

Ash Green, who played his early football at Warragul before a 23-game stint at the Brisbane Lions during 1991 and 1992, was relieved to guide his beloved Gulls to the ultimate prize.

For Green it's been the second time he has coached a senior side to a premiership, after overseeing Pakenham in 2000.

**KM:** You captain-coached Pakenham to victory in 2000 but today's victory must be high on the satisfaction list.

**AG:** It is equally as satisfying, if not more, because of my attachment to the town of Warragul. I've always wanted to come back and play in a premiership with the Warragul footy club and today we got there so I am very satisfied.

**KM:** Was a turning point in Warragul's season when you were absolutely flogged by Garfield on Queen's Birthday weekend?

**AG:** Yes there was a lot of soul-searching done then and it was a bit of a reality check. It just came back to work ethic and the guys just had to work harder on the track and we helped each other through it all. We had a great bunch of guys and I always knew they would work through it.

**KM:** You were beaten in the second semi - what changes did you make to instigate the turnaround?

**AG:** We brought back a couple of the injured blokes that didn't play, took a little bit of a punt. We tried a few different things

and had a decent crack and it all worked well.

**KM:** What factors do you put down the grand final win to?

**AG:** I just think it was due to our endeavour. The guys just had a commitment at the start of the game to give it everything. It sounds funny to say this in a grand final, but I think it was the best effort we put in all year and we had a committed effort for four quarters. We have been labelled as soft a few times but we are certainly not a soft side and we showed it today.

**KM:** Recruiting-wise, Warragul did well to top up on last year?

**AG:** We just tried to promote local players. We could go buy players, but that's not right, we are not about that.

**KM:** You must have learnt something from last year's grand final?

**AG:** We learnt from the despair of last year and, when you have many 17- and 18-year-old kids compared to a veteran like Gary Olsson, they have to learn from their first experience.