



WANDERERS BY NAME AND WANDERERS BY NATURE: The original Wanderers all-native football team, which played in the Moora Association competition in 1913. (See letterpress on this page). From left to right: Front row: W. Bolton, M. Taylor. Second row: G. Blurton, F. Narrier, B. Ryder, M. Ryder (captain), J. Blurton, H. Taylor, T. Narrier, P. Besford. Third row: G. Hill, A. Woodley, T. Taylor, R. Nallabut, C. Cooper. Back row: F. Egan (without hat), C. Anderson, A. Narrier.

FOOTBALL

Wanderers Team

LETTERS we have received indicate that considerable interest has been taken in the information furnished by several readers and published in these columns in recent weeks, concerning the old Wanderers (all-native) team which played in the Moora district about 35 years ago.

An all-native football team is unique in this State and as the Wanderers were also noted for having in their ranks several champion players, I recently wrote to Mr. W. O. Bryden, our correspondent at Moora, in the faint hope that an old photograph of the team might be unearthed.

The photo of the 1913 team on this page is evidence that my letter struck oil. Mr. Bryden remembered that an old photograph of the team had been hanging on the wall of Mr. L. N. Kuhl's hairdressing saloon in Moora for many years and he promptly arranged to forward it to us for reproduction.

In the group are the brothers G. and A. Blurton, who were two of the best runners and high jumpers in the State in their heyday. G. Blurton played for Midland Junction League team in 1914 in the company of such well known players as the Watts and Tyson brothers, "Jerry" Borthwick, "Billy" Mose, "Nugget" Price, Pat Willoughby, and "Skeeta" Renfrey.

I remember that Blurton would start a game wearing boots but as soon as the pressure was on, off would come the boots and they would be tossed over the boundary line wherever he happened to be. Playing without boots would not be allowed today.

Points of interest from the photograph are the many white supporters and trainers with the team and the heterogeneous collection of guernseys worn

Conducted by
WALLY FOREMAN

by the players. One can readily appreciate that the Wanderers would not be exactly a wealthy outfit and any sort of guernsey, regardless of colours or whether it had sleeves or not, would be a most prized possession.

The fact that these natives enjoyed playing our football and that many were great exponents makes an interesting page in the early history of the national game in W.A. The photo on this page and the letterpress should help to ensure that a record of the Wanderers will not be lost.

A whole-plate copy of the photograph has been sent to half-a-dozen members of the team who are still living around Moora. We will be happy to send a photograph to any other

playing member of this team free of charge upon request.

A letter has just come to hand from Mr. S. P. Markey, of Toodyay, who says that a former captain of the Wanderers, by name Jim Gillespie, has been employed at "Wicklow" farm, Toodyay, for many years. Mr. Markey writes:

"I can give the full Wanderers team which played around Moora before the 1914-18 war as supplied by Gillespie. The team was as follows: George Blurton and his brothers John and Kylie, Jim and Martin Gillespie, Paddy Yappo, W. Nalligo, F. Egan, Bob and Ted Stack, Billy Etlin, "Bill" Bolton, F. Anderson, M. Jacamarra, "Looking Glass Bob," Martin and Stephen Wally, E. Farrell and Alex and Ted Narrier.

"Jim Gillespie—like your correspondent from Coorow—describes the featherweight Nalligo, as the fastest man he has ever seen at handling a football. He also remembers an occasion at Moora when his team (18 players) defeated a white team of 25 men."

This team contains several names not in the 1913 team and apparently belonged to a different year about the same period.

Four is Open

THE league competition bears the most open aspect for years and with only six qualifying matches to be played six teams are still in the running for a place in the four. East

Fremantle, having beaten the leader, South Fremantle, on Saturday and holding fourth place by the margin of one game from East Perth and Claremont is not likely to be displaced in a hurry.

A team that was well below premiership standard last year

Claremont appear in a weak position at this stage with a hard programme ahead and if fourth place is narrowed down to an issue between the two Easts, as seems likely at this juncture the deciding factor might be the meeting between the pair at Subiaco on September 3. It could be a clash reminiscent of many great battles of past years.

Among the leaders interest is now centred in Perth's bid to displace South from the lead. A weaker Perth defeated a stronger South at Fremantle last year and now that South has been proved vulnerable by East the Perth team will go to Fremantle next Saturday unusually confident. It could be the match of the season—that is if any better game than last week's Derby were possible.

West Perth seem a certainty for the four, although it is not out of the wood yet. A few readjustments in placings are being tried on the forward line and if Ray Scott comes off at centre half-forward the team's main problem will be solved.

Despite the kudos given to Schofield it is probable that the last line of defence would be stronger if a Benton or a Fleming could be discovered to guard the goals with Schofield in a back pocket.

West is probably the fastest outfit in the league. With one or two weaknesses rectified it could be a decided danger in the finals.



S. MAFFINA . . . Claremont centreman, who has strong claims for State selection. He was in brilliant form against East Perth.

East Fremantle has been revitalised by the addition of several young players in Guthrie, Peake, Newman, Hicks and F. Conway, who, in their first year of league football are playing with the aplomb and class of veterans.