

GRAND FINAL SPECIAL

REDLEG PARADE OF POWER



Pictures:
Dennis Rogers,
Ray Titus

Norwood's Wayne Schmaal dives behind Glenelg's Tony McGuinness to fist the ball out



In another keen duel, Norwood's Neville Roberts sidesteps Glenelg's high-flying John McFarlane and marks in the Redlegs' forward pocket

What captains, coaches, said



Neil Balme

Greg Turbill

John Halbert

Paul Weston

NEIL Balme yesterday became the only second Victorian to coach a SANFL premiership side, following North Adelaide's Mike Patterson.

Naturally, he was ecstatic with Norwood's victory over the Tigers.

"Our blokes knew they had a lot of hard work to do during the year and they did it," he said.

"Now it has paid off. It has been a fantastic effort by the boys and everyone within the club.

Balme praised Glenelg play in a grand final and for its effort to reach the win, but to captain the grand final after coming premiership side is unbelievable from fourth spot.

Balme and Norwood captain Greg Turbill went into the Glenelg rooms after the match to commiserate with coach John Halbert and his players.

Turbill later paid credit to Balme and his teammates.

"A couple of years ago, I was tossing up whether I would play again and Neil talked me into it. That's the best advice I've been given," he said.

"It's a great thrill to play in a grand final and for its effort to reach the win, but to captain the grand final after coming premiership side is unbelievable from fourth spot."

Halbert said: "Norwood was too good. They ran the ball well, were quicker in disposal and more accurate in whatever they did. We did not help with our inaccurate kicking.

"In the last quarter, they got the run on and I think they became more confident while we became ragged in discipline and defensive action.

Paul Weston said: "Congratulations to Norwood. Their running players kept taking the ball away from the packs, giving the forwards many opportunities. "We were beaten by a better side on the day."

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Norwood	3-3	7-5	11-8	20-13	133
Glenelg	2-2	3-7	6-14	9-17	71

BEST — NORWOOD: Jenkins, McIntosh, Turbill, Neagle, M. Aish, K. Thomas, Winter, Stemper, Thiel. **GLENELG:** Cornes, Maynard, Marshall, Carey, Frost.

GOALKICKERS — NORWOOD: Neagle 6-1; Roberts 2-2; A. Aish 2-2; M. Aish 2-1; Michalanne 2-0; Turbill 1-3; K. Thomas 1-1; Fosdike 1-0; Gallagher 1-0; Jenkins 1-0; Thiel 1-0; Adler 0-1; Button 0-1; rushed 0-1. **GLENELG:** Lunniss 3-1; McInerney 2-2; Carey 2-2; Kernahan 1-3; Holst 1-0; Symonds 0-2; McDermott 0-1; Weston 0-1; McGuinness 0-1; Maynard 0-1; rushed 0-3.

INJURIES — NORWOOD: A. Aish (cut head), M. Aish (cut chin), G. Thomas (possible broken rib). **GLENELG:** Weston (cut forehead).

UMPIRES — Laurie Argent, Des Foster.

CROWD — 47,336.

Norwood unleashed a devastating display of skills and power to wallop Glenelg in a one-sided and relatively tame grand final at Football Park yesterday.

The Redlegs raced to glory, slamming on 20-13 (133) to 9-17 (71), in what must rate as one of the club's finest performances in its 104-year history.

In capturing its twelfth premiership, Norwood recorded its biggest win and highest score in a grand final.

And what a performance! The Tigers were paralysed by Norwood's bullet-like short passes and dead-accurate handballs and were always chasing red and blue guernseys.

It was indeed a grand performance, garnished with every skill imaginable. Norwood's teamwork was impeccable, its approach on the ball fierce and relentless. Every player produced discipline over four quarters.

Its ability to outscore Glenelg against the wind in the first and third quarters was a reflection of the outstanding efforts by its defence.

Leading the charge from a half-back flank was Danny Jenkins, whose courage, determination and class were unsurpassable.

Time and again he won the hard ball, bulldozed through opponents and fed teammates. His statistics of 19 kicks, 10 handballs and seven marks were incredible, but only an indication of a great game.

Rock solid

Bolstering a rock solid defence were Frank Stemper on the other flank, back pockets Wayne Schmaal and Bruce Winter, full-back Tom Warhurst, plus Jim Thiel and Paul Adler, who shared the centre half-back role.

Glenelg kicked only nine goals, compared with the

17 they booted in each of the team's three minor round encounters.

The defenders provided plenty of rebound and drive and the Glenelg defence was not good enough to sustain the pressure.

Up forward, the Redlegs had a galaxy of stars who attacked positively with an intense theme of teamwork.

Outstanding young rover Rick Neagle led the blitz with six goals and rated highly, but it was the efficient handballs and well-placed passes by everyone in the area which made Norwood look so good.

'Gutsy'

Soon after the start, coach Neil Balme shifted Phil Gallagher to a half-forward flank and into centre came the gutsy and determined Garry McIntosh.

And there lay the key to the Redlegs' drive. McIntosh burrowed into the packs and came out feeding the ball to running teammates sprinting goalward.

Followers Michael Aish and Keith Thomas also gave invaluable performances around the packs, as did the switching rovers Greg Turbill and Neagle.

Norwood took the initiative by showing confidence in its defence and playing an attacking game from the opening bounce. Instead of stacking the backlines to curtail Glenelg's advantage with the wind, it ran forward and made the Tigers defend.

By
Ashley
Porter

Rarely was Glenelg allowed to get its run-on game flowing, mainly because of close checking and running by the Redlegs.

The Bays also seemed to feel the effect of their hard road to the grand final. At times they lacked the dash which soared them to great heights during the season.

Ruckman Peter Carey looked frustrated. He was restricted by his groin injury, which forced him to favor his left leg.

He missed a goal at a crucial stage in the second term from an easy set position using his left boot, and when he had a similar shot at the other end in the third term using his right, he hit the post.

Carey switched in ruck and full-forward with Stephen Kernahan and he too proved inaccurate. Nevertheless, both produced creditable efforts.

Best for the Tigers (and they had few good players) was Graham Cornes at centre half-back.

Without his creativeness and rebound, Norwood would have kicked a much higher score.

Peter Maynard gave good support at half-back, while John MacFarlane on the other side sometimes succeeded in containing Neville Roberts.

Unfortunately, Glenelg had too many players down on form, including Magarey Medallist, Tony McGuinness, who was not allowed to break away easily.

Second rover Peter McInerney collected numerous kicks, but spoilt his efforts with too many mistakes; centreman David Holst and half-forward Ralph Sewer were taken off; while back pocket Jim Lihou was disappointing.

As an indication of Norwood's superiority, it had 41 more kicks, 44 more handballs, took 24 more marks and was more accurate for goal with seven extra shots.

Although the Redlegs won convincingly, in fairness to Glenelg it refused to give in and a great last quarter by Norwood when victory was almost certain increased the margin.

Norwood's last quarter tally of 9-5 was the biggest final term score in a grand final... and while on statistics, Norwood's 20-13 equalled its highest score against Glenelg at Football Park.

SUNDAY MAIL chief football writer Ashley Porter and columnist Haydn Bunton name yesterday's best players:

PORTER:
1 JENKINS
2 MCINTOSH
3 TURBILL

BUNTON:
1 JENKINS
2 MCINTOSH
3 THIEL