

# 1973 GRAND FINAL

Glenelg  
v  
North

Mention the year 1973 to a die-hard Glenelg supporter and you will undoubtedly raise a smile.

That year saw Glenelg win only its second premiership. It is yet to win its third, despite many near misses.

The Tigers cruised through the minor round with only one blemish and brushed aside Sturt in the second semi-final. They would have been distressed however by the ease with which the Double Blues capitulated to North in the preliminary final. North won by 93 points, yet Graham Cornes remembered the Bays were not unduly worried by the result.

"We'd only lost the one game to North Adelaide at Prospect so obviously we were confident — we were the favorites," Cornes said.

"This did create some pressure but we had the added confidence that we clearly had been the best side all year.

"It's unusual for a team to go through losing only one game.

"We were clearly a very good side."

As if the pressure of a grand final was not enough, the weatherman added some spice to the story with some extraordinary news. It was going to be hot — very hot — yet it was still only the first month of spring.

North Adelaide kicked with the wind in the first quarter but trailed by 10 points at the 21-minute mark. Then, almost as if due to the intense heat, it exploded into action. Inspiring goals by Marsh, Payne and Barrie Robran saw North in front. The siren however did not sound. Van Bertouch marked and goaled at the 30-minute mark but still the siren did not sound. Marsh goaled again three minutes later and finally, after more than 10 minutes of time-on, the quarter ended.

North led by 21 points but Peter Carey said there was no great concern in the Glenelg camp.

"I think it was a two or three-goal breeze," Carey said.

"I don't think we were particularly concerned at quarter-time.

"It was just a matter of using the breeze in the second quarter. I still felt we had their measure."

Glenelg used the breeze to great advantage. After 19 minutes, the deficit had been erased. Bob Tregenza was taking control in the ruck (ably assisted by Neville Caldwell), while at centre half-forward, Peter Carey was marking everything in sight and kicking long goals.

If that description reminds you of Stephen Kernahan, it should.

Captain of the 1973 Bay team, Peter Marker agreed with the comparison.

"Carey dominated centre half-forward in '73 in a similar way to Kernahan today," Marker said.

"Carey was a totally dominant player

*By Dion Hayman*

— I guess that would be a fair comparison."

Meanwhile, Rex Voigt was snapping goals with monotonous regularity from his forward pocket and by half-time, Glenelg led by six points.

Carey and Voigt goaled again within minutes of the third quarter and it appeared Glenelg was taking control.

They stole a 23-point break after eight minutes and seemed set to run away with the match.

Re-enter North Adelaide. The Roosters fought tooth and nail to stay in touch. When van Bertouch goaled at the 28-minute mark, North had taken a four-point lead but Glenelg replied with two late goals.

What a last quarter it turned out to be!

Glenelg raced to a 15-point lead after seven minutes but, like before, North



came back. After 21 minutes, they were within striking distance. Six minutes later, Barrie Robran's pass found John Plummer 15 metres from goal on a slight angle. Seconds later, North was in front.

"I reckon if you could imagine your body sinking about 20 feet into the ground, that's how everything dropped just for that moment," said Voigt.

Carey also remembered losing the lead.

"I looked around the field at the other players and they all looked exhausted and I didn't know whether we'd be able to put in the necessary effort to lift ourselves and kick the next goal," he said.

"Everybody got their act together again and really put in.

"You'd have to say it really started in the backlines where Jimmy Rawson smothered a ball when someone was having a shot for goal.

"I think then the guys realised we had nothing to lose," Voigt said.

Glenelg forged ahead again but it appeared the ever-reliable Bob Hammond would turn them back again.

Craig Marriott recalls the play.

"There was a scrimmage in the forward pocket area at the front of the grandstand.

"Bob Hammond had played a ripper of a game all day. He made the mistake.

"He gained control of the ball but was pressured by a couple of Bay players so he tried to run the ball out of bounds.

"As soon as I saw he was going to do it, I just ripped around between him and the boundary and picked up the ball.

"I had to be careful when I kicked it not to put the leg out too far, I was so close to the line," Marriott said.

The ball sailed deep into the pocket and into the air sprung Graham Cornes.

"I went down with cramp half-way through the last quarter," Cornes remembered.

"Kerls said to me after the game that he considered taking me off at that stage but I got over it. You always get over it when you see the runner running towards you."

No-one said anything to Cornes as he walked back to his mark to take the kick. He was about 35 metres from goal on quite a sharp angle in the right forward pocket.

It was all too much for Peter Carey.

"I didn't say a word and I didn't look when he kicked it," Carey said.

"I remember just turning away as he was about to kick it and just heard the crowd response as the kick went through the centre.

Peter Carey raised his arms in triumph and a drained Cornes accepted the praise of his team-mates.

North had fired its last shot.

**GLENELG . . . 4.3 9.10 16.10 21.11 (137)**  
**NORTH . . . . . 7.6 8.10 14.14 19.16 (130)**