

Sweet victory for SA after 18 years

SA defeated Victoria by a massive 56 points at Football Park yesterday to restore dignity and honor to the game in this State.

Before the game coach Bob Hammond called on the players to make history — and they did. The score 26.16 was a record against Victoria.

He told them: "I want you to be remembered as the fastest, fiercest tackling side in history" — and they were.

Hammond was ecstatic afterwards — "grateful and proud." Team manager Geoff Motley shared his emotion — "It is a giant of a side."

But their happiness was no laughing matter for Victorian coach David Parkin and his players who suffered their humiliation in front of a crowd of 42,521.

Parkin locked himself away with the players after the game and later refused to say what was said. Obviously he wasn't blowing kisses at them.

It was SA's first win in 18 years against Victoria. The last time was in 1965 at Adelaide Oval when SA won by 64 points.

From the opening minutes of the game it was obvious this was no ordinary SA side. Parkin conceded afterwards that he knew 10 minutes from the start that he was in trouble.

"SA was just ..." and he was lost for words as he struggled for superlatives to describe the performance that fashioned the highest score in history.

"They were fantastic, absolutely terrific, and they just outgunned us all day," said Parkin, who, just before the game had shown his players a film — one titled "Do you believe in miracles?"

Unfortunately for Parkin he couldn't lay his hands on one when he needed it.

And he refused also to make excuses. "This was the best side we could have picked," he said. "And the fact that we played on Saturday and they didn't had zero effect on the result. It only meant losing by either five or 10 goals."

SA's win was a tribute to a new breed of player playing a new style of game. It was hit and run football and it left Victoria feeling and looking like the victim of a horrible road accident.

And it happened very, very quickly.

SA staggered Victoria in the first 25 minutes with a ferocity that was impossible to predict.

That approach was epitomised by chunky Garry McIntosh, who came off



the interchange bench at one stage immediately to confront Victorian wingman Geoff Cunningham, who towered over the diminutive McIntosh.

But McIntosh refused to be intimidated and took the hard running Victorian right out of the game with a ferocious tackle that could be felt at the back of the members' stand. It was the kind of thing that kept Victoria off balance all day.

There was an arrogance about the SA performance; a quality learned from history.

"We learned last year that we were good enough," said Hammond, referring to SA's 12-point loss to Victoria.

"So we went into this game without an inferiority complex."

And that was obvious from the start. It was SA's audacity, its persistent running, reflex handball and clever disposal that wrecked Victoria.

Initially it was ruckman Matt Rendell who halted the Victorian control; frustrated their big man power to give the smaller, quicker SA players some important chances.

Rover John Platten played with a verve that bewildered the more celebrated Rod Ashman and Alex Marcou, who rarely put a hand on him all day.

And the followers Neil Craig and Greg McAdam used their consummate cleverness to bamboozle a defence that in the past has often launched Victoria's successes.

Then there was Keith Thomas in his unaccustomed role as a wingman. His uncanny use of the ball; his ability to get it to a team-mate when he had no chance, caused the Victorians heaps and heaps of problems.

Only Victorian captain Robert Flower seemed untroubled by the chaos and it was no fault of his that Victoria failed so miserably.

SA blasted its way to a 26-point lead at quarter time and stretched it to 30 points at half-time.

It was then that Victoria began to look threatening.

Early into the third term it had edged to within three goals.

three of its previous 117 matches against Victoria — 21.15 to 18.22 in Adelaide in 1934, 20.15 to 21.13 in Adelaide in 1973 and 20.15 to 25.30 in Perth in 1979.

Victorian coach David Parkin revealed last night that former Woodville coach Rod Olsson was "one of three or four guys in SA" who helped the Victorian selectors compile a dossier on the SA players.

"We did our homework," Parkin said. "We prepared hard for this game. I respect Hammond enormously as a coach."

56 points up on Victoria

South Australia	6.5	13.8	17.11	26.16	(172)
Victoria	2.3	8.8	13.12	17.14	(116)

As Hammond said: "At that stage the character of the side was under threat."

If it was, it didn't show. SA hit back quickly — led by Michael Aish, Craig Bradley on a wing and Peter Motley.

Bradley's second half was sensational and his running and long kicking opened up big wounds in the Victorian side.

Motley proved once again what a remarkable talent he is. Switched from defence to attack he continued to beat just about anyone who got close to him and seemed unaware of the occasion that has overawed hundreds of first-game players before him.

But neither was John Schneebichler. He finished up at half-back in his first game after starting at full forward and with Tony Giles playing his heart out on the other flank the Victorian attack was not a very comfortable place to be.

At three-quarter time there were just four goals between the sides and at that stage there was no way of knowing if SA's earlier heroics would make them heroes.

It was then that Hammond made his plea. "If your legs won't carry you, your heart will."

That was the clincher. From then on watching Victoria was like watching the Titanic.

Aish, who had played in the centre most of the day, ran and ran when it seemed he had no more running to do.

He chased, backed up, marked, handballed, kicked and blocked the ball on the boot so often it seemed he might have got tired of living.

He was astonishing, playing as if he had to do it all on his own. As Parkin said afterwards: "He (Aish) was the architect of it all."

If he was the architect, then there were plenty of workers to help put the victory together — players like Bruce Lindner, brash and exciting in his first State game, Stephen Kernahan, Mark Naley, Greg Phillips, Daryl Schimmelbusch, Russell Ebert, Greg Whittlesea, Craig Williams, John Riley and Steve Copping all in their own special way contributed to one of the finest, most memorable victories of all time.

GOALKICKERS — SA: Lindner 5.1, Motley 3.1, Bradley 3.1, Kernahan 3.0, Platten 2.4, Schneebichler 2.1, Naley 2.0, Aish 2.0, McAdam 1.4, Thomas 1.1, Copping 1.1, McIntosh 1.0, Craig 0.1, rushed 0.1. Victoria: Flower 4.1, Wilson 3.2, Daniher 3.1, Madden 2.1, Marcou 1.2, Smith 1.1, Hawker 1.1, Cunningham 1.0, Ashman 1.0, rushed 0.5.

BEST — SA: Aish, Bradley, Craig, Motley, Giles, Thomas, Lindner. Victoria: Flower, Daniher, Cunningham, Wilson.

Umpires - R. Kinnear (SA), N. Nash (Vic).

Football replay

Channel 7 will replay the SA-Victoria interstate football match at 10.30 p.m. today.

It was our sixth win since World War II

SA now has won six of its 43 matches against Victoria since World War II — and only 27 of the 118 between the States since the first inter-colonial game in 1879.

SA's margins in the other five wins since 1945 were six points (1951), 17 points (1952), 69 points (1960), seven points (1963) and 64 points (1965).

The 1963 match was played in Melbourne. The others were at Adelaide Oval.

SA had scored 20 or more goals in only



SA centre half-forward Peter Motley scores one of his three goals as Victorian opponents (from left) Peter McConville, Laurie Serafini and Stephen McCann are left stranded. SA's Stephen Kernahan (second right) watches anxiously as Motley, a natural right-footer, scores with a left foot kick. Picture by staff photographer Brvan Charlton.