

Port hot tip for hat trick



GEOFF KINGSTON on the second semi-final

Port Adelaide is now a red-hot favorite to win the 1981 league football premiership after its 54-point victory over Glenelg in yesterday's second semi-final at Football Park.

The win before a crowd of 35,002 launched Port straight into its third grand final in a row. It will now play the winner of the Glenelg-Norwood preliminary final. It will be trying for its hat trick of premierships in the knowledge that it has handed out heavy defeats to both those sides in recent weeks.

And while Glenelg and Norwood do battle for the right to have another crack at Port, the Magpies will be waiting and resting.

As jubilant Port coach John Cahill said after yesterday's win: "Everything has gone perfectly to plan. We needed to win for the week's rest to get over a couple of nagging injuries."

Glenelg coach John Halbert said afterwards: "We certainly aren't going to panic."

"The players we used today are the players who have performed well for us all year, so we are not going to throw the side around recklessly."

"That game is now history. There is nothing we can do about it except, we hope, learn something."

"But yes, there will be some changes, and it remains to be seen if we pick the right side that will give us another crack at Port Adelaide."

Port put the screws on faster than an undertaker. It did not give Glenelg time to get balanced; time even to think about what was happening.

It was the winner in a tough, punch-laden first term and then won the game in the second quarter when it stacked on nine goals to three by Glenelg to lead by a demoralising 61 points at half-time.

FINALS STARS

SECOND SEMI-FINAL

B. Abernethy (PA)	3
A. Martyn (PA)	2
B. Cunningham (PA)	1

Port	4.9	13.11	18.12	22.15 (147)
Glenelg	1.4	4.4	9.9	13.15 (93)

GOALKICKERS -Port Adelaide: Evans 6.1, Bradley 4.0, Granger 2.2, Ebert 2.0, Cahill, Martyn 1.2, Cunningham, Belton, Abernethy, Kinnear 1.1, Natt, Clifford 1.0, rushed 0.4. **Glenelg:** Carey 3.0, Kernahan 2.3, Brown 2.2, Phillis, Weston 2.1, Rady 1.2, Marshall 1.1, Paech, McDermott, McInerney 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST - Port Adelaide: Abernethy, Martyn, Cunningham, Kinnear, Belton, Ebert, Bradley. **Glenelg:** Copping, Marshall, Weston, Carey, McDermott.

Umpires - L. Argent and D. Foster.

Down by 10 goals and with only 18 fit players because of injuries to Graham Cornes and Daryl Rady, Glenelg was a bit like that elephant washer at the zoo - it found it had a really big job in front of it.

And while it outscored Port by seven points in the second half - 9.11 to 9.4 - it was never going to win.

Glenelg never came to terms with Port's overall team game - the running, the hurting, the quick reflex movement and the even quicker tackling.

But it also could not handle the individual skills of Port players all over the ground.

Follower Bruce Abernethy was devastating. His explosive pace, long kicking and persistence was never tamed by a succession of Glenelg opponents and coupled with the skill and guts of rover Brian Cunningham, who must be playing as well as he ever did, Port was always able to generate attacks from the packs.

Glenelg's pain did not end there.

The Port centreline was the most consistently damaging line all day.

Russell Ebert in the centre, although not at his

best, still hurt Glenelg badly. But it was the wingmen, Tony Martyn and Kim Kinnear, who hurt it most.

Martyn played possibly his best game since switching from Victoria. He won the ball with pace and courage to launch attacks at the goalfont.

And Kinnear rendered a lot of the Glenelg defence quite useless with his direct assault on the goalsquare area, where Tim Evans showed Keith Kuhlmann that he still has the gift of the grab.

Paul Weston, Peter Carey, Steve Copping and David Marshall played their hearts out to get Glenelg into the game. But they were fighting a fight that was lost very early.

They tried to work the ball out of the centre but it rarely happened with any method... much to the delight of the Port defence.

Mean and tough, they are the sorts of guys that used to make their teachers stay back after school and with high, indirect balls wobbling their way, it was easy to sabotage most Glenelg attacks.

Now Halbert and his players have just five days to rebuild some confidences.

By Ashley Porter

Glenelg was pummelled into the Football Park turf by Port Adelaide and once again disgruntled Tiger supporters were asking why their team cannot perform in finals.

Yesterday's second semi-final was Glenelg's sixth consecutive loss in a final and extended its drought to seven years since it has beaten the Magpies in a major round battle.

And the bullet which pierced the Tigers' hearts was a stunning nine goal second term which eventually proved the margin when the siren ended the one-sided fight.

The reasons why Port won were plentiful. It had too much class; pace, aggression, depth and an uncanny ability to know where each player was on the field and to find him with deadly passes.

But Glenelg had enough of those qualities to clinch the minor premiership. Where along the line did it lose them?

Obviously, too many players are down on form, but why?

Players like Jim Lihou who played in a back pocket for South Australia against WA in June but played in the reserves on Saturday, half-back David Holst who has not shown his brilliance since injuring an ankle last year and Peter McInerney who

never seems to play well in finals.

Decline

Half-forward Ralph Sewer had a disastrous introduction to finals football with only five kicks and was reported, while another recruit from a bottom club, Peter Cousins, collected only six.

Meanwhile, the Magpies have found themselves in yet another grand final and have the chance to record a hat-trick of premierships. Only three times before - by Port twice and by Sturt - has such a feat been accomplished.

Port wrapped up yesterday's second semi-final with its second term effort and coach John Cahill made an interesting half-time speech.

He asked his players to forget about the first half and started his pre-match build-up once again.

Premiership Table at End of Minor Round

	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agnt	Pts	%
Glenelg	22	19	3	-	2769	2029	38	57.71
Port	22	15	7	-	2414	1983	30	54.90
South	22	15	7	-	2296	2002	30	53.42
Norwood	22	13	8	1	2430	2096	27	53.69
West	22	11	10	1	2526	2259	23	52.79
Sturt	22	11	10	1	2262	2286	23	49.74
Centrals	22	11	11	-	2523	2233	22	53.05
North	22	7	15	-	2179	2558	14	46.00
Torrens	22	3	18	1	2020	2631	7	43.43
Woodville	22	3	19	-	1820	3162	6	36.53

Elimination Final:	Norwood	25 - 13	d.	West	20 - 10
Qualifying Final:	Port	18 - 22	d.	South	12 - 17
First Semi Final:	Norwood	19 - 19	d.	South	6 - 14
Second Semi Final:	Port	22 - 15	d.	Glenelg	13 - 15

Next Week
Preliminary Final: Glenelg v Norwood