

JOHN NORTHEY ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT

— so it's back to the farm



Northey the farmer — back in 1969, pictured on his property at Dundonnell, in the Western District of Victoria.

WHAT A FINISH

By **GEORGE LANGLEY** in Canberra

It is going to be a dream end to the CANFL season. If the league had deliberately planned it they couldn't have produced a better finish in which so much depended on the weekend's match of the day.



John Northey, Western Suburbs and State captain-coach, has announced his retirement.

By **JOHN DYER**
in Sydney

His contract with Wests expires after this year's grand final.

"Wests have offered me a further contract but I am not interested.

"There is nothing personal in this. I am very happy with Wests but am leaving for business reasons," Northey said.

Northey will return to his home town of Derrinallum in the Western Districts of Victoria.

It was from there he travelled the 100-odd

"recruit" to play in Sydney.

He is also the highest paid player to come from interstate.

Northey took up a two year contract with Wests in 1971 with an option of a further year.

The contract was for \$3000 a year with accommodation supplied.

It was from there that he travelled the 100 odd miles to Melbourne each week to play 125 games with Richmond and figure in 2 senior premiership wins.

During his time with Richomond, Ron Barassi once described Northey as the best half forward flanker in Australia.

The 30 year old Northey is the

most successful - VFL
Accommodation supplied. Northey
soon made his influence with
Wests. He took them to the 1971
grand final, won the premiership
last season and looks long odds-on
to get through 1971 undefeated.
I don't know what part I will play
in the game in the future. I have
nothing planned footballwise at all.