

LEAGUE WIN

A powerhouse AFP side proved too strong for the RAAF and took out the Grand Final of the Public Service Rugby League Competition 14 points to ten at O'Connor Oval in Canberra on August 18.

The AFP went to a two-nil lead in the first ten minutes when Senior Constable Paul Morris kicked a penalty. The score went to eight-nil when the AFP lock, Detective Senior Constable Brian McDonald, went across the line for a try which was converted by Morris.

The RAAF fought back and shortly before half time scored a try and a conversion which took the score to eight-six.

Heavy rain throughout the match did not deter the AFP and about ten minutes into the second half, centre Senior Constable Gary Buick, scored a try in a good solo effort. Morris converted again and the AFP lead went to 14-six.

The RAAF counter-attacked for another try but failed to convert, taking the score to 14-10. The Air Force side




Back Row: L to R: Brian Davis (Coach), Derek Taws, Tony Negus, Peter Sloan, Darren Ayres, Brian McDonald, Dave Harrison, Steve Pereira, Keith Staniforth, Gary Buick, Wayne Robinson.

Front Row: L to R: Tim Dahlstrom, Pat Gallagher, Paul Morris (Captain), Bernie Morrison, Wayne Constable, Steve Lancaster, Peter Ingram, John "Jacko" Sutherland (Manager). (Picture by Stella Klein)

continued to pile on the pressure in the last ten minutes of the match, attacking the AFP strongly, but could not break down the defence.

"It was a very hard-fought game and I was very impressed by the standard of

play," AFP coach, First Constable Brian Davis, said.

"The AFP wasn't in the competition last year but we plan to return with a vengeance in 1989 and retain the trophy." 

FRENCH LEAVE

Rugby League is proving to be an excellent choice of sport for a Canberra-based furniture officer.

Jim Antonakos, 25, has secured a six months contract with the first division Avignon club in the south of France. He was preparing to leave Australia as this edition of "Platypus" went to press.

Jim decided 17 years ago to join an under-eight Rugby League side for "something to do".

"My family in Queanbeyan was keen for me to play soccer but a few of my mates signed up with the Queanbeyan Kangaroos and I decided to join them. I haven't looked back since — and as it turned out my build didn't suit soccer," Jim joked.

"League has always been my game and I have played for the Canberra Raiders since their inception in 1982. I played second grade for the Raiders last year."

Jim, at 102 kilogrammes for his 183 centimetres, generally finds himself in the front row.

"The French clubs are always looking for big Aussies for forwards and they are



Mr Jim Antonakos

trying to pick up their standard internationally," he said. "A lot of Australian players make the trip and there are several other Australian players in the Avignon team.

"The clubs look after you and you get to play all over France. I'm certainly looking forward to the experience."

Jim is keeping his League skills honed by playing in the New South Wales country first grade competition. He's a member of the Bateman's Bay Tigers

side which at last report was coming second in the Group Seven competition.

Jim, who will return to Australia next June, has other football ambitions. "I will decide when I come back whether to rest up or to try to start playing again," he said. "I've still got ambitions of getting into first grade but you can only last so long as a footballer and I also want to look after my job here. It's not so much that the game gets harder but you find that your bruises don't heal as fast and the training seems to get tougher!"

"I've worked here since late 1980 and when my football career ends I'd like to advance my Public Service career. I enjoy management services and office services type of work.

"In my job I help order, distribute and maintain furniture Australia-wide for both police officers and public servants. In all, it's a good mob to work with!"

The chance to go to Europe also has family importance for Jim.

"Apart from a trip to the Philippines I've never been out of Australia and playing in France will give me a chance to look at Europe," he said.

"I also plan to get my mother over to join me in France and we will go back for a visit to my parents' home villages in Macedonia." 