

Battalion Touch Football

The game looked easy enough, you caught the ball, ran with it, then threw it backwards. Hell, if 1 RAR could do it then we shouldn't have any trouble. Besides, if they ever needed me on the field then the team would be beyond help. Right from the start I'd leave the playing to the professionals and concentrate on team management.

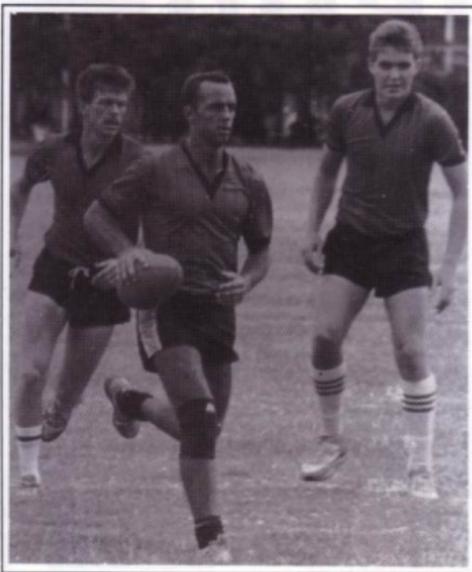
Armed with the CO's directive, a brew urn and a dozen paper cups, I set out to put together the greatest touch football team in living memory (or at least seven people who knew more about the game than I did). It turned out to be no easy task. All the old pros had gone into hiding and getting a team together was like asking for volunteers for a Sunday guard. After much perseverance, a team began to take shape and under the watchful eye of coach/captain Tony Benfer, was made ready to do battle in the first game for the season.

The first game was a smashing success with 2/4 RAR thrashing the pants of some pathetic little pogue unit. Unfortunately the Brigade touch football officer, on hearing about 2/4's win, suddenly realised that the competition

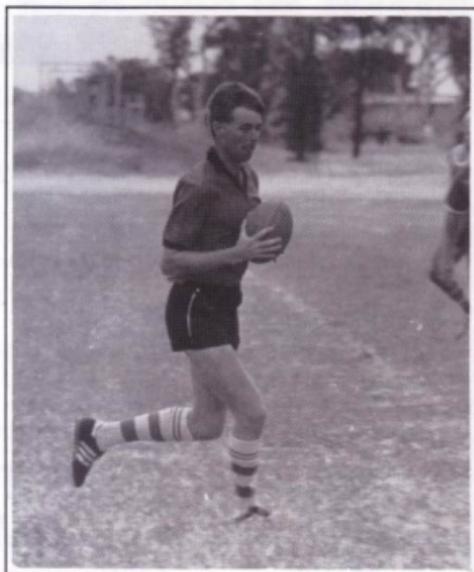
had begun and decided to cancel our first game and do something about actually organising a competition (something he'd forgotten to do). After a disappointing start to the season, through poor management at Brigade level (something we were to see more of), 2/4 hooked in and soon became a dominant force in the competition.

Towards the end of the season Cpl Simons [RAP] took over Tony Benfer's job and steered the team towards some of its best results. With some outstanding efforts from people like Sgt Chuck Walker (D Coy), Cpl Brown (D Coy) and Cpl Dixon (B Coy) the team won its last three games in a week of touch football during April. The team progressed to the semi-finals only to be beaten by the mob of geriatrics from 5 Avn Regt. It obviously proves what they do all day!

The season had seen some fine touch football and a "Duty First" effort from one and all. In addition to a fine effort for the Battalion, 10 of our best have also been selected to play in the North Queensland Army Side. Finally a special thanks to Cpl Simons, LCpl Benfer and SSgt Jear for their support throughout the season.



LCpl Colin Dixon, LCpl "Dinga" Bell and LCpl "Maca" MacLean



Lt Nick Withycombe on the burst