

ALEXANDRA 1956 PREMIERS

SEYMOUR DEFEATED BY THREE POINTS IN GRAND FINAL PLAYED AT YEA

The Grand Final of the Waranga North Eastern Football League between Alexandra and Seymour was decided at Yea last Saturday. After a great game Alexandra were victorious by the narrow margin of three points. To Ian Alexander, the captain / coach we extend our heartiest congratulations on a wonderful win and also on a superb display at full back. His game in this position was one of the best individual efforts we have seen and was instrumental in making this great victory possible. Another great game was played by Seymour coach Alf Harrison. It was no fault of his that his team was beaten. The Yea officials had every detail well attended to for the big day. The gate takings were £390. The Alexandra dressing room was a hive of great activity as well wishers were offering their best for the game. A pleasing feature was the attendance of two former coaches Jack Cotter and Doug DeOliver. A great pile of telegrams were read out by Alexandra President Mr. Jack O'Brien. At the conclusion of his speech he invited all players and supporters to be his guests for that evening. The players then left the room and ran through the red, white and black streamers on to the field. They then lined up with the Seymour players in front of the press box whilst trophies were presented to the following: Geoff Baker of Avenel who won the K.D.Bryant medal for best and fairest. Ivan Fox of Yarck, the A.Bennett trophy for Second XV111 best and fairest. A.White Avenel leading goal-kicker and Ian Hughes Euroa "Spectator"

trophy. After the playing of the National Anthem, players took their positions in readiness for the vital game. (*Seymour players in italics*)

Alexander won the toss but from the bounce Seymour was first into attack. The *Elliott* brothers combined well but only one behind resulted from the onslaught. From the kick-in *T.Elliott* sent to *Osborne* who found *Heffernan* and the first goal of the match was registered by Seymour. They were faster to the ball than their Alexandra opponents and were setting a merry pace. *Heffernan*, on the half-forward flank was giving Seymour great drive early. At last Alexandra went downfield and K.Waters to A.Hewitt to Bradley was productive of full points, to the delight of the Alexandra supporters. *Gratten* to *Spencer* resulted in a major for Seymour. A.Hewitt pulled down a mighty mark at this stage but the ball was ruled out-of-bounds. Alexander was saving time and time again as Seymour continued to attack the goal. *T.Elliott* was giving Seymour great drive and their little men were leaving Alexandra bewildered. *Heffernan* again goaled to give Seymour a handy lead at the close of the first quarter.

From the bounce Coates marked to keep Seymour out. K.Waters to Bradley resulted in an Alexandra major. Jane and A.Hewitt had chances but only behinds resulted *T.Elliott* soon after goaled for Seymour. Weight was now being used freely and F.Waters, playing close to his opponent relieved in grand style. A.Hewitt, in everything, goaled from a smart

pick up in the ten yard square. *Harrison* was proving hard to pass and stopped many thrusts from going further. *Gratten* goaled for Seymour and *T.Elliott* followed suit a little later. R.Cummings turned the next Seymour attack and at the close of the second quarter Seymour was well in the lead 6.5 to Alex. 3.3. The umpiring was in the hands of Sawyer a former League umpire. As he is getting on in years he umpired accordingly – many free kicks given to bring the play back, hence the first half as a spectacle was spoilt, as the game could not flow as it should. The ideal day made high marking possible and great displays were given by players of both teams.

After a stirring half-time address by Ian Alexander play resumed in the third quarter. From the bounce *Osborne* of Seymour registered a behind. Dobbings then sent the Saints in and A.Hewitt scored full points, followed by another major to Jane. This goal was the result of one of the longest kicks we have seen this year – it was a gem. J.Elward and A.Hall were rucking well with great purpose and both were marking well to steady their team when in trouble. A.Hewitt sent in and Timms did the rest by kicking truly to add another six points to Alexandra's tally. The Saints stormed forward with great determination. Jane sent to Payne who rose high and pulled down a mighty mark and then goaled to give Alexandra the lead. Seymour were worried. Bradley added a behind But Seymour had not been in attack since very early in the quarter. When they went forward Creed

turned them back. *Orr* sent to *T.Elliott* and the Seymour fans delight both flags waved the verdict. Guy to A.Hewitt and Bradley, playing well took control, but his kick dropped short and *Dixon* cleared for Seymour. Timms returned to Bradley and this time he goaled to keep Alexandra's hopes well and truly alive. Alexandra's back-line had some lively minutes defending but they were never found wanting. *Akers* who had been a force all day, continued to do well for Seymour. *Spencer* who was also going great guns, tried from well out but his shot fell short and was cleared. *Harrison* again saves for his side and when this great third quarter (five goals to one) concluded Alexandra had a slender lead 8.4 to 7.7.

The Last Quarter. This could be called "Payne's ten minutes" *Harrison* had done a great job all day on this lad but you have to beat a player all the time and *Harrison* had a lapse. Payne in this burst added two quick goals by high marking and straight kicking and his efforts played a great part in the Saints victory. Jane sent in but the ball was cleared by *Osborne* who drove Seymour back into attack but Hall relieved for Alexandra. Jane again forwarded and Payne this time marked and goaled. A.Hewitt also found Payne for another six pointer and the Alexandra supporters were screaming with delight. Seymour replied when *Ivers* sent to *Spencer* and a major was placed on the score-board. At this stage Stephens was playing glorious football for Alexandra, what an improved footballer this lad is! Yes you would want a book to tell all the great things that happened in this quarter. The Waters Bros – we claim that Kevin is the youngest player to appear in a premiership side for

Alexandra in the Waranga League; this lad is only 17 years old. And what a great player he is. Brother Frank is also a great player and has given Alexandra a great season. Still the battle raged on, neither team being able to get the break to score. Play was crowded. R.Cummings had to leave the field and L.Nicholson was run on in the thick of play. Boote drove Seymour out and Coates, awarded a free kick, upset another Seymour move. J.Elward marked well over the pack to drive Alexandra in again, but Seymour cleared. J.Hewitt marked twice over his opponent to keep back dangerous attacks. *Osborne* to *Waite* was rewarded by full points to Seymour. Three points the difference and there still was plenty of time left. How fully was the large crowd entertained during this period? Great were both teams efforts to win, but Alexandra's eighteen rose high to the occasion and were prepared not to surrender the lead. And to Alexandra's delight, the siren sounded with Alexandra in front by three points thus making them the 1956 Olympic year premiers and thanks to Seymour for the manner in which they played the game. Final scores Alex. 10.4.64 to S'mour 9.7.61. Goal-kickers: J.Bradley 3. K.Payne 3. A.Hewitt 2. Jane 1. Timms 1. Best Players: Ian Alexander and the other nineteen players who made our great victory possible. Best for Seymour were many but A.Harrison and T.Elliott were outstanding.