

## 1976

Perth: 3.5 6.10 10.12 13.14 (92)

Def. East Perth: 2.0 4.2 9.3 11.3 (69)

Sat 25-Sep-1976 2:20 PM Att: 45 823 Venue: Subiaco Oval

Captain: Colin Lofts

Coach: Ken Armstrong

Simpson Medal: Malcolm Day (Perth)

Goals:

Perth: 4-Couper, 3-Gibellini, 2-Mitsopoulos, 1-Farrant, Wiley, Hargrave, Herbert

East Perth: 4-Duda, 3-Quartermaine, 1-Hamilton, Daniel, Levitzke, Verstegen

<b>Full Backs</b>	Mal Day	John Quartermaine	Ken Inman
<b>Half Backs</b>	Colin Lofts	Brian Cook	Jeff Dickinson
<b>Centres</b>	Kevin Hill	Geoff Watt	Alan Johnson
<b>Half Forwards</b>	Chris Mitsopoulos	Wim Rosbender	Steve Hargrave
<b>Full Forwards</b>	Doug Farrant	Murray Couper	Wayne Currie
<b>Followers</b>	Dean Herbert	Garry Gibellini	Rob Wiley
<b>Reserves</b>	Greg Parker	Chester Mackean	

Match Report by Geoff Christian

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Perth, super-efficient in defence, dominant on the ball and showing far more flair in attack, simply outplayed East Perth to win the grand final by 23 points at Subiaco Oval on Saturday. Apart from the opening flurry and a 10-minute burst in the third quarter, East Perth failed to master Perth's general command. Perth's defensive football was a feature of their powerful wins in the first semi-final and in the preliminary final, and the back-man stayed true till the end. Their defence was at its best in the torrid first quarter and the critical last term.

Perth thrived on this security behind the centreline and the master of defence in the 1976 final round was back-pocket Mal Day. He set a standard for desperation and courage that was followed closely by half-backs Colin Lofts, Brian Cook and Jeff Dickinson and full-backs John Quartermaine and Ken Inman.

It was only the individual brilliance of half-forward flanker Alan Quartermaine and the marking ability of full forward Archie Duda that threatened to upset the fine balance of the Perth defence. East Perth's hopes of breaking through in a sustained offensive were thwarted because of the ability of Perth to take charge on the ball.

Once again tall ruck-men Dean Herbert and Wim Rosbender showed their class and stamina at the hit-outs, clearly taking the honours from Brad Smith and Ron Webster. The quality of Perth's play on the ball remained steady and good from top to bottom. Ruck-rovers Gary Gibellini and Doug Farrant controlled the midfield play well against an East Perth force that started in disorganised fashion and finished that way.

East Perth started the game with ruck-rover Kevin McGinnity on a wing and wingman Phil Kelly on a half-back flank opposed to Murray Couper. As it turned out they played into Perth's hands. McGinnity, a match winner as a ruck-rover in the second semi-final, had only two kicks in the first half. It was in this period that East Perth slumped on the ball.

East Perth's rover George Michalcyk suffered a painful chest injury in the first quarter, and this dulled further East Perth's play around the packs. East Perth used McGinnity on a wing as part of their plan to again have Stephen Curtis shadow Perth rover Robert Willey. This worked well in a qualifying game on August 28 but did not have the same effect on Saturday. Willey handled the situation better than a month ago and this defensive measure robbed East Perth of the offensive potential needed to counter Perth's positive following division.

Murray Couper was the most damaging forward in the game. He kicked 4.2 in a performance that was his best in big-match football. His left-foot snap that produced a goal in the opening minute of the last quarter was his fourth for the match and the one that gave Perth an iron grip on the premiership. Half forward Steve Hargrave was close behind Couper. He started on a flank and finished at centre-half-forward. His hard running second half was impressive and his ability to get into open space gave Perth a target in attack that East Perth lacked. East Perth's best forwards were Duda and Quartermaine, but the East Perth attack lacked organisation for most of the game-none more that in the last quarter.

Perth took the honours across the centreline through the combined efforts of Kevin Hill, Geoff Watt and Alan Johnson. Watt did extremely well against Peter Spencer in the first half; Hill revealed some of the magic he showed in the first semi-final; and Johnson was a hard and tireless worker. It was not till the third quarter that East Perth really got some service from the centreline-and it came mainly from McGinnity, who was shifted into the centre. McGinnity had 10 kicks for the term and helped East Perth kick five goals for the quarter.

Perth lost impetus in the first 10 minutes of the third quarter and saw a hard-earned half-time lead of 10 points turned into a deficit. The Game was in the balance for a few minutes, but it was Perth who prevailed, and goals came quickly from Couper, Herbert and rover Chris Mitsopoulos.