

SECOND XV111 FIRST FLAG FOR 29 YEARS.

The Alexandra seconds began in great form dictating the game to Fairpark and up forward Hedger finished off the job with four good goals. Phelps, Williamson, Morgan and Wilson (from a great mark) also goaled. T. Payne was giving great drive in the centre. R. Chanter and Coonan were solid defenders whilst Long marked strongly. Alex. led 8.1 to 2.3 at quarter time. The Rebels continued their good form into the second quarter with great team-work. G. Payne and Redfern teamed with Hedger for a goal then Redfern goaled himself before Fairpark got their only goal for the qtr. Williamson, marking strongly at centre half-forward, goaled following an all-in blue after Long was felled sixty yards from the play. Benz on the ruck tackled strongly for a free and goal to give the Rebels a nine goal lead at half-time 15.5 to 3.5. Coach Hedger warned his players that Fairpark, realizing they could not win the game by playing football, would throw everything at them in the third term. This they did even before the ball was bounced. The Rebels were subjected to some "un-football" like tactics which unsettled them for some time as Fairpark kicked four goals to one (by G. Payne.) Hedger goaled twice to settle his team down but despite great defence by the Chanter Brothers, the Lions added another two goals to have a chance at three quarter time although Alex. led 15.8 to 9.9. The Rebels knew that they'd again be in for a tough time in the hardest and most important quarter of football that they'd ever play. "Mr. Cool" Ray Chanter, great in defence cleared well before

R. Purcell and Wilson got the ball to Hedger for a steadier. Fairpark added two further goals but the rebels were desperate and time was ticking away. Dark kicked a fine goal from the boundary to seal the game for the Rebels and although the Lions licked two late goals to reduce the margin Alexandra held on to win their first Seconds flag for twenty nine years. Final score: Alex. 17.10.112 defeated Fairpark 13.12.90. Best: It's perhaps unfair to pick out best players in such a game where every player had his courage put to the test and none failed but I feel the efforts of some are worth a special mention. Ray Chanter, who like Hassa Dundas in the Seniors perhaps gave his age away with his ability to drop kick the ball, played a superb game. Trevor Payne, great in the centre won many kicks and his brilliance set up the game in the first half. Kevin Hedger, who has kicked a lot of goals in his career but those eight were when it really counted. Geoff Williamson, Tony Purcell (who was put down but came back to fight again) Paul Benz, Tim Coonan and every player not forgetting those who missed out but helped to put the side on top. The courage displayed to a man was personified by young Andrew Long who claimed a record to be the only player carried off twice in the one game. All Alexandra supporters were proud of you all. I'm sure you also won the respect of everyone who witnessed the game and enjoys football for the great sport it is and the way it should be played.

PS. Five players were reported on seven charges arising out of last Sunday's game. Tony Purcell and Steve Chala of Alexandra and three Fairpark players. The ground resembled the MCG at one stage with the number of Police who arrived just after half-time of the Seconds game. Consideration was given to stopping the game at one stage. Club officials understand that the Fairpark F.C will not be competing in this League in 1981.