

Port firmer favorite for flag

By GEOFF KINGSTON

Port Adelaide recovered from a third quarter slump to clinch a convincing 25-point win over Glenelg in the league football second semi-final at Football Park yesterday.

Port Adelaide	2.2	6.6	7.8	12.12	(84)
Glenelg	3.2	4.3	8.4	9.5	(59)

GOAL KICKERS: PORT - Evans, 5.1; James 2.2; Blethyn, 2.1; Curtis, 1.1; Light, Granger, 1.0; Ebert, Cunningham, 0.2; Sorrell, 0.1; rushed, 0.2.

GLENELG - Hodgeman, 2.0; Carey, Rady, D.Johnston, 1.1; Paech, Avery, Jackson, W.Phillis, 1.0; MacFarlane, 0.1; rushed, 0.1.

BEST: PORT - Woite, Ebert, James, Light, Cunningham, Kinnear. GLENELG - Weston, Hodgeman, Carey, Hywood, Lihou, Voigt.

Umpires - P. Mead, D.Foster



Glenelg ruckman Peter Carey spoils his Port Adelaide opponent John Spry at Football Park yesterday.

The victory, Port's third against Glenelg this season, sends it into this year's centenary grand final as a red hot favorite to win its 19th premiership and its first since 1965.

The game, watched by an umbrella covered crowd of 32,191, was marred for much of the first half by strong winds and very heavy rain.

Port looked in trouble when Glenelg kicked 4.1 in a good third quarter to grab a two-point lead going into the last term.

But Port salvaged the situation with five goals to one by Glenelg in the last quarter to make the game safe.

Glenelg coach John Nicholls, who was "completely satisfied" with only two players — Paul Weston and Steve Hywood — believes Glenelg lost the game in the first quarter.

After winning the toss and kicking with a strong wind, Glenelg led by only six points at quarter time.

"That was where we lost it," Nicholls said.

"We got into bad habits; kicked badly, fumbled and made a lot of mistakes."

Nicholls still believed Glenelg had a chance to win when it led by two points at three-quarter time.

"But while Port is a good side, we created most of our own problems and I will not be afraid to meet them again in the grand final," he said.

Port coach John Cahill did not think the game was "safe" until the time-on period of the last quarter.

"I was worried halfway through the third quarter when Glenelg started to run," Cahill said.

"I didn't think the game would get away from us but I was anxious to get to the players at three-quarter time to get their minds back on the job."



Peter Woite

Led by Woite, who was in superb touch at centre half-back, the younger players, although less spectacular, rarely allowed the Glenelg forwards easy kicks.

Ivan Eckerman in particular, and later Tony Hannan, played with remarkable poise and flair.

But it was Woite, follower Max James, Bruce Light on a wing and Russell Ebert at centre that launched Port Adelaide on the way to success.

Things did not go right for Glenelg.

Its expected big man power was sabotaged by the wet and slippery conditions and Nicholls was forced to make changes.

He switched Neville Caldwell, then David Hoist, to centre, Steve Copping and John MacFarlane moved to the wings, and with Carey at centre half-forward, Glenelg got back into the game.

Holst curbed Ebert's influence in the centre and with Paul Weston pushing Glenelg into attack from half-back, Port looked a little ragged.

Hodgeman continued to pick up a lot of kicks and with young Michael Farquhar winning the ball consistently at half forward, Glenelg looked headed for the grand final.

But Port responded quickly to Cahill's three-quarter time suggestions.

John Spry, a good player all day, continued to push chances to teammates; James slipped back into gear and with Ebert getting free of Holst, Port banged through three quick goals in the first nine minutes to send Glenelg into the preliminary final play-off against West Adelaide.

Its defence, which had been criticised as suspect, as intolerably inexperienced, was sure and safe.

"During the break I stressed the fact that we had stopped running; that we had to be desperate when we lost the ball and alert when we got it."

The opening quarter was sensational, if only for several explosive incidents and a little bit of head hunting by some players.

Midway through the term Port's Peter Woite took Kym Hodgeman out of the game temporarily in a way that seemed out of character for Woite.

Wayne Phillis rushed in to square off; it was the right and proper thing to do in the circumstances and for several minutes the game was out of control.

A few minutes later Port wingman Bruce Light upset some more Glenelg players and for a short while several players from both sides lost their "cool."

When it was all over Port Adelaide, which had kicked against a strong wind, was only six points down.

Port continued to outplay Glenelg in the second term.

Its defence, which had been criticised as suspect, as intolerably inexperienced, was sure and safe.

Cornes will play on Saturday

By MIKE COWARD

Graham Cornes will play against West Adelaide in the preliminary final this week.

Glenelg coach John Nicholls said this yesterday after his men had lost the second semi-final to Port Adelaide.

Cornes, who has not played since the final minor series, has had the bandage removed from his badly swollen ankle but is still receiving intensive treatment twice daily.

He was sorely missed against a speedy and sure-handed Port Adelaide team yesterday.

Glenelg coach John Nicholls was disappointed but not devastated after the match.

"It doesn't change much at all, as long as we win this week. At full strength we are a side that can beat Port Adelaide," Nicholls said.

The Glenelg players escaped unscathed yesterday.

Port did not fare so well.

However Brian Cunningham (calf), Max James (knee) and Ivan Eckerman (corked thigh) have 13 days in which to recover.

Port coach John Cahill is in favor of playing a

trial match this week, but will not make any decision until he confers with his players at a team meeting tomorrow night.

If they endorse his recommendation, Port will probably play West Torrens.

Cahill believes two 30-minute terms would be valuable preparation for the grand final. He will contact Torrens coach Neil Kerley today.

Cahill is very conscious of the fact that Port lost last year's grand final after an identical graduation. In retrospect, he feels Port may have been a little underprepared for the final, having played only one match in a month.

It is likely that Tony Giles, a very honest defender throughout the season, will be considered for the grand final team.

Giles proved to Cahill that he has fully recovered from a nasty thigh injury with an impressive effort for the Reserves on Saturday.

West Adelaide, trying for its first premiership since 1961, is praying that

Trevor Grimwood's hamstring injury is not serious.

Grimwood, who has an extraordinarily high tolerance to pain, has been plagued by injury this year and received an injection at three quarter-time in the first semi-final with South Adelaide on Saturday.

"There are no worries. I'll be right," Grimwood said after the game.

Glenelg is unlikely to have Peter McInerney available this week. However, there is a possibility he could be available in grand final week.

McInerney, who is being treated for a hairline fracture to a leg, has not played since July.

Glenelg defeated West by 40 points in the qualifying final eight days ago.

SATURDAY'S STARS

R. Hayes (WA)	3
S. Palmer (SA)	2
D. Kennedy (WA)	1

YESTERDAY'S STARS

P. Woite (PA)	3
P. Weston (G)	2
R. Ebert (PA)	1