

## Cornish weighs up his options

Second division league  
By CHRIS GORDON

Vince Lombardi - a man as famous for his philosophies and quotes on sport as for his coaching of the Green Bay Packers American Football team - once said that winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.

At least one sportsman in Goulburn disagrees with that statement - Gordon second division rugby league player, Garry Cornish.

With the birth of his son Mitchell this year, Cornish has had to weigh up a number of different things.

At the end of last season, when his wife Michelle was very pregnant with Mitchell, Cornish retired from rugby league - or so he thought.

When some of his friends who had linked up with the new Gordon team asked him about playing with them, he re-assessed his situation and decided to play again.

"It's not like I switched clubs," Cornish said.

"I stopped playing altogether. The main thing I wanted was some time off and some time with my family. But when some friends wanted me to play again and I knew that my wife and my baby were healthy, I got interested in playing again."

Despite the fact that he doesn't feel

he has 'sold out' on his old club, Cornish believes that some of his former team-mates might not see it that way.

"I had three good years at Kenmore that I really enjoyed and I think I gave them good service too," he said.

"But since it's my old team and since Kenmore used to be sponsored by the Gordon Hotel, I reckon there'll be a bit of rivalry and it should be worth watching."

One of the other factors that convinced Cornish to play was that he wouldn't be coaching.

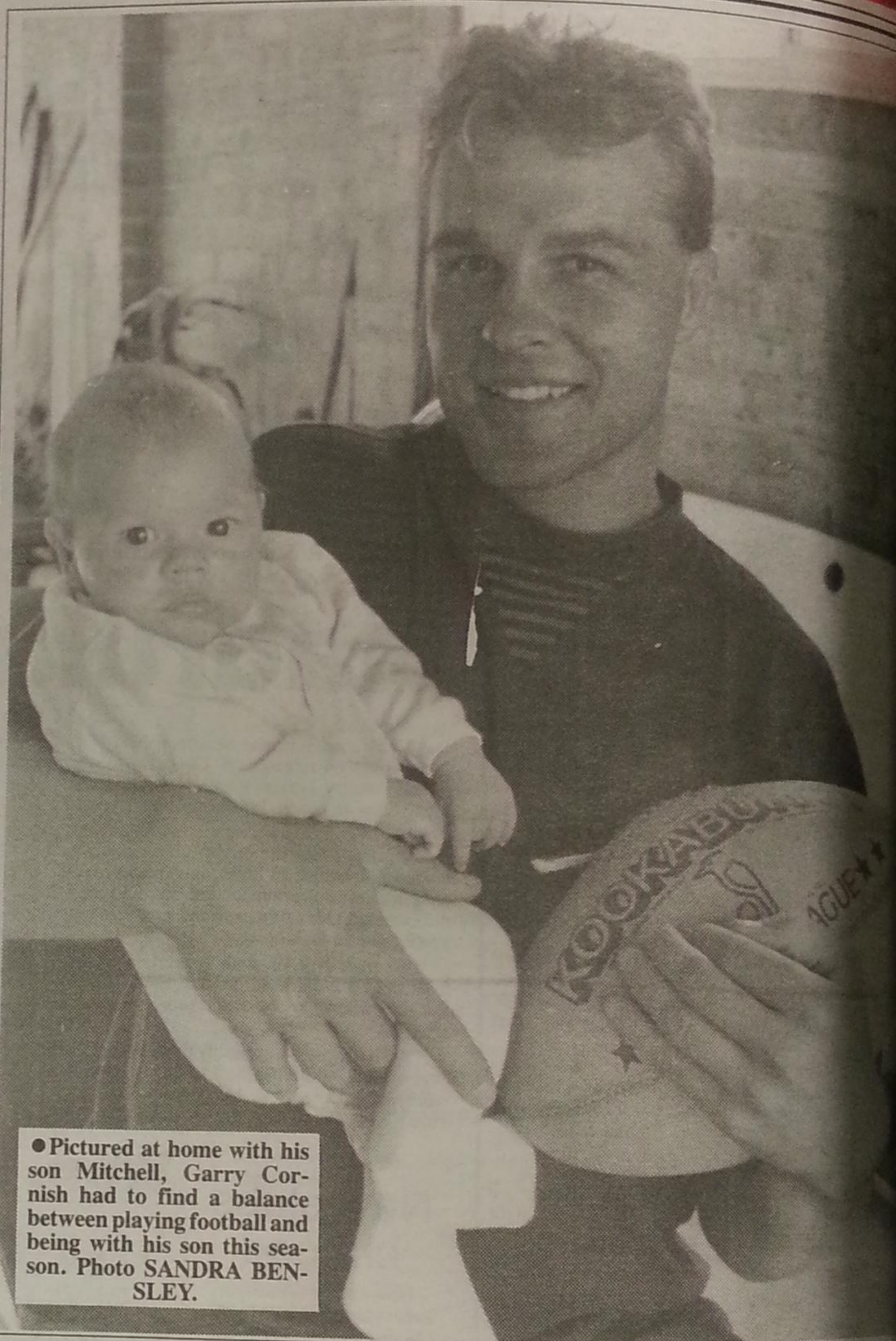
"I enjoyed coaching a lot last season and I hope to do it again some time," he said.

"But it can be really stressful and it's a full-time job. Now that I have other more important things to think about I'll be happy just to play. And I think the boss might be happier that way too," he said looking to Michelle.

As to next year - he hasn't made up his mind yet and even if he had, he confesses there's no guarantee he'd stick to it, depending on who applied the most pressure.

"I'd thought about the Gladiators a little but it would mean a lot of time away from home," he said.

"And I haven't finished building a dog house yet."



● Pictured at home with his son Mitchell, Garry Cornish had to find a balance between playing football and being with his son this season. Photo SANDRA BEN-SLEY.

## Bell lines up for one more goal

Rugby By CHRIS GORDON

John Bell has accomplished most of the goals he set for himself in rugby.

Having played senior rugby for something like 18 years (the bulk of which in first grade) he's been playing since before some of the younger players in the club were born.

In that time he has played as a representative for Illawarra, Southern Tablelands, Southern Province and ACT Bs. He has played with and against many state and national level players including Simon Poidevin and David Campese and, he is quick to point out, has only had to resort to being a back once.

Last year, in his rugby coaching debut, he achieved one of his career highlights when he guided the Goulburn third grade side to a grand final win.

This Saturday, Bell will take the first step on the path to his next goal - that of co-coaching first grade to a grand final win.

"I see it as a being bit of a challenge," Bell said of his decision to coach a higher grade.

"And it's also a bit like that old saying - I've got a lot out of playing the game so I'm looking

## Grand final winning coach makes the move up to the top grade

at putting something back in."

Bell, and no doubt the rest of the club, hopes he can duplicate the success he showed with third grade and he believes he has the personnel to do just that.

"We were a bit apprehensive about team numbers for a while when many of last year's players hung up their boots, but there's a lot of young players have come along to take their place," he said.

"In the backs, blokes like Warwick Rolles, Shane Bowden, Greg Skelly and Carl and Derek Bopping will be putting the pressure on first grade. In the forwards, there's Damien Browne, Steve Bladwell and Cameron Burke and more experienced players like Darren Phillips, Mick Stephens, Greg Hucker and Dave Anable who'll push their claims."

The man who Bell will share the coaching

duties with - last year's first grade coach Geoff Scahill - is more than pleased to have him on board.

"It'll make life easier for me on the paddock," said Scahill.

"All I'll have to worry about is playing. And it'll be a good mix to have a back and a forward working together as coaches."

Scahill agrees with Bell's assessment of first grade's chances this season, and said they'll be looking to building their game around a dominant forward pack whose makeup may be subject to change.

"This'll be Nat Luck's last game with the club before heading to Sydney," Scahill said.

"When he goes, that'll leave his spot up for grabs for one of the second graders to aim for."

Scahill and Bell said that playing this year

will be conditional upon attendance at training and named the following provisional squad pending Thursday night's training session at North Park.

### First Grade

Darren Bopping, Rod Sieler, Nat Luck, Mark Garvey, Andrew Morgan, Stephen Lee, Mark Priest, Ross Copland, Jason Bennett, Jason Moroney, Geoff Scahill, Mick Fitzsimmons, Stephen Bradbury, Matthew Klem.

### Second Grade

Stephens, Greg Hussey, Darren Phillips, Cameron Burke, Dave Anable, Steven Bladwell, Damien Browne, Steven Divall, Warwick Rolles, Shane Bowden, Mark White, Peter Fitzsimmons, Carl Bopping, Mick Palmer, Greg Skelly.

### Third Grade

Taylor, Phil Hogan, Adam Tarago, Frank Clarke, Shaun Martin, Paul Brown, Andrew McAleer, Scott Cave, Joe Fitzgibbon, Chris Fitzgibbon, Rod Lestone, Mark Griffin, David Kara, Chris Schremmer, Greg Hucker, Kevin Weston, Kurt Fitzgibbon, Brett Fitzgibbon, Frank Clarke, Simon Davey.