

1955

Perth: 2.7 2.7 7.10 11.11 (77)

Def. East Fremantle: 1.0 8.5 8.6 11.9 (75)

Sat 8-Oct-1955 2:45 PM Att: 41 659 Venue: Subiaco Oval

Captain: Keith Harper

Coach: Ern E. Henfry

Simpson Medal: Merv McIntosh (Perth)

Goals:

Peth: 4-Wansbrough, 2-R. Harper, Walker, 1-Zeuner, Davis, Curtis

East Fremantle: 4-Sheedy, 3-Conway, 2-Howard, 1-Regan, Johnson

Full Backs	Peter Coventry	Brian Ashbolt	Gordon Shepherd
Half Backs	Terry Moriarty	Bert Wansbrough	Stan Henderson
Centres	Ken Bryan	Ken Armstrong	Keith Harper
Half Forwards	Roy Harper	Reg Zeuner	Bill Curtis
Full Forwards	Tom Davis	Des Foynes	Harry Meredith
Followers	Merv McIntosh	Charlie Skehan	Dick Walker
Reserves	Laurie Howard	Jeff McGann	

Match report by Alan Newman

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A sum that probably will exceed £2,000 when all contributions have been received will be shared by the triumphant Perth players as a reward for a matchless display of courage and determination that brought them success by two points against East Fremantle in the league football grand final at Subiaco Oval on Saturday.

In a match that veteran league officials described as the greatest W.A. grand final of all time, Perth recovered from its 34-point deficit at half-time, snatched the lead six minutes from the finish and held on to win with 11.11 to 11.9.

Highlights of the dramatic game and its aftermath were: * A crowd of nearly 42,000- nearly 6,000 more than the record attendance at the 1954 grand final-paid a record sum of £5,903 to see the match. * Spectators were in a frenzy of excitement in the closing minutes as Perth concentrated 17 of its 18 players on the ball in a desperate effort to keep it out of East Fremantle's scoring zone. * Freak wagers were won by Perth supporters who backed their side at half-time. One man won £20 for an outlay of 2/ odds of 200 to 1. * Thousands listened to broadcast descriptions at home, the beaches or other sports grounds – and even at sea. * At Belmont Park the field was lined up at the barrier when this announcement was broadcast: "Forty seconds to go and Perth is two points ahead." The runners passed the post, and then a roar from the crowd greeted the news that Perth had won. * Celebration parties went on all Saturday night, and again yesterday. Some hotels in the Perth club's district turned on free beer.

There were unforgettable scenes at the end of this historic match when thousands of spectators invaded the arena to pay tribute to a band of 18 bruised, battered and exhausted Perth players, most of whom were carried shoulder-high in triumph to their dressing-room. After jamming the area outside the dressing-room for an hour after the match, jubilant Perth supporters hurried from the ground to take part in celebration parties that continued to a late hour yesterday. The biggest crowd was at the WACA Ground yesterday, where hundreds of club members, victorious players and officials, heads of other league clubs and players joined in the celebrations.

Donations - About £700 was promised or donated by supporters of the club to increase the already imposing sum that will be distributed to the players after the match against the visiting Collingwood side next Saturday. Other substantial donations are expected after the settlement of many winning bets has been made early this week. Perth supporters were able to secure good odds about their side's premiership chance right up to the day of the grand final. In all, donations probably will exceed £1,080. In thanking donors, yesterday the Perth secretary (Mr Pat Fogarty) said that some of the larger sums received included £100 each from Messrs. Bill Clowes, Alan Shepherd, Vic Gubgub and Gordon Johnstone and £50 from Mr Bob Thompson, a vice-president.

Some quotes on the day: "McIntosh must rank as the most decorated footballer in Australian now that he has added another Simpson Medal to his already imposing array of trophies." Mr R.P. Rodriguez (President of the WA National Football league). "Mac's effort in again winning the Simpson Medal was the greatest effort of his football career." State coach Clive Lewington. "No other team could have done what Perth did. It was the finest example of courage and determination that I have seen." South Fremantle President Mr Frank Fuhrmann.