

# Last Vote Gives Fred Phillis Magarey Medal

By KEITH BUTLER

In a dramatic count, Glenelg full forward Fred Phillis, who will be 21 on September 9, last night won the 1969 Magarey Medal for the fairest and most brilliant player in the SA National Football League minor round.

Amid great excitement in the Adelaide Town Hall where the count took place, Phillis beat his team mate Glenelg centreman Ken Eustice, the 1962 Magarey Medal winner, by two votes when his name was read from the final slip carrying first preference votes.

With only two voting slips remaining Phillis had scored 15 votes with Barrie Robran (North), Bob Shearman (Sturt) and Brian Mulvihill (Torrens) tied in second place with 14.

But the medal was till wide open.

Behind them on 13 votes were Eustice and four other players, Mick Nunan (Sturt), Bob Simunsen (Woodville), Rodney Pope (West) and Robert Day (West).

The SANFL president (Mr. D. M. Brebner) read the second last slip . . . "Glenelg . . . K. Eustice."

This put Eustice in the lead. Then came the last slip . . . "Glenelg . . . D. K. Phillis."

It gave him a total of 18 votes and the medal.

It was an Australian football history-making announcement with Phillis becoming the first full forward to win his State's top football award.

Two former WA champion goalkickers — George Molo-

ney and Ted Fleming — had won the Sandover Medal, but not as full forwards.

Phillis scored four first preference votes and three seconds, while Eustice polled in seven matches with three first preferences, three seconds and one third.

It was the second lowest winning medal count since World War II.

The smallest winning count since World War II was 16 by Ron Benton (1957) and Gary Window (1965).

Dave Boyd (1956) and Trevor Obst (1967) scored 18 votes to win their Magarey Medals.

Robran, the 1968 medallist, was favorite to win, his second successive medal, after winning "The Advertiser" Trophy and another newspaper award.

But he finished in a tie for third place with Shearman and Mulvihill after polling one third preference, five seconds and one third.

Leaders in the voting were:—

Phillis— 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3—18

Eustice—1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3—16

Mulvihill—1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 3—14

Shearman—1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3—14

Robran—1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3—14

Day—2, 2, 3, 3, 3—13

Simunsen—1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3—13

Nunan—1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3—13

Birt—1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3—13

Pope—1, 1, 2, 3, 3, 3—13

## Overcome

Phillis was in last night's audience and was overcome with emotion as former Magarey Medal winners, team mates and officials surged forward to congratulate him.

When asked if winning the medal was his greatest thrill a still choked Phillis replied:

"Yes, it is, but I don't care



"I don't believe it" Glenelg full forward Fred Phillis seems to be saying as former Glenelg and State player Alan Crabb congratulates him the moment he was announced 1969 Magarey Medal winner in the Adelaide Town Hall last night.

about goals or Magarey Medals, we want the premiership."

In his first full season as a full forward the 6 ft. 2 in., 14 st. Phillis had kicked 121 goals when the minor round ended on Saturday.

A feature of the count was that Glenelg and West Torrens each scored 16 first preference votes in the 20 minor round games played.

West's dashing centreman Robert Day put up a fine performance to finish with 13 votes after having missed four games through injury.

SA's all Australian representatives — Graham Molloy (8), John Cahill (6), Rick Schoff, Brian Colbey and Peter Darley, each 4, polled 26 votes between them.

Phillis is only the seventh SA

league player to kick 100 goals in a season. The last player to achieve the feat was Colin Churchett (Glenelg) in 1951.

Glenelg captain-coach Nell Kerley listened to the early count at "The Advertiser," but believing that either one of his two players, Eustice or Phillis, would win the medal he hurried to the Town Hall.

"I thought Eustice would win, but Phillis's success did not surprise me. He is the epitome of a Magarey Medallist — strong, courageous and fair," he said.

The Mayor of Glenelg (Mr. C. W. Anderson) said last night that the award of the 1969 Magarey Medal to Dennis "Fred" Phillis had been received with great joy, not only by himself but by all the citizens of Glenelg.