

Just Footy



MONDAY REVIEW

**West Coast keeps
WA grand final
hopes alive >> P23**

Josh Hill, who was awarded the Ross Glendinning Medal yesterday, celebrates one of the four goals he kicked for the depleted West Coast outfit during the upset win over Fremantle at Domain Stadium
Picture: WILL RUSSELL

EAGLES STUN FREO, HAWKS

FREMANTLE V WEST COAST

	DOCKERS 1.3 2.6 5.10 11.14	80
	EAGLES 7.2 8.7 11.12 15.14	104

GOALS

West Coast: J Hill 4 J Darling 2 J Kennedy 2 C Sinclair E Yeo L Shuey M Hutchings M Rosa P McGinnity S Lycett.
Fremantle: M Walters 4 M Pavlich 2 C Mayne D Mundy J Griffin S Hill T Sheridan.

BEST

West Coast: J Hill J Kennedy A Gaff M Rosa L Shuey.
Fremantle: M Walters N Fyfe A Sandilands S Hill D Mundy.

UMPIRES

S Ryan, J Dalglish, S Jeffery

CROWD

41,958 at Domain Stadium.

Stop the whingeing, Thurston 'fair game'

CHRIS GARRY

BRAD Fittler says Johnathan Thurston is "fair game" and teams have every right to tackle him when he is midair.

The former champion five-eighth had to expect to pay the price for taking the ball to the line and kicking in the face of defenders.

Fittler is technically right, with the NRL telling the *NT News* last night that the five of the six late hits on Thurston in the Cowboys loss to South Sydney were perfectly fine.

Thurston revealed following the game that he would have to take matters into his own hands as his frustration with late hits escalated.

Of Thurston's 12 kicks against the Rabbitohs, he received late hits on six occasions from five different South Sydney players.

Twice this year Cowboys coach Paul Green has formally contacted NRL officials for a please explain regarding Thurston's treatment.

Souths hooker Issac Luke was the only player charged by the NRL match-review committee from the six late tackles and that was for a shoulder charge.

The NRL have not even sent a warning letter to the remaining Souths players. Fittler backed South Sydney's tactics to rattle Thurston.

"He's kicking at the line. Those Souths players are there as he's kicking the ball," he said on Channel Nine program *The Sunday Footy Show*.

"He is part of the set of six. If he has the ball, you have to tackle him. He's fair game. He has to be. I didn't see anyone dive at his legs. They tackled him around the waist. Issac Luke did it wrong, the rest did it right."

With the finals just a month away, rival teams will take note that Souths' tactics were legal and worked. They are not the first to try and bash Thurston.

In Round 2 against Newcastle, Thurston was battered by Beau Scott and Jeremy Smith as the Cowboys lost at home. In that game, Thurston ended up with a black eye.

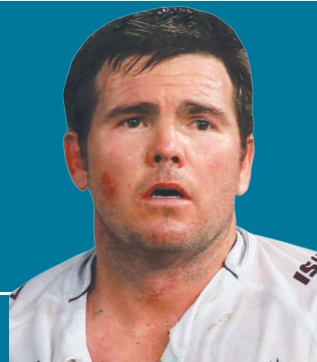
**MOTLOP
ENJOYS
THUNDER
RETURN**

NEAFL >>P17



**LUCKY
ESCAPE
FOR SEA
EAGLES**

NRL >>P25



**MASSIVE
LOSS TO
INSPIRE
AUSSIES**

Rugby >>P26

