



Grand final champions the Spiders did plenty of preparation and dominated their matches in the second half of the year. N09MM712

Spiders run rings around the rest

THE Ringwood Spiders football team has taken home the premiership flag for the first time in 15 years.

The Spiders, a club for people with intellectual disabilities, won the Football Integration Development Association (FIDA) Division 2B grand final on Sunday, August 23.

The boys in red, black and white defeated the Mazenod Panthers by 32 points at Central Reserve in Glen Waverley.

Spiders coach Clinton Fullgrabe said this was the Spiders' first

premiership victory since 1994, when they were known as the Ringwood Blues.

"They were very, very excited, they were absolutely over the moon," Mr Fullgrabe said.

"A lot of the players had never experienced anything like this before. It shows what can be achieved through hard work and team work."

The grand final was a triple blow for the Panthers after the Spiders beat them by 30 points early in the season, and by 60 points in the final home and away game.

Mr Fullgrabe said Ringwood had recruited a number of younger players in the last three years and did well out of a mid-season division split.

He said they won every game in the second half of the year.

"It's been one of the most well-rounded team efforts I have seen for a number of years," Mr Fullgrabe said.

The Spiders hope their success will translate to an upgrade to Division 2A next year.

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