

Griffith Won Rules Trial by 44 Points

ROWSTON INJURED

By JACK LUHRS

Some of the shine went from Griffith's 44 points win over Berrigan in Sunday's final trial on the Ex-Servicemen's Oval, when star centre-half forward Kevin Rowston was injured in the last few minutes of play.

Before being taken to hospital with a suspected fractured ankle, Rowston had starred in a dashing second half display of sky scraping marks. In the opening minute of the third quarter he kicked a brilliant 50-yards goal against the wind. Griffith's teamwork was definitely stronger and their match winning goals came from nine different players. Griffith won 12-10-82 to 4.14.48 after Berrigan lost many opportunities through shocking kicks at goal.

The Area News - April 10

AUSSIE RULES NOTES

by Neil Griggs

Everyone at the Ex-Servicemen's Oval on Sunday last was pleased to see Allan Hudson run on the ground and he certainly lived up to all expectations by turning in his inimitable, bustling, vigorous game. On the previous Friday, Allan had won the Golden Gloves middleweight title in Sydney and had returned to Griffith only on Saturday night. And the fact that he donned the No. 17 guernsey on Sunday speaks volumes for his enthusiasm and team spirit. 14/6

With quite a few players stricken with the "wog" and other injuries, the Griffith Second 18 presented an almost new look team at Coolamon last Sunday. Fans reserved a special cheer for club strapper Jack Mitchell as he raced on the ground in a bulging red and white guernsey. Jack played in a forward pocket and would have received a tremendous ovation if he had managed to kick a goal but unfortunately he just couldn't make it with one or two chances that came his way.

Riverina Advocate - August 18

SENSATIONAL GAME AT GRIFFITH

THE 14th round of matches were played in the South Western District Football League on Sunday, July 22.

The match at the Griffith Ex-Servicemen's Oval ended with one of the worst spectator demonstrations even held in SWDFL history.

Narrandera won the game in the first quarter when their dazzling play left Griffith floundering, and took them to a 50-nil lead.

It was a brilliant exhibition and Griffith had no answer.

The second and third quarters provided the wildest scenes on the playing field for years, with punches being thrown much too frequently.

VFL umpire John Gray had little control of the game and in the eyes of Swans fans he was the worst umpire they had ever seen.

The incident that upset Swans supporters most happened late in the third quarter when local goal umpire Bob Ledwidge belatedly advised umpire Gray that the ball had been forced through Narrandera's goal for a behind.

A disagreement broke out between the goal and field umpire after which Gray refused to give Ledwidge the "all clear" signal.

In protest Ledwidge raised a flag and waved it wildly.

Gray then awarded Narrandera's rover Bruce Waters a penalty kick and ironically only one point resulted.

At lemons an irate group of Griffith supporters proceeded to mob umpire Gray and accused him of taking a bribe.

Griffith officials realised the gravity of the situation and called for police protection.

The match concluded with the Blue and Golds running out winners by 63 points - 15.18 (108) to 6.9 (45).

From there the Griffith crowd congregated around umpire Gray blocking his passage from the field.

Griffith's granite-like centreman and Riverina middleweight boxing champion, Allan Hudson, on seeing the umpire being jostled, jumped the fence and addressed the angry crowd.

He called on supporters to give the umpire a fair go and so maintain the reputation of the Griffith club as the home of everything that is clean and best in the game.

Meanwhile, Griffith club president Ian Salmon, assisted by two former well-known Narrandera sportsmen Roy and George Mackenzie whisked Gray away and locked him in the umpire's change room.

A crowd of several hundred, which included committeemen, women and children then milled around the change room hurling abuse at Gray.

Ignoring the insults hurled at him Gray wisely stayed behind locked doors until he was assured that he would not be harmed.

Two coppers arrived and as Gray emerged from the change room he was pelted with mud rolled into balls.

Constables Norris and Curran threatened the worse offenders with a night in the cells before escorting Gray to a waiting car.

The crowd dispersed without further trouble.

TURNING BACK TIME 2007 - The Area News

LEN SEXTON WINS HEINZ AWARD

Australian Rules captain-coach Len Sexton wins the Heinz-Advocate "Sportsman of the Week" award for his outstanding exhibition in Griffith's crucial S.W.D.F.L. competition game at Coolamon last Sunday.

Battling for competition points to qualify for the final four Griffith had to win this vital clash with the leading team to stay in calculations for premiership honours and, that they failed, could in no way be attributed to Len's performance for he set his team an inspiring example and was generally acknowledged as the best player afield. Len played on the ball for most of the game and repeatedly initiated attacks with speedy play and long kicks, but was always ready to exchange hand passes or short kicks with a better positioned team mate.

Ever alert to sense a scoring opportunity he kept Griffith right in the game with his fast break troughs and his personal contribution to a score of 55 was 40 points which included six goals. These goals took Len to the top of the goal kicking ladder and has a great chance of repeating last season's achievement of being the leading goal kicker of the competition.

Now in his second season with the Griffith Club, Len, this season, represented the S.W.D.F.L. in Sydney and was awarded (by umpire) the handsome Shell Medal as the best and fairest S.W.D.F.L. player.

Riverina Advocate - August 18