LET'S LOOK AT FOOTBALL with HUGH BUGGY



1938-Carlton comes back

SELDOM has football in Victoria reached a higher standard than in 1938 — the year the Blues came

back.

Exhilarating football by the stronger League clubs gave fans 22 weeks of sheer delight.

It was a memorable season of textbook football, astonishing form reversals and close, tense, hardfought games.

Setting the pace, the Blues were never headed. They overcame their finals hoodoo to sweep on to their first pennant since 1915.

• Laurie Nash, one of the greatest players in the game between the wars, transferred from South Melbourne to Camberweil without a clearance. His move renewed trafficking in players between League and Association. and Association.

• Twenty-seven points down with nine minutes to go, Richmond snatched an amazing win against Essendon on June 18. The Tigers scored 5-2 in those nine minutes to win,

• A mystery man claiming to represent promotors of a football betting card, offered Tiger forward Jack Titus £50 to play "dead" against South. Titus reported the approach to the committee. played brilliantly against South, and kicked five goals.

• With 11 goals in the final against Geelong, Magpie star Ron Todd equalled the record established by Harry Vallence against Collingwood in the semi-final of 1931.

• Star North Adelaide forward Ken Farmer reached his 1.000th goal reached his 1.000th goal after nine seasons. Gordon Coventry kicked 1.299 goals in 18 seasons.

This happened in 1938:

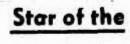
• Grand final attendance of 96.834 was more than a League record. It was the largest crowd ever to watch a football match of any code in Australia, Record attendance at an Australia v. England Rugby League game in Sydney was 70,204 in 1932.

• By developing district players. Footscray made the four for the first time after 13 years in the League. They were the first of the three V.F.A. clubs admitted in 1925 to climb so high.

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South's ace forward Bob Pratt. after a season out of the game through an ankle injury, returned as vice-captain.

• Ken Baxter, from Werribee, who was to become Carlton's most reliable forward for 11 years, began with the Blues.



season

DICK REYNOLDS won his third Brownlow Medal to equal the record of Haydn Bunton in 1931-32-35.



His roring skill in making openings, and his inspiring example helped to bit Essendon from 10th to 7th on the list.

• Fans had a surfeit of thrills on July 23. Four games out of six were won by one point — a League record. They were: Geelong, 14-20, v. St. Kilda, 15-13. North Melbourne, 13-18, v. South Melbourne, 14-11; Essendon, 17-17, v. Collingwood, 17-16; and Melbourne, 9-16, v. Hawthorn, 10-9.

• Marcus Boyall (Collingwood) and Norman Ware (Footscray) were joint winners of "The Argus" Cup for best and jairest player of 1938.

 Magpie's new star forward, Ron Todd, on May 21 kicked 11 goals against Carlton-nine in the first half. Yet Collingwood lost half. Yet Collingwood lost the match, 17-12 to 19-16. Todd kicked 60 goals in his first eight games of 1938—an xxwage of 71 a match.

• Geelong ran up 19-32 against South Melbourne on June 9 – a new League record for behinds. Previous record tally, also by Geelong, was 21-31 in 1934.

How the flag

was won

Cariton heat Colling, wood in the Grand Linal with a shrewd tactical plan.

In a tense, hard but fair, game the Blue, played in front of their opponents. They also held a strong grip on that dangerous Magpie part-Alby Pannam and Des Fothergill.

Against these tarties Collingwood was never able to get that early shattering break which have wen them so many causes Their loose mail we to er allowed to be here for more than a minute. So in a game filled with ruring passages the Marpies faltered toward, the close.

Nonrest CARLTON: 3-5, 3-6, 11 % US-10 (100) COLLINGWOOD: 3-1 1 1 8-5, 12-7 (R5) FINALS Accreate attendance 290,703 (all-time record). Re respire £10,426 First Round Aggregate Atten dance, 1,599,352. Receptiv £36,132.

Statistics for

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