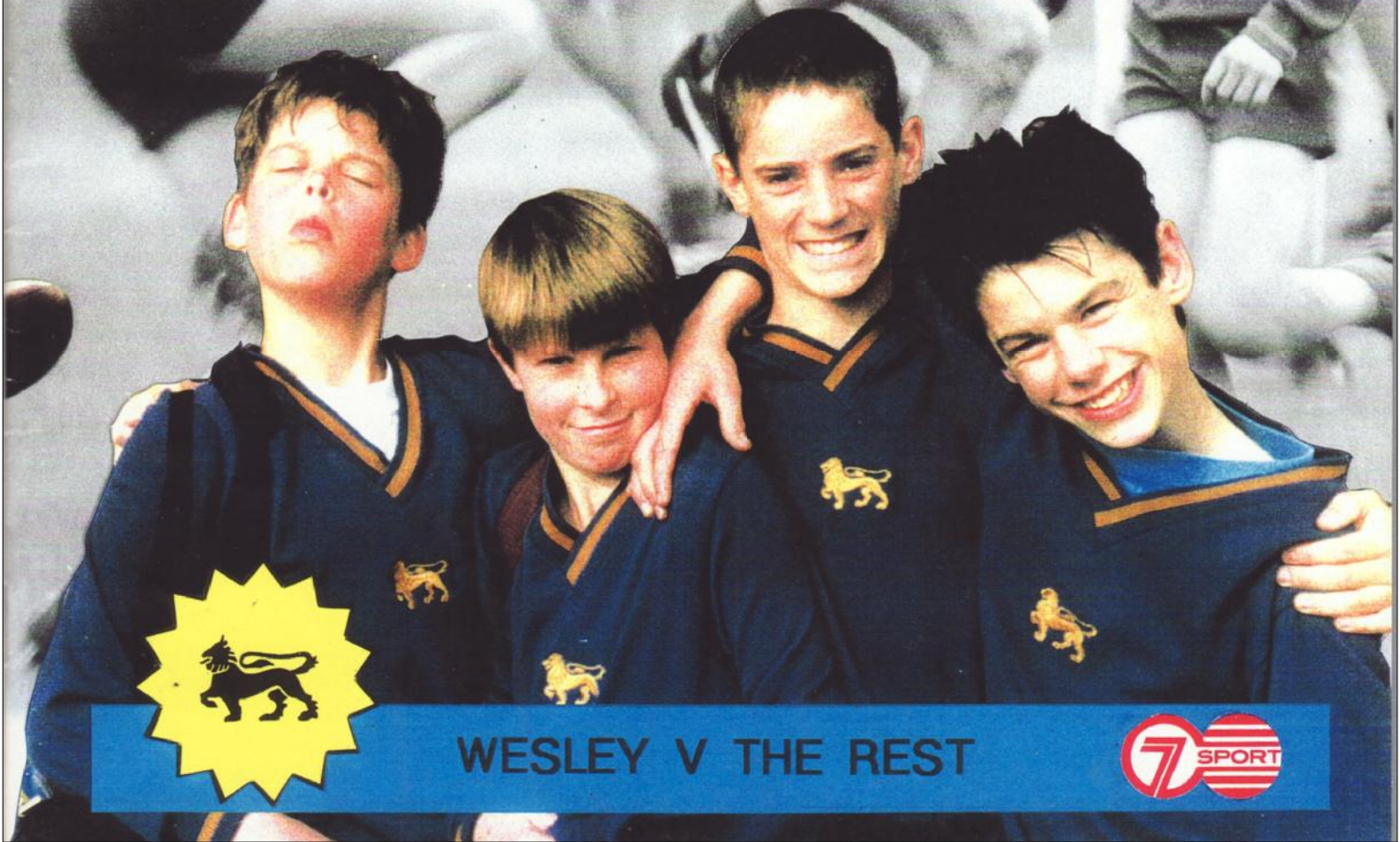


 FOOTBALL
Record

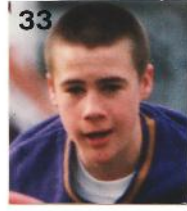
1997

**8A
LIONS**



WESLEY V THE REST





Inside



- 2 **8As TEAM OF 1997** Who played where
- 3 **THAT WAS THE SEASON THAT WAS** 1997 reviewed in detail, round by round.
- 22 **THE TEAM OF 1997** Player Profiles and Awards.
- 24 **FOOTY PIX & WORDS** Memorable moments from the Lions' season.
- 26 **McSHOTS** Footy tips from Lions' star rover, Tommy Vial.
- 27 **NORWICH RISING STAR** Read about this year's winner, Tim Parkinson and how he almost became a bear!
- PLAYER IN THE SPOTLIGHT** Hot gossip about Lion sex symbol Matt Turner.
- 29 **1997 GOALKICKERS** Who was the hungriest Lion in 1997?
- 30 **TALKING FOOTY** Dave Warren brings you all the news from a great season.
- 31 **POCKET PROFILE** Which Lion is secretly in love with Elle Mac?
- CULTURE CLUB** Find out the name of Andy Edward's favourite movie
- UNDER THE HAMMER** Dean Karvelis finds out about life in the firing line.
- 32 **SUPER PIN UP** One for the girls! A great action snap of a Lion heart throb.
- 33 **QUIT SMOKEFREE HERO** Dylan Fletcher under the microscope.
- 35 **PLAY TIME** Lion defender Dan Smith talks tough!

FOOTBALL Record "The Football Record" is an **OVER-THE-TOP PRODUCTION**
 Designed, written and produced by Richard Stone.
 Volume 8, 1997



LIONS 8As TEAM of 97



FIRST RUCK FLETCHER

SECOND RUCK McCREDDEN

TURNER

FAIRLEY

ROVER HARRISON

ROVER VIAL

SMITH

BOUCHAUD

ABBOTT

BAINBRIDGE

NAYLOR

DAWSON

EDWARDS

PARKINSON

WILSON

SLOMAN

KARVELIS

WORRALL-
THOMPSON

HAIN

MORRIS

WARREN

INTERCHANGE

HOLDING

FELD

ELSNER

SILVER

CURRIE

JOHNSON

COACH

MR.STONE

SKILLS COACH

MR.JENNISON

EMERGENCY COACH

MR.MURNANE

MATCH RECORD

Played: 10

Won: 2

Lost: 8

Drawn: -

GOAL UMPIRES

MR.FAIRLEY

MR.VIAL

TIMEKEEPERS:

MR.EDWARDS

MR.NAYLOR

EQUIPMENT CARRIER

MR.DAWSON

CHEERLEADERS

MRS.McCREDDEN

MRS.EDWARDS

CHEER SQUAD

ALL THE OTHER
MUMS & DADS

LIONS SHOW POTENTIAL....

WESLEY 4. 2. 26
CAULFIELD 7. 4. 46

GOALS: Sloman 2, Turner, Karvelis
BEST: Parkinson, Fairley, Fletcher,
Sloman, McCreddin, Turner,
Edwards, Karvelis, Naylor

INJURIES: Fairley (broken radar)
Vial (face), Harrison (rubber chest)

BEST DRESSED FOOTBALLER: Matt Turner

The 1997 season began promisingly for the Lions, as they put up a gallant fight against the highly regarded Caulfield Grammar out at Wheelers Hill on Saturday. Although weakened by the absence of Smith, Currie and Morris, the Lions warmed up to their task after a lazy first quarter to match the home team for the remaining three.

It was a still, fresh morning out in the wilds of Wheelers Hill as the ball was bounced in front of a packed gallery of parents and supporters. Caulfield goaled early as a generous free kick set them up from point blank range, and before the Lions could wipe the sleep from their eyes, another goal was on the board as a loose ball was crumbed near the goal mouth by a wide awake Caulfield forward. Thank goodness for Captain Parkinson who was sweeping deep into defence, marking strongly and repelling numerous forward thrusts. Andy Edwards too was providing staunch resistance, but down the field the Lions were making some fundamental errors! While the home team attacked the ball, the Lions waited. While Caulfield players were decisive and positive, the visitors seemed to be standing around looking at each other! A long bomb found its mark for the home team, and at the first change they led a scoreless Wesley combination by 19 points.

A few thoughtful words from the coach and a general rev up from the Lion cheer squad produced the desired effect, and the second term saw a more alert, committed combination take the game up to the home team. Dylan "Fish" Fletcher moved out of neutral and began to provide his team mates with a moving target, whilst Deano was positioning himself well at CHF. The Lions first goal was soon on the board as a pass from Fish found Matty Turner within range of the big sticks. Harro was throwing himself into anything that remotely resembled a pack and Nick McCreddin was proving to be a more than useful tall on the ball and at CHB. The Lion's second was soon on the board as some skilful manoeuvring deep in the left pocket by Abbo and Blake W-T resulted in the ball being snapped back into the corridor, where Sloama gleefully grabbed the Sherrin dead in front. Caulfield, meanwhile, was not taking the Lion's resurgence lightly, and the home team was working

hard to maintain its advantage. There was an answering goal, but strong defensive work from Nayls and Eugene, and persistent hassling by "Rabbit" Warren and Lewis "I'd Rather Play on the Forward Line" Bainbridge held the Caulfield forwards at bay.

After a welcome orange break, the Lions returned to the battlefield with confidence and determination - maybe victory was not out of reach after all! The Lions had learned the value of numbers at the ball and by now they were contesting every dispute with vigour. Ozzie and Willo were digging deep into packs and Berny was playing close to his man on the half back line. Daniel Elsner too was showing courage in the clinches, but once again it was Parko who was unstoppable! All the Lions needed was a converter! Despite the efforts of Turner, Fletcher and Fairley the vital goal proved ungettable. Even Tommy Vial's attempt to head a goal came to nothing. Caulfield, meanwhile, snuck one through after Eugene's tunnel ball technique was deemed to be illegal.

The Lions trailed by four straight kicks at the final change, and it would require a huge effort to steal the points. An early goal to Caulfield virtually sealed the Lion's fate, but they weren't about to throw in the towel, and Sloama answered with his second after being flattened from behind. Nayls was keeping the big CHF quiet, and the onballers were still having a red hot go, but a controversial goal to the home team set the Lions back again. Only temporarily however, as a neat pass from Lewis found Deano, and he kicked truly for his team's fourth. Jimmy was on fire, and Andy and Parko were still giving their all in the defensive zone, but the Lions were a dominant converter short, and when the final siren sounded four straight kicks were still required. If only we'd woken up sooner!



Rd 2

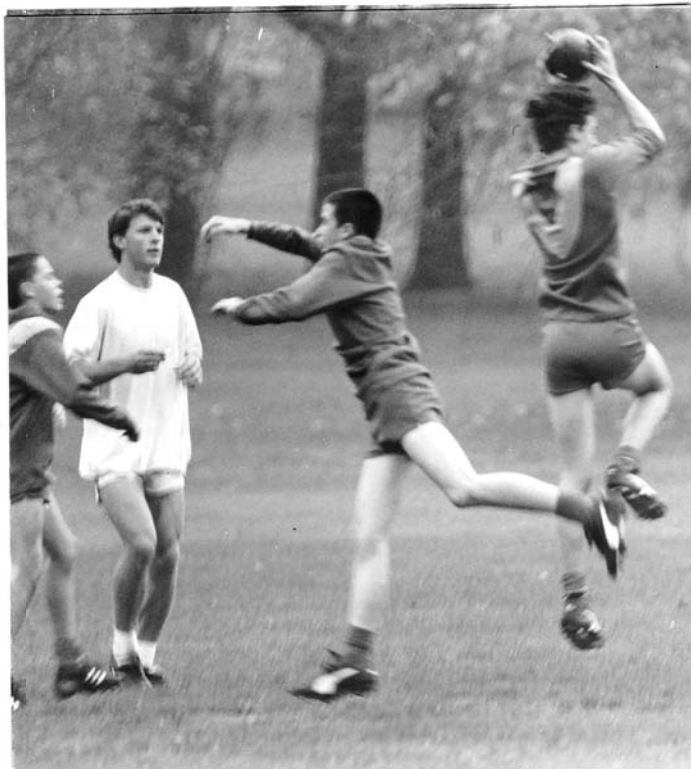
LIONS GO DOWN FIGHTING

WESLEY 4. 7. 31
CAREY 8. 8. 56

GOALS: Worrall-Thompson, Naylor,
Karvelis, Vial
BEST: Turner, Fairley, Vial, Parkinson,
Harrison, Fletcher, Naylor, Wilson,
Sloman, Worrall-Thompson
INJURIES: Harrison (head) Fairley (jaw)
Parkinson (entire body)
TACKLE OF THE DAY: Harrison
F.A. CUP AWARD: Karvelis

Disappointed, but not disheartened by their first round loss to Caulfield, the Lions hit the training track hard this week. Tackling and teamwork were high on the coach's agenda, and the training sessions were encouraging. The unavailability of professional Bar-Mitzvah guests, Daniel Smith and Richie Morris was unfortunate, but there were more than enough players eager to grab their spots in the As. The selectors named an almost unchanged team - only Feld replacing an indisposed Elsner in the twenty that had travelled to Wheelers Hill. Warren was named as spearhead, McCreddin full back, and Naylor was moved closer to the action.

Fawkner Park was in good nick for the big game and the Lions looked impressive in their warm-up, but there were some niggling doubts about the size of the opposition. Knowing the importance of a strong start, the Lions were keen to take the initiative, but Carey found an open forward line twice inside the first few minutes, and before they knew it the Lions were trailing by two straight kicks. The bigger opponents seemed to be worrying some of the smaller Lions, but Jimmy was setting a great example, fearlessly throwing himself into the fray, and almost snapping our first. Moments later, skilful flanking by Blake Woggle-Thimpson produced the Lions' first, and as the Lions set themselves for the centre bounce, Harro had a few words to say. "What are you scared of guys? The bigger they are the harder they fall! Watch this!" Moments later Harro hurled himself rugby style at a huge lumbering Carey defender and crashed him to the ground. "Hmmm..." thought Tommy and Willo, "if Harro can do it why can't we? Let's show 'em fellas!" Suddenly the complexion of the game changed as hard working skipper "Fish" Fletcher and the ever-reliable Parko took control across the centre, and brilliant onballer, Matty Turner began to weave some of his Hird like magic. A Turner bomb carried into the square where opportunistic crumbler Tommy Vial converted to give the Lions the lead, but it was only temporary, as Carey snuck through their third as the quarter ended.



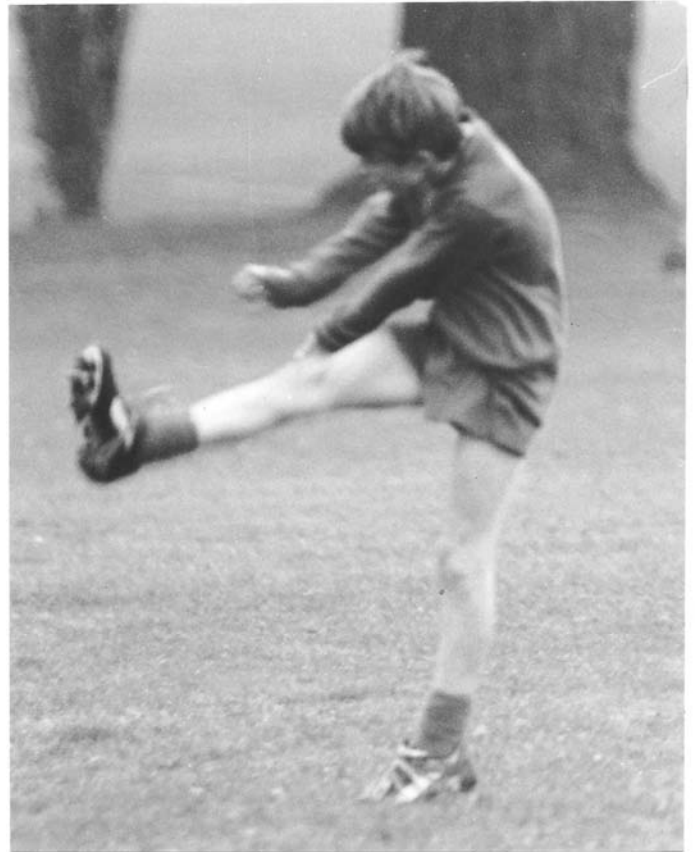
Lion skipper Dylan Fletcher miscues an attempted spoil

The Lions' defence had tightened up since the opening minutes, and the pressure that they exerted during the second quarter was crucial in keeping the Lions in the game. Thanks to close checking by "Handy" Andy Edwards, Ozzie Dawson and Nick McCreddin, Carey were held goal-less for most of the quarter...the problem was, so were the Lions! Despite the efforts of Rabbit, Abbott and Sloman, the congested forward line made conversion difficult. Only when "Tough as Nails" Naylor decided to run to the goal square, mark a Turner pass, and boot a major, did the Lions trouble the scorers. Harro, meanwhile had come a cropper when he tried to tackle three Carey giants simultaneously, and finished on the bottom of the pack. Head spinning and knees wobbling Harro was forced to leave the field much to his teams' disappointment. Moments later Carey caught the Lions napping and snuck through their fourth to finish the first half 9 points clear.

The third quarter produced some desperate football from both teams, as each tried to gain the advantage. A brilliant passage of soccer took the ball from the outer wing towards the Lions' goal, where Deano "Maradona" Karvelis slammed the ball into the back of the net and took the Lions to within three points. Fairley was dominating around the packs and along with the skipper he was continuing to push the ball forward. Lewis Bainbridge had moved up forward when Harro had been forced from the field...but he probably wished he hadn't after skewing a set shot to the left

when Tommy Vial had set him up dead in front! We still trailed by a few points when the gallant Parko was scrunched in a pack and had the wind knocked out of him. Toggle-Whompson moved into the centre and was immediately in the action, but the Lions' defence was under enormous pressure. Bernie Howard had replaced Eugene in a pocket and was fighting hard, and Feldy had settled into his role at half back, but not even the rugged body-to-body play of Nails in the ruck could prevent Carey from registering their fifth. At the final change the home team still trailed by a goal and a half.

There's an old saying in footy about tall players not getting any shorter as a game goes on, and it came to pass on Saturday. As the Lions began to show signs of wear and tear from three tough quarters, the Carey big men began to exert a greater influence. Despite the brave efforts of the Lion defenders, a couple of early goals to the opposition gave them an unassailable lead, and although Willo, Matty Turner, and Sloma tried hard to set up counter thrusts, the Lions could only manage minors. Jimmy meanwhile took a blow to the jaw that would have KO'd Mike Tyson! Like his team, Jimmy got up and kept on fighting, but it was too late to work a miracle, and the game was all over bar the shouting.



Lion crumber, Tommy Vial sinks the slipper during the final quarter of Saturday's match against Carey at Fawcner Park

Next week: Lions vs Haileybury



Tommy Vial blocks a Carey opponent while his team mates Jimmy Fairley, Andrew Sloman, Dave Warren, and Lewis Bainbridge prepare to pounce.

Rd 3

LIONS FINISH STRONGLY!

WESLEY 5. 10. 40
HAILEYBURY 6. 11. 47

GOALS: Harrison 2, Sloman 2, Turner

BEST: Parkinson, Smith, Edwards, Harrison, Turner, Naylor, Bouchaud, Dawson, Karvelis, Worrall-Thompson, Sloman, Wilson, Fletcher, Howard, Abbott, Warren, Morris, Feld, Elsner, Holding

INJURIES: A couple of the opposition who got in Big Matt's way.

MARK of the DAY: Warren

GREAT DEFENDER AWARD: Edwards

RUNNER of the DAY: Tommy Vial

In their enthusiasm to gain the edge over this week's opponents, Haileybury, the Lions threw everything into their training session on Monday night. Unfortunately their efforts backfired and several key players suffered serious injuries. Tommy Vial attempted one too many suicidal smotherers and copped a brutal blow to a digit, whilst star ruck rover Jim Fairley, in an attempt to increase his level of toughness, picked a fight with ~~Ex~~ Matt Naylor - only to come off second best! Nick McCreddin's determined efforts to increase his kicking power produced disastrous results when he miscued an attempted drop kick and slammed his big toe into the dirt so hard that immediate hospitalisation was required. Lewis Bainbridge had already declared himself unfit after injuring a hand in last week's contest against Carey, so the selectors task this week was a difficult one. Luckily, the return of party animals, Richie Morris and Daniel "Spike" Smith plugged a couple of gaps, and the good Bs form of Johnny Holding earned him a promotion to the As bench.

The dew lay heavily on paddock No.6 out on the Keysborough farm as Matty Turner dodged the cows on his way to toss the coin. Kicking to the left of the screen in the opening quarter, the Lions adjusted to the conditions quickly, but as the home team posted a couple of early goals, they found that several of their opponents would take some stopping. Fortunately, ever reliable "Handy Andy" Edwards was already showing the determination for which he is famous, and along with the close checking of Howard and Bouchaud, he was able to stem the flow of Haileybury majors. Meanwhile, Parko and Harro were beginning to fire, and the Lions too were threatening the goals. A couple of minors were followed by a goal to Sloama as first a free kick, and then a penalty brought him within range. At the break the Lions trailed by eight points, and they were confident of making the game a close contest.

Taking the game right up to their opponents during the second term, the Lions matched the



Matt Turner marks strongly during the final quarter

Haileyburians in most departments. Although the Lions ruckman, "Superfish" Fletcher was being outstretched by his lanky opponent, he was countering well by clever use of his body. "Flash" Matt Turner was giving his opposite number the slip, and "Spike" Smith was relishing his return to football. Deano was providing a focus at CHF, and Blake Waffle-Timtam was being creative on a flank. Although Dave Warren still looked sleepy, Marcus was wide awake in the pocket and eager to assist.

A free kick to Turner resulted in the Lion's second, but the home team replied with their third, and soon after posted another. Strong play by Ozzie Dawson and Feldy across half back was helping the Lions to rebound the ball out of defence, and Parko was tirelessly working it towards the scoring zone. Suddenly a pair of quick hands extricated the ball from a pack and Harro found himself on the receiving end. "GOAL!" signalled goal umpire Dawson, and the Lions were back to within ten points as the quarter ended.

Big Matty Naylor had been watching the game with some interest from CHB, but his impact on proceedings had been moderate. He couldn't stop thinking about poor Jimmy Fairley lying in the goal square on the Front Turf. "It's all my fault" sobbed Nays, "I shouldn't have sat on him!" Suddenly Tommy Vial's voice brought him to his senses. "Stoney says to stop feeling sorry for yourself and pull the finger out! It's what Jimmy would want!" "He's right" thought Nays, as he grabbed the ball

out of the air and sent it back towards the centre. "Let's do it for Jimmy fellas!" The ball came back and again Matty rebounded it. "This is just like kick to kick" he thought as it returned yet again. "Now it's time I went for a run!" Moments later he was having a shot for goal - but he missed by a whisker, and the opposition had taken advantage of his absence on the back line and snuck through their fifth from a generous free kick. Then big Matty went bananas! Haileybury forwards went down like nine pins as Nayls charged upfield and began to throw his weight around. As the Lions gathered for the three quarter time address, they had been well and truly fired up by Big Matt's performance, and there was little the coach needed to say! The final quarter really provided the loyal Lion supporters with something to cheer about as their team (in the words of Haileybury's coach) "lifted their intensity". A desperate, hard hitting fifteen minutes of football brought the Lions ever closer to their opponents score, as the ball seemed locked in the Lion's half of the ground. Spike was superb, Parko persistent, Fletch ferocious, Willo willing and Turner terrific in their efforts to set the ball up for the forwards. Deano and Blake were hungry for the footy, and "Rabbit" Warren finally came out of his burrow leading strongly and grabbing a sensational mark. Elsner and Morris were busy crumbing, but it was Harro who emerged from a pack with a free kick to record the Lion's fourth. Meanwhile, the Lion defence was providing sterling support. Eugene, Bernie and Johnny Holding were keeping their men out of the contest, and Andy was both dashing and dour. Breaking clear from half back, Ozzie passed long to Richie who passed it in turn to Sloama, and the Lions posted another, but Haileybury was applying enormous pressure and the Lions were finding it difficult to convert from the congested corridor. Two straight kicks would do it, but behinds were the best we could muster and as the umpires called time, the Lions still trailed by a frustrating seven points!



"Out of my way!" Big Matt Naylor gets tough



"Don't worry...he's just a big bully!"



Ozzie Dawson clears the ball while Johnny Holding blocks a Haileybury opponent



"I did it for you Jimmy"

Rd 4

LIONS ASSERT DOMINANCE!

WESLEY PRAHRAN 12. 10. 82

WESLEY G.W. 2. 2. 14

GOALS: Worrall-Thompson 5, Turner 2,
Warren 2, Sloman, Karvelis, Harrison

BEST: Whole team

INJURIES: Nil

B.O.G.: Turner

G.O.D.: Turner

Joke of the Day: "Can I keep the change?" (Skipper
Harrison after being given a coin to toss by
the coach.)

The Lions put the disappointment of the past few weeks behind them on Saturday as they stormed to a landslide victory over their hapless Glen Waverley counterparts. The return of injured stars Fairley, Vial, McCreddin and Bainbridge, together with the thrill of playing on the hallowed Front Turf, lifted the Lions to an impressive four quarter performance which may well mark a turning point in their season.

Despite frozen fingers and a slippery surface, the Lions gained control of the match early in the first quarter - even though the visitors were first to trouble the electronic scoreboard with a long bouncing goal. Fired up by his great last quarter against Haileybury, "Rabbit" Warren was making himself a target at full forward, and he was responsible for the Lions' reply as a pass from "Spike" Smith found him within range. From this point on, the G.W. Pussy Cats were never in the race. Moments later Rabbit was in the action again as "Magic" Turner slipped the ball across to his full forward who passed it in turn to Blake Warragul-Thomastown. Not one to waste an opportunity in front of goals, Blake made no mistake! Parko was already establishing himself as a dominant influence and along with "Fish" Fletcher in the ruck and Spike on the wing, he was giving the Lions plenty of drive. Already the home team was showing plenty of run on their back line led by Andy "Can I have a run on the Ball" Edwards and Ozzie Dawson. Meanwhile, the visitors' sneaky tactic of disguising their centreman in a purple guernsey was uncovered. Captain-for-a-Day, "Chopper" Harrison was busy as usual, and soon after taking a brilliant sliding mark in the pocket he managed to convert a header for the Lions' third. Willo was reading the game like a comic book, but the slippery ball was providing him with a few headaches, as first one, then another high bomb rebounded off his chest. A free kick in front of the big sticks to Andy Sloman (just for a change!) produced the Lions' fourth for the quarter, and at the break they held a handy lead.

The Pussy Cats came out meowing, and in no time they had snuck one past the Lion defence. At this



Daniel "Spike" Smith lunges desperately at the ball

point Nick "Toenails" McCreddin and his offside, Euge resolved that the visitors' second would be their last! "Tough as Nails" Naylor was being challenged for his heavyweight crown by a Johnny come lately from Glen Waverley, and he wasn't taking too kindly to the attention he was receiving. Spike was also being subjected to a bit of treatment in the scrums, and both he and Naylor decided to put a stop to all this nonsense! The visitors suddenly found their avenues of supply cut off, and with nuggety negating by Bernie and dashing defence by Lewis, their half forwards had no hope!



Lion defender Andy Edwards receives some attention

A smart goal to Blake pushed the Lions' lead out to 21 points, and at the long change there was an air of confidence in the Lion camp.

The presence of the WCTV camera crew had not gone unnoticed by the Lions, and during the half time interval they decided to turn it on for the Optus viewers. The premiership quarter was all Lions, as the ball remained locked in their forward line. Parko in the pivot was unstoppable, and Magic Turner was in scintillating form! Playing the loose man role to perfection, his smooth moves and pinpoint disposal left both his team mates and opposition players gaping with admiration. At the five minute mark even the traffic on St.Kilda Road ground to a halt as Matt baulked his way around the outer flank and threaded an impossible goal from deep in the Netball Court pocket. The Lions' skill level seemed to lift all over the ground and Jimmy Fairley and Richie Morris entertained the crowd with some deft moves and delightful disposals. Superb teamwork resulted in the play of the day, as Parko, Spike, Rabbit and Blake threaded the Sherrin along the Members wing and Dangerous Deano capped off the move with the Lions' seventh major. Another goal to Rabbit, and the Lions led by a commanding 45 points at the final break.

Nick and Euge were seriously considering a quick trip to the 7-11. "They won't even notice we're gone Euge! The ball never comes up here anyway!" "Save your legs, Macca" replied Euge, "I'll dial a pizza on my mobile!" "Get me a large Coke and a Super Special Supreme with absolutely everything!" chipped in Marcus who had picked a bad day to try out his new position on the back line. Meanwhile, up at the business end of the ground, the Lions were soon busy again. Tommy Vial was enjoying a run in the pocket, and Andy Edwards was happy to have been shifted to the wing. Fairley was finding



Lion centreman Tim Parkinson watches helplessly as the ball eludes his grasp. Bernie Howard moves in.

form whilst Fletch and Nayls were dominating in the air, but it was Blake W-T who fired the final nails into the Glen Waverley coffin. Patrolling inside the fifty metre zone - as if he were tied to the goal post by an invisible cord - Blake converted anything that came his way and added three goals to his tally. His final snap on the siren brought the house down, and sealed the long awaited victory for the Lions.



ABOVE: Goal sneak, Blake Worrall-Thompson snaps one of his five for the day.

*FAR LEFT: Jimmy Fairley shows his style
LEFT: Nick McCreddin contests a bounce*

LIONS MISS BY A WHISKER

WESLEY 6. 8. 44
 GEELONG COLLEGE 8. 3. 51

GOALS: Sloman 2, Vial, Smith, Parkinson,
 Worrall-Thompson

BEST: Fairley, Parkinson, Fletcher, Wilson,
 Vial, Sloman, Turner, Dawson, Smith,
 Bouchaud, Worrall-Thompson, Edwards

INJURIES: Fairley (neck, ankle)

BAULK of the DAY: Abbott

TACKLE of the DAY: Vial

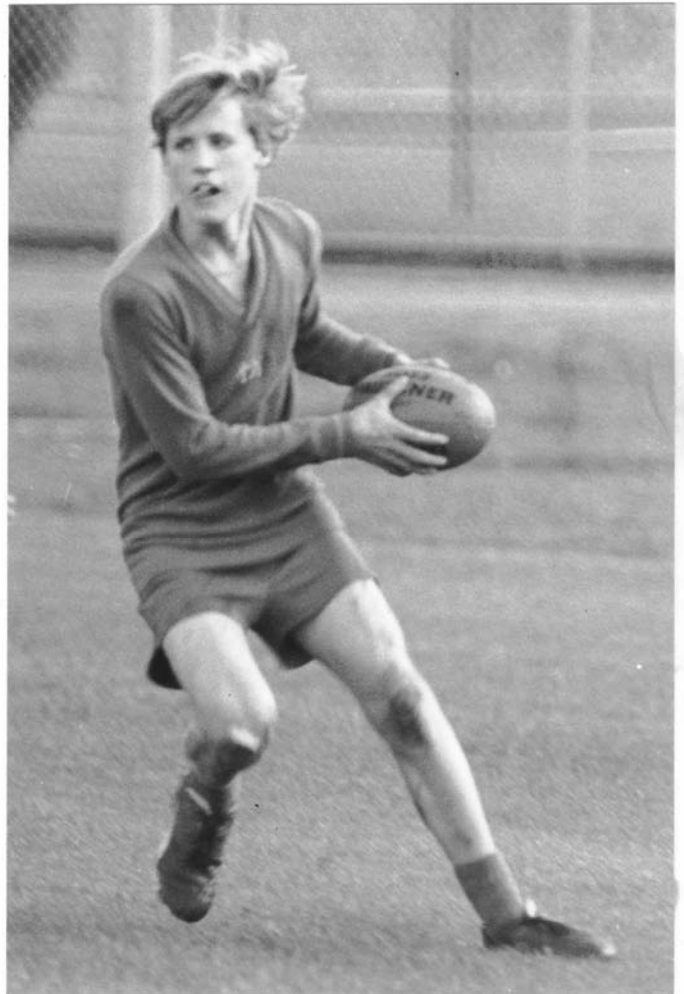
BEST DRESSED AWARD: Smith

FUNNY HAIRCUT of the WEEK: Warren

Cheered by their recent whitewashing of the Glen Waverley Pussycats, the Lions hit the training track hard this week in preparation for the annual excursion to Geelong. So hard in fact that Deano dislocated a finger, Abbo bruised his back and Smithy hurt something but I can't remember what it was. Jimmy thought Wednesday was Tuesday so he had a light run in his school shoes. Meanwhile, Harro and Nick stayed home all week to catch up on "Play School" and the Banana Boys so could not be considered for selection. Andy Edwards was promoted to the prestigious position of first rover, and Blake Squirrel-TomTom was asked to alternate with him. Marcus "Please-can-I-play-on-the-backline" Abbott finally got his wish, and Bernie took up the key defensive role vacated by McCreddin.

The promised showers were nowhere in sight as the bus cruised out of Mowbray Street at some ungodly hour, but it was a bit soldiers bold! Knowing that the time for a pre-match warm up would be limited at Geelong, the boys began loosening up in the bus with a few armspins - much to the dismay of the female passengers, and the delight of the innocent little Year Sevens.

Led by Captain-for-a-Day Daniel Smith, the Lions dribbled out onto the slippery Aberdeen Street Oval, only to be met by a brisk breeze straight off the Antarctic. Looking resplendent in his striking black polo sweatshirt, "Spike" called poorly, and the Lions found themselves kicking against the wind for the opening stanza. Annoyed by their reputation as slow starters, the Lions were determined to be first on the board, and after a couple of false starts, the skipper managed to squeeze a kick through a pack and bring up the opening goal of the match. The Lions however, were not firing on all cylinders, and some lazy tackling, embarrassing mixups and unfortunate umpiring allowed the home team to notch two majors in reply. Fletch was already outmanoeuvring his taller opponent, and Jimmy was getting a lot of the ball around half forward. Willo was grabbing anything that came within reach, Jonny was holding



Lion ruck-rover, Matt Turner, baulks around a Geelong opponent



Jimmy Fairley lays a serious tackle during the final quarter

(joke) his opponent, and Eugene was being strong in defence. Conversion was difficult though, and at the first change, the Lions trailed by five points.

The second quarter was a quarter of lost opportunities, as the Lions failed miserably to capitalise on the wind advantage. There was no shortage of players willing to bomb the ball forward, as Parko, Magic Turner and Handy Andy were gaining plenty of possessions, but a congested scoring zone and a lack of system prevented the Lions from adding more than a solitary behind. Despite his stunning new hairstyle, Rabbit just couldn't get into the play, and Sloma just couldn't get his boot to the ball! Ozzie and the new streamlined Lewis Bainbridge were providing some dash from the backline, and Smithy was showing his customary G&D, but Nayls was not his usual dominating self, and Geelong managed to pin a couple of majors against the tide. Speaking of G&D, Tommy Vial was displaying plenty of it - his tackling and chasing had to be seen to be believed. Late in the quarter, Andy Edwards brought the crowd to its feet as he took on five opponents single handed!



Blake Worrall-Thompson centres the footy during the Lion's comeback

The oranges and frozen cordial did no good at all, and the Lions were jumped in the third quarter. Before they knew what had hit them, the home team had added two more goals and stretched their lead to almost thirty points! The Lions seemed to have stopped in their tracks. The only bright spots for the term were a clever soccer goal by Andy Sloman, and the solid defensive work by the ever reliable Tim Parkinson. Had the Lions been hit by the delayed effects of the arduous bus journey, or had they just given up?



Daniel Smith flies over his team mate Matt Naylor at a throw in

The coach was not amused, and he had a few harsh words at the final huddle. The faithful Lion supporters had not travelled all this way to see their heroes fall in a crumpled heap! What about it boys! Do you want the footy or don't you?

Now it was Geelong's turn to look flatfooted, as the Lions moved up a gear and began to make it happen at long last. With Fletch controlling the ball ups and throw-ins there were plenty of opportunities for the on ballers, and the forward line finally began to function. Fairley and Turner were providing plenty of opportunities for the converters, and it wasn't long before a long pass



Back pocket, Marcus Abbott demonstrates his famous double baulk

Rd 6

MID-SEASON BREAK TAKES TOLL ON LIONS

WESLEY 6. 1. 37
CAREY 8. 12. 60

GOALS: Worrall-Thompson 2, Morris, Abbott

BEST: Fairley, Parkinson, Naylor,
Fletcher

Wesley entered the contest at Bulleen a little underdone after a three week break. Carey were strong opponents but the Lions' endeavour was fantastic, and emergency coach, Mr. Murnane, was suitably impressed.

Carey had four or five tall players pushing six foot, and their scoring potential was always going to be greater than that of the fast, but smaller Lions. Wesley applied pressure on Careys' key players throughout the game, but were unable to wrest the lead from the home team. The forwards worked particularly hard to keep the ball in the attacking zone, with Parko, Jimbo, Nays and Fletch standing out for their consistent efforts.

from Andy "Blondes-Have-More-fun" Edwards was snatched by crumber Richie Morris and threaded through the big sticks. Matt Naylor had decided to extract the digit and a long bomb towards the square was jubilantly converted by the ubiquitous Parko. Meanwhile, Bernie Howard and his support crew of Eug, Abbo, Ozzie and Lewy were making things tough for the Geelong forwards. Such was his confidence, that Abbo went for a run and demonstrated his famous double balk! Tommy was



Wingman Ben Wilson reaches high for a mark late in the game

being busy, and Willo was reading the play superbly, but it was Blake who brought up the Lions' fifth and gave his team a sniff! Deano was using his body well at full forward helping to clear the traffic for the goal sneaks, and it was Sloma who grabbed a half chance and took the Lions to within a kick and a bit. Geelong sensed danger and headed towards the boundary at every opportunity. Smithy urged his players to dare to be wise, and the Lions worked the ball forward in a do or die effort, but valuable seconds were wasted as the home team chipped the ball over the boundary and down the hill....there might just be time....if only....if only...IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE PLAYED LIKE THIS ALL DAY!

Live footy. Drink



LIONS CAUGHT SHORT!

WESLEY 1. 3. 9
CAULFIELD 10. 9. 69

GOAL: Morris

BEST: Turner, McCredden, Parkinson, Hain, Warren, Fairley, Bouchard, Edwards, Vial, Naylor

INJURIES: Wilson (leg), Dawson (foot)

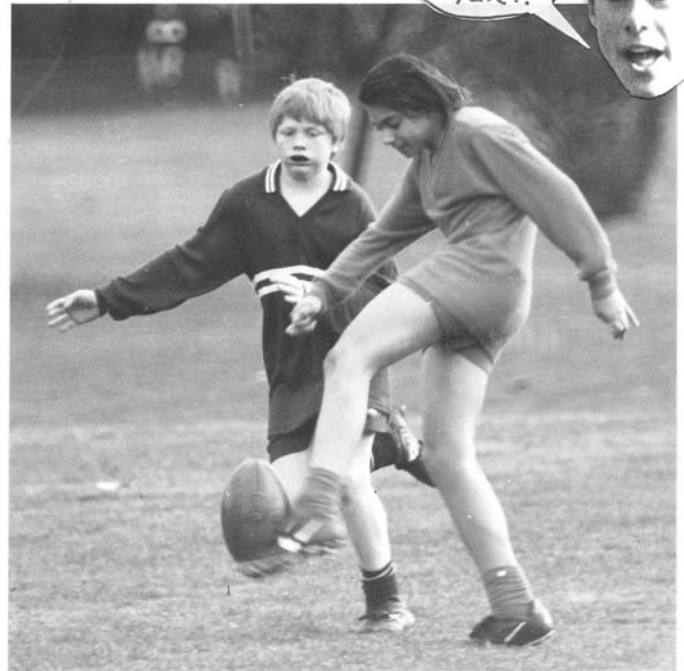
TACKLE of the DAY: Smith

CHASE & TACKLE of the DAY: Warren

QUOTE of the DAY: "Come on! I'll take youse all on!" (Smithy)

Although disappointed by yet another narrow loss last Saturday, the Lions maintained their enthusiasm on the training track during the week, and were confident of pushing Caulfield in the Match of the Day scheduled for Fawkner Park. News leaked out mid-week however, that star ruckman, Dylan "Superfish" Fletcher was to fly to Sydney at the weekend to test out the new Olympic pool at Homebush. This was a major blow to the Lions' chances, but part time onballer, Nick McCredden convinced the selectors that he could fill Fletcher's boots. At the same time, Josh Hain's lawyer finally found an escape clause in his client's Bar Mitzvah contract, and announced that Josh would be available for selection. The return of Ozzie Dawson from his international wanderings was welcomed by the coach, who had only just recovered from jet-lag himself! It was decided that Big Deano be returned to full forward for the important match, and Dave "Rabbit" Warren be shifted into defence. Blake Wriggling-Tadpole was named in the pivotal CHF position.

Conditions were dry and Fawkner Park was in good nick as the Lions took up their positions for the opening bounce. Only the strong cross breeze and the size of their Caulfield opponents was cause for concern. The visitors quickly established themselves as a force to be reckoned with by notching the first two goals of the match. It was obvious that the Lions would have their hands full! A point to Sloma broke the ice for the Lions, but Caulfield continued to push the ball forward and keep the defence on their toes. Skipper, Matt Naylor was having his work cut out for him at CHB, and Caulfield's extra height was proving a real nuisance. Despite this, Nick McCredden was working hard both in the air and on the ground, and "Magic" Turner was still able to show his class. Lewy Bainbridge was displaying desperation on the half back flank, and Parko was providing valuable reinforcement in defence, but the Lions' opportunities on the forward line were limited. Harro and the new look James Fairley were burrowing into packs with courage, but Blake was being outreached, and Deano was receiving close



Josh Hain in action in his comeback game against Caulfield

attention from his opponent. At the first break the visitors led by a handy 21 points.

It was more of the same during the second quarter, but persistent pressure from the Lion defence forced Caulfield to rush their kicks and to attack the goal from awkward angles. Andy "Bomber" Edwards and Ozzie were not fazed by the opposition and continued to play their familiar brand of attacking defence, whilst Huge Euge was as solid as the rock of Gibraltar in the goal square. Rabbit was "rewarded" for his efforts and given the task of minding the V.T.D.F. (Very Tall Dangerous Forward). Nays meanwhile was given a loose man on the backline role, but to no avail! Despite the hard work of the onballers, the "go get 'em" attitude of Smithy, and Ben Wilson's Robert Harvey impersonations, the Lions were unable to add to their score, and at half time they trailed by an ominous 38 point margin.



Andy Sloman gets his kick in despite opposition pressure



"Magic" Matt Turner breaks clear of his Caulfield opponent

Spurred on by the words of their full forward, Dean "We're playing like crap!" Karvelis, the Lions emerged from the rooms(?) for the second half determined to tighten up, and to set the scoreboard ticking again. Two early goals to Caulfield provided a temporary setback, but it wasn't long before the Lions' fans were cheering again as goal-sneak Richie Morris was flattered and dobed a major from the resultant free. The Lions lifted all over the ground, and with Tommy Vial tackling anybody wearing a Caulfield jumper - regardless of size - Abbo marking strongly in defence, Bomber Edwards charging down the ground, and Magic Turner showing his opponent a clean pair of heels, the visitors were no longer the dominators.



"He hasn't got it umpire!" Dean Karvelis is tackled illegally



Richie Morris lines up for the Lions' one and only goal

Eager to finish the game on a high note, the Lions hit the ball hard during the final stanza, and with Macca, Parko and Jimbo firing there was every chance of bridging the gap on the scoreboard. Josh was continuing to show some class on his flank, and Bernie "Mastermind" Howard was celebrating his run on the wing with some slick handballing. Skilful forward thrusts set up the Lions for majors, but they were unable to capitalise, as Blake missed a relative sitter and then Magic Turner, as Blake missed a relative sitter and then Magic Turner grabbed a centring snap from Richie only to see his kick pass on the wrong side of the post. Caulfield rebounded into their scoring zone, but the Lion defence stood firm. Inspired by Rabbit's brilliant chase and dispossession on the goal line, and Smithy's desperate, clinging tackle at half forward, the Lions kept the visitors to just one goal for the quarter, and fought out the game in true "Sapere Aude" spirit. Although Caulfield maintained their unbeaten record for the season, the Lions' challenge was worthy, and deserving of the plaudits of their fans.



"What can you do?" Frustration shows on Matt Naylor's face

Rd 8

LIONS CRUSH PRETENDERS!

WESLEY 11. 5. 71
BURKE HALL 3. 3. 21

GOALS: Sloman 4, Turner 2, Naylor 2,
Morris, Fairley, Vial

BEST: Fairley, Turner, Vial, Naylor, Sloman,
Bainbridge, Parkinson, Fletcher, Smith

INJURIES: Nil

MARK of the DAY: Parkinson

GOAL of the DAY: Turner

RUN of the DAY: Fairley

SHORTEST TEMPER: Karvelis

With just three rounds remaining in the 1997 season and a disappointing list of defeats behind them, the Lions approached this week's contest with renewed determination. Keen to produce a scoreline commensurate with their team's pace and skill the squad put in extra hours on the training track refining their teamwork and fine tuning their strategic manoeuvres. Careful analysis of video highlights from Burke Hall's recent games convinced the Lions brains trust that some positional changes would be needed and the selectors came up with a couple of surprise moves on Wednesday night. After weeks of haranguing the coach, big Matt Naylor finally got his way and was named at CHF. Spike Smith's tenacious approach to tackling and his tough talking earned him a place in the key defensive post, whilst Andy Edwards was given a running role closer to his fan club on the wing. The welcome return of Fletcher to the ruck enabled Nick McCredden to take up the CHB position made vacant by the realignment of Matt Naylor.

It was a perfect morning for footy, and the Front Turf looked a picture as the Lions slipped into the doggy box to prepare for the match of the day. The late arrival of Andy Sloman caused some concern - but not as much as the non-appearance of Josh Hain who had obviously been snowed in at Mt. Buller. Andy took his place on the flank, leaving Deano alone to fill the water bottles. Meanwhile, Macca had tossed the coin and the game was underway - despite a malfunctioning scoreboard which seemed to have contracted a nasty virus. The visitors jumped from the blocks and were quick to register a behind, but it wasn't long before the Lions shook off their stage fright and slipped into gear. A quick rebound and Matt Turner showed his opponent a clean pair of heels as he skipped along the boundary and squeezed a banana through the St. Kilda Road goals. The Lions however still seemed to be hearing the echo of footsteps from last week's game, and there was some unfortunate fumbling when clean grabs were there for the taking. Nevertheless, Fletch, Tommy and Parko were sparking in the midfield, and Nays



Another goal coming up! Tommy Vial swoops on the Sherrin

was an unmissable target around the fifty. A pass from the big fella hit Fairley on the chest, and Jimmy made no mistake with his kick. The Opray Vision crew had arrived by now, and special guest commentator, "Smiley" Reilly had taken up his position at the microphone just in time to see the Lions record their third major for the quarter as a pass from wingman Ben "Banger" Wilson found Sloma well within range. At the other end of the oval, Burke Hall had been starved of opportunities by a miserly Lion defence led by "I'll have youse all!" Smith and his assistant "Baulker" Abbott. At the first change the Lions held a useful 20 point lead.



Andy "The Blonde Bombshell" Edwards bombs it downfield

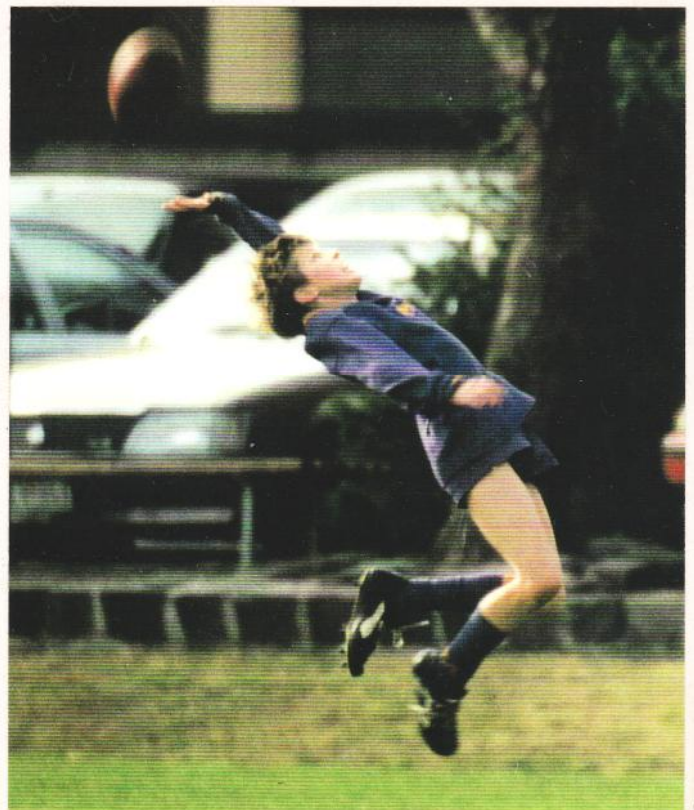
The second quarter was a tough struggle with neither side gaining a clear advantage – but you always felt that the home team had the edge. The Lions' half back line was working overtime to hold the ball out of the danger zone, and Macca was managing to keep the Burke Hall CHF out of the contest. Ozzie Dawson was giving nothing away on his flank, and Lewy Bainbridge was playing the game of his life across the half back line. Jimmy was fairly burning around the forward line, and it was his long bomb which again found Sloma within range of the big sticks. Andy's second goal gave the Lions a comfortable cushion on which to rest at half time, and it was a pleasure to glance at the scoreboard occasionally whilst sucking on their citrus segments.



A study in concentration, Parko steadies despite the pressure

But the game was far from over, and the Burke Hallers came out fighting in Round 3. The first goal was theirs, and the Lions could only answer with a minor. Harro had been a busy player around the packs, but it was Tommy Vial who overshadowed his more senior roving partner this quarter. Tommy proved as elusive as a cake of soap as he slipped downfield and began chipping the ball around the scoring zone. With Richie Morris and "Rabbit" Warren also working hard to hold the ball forward, the Lions were able to control most of the play. Once again it was Sloma who positioned himself perfectly on the goal line to receive one of Tommy's passes, and he made no mistake in posting his obligatory goal for the quarter. Deano had eagerly accepted a defensive role, and was acquitting himself well in his new position, so an opportunity was created for Euge at the attacking end of the ground. The move paid immediate dividends as "Huge" marked strongly and his pass

to Nayls resulted in his team's sixth goal. Although well placed at the final change, the coach was not yet satisfied. Tiring of the harsh comments coming from the broadcast box, he exhorted his team to bury the pretenders in the black and red guernseys. The Lions' response was a sizzling final quarter which kept their fans cheering and seriously wounded the Xaverian's pride. The onballers lifted a notch, and Lions all over the ground followed their example. Fletch was fearlessly putting his body on the line, Magic Turner was moving the ball with flair and finesse, and Tim "Pockets" Parkinson was playing with his customary courage. Harro set the ball rolling when he passed to Andy Sloman, who gleefully booted his fourth, and Nayls followed soon after with a strong mark and goal. Eddo and Willo were blitzing their opponents in the wide open spaces, and Deano was not taking any crap from anybody! Frustration was eating away at the Xaverians, and dummies were now being spat, but the Lions stayed cool. Magic snapped truly from the pocket, and Tommy picked up his first for the game. The Lions were well in control now and there was little the visitors could do but sit back and watch a superior team run rings around them. The final nail in the coffin came moments before the siren as the irrepressible Richie Morris pounced on a pass from Matt Naylor and snaffled a sausage. It was the Lions' eleventh, and pushed their winning margin out to a convincing fifty points. Even Shura "I'm Shura Taft and You're Not" Taft was seen to applaud as he rushed on to the field to interview Matt Turner.



"We have lift off!" Tommy Vial gets caught in an updraft

LOOSE LIONS PAY PRICE!

WESLEY 6. 4. 40
GEELONG COLLEGE 8. 5. 53

GOALS: Turner 2, Fairley, Naylor, Sloman, Wilson

BEST: Fairley, Parkinson, McCredden, Smith, Edwards, Fletcher, Turner, Naylor

INJURIES: Parkinson (Air supply)

GOAL of the DAY: Turner

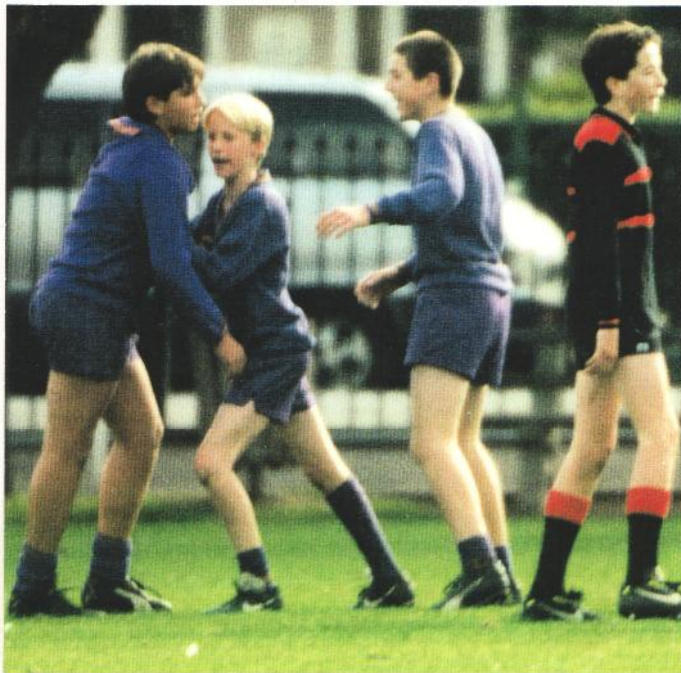
MARK of the DAY: Naylor

SPECIAL COMMENTS: Ozzie Osborne

SURPRISE of the DAY: Deano being outbumped



Dylan Fletcher does the heavy work at a centre bounce



"Don't do anything silly!" Harro calms an over-excited Deano

Cheered by their big win over Burke Hall, the Lions approached this week's return match against Geelong with a newfound confidence. Memories of the long bus journey earlier in the season, and the three goal start that they gave Geelong still haunted the Lions, and they were determined to reverse the tables at Fawcner Park. The disciplined way in which his team ran their warm up laps at training during the week suggested to the coach that his team was developing into a tight knit, highly organised, self-motivated unit (NOT!). But the way they threw themselves into their match practice routines was more encouraging. A fitness cloud hung over star rover Tommy Vial for much of the week, but he passed a rigorous test on Friday morning and the selectors were able to name an unchanged squad for the big match. The continuing dry spell meant that Fawcner Park would once again be in tip-top condition.

And so it was as the Lions arrived at the ground on Saturday morning in time to witness an inspirational victory by the 8Bs over the Scotchies. The brilliance of Sam Roberts, the strong marking of Paul Osborne and the great running play of Feldy and Alan Silver drew gasps of admiration from the Lions. The superb goal umpiring of Deano and Macca was of AFL standard!

Skipper-for-a-day Tommy Vial pointed to the pavilion end and the players lined up for the national anthem. Formalities over, the game began in earnest with the visitors registering an early behind. Some good running by the Lions moved the ball quickly down to Matty Naylor, but he could only manage a minor. Parko was already showing good form in the pivot, and the Lions were showing a willingness to attack the ball and run it out of defence. Smithy was on the job early, and big Deano and Abbo were paying close attention to their opponents. CHB, Nick McCredden was giving away valuable inches to his opponent, but he was

Quit MAKE THE MOVE

© VicHealth

positioning himself well for the rebounds, and with Jimmy Fairley as tenacious as usual, the Lions were controlling most of the play but conversion had been a problem in the Lions' previous encounter with Geelong, and the coach was beginning to



Lion ruckman Nick McCredden just gets his kick in

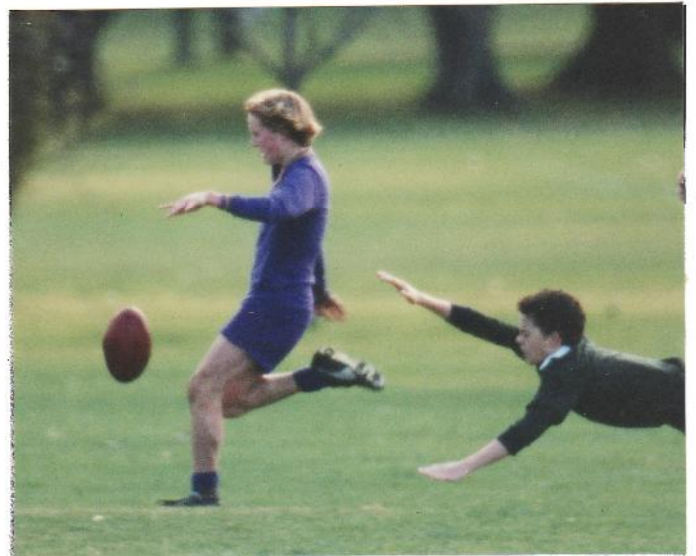
worry. Despite the fleet footed efforts of Josh, Willo and Magic Turner to gain possession on the wide wings of Fawkner Park, the ball was not hitting the hot spot as often as it might, and Richie and Sloma were being given few chances to display their crumbing skills. But it was Jimmy who finally snuck one through the big sticks and partially eased the coach's concern. At the first break the Lions held a five point advantage - but would it be enough?

"Gee, you just get the feeling" Bruce McAvaney was heard to say "that a couple of errors by the Lions would let Geelong right back into this game". "You're dead right" replied boundary rider Paul Osborne, "the Lions will have to tighten up. They can't afford to give the Geelong half forwards too much latitude!"



Ruck-rover Jimmy Fairley unloading a perfect torpedo

Prophetic words indeed! The Cats came out roaring and before Deano could swallow a Four'n'Twenty they had two goals on the board. The Lions were rattled! Fletch and Harro tried to stir the boys up, but the visitors were on a roll. Their green guernseys must have been providing excellent camouflage, because they seemed to be having no trouble losing their opponents once the ball crossed into their forward zone. The Lions had no answers as Geelong added two more goals with only token opposition. The game had turned, and the Lions were once again being forced to play catch up footy.



The elusive Matt Turner sets sail for the goals

The oranges didn't taste nearly as juicy this week, and the Lions knew they had some hard work ahead of them. Geelong's 20 point half-time lead was soon stretched to 26, and something really special was needed! It was time for "Huge" Euge to make his presence felt! Although he didn't actually touch the ball, his arrival on the ground had an inspirational effect on his team mates as Macca grabbed the ball at half back and passed to Harro who found Nayls on the attacking side of centre. Quick hands to Jimmy who delivered towards a leading Rabbit, whose centring kick was grabbed in the square and eagerly converted by a quick thinking Willo. Inspired by this brilliant team effort, Lions all over the field lifted their work rate. Ozzie Dawson had been shifted deep into defence and he showed the way as he pushed off his opponent and hit the ball hard. Lewy Bainbridge's skilful manoeuvring along the wing kept the ball heading in the right direction, and it wasn't long before Nayls picked up another sausage on the run. The Lions were bridging the gap, but the Cats were not about to lie down, and moments later they picked up the answer to maintain their half-time advantage at the final change.

If the visitors thought that the final quarter would be a casual stroll around the park, they had



Lion forward Andy Sloman fights hard against the odds



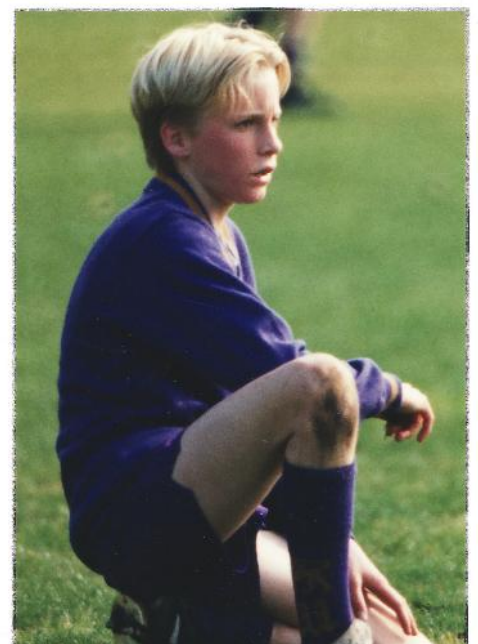
Andy Sloman crumps a goal during the stirring last quarter

another thing coming! The Lions have been strong finishers this season, and their fans urged them to once again give some value for their membership tickets. Led by skipper Tommy Vial and "Pockets" Parkinson, the Lions hit the accelerator and upped the intensity. Dylan (secretly knowing that this would be his last appearance for the season) decided that he'd better pick up a few kicks, and Matty Turner, who had been unusually quiet for three quarters, began to turn on the magic as he gave several opponents the slip, charged downfield and delivered a long driving drop punt to goal umpire Herzberg. Unfortunately, the Lions were so excited that their concentration lapsed momentarily

and the Cats snuck a reply. "Come on fellahs!" screamed Smithy, "pick up your men!", but Andy Edwards didn't hear him as he picked up the ball and passed to Turner, and another goal was on the board. Still without a major to his name, Andy Sloman was worried about his strike rate, but strong play by Nayls soon set him up for the Lions' fifth. The margin was just seven points! Runner Rohan Currie was busy with the drink bottle and the camera crew were showing signs of nerves. Was there enough time for the Lions to close the gap? The ball returned to the centre, but Geelong got the break and whipped the ball down the corridor for a steady goal. It was now desperation time, and the coach decided on one last desperate strategy - it was time to give Lewis "Knees" Johnson a run! Could he display a glimpse of the magic that netted him six majors in the Bs? Well, no, not quite....although he did do something clever in a pack which gave the Lions one last scoring chance, but as Sloma's snap was smothered the siren sounded, and Harro sunk to his knees in disappointment - so near and yet so far!



Defender Lewis Bainbridge does the aerial work, but Macca takes the mark!



*A disappointed Chris Harrison
"So near and yet so far!"*

LIONS STRUCK BY CYCLONE!

WESLEY Not much
ST.KEVINS Quite a lot

BEHINDS: Naylor, Harrison

BEST: Fairley, Smith, Bainbridge, Turner,
Edwards, McCredde, Warren, Vial,
Parkinson, Harrison, Naylor, Dawson,
Karvelis, Feld, Abbott, Silver, Hain,
Wilson, Morris

INJURIES: Fairley (jaw)

In a sensational weekend of football in which Brisbane and Port Adelaide fought grimly for a draw, the Tigers narrowly pipped the Kangaroos, and the Wesley First XVIII emerged triumphant in their battle with traditional rivals Melbourne Grammar, the Lions found themselves pitted against the bully boys of the APS competition, St.Kevins. It was the final round of the 1997 season, and the Lions had hoped to begin their preparation early in the week, but Monday's training session was disrupted by an unexpected cold snap which froze fingers and toes and made life particularly uncomfortable for brass monkeys. Fortunately, by mid week the weather had cleared, and a full scale practice match between Naylor's Nucklers and Fletcher's Flyers provided a solid workout for the Lions in their lead up to the big match. The selectors' task was made difficult when ruckman "Superfish" Fletcher was called away to the Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships, and goal sneak Andy Sloman, hampered by a knee strain, failed a fitness test. The fast-improving Nick McCredde could assume the role of first ruck, but there was some debate over Sloman's vacant flank. Eventually it was decided to include star 8Bs on-baller, Alan Silver for his debut senior game, and to recall David Feld for another crack at the big time. There was some doubt about the availability of party animal Andy Edwards for an early fixture, but when the time of the game was set back late in the week, he declared himself a definite starter.

The team was posted - but it was not yet settled! During a radio interview with Rex Hunt on Friday morning, "Huge" Euge Bouchaud announced that he was dropping himself from the Lions' team for "personal" reasons. He admitted that he was unhappy with his recent form, and had decided that it would be in the best interests of the team if he returned to the Bs. His team mates were stunned by the news, and few believed that the big fellow would actually carry out his threat - but he did, and when the Lions assembled at St.Kevins on Saturday morning, it was without Bouchaud!

Conditions at St.Kevins on Saturday were difficult to say the least. The weather forecast had said "fine and windy", but the Lions were not expecting a gale force cyclone! As they emerged from the



Macca tangles with a Skevvy opponent at a centre bounce

visitors' rooms, it was like stepping into a wind tunnel. This would not be a day for fancy football.

A bleary eyed Andy Edwards shook the opposition skipper's hand and called correctly - the Lions would have first use of the wind. Kicking to the Kooyong end, the Lions were quick to move the ball forward, but Harro's snap on the run was blown off course. The home team was struggling to come to grips with the conditions, but the Lions failed to capitalise, as a shot from Nayls also strayed from the target. Macca had started well in the ruck and Parko and "Magic" Matt Turner were already causing the opposition some concern, but it was the Lions' half back line which was threatening to do serious damage. Desperate football from "Rabbit" Warren at CHB, strong running play by Eddy, and persistent rebounding by Lewy Bainbridge (trailing a radical new style of Nike footwear) provided the midfielders with plenty of opportunities, but the Lions were unable to convert and it was St.Kevins who posted the first major of the game. The siren may well have sounded right there and then, as the awesome St.Kevins machine now surged into action. Smithy, Abbo and Ozzie, who had so far done a grand job in the last line of defence repelling enemy attacks, now began to find themselves outnumbered as waves of Skevvys began moving the ball rugby style towards them. At the first change the home team had moved to a handy 13 point lead.



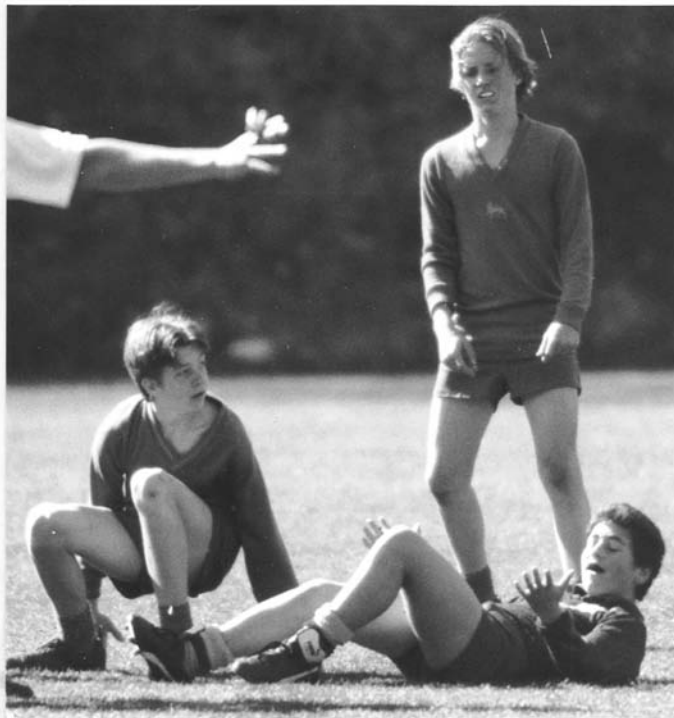
Harro is unceremoniously dumped by a Skevvy bully boy

There seems little point in providing a detailed description of the debacle which followed. All that needs to be said is that the wind was ridiculous, and St.Kevins were too big and too strong for the speedy, skilful but relatively undersized Lions. Nobody could doubt the determination and courage of the Wesley combination, but a destroyer can only do so much against a battleship! Willo was stuck with an opponent literally twice his size but refused to give in. Tommy was almost crushed under a big fatty boomba, but bounced back. Jimmy Fairley played his usual game of aggressive, entertaining football, and Nayls was forced to play a defensive role despite officially being positioned at CHF. Josh and Richie tried hard to create



Lewy Bainbridge clears during the final quarter. Note the revolutionary new boots with soft rubber studs.

opportunities near the goals, but the force of the Skevvy defence was overwhelming. Feldy and newcomer Alan Silver had chosen a tough day to line up with the As, and were barely able to show glimpses of their talent. Harro continued to display his usual courage in the face of adversity, and big Deano wandered far and wide from his full forward post to get a piece of the action (and to give the opposition an earful). Smithy refused to give an inch at full back, and Ozzie and Marcus held firm under siege, while Lewy, Andy, and Rabbit stuck to their task right until the bitter end. Macca was always competitive, and Matty Turner still managed to display flashes of his magical skills despite close attention from the opposition. Parko's assessment of the play was as always, impeccable, and his strong marking in defence was invaluable. The coach, meanwhile, was left to ponder what might have been....if only his team had eaten more Vita-Brits....if only they'd started in the weights room in Grade 6....if only more Year 9s had been academically challenged enough to stay down....if only that damn wind would stop blowing!!!!



These umpiring decision goes the Lions' way



Deano explains the finer points of an umpiring decision



LIONS 8As

T.J. "Pockets" PARKINSON



Star centreman with all the skills and an extraordinary ability to read the game. A vital link in the midfield, but also an invaluable backstop in defence. Wore his baggy purple shorts with distinction.
Rising Star Award

M.J. "Magic" TURNER



Football genius with the ability to produce magical performances in all facets of the game. A smooth mover with superb ball skills who reads the game to perfection. Deadly around goals!
Mr Magic Award

T.P. "Tommy" VIAL

Effervescent rover who always gave 100% around the ground or when resting near the goals. Small of stature, but fleet of foot and big on courage. A real terrier around the packs.

Top Dog Award



A.J. "Andy" EDWARDS

Dashing defender who loved to run the ball out of enemy territory. Began the season at full back but worked his way up the field. Early starts often clashed with his busy social calendar.

Blondes Have More Fun Award



M.G. "Nayls" NAYLOR

Powerhouse of the team who used his height and strength effectively at CHB and in the ruck. Went berserk at Hailebury and wreaked a trail of destruction. Caused serious damage when he sat on Jim Fairley.

Tough as Nayls Awd



O.C. "Ozzie" DAWSON



Reliable defender who adapted well to the local game despite problematic genes. No frills - just a straight ahead approach which served the team well. Has a pathological fear of the bench.

Mars a Day Award

D.C.P. "Deano" KARVELIS



Big burly forward who makes good position and uses his strength to clear a path for running team mates. Excitable under pressure but able to see the funny side of life. Enjoys giving opponents an earful!

Mr.Happy Award

A.G. "Sloma" SLOMAN



Lively goal sneak with an uncanny ability to collect marks and free kicks inside 50. A near perfect strike rate in front of the big sticks but a pretty ordinary attendance rate at training!

Inside 50 Award

L.J.A. "Lewy" BAINBRIDGE

A wiry, determined customer who was a vital link in the Lions' defensive setup. Refused to give the ball up easily and was prepared to run, punch, dribble or punt it out of danger.

Rebound Ace Award



M.M. "Abbo" ABBOTT

Versatile player who began the season up forward but after a persistent campaign was promoted(?) to the backline where he proved himself a good judge of the saving mark. Loves a baulk - or two!

Show em the Footy Award



E. "Huge" BOUCHAUD



Close checking, energy conscious defender who offered a valuable last line of resistance by picking up the tall forward and blocking the opposition goal square. A stern critic of his own game.

Unbudgeable Bear Awd

J.A. "Jonny" HOLDING



Lean, mean defender who worked hard in his appearances with the As. Plays close to his man and chases with vigour, but probably saved his best efforts this season for the ski slopes.

Ski Buller Award

D.R. "Feldy" FELD



Quietly spoken, multi-talented footballer who starred in the seconds whether playing in the centre or on the ball. Made several appearances with the big boys and acquitted himself well.

Sapere Aude Award

D. "Daniel" ELSNER



Began the season defending in the As, but soon found his niche in the Bs where he became a key player. Filled a number of roles and showed good skills. A man of few words.

Lion's Roar Award

TEAM of 97



J.D. "Jimmy" FAIRLEY

Dynamic, determined onballer whose never-say-die attitude made him a crowd favourite. Hit the ball hard and never shirked an issue despite copping some punishment in the clinches. Loves a run! *Never-Say-Die Award*



D.S. "Fish" FLETCHER

Inspiring, big hearted ruckman who gave away inches to most opponents but was never fazed. Worked hard at centre bounces and around the ground, using his body well in close contests. *Superfish Award*



D.J. "Spike" SMITH

Old fashioned footballer with a tough, tenacious, boots-and-all approach to the game. Gave nothing away at full back and inspired the team with his ferocious tackling and verbalising. *I'll Have Youse All Award*



N.D. "Macca" McCREDDEN

Fast improving tall who worked hard in defence and acquitted himself well in the ruck. Nothing fancy, but a hard at the ball attitude, a good leap, and a surprisingly agile, elastic body. *Tall on the Ball Awd*



C.C. "Harro" HARRISON

Cheeky, wisecracking little rover who seems to enjoy diving into packs and getting grubby. Not afraid to take on bigger opponents in one to one contests. Never short of a comeback. *Tenacious Tackler Awd*



D.J. "Rabbit" WARREN

Rangy customer who showed early form in defence but was quickly shifted to fill a gap in attack. Led well and marked strongly but often found the ball sailing over his head. *Rascally Rabbit Awd*



B.T.K. "Banger" WILSON

Nippy winger with the ability to find space when needed. Has a quick pair of hands and a sure foot, but marking can be a problem. Learnt the game by watching the unstoppable Robert Harvey. *Banger's Brownlow Award*



B.A.C. WORRALL-THOMPSON

Talented, but highly strung forward with a frustrating tendency to drift in and out of the play. A magnetic attraction to the goals makes him especially dangerous on a good day. *Loves a Goal Award*



B. "Bernie" HOWARD

Thoughtful footballer who was able to fill a number of holes in the team including full back and full forward, but he best served the team as a tactical adviser and training drill co-ordinator. *Wise Owl Award*



R.A. "Richie" MORRIS

Solid little crumber and part time rover who maintained the family tradition with his courageous body work and skilful manoeuvres near goals. Took short cuts at training but not when it counted. *Hungry Crumber Awd*



J. "Josh" HAIN

Talented flanker whose contribution was restricted this season by a heavy social and educational schedule which included an extended course of Barmy lessons and the odd trip to the snow. *Hidden Potential Awd*



A.M. "Alan" SILVER

Consistently successful onballer in the reserves who finally cracked the big time in the final round of the season. A good mover with smooth skills and heaps of potential. *D.J.s Encouragement Awd*



R.D. "Cuzz" CURRIE

Entertaining footballer with good skills and a casual, laid back approach to the game. Enjoyed some success in the Bs and managed to talk his way into the As when the coach was away on holidays. *You Have to Laugh Award*



L.I. "Jonno" JOHNSON

Enthusiastic sportsman forced to sit out the first part of the season with growing pains. Proved his worth in the Bs with a 6 goal haul before making a cameo appearance in the As. *Persistence Pays Awd*



P FOOTY & WORDS ix



YOU CAN'T DO THAT SON!:

A Burke Hall bully is given his marching orders after snapping his Lion opponent during Wesley's big win on the Front Turf in Round 8. The game turned spiteful during the final term as the visitors struggled to come to grips with the fact that they were going to lose. The Lions responded the best possible way – by pointing to the scoreboard!



EASY DEANO! EASY!:

Lion restrained Dean Karvelis is restrained by Chris Harrison and Dave Warren during the torrid final quarter. Unhappy with the treatment being dished out by frustrated Xaverians big Deano decided to even the score. It is believed he said something about the Pope – but whatever it was it brought a smile to Rabbit's face!

HERO WORSHIP:

Year 9 football legend and media personality Shura Taft is mobbed by adoring Year 8 fans after this season's annual Year 8 vs Year 9 grudge match. Taft's autograph is a much sought after squvenir!



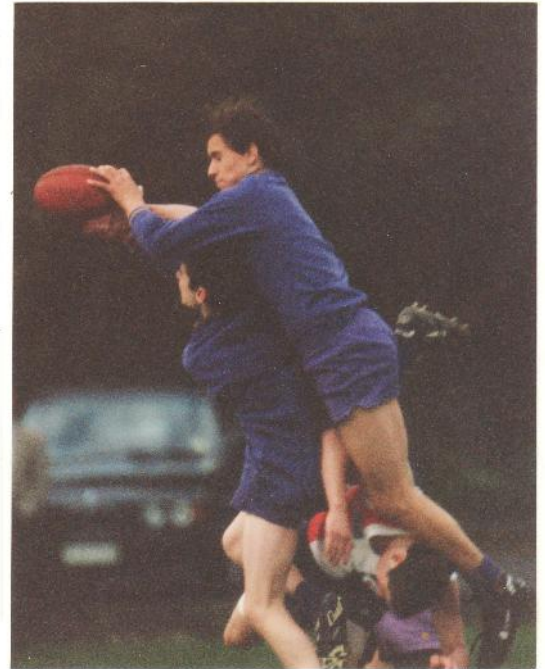
WE HAVE LIFT OFF!:

Lion centremen, Tim "Pockets" Parkinson hovers across the turf at Fawknor Park. Tim often surprised his opponents during the 1997 season by adopting this unorthodox mode of transport. "I got the idea from Mr.Irvine" said Tim. "All you do is buy a pair of shorts three sizes too big and then pull the pockets out! Of course you have to know something about wind currents, but it's not as hard as it looks!"



UP THERE CAZALY!:

Guest ruck rover, Ben Lumb takes a screamer during the Year 8 vs Year 9 match. You wouldn't want to be Jesse Gelfand!



CURSES! FOILED

AGAIN!: Cheeky Lion rover Richie Morris performs his famous silver foil up the nose trick. Very popular at after game parties!



SURPRISE TACTICS: The Year 8s demonstrate the rarely seen "Wilson Manoeuvre". Ben Wilson describes what is going on: "We were studying a bit of history and as usual I was thinking about footy. Mr.Blackman was telling us about the Charge of the Light Brigade and I suddenly thought, 'Hey that might work in a footy game!' so next time we were getting thrashed I asked Stoney if we could try it. We all lined up along the back of the square and when the ball was bounced we charged. There were a few casualties and we still ended up being thrashed but it was worth it just to see the look on Unsa's face!"



McShots



TOMMY VIAL'S FOOTY TIPS

G'day Footy Freaks! Welcome to my page. In this edition I've decided to focus on the "one percenters" that are so important in footy, so with the help of my Lions team mates, here are some tips to help you get the most out of your game!



RICHE MORRIS gains extra metres by putting a bit of "OOMPH!" into his kick.



MATT TURNER does his homework and studies the form of next Saturday's opponents. (It sure beats doing Maths or Indo!)



CHRIS HARRISON is taking a chest mark here using the "big cradle" method. I just hope it doesn't end up being a "rubber chest" effort!



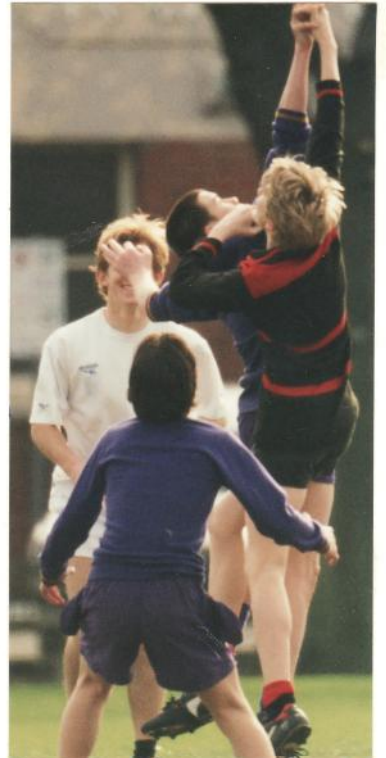
YOUR'S TRULY about to toss the coin. Tickle the other skipper's palm and he won't go near you again all day!



RICHE MORRIS shows great body language here as he attempts to "steer the goal".



DAVE WARREN, ANDY EDWARDS and other assorted Lions demonstrate the importance of warming up before a big game. Here you see the popular "run through" activity, the short kicking drill, and various leg stretches.



JIMMY FAIRLEY watches the ball intently from his perfect position close to the ruck contest.



DANIEL SMITH sporting the skivvy under the jumper look. Essential at windy Geelong!



CHRIS HARRISON dives into a pack to "trap the ball". Not the best position to be in on a muddy day, but somebody has to do it!



Have you joined McDonald's Auskick?

Parkinson a steady performer

Tim Parkinson's consistent efforts for the Lions this season have earned him the Norwich Rising Star Award for 1997. Tim was a regular vote winner in his team's Best and Fairest and picked up best afield on two occasions. He was one of the Lions' leading possession gatherers each week as he roamed far and wide from his position in the centre of the ground. Tim's willingness to play a defensive role for his team set him apart from most APS centremen and his strong marking and great ball skills put him ahead of the pack.

Tim began his career with the Lions as a youngster back in 1995, but he was almost a Bear! Back in the early nineties he was spotted kicking his plastic footy on the beach in Cairns by then Brisbane coach Robert Walls. Walls approached the young

Parkinson and offered him a strawberry Paddle Pop if he would sign a Form Four, but Tim held out for a Paddle Pop and a chocolate milk shake. Walls demurred, the deal fell through, and the rest is history.

Tim learnt the basics from his father Ron, but in recent times he has been a close observer of Bomber superstar, James Hird. Of his Wesley team mates, Tim acknowledges that Ozzie Dawson has helped him through the tough times, and Dean Karvelis has been an inspiration. Although football occupies Tim's attention during the winter months, he is a more than handy cricketer, and one of his dreams is to represent his country at the summer sport. Asked whom he would like to invite to a "dream" dinner party, Tim offered a diverse guest list which included Mr. Stone, Kevin Sheedy, his Auntie Annie, Oscar the cat and Homer Simpson. James Hird's wife would be welcome to stay back for a nightcap!

Tim is a worthy winner of this year's award and his future in APS football is assured, (but let's hope he soon grows into those baggy purple shorts).



PARKINSON: Thumbs up!



Parkinson clears the way for Richie Morris

★ Player in the spotlight ★

Surf's up for Mr. Magic

NAME: Matt Turner

DATE OF BIRTH: 25/2/1983

NICKNAME: Magic

MARRIED/IN LOVE: Nothing serious...

but Tim did propose to me once

SPORTING HEROES AS A KID:

John Platten, Jason Dunstall,

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR GAME:

My 8A team mates

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Beating

Glen Waverely on the Front Turf

YOUR ULTIMATE, NON-FOOTY

FANTASY: To become a world class surfer

7 DREAM GUESTS AT A DINNER

PARTY: Shane Crawford, Daniel Chick, Paul Salmon, and four escorts



TURNER: Enjoys catching a wave

FAVOURITE MUSIC:

Beach Boys and cool songs about surfing and gorgeous chicks

APART FROM FOOTBALL, WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST TALENT?

Picking up chicks

MOST ADMIRED TEAM

MATES: Ozzie for warming up the bench on cold Saturday mornings and Matt Naylor for always winning in the ruck (slurp, slurp)



Collect a team of your own.

You don't have to be rich and powerful to collect Prostar's Headliners for your very own superteam. These "look alike" figures are beautifully detailed and individually hand painted. A must for any collector. Start collecting your Prostar AFL Headliners now! 48 in the range from all teams.



PROSTAR
HEADLINERS

AVAILABLE FROM:
K-Mart, World 4 Kids, Toys'R'Us, Myer Grace Bros.,
Toyworld, What's New and other leading retailers.



1997 GOALKICKERS

A.SLOMAN	12
B.WORRALL-T	9
M.TURNER	8
M.NAYLOR	4
T.VIAL	4
C.HARRISON	3
D.KARVELIS	3
R.MORRIS	3
D.WARREN	2
J.FAIRLEY	2
M.ABBOTT	1
B.WILSON	1
D.SMITH	1
T.PARKINSON	1



ABOVE: Andy Edwards and Andy Sloman discussing goal kicking tactics.

BELOW: The 8As provide moral and vocal support for the BBs as a Scotchy shoots for goal at Fawkner Park.



Matt Naylor kicks

Richie Morris steers



ABOVE: Tommy Vial snaps for goal in the dying minutes of the game against Burke Hall. Notice Euge's awesome shepherding.

TALKING FOOTY

COMINGS GOINGS MILESTONES ACHIEVEMENTS MILESTONES COMINGS GOINGS

Congratulations to ruckman **Dylan Fletcher** who not only performed brilliantly at the National Swimming Championships in August but was a member of the successful Wesley Senior water polo team. Look out Michael Klim!



DYLAN: Swimming machine

Rover **Chris Harrison** was the joker in this year's pack. He was always ready with a quick oneliner and when things got boring down on the forward line he was good value. One of my favourites was when he borrowed a \$2 coin from Stoney to toss before the match and asked if he could keep the change! What a crack up!

Well done to **Andy Sloman** for topping this year's goal kicking list. The Lions only scored about 56 goals for the year, so Andy's 12 sausages represented about 21% of the team's score. Not bad for a forward flanker!

"Huge" **Euge** shocked the football world in August when he dropped himself from the As for the final match against St. Kevins. The official reason was that Euge wasn't happy with his form and he didn't want to let his team mates down. But "Talking Footy" has heard otherwise. We think it might have had something to do with sitting on the bench!



with Rabbit

Blake Worrall-Thompson (or is that Waffle-Tim Tam?) has been known to go missing on the footy field, but this year he really did go walkabout. Blake went to the Northern Territory to learn a few tricks about goal kicking from the Aboriginal footballers, and he tells us he is now a master of the boomerang snap!

Speaking of travel, **Bernie Howard** disappeared OS half way through the season and I don't know how Stoney managed without him. Bernie's half time summaries and analytic comments could get him a guernsey on "Talking Footy" when he comes back next year.



PARKO: Almost in tears!

One of the funniest stories of 1997 was when Stoney and the boys got together to play a bit of a joke on **Timmy Parkinson**. Like Diesel, Tim thought he had a mortgage on the centre pozzie, so when the team sheet went up and he was named in the back pocket he was not a happy little soldier! You should have seen him. I reckon he almost cried!

Who was the rascally Lion who smashed the fluoro light in the library with his pea shooter? Search me!

Party animal, **Andy Edwards** was a happy boy when Skevvs changed the fixture for the last round. He'd been pleading with Stoney all week to be dropped because he had "important commitments" but the coach stood firm. When the starting time changed to 11.00 Andy was over the moon! Why? Well, he was going to a mega rage on Friday night and he didn't think he could surface in time for an early start! Party on Andy!



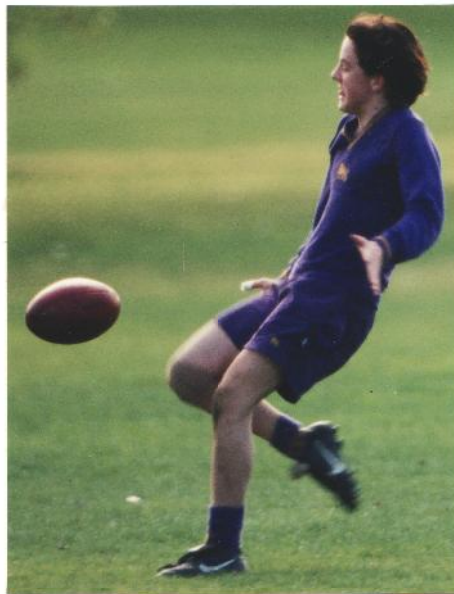
ANDY: The morning after

As usual the competitions at the Annual Pie Night were eagerly contested. Parko's team were narrow winners over Naylor's boys, while Turner's group turned in a pretty dodgy performance to finish last. The goal kicking award was shared between Fletcher, Karvelis, young Erik Kronborg, and myself with 20 points each from a possible 30. Jimmy Fairley was a clearcut winner in the long kick with a 39 metre boomer and an average of 31.4. Fairley, Turner and Tommy Vial were the quickest across the turf in the agility run.

POCKET PROFILE

LION SUPERSTAR DREAMS OF ELLE

NAME: James Fairley
NICKNAME: Jim, but my dad calls me all sorts of things
DATE OF BIRTH: 1/12/1982
FAVOURITE FOOD: Lime Fizzers
FAVOURITE HOBBIES: Annoying people -especially the Year 9s
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR? It was an accident
SPORTING HERO AS A KID: Robbie Flower
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The game against St.Kevins because they are all meatheads!
MOST ADMIRED TEAM MATE: Ozzie Dawson, because he always trys his hardest
SCARIEST MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE: Seeing Tim in the showers
YOUR ULTIMATE NON-FOOTY FANTASY: Elle Macpherson



FANTASY: James Fairley is secretly in love with a well known cover girl

CULTURE CLUB

Who's watching what...

MOVIES

ANDY EDWARDS: *The Party* with Peter Sellers. It's a hoot! And what about the bit with the toilet paper!



BLAKE WORRALL-THOMPSON: *Walkabout* by Nicholas Roeg. Nice scenery and at half-time you can get popcorn.



UNDER THE HAMMER



with Dean Karvelis

Life in the Firing Line



Eugene Bouchaud



Lewis Bainbridge



Marcus Abbott

What do you like best about playing on the backline?

You've gotta be joking! Playing on the backline is the absolute pits!

It doesn't matter how you get rid of the ball - you don't have to be a fancy nancy!

You can run further and you get more baulks to the metre. My mates are up there too.

Is there a downside to playing a defensive role?

It's all downhill! The only time anybody notices you is when the team loses and they want someone to blame!

It's a bit harder to kick goals, but when you do the crowd goes ballistic!

If you're playing a dud team the ball never comes near you.

How do you fill in the boring bits?

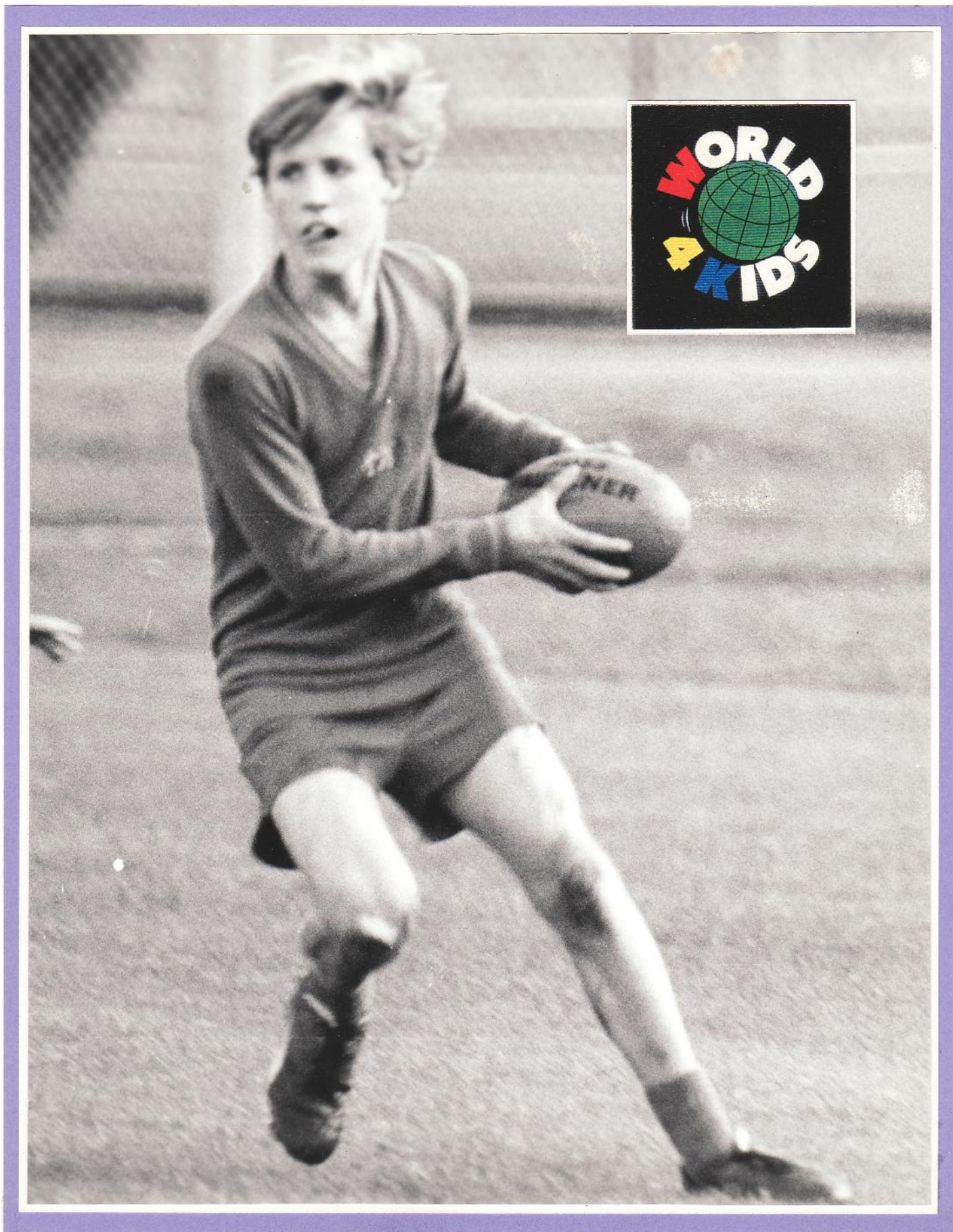
Ask another dumb question and I'll rip your bloody arms off!

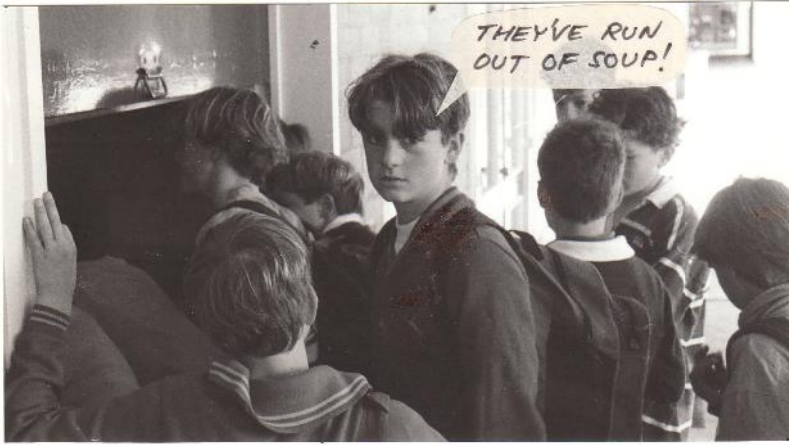
I usually have my walkman with me so I just listen to some heavy stuff.

Smithy and I make up jokes about weird people like umpires and teachers.

SUPER PIN UP

LION 
SUPERSTAR
Matt Turner





■ QUIT SMOKEFREE HEROES

Dylan Fletcher (Lions)

Name: Dylan Fletcher
Club: Wesley Lions
Date of birth: 30/6/1983

Nickname: Fish

Sporting hero as a kid?

Kieren Perkins

Favourite sportsman of all time:

Michael Klim
Apart from football, what

is your greatest

talent: Swimming and water polo

Most memorable match: This years win over Glen Waverley

Your ultimate non-footy fantasy:

Swimming in the 2000 Olympics

Scariest moment in your life:

Meeting Mr. Stone

What does it mean to be a Smokefree hero? That I can play sport to the best of my ability. Smoking is for losers!



Remember....
"A MARS A DAY
HELPS YOU WORK,
REST AND PLAY"

Mars

Ozzie Dawson

Smokefree



EXTREME ACTION



**EXTREME
REFRESHMENT**



PLAY TIME!

IN WHICH SUPERSTARS HELP
WITH ALL YOUR FOOTY PROBLEMS

Dear Daniel Smith,

My coach has called me a "soft" footballer. What does he mean and what can I do about it?

Mick Martin from Nth.Melb.

Dear Mick,

When your coach tells you you're soft he means you're a bit of a wooss. He probably reckons you don't want the ball enough and you're scared of the big guys on the other team. Answer these questions honestly Mick: Do you ever take short steps or side steps? Do you ever hear footsteps? Do you cry when the man on the mark says things about your mum? If you answered YES to only one or two of the above there's hope, but if they all sounded familiar you really are a pussy and there's not much I can do. Perhaps you should think about taking up basketball.

Whether you're soft or tough on the footy field is all in the head. It's your attitude you need to work on! Act tough, talk tough and spit a lot. Don't let anybody push you around - no matter how big they are!

Best wishes
Daniel Smith



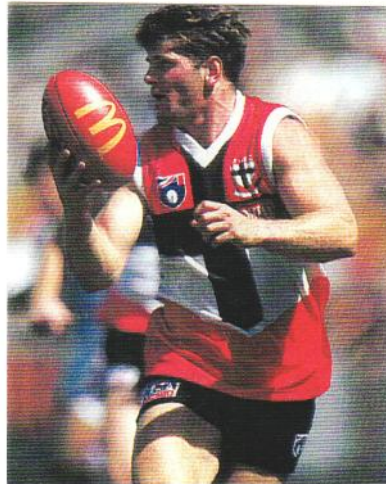
SMITH: Act tough and talk tough.



St Kilda



WILSON: Future champ



HARVEY: Sensational year

G'day Sainters!

What a year it's been! Who would have thought at the end of last season that we'd make the Grand Final in 1997 - and take out the Brownlow! Robert Harvey is a dead set champ. I just love watching him dodge and weave through packs and then slip in a daisy cutter to Stewy. Now there's another champ - what a great pair of hands! Speaking of hands, how quick does Burkey feed out those little chips to Aussie and just how quick is he? AUSSIE AUSSIE AUSSIE....OI OI OI!!!! Wasn't it great to see the Wizard notch his 200th? The man's a genius, and so is Smithy! What a tragedy....I really felt sorry for him and what about Spider! If only he'd been playing in the Grandy - he would have fixed up that lanky dork Rehn and his ugly mate Jarman. Don't you hate him! He's definitely my most unfavourite player. What a pity Lazar wasn't there to sit on him. Rocket should have run through him at the opening bounce - like Dermie used to do! Wouldn't it have been great! Imagine the roar! Anyway, I've gotta go now - they're giving me the wind up....but before I go, here are my tips for next season, and remember, you heard it here first! Banger for back to back Brownlows, and the Saints will celebrate in 98!

Go Sainters!

Ben 'Banger' Wilson

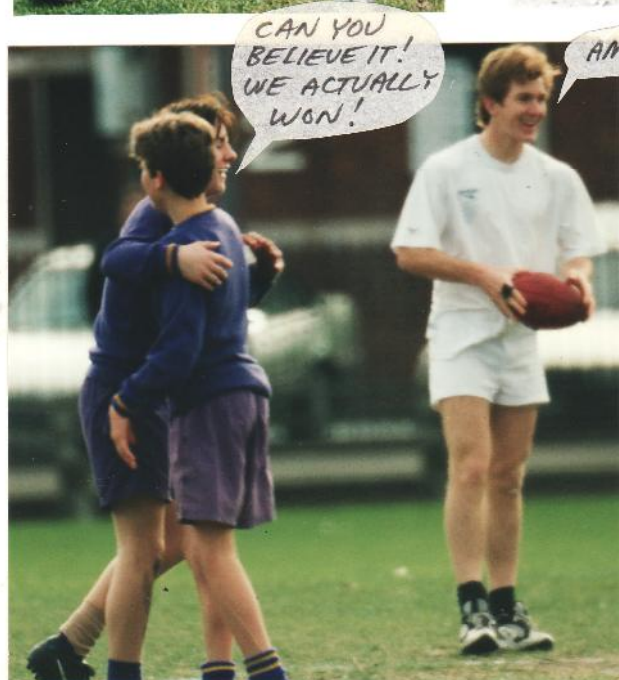




HEY DYLAN...
ARE YOU COMING
TO LIBBY'S PARTY?



I COULDN'T
BE STUFFED



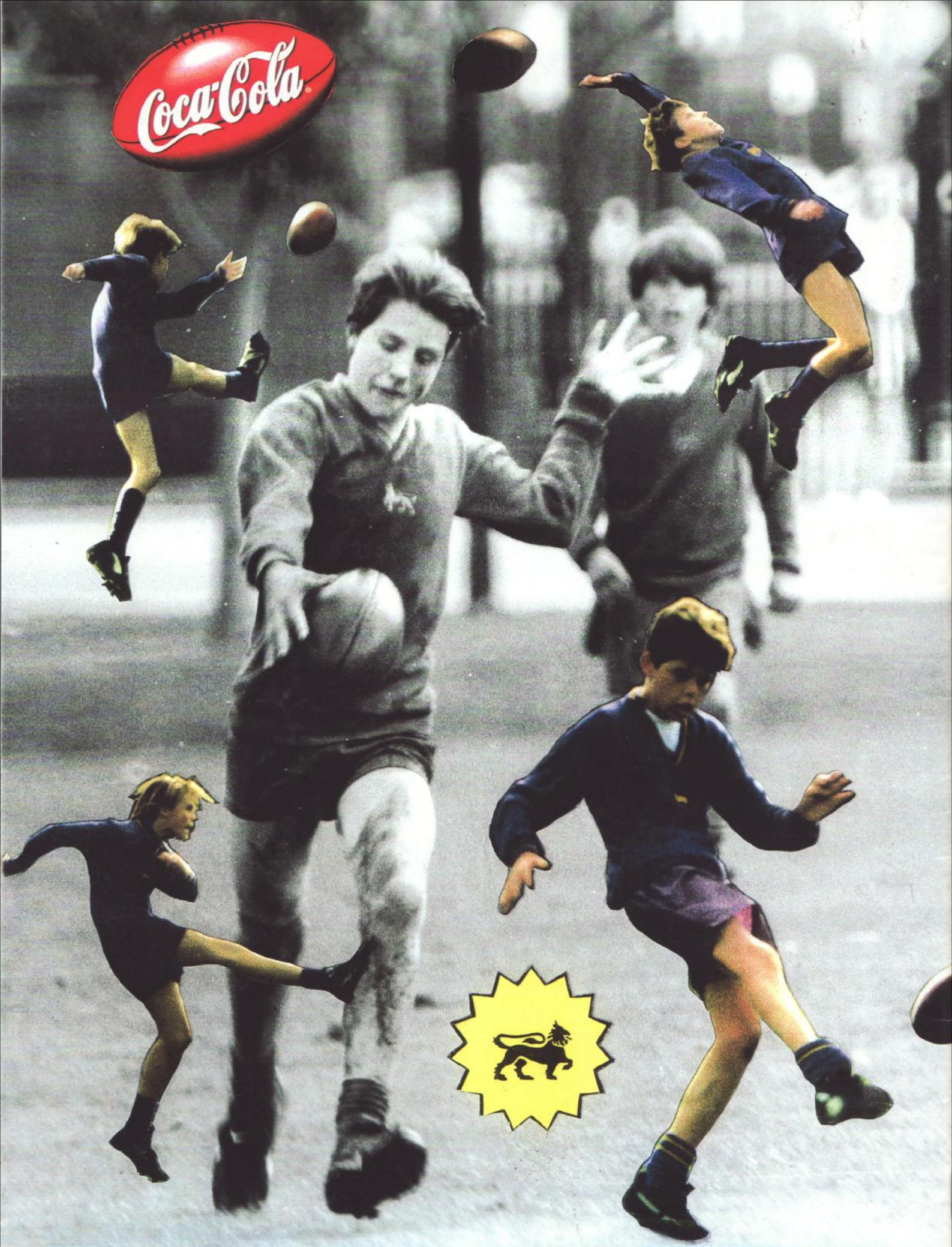
CAN YOU
BELIEVE IT!
WE ACTUALLY
WON!

AMAZING!

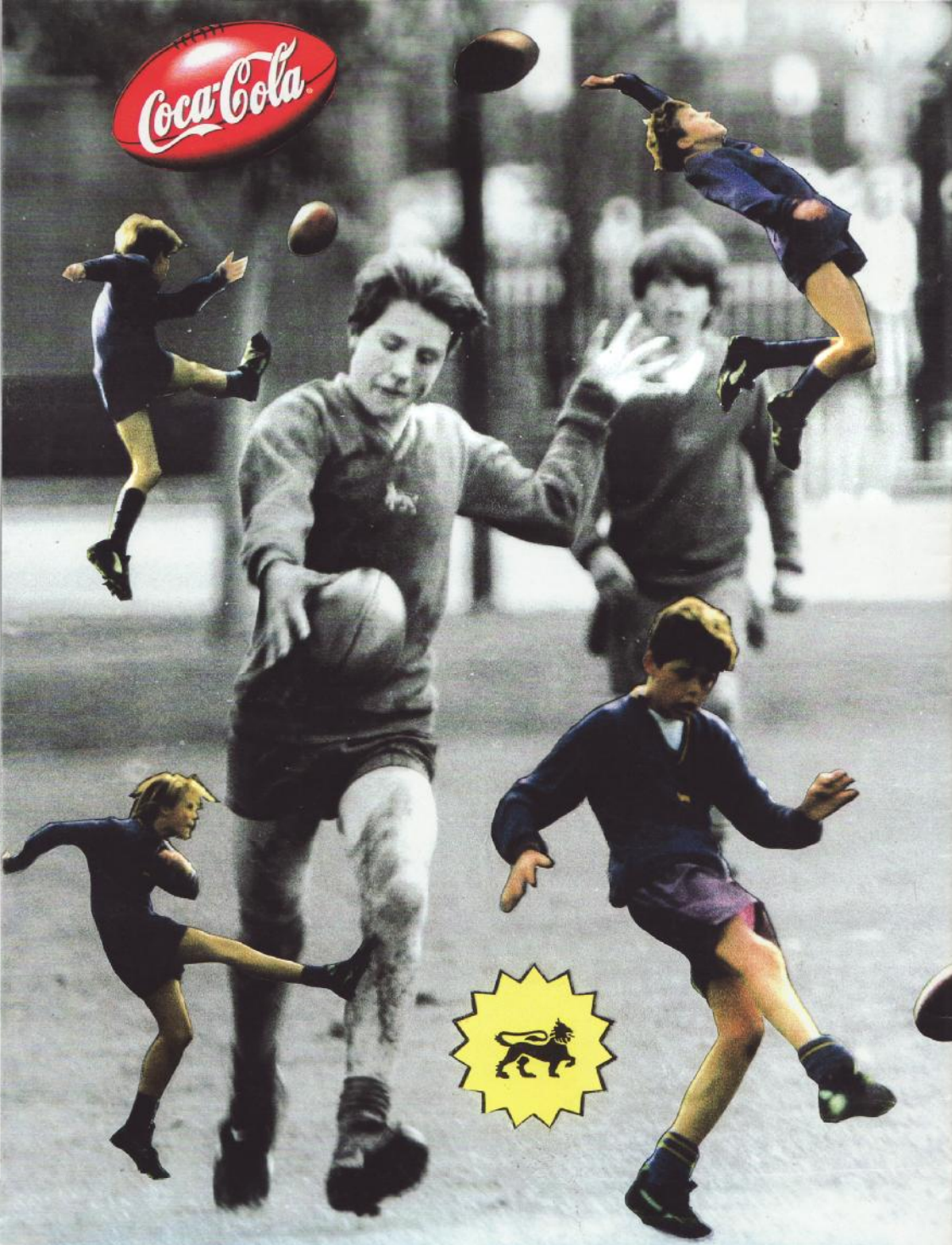


PUT A SOCK
IN IT WILL YA!

WELL PLAYED
MATE!



Special Collector's Edition

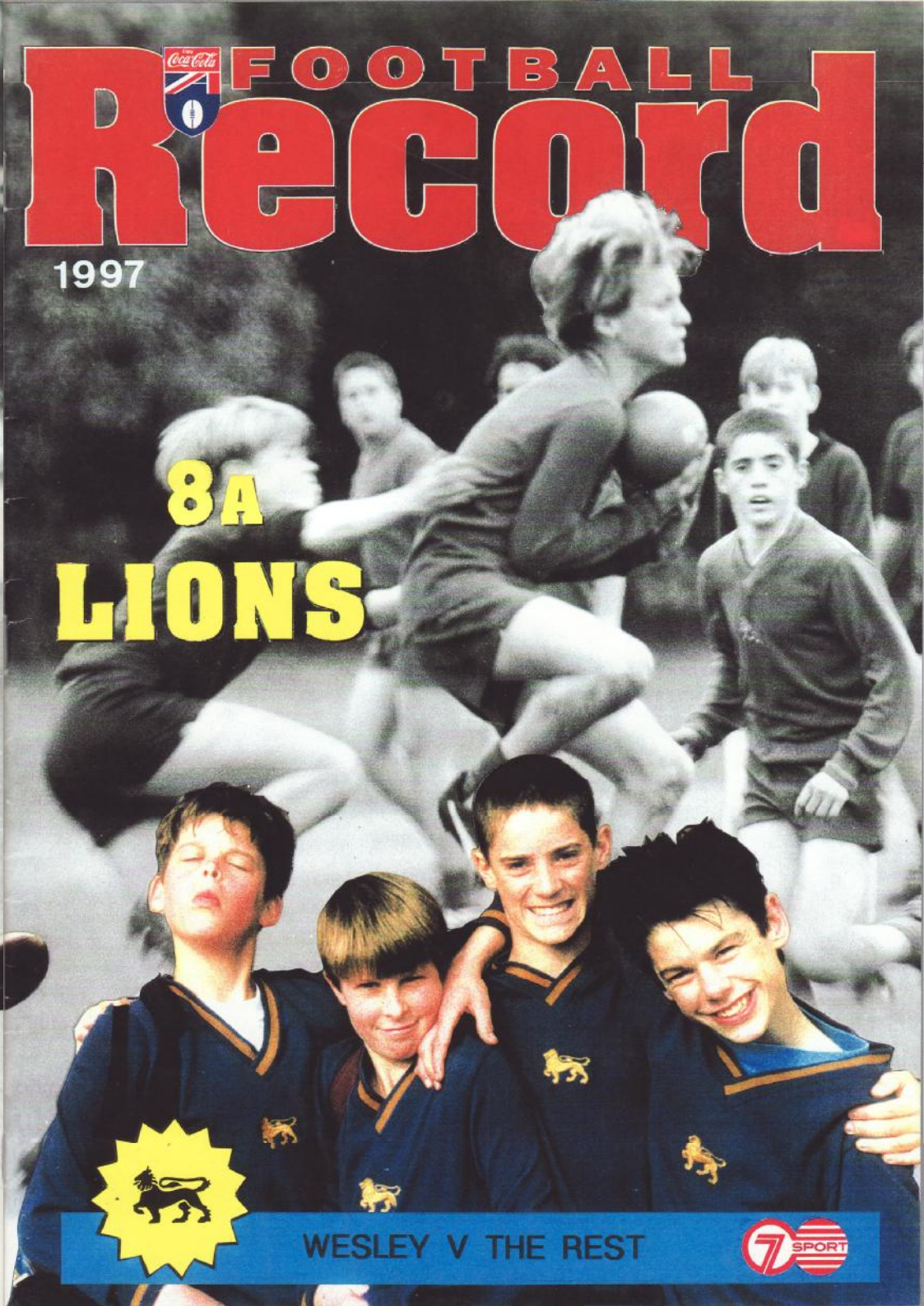


Special Collector's Edition

FOOTBALL Record

1997

8A
LIONS



WESLEY V THE REST

