

## FOOTBALL NEWS

# VICTORY FOR BOURKE

## OUR FIRST GROUP PREMIERSHIP

The largest contingent of supporters ever travelled to Nyngan on Sunday to witness Bourke's narrow victory over Brewarrina in the grand final of the Group competition.

For the record book, the Bourke Club and their supporters pay tribute to the full team. It was Ian Handy, Jim Watts, Peter Jones, John Simpson, Graham Barby (Captain - Coach), Roy Kelly, Peter Coleman, Keith Martin (Vice-Captain), Don Feltis, Brian Green, Stan Douglas, Wayne Waters and Bill Methven. The reserves who did not have to strip were "Woody" Smith and Roy Bligh.

It was the lot of these thirteen who won the first premiership for Bourke since the inception of the Group competition shortly after the last war. We've knocked on the door a few times since then, but Sunday was the day.

John Mumbler, who shared so much in Bourke's rise to the grand final, is reported to have almost recovered from his injury with the joy of hearing the news transmitted to him in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital on Sunday evening.

There was much after-

the-match celebrating in Nyngan by players, supporters and members of other clubs and the huge crowd that followed Bourke gave the town a carnival-like atmosphere.

Then all of a sudden it was Monday, but it was worth it.

From Goodooga early on Monday came the following telegram: "Congratulations on a very popular victory from Goodooga R.F. Club." The Club was also to enjoy showers of personal congratulations from members of other clubs in attendance at Nyngan.

The score, 7-2, indicated precisely the difference between the two teams. Neither side can lay claim to any lucky breaks and referee McAlary is to be congratulated on a job well done.

### THE MATCH MINUTE BY MINUTE

Bourke won the toss and to the tune of the crowd's roar Graham Barby kicked off deep into Brewarrina's territory.

One minute: From a ruck Bourke were awarded a penalty within range but Graham Barby failed in his attempt at goal. Play remained in Brewarrina's ter-

mained in Brewarrina's territory.

**5 minutes:** Another penalty to Bourke but once again Graham could not raise the flags. The occasion was to prove too much for him in the kicking department, but he certainly made up for it in play and was to have the honour of scoring the only try in the match just four minutes from the end.

**10 minutes:** Brewarrina defending desperately to keep Bourke out and after Stan Douglas was disallowed a hotly disputed try, Bre. brought out their big guns and forced Bourke back into their own sector.

Then Wayne Waters, who was to play the game of his life, besides winning the majority of the scrums, secured possession from a ruck, skirted the Brewarrina pack at top speed, straightened up and when Ian Handy ranged up alongside at top speed got a pass to him but Ian was grounded just yards from the try line.

Bourke's over-eagerness in the next ruck brought a penalty to Brewarrina and the pressure on their line was relieved when Norton kicked deep to find touch. But Bourke were to win the scrum and when Ian Handy received the leather he kicked back deep to find touch.

**15 minutes:** Nil all.

**17 minutes:** Graham Barby missed another goal and then Brewarrina began to get a better share of the ball from the scrums and only good cover defence

can from the scrums and only good cover defence halted their determined raids on Bourke territory. Their three-quarter line looked a shade the better in

the open play which Bre. were turning on with fury.

**25 minutes:** Still no score and both sides becoming desperate, but keeping play clean.

**30 minutes:** Ian Handy raised the flags for Bourke and we had the slender lead of 2-nil. Fast open play continued to be the order and the defence of both sides was a joy to watch.

**38 minutes:** Caton just failed to equalise from a penalty and the score was unchanged at half time and neither camp was prepared to predict victory.

Play resumed with both sides throwing everything into their task.

**48 minutes:** The Brewarrina right winger found the gap. The Bourke line was wide open, but Jim Watts, travelling like a jet came across field from the opposite wing to save a certain score and we would have knighted him if we'd had the tools.

**58 minutes:** Caton failed to goal right in front of the posts. Bourke breathed a sigh of gratitude. Play was then taken back into the Bre. half as Bourke called on their every resource.

**60 minutes:** Another two valuable points to Bourke from Ian Handy's boot. 4-0.

It was still anybody's game and there were twenty minutes of play left. For

minutes of play left. For several minutes it ranged up and down the field and a loose ball or lucky break of any nature would have meant doom. Then Brewarrina broke through. It was a case of put your glasses down until we recognised the meteor streaking across the field as Peter Coleman and his quarry went down just yards from the line.

75 minutes: Still 4-0, then Wayne Waters gathered near the half way, broke through the defending forwards, drew what was left and left the way open for the always in position backing up Barby to go in near the corner and Bourke supporters were overjoyed with the lead of 7-2.

Bourke tightened play up for the remainder of the match and for the first time Brewarrina became a little ragged, but any wonder.

80 minutes: Bre. awarded a penalty as the bell sounded. Allan Norton kicked high up and under, Brewarrina streamed through thirsting for the points that could have meant a drawn game, but Brian Green took the mark, went down under a pack of attackers and the 1963 Premiership was Bourke's.

Graham Barby was chaired from the field by a jubilant Bourke team and our supporters poured out to congratulate them. It was a great finish to a great grand final.

To the Brewarrina Club we extend our sincere good wishes. They played the

wishes. They played the game as it should be played — fast, clean and with vigour.