

FOOTBALL NEWS

Bourke Win Way Into Grand Final

A very large crowd of supporters followed the Bourke teams to Cobar last Sunday for the semi-final matches against Nyngan.

Bourke were clear winners in the main match by 13 to 6 but our Juniors lost by the narrow margin of 7-6.

The Junior game was as thrilling and entertaining as any grade match to be seen in these areas, and only Bourke's dogged defence, kept Nyngan from having a scoring spree. Nyngan's scrum advantage was in the vicinity of five to one, and with such a feast of the ball they were on the attack for the best part of the match. On the few occasions that Bourke did gain possession they were dangerous.

Nyngan were quick to take the lead with two successful shots at goal. Then "Dutchy" Carroll topped off a determined raid by the Bourke side to score close to the posts, but the strong headwind carried Good's attempt at goal wide of the uprights.

Nyngan held their lead 4-3 at half time. Then after the resumption began nearly an hour (injury time was considerable) of hard fast football with Bourke defending furiously for almost the

ing furiously for almost the whole period. With only about ten minutes to go Nyngan went in and they led 7-3.

But the Bourke lads were not to be denied at this late stage, and securing possession near the end, they stormed the Nyngan territory to finally send Charles Good in wide out. His attempt at goal failed, and at the bell Nyngan had won their way into the Grand Final 7-6.

The Bourke Juniors will now meet Warren here at Bourke on Sunday in the preliminary final.

In last Sunday's match Kevin Gascoigne earned the major points for a devastating display of cover defence. Phil Reeves, Barry Holman and Dutchy Carroll also stood out in a team that did us proud indeed.

The Reserve Grade match between Nyngan and Cobar resulted in a win for Nyngan. The Cobar side held the visitors for the greater part of the match, but in the final stages Nyngan's condition proved superior and they had a scoring spree to win comfortably. This win puts the Nyngan Reserves into the Grand Final also. Cobar will meet Brewarrina in the preliminary final at Bourke next Sunday.

The main match of the day, witnessed by a very large crowd who paid over £120 at the gate, and comprised very large contingents from Nyngan and Bourke, was a thriller, but spoilt once again by a late

spont once again by a late finish with players unable to recognise one another in the darkness.

There was also considerable gloom in the Bourke camp when John Mumbler was taken to hospital early in the second half. But despite his absence Bourke never looked like wilting and at no stage of the match did Nyngan appear to have our measure.

Bourke's advantage stemmed a lot from the accurate kicking of Graham Barby, who kicked four goals confidently, and John Mumbler, who kicked one from beyond the half way mark that will be talked about for a long time.

Bourke's only try was scored by Ian Handy, who played an inspiring game, giving his three quarters tons of support as extra man.

Nyngan's score was made up of two tries, the first of which was a gem by winger Bryce Luton, whom Ian Handy just failed to hold

out in a spectacular burst of speed. Their second try came late in the second half when darkness prevailed and both sides were wary of the nationality of their support.

The Bourke side played to a man, but Keith Martin's return to top form was crowd pleasing and he was a popular choice for the "Glo-Weave" shirt donated by John Keetels for the best and fairest.

Next Sunday will provide

Next Sunday will provide a well earned spell for the Bourke side while Nyngan will be playing Brewarrina in a bid to meet us in the Grand Final on Sunday week.

Meantime our boys are urged to keep up their training programme.

Sunday's matches at Bourke will commence at 12 noon sharp. Bourke Juniors please note, because we don't want any more twilight finishes.

The Dave Justice Thriftway competition for the best and fairest in the Bourke Reserve Grade has concluded with a victory for Warren Fraser who earned 11 points for the season. He was followed by Gordon Courts and Joe Clarke with 7 each.

Bourke enthusiasts seem to be assured of some good football here next Sunday when every team competing will be seeking the right to play in the Grand Final.

The draw for next Sunday once again:—First Grade: Brewarrina v. Nyngan. Reserves: Brewarrina v. Cobar. Juniors: Bourke v. Warren.