

Gordon Schwartz reports on one that got away . . .

69-year hoodoo again haunts SA

The triumphant tomorrow that seldom arrives eluded SA again yesterday when it was beaten by Victoria by 17 points in the Tooth National Championship final at Football Park.

So often has the average SA fan seen his pride go before a fall that he seldom accepts even short-term success as inevitable.

But even the most pessimistic must have believed that SA could shatter the national championship hoodoo that has bedevilled it for 69 years when the home side led by 15 points at the 17-minute mark of the third quarter.

To reach that position, SA had teamed with calm and assurance after having been outplayed for 11 quarters.

Early it had looked a little tatty fore and aft, and trailed 2.5 to 6.8.

But in a remarkable transformation in which players moved the ball with speed and control, SA converted a 27-point deficit into a 15-point advantage by kicking 7.2 to 0.2 in 30 minutes.

SA had many composed and highly competitive members in that period, headed by dynamic, high-flying Graham Cornes, whose driving enthusiasm and energy were inspirational.

He was well supported by burrowing centreman Mark Williams, unbeatable Rick Davies at centre half-forward and quietly efficient rover Kevin McSparran.

Mike Taylor and Max James also were conspicuous, as was newcomer Phil Heinrich in the third quarter.

And the defence, headed by rugged centre half-back Greg Phillips and safe-marking, close-checking full back Keith Kuhlmann, answered every challenge with swift, aggressive counter-thrusts.

SA was in the driver's seat at that moment, but finding its way home was another matter.

In fact, Victoria gained in stature from the 20-minute mark of the third term to trail by only two points at the last change.

Strong faith in its ability to succeed, mental toughness and the desperation that is paramount in VFL club games were winning factors in the last quarter in which Victoria kicked 6.1 to 2.6.

Beautifully balanced Melbourne wingman Robert Flower was the swift-moving hero when he goaled on the run with his left foot in the fourth minute and with his right at the fifth minute to boost Victoria's morale.

Both shots were executed precisely and effortlessly. It was a perfect ca-

Vic.	5.5	6.9	9.11	15.12	(102)
SA	1.2	6.5	10.7	12.13	(85)

meo of how the gilded wingman plays his football.

Ruthless efficiency, inventiveness and variety were the keynotes for Victoria in the crucial last quarter.

It not only had the speed, strength and co-ordination to edge away but also the stamina to see out a tough game when it came to the crunch in the last 15 minutes.

Richmond grand final hero Kevin Bartlett had a bad carnival until midway through the third term, but from then on he paid his way.

SA made errors in tight and not-so-tight situations; Victoria played with better concentration.

Many of Victoria's closely woven moves in the crucial last quarter, and all day for that matter, originated from mobile Richmond ruckman Mark Lee and from the defence.

Throughout, the last line of Geoff Southby, Kelvin Moore and Ian Nankervis was artful and cool, reading the play cleverly.

After a season of immense effort and distinction SA was left with the acid taste of reality that once again it wasn't quite good enough.

But SA coach Neil Kerley was proud of his players.

"You worked your gut out," he told the disconsolate brigade as soon as it returned to the dressing room. "I don't think you could have given much more."

Without 15 name players, losing three on Saturday and being further depleted just before the start of play when rover Garry Wilson withdrew because of food poisoning, Victoria did not field a great side.

But the drive and imagination, the quick movement of player and ball, the smart backing up and close co-operation that are almost second nature to Victorians were apparent.

A weakened SA proved, however, that the big V does err under pressure. Unfortunately SA could not maintain that pressure for 120 minutes.

Without using it as an excuse, SA appeared to be harshly treated in the last

quarter by SA umpire Bob Scholefield.

Most of the 10 frees to Victoria were awarded by Scholefield. SA received two. But what irked SA were the frees that were not paid to SA.

Scholefield received a hostile reception from the 17,579 spectators and was

hurriedly escorted from the ground by about a dozen policemen.

GOALKICKERS — Vic.: Templeton, Bartlett 3.1, Moncrieff 2.2, Flower 2.1, Jess 2.0, Sheldon 1.1, Raines, Turner 1.0, Clarke, Neagle 0.1, rushed 0.4 SA: Roberts 4.1, McSparran 2.1, Cornes 1.2, Heinrich, Davies 1.1, Taylor, Phillips, James 1.0, Williams, Hill, Klomp 0.1, rushed 0.4.

BEST — Vic.: Southby, Flower, Lee, I. Nankervis, Raines, Turner. SA: Cornes, Davies, Phillips, McSparran, Kuhlmann, M. Williams. **Umpires** — R. Scholefield (SA), I. Robinson (Vic.).

Medal to Cornes S.A. HAS EIGHT IN NATIONAL SIDE

Sensational SA ruck-rover Graham Cornes won the Tassie Medal for the best and fairest during the championship.

Cornes, 32, also was one of eight South Australians named in the all-Australian side — the best representation since 1961, when eight from this State were chosen at the Brisbane championship.

Cornes was completely uninhibited. He couldn't possibly fall seemed to be his credo yesterday when he took 15 eye-catching marks, gave 11 handpasses and had 18 kicks.

It was an even better display than in Perth last year when he became the fourth SA player to win the Simpson Medal when rated best afield against WA.

SA captain Rick Davies was named all-Australian captain after two admirable performances at centre half-forward.

The other six from SA were Keith Kuhlmann, Greg Phillips, Robert Klomp, Peter Carey, John Roberts and Mark Williams.

SA headed the representation with eight, followed by seven from Victoria, three from WA and two from Tasmania.

Collingwood and Victorian coach Tom Hafey, who has an unblemished record in interstate football, was named all-Australian coach.

The team is:
F. — Carey (SA), Roberts (SA), Duperouzel (WA).

H.F. — Jess (Vic.) Davies (SA) Sutton (Tas.).

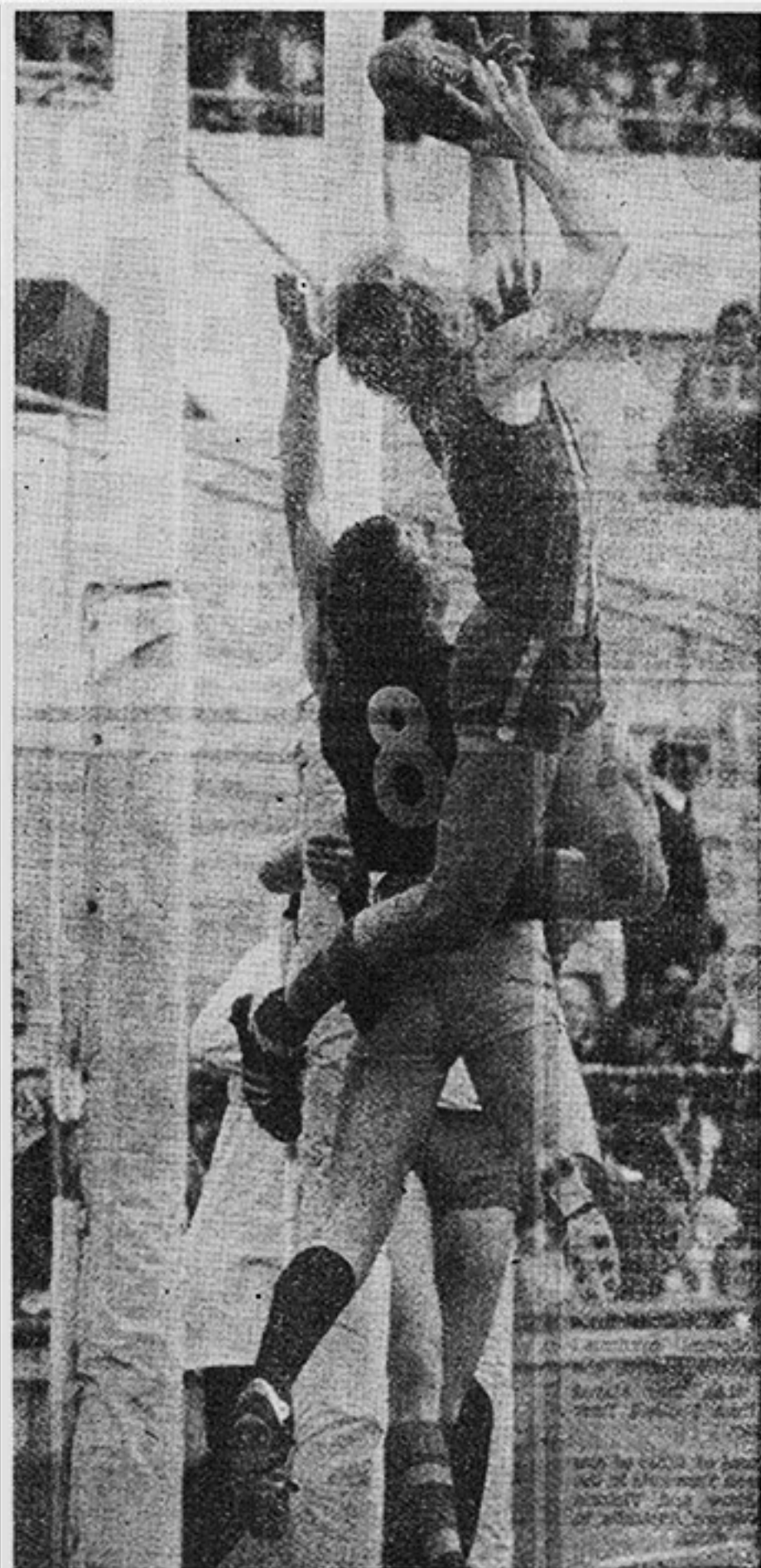
C. — Peake (WA), Raines (Vic.), Flower (Vic.).

H.B. — Klomp (SA), Phillips (SA), Hunter (WA).

B. — Southby (Vic.), Kuhlmann (SA), I. Nankervis (Vic.).

IR — Lee (Vic.), Cornes (SA), Wilson (Vic.).

Interchange — Williams (SA), Stubbs (Tas.).



That man Cornes...

South Australia's blond flier, Graham Cornes, spent a lot of time in the air yesterday . . . enough to be named best afield against Tasmania. Cornes flew high (above) to take this screamer over Tasmania's Michael Roach, and low (below) for this flying tackle against an opponent.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
South Aust	6-1	10-12	17-13	22-18	150
Tasmania	0-8	2-9	4-12	8-13	61

BEST — SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Cornes, Carey, Williams, Lihou, Kuhlmann, Phillips, Cahill, Maylin, Roberts. **TASMANIA**: James, Reynolds, Sutton, Downes, Wade, Davis. **SCORES** — SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Roberts 5.4, Williams 4.3, Hill 3.4, Jonas 2.1, Cahill 2.0, McSparran 2.0, Cornes 1.1, Abernethy 1.1, Kennedy 1.0, Bennett 1.0, Davies 0.1, Carey 0.1, rushed 0.2. **TASMANIA** — Reynolds 2.1, Roach 1.3, Williams 1.1, Wade 1.1, Davis 1.1, Linton 1.0, Eade 1.0, Good 0.4, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES — SA Klomp (cut eyebrow—two stitches). **TASMANIA**: Sutton (slight concussion). **REPORTS** — Carman (SA) and Williams (Tas). By umpire Scholefield in the second quarter for "deliberately striking each other with both closed fists in the body." **UMPIRES** — Bob Scholefield (SA), Haydn Nielsen (Tas).

Medal not same

By Ashley Porter



GRAHAM CORNES

Graham Cornes, who thrilled SA football fans with outstanding performances in the State of Origin series at Football Park, said today winning the Tassie Medal was an anticlimax.

"I was just so disappointed the team lost the final after having a good chance," he said.

"It was a great honor to win it and it's certainly one of the highlights of

my career, but you can't compare any individual awards with team success.

"I asked myself last night why I wasn't really excited as I should have been and I put it down to

SA's loss to Victoria in the final."

Cornes, 32, is only the second SA player to win the Tassie Medal for being the best and fairest in a national carnival. Norwood's Graham Molloy won it in Adelaide in 1969.

Cornes polled the maximum number of votes (12) from the two field umpires in each of SA's two games.

Other vote-getters were: 6—G. Raines (Vic), M. Rioli (WA); 4—B. Peake (WA), M. Williams (SA), G. Southby (Vic), R. Flower (Vic), B. Duperouzel (WA); 2—R. Davies (SA); 1—R. Klomp (SA), R. Stubbs (Tas), D. Scarning (Tas), D. Munnings (Tas).

The Glenelg follower was one of eight SA players named in the All-Australian team. He was named with club team-mates Keith Kuhlmann and Peter Carey, while back

pocket Jim Lihou was most unlucky not to have been included after two fine performances.

Cornes and Carey won all-Australian selection at last year's carnival and join Port Adelaide full back John Abley (1956-58, 61) and Sturt centre half-back Rick Schoff (1966 and 69).

SA captain Rick Davies was named all-Australian captain

Forwards, Carey (SA), Roberts (SA), Duperouzel (WA), half-forwards, Jess (Vic), Davies (SA), Sutton (Tas), centres, Peake (WA), Raines (Vic), Flower (Vic); half-backs Klomp (SA), Phillips (SA), Hunter (WA); backs, Southby (Vic), Kuhlmann (SA), I. Nankervis (Vic); ruck, Lee (Vic), Cornes (SA), Wilson (Vic); interchange, Williams (SA), Stubbs (Tas).