

# Young Bloods started and finished season like champs

With tremendous excitement and lots of emotion—both male and female—the Young Bloods won the Olinda-Perry Creek football club's first ever premiership flag last Saturday. Most seasoned players will admit that luck counts a lot in grand finals, but I don't think there were any spectators for or against would say these Bloods were lucky with this pennant.

It seemed to be firstly the one single factor that contributed to the victory was the dogged determination by their coach, Trevor Billington, that they would win.

Come what may, he knew at the beginning of the season that he had a team which could win a flag and set out along those lines to mould the team to do just that.

The big day and the boys proved that faith, by surprising everyone and winning by a comfortable margin.

The game by quarters. First was a neutralising game, each side stars holding each other. So even was it that at half-time neither side had a score with fifteen on the point.

Second quarter Olinda had a number of chances to gain a substantial lead. But Upwey backs kept them out. Robert Reid kicked the opening goal and half-time the scores were Olinda 13, Upwey-Tecoma 1.

Third quarter Bloods were full of confidence because they seemed to be stopping Upwey getting a couple of goals back.

Pressure was on, and the whole team rose to the occasion. I will admit I have never seen these boys play so well.

Backs D. Johnston, B. Johnson and R. Threlley repelled attacks time and time again.

L. Sands, A. McPherson, D. Harris and J. Paull literally jumped out of themselves to stop dangerous situations. R. Dodd, superb in defence. A. Sutherland and G. Feltham, marked and pressed forward amazingly.

After this fantastic third quarter it looked obvious that as predicted, the result would be no more than a two or three point decision either way.

Olinda 24  
Upwey 13

So the decider, Upwey made the first decisive moves attacking with everything and eventually forcing a point and then the Young Bloods big men who had been marking remarkably well all day came into action.

M. Schauble, unbeaten in the air; R. Reid, P. Mitchell, M. Dunn, captain M. Harkness, C.

Harris, all opened up the play, passed, hauled and put everything into getting the ball forward.

M. Dunn had two beautiful shots for goal, kicking one out of bounds and one goal.

Two I have left till last because of the brilliant quick-thinking. The two tiny forward pockets, E. Gammon and Peter Jones. Gammon missed a short pass, knocked it to Jones who had to get rid of it quickly so passed it back and in a flash Gammon scored full points. The same type of thing happened seconds later, but in reverse when Gammon kicked it back to Jones who marked in the goal square and made no mistake.

Two small incidents with two small players but they both made Blood supporters start to breathe easier again.

With but a few minutes to go Upwey scored another goal just before the bell.

Final scores:  
Olinda 24  
Upwey-Tecoma 13

Olinda goal scorers: Reid 2, Dunn, Gammon, P. Jones.

Beef: Each player mentioned in this summary.

Noticed during the third quarter while the pressure was on: Capt. Mac Harkness, giving instructions to players. Surely a sign of a cool head in times of strain. Credit to you Mac.

The night before the final Trev Billington received the club trophy for the best clubman; a fitting tribute for him. Most people would not know the handicap he has trained under. Hurt his spine during a fire-fighting episode many months ago and has been in bed since in a brace and plaster cast, getting up only for matches and training.

Thanks to the time keeper, Doug Harkness goal umpire, George Harris, and the M.D. F.A. best junior boundary umpire, Alan Reid.

Two interesting sidelights:  
Quarter by quarter total of free kicks—

Olinda 4 3 5 2; marks 28.  
Upwey 6 3 2 1; marks 13

From the point of view of the Tiger Cubs, I thought their best seemed to be R. Field, the full back, who did amazing things to keep the Bloods out; J. Burley, who tried hard all day and ran himself into the ground. With his opposite number, R. Falconer, they did everything they could for the first three quarters and held the game in the balance.

Back pocket K. McEllan, supported his full back well and Capt. R. Childs led his team from start to finish.

Goal kickers were R. Falconer and J. Burley.

For this year we must thank all clubs for co-operation during the season. Congrats to South Wantirna and Upper Gully (no comment on the game with Belgrave; my entertainment concluded after the Bloods left the field). Thanks to Claude Crook, C. Dalziel and Ted Jenkins and all delegates and we'll see all clubs from the top of the ladder next season.

Ted Jenkins had a bad day in more ways than one. He left his overcoat hanging in the dressing sheds of the juniors and enquiring found it had gone. I wonder if anyone knows where it might be? If so would they give him a ring? He'd be very happy.

—BLUR BLOOD.

## Boronia cr

Boronia crickets will have its first practice for the season on Saturday afternoon at the recreation reserve.

The pitch will be cleared and practice will follow. The senior teams will practise on Tues-

## METUW