FOOTBALL.

Warragul Defeat Morwell In Grand Final

It is many years since anything like the same interest and enthusiasm was taken by local residents in football as has been displayed this season, and the zenith was reached on Saturday last, when about 250 supporters of the "Tigers" travelled from Morwell to Warragul by special train, while a large number also went by motor car to witness the grand final. Warragul and other centres were also well represented, and the fact that the gate receipts amounted to over £80, speaks for itself regarding the attendance.

The special train steamed out to the accompaniment of detonators placed on the rails, and those on board were a very happy and hopeful crowd.

A strong wind was blowing from the East and it was recognised that whichever side won the toss would be the most likely to win the match and the Premiership. But how to win the toss or regulate the wind was a problem as hard to solve as that of being in two places at the same time.

In every game there is a big element of luck. Sometimes it is good, and at other times bad. If one side have all the good luck and the other all the bad, it is seldom counteracted by skill and ability, if teams are in any way even. On Saturday Warragul were fortunate in being able to put in their strongest team in the "pink" of condition, while Morwell had Tommy Bond out, owing to injury to leg, and others were not at their best. Les Davey left his "togs," including his boots, behind at Morwell railway station, and several other things went wrong. Warragul also had the good luck to win the toss and thereby gain the big advantage of having the assistance of the wind, which, at the time was blowing a gale direct towards the western goal. Vic Bond and his team were, naturally, greatly disappointed, and it appeared to have a demoralising effect upon the whole lot for they played their worst game for the season. They, however, started off well and were the first to attack. As soon as the ball was set going Vic Bond got a free kick and forwarded to Les Davey who sent the leather on to Rod Vary. Rod forwarded close up to the sticks and Thomson getting a free kick, had the first shot at the uprights, but failed badly. The leather went into the hands of a Warragul man and before any scoring was done, the ball was quickly transferred to opposite end, where Roy Farmer gave a demonstration of how to raise the two flags. For the rest of the term the home team held sway. Singles were added by McDonald and Ley, followed by a beautiful goal got by Strange from a long way out. Vic Bond, Chapple, Condon and Higgins saved well, but the attack was renewed again and again. Burket and Ley each added a single. Goals were also got by Duncan, Batson and Farmer. Before the end of the term the "Tigers" rallied. Rod Vary got away with the leather and forwarded to Les Davey, who gave Page a chance within easy distance, but he failed to connect before Warragul relieved the pressure. At the first change the home team were in a winning position the scores being—Warragul, 5-5; Morwell, 0-0.

The "Tigers had the best of things in the second term, but failed to make the most of their opportunities and as a result did not make up much of their leeway. Rod Vary instructed a forward move and Claude Amiet had a shot from an angle but missed both openings. Later on George Rust gave Lou Bond a rather easy chance and he opened the score with a single. The home team were not scoring but they also kept the "Tigers" at bay for some time, Ley, Batson and Devine doing excellent defence work for them. Eventually Claude Amiet and Page had shots at the uprights but only added singles. Then Carl White marked right in front a few yards out, but failed to find the centre opening. A sudden dash by Warragul terminated in Farmer kicking their one and only point got during the term. Just before the end of the quarter a smart pass by Condon to Claude Amiet produced their first goal, and at the adjournment the tally was Warragul 5-6; Morwell 1-5.

With a lead of 23 points and the wind in their favor, Warragul started the third term with the result a foregone conclusion, and the game was robbed of much of the keenness and interest that marked other contests between the two teams. Soon after the bounce Nobelious, added another goal for Warragul, followed a little later by sixers got by Strange and McDonald from impossible looking angles. It appeared that their intention was to pass the ball to a comrade in a better position in front, but the strong wind turned the leather in its flight and goals were registered. Morwell made a few desperate efforts to score, and although they at times looked like doing something, luck was against them, and during the term they only added a single got by Thompson, the scores at the final change being, Warragul 8-10; Morwell 1-6.

Although the "Tigers" started the last term with but little chance of winning, they by no means gave up hope, and had they scored goals instead of singles when they got the chance, they would have won, but as it was they only got two sixers—got by Chapple (who was putting in a lot of effective work), and Lou Bond, whilst they raised one flag on eight occasions. Devine and Ley defended brilliantly for the home team. During the term, Warragul got one chance and as usual, made the most of it, the final scores being—

WARRAGUL 9-10
MORWELL 3-14

The winners were best served by Ley, Devine, Andrews, Duncan, Strange, Farmer, Batson, Pardington and L. McDonald.

Vic Bond stood out on his own for Morwell, but Chapple, Vary Bros., Amiet Bros., George Rust, Bill Condon, Carl White, Grant and others battled hard all the way through.

After the contest Vic Bond, captain of Morwell, and the President of the Club (Mr P. Brittingham) congratulated Warragul upon having won the match and the Premiership. They admitted that on the day the best team had won.

In responding, Mr T. A. Pettit, (President of the Warragul Club) said he thought Warragul had proved themselves the best team in the Association, and deserved their victory. At the same time he considered Morwell the next best. They had proved a decided acquisition to the Central Gippsland League and he congratulated them upon their excellent performance during the season.

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