

The Advertiser, Wednesday, April 16, 1980

Valiant Glenelg loses by five points

MELBOURNE — North Melbourne did it the hard way in narrowly eliminating Glenelg from the Escort Championship series at VFL Park last night.

North Melbourne	2.7	4.10	6.13	9.16	(70)
Glenelg	1.1	4.3	6.8	9.11	(65)

It was anybody's game for most of the night and it was the Kangaroos who finally held on long enough to snatch a five point win — 9.16 (70) to 9.11 (65).

Although Glenelg battled it out in tough style right until the final siren its defeat still put another dent in SA prestige.

It is now left to South Adelaide — which will play St. Kilda in a fortnight — to salvage something for SA.

Except for the first term when North led by 12 points there was never more than a few points between the two at the other changes.

Even in the dying moments of the game Glenelg still threatened danger and had a couple of chances to pull the game out of the fire but just bumped into a side which had a little more system and determination.

Perhaps North should have left with a bigger winning margin but its wretched kicking in the first two terms enabled Glenelg to always keep within range.

Kerry Good was one of the Roos main offenders in the early avalanche of points when he scored behinds four times before finally finding the goals.

There was one touch of bad luck associated with the string of minor scores when two close North Melbourne snaps hit the post within a minute at the 18 minute mark of the second term.

Everything pointed to a hectic last quarter when North turned for home just five points to the good.

But a few sharp words from coach Ron Barassi during the last interval apparently did the trick as Roger Podoleczak, Good and Wayne Schimmelbusch all slammed on goals in the first five minutes to send the Kangaroos well ahead on what appeared to be an easy winning trail.

But the Roos were suddenly shaken by a Glenelg revival which saw Peter Carey, Bradley and Kim Hodgeman all goal to bring the difference back to five points and there was real danger threatening the Victorian side.

Wayne Schimmelbusch, who had led North into attack time and again early, could only manage a point with a shot which made the difference one point.

GOALKICKERS — North Melbourne: Good, Boyse 2, Sutton, Blight, Glendinning, Podoleczak, W. Schimmelbusch. **Glenelg:** Macvicar, Bradley 2, Marshall, Macfarlane, McInerney, Carey, Hodgeman.

BEST — North Melbourne: W. Schimmelbusch, Henshaw, McCann, Montgomery, Boyse. **Glenelg:** Carey, Weston, Hodgeman, Bradley, McInerney.

Then Robbie Walter turned in a similar score before Glenelg made several threatening forward thrusts which were well turned away by a solid North defence.

Several times Glenelg tried to snatch the game away from North but it ran up against a side which was just a shade stronger.

Overall North probably should have won a poor standard game by a much bigger margin and it was only its own fault through early inaccuracy that produced all the last term excitement.

The win puts North into the quarter finals and it will meet the winner of the St. Kilda-South Adelaide game to be played on April 29.

The game that shamed Victorians

Glenelg Football Club went down fighting by five points in its crucial Escort Cup match against North Melbourne at VFL Park last Tuesday night.

The Glenelg club, thousands of SA fans, and even some Victorians were convinced the Bays were deprived of victory by some astonishing umpiring decisions.

The following letter, from an irate Victorian, was received by the Glenelg club Friday morning.

SIR—I would like to congratulate your team for its splendid effort in the game against North Melbourne.

In my opinion the game was taken from you, and there are many other people who agree with me.

I was disgusted with the umpires, who gave everything to North . . . and that is why North won.

You did a magnificent job to lose by only five points in spite of all that.

You may be interested to know that the three TV announcers were also against a lot of the umpire's decisions, and on radio station 3MP the announcer said neither umpire should be allowed to officiate again.

I felt I had to write and let the boys know that a lot of Victorians were on their side, and how unlucky they were not to win after their tremendous game.

MRS L. HOBBS, 30 Detroit Cres, Corio, Victoria, 3214.

Fighting Bays were robbed

By Sunday Mail sporting editor David Capel

Glenelg was robbed of victory in its Australian Football Championship match against North Melbourne.

SA football fans who watched the telecast were aghast over continuous bewildering and seemingly "home town" decisions made by one of the two umpires, Glen James.

Enormous public sympathy has been showered upon the valiant Glenelg team which went down by five points after looking the better team for the last three terms.

The Glenelg camp was disgusted with umpire James' performance and so were many thousands of South Australians, Glenelg supporters or not.

Glenelg officials were reluctant to "squeal" this week, but Football Director Harry Kernahan did put one paragraph on the record:

"I don't think I need to make any comment because everyone who watched the telecast would know how we feel."

SANFL president Max Basheer and general manager Don Roach are known to have been dismayed over various aspects of umpire James' performance.

All night James appeared to be handing out tiggly-touchwood frees to North, and ignoring obvious frees that should have been awarded to the Bays.

It is understood the VFL umpires' observer has compiled a report which is critical of James.

Glenelg's official statistician did not operate on the match, but an unofficial observer who took notes had 33 frees to North Melbourne; 21 to Glenelg.

Another official noted that key North ruckman Gary Dempsey was awarded seven frees, and his Glenelg opponent Peter Carey only one.

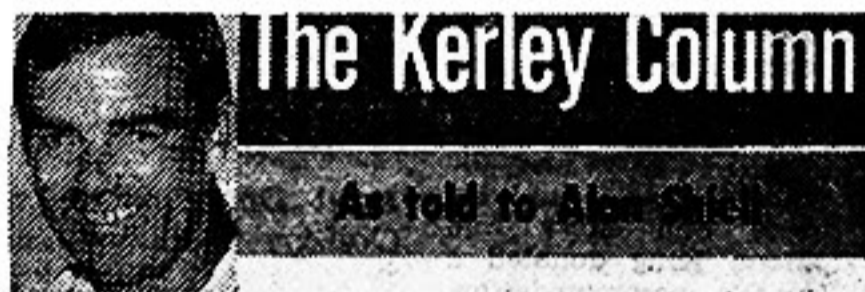
The Bays' defeat represented another untimely setback for SA football, but it did deserve to win.

The time has come for SA to insist on neutral umpires for all AFC games, perhaps from WA or Tasmania.

Then SA teams which are determined to beat the Vics on their own territory — and Glenelg certainly had that determination — can at least believe they will be given a fair go.

The VFL has for too long dictated the terms and future of the game, and the SANFL must make another stand — and demand neutral umpires.

North got the frees but the umpires were not biased, says Ron Barassi (North's coach) in our football section today.



Well done, Glenelg. You damned near made it through sheer endeavor against North Melbourne at VFL Park last night.

As a South Australian I was very proud.

It's not often I blame defeat on one person, but there was a fellow out there — and he wasn't hard to detect — who gave the Bay boys a raw deal.

Even commentator Bob Skilton sounded embarrassed about the situation.

It's tough enough having to pack your bags and play in Melbourne, but it makes it virtually impossible to win when you are playing under Victorian in-

terpretations. North Melbourne was favored by the umpiring decisions.

There's no doubt about my old mate, Barassi. He obviously put a lot of thought into preventing Graham Cornes from playing well.

We all have an ego, and Barassi protected his last night.

It was the first time in my experience at club and interstate level that a Victorian coach assigned a shadow on an SA player.

Bays nearly carried it off with courage

Barassi didn't want Cornes to play well, not only for North's sake, but because of his decision to sack Cornes last season.

Although beaten, Glenelg showed courage, skill and commitment right to the final siren.

Peter Carey's duel with Gary Dempsey was a beauty. When you consider Dempsey received seven frees to Carey's one, it's no wonder Dempsey was prominent.

Kym Hodgeman and Peter McInerney clearly were the outstanding

rovers in the match, with Hodgeman showing his real class.

Paul Weston's value to Glenelg was quite evident. He had a quiet first half, but really exploded in the third quarter to give the Tigers the lead. Another burst from him in the last term would have won it.

Glenelg will get a lot of satisfaction and confidence from the match, which again proved John Halbert will have one of the top teams in SA in 1980.