

MERCURY Sport

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The future has docked

SIMEON THOMAS-WILSON

DEBUTS are rare at Ross Lyon's Fremantle but Tasmanian Alex Pearce has grabbed his chance with both hands.

And Pearce's performance in the Dockers' win over Essendon on Saturday night has prompted praise from Lyon himself.
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Picture: GETTY

ROCK BOTTOM

SAM EDMUND

WELCOME to rock bottom, population Carlton.

Even for a club that has plunged to some horrible lows in recent times, this loss to the Brisbane Lions is as soul-destroying as there's been.

The reality is the Blues were badly overrun by a side who, before yesterday, had not only

Carlton in crisis after Lions defeat

failed to win a game this season but had won just one quarter and been labelled uncompetitive by their chief executive.

This was a cellar dweller game that saw Carlton fall straight through the trap door.

Already under extreme pressure and only a week after the year's most insipid display against Collingwood, you wonder what happens next.

Carlton went under 12.12 (84) to 11.9 (75) in front of a low Mother's Day crowd of 20,273.

It was a familiar, depressing story for Blues fans. Their side had ample opportunity to win a game in which it dominated contested ball, clearances and inside 50s for nearly three quarters.

But the statistical domi-

nance didn't result in a goal-scoring spree. Far from it. Navy blue goals were scrounged rather than crafted.

So the Blues huffed and puffed their way to a 14-point lead at the 18-minute mark of the third quarter.

Then they inexplicably froze in the face of a Lions side that suddenly burst into life.

Josh Green had been anonymous but came from nowhere to kick two quick goals and only a poster denied him a third straight major.

His energy sparked a run of five consecutive Brisbane goals from late in the third term to

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KOOKABURRAS FINISH UNDEFEATED

**PERFECT
RECORD IN
HOBART**

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CONTROVERSIAL TREATMENT WARNING

**STEM CELL
THERAPY
ALARM**

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