 72.6%, and winning every premiership on offer. Admittedly, Claremont had reached the 1936 and 1937 grand finals under Leonard's predecessor Dick Lawn, but there can be little doubt that Leonard's arrival constituted that final, elusive ingredient necessary to catapult the team across the often insurmountable divide between being a promising challenger and a fully fledged, bona fide champion. In doing so - much as Tom Hafey did at Richmond, or Haydn Bunton junior at Swan Districts, or Fos Williams at Port Adelaide - Leonard effectively heralded a new era for the club, in the process imbuing it with aspects of his own essential character.

John Leonard's career as a league football coach was comparatively brief - fewer than 200 games spread over just nine seasons - but his strike rate of better than a premiership every other year was outstanding. Moreover, the fact that three of those premierships were attained with a club which had never previously enjoyed such eminent status makes his achievements all the more meritorious, and makes John Leonard arguably Australian football's 'greatest Pommy'.

**J.J. Leonard Medal:** Named in honour of the former Subiaco, Claremont and West Perth legend, the J.J. Leonard Medal is an annual award recognising coaching excellence in Western Australian football. Recipients to date have been:

1985 Grant Dorrington  
1986 Ron Alexander  
1987 Ross Ditchburn  
1988 Ian Shortland-Jones  
1989 Gerard Neesham  
1990 John Todd  
1991 Stan Brice  
1992 Ken Judge  
1993 Jeff Gieschen  
1994 John Dimmer  
1995 Michael Malthouse  
1996 Tony Micalé  
1997 Wayne Blackwell  
1998 Gary Armstrong  
1999 John Ditchburn  
2000 Ken Ferguson  
2001 Mark Riley  
2002 Kevan Sparks  
2003 Darryl Panizza  
2004 Peter German  
2005 John Worsfold  
2006 Trevor Williams  
2007 Andrew Lockyer



*Clive Lewington (South Fremantle)*

**LEWINGTON, CLIVE:** During the first half a dozen or so seasons after World War Two South Fremantle's 1947 Sandover Medallist Clive Lewington had few peers as a centreline player anywhere in the land. A triple club champion, Lewington also played in South's winning grand final sides of 1947, 1948 and 1950, earning a Simpson Medal after the last of those matches against Perth. Lewington was the club's captain-coach in 1950, having been captain for the previous three seasons, and he again served as captain coach in 1951. After retiring as a player he spent the period between 1952 and 1958 as the club's non-playing coach, overseeing further premiership triumphs against West Perth in 1952 and 1953, and arch rivals East Fremantle in 1954. His overall success rate in nine seasons as coach of South Fremantle was a highly impressive 70.9%; only in his last two seasons did the club fail to contest the finals.

In a war-interrupted career, Lewington managed only 5 interstate appearances, but among these were the Hobart carnival matches of 1947, which included a famous victory over the VFL. For South Fremantle he played a total of 181 senior games in 1939-40 and between 1946 and 1952. He made a brief return to top level football in 1964 as non-playing coach of West Perth, but it was tacitly acknowledged that he was merely filling in for a season while the club awaited the arrival from Footscray of Bob Spargo.

**LEWIS, CHRIS:** After just 3 senior games for Claremont in 1986 seventeen and a half year old Chris Lewis was included in West Coast's inaugural VFL squad. He made his Eagles debut in 1987 en route to a total of 215 appearances over the next fourteen seasons. He also booted 259 goals. A supremely gifted footballer, his achilles heel, especially early on, was a suspect temperament. On one notorious occasion in 1991 he was suspended after being found guilty of biting an opponent. It was also possible for opposition teams to impair his concentration,

and hence his effectiveness, by baiting him. Later in his career, however, Lewis overcame these problems to some extent. Voted the Eagles' best and fairest player in 1990, he was still producing excellent football in his final few seasons. He was a member of premiership teams in 1992 and 1994, and played 5 state of origin matches for Western Australia. In 2001 he returned to Claremont where he played for two further seasons, taking his final tally of games with the club to 53.

**LEWIS, FRED** was an accomplished key position footballer who played 153 senior games for East Fremantle between 1964 and 1972. He was at centre half forward when Old Easts overcame Swan Districts in the 1965 WANFL grand final. In 1967, he enjoyed probably his best season in football when he won both his club's fairest and best trophy, and its leading goal kicker award, with 36 goals. He captained Old Easts to third place on the ladder in 1971. Lewis represented Western Australia on half a dozen occasions.

**LIMB, HERBERT 'HUBBA'**: Despite having the stature of a rover, Herbert Limb proved to be a highly successful full forward in two states. Originally from Gawler, he began his league career as an eighteen year old with Sturt in 1908, and topped the club's goal kicking list in each of his three seasons with the club, with his form improving gradually but discernibly all the time. In all, he booted 62 goals for the Blues in 32 matches. In 1910, he was a member of South Australia's winning team against the VFL in Adelaide.

The most successful phase of 'Hubba' Limb's career occurred between 1911 and 1923, when he played 161 games for Subiaco. When Limb arrived, the Maroons were probably the weakest team in the WAFL, but an intensive and intelligent recruiting campaign saw them emerge from the doldrums to enjoy what probably remains the greatest era in their

history. Limb himself was a key contributor to this improvement, but only after overcoming a dreadful eye injury sustained in a match against South Fremantle midway through his debut season in the west. After specialist medical treatment in Adelaide and Melbourne, paid for by the club, Limb recovered, and in 1912 he repaid his benefactors in spectacular fashion by topping the WAFL goal kicking list with 40 goals as the Maroons leapt dramatically up the ladder from last place in 1911 to a first ever league premiership. In the challenge final against East Fremantle, Limb kicked 4 of his team's 5 goals in a match-winning performance.

Subiaco went on to annex further premierships in 1913 and 1915, with Limb, who was often 'licensed to roam' away from full forward in search of kicks, making a telling contribution on both occasions.

Limb's career continued in staccato fashion after 1915. He officially 'retired' on a number of occasions, only to find himself unable to resist the 'lure of the leather'. His final game in league ranks came as late as 1923.

**LOFTS, COLIN**: Seldom if ever brilliant in an eye-catching way, Colin Lofts was nevertheless a key figure in the history of the Perth Football Club. He made his WANFL debut in 1969, and became a regular senior player the following year. A tough, relentlessly determined player, he may have lacked skill - his kicking, for example, could scarcely be said to be of league standard - but his value to the team, particularly in important games, was immense. Playing on a half back flank, he was among Perth's best players in the losing grand finals of 1970, against South Fremantle, and 1974, against East Fremantle. In 1975 he was rewarded for his obviously wholehearted commitment to his team's cause by being appointed captain, a role he clearly relished. In 1976 he had the satisfaction of leading from the front as the Demons overcame the grand final challenge

afforded by East Perth to win by 23 points. He then crowned his career in style the following year when he skippered the side to a record breaking 26.13 (169) to 14.12 (96) grand final annihilation of East Fremantle. Lofts retired after the game, having donned the Perth jumper on 154 occasions. His feat in captaining the club to two premierships has only been bettered by Mal Atwell, who led Perth to three consecutive flags between 1966 and 1968.

**LONDON, KEITH** made his senior debut with West Perth in 1950, but he spent the majority of both that season and the next in the reserves, winning the Prendergast Medal for the fairest and best player at that level in 1951. In 1952 he came into his own and, aged just nineteen, made his interstate debut for Western Australia against South Australia in Adelaide. He went on to represent his state half a dozen times, including games at the 1953 Adelaide carnival. London played a total of 144 league games during his eleven season WANFL career, and was a popular winner of the club's 1958 fairest and best player award. Much of his best football was played as a wingman. However, having missed selection in the Cardinals' team for the 1951 grand final against South Fremantle he suffered similar disappointment in his final year with the club when he failed to make the cut for the 1960 premiership clash with East Perth, from which West Perth again emerged triumphant. In 1961, Keith London crossed to Perth, but added just half a dozen senior games to his tally.

**LOUGHRIDGE, JOHN:** Regarded during his career as one of the classiest centremen ever to grace the game in West Australia, John Loughridge was a key factor in West Perth's post World War Two emergence as a league power. Frequently seen to best effect in big games, he won a Simpson Medal after the 1946 grand final despite being on the losing side, and was among the best players

afraid when the Cardinals broke through for a premiership in 1949 after failing three times in succession at the last hurdle.

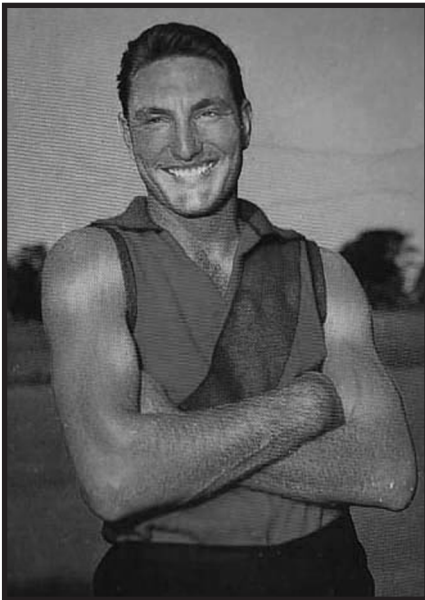
Dynamic, resourceful and highly skilled, Loughridge was a popular winner of the 1946 Sandover Medal, after finishing runner-up the previous year. He was West Perth's club champion on three occasions - no mean achievement considering that he was surrounded by players of the quality of Stan 'Pops' Heal, Ray Schofield, Fred Buttsworth and Ray Scott. John Loughridge represented Western Australia 3 times.

**LOVEGROVE, EDWIN 'DICK':** Always referred to as 'Dick' rather than Edwin, Lovegrove was a member in 1926 of Claremont-Cottesloe's inaugural WAFL side. He went on to enjoy a twelve season league career with the club, during which he played a total of 154 senior games. Equally at home in the centre or across half back, he won his club's fairest and best award in 1929, and served as skipper in 1932 and 1933. His interstate career comprised 4 of Western Australia's 5 matches at the 1930 Adelaide carnival.

**Lower South West Football League:** Formed in 1959, the LSWFL is centred on the towns of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown and Manjimup which lie between 250 and 300 kilometres south of Perth. The league currently comprises Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Deanmill, Manjimup Imperials, Manjimup Tigers and Southerners. The 2007 flag was won by Imperials who scored a hard fought 9 point win over Deanmill in the grand final.

LSWFL senior premiers 1959 to 2006 were: 1959 Manjimup Tigers 1960 Manjimup Tigers 1961 Manjimup Imperials 1962 Manjimup Tigers 1963 Deanmill 1964 Southerners 1965 Southerners 1966 Deanmill 1967 Southerners 1968 Deanmill 1969 Southerners 1970 Deanmill 1971 Southerners 1972 Deanmill 1973 Deanmill 1974 Deanmill 1975 Southerners 1976

Southerners 1977 Manjimup Tigers 1978  
 Manjimup Tigers 1979 Southerners 1980  
 Deanmill 1981 Boyup Brook 1982 Manjimup  
 Imperials 1983 Manjimup Imperials 1984  
 Bridgetown 1985 Southerners 1986  
 Bridgetown 1987 Deanmill 1988 Southerners  
 1989 Manjimup Imperials 1990 Deanmill  
 1991 Deanmill 1992 Southerners 1993  
 Manjimup Imperials 1994 Deanmill 1995  
 Southerners 1996 Manjimup Tigers 1997  
 Deanmill 1998 Manjimup Imperials 1999  
 Southerners 2000 Southerners 2001  
 Southerners 2002 Deanmill 2003  
 Bridgetown 2004 Manjimup Imperials 2005  
 Southerners 2006 Southerners



*Ray Lucev*  
*(West Perth & South Melbourne)*

**LUCEV, RAY:** Combining tremendous pace with a pronounced ruthless streak, West Perth's Ray Lucev was Public Enemy Number One as far as many opposition supporters were concerned. He made the first of precisely 100 WANFL appearances in 1961, and spent the early part of his career playing mainly as a full back. However, it was not long before the Cardinals selection

committee began to regard him as a liability in that position, owing to the large number of free kicks - and easy goals - he gave away. He was moved to centre half forward where his strength, vigour, and authority in the air, coupled with his trademark dash and physicality made him a decided asset. He was chosen to represent Western Australia for the first time in 1964, and went on to play all 3 of the state's matches that year. In 1965 he crossed to South Melbourne where he played 30 VFL games in two seasons, kicking 14 goals.

**Lynn Medal:** East Fremantle's annual senior fairest and best award.

#### Footnotes

1 From *Bloodstained Angels: the Rise and Fall of the Foreign Legion* by Mark Branagan and Mike Lefebvre, page 11. Herbie Matthews would later go on to win the 1940 Brownlow Medal.

2 Ibid, page 11.

3 *The Tigers' Tale* by Kevin Casey, page 128.