

LEAGUE WEEK



Artie, you were so lucky

By NORM PROVAN

ARTHUR Beetson's outstanding reputation for fair play surely must have saved him from being sent off at the Sports Ground last Sunday.

When Beetson appeared to flatten Parramatta prop Denis Fitzgerald with his shoulder I thought referee Keith Page would send him off.

Fitzgerald was taken out of the play when he did not have the ball.

All the video tape in the world will prove that statement.

The League have started an all-out campaign to clean up the game.

Obviously Page felt the penalty against Easts was enough.

After all, the penalty did let Parramatta share the premiership points with the Roosters.

Beetson is not a vicious player and he is needed on the field, not on the sideline serving a suspension.

LEFT: Keith Page speaks to Arthur Beetson after Parramatta prop Denis Fitzgerald had been felled without the ball. Photo: JOHN ELLIOTT.

TV JURY!

By Norm Provan

MODERN aids are being used to crucify referees - why can't modern aids be used to save them?

This week has been "chop up referees" week. And all because of the television video disc.

In my playing days the video disc did not exist and referees were spared the wrath which today springs from video replays.

Today, with the video disc operating, a referee has no hope in hell of being right.

I would not be in a referee's shoes for all the tea in China.

And if I was a referee I wouldn't make a decision on a try until the video had been examined.

Why can't a neutral video committee of three officials

be set up at each ground.

If there was doubt in a referee's mind about a try he could signal to the committee who could then study the replay of the try on the video.

A member of the committee would then signal, with either a red or green flag, if the try should be allowed or not.

I would not want to see the video used for every decision relating to the game - only for doubtful tries.

I'm sure referees would appreciate the availability of such a modern day aid.

At least let's consider the possibility and don't scoff at the suggestion.

This looks like being a vintage year for disputed tries.

It will be a record year of sacked referees if the video disc is not installed at all grounds.

Forming a video committee would be a way of keeping the vice-presidents occupied!

