

ON THE WAY: Cousins Patrick, left, and Andrew Cox have made the grade at Claremont after transferring from Beagle Bay this season. Picture: MAL FAIRCLOUGH

Cox makes immediate impact

IT'S a far cry from playing for Beagle Bay in the West Kimberley region, but Patrick Cox has made light of the change in his rookie year with Claremont.

Cox, 21, made his league debut for the Tigers last Saturday against Subiaco and immediately attracted attention. He was a prolific possession-winner and quickly picked up the tempo of the game.

His cousin Andrew, 22, also is at the club and plays in the reserves. Andrew was headed for South Fremantle but when Patrick decided to try out with Claremont, he changed his mind.

Both played with Beagle Bay last year, sometimes travelling more than 100km over bush tracks for matches.

"We wanted something different," Patrick

By RUSSELL REID

said yesterday. He said there were several players who had the ability to play in the WAFL but homesickness was a problem.

Tigers coach Gerard Neesham said it was an achievement for players from such a remote location to make the transition.

The Tigers will meet Perth at Claremont Oval today and are expected to win comfortably. Perth have fallen away badly, losing their last eight games.

At Perth Oval, the losers of the East Perth-Subiaco clash almost certainly will end their challenge for a place in the finals.

The Royals, after winning five of their last six games, climbed to sixth on the ladder

last week — two points clear of Subiaco — and need to maintain the momentum.

Subiaco, who thrashed the Royals by 110 points the last time the two clubs met at Subiaco Oval, are battling for survival after an outstanding mid-season recovery.

They lost their first five, won their next five, but lost their last three to put themselves under pressure.

The Lions will welcome back Sandover medallist Ian Dargie, midfielders Garry Kemp and Errol Bourn as well as utility player Andrew Donnelly. In addition, former Tiger Lee Sounness will make his league debut.

East Perth will be without match-winner Matt Clape who has earned a call-up to the Eagles.

TODAY'S WAFL LINE-UPS

CLAREMONT v PERTH

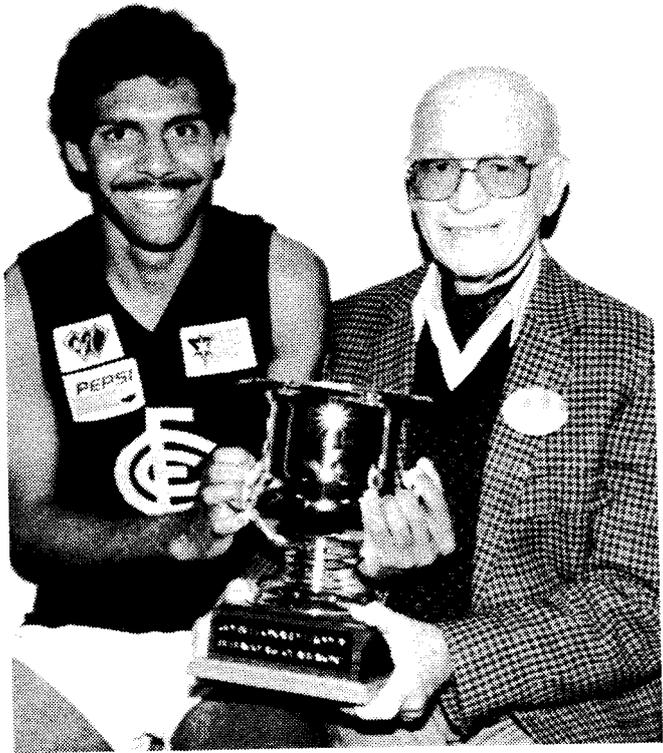
At Claremont Oval starting at 2.20pm. Not Broadcast . Claremont mentioned first kicking down.

Beresford	Von Bergheim	Ballantyne
Davis	Hastie	Polak
Panizza	Southern	Kickett
Cable	McGrath	Rigby
Leach	Malone	S Edwards
Williams	Barich	Procter
G Edwards	Morgan	P Cox
Zaikos	McPhail	Moore
Hantke	Brayshaw	Gerreyn
Allard	Tigchelaar	Jackson

Claremont ruck: Wolf, Mead, Green. Interchange: Mitchell, Muir. In: Beresford, Hantke, Mitchell. Out: Wasley, Gaudi, Hendry.

Perth ruck: Pensini, Dick, Thompson. Interchange: Clarkson, A Kelly. Emergency: Wynne. In:

Bridging the gap



IMAGINE the number of footballers who have passed through the ranks between the league debuts of these two smiling characters.

Above is Patrick Cox, a 21-year-old from Beagle Bay who debuted for Claremont last week to become the first footballer from the Kimberley region to play at senior level in Perth.

He's pictured with John Leonard, the grand old man of the game, who, at the age of 90, is the oldest surviving Sandover Medallist, winning WA's most prestigious award in 1926.

Leonard, a champion player and coach, was on hand to present the inaugural John Leonard Cup to the winners of the Claremont-Subiaco clash — and Cox was happy to be part of the celebrations.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★