



YOU AIN'T MESSING WITH SMALLVILLE: A "Super" Melville banner on the terraces at North Harbour Stadium. Photos: Grant Stantiall.

Spirit

of the

Chatham Cup



PAUL NIXON'S RED & WHITE ARMY: Imagine the impression this lot could have made at a less cavernous ground.

In spite of “my team” losing, I really enjoyed the Chatham Cup final this year. Disregard for a moment Uni-Mt Wellington’s 3-1 scoreline over Melville United. The best bit was the sideline colour, noise and ambience of the Melville fans. A hardcore of about 600 brought a dimension back to a Cup final here I hadn’t seen in years. Being in the final really meant something to them.

Even when Uni-Mount were being presented with the Cup, all you could hear here was “we love you Melville”. Everyone loves home draws in the Cup, but tell you what, it’s only when you go on the road and lose your inhibitions that you build the true camaraderie of football fandom.

As to the game, the best team won, even if they only had 25 supporters there. Joey Waugh is a very good young striker, and Heath McCormack — New Zealand’s most under-rated player? — had a super game, as did Kara Waetford. -- Bruce Holloway.