

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1980

BULLDOGS PUT AN END TO BLUES' RUN

WEST Townsville took the 1980 Townsville Australian Football League grand final with a stunning 29 point win over outright favourite Currajong on Saturday.

West Townsville, nominated as the team least likely to succeed in the finals series, floored critics to the delight of a one-sided crowd of almost 2000.

The Bulldogs were in front from beginning to end and kept a tight rein on the Blues, who were renowned for fighting comebacks.

Quarrelling among players in the last term spelt the end of Currajong and the traditional comeback never emerged.

Currajong was contesting its eighth grand final and had won the last five it was going for an all-up record of seven premierships.

West Townsville, which first played in the competition in 1970, has won only one premiership. Two other chances were lost at the hands of Currajong.

Bulldogs captain Bob Harwood was the man to string together the team making it the fighting grand final machine it was.

The 33-year-old Harwood is off to Darwin this week to coach another side in the Northern Territory's summer competition. He plans to return to Wests for the 1981 season.

His game was in complete con-

trast to that of Currajong captain - coach Ken Ferres.

Ferres was outclassed all day and the leading T.A.F.L. goalkicker managed only one major for the game. He tried old tricks to win the ball, but new rules implemented well by umpires saw the tables turned as he gave away frees.

Currajong crashed. Arguing in the final term was not their only downfall. Players hung heads instead of trying to fight back.

The Bulldogs' big winning-plus was the desire for the ball at all costs.

Currajong's big mistake was to take the opposite stance. Too many players on too many occasions went into the game with the object of putting the man out of action rather than obtaining possession of the ball.

Harwood's ability to keep his players' tempers in line was astounding under provocation, but more than that, it worked.

They kept going for the ball and umpires paid the man in front.

Few players put in consistently good football for the Blues. Best man for the team was Peter Hutchinson, who demonstrated by kicking three goals.

Others to do well in spurts included Mick Bevilacqua, Jim Kasper and young Paul Gray.

In the Wests line-up, good players abounded.

Most solid performance came from centreman Geoff Whitby, who threw himself into every fray and always seemed to emerge with the ball. He played attacking and defensive football to meet the occasion and completely frustrated his opposition including talented Ron Hynes.

Hynes, like Ferres, was kept quiet most of the day.

All Wests' backmen played top football, possibly their best efforts for the season. Currajong actually had six scoring shots more than the Bulldogs, but never had time to take aim.

Just about every kick was rushed by the desperate Bulldogs backs. On the forward line the Bulldogs eluded the Currajong backs with nippy foot and hand passing to get best positioning possible. Their 18 goals and eight behinds testified to this.

Currajong kicked just nine goals from 30 scoring shots.

West Townsville took the double when its reserves side also scored an easy win over Currajong

reserves.

Wests' home grown talent was too good for Blues, and the Bulldogs again led all day.

One of the most inspiring players was full forward L. Cox, who took some spectacular marks and kicked four goals.

Results: Senior division
West Townsville 4.5, 7.7, 14.7, 19.10 (104) defeated Currajong 1.4, 3.4, 4.13, 9.21 (75).

Goalkickers: West Townsville
— B. Small 4, R. Harwood, Dunne 3, A. Wiseman, D. Furler, N. Holcroft, J. Bunt, D. Duffie, Currajong — W. Furler 4, Butler 2, G. Ferres, G. James, Thorne, S. Mathews, S. MacPherson 1.

Reserve division — West Townsville 7.3, 9.5, 17.13, 20.15 (135) defeated Currajong 1.1, 3.6, 6.6, 11.9 (75).

Goalkickers: West Townsville
— L. Cox 4, T. Douglas, S. Duffie, G. Cox, G. Leonard 2, M. Walsh, N. Holcroft, J. Bunt, D. Duffie, Currajong — W. Furler 4, Butler 2, G. Ferres, G. James, Thorne, S. Mathews, S. MacPherson 1.

● **BRIAN Small** (left with ball) takes the mark for West Townsville despite the helpful leg in the back of Currajong's Allen Sullivan in the Australian rules grand final at Centenary Oval Saturday. Bulldog Scott (No. 19) is in support for West Townsville.

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TOWNSVILLE FINAL
West Townsville 16/8/104
defeated Currajong 9/21/75
to end a five-year run by
Currajong in the Australian
rules grand final yesterday.