

## CENTRAL GOULBURN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# Alexandra 2000 Olympic Premiers

### 2000 GRAND FINAL Write-up

Saturday, September 16th, Central Goulburn Football League Grand Final Day, the weather excellent and the ground in great condition, and a large crowd in attendance to witness the Shire of Murrindindi's Alexandra and Yea in the Seniors.

Yea won the toss and kicked to the western end, opening the scoring with two behinds, both teams feeling each other out. Paul Griffiths started well with 4 kicks early in the quarter, Wayne Haggis took a big mark but the kick dropped short, then Casey Schachner struck to the head as he marked strongly, unlucky not to get 50 metres, also unable to convert his kick at goal. Yea rebounded for a goal before the Rebels attacked down the wind, Haggis to Darren Austin who registered another behind. A loose ball at centre half forward, Len Jenkins pounced and kicked the Rebels first goal on the run. Andrew Cumming and Corey Jack had a lot of the ball, but Yea had more of the play and led at quarter time, 3 goals 3 behinds to the Rebels 1 goal 2 behinds.

Yea started the second quarter with a behind before Matt Johnson passed to Jenkins on the boundary line who goaled with a magnificent kick to give the Rebels a lift. Yea put on another 2 behinds before Haggis ran on to a loose ball and kicked his first goal. Jack again solid across half back, pushing the ball forward

where Haggis passed to Michael Sleep who kicked another goal, the Rebels hitting the front. George Steiner moved forward and kicked a goal, John Tossol off the bench allowing Matt Green a rest. Rebel defenders Damien Home, Jason Krijt, Dean O'Brien and Boz Miljkovic forced another two behinds on the goal line for Yea, before a snap in general play gave Yea another goal, the siren sounded for half time and Yea led by one point, 4 goals 9 behinds to Alexandra 5 goals 2 behinds.

Alexandra started the third quarter, regarded as the premiership quarter, with a free kick and goal to Andrew Walker before Tossol was in the hands of the trainers, demolished with a head high hip and shoulder. The Rebels responded with Doug Cooper getting possessions, Colin Gesler pinpoint passes, and a Steiner pass to Austin for a goal. A clearing dash by Shane Carney and pass to Sleep who kicked long, marked by Walker who goaled. The Yea drinks runner gave away a free kick at the centre bounce, Jason Masters pushing forward to Haggis who goaled. Yea then responded with two quick goals before Walker passed to Steiner for another goal to the Rebels. Yea pounced on a loose ball and kicked another goal just before three quarter time with Alexandra leading narrowly, 10 goals 4 behinds to Yea 7 goals 10 behinds. A large crowd of supporters gathered around both the team huddles to listen to the respective coaches for their last address, all players desperate with

one quarter left for the season. Alexandra started well, Jenkins kicked his third goal of the game from centre half forward. Johnson, like pepper and salt, was in everything. Yea attacked but could only manage behinds, the Rebels converting through Austin from a free kick down field. The Rebels then kicked inaccurately with a couple of behinds, Green earning a free kick from a great tackle before Johnson took a big ride on the Tiger's back for a great mark (up that high he later suffered jet lag). Yea kicked a late goal before the final siren, the Alexandra Rebels victorious, 12 goals 9 behinds to Yea 8 goals 14 behinds.

George Steiner received his third Lawless Medal as League Best and Fairest, all players received their Premiership medallions, and Matt Johnson, voted by VCFL officials as best afield in the Grand Final, was awarded the VCFL Medal. Best Players: Shane Carney, Andrew Cumming, Paul Griffiths, Wayne Haggis, Matt Johnson, Andrew Walker. (difficult to select in a magnificent team effort) Goal Kickers: 3 Len Jenkins. 2 Darren Austin, Wayne Haggis, George Steiner, Andrew Walker 1 Michael Sleep.

At the final siren, a large crowd of Rebel supporters joined the players to celebrate their second premiership in their third Grand Final appearance in the last four years - a great effort by everyone at the Alexandra Football/Netball Club and an achievement the community of Alexandra and District should be very proud of.

An outstanding effort also by Andrew Walker, playing in the 1988, 1997 and now 2000 premiership at the Club, a premiership in each decade.

It has been a long year but very worthwhile when you see the extremely joyful faces of players and spectators at Dookie when the final siren sounded, and later arrival on Saturday night at the Club rooms. Thank you to everyone around the Club for a great year, a great deal achieved both on and off the field.