

As North and Glenelg prepare for another grand final, we recall . . .

A thrilling drama of epic courage



Glenelg and North Adelaide have previously met in just one grand final . . . the epic 1973 thriller at Adelaide Oval.

The Bays claimed the flag, but only after a desperate struggle, in which North snatched the lead in time-on of the final quarter.

Glenelg's seven-point win ended the Roosters' reign as the power in SA football.

North had won the previous two premierships, and in 1972 became Champions of Australia by beating VFL premier Carlton at Adelaide Oval.

North's rise to the top started with the arrival of Mike Patterson as captain-coach from VFL club Richmond in 1970.

The Roosters finished fourth in 1970 when Sturt claimed its fifth successive premiership.

But in 1971, the Blues' era of supremacy came to an end when Patterson became the first Victorian to lead an SA league side to the premiership.

In setting up its first premiership win since 1960, North restricted Port Adelaide to just three behinds in a remarkable first half of the grand final.

Ecstatic

A deficit of 44 points at the long break was too much for the Magpies to overhaul, even though they outscored North by seven goals to one in the last quarter.

The following year in the grand final, also against Port Adelaide, North trailed by eight points at half-time. This time the Roosters slammed on 14-8 to 4-4 in the second half to win by 56 points.

After the grand final win, ecstatic coach Mike Patterson declared: "Barrie Robran is the best footballer I have seen."



Peter Cornwall

the architect of North's back-to-back premiership successes but Robran, clearly had been the maestro of its grand final wins.

The triple Magarey Medallist was best-on-ground in both grand finals.

While North celebrated becoming Champions of Australia with a one-point win against Carlton after the grand final, Glenelg was lamenting finishing sixth for the second successive season.

Glenelg's captain of the time, Peter Marker, remembers: "Those years were really disappointing for us. So we were very serious about 1973."

Leading up to the '73 grand final, Glenelg, under coach Neil Kerley, lost just one game — to North at Prospect.

But the manner in which North crushed Sturt by 93 points in the preliminary final gave the Bays a scare in the lead-up to the grand final.

"That win did concern us. North Adelaide walked away 10 feet tall. They grew so much as a team in the preliminary final it really created a fair amount

of discomfort," Marker said.

The final was played on a hot September day. At three-quarter time, Glenelg led by eight points, and with the use of the breeze to come, there was no indication of the drama to follow.

North was not going to give up its crown without an almighty fight.

Elation

Three minutes into time-on the Roosters snatched a five-point lead with a goal to John Plummer, bringing elation to the North camp and its supporters, and a feeling of disbelief to the Glenelg players.

"I felt pretty sick," Marker recalls.

"I can vividly remember Mike Patterson coming to the boundary line, and I can recall the look on his face and the way all the North trainers jumped in the air in sheer elation — almost as though the game was over.

"It was a feeling of great disbelief. I always firmly believed we would win that game, so when North hit the front it was almost an unreal feeling. The rest of the day



ABOVE: Flashback to the first reports of Glenelg's grand final triumph. RIGHT: Jubilation as captain-coach Mike Patterson is carried from the ground after North's 1971 premiership

Match details

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Glenelg	4-3	9-10	16-10	21-11	137
North	7-6	8-10	14-14	19-16	130

GOALS — GLENELG: Voigt 7, Carey 6, Sandland 4, Wickens, Bennett, Hamilton, Cornes. **NORTH:** Rebbeck 4, D. Sachse 3, R. Robran 3, Marsh 2, Plummer 2, Von Bertouch 2, Payne 2, B. Robran 1.

BEST — GLENELG: Carey, Tregenza, Hamilton, Voigt, Anderson, Colbey, W. Phillis, Bennett, Millard, Cornes. **NORTH:** Hammond, Marsh, Howard, Sporn, Robinson, Stringer, Von Bertouch, Rebbeck.

had been a real football match, a real grand final, but when that happened there was immediately a feeling of disbelief.

"I still believed we had enough time to win it, because it had been a very attacking game, and all the quarters were long ones."

What followed was one of the most thrilling climaxes to a grand final imaginable, and one of the most heroic leaps seen.

Craig Marriott hooked the ball into the Bay full forward area from the boundary in front of the stands and Graham Cornes somehow found the spring to take a sensational mark above the pack.

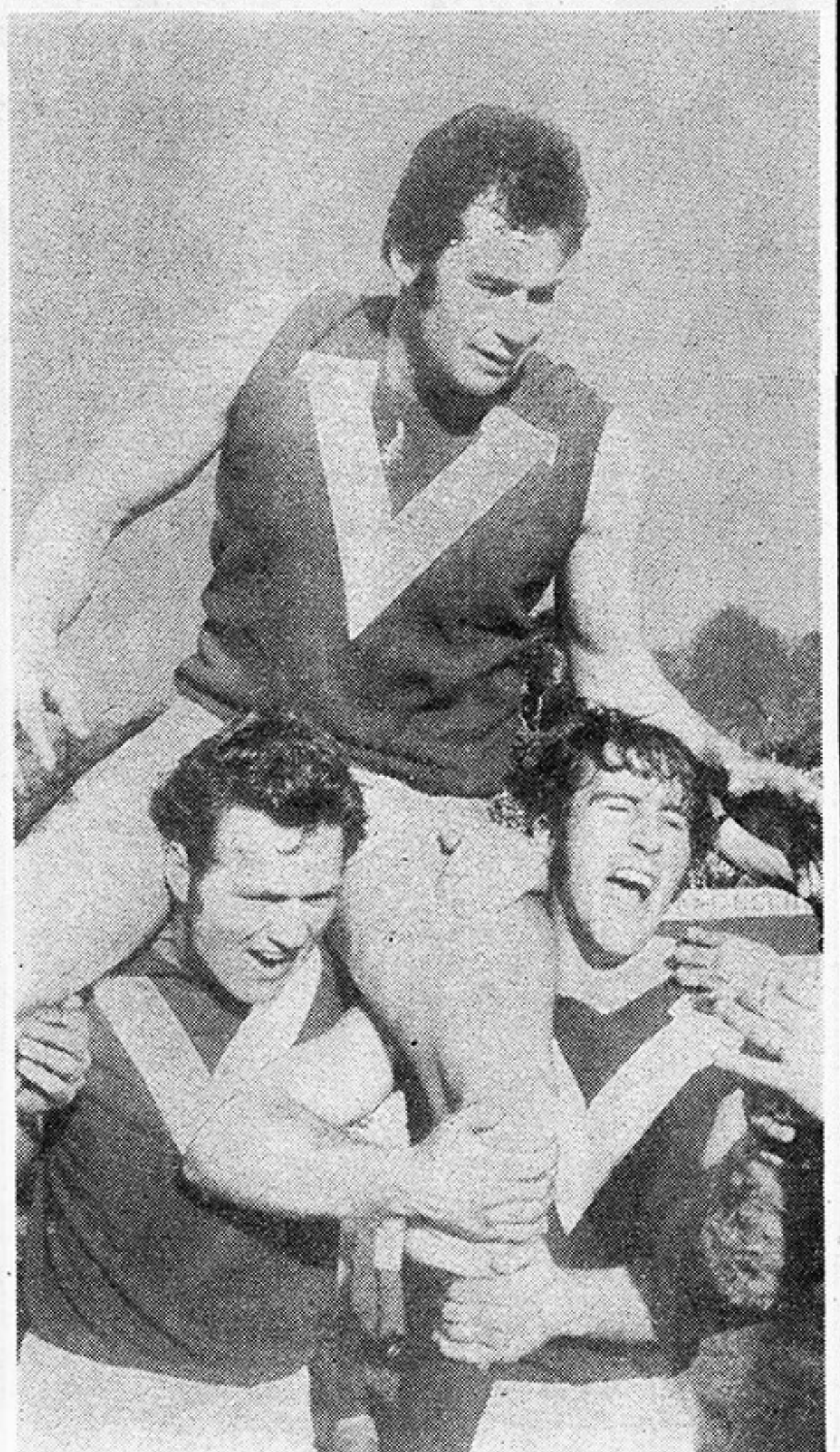
"All 36 players were so tired, drained mentally and physically — there was no energy left out there on the ground.

"What made Graham's mark so significant was the fact someone had enough energy to even get off the ground.

Memory

"I felt very comfortable with him having the shot at goal. He was a good set shot," Marker said.

Cornes slotted through the goal to give the Bays a one-point lead, John Sandland added another after the siren and Glenelg had claimed its second flag, and first since 1934. "My most vivid



memory of the grand final was the siren going and thousands of people streaming over the fence," Marker said.

"Most people definitely do not like work perse. But when you are seeking goals and achieving them, and getting satisfaction out of your success, the hard work becomes part of a totally enjoyable experience." Perhaps the hardest

working man on the field that day was Bay ruckman Bob Tregenza, who had to do the work of two men after Bob Tardiff was injured.

"The real difference between the sides, if you could say there was a single difference, was we had Bob Tregenza playing for use," Marker said.

"He took on more than I have ever seen one player take on in a

game. It was like we had 19 players and North 18.

"Bob was sick for days after that effort."

Also superb for Glenelg was centre half-forward Peter Carey, who kicked six goals, while Rex Voigt booted seven.

And Bob Hammond's game for North on the last line of defence was one that hardly deserved to see him on the losing side.