

MAIL FOOTBALL...FIRST FOR FOOTBALL

By Graham Fischer

Footy's action-packed start

Football on the wane! You'd have to be kidding with yesterday's action-packed, goals galore opening to the centenary year of league football.

Ask any of the 43,812 people who went to the five games for an opening round which saw only Centrals scrape home without any worries.

A crowd of 14,400 saw the Mighty Magpies make a triumphant return to

Alberton Oval and after a seesaw tussle give John Nicholls a "kick in the pants" for his introduction to coaching in SA.

At the Parade, last year's premiers, Sturt withstood a challenge from Norwood after half-time to run out 19-point winners.

SA's cinderella side South, staged a magnificent fightback to down

West at Football Park.

Down more than five goals at half-time, South out-ran the Bloods in the last half and their performance suggests they have made further improvement from last year.

South are a definite challenger in the race to the finals.

Recently appointed

State coach Neil Kerley had instant success with last year's "wooden spooners" West Torrens but the Eagles' performance did not indicate he was about to take them to an immediate premiership.

Kerley's magiv worked with South in 1964 but with Torrens he appears to have a more difficult contract. Torrens who have won

only two games in each of the past two years, have at least achieved half these figures.

Centrals at home are always a difficult foe and they never really looked in danger against North.

But the young North side did outscore the Bulldogs in the last half.

LEAGUE DETAILS

FOOTBALL PARK

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
South	3-3	6-4	12-11	17-16	118
West	7-7	10-13	12-18	14-20	104

BEST PLAYERS — SOUTH: Hateley, Karklis, Palmer, Baynes, Robbins, Cox. **WEST:** Kuhlmann, Davoren, Hollick, Stevenson, M. Williams, Kennedy. **SCORERS — SOUTH:** Baynes 3.4, Robbins 3.1, Slattery 2.2, Cox 2.1, Linke 2.1, Cutting 2.0, Karklis 1.1, Palmer 1.0, Fry 1.0, Doyle 0.1, rushed 0.5. **WEST:** Ravlich 5.3, Meuret 3.2, Hollick 2.0, Williams 1.2, Kennedy 1.1, Summerton 1.0, Stevenson 1.0, Grimwood 0.3, Gurney 0.2, Davoren 0.1, rushed 0.6. **UMPIRE:** Bob Scholefield.

THEBARTON OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Tors.	4-6	7-10	9-14	12-16	88
Wdville	4-5	6-7	6-9	11-11	77

BEST PLAYERS — TORRENS: Faletic, McSparran, Marriott, Floreani, Mead, Miller. **WOODVILLE:** Tyrrell, Maylin, MacVicar, Girardi, Parsons, Gates.

SCORERS — TORRENS: Marriott 3.0, Phillipou 2.2, McSparran 2.0, Hamill 2.0, Inglis 1.4, Pavlich 1.2, Wallace 1.1, Azzopardi 0.2, Miller 0.2, Hank 0.1, rushed 0.2. **WOODVILLE:** Mulvihill 3.3, Twelftree 2.1, Brenton 2.0, Kersten 1.1, Ridley 1.1, MacVicar 1.1, Parsons 1.0, Carty 0.1, rushed 0.3. **UMPIRE:** J. Field.

ALBERTON OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	7-1	12-7	19-8	25-12	162
Glen.	8-4	13-6	20-9	20-15	135

BEST PLAYERS — PORT: Marrett, Cunningham, James, Kinnear, Ebert, Whatman. **GLENELG:** Cornes, Hodgeman, McInerney, Copping, Weston, D. Phillips.

SCORERS — PORT: Cunningham 7.0, Sorrell 4.2, Gerlach 2.2, Whatman 2.2, Cahill 2.2, Marrett 2.0, Natt 1.2, Porplycia 1.1, Granger 1.1, Kinnear 1.0, Belton 1.0, Giles 1.0. **GLENELG:** Cornes 3.4, Copping 4.2, Rebbeck 3.0, McInerney 2.3, Hodgeman 2.2, MacFarlane 2.0, Marker 1.1, rushed 0.3.

INJURIES — Greg Phillips (ankle injury) first quarter.

REPORTS—Glenelg's Peter Marker, by boundary umpire Colin Miller for allegedly striking David Granger with his clenched right fist.

UMPIRE — Des Foster.

ELIZABETH OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Cent.	4-1	10-3	17-7	19-11	125
North	3-5	4-12	11-16	14-19	103

BEST PLAYERS.—CENTRALS: Kreig, Skinner, Vivian, Beythein, McKay, Cochrane. **NORTH:** Jaworskyj, Howard, Hill, Stringer, Palmer Heckman.

SCORERS.—CENTRALS: Reed 5.4, Jones 4.1, Kreig 3.0, Norsworthy 2.2, Mobbs 2.1, Hughes 2.0, Skinner 1.0, Beythein 0.1, rushed 0.2. **NORTH:** Robran 4.3, Hill 4.2, Smith 2.1, Cloke 1.2, Schmidt 1.0, Palmer 1.0, Eatts 1.0, Diorio 0.3, Walsh 0.1, Hoekman 0.1, Roach 0.1, rushed 0.5. **UMPIRE:** Rick Charlesworth.

NORWOOD OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	4-5	9-8	11-11	18-13	121
Nwd.	1-9	4-13	8-20	13-24	102

BEST PLAYERS — STURT: Bagshaw, Whelan, Davies, Howard, Wild, Hill. **NORWOOD:** Craig, Rosser, Gregg, Von Bertouch, Palm, Kerley.

SCORERS — STURT: Whelan 6.2, Bagshaw 3.0, Wild 2.2, Graham 2.1, Klomp 2.1, Nunan 2.0, Barton 1.1, Greenslade 0.2, Davies 0.2, Burgan 0.1, rushed 0.1. **NORWOOD:** Palm 4.1, Woodcock 3.4, Adler 2.5, Von Bertouch 2.0, Gregg 1.1, Craig 1.1, Gallagher 0.3, Rosser 0.3, Button 0.2, Dillon 0.2, Sapwell 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES—NORWOOD: Michalanney (dislocated elbow).

UMPIRE — Laurie Argent.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	Points For	Points Agnst.	Prem. Pts.	%
Centrals	1	—	125	103	2	54.82
Port	1	—	162	135	2	54.54
Sturt	1	—	121	102	2	54.26
Torrens	1	—	88	77	2	53.33
South	1	—	118	104	2	53.15
West	—	1	104	118	—	46.85
Woodville	—	1	77	88	—	46.67
Norwood	—	1	102	121	—	45.74
Glenelg	—	1	135	162	—	45.46
North	—	1	103	125	—	45.18

ATTENDANCES

Football Park	5,584
Elizabeth Oval	5,989
Thebarton Oval	5,053
Alberton Oval	14,494
Norwood Oval	12,682
Total	43,812

NEXT ROUND

SATURDAY

Glenelg v. Sturt, Football Park.
West v. Central, Richmond Oval.
Woodville v. South, Woodville Oval.

EASTER MONDAY

Port v. Norwood, Football Park.
North v. Torrens, Prospect Oval.

MARKER REPORTED: TIGER SHOCK



GLENELG captain Peter Marker reported for striking... Norwood forward Jim Michalanney taken to hospital with a dislocated elbow... these incidents stood out in the hard-hitting opening to season '77.

MARKER was reported in the third quarter for striking Port Adelaide's David Granger with a clenched fist in a melee (LEFT). Marker appeared non-plussed at the report and asked why he had been reported. "It appeared the boundary umpire didn't know why I had been reported," Marker said after the game.

MAGPIES FLY HOME AS TIGERS FADE OUT

Port and Glenelg turned on an impressive display of hard-hitting, brilliant and sustained football in a spectacular return to Alberton for the Magpies.

The Magpies, who at one stage in the second quarter were more than six goals down, staged a magnificent fightback to finally crush the Tigers.

They won because they just kept on running and running.

The game opened with a blistering pace and precision football from both sides.

The Tigers jumped Port early with goals from Graham Cornes and Kym Hodgeman.

Then it was Port's turn to explode and within five minutes they had four goals on the board.

Glenelg coach John Nicholls had Cornes "resting" in the forward pocket for most of the game while full forward Stephen Copping roamed the forward area.

The tactic worked until half-time with Cornes kicking five goals and Copping picking up three.

Half-way through the second quarter Port panicked as the Bays ran riot.

Coach John Cahill switched Max James to Cornes with David Granger guarding Copping.

It didn't work. Copping notched three goals in four minutes and Granger went to centre half-forward.

by  **MIKE PILKINGTON**

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Peter Woite was switched to full back with Tim Evans going to centre half-back.

Desperate

That worked and the Magpies kicked their first goal of the quarter at the 22-minute mark.

They added four more and were back in the game.

The third quarter was at its see-sawing best with Port being the first to get on top and then Glenelg coming back.

There was nothing in it. But Port had superiority in ruck with huge Paul Marrett playing the game of his life.

He had taken on and beaten the Glenelg rucks in Peter Carey and Bob Paech.

Cornes was thrown on to the ball in the last quarter in a desperate attempt to lift Glenelg.

But Marrett was still winning the taps.

Port had an edge across centre all day with Kym Kinnear winning his wing against John MacFarlane and Russell Ebert in control at centre.

Nicholls had David Holst shadowing Ebert with Marker playing on a forward flank.

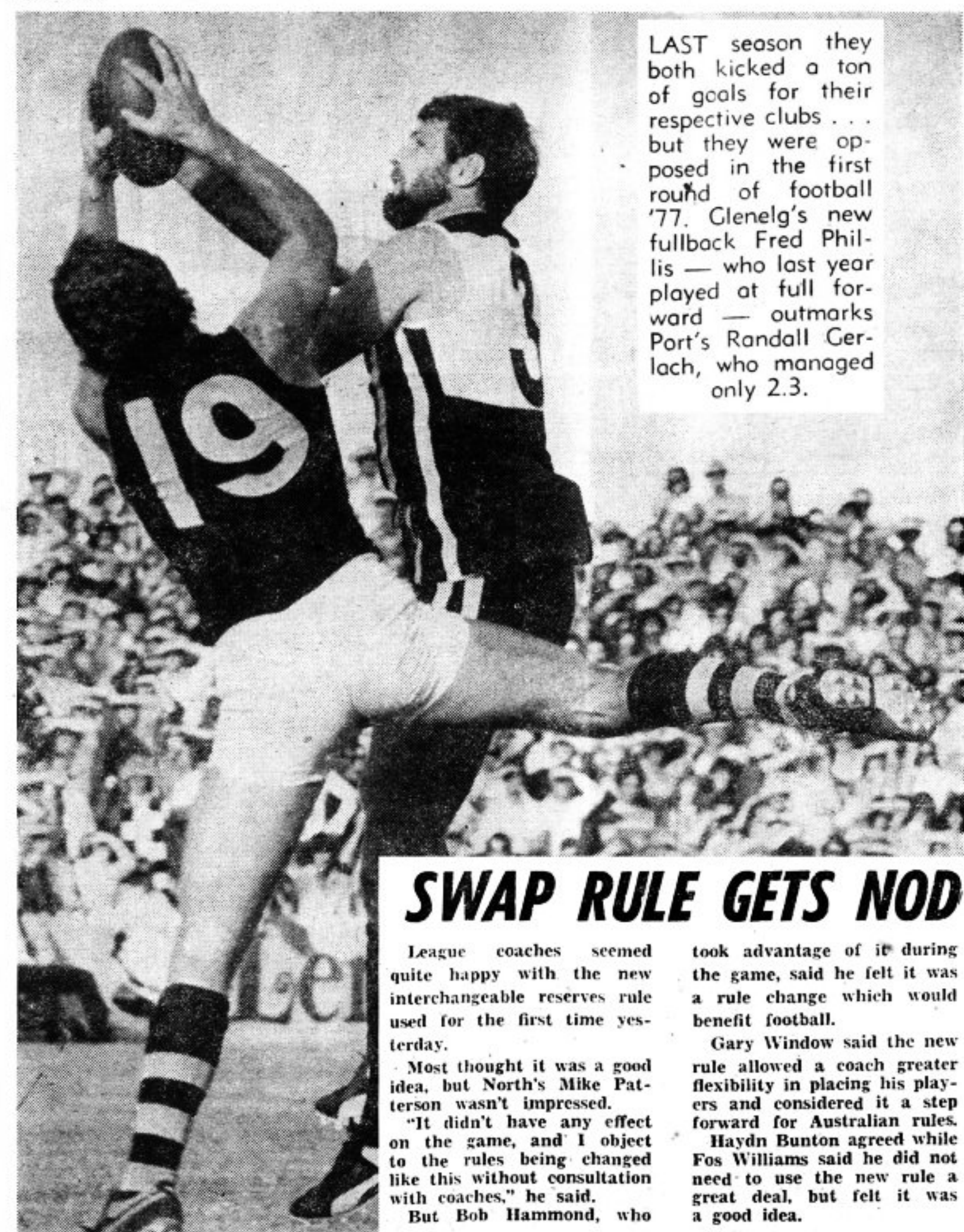
Ebert still managed 17 kicks, eight marks and eight handballs.

The Magpies finished up in front because of their ability to play the game right out.

It was a tired Glenelg side in the latter half of the last quarter and Port's little men in Brian Cunningham, Darrell Cahill, Robert Whatman and Andy Porplycia ran all over the ground driving their team forward.

Glenelg's rovers, Kym Hodgeman and Peter McInerney played brilliantly to losing rucks.

Hodgeman dominated the first half and McInerney the second.



LAST season they both kicked a ton of goals for their respective clubs... but they were opposed in the first round of football '77. Glenelg's new fullback Fred Phillips — who last year played at full forward — outmarks Port's Randall Gerlach, who managed only 2.3.

SWAP RULE GETS NOD

League coaches seemed quite happy with the new interchangeable reserves rule used for the first time yesterday.

Most thought it was a good idea, but North's Mike Patterson wasn't impressed.

"It didn't have any effect on the game, and I object to the rules being changed like this without consultation with coaches," he said.

But Bob Hammond, who

took advantage of it during the game, said he felt it was a rule change which would benefit football.

Gary Window said the new rule allowed a coach greater flexibility in placing his players and considered it a step forward for Australian rules.

Haydn Bunton agreed while Fos Williams said he did not need to use the new rule a great deal, but felt it was a good idea.