

Adelaide, June 7, 1969



# SA TOOK GRIP IN GREAT SECOND TERM

By SAM GALLAGHER

South Australia's brilliant second quarter recovery was the highlight in the home side's great win in a thrilling opening to the 1969 carnival at Adelaide Oval today.

A crowd of 40,130 saw Western Australia take the initiative with the breeze in a dashing first quarter to lead by 21 points at the first change.

South Australia were first into attack but the West rebounded from half-back and found Cable's speed taking him clear to drive their attacks home.

Brehaut and Manning were winners for WA across centre and the visitors tactic of two ruckmen playing against Darley and McKellar worked well.

SA began sluggishly, relying chiefly on Molloy's and Darley's strong field play for drive.

It was still Molloy and Darley leading the way as the second term opened.

Early in the second quarter the speed of Cable and Walker was obviously a matter of some concern as Nygaard was given a roving turn.

## Began to lift

But the home side, shaking off its first quarter hesitancy, was beginning to lift.

Molloy, effective on

the ball from the start of the game, took complete control when switched to centre half-forward and SA slammed on 8-2 without reply to be four goals clear at half-time.

It was this burst that won the game.

Molloy was the inspiration but it was everything but a one man effort.

Pope's dash from half-back and Eustice's curbing of Brehaut on the wing, a strong quarter by Day at centre and Oatey's damaging football in attack were all factors in the thrilling fightback.

From this point on SA were outscored but the defence played a strong second half to stop the WA forwards from kicking a winning score.

The third quarter was a repeat of the first as Cable continued to harass the SA defence and McIntosh maintained a great ruck game.

But SA's defence was steadied in the first part of the term by Adcock coming strongly into the game in the back pocket.

## Score level

WA levelled the scores 15 minutes into the term when McIntosh shot a handpass to Walker for a goal.

SA were in the doldrums and Phillis was switched into ruck in an attempt to liven things up.

The home side's game became very loose, allowing Cable and Walker to get clear in attack.

Molloy was comparatively subdued and Turnbull at half-back left rebounded WA into attack.

Day at centre was obviously feeling the effect of a shoulder injury and SA switched wings looking for more drive across the middle.

The lead changed four times but SA finished the term five points up with Schoff and Colbey tightening their defence across half-back and WA attempting to shake this control with the switch of Wynne and Scott on their half-forward line.

The tension was maintained into the last quarter with WA first to attack but running into brilliant defence by Colbey after Molloy from a free had put the scores out of touch.

WA had brought Farmer on for Roberts in the third term and he fired out a couple of typical attacking handpasses but McIntosh was the player who kept WA on the offensive until Cahill, finishing strongly, marked brilliantly on the wing and found Robran for a decisive goal.

## Looked winners

From the second quarter onwards, SA always looked the likely winners. Generally the new players acquitted themselves well.

McKellar got his share of hit outs in a promising ruck debut and the selectors judgment in preferring Pope and Colbey for the half-back flanks was vindicated.

The speed of Cable and Walker was always a danger but the WA rucks were not sufficiently in control to make this a match winning factor.

Bob Oatey's strength and determination added to some skilful work in attack made his a valuable effort for the home side.

On paper SA might have expected to win more clearly across

The WA line began very well and broke even until Cahill's powerful last quarter.

Against strong opposition from Brehaut Eustice showed his normal spirited approach and Phillips was an adequate replacement for Day in the last term.

## BOB LOVEDAY BREAKS LEG

Robert Loveday, the West Adelaide defender, broke a leg in the game at Berri today against Combined Upper Murray Football League.

Loveday was taken to Berri Hospital and then transferred by ambulance to Royal Adelaide Hospital.

## VICS. SET THE PACE

By SAM GALLAGHER

With players of the calibre of Kekovich, Bartlett, Hart, and Davis to add to the team that outclassed Tasmania in the second half today, Victoria predictably is the team to beat for the 1969 championship.

However, Tasmania challenged the champions into the third term and it was mainly due to the influence of Nicholls in ruck that the Vics were able to keep their heads in front and then take complete command.

Apart from Nicholls and the increase stature he gives to the rovers, Victoria also has a powerful half-forward line with Jesaulenko the star performer.

However, Tasmania's inability to maintain consistent pressure on

Victoria in the second half gives an exaggerated picture of the latter's potential.

South Australia suffered a severe setback with Bob Day's injury today but should be able to withstand Tasmania's challenge in the early game on Wednesday.

A feature of the SA team's performance was the success of the half-back flankers.

This is of particular importance in view of the Vics' strength across half-forward.

## AT A GLANCE

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
SA	2-4	10-9	12-11	15-17	107
WA	6-1	7-3	12-6	14-11	95

**BEST PLAYERS**—SA: Molloy, Adcock, Pope, Colbey, Oatey, Darley. WA: Cable, Turnbull, McIntosh, Brehaut, Walker, Manning, Graham, Smith.

**SCORERS**—SA: Molloy 4.2, Phillis 2.5, Oatey 2.1, Chessell 2.0, Marker 1.3, Robran 1.2, Nygaard 1.1, Birt 1.1, Day 1.0, Darley 0.2. WA: Robertson 4.4, Cable 3.3, Walker 2.1, Astone 1.1, Chadwick 1.0, Brehaut 1.0, Wynne 1.0, Caserley 1.0, Scott 0.2.

**REPLACEMENTS**—SA: Day (shoulder) by Phillips at end of third term. WA: Roberts by Farmer, third term. Astone by Miller, last term.

**UMPIRE**—Don Blew.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Vic.	4-5	8-9	16-18	23-21	159
Tas.	1-6	6-8	8-13	10-26	86

**BEST PLAYERS—VICTORIA**: Nicholls, Dillon, Bedford, Keddie, Jesaulenko, Bisset, R. Murray. **TASMANIA**: Baldock, Payne, Nusteling, Oldenhof, Lucas, Devine, Hall.

**SCORERS—VICTORIA**: Hudson 7.1, Dillon 4.3, Nicholls 4.1, Keddie 2.5, Bedford 2.1, Hart 2.0, Bisset 1.4, Newman 1.0, Jesaulenko 0.3, Newnham 0.2, Steward 0.1. **TASMANIA**: Nusteling 4.3, Payne 2.4, Richmond 2.2, Baldock 1.7, Dunn 1.1, Devine 0.3, Hall 0.2, Lynch 0.2, Lee 0.1, Pelham 0.1.

**REPLACEMENTS**—VICTORIA: Newnham replaced by Hart at end of third term; Gerlach replaced by Watt at end of third term. **TASMANIA**: McMahon (ankle) replaced by Lade in the second term, Doran replaced by Pelham at end of third term.

**UMPIRE**—Ray Scott.

## AT BERRI

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	4-3	9-6	17-9	21-15	141
U. Mur.	2-3	5-4	5-6	6-7	43

**BEST PLAYERS—WEST**: Bertelsmeier, Verrier, Edgley, Hooper, Bonshore, Milsom. **UPPER MURRAY**: Rigney, T. Farrant, D. Turner, D. Eagle, R. Seekamp, W. Pontt.

**SCORERS—WEST**: Edgley 7, Verrier 3, Bertelsmeier 2, J. Hooper 2, Jonas 2, Weideman, Milsom, Walker, Burkett, Wallace. **UPPER MURRAY**: Eagle 2, R. Seekamp, D. Seekamp, R. Fielke, Turner.

## AT BROKEN HILL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
South	5-6	7-8	12-15	16-16	112
B. Hill	0-1	5-2	6-3	8-9	57

**BEST PLAYERS—SOUTH**: Williams, Coombe, Schmidt, Mahoney, Hodges, Hebbard. **BROKEN HILL**: Hammond, Hywood, Barker, Stanborough, Rimmer, Burns.

**SCORERS**—SOUTH: Hodges 3, Trengove 3, Palmer 3, Whelan 2, Skuse 2, Ryan, Thredgold, Hebbard. **BROKEN HILL**: Semmens 3, Holloway 2, Egan, Burt, Hammond.

## NEXT WEEK

**AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP**

(Adelaide)

June 11

SA v. Tasmania

VFL v. WA

June 14

WA v. Tasmania

VFL v. SA

## ATTENDANCE

Adelaide

40,130



"HEY, the ball is over there, fellas." Western Australia's John Turnbull appears to be directing teammate Bradley Smith and South Australia's Fred Phillis at Adelaide Oval today. Both have misjudged the ball.



S.A. 4.5 12.14 16.16 21.22 148  
Tas. 3.7 4.8 10.14 12.18 90

# Lift Needed By S.A. For Final Game

By KEITH BUTLER

**SA can and must lift its game if it is to beat Victoria in their play-off for the Australian football championship at Adelaide Oval on Saturday.**

Following SA's 58-point win over Tasmania and Victoria's impressive 47-point victory against WA before a crowd of 37,453 at Adelaide Oval yesterday, the two teams will go into Saturday's clash unbeaten.

SA's margin against Tasmania might, on the surface, seem handsome enough. But the controlled team effort and some indifferent ball-handling was at times poor.

The game was similar to that against WA — a passive start, a devastating second quarter when it kicked 8.9 to 1.1, and an unspectacular but steady last half with SA kicking 9.8 to 8.10.

But there is no doubt that SA can boost its game to a much higher plane than yesterday, particularly with the advent of Rick Schoff, Robert Oatey, John Birt, Keith Chessell and Ken Eustice.

## STARRED AGAIN

SA owed yesterday's victory to a number of factors, chief of which was the triumph of its rucks where Graham Molloy, the sensation of the championship, was the most brilliant player on the ground.

His marking was almost as spectacular as when he played against WA. His speed, long kicking, delivery and control must make him, with big John Nicholls, favorite to win the Eric Tassie Medal.

The ruck success of Harry Kernahan and the continued improvement of Craig McKellar will have added to selection problems.

But SA is certain to look for the pacy follower — Molloy and Chessell — to support the big men, having in mind the speed of the Victorian ruck-rovers.

John Cahill found his best form at centre. This suggests that with Robert Day suspect with a shoulder injury the centre line, following an indifferent display from Darryl Hicks, is wide open on the wings.

Ken Eustice seems likely to get one position. Contrary to general opinion Barrie Robran, despite a loss of form, could still cover centre (his true position) and allow Cahill to fill the other wing. It is a gamble which could fire.

The strength and rebound of SA's half-backs — Brian Colbey, Phil Nelson and Rodney Pope — had a big bearing on the SA win. Nelson could not have acquitted himself better, which will pose a problem for Saturday's big match.

Peter Darley at centre half-forward was another success. Although lacking a little in pace he handed out the ball repeatedly to set up opportunities.

## GAINED CONFIDENCE

Fred Phillis, who finished with 6.6, marked magnificently and although his kicking at times let him down he will be a far more confident player against Victoria.

Tasmania, badly beaten in the air, never really threatened although it was a sobering spectacle to watch the way its two rovers, John Neal and Burnie Payne, held the edge and between them kicked eight of Tasmania's 12 goals from a forward pocket.

Keith Pattinson's debut, however, was encouraging.

But added to Tasmania's torment was the breakdown across half-forward. Darrel Baldock was the only worthwhile player on this line, although he did not have much influence.

There were, however, occasions when Tasmania whipped the game away from SA. During these periods it was the ruckmen Ted Lees, John Devine and Ray Groom who took over.

Phil Dell played strongly on a half-back flank particularly when switched to cover a hitherto damaging Damien Nygaard. John Burns (centre) and Lucas (wing) were also prominent in many drives.

One could not fault Alf Oldenhof's display in the back pocket where he restricted the SA rovers to only one goal while resting.

**GOALKICKERS.** — SA — Phillis 6.6; Molloy 4.2; Nygaard 2.4; Marker, Panneburg, Pattinson, each 2.1; Darley 1.1; Phillips, Hicks, each 1.0; Robran 0.3; Cahill 0.2; rushed 0.1. Tasmania — Neal 5.0; Payne 3.3; Baldock 2.4; Nusteling 1.2; Devine 1.1; Mackey 0.2; Hall, Groom, Pelham, Richmond each 0.1; rushed 0.2.

**BEST.** — SA — Molloy, Cahill, Kernahan, Nelson, Colbey, Darley. Tasmania — Lees, Neal, Oldenhof, Baldock, Payne, Dell. Umpire — R. Sleeth.

Vic. 9.6 15.7 19.14 21.18 144  
W.A. 2.2 6.5 11.7 14.13 97

# Great Start By Victoria

By GORDON SCHWARTZ

**A supremely confident and talented Victorian team kicked 9.6 to 2.2 in the first quarter against WA yesterday — and that briefly summarises the late game.**

For the last three quarters Victoria scored only one more point — 12.12 to 12.11 — to win by 47 points but that was an anti-climax after a magnificent opening.

The game, like so many in which Victoria participates, was never really a contest.

Quicker movement, superior ball handling, smart backing up and close co-operation in all parts of the field were the essential differences between the teams.

The nine-goal burst which virtually won the game in the first quarter came from quick hand and foot passing and the dominance of centre half-forward Royce Hart.

He not only marked superbly and excelled on the ground but he also gained great distance when kicking.

The inability to counter John Nicholls's ruck supremacy and the skilful breakaways of rover Kevin Bartlett and wingman Ricky Watt were other costly failures for WA.

The fierce speed with which the Victorians attacked the ball or tackled opponents destroyed WA's hopes.

Apart from livewire rover Bill Walker and centre half-forward Mal Brown, WA's thin sprinkling of top-class players could exert no influence because they were matched by Victorian players of superior skill.

Like all Victorian teams this one had height, physical strength and pace.

## Reaction

In their eagerness to gain possession players moved off the mark with lightning quickness — obviously a reaction to Saturday's criticism that teamwork was sluggish.

Complacency is a dangerous enemy of too-successful sides but coach Ron Barassi used the week-end censure of his players as a whip in yesterday's pre-match address.

The story of the first quarter was not so much WA's failures or shortcomings, but roather the

skill and teamwork of the methodical and professional-looking Victorians.

WA was beaten because it was too slow settling down. While players tried to find touch, Victoria quickly took charge, went ahead and registered a winning score.

WA started on the wrong foot by fumbling and making elementary mistakes. This was bad enough but the first seven frees from umpire Ducker went to Victoria — and any pre-match confidence that players had quickly disappeared.

The defence was hap-hazard. Defenders with a reputation for brilliance wandered too far from opponents Hart and Jesaulenko, who also have brilliant reputations.

## Failures

And when Walker initiated drives they usually foundered because of the sure high marking or fearless clearing rushes of the Victorian defenders.

WA players who had rarely been sighted in the first half became prominent from early in the third quarter when Victoria had established a 63-point advantage — 17.8 to 7.5.

**Ruck man** Graham Farmer's experience and clever handpasses repeatedly gave team-mates the initiative.

Wingman Greg Brehaut, utility player John Wynne and rover Barry Cable were three who were prominent.

Victorian full forward Peter Hudson, who was hit by everything except the picket fence, kicked six goals to take his total to 13 in two games.

**Goalkickers** — Victoria — Hudson, 6.3; Kekovich, 3.5; Hart, Jesaulenko, 3.3; Nicholls, Bartlett, 2.1; Keddie, 1.1; Bedford, 1.0; Dillon, 0.1. WA — Robertson, 4.1; Roberts, 3.0; Brown, 2.2; Walker, 2.1; Wynne, 1.1; Mitchell, Farmer, 1.0; Brehaut, 0.3; Miller, 0.2; Cable, 0.1; rushed, 0.2.

**Best** — Victoria — Hart, Nicholls, Watt, Bartlett, Newman, Jesaulenko. WA — Walker, Brehaut, Farmer, Wynne, Cable, Eakins.

Umpire — M. E. Ducker (SA).





Adelaide, June 14, 1969

# HEROIC SA WILT UNDER VIC. PRESSURE

## Big league beats all

By SAM GALLAGHER

By SAM GALLAGHER

The 1969 Australian championships at Adelaide Oval reached a conclusion that was generally predicted, and Victoria is to be congratulated on retaining its title.

That the Big V can be reduced to ordinary proportions was shown by South Australia's first half today, but the impression still remains that the opposition has to play above itself to bring this about.

### Great football

Victoria's ability to make good their losses with players of equal ability was exemplified in the Hart-Dillon exchange in today's game.

South Australia's Graham Molloy made history by tying with West Australia's Peter Eakins for the Eric Tassie Medal.

Molloy's thrilling football over the first two days of the carnival was a highlight of the championships.

Craig McKellar was another to prove himself against the toughest opposition, while Marker, Colbey and Pope also played right up to their club form.

### Artistry

Among the visitors, the artistry of Jesaulenko, the dashing moving of Cable and Walker, Nicholls' magnificent ruck work and a few glimpses of Baldock at his best will be long remembered by all who saw them.

The carnival was probably the final interstate appearance of one of the great names in Australian football, Graham ("Polly") Farmer.

Farmer's brilliant attacking handball introduced a new element into ruck play and his influence of the style of John Nicholls is a tribute to the Western Australian's skill.

### Nicholls

### too quick

Victorian captain John Nicholls "jumped the gun" when he told the crowd that Perth would be the venue for the next Australian football carnival in three years time.

He was receiving trophies and a cheque for Victoria's championship win on a rostrum on Adelaide Oval at the end of the carnival.

Later, SA's delegate to the ANFC, Mr. Cliff Semmler said the venue and date of the next carnival series would be decided by the council at a meeting in Melbourne

After a magnificent first half in which SA matched Victoria in every phase of the game, the home side succumbed to superior physical strength and the sustained play-on game of the Victorians to go down by 44 points.

South Australia's opening was tremendous. They countered Victoria in ruck, took control across centre, and all over the ground tackled with a ferocity that completely stifled Victoria's ability to create the loose man.

Only mistakes by SA in defence and in attack were the dropping of comparatively easy marks. This allowed Victoria to be in touch at the end of the first quarter.

Cahill and Eustice on the centreline were SA's inspiration in the vital opening exchanges.

The effect of Cahill's injury, sustained when he goaled on the run in the

second quarter, could well have been the turning point of the game.

Cahill battled on with tremendous courage, able to kick only right foot from that point. He switched to half-forward at three-quarter time but eventually was forced to retire.

Eustice's spirited start was also of great importance in establishing SA's game, and he was running on as strongly as anyone when Victoria had the game under control in the last quarter.

### Key move

Barrie Robran also proved himself in interstate company with an effective four quarters on the wing.

Apart from the centre line, McKellar's effort in ruck against the redoubtable Nicholls was also a major influence in SA's strong first half.

The Victorians were unable to develop any consistent drive in attack as Schoff was on top of Hart at centre half-forward from the start, and in the second quarter took complete control.

Dillon eventually replaced Hart but went to a half-forward flank, the Victorian's banking on Jesaulenko's speed to overcome Schoff's dominance at centre half-back.

It didn't work out that way as Schoff still won the position until Dillon was shifted to centre half-forward at the start of the third quarter.

This move, and the switch of Keddie to centre, were significant in Victoria's third quarter burst which gave them control of the game.

SA switched half-forward flanks in the second term, looking for more drive from this line.

### Had control

Half-way through the term Victoria seemed to be gaining confidence and only Schoff's great defence stopped them

going ahead.

Looking for a lift across half forward and a direct counter to Nicholls' strength in ruck, SA switched Darley and Molloy at the start of the third term.

The move did not succeed as Victoria began to move the ball into attack from the ruck and Steward maintained control at centre half-back.

A great burst by Marker on a half-forward flank kept SA in the game until Victoria got the vital break.

Waters, whose marking in defence held SA up time and time again, and Walker, began to put Victoria into attack from half-back.

With Keddie getting on top of the injured Cahill, Nicholls and Dillon got four goals between them to kick Victoria away.

By the end of the term Victoria were moving the ball through half-forward in an all too-familiar style.

They finished in full

command, running on strongly to make the loose man as SA vainly made position changes in an effort to stem the tide.

Nelson for Nygaard at three quarter-time allowed the switch of Schoff to centre and Cahill to the half-forward flank.

It was a logical move as Cahill was on one leg and Dillon had taken control at centre half-forward.

SA struck further trouble when Day went down with cramp, but at this stage Victoria had the game won.

Eustice and Robran kept SA moving forward in the closing stages and Phillis was switched to centre half-forward in a last desperate move, but the Victorian defence was supreme.

The finish was something of an anti-climax after the thrilling first half had kept the crowd in constant uproar, but Victoria's strength was decisive in the second half.

128,754

### ATTENDANCE

Official attendance figure for the three days of the Australian football championship was 128,754.

Attendance at Adelaide Oval today was 51,141 — highest of the three days.

## AT A GLANCE

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Vic.	3-5	6-5	12-8	15-11	101
SA	4-3	6-5	8-8	8-9	57

BEST PLAYERS—VICTORIA: Waters, Steward, Walker, Bartlett, Keddie, Dillon, Watt, Nicholls.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Schoff, Eustice, Cahill, Marker, McKellar, Robran, Elleway, Day.

SCORERS—VICTORIA: Hudson 4-2, Dillon 3-0, Nicholls 3-1, Hart 2-0, Bartlett 1-2, Bedford 1-1, Keddie 1-0, Jesaulenko 0-3, Newman 0-1, rushed 0-1.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Phillis 4-1, Marker 2-1, Day 1-2, Cahill 1-0, Nygaard 0-2, Chessell 0-2, Birt 0-1.

REPLACEMENTS—VICTORIA: Hart (foot) by Dillon second term, Griffiths (thigh) by Way last term.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Nygaard by Nelson at end of third term and Cahill (pulled thigh muscle) by Hicks last term.

UMPIRE—Ray Scott.

WA	9-2	13-9	20-14	28-24	192
Tas.	6-2	8-3	10-7	12-7	79

BEST PLAYERS—WA: Walker, Brown, Brehaut, Eakins, McIntosh, Manning, Roberts, Smith, Wynne.

TASMANIA: Lees, Baldock, Oldenhof, Hall, Dell, Burns, Doran.

SCORERS—WA: Robertson 7-3, Walker 6-0, Melrose 3-8, Brown 3-2, Cable 2-1, Manning 2-0, Mitchell 1-4, Wynne 1-2, Brehaut 1-1, McIntosh 1-0, Astone 1-0, Casserley 0-1, Roberts 0-1, Chadwick 0-1.

TASMANIA: Baldock 4-0, Richmond 3-2, Neal 1-2, Devine 1-1, Payne 1-0, Nusteling 1-0, Lucas 1-0, Hall 0-1, rushed 0-1.

REPLACEMENTS—WA: Mitchell replaced by Astone in the final term.

TASMANIA: Dell (ankle) replaced by Lynch in the third term.

UMPIRE—Ray Sleeth.

### AMATEURS

SA	7-3	8-5	13-14	15-14	104
Vic.	1-2	4-4	4-11	6-13	49

BEST PLAYERS—SA: Hockridge, Bland, Tierney, Griffiths, Ferris, Goodhart, Stuart, Welford.

VICTORIA: Beattie, Mullen, Gordon, Edwards, Gowers, Chaffey.

SCORERS—SA: Ferris 5, Griffiths 3, Stuart, Lange 2, Page, Oliver, Sandland.

VICTORIA: Salter 2, Beattie, Gowers, Hughes, Wood.

### ATTENDANCE

Adelaide	51,141
Total for carnival	128,754

### NEXT WEEK

North v. West (Adelaide).  
Centrals v. South (Elizabeth).  
Norwood v. Sturt (Norwood).  
Torrens v. Port (Thebarton).  
Woodville v. Glenelg (Woodville).

By RAY BARBER

Five South Australians are included in the 20 all-Australian players picked today at the finish of the Australian championships.

**JOHN CAHILL.** — SA captain and one of the most versatile players. Has distinguished himself at centre and on the wing. Never beaten and gives penetration with a long left foot kick. Has played for SA since 1961.

**PETER DARLEY.** — SA vice-captain who has done well as a specialist follower and fill-in centre half-forward. A big mark astute ruckman. State representative since 1963.

**GRAHAM MOLLOY.** — Sensation of the carnival on the first two days. Spectacular leaper, a long soaring kick and a mobile middle follower. Will be the toast of Norwood.

**BRIAN COLBEY.** — Instant success in his interstate debut at half-back right. Rugged defender who can find his half-forwards in rebound with good clearing kicks. Looks an SA player for many years.

**RICK SCHOFF.** — All-Australian centre half-back in the 1966 carnival in Hobart. A strong, fearless player equally at home at centre half-back centre half-forward, and centre. Expert ground worker, although his kicking lacks distance at times.

### Eric Tassie Medal

Peter Eakins, WA centre half-back, who tied in the 1969 Tassie Medal with Graham Molloy, left the ground before the announcement was made to the crowd.

He returned to the team's motel to rest an injured leg.

It was there he learnt that he had tied with SA's Graham Molloy.

Tonight, the team toasted Eakins with champagne at parties in players' rooms at the motel.

Eakins and Molloy each received four votes from the umpires over the three games each played during the carnival.

They received a first and third preference vote.

WA rover Barry Cable was the surprise omission from the voting list.

He did not receive a vote although most critics placed him, either best or next best on ground on the opening day of the carnival against SA.

Players who received votes were:

- 4—Molloy, Eakins.
- 3—Jesaulenko, Waters, Steward (Vic.), Walker (WA).
- 2—Hart, Nicholls, Way (Vic.), Pope, Darley (SA), Brown (WA).
- 1—Baldock, Burns, Payne (Tas.), Cahill (SA).