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SOCCEEROOS MEDALS

DETAILS PAGE 2

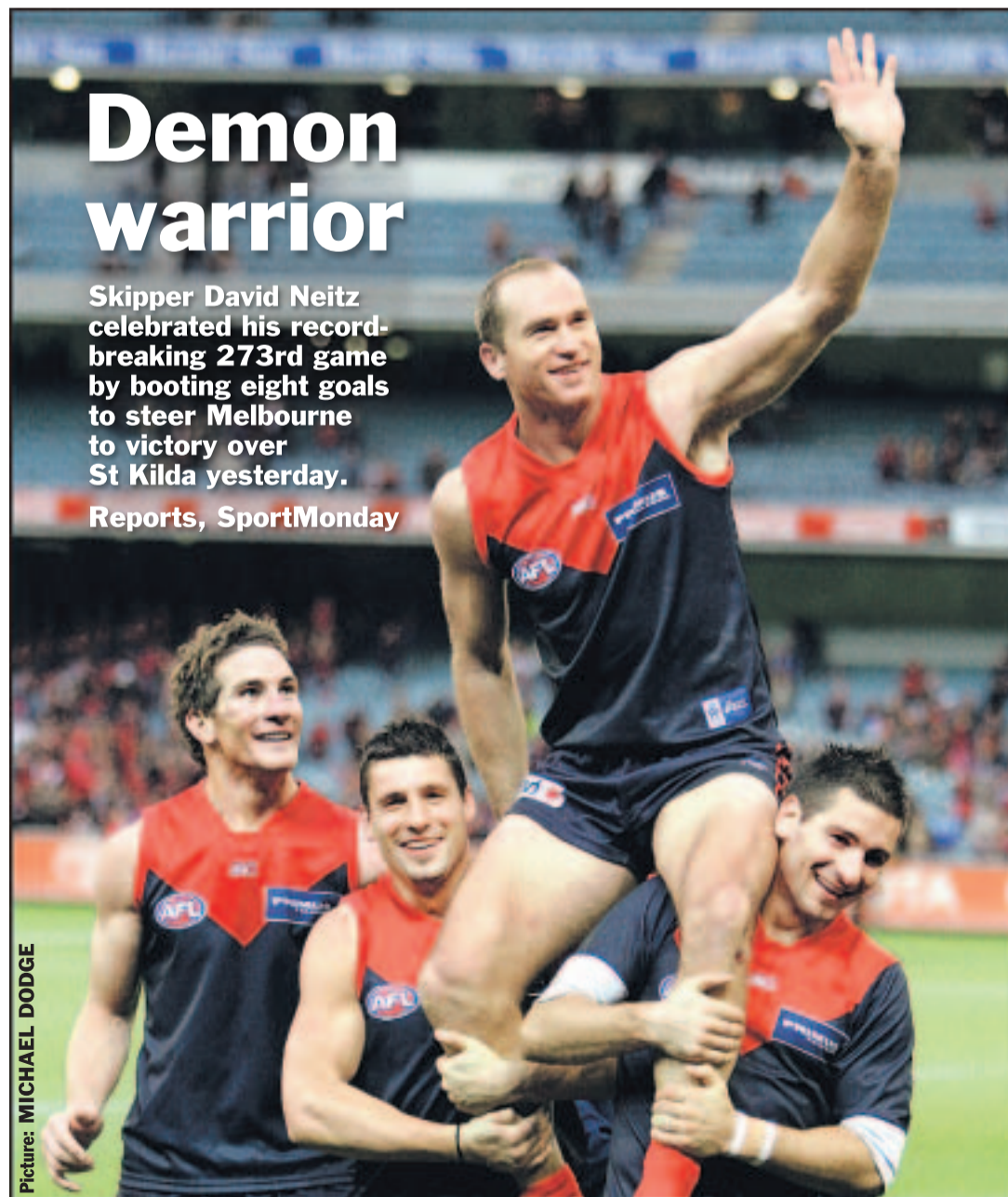
EVERY SCHOOL RATED

VCE REPORT CARD

FULL LIST P25-26

Brutal dad with 349 convictions beats son, breaks his jaw and gets off lightly

NO JUSTICE



Demon warrior

Skipper David Neitz celebrated his record-breaking 273rd game by booting eight goals to steer Melbourne to victory over St Kilda yesterday.

Reports, SportMonday

Picture: MICHAEL DODGE

Geoff Wilkinson

A VIOLENT brute with 349 previous convictions has escaped with a slap on the wrist after being convicted of savagely beating his five-year-old son.

Despite his shocking record, Damien Paul Ripper is likely to spend only 18 months in jail for giving the boy a broken jaw and a flogging that left bruises and welts over most of his body.

His son, "Brandon", was left alone, hungry and dehydrated in a locked home unit after he was beaten for being too slow to eat his breakfast.

The attack — and the leniency of the sentence imposed by a County Court judge — has shocked police, social workers and teachers.

Ripper, 30, was sentenced to two years' jail with a non-parole period of 18 months for recklessly causing serious injury.

The 18-month minimum term imposed by Judge Fred Davey is one-tenth of the maximum sentence of 15 years allowed by law for that offence.

Outraged welfare groups yesterday called for an appeal against the sentence.

Ripper's convictions include offences of intentionally causing injury, recklessly causing injury, assault with a weapon, assault by kicking, assaulting police, making threats to kill, and unlawful possession of firearms.

His record also includes 13 breaches of suspended sentences and community-based orders.

Police said the attack on Brandon was the culmination of months of abuse by Ripper, who is 192cm tall.

Ripper admitted hitting the boy with his hand, a plastic spoon and a belt, but told police he'd never hit him above the waist.

The boy was freed from a locked Morwell home unit after police with a warrant forced entry about 6.20pm on April 16 last year.

They said Brandon was hunched over and struggling to walk, and too frightened to give any details of his home life.

Ambulance officers horrified by his injuries said it was clear he had been "used as somebody's punching bag".

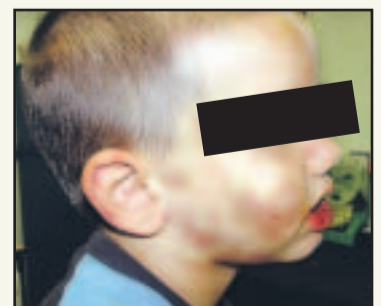
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Damien Paul Ripper

History of violence

- Assault with a weapon
- Assault police
- Threats to kill
- Possession of a firearm
- Burglaries
- Criminal damage



Victim: his battered son

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