

1969 MAGAREY MEDALLIST



D. K. (Fred) PHILLIS

DREAMS COME TRUE

Glenelg full-forward Fred Phillis probably has been pinching himself this week to prove that he is not dreaming, and that all that has happened to him this year is real.

To kick 100 goals in a season in league football before turning 21 must have been a dream-like ambition for Fred at the start of this season.

To have won a Magarey Medal as well, would have appeared sheer fantasy.

But in the space of 16 days both dreams came true for Fred.

His exciting Magarey Medal win on Monday night was tremendously popular with the football public because no player captures the imagination quite like a successful full-forward.

But Phillis is the first full-forward to catch the eyes of umpires often enough to poll sufficient votes to win a Magarey Medal.

In looking back over the season, however, it seems perfectly logical that Phillis should be acknowledged as the player who turned in the most brilliant individual performances for the year.

Three times during the year he kicked 10 goals or more in a match.

His first was 11 against Norwood at Norwood Oval on April 26. Then came 10 against Woodville at Woodville Oval on June 21, followed by 15 against South Adelaide at Glenelg Oval on August 16.

And while Glenelg's form may have fluctuated during the minor round, Phillis's did not.

He booted six goals or more nine times or more, any of which would have entitled him to Medal votes.

In only three scattered games did he fail to reach four goals and he

averaged six goals a game over the 20 minor round matches.

His only goalless day was against West Torrens at Glenelg Oval on July 5.

Incidentally, Torrens' win that day was the one which set them on their spectacular way to a place in the final four.

Undoubtedly the most dramatic improvement in Phillis's game this year has been his goalshooting.

Last year his shots at goal were likely to finish everywhere.

His end-of-season figures of 30 goals 31 behinds suggest he was converting every second shot — but this was not so.

Many of his attempts at goal were finishing out of bounds and not even registering on the scoreboard.

But he refused to give up and spent hours practising his kicking at Glenelg Oval before the season began.

This year two out of every three scoring shots have been goals. So far he has kicked 121 goals 65 behinds.

Phillis will go into this year's major round under a lot of pressure.

His goalkicking efforts and his Magarey Medal win will make him the focus of all eyes — particularly those of opposing full-backs.

But the young Glenelg star has already shown that he possesses a remarkably equable temperament and a fine team spirit, which should prove big assets in the games ahead.

Meanwhile, for deeds past this season the football public says: "Congratulations, Fred Phillis."