

1977

Perth: 4.4 12.7 19.10 26.13 (169)

Def. East Fremantle: 2.3 6.4 10.9 14.12 (96)

Sat 24-Sep-1977 2:20 PM Att: 44 381 Venue: Subiaco Oval

Captain: Colin Lofts

Coach: Ken Armstrong

Simpson Medal: Wim Rosbender (Perth)

Goals:

Perth: 6-Couper, 4-Farrant, 3-Wiley, Mitsopoulos, Hargrave, 2-Currie, Johnson, 1-Hill, Gibellini, Rosbender

East Fremantle:4-Judge, 3-Turco, Durnthaler, 1-Peake, Reid, Jez, Ryan

Full Backs	Mal Day	John Quartermaine	Chester Mackean
Half Backs	Ken Inman	Brian Cook	Colin Lofts
Centres	Kevin hill	Geoff Watt	Alan Johnson
Half Forwards	Wayne Currie	Steve Hargrave	Rob Wiley
Full Forwards	John Doyle	Doug Farrant	Murray Couper
Followers	Wim Rosbender	Gary Gibellini	Chris Mitsopoulos
Reserves	Peter Bosustow	John Anderson	

Match Report by Geoff Christian

Published The West Australian Monday, September 26, 1977

Perth's superiority in speed, skill and technique was clearly evident as the team swept to a 73-point win over East Fremantle in the 1977 football grand final at Subiaco Oval.

It was a superb team performance, a classic exhibition of co-operation that left East Fremantle beaten and badly disorganized by half-time.

There were plenty of reasons why Perth won. But the foundation for the victory was with the five regular defenders – half backs Colin Lofts, Brian Cook and Ken Inman and full-backs Mal Day and John Quartermaine.

All these players are final-round veterans. And they used their experience and skill from the start to guarantee that East Fremantle would not break away with the wind in the first quarter. Not only did the Perth defenders stop East Fremantle's early onslaught, but they turned defence into attack, working closely with the centreliners and the smaller followers.

It was Inman who set the early standard on the half back flank. He gave perhaps his best exhibition in league football, taming the ruck rovers when they rested. Lofts was tough and relentless on the other flank; Cook was steady but relatively quiet at center-half back; Day and Quartermaine were in complete control across the last line.

When East Fremantle failed to score more than 2.3 with the wind in the first term, everybody knew they were in trouble. They had to score heavily in the opening term as their suspect backliners had to face the real pressure in the second quarter.

Quartermaine continued his series of good performances against full forward Jim Sewell. But it was not Sewell's day. He finished with a meagre two points—a sad way to end the season for a player who kicked 12 goals in his first game of 1977.

Perth were in control in the center through Geoff Watts; wingman Alan Johnson was in top form; ruck-rovers Gary Gibellini and Wayne Currie were constructive; and centre-half-forward Steve Hargrave was in the mood to play well.

East Fremantle held on early in the second term—Brian Peake kicked the first goal of the quarter—but then the floodgates opened, 25 minutes later Perth led 12.7 to 6.4.

East Fremantle had no answer to the speed of Watt or the hard running of Currie, who covered an enormous amount of ground. Perth held solid control in the ruck through the efforts of Wim Rosbender and Chester Mackean, and rovers Chris Mitsopoulos and John Doyle were winners.

It was also apparent early that Robert Wiley, a champion rover but a half-forward flanker on Saturday was a player the East Fremantle defence was going to have trouble in countering. That is how it worked out. Wiley, in his first game for nine weeks picked up 16 kicks and scored three goals—a performance that on a normal day would put him in the team's best players.

The top goal scorer of the game was Murray Couper, who finished with six. He was subjected to harassing tactics early in the game but still managed to kick two of Perth's first six goals. And then finished with a burst late in the game.