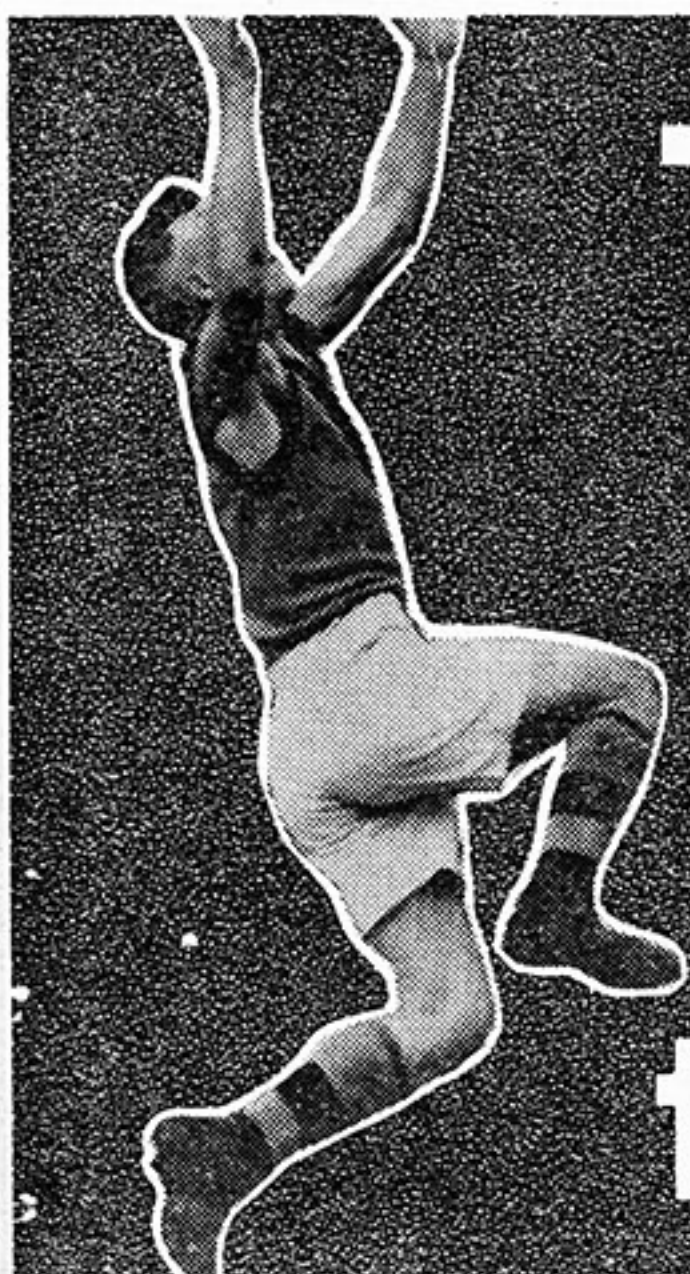


Great grand finals of the past...



The day 'Blue' ruled the Bay

October 6, 1934, is a day George "Blue" Johnston, Glenelg's Magarey Medal-winning ruckman of the year, will never forget.



Peter Cornwall

This was the day he helped the Bays claim their first premiership success, the day that provided him with his most cherished football memories.

The Mail recorded that day: "For the first time since entering league football in 1921, Glenelg won the premiership today defeating Port by nine points."

much for Port. It was inspiring football, which delighted the crowd present at Adelaide Oval." Blue, now 78, agrees it was the speed of some Bay players that helped set up the win. "We had three very fast rovers in Roy Colyer, Arthur Link, and Lance Leak. Port didn't seem to have the pace to keep up with them," Blue said.

"The rovers really stole the show from centre. They were getting it away from there

all day." Glenelg's first flag came after a tough, close struggle against the Magpies, who had been heavily favored to win. "Previously they had beaten us by 10 goals in the second semi-final. So they were the favorites. But we thought we're in there, and it's on the day, so we'll give it our best shot."

Triumph

Blue, so called by first league coach Jim Hanby because of his fiery red hair, was presented his Magarey Medal by SA Football League chairman Mr T. S. O'Halloran on the day of the second semi-final.

"I was a bit toey and so was the team. We didn't seem to play very well. But Port played too well for us."

While Glenelg's following premiership win was a surprise, Blue's first triumph for the year, the Magarey Medal win, also came as a surprise — to him.

"Our centreman Len Sallis, had played exceptionally well all year and I gave him a big chance."

Sallis polled just 19 votes, while Blue scored 46 to win by 17 from South's Max Mundy. In those days, votes were awarded on a 5-3-1 basis.

Blue recalls how he heard the news of his win: "I was in a flat occupied by my brother-in-law. Someone rushed in and said: 'Hey Blue, you've won the Magarey Medal.'"

"They had heard it on the radio. My word it was a surprise."

The Bays qualified for another shot at Port by beating Sturt by 13 points in the preliminary final, but Blue received a nasty knee injury.

"I couldn't train at all in the week before the final, and I was having constant treatment on it."

"I was pleased it held up so well during the game, but afterwards it swelled up like a balloon."

Typical

Johnston, injured knee and all, was a hero of the Bay triumph. He booted three goals, including the goal late in the final term that snatched the game away from Port when it had threatened to claim victory.

The Mail report stated: "Johnston gave a sound ruck display. His towering mark on the goal line in the last quarter was the turning point in a game which threatened to slip away from Glenelg."

Blue recalls that in the last quarter, which Glenelg had started with a 17-point lead, Port fought back in typical fashion.

"They really came at us in the last quarter, and it looked like they might win it."

And of the mark. "I remember seeing the ball come up, and I thought 'It would be nice if I could grab this one.'"

"I just had the luck to jump at the right time and grab it."



George 'Blue' Johnston today... "nice if I could grab the mark"

Johnston followed up with a steady goal.

"When the siren sounded, we could hardly believe it. I felt a bit sorry for the Port players because they thought they had won it."

"The fans went mad—they went wild. It came as a bit of a shock to them I think, because a lot of them didn't expect us to win."

The celebrations in Moseley Square were chaotic, as thousands of people thronged through the streets and congregated outside the Town Hall to pay homage to their heroes.

Blue believes coach Bruce McGregor, who in 1927 won his second successive Magarey Medal while helping West to a premiership, played a major part in the premiership win, and his Magarey Medal win.

Match details

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Glenelg	5-4	10-8	15-10	18-15	123
Port	3-4	6-13	11-17	16-18	114

BEST.—GLENELG: Goldsworthy, Colyer, Link, Sallis, Johnston, Brock. **PORT:** Dermody, Quinn, Hollingsworth, Whicker, Bampton.

GOALS.—GLENELG: Goldsworthy 4-2, Owens 3-3, Colyer 3-0, Johnston 3-0, Bergin 2-1, Percy 1-5, Link 1-3, Leak 1-0, rushed 0-1. **PORT:** Quinn 5-2, Hollingsworth 4-7, Prideaux 4-2, Hender 2-1, Reval 1-1, Yates 0-2, Ween 0-2, Hooper 0-1.

GLENELG.—Backs — Griffiths, James, Hale. Half-backs — Birrell, Brock, Whittaker. Centres — Hill, Sallis, Shakes. Half-forwards — Bergin, Goldsworthy, Leak. Forwards — Owens, Percy, Colyer, Ruck — Johnston, Olliver, Link. Res — Rosewarne.

PORT.—Backs — V. Johnson, Eden, R. Johnson. Half-backs — Wilkinson, Obst, McFarlane. Centres — Whicker, Bampton, Dermody. Half-forwards — Wightman, Hollingsworth, Prideaux. Forwards — Quinn, Ween, Hender, Ruck — Yates, Revel, Hooper. Res — Jacquier.

Who says it wasn't tough?

Who says it wasn't tough in the thirties? Blue's Saturday started with a motorbike ride to the Police Barracks where he would start work as a cook at 5 am. Work finished at 1 pm when there was time only for a dash to the ground for the start of play. Johnston, who played 203 games for Glenelg and 13 for SA between 1927-40, has not missed a game this season, and believes the Bays can take out their third premiership this year. And he enjoys footy the way it is played today. "It's a good fast game. I think if we could turn the clock back we'd have done the same thing—got the game going."

Glenelg Win First League Premiership

BEAT PORT ADELAIDE IN INSPIRING GAME

Fast and Hard Bumping Play Delights the Crowd

GAIN VICTORY BY NINE POINTS

Dazzling Football, And Determination

FACTORS THAT GAVE SUCCESS TO GLENELG

Stars Of Big Game

The Mail match report of October 6, 1934

Torrid for the Tigers

The 1934 grand final was a rough "n" tough game.

And suspensions were pretty harsh in those days, if those handed out to three Port players after the final was any indication.

Alan "Bull" Reval was reported for hacking, or tripping, Carl Wightman was charged with having thrown the ball away into the crowd. And Obst was reported for throwing the ball at the umpire.

Blue recalls Reval was suspended for 11 games, Obst for 13 and Wightman for about six games.

He says Bull Reval and Bob Quinn formed one of the most feared on-the-ball combinations football has seen.

"Bob Quinn was fearless. And he'd get the ball and hit a player on the chest downfield with a perfect stab pass."

So who is the best player Blue, who still goes to the games every week, has seen?

He names Walter Scott, Horrie Riley, Quinn and Reval, Ken Farmer, Bruce McGregor...

"Barrie Robran was a footballer of great class, but I think Bruce McGregor would have held his own against him."