

1967

Perth: 3.5 9.9 12.9 18.12 (120)

Def. East Perth: 4.2 7.4 13.7 15.2 (102)

Sat 30-Sep-1967 2:20 PM Att: 42 637 Venue: Subiaco Oval

Captain: Mal Atwell

Coach: Mal Atwell

Simpson Medal: Barry Cable (Perth)

Goals:

Perth: 6-Atwell, 4-Iseger, 3-Dalton, 2-Jenzen, Astone, 1-Bennett

East Perth: 4-Tierney, 3-Verstegen, 2-Doncon, 1-Brown, Jackson, Kennedy, Garnaut, Pitter, Evans

Backs	Richie Rigg	Graham Ramshaw	Graham Edwards
Half Backs	Ray Lawrence	Bob Shields	Ian Rothnie
Centres	Greg Brehaut	Pat Dalton	Peter Krepp
Half Forwards	Ross Millson	Ray Mills	Gerry Iseger
Full forwards	Pat Astone	Mal Atwell	Greg Bennett
Followers	Barry Chittleborough	Bob page	Barry Cable
Reserves	Noel Wilson	Graham Jenzen	

Match Report by Geoff Christian

Published The West Australian Monday, October 2, 1967

Captain-coach Mal Atwell blended his skills as a player and a tactician perfectly to exert a match-winning influence in Perth's 18-point victory over East Perth in the 1967 league football grand final at Subiaco Oval on Saturday.

The start of Atwell's personal contribution to Perth's premiership begun 20 hours before the game when he decided, because of a forecast of hot weather, to scrap his pre-conceived plan to start at centre-half-forward and play instead at full-forward. Few among the crowd of 42,675 that saw the game played in a temperature of 90deg, could have guessed that Atwell, in his first league game at full forward, would score 6.1 and turn the course of the game.

For Atwell the decision was a calculated risk. At full-forward he could conserve valuable energy-an important factor in view of his six-week absence from match play and also, he would be opposed to an inexperienced fullback in Lindsay Hay. At the same time Atwell placed himself alongside East Perth's best and most rugged defender-back pocket specialist Bob Graham.

"When I told the players of my decision at a meeting on Friday night there were looks of surprise on many faces." Atwell said. "I explained that by playing on Hay I would meet a lighter, less experienced player who could be vulnerable under the enormous pressure of a grand final-particularly in the man-to-man duels. This had been the beliefs of my earlier reasoning to play at centre-half-forward against Ken McAulay, who also is a lightly framed youngster." Moreover, by shifting Gerry Iseger to centre-half -forward I pitted his superior strength and pace against McAullay, and this move worked well."

Atwell, who had practised kicking for goal assiduously for a month, scored five of his goals by three-quarter time and Iseger contributed another four. Atwell, the tactician played a masterstroke at three-quarter time when East Perth, after a torrid third quarter, had dragged itself to a four-point lead. Atwell decided to replace tired rover Greg Bennett with an eager Graham Jenzen, who had dropped out of the original placings to allow Atwell to play.

Atwell used Jenzen on the ball with Barry Cable and they roved throughout the final term. Jenzen formed the goal scoring half of the partnership with Cable. His first kick of the game produced a goal after 40 sec of play, and this was the break that Perth needed. Cable played more defensively, seldom venturing over the centreline but ready, despite having Graham as his shadow to swing the ball deep into attack with long drop kicks.

Atwell's final contribution as a player came in the final 15min of play when he stayed on the ball in a last-ditch effort to deny East Perth access to goal. "This was a team effort, achieved by 20 players who have shown this year just what it takes to win a grand final." Atwell said.