

# FIRST SEMI-FINAL SOUVENIR



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## IT'S PORT AS EBERT ERUPTS!

Inspired by the brilliant Russell Ebert, Port mounted an unforgettable charge home against Glenelg yesterday to scrape their way into the preliminary final.

Port and Glenelg had the Football Park crowd on their toes throughout as they did in last year's grand final.

Playing like the Glenelg of old, the Bays led the way in an epic contest until the 23-minute mark of the last quarter.

Given little chance of staying in the premiership race before the game, Glenelg didn't look like losing until the match was almost over.

They started at a pace that shocked Port, streaking away when in possession, and hitting hard when the Magpies had the ball.

### Savage

Their tackling was absolutely savage, as they dragged one Port player after another to his knees in the early exchanges.

It was a real battle of defences at first as both teams tried to break away, with Carl Fragomeni a wonderful stopper in the Port backlines.

He was helped brilliantly by Darrell Cahill, who was given a commission to run loose across half-back. These two cut down Glenelg many times.

And Trevor Sorrell — given the job at centre-half back for the second week in a row — was just as effective.

However, Glenelg were just as well served in defence.

### Motivated

With Kym Kinnear in brilliant form on one wing and Brian Cunningham teaming well with Russell Ebert, Port got the ball in to range several times only to find Jim Lihou waiting to blast it back towards centre.

Alongside him Bob Paech in the goal square had Tim Evans' measure, and Glenelg were looking good.

Graham Cornes' efforts motivated the Bays.

Around him, players such as Paul Weston, Stephen Copping and rookie Peter Whiting were doing grand things.

And at the goal front, Fred Phillips had won himself two goals.

The smug Port supporters were ready at the start of the second quarter for a Magpie massacre with the wind, but it wasn't to be.

That Glenelg defence was tight as a bow string and Port were under enormous pressure, while Glenelg were playing their best football for months to race up the ground into the wind.

Port shifted Ebert to centre in a bid to get the kind of penetration Glenelg got from Paul Weston but they were in trouble in many positions.

### FIRST SEMI-FINAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	2-1	5-7	6-9	13-13	91
Glenelg	3-5	5-11	10-13	11-13	79

**BEST—PORT:** Cunningham, Fragomeni, Ebert, Spry, Cahill, Light. **GLENELG:** Weston, Cornes, Lihou, Copping, Paech, Carey.

**SCORERS—PORT:** Cunningham 4-1, Evans 2-2, Gill 1-1, Ebert 1-1, Clifford 1-1, Belton 1-1, Paetic 1-0, Cahill 1-0, Batt 1-0, Porplycia 0-2, Spry 0-1, Curtis 0-1, Granger 0-1, rushed 0-1. **GLENELG:** Phillis 5-0, Copping 2-1, Weston 1-4, Caldwell 1-2, Rady 1-1, McInerney 1-0, D. Johnston 0-2, Hercock 0-1, Holst 0-1, rushed 0-1.

**INJURIES—G.** Phillips (Port) in first quarter (back). **REPORTS—Hywood** (Glenelg) by umpire L. Argent in first quarter for striking a Port player twice. **ATTENDANCE—27,761.**

Playing to win the game for the injured Kym Hodgeman, Glenelg worked the ball low into the teeth of the gusting breeze for two valuable goals, enabling them to hold their lead.

With Peter Carey playing across half-back for long spells, they outfoxed the Magpies and it was a spirited bunch that headed for the Port dressing room in dribs and drabs at half-time.

The Magpies began to run better after coach John Cahill gave them a blasting at the break, and with Ebert back at centre half-forward they began to use the ball better.

They had noted Glenelg's willingness to crash through packs and back each other up, and they began to do likewise.

But they were in a desperate position, as Fred Phillips bagged his third goal and Daryl Rady his first.

Just when Port needed a miracle, Brian Cunningham booted a magnificent goal from the left forward pocket, judging the wind to perfection.

More was to come from Cunningham later, but Port began a challenge as Tim Evans grabbed a sensational mark in the goal square against Bob Paech and Jim Lihou.

Inexplicably, he attempted to play on, and in an instant he was on the ground, and Glenelg raced away with the ball.

Down it went to Phillis who rode a bone-shattering bump from Port ruckman, Murrie Batt, to mark safely. He was hurt, but took his time, recovered and goaled.

Then Paul Weston sent through a soaring shot that brought the crowd to its toes once more, and Port were in real trouble.

They'd done well enough in ruck, and had Cunningham picking up kick after

kick around the ground, but Glenelg were making fools of the media who had given them no chance.

But then Russell Ebert showed what a champion he is.

Dancing and weaving through the packs with uncanny ball control, he goaled. Then he set up Stephen Clifford for a goal to be followed by Darrell Cahill and Murrie Batt.

In 10 minutes Port had cut Glenelg's lead back to two points—but suddenly the Bays exploded again and Neville Caldwell goaled to give them badly-needed breathing space.

### Magnificent

It was desperation time now, with neither side wishing to see next week's preliminary final from the grandstand.

Then came Brian Cunningham's moment of glory.

Breaking away from a forward line pack which had misread the ball he raced goalward, only to be brought down by Jim Lihou.

But he won a free kick and put Port ahead for the first time.

Minutes later he did it again, snapping a magnificent goal around his body after Stephen Clifford had carried the ball down ground with a brilliant dash.

Suddenly it was over.

In the dressing room after the game, Graham Cornes said: "This is the end of the year for us and I'm very disappointed about it. But I'm very proud at the way we went out."

So was every Glenelg supporter . . . and a few swingers who'd been won over by their effort in the face of all the mud that has been slung in their faces.



### Despair . . . then delight!

**RIGHT:** Looking down the barrel . . . it's three-quarter time and desperate Port coach John Cahill searches for a solution to the Magpie's 28-point deficit. Andy Porplycia looks equally despairing

**BELOW:** But the upset result is not to be . . . champion Port rover Brian Cunningham boots the vital goal past Jim Lihou to put the Magpies in front and on the way to victory



### NICHOLLS HITS OUT

"WE did everything right, but Port kicked about five goals from what I considered to be doubtful frees—two of which were charities," said Glenelg coach John Nicholls.

"There were several free kicks and 15-metre penalties we could have got, but the umpires just ignored or shut their eyes to them. All I ask for is an equal chance.

"Port at this stage will not win the grand final. They are not good enough.

"If you put a bit of pressure on them they are ordinary.

"To have Hywood reported in the first quarter for his incident and to allow several charges and things to go on later is absolutely ridiculous.

"The umpires should have a good look at the replay to see their mistakes. I am disgusted with their exhibition.



**PORT** coach, John Cahill: "I am very happy we got out of the game with a win.

"I was not confident at three-quarter time, but our last quarter effort was superb.

"It was only silly mistakes that saw us in such a tight situation."



**PORT** captain, Russell Ebert: "Our desire for the ball in the last term won us the game.

"The desire had not been there in the first three quarters, but it improved a lot in the last."



**GLENELG** captain, Graham Cornes: "Port were inspired by Ebert's effort early in the last quarter. He showed everybody what a champion he is.

"It was a hard-hitting game, and on the day Port were too good, and had too much run.

"I feel Port were helped by a couple of 50-50 free kicks that went against us.

"All in all it was a much improved effort and will probably put the critics of our club in their place."

