

Magpies storm to grand final

Port Adelaide paused on its way to the 1984 grand final to inflict upon Glenelg its worst defeat of the year in the second semi-final at Football Park yesterday.

Glenelg's 39-point loss was its worst failure for the season — "beating" its earlier 25-point defeat by Port at Alberton in the 16th round.

It will be Port's 45th grand final since league football began in 1907. Since that time it has won 22 flags.

Glenelg coach Graham Campbell was as candid as usual afterwards... "Yep, they've done us," he said. "That's three nil this season. And today's the only time we've been beaten by any sort of margin for a whole year — that also worried me."

"We have hung our hat on the fact that we've given an honorable performance every week — now we haven't... although I did think that at three-quarter time we still had a silly chance of winning."

"But you don't go for a whole year without having a downer; every other side has had them during the season and they have been shrugged off as 'oh well... it's got to happen.'"

"We have just come off a five-game winning record and people have been saying we are potential premiers. Now, after one downer they're talking like it's the end of the world. Well it isn't, and I'll remind everybody that it isn't."

"But obviously we now have to earn the right to have another crack at them (by beating Norwood in the preliminary final)."

By GEOFF KINGSTON

Port always was more comfortable in the wet and windy weather. Its greater physical power was better suited to the difficult conditions yet it was not until mid-way through the last quarter that it finally killed off Glenelg.

It should have won by more than it did. That it was unable to do so against a side that was unbalanced by the late and sudden loss of key players like Peter Carey and David Holst is reason to believe it is no red-hot favorite to win the 1984 premiership.

Certainly it deserves to start favorite and the week's rest while Glenelg and Norwood slug it out next Sunday will enhance its chances even further. But there also is reason to believe that

PORT GLENELG

4.6 7.6 9.6 12.7 (79)
3.0 4.3 5.8 5.10 (40)

if the conditions are dry, there are more skilled ball-handling players in the Glenelg and Norwood sides who might just jump up and upset Port's appellation.

Yesterday, however, no one in the Glenelg side was going to block Port's charge into the grand final.

Scott Salisbury in the back pocket, Chris Duthy at full back and John MacFarlane and John Seebohm across half-back worked hard all day without too many rewards. So also did Stephen Talbot on a wing.

But too often Glenelg's efforts were thwarted by its own mistakes and those forced on it by a Port side that was just a bit too serious about wanting the ball.

None epitomised Port's attitude better than back pocket player Steve Curtis, whose attack on the ball or the player with the ball was ferocious.

Curtis, Anthony Williams, Alan Gill, Martin Leslie and Brenton Owens squashed almost every Glenelg attack to launch many of their own.

Their full-blooded, full-bore running spotlighted a few inadequacies in Glenelg's wet-weather technique and had it not been for the resolute performances by Glenelg defenders at the other end of the ground, the game, which was umpired superbly by Des Foster and Rick Kinnear, would have been won long before the last quarter.

Port ruckman Dexter Kennedy added to Glenelg's problems with a persistent effort all over the ground. His effort provided match-winning chances for the smaller, stronger Port players like "Bomber" Clifford, Craig Bradley, Greg Anderson, Paul Belton and Kym Kinnear.

While Port was impressive, it was not so convincing, but it is now in the grand final with an undeniable shot at its fourth premiership in six years.

Glenelg, however, has a few holes to mend... (but) "we will not make wholesale changes," Campbell said. "We've been up all year. Today we had a downer; today we weren't up to it."

GOALKICKERS — Port: Evans 3.1, Russell 2.0, Ginner 2.0, Clifford 2.0, Belton 1.1, Bradley 1.0, R. Ebert 0.3, Anderson 0.1, rushed 0.1. Glenelg: Kernahan 2.0, Garton 1.2, Hall 1.1, Copping 1.1, Motlop, A. Stringer, Campbell, McDermott, Kidney, Gibbs, 0.1.

BEST — Port: Clifford, Curtis, Kennedy, Leslie, Bradley, Belton. Glenelg: Talbot, Salisbury, Kernahan, Seebohm, MacFarlane, McDermott.

Umpires: D. Foster, R. Kinnear.

PORT				GLENELG			
Player	Kicks	Mks	H'ball	Player	Kicks	Mks	H'ball
Anderson	14	-	7	Campbell	8	3	11
Belton	14	-	7	Copping	5	3	4
Bradley	14	5	9	Duthy	8	1	-
Clifford	26	6	4	Garton	11	7	5
Curtis	7	1	11	Gibbs	5	2	-
C. Ebert	9	3	3	Hall	6	4	4
R. Ebert	11	2	5	Hewett	4	-	2
T. Evans	6	4	3	S. Kernahan	15	5	4
Gill	11	1	3	Kidney	6	-	6
Ginner	9	-	5	MacFarlane	12	-	6
Harris	1	-	2	Marshall	24	4	3
Harrison	2	-	1	McDermott	22	7	12
Kennedy	10	5	5	Motlop	7	2	3
Kinnear	18	5	2	Russell	9	2	6
Knight	5	2	8	Salisbury	10	4	8
Leslie	12	3	10	Seebohm	11	3	4
Owens	4	1	7	A. Stringer	7	9	3
Russell	11	5	1	W. Stringer	19	2	4
Smith	1	-	2	Symonds	20	4	5
A. Williams	9	-	2	Talbot	15	6	6
Totals	194	40	97	Totals	224	68	96

Knee may put Campbell out

Glenelg follower-forward Rodney Campbell has possible medial ligament damage in his right knee and is in doubt for Sunday's preliminary final against Norwood.

Campbell was hurt early in the second quarter of yesterday's second semi-final and went off late in the last

quarter.

Glenelg back pocket Dennis Russell was carried off on a stretcher soon after the start of yesterday's match but recovered quickly and resumed playing immediately after the quarter-time break.

Russell received a heavy knock in

the rib area and could not get his breath. It was feared he had broken or cracked ribs.

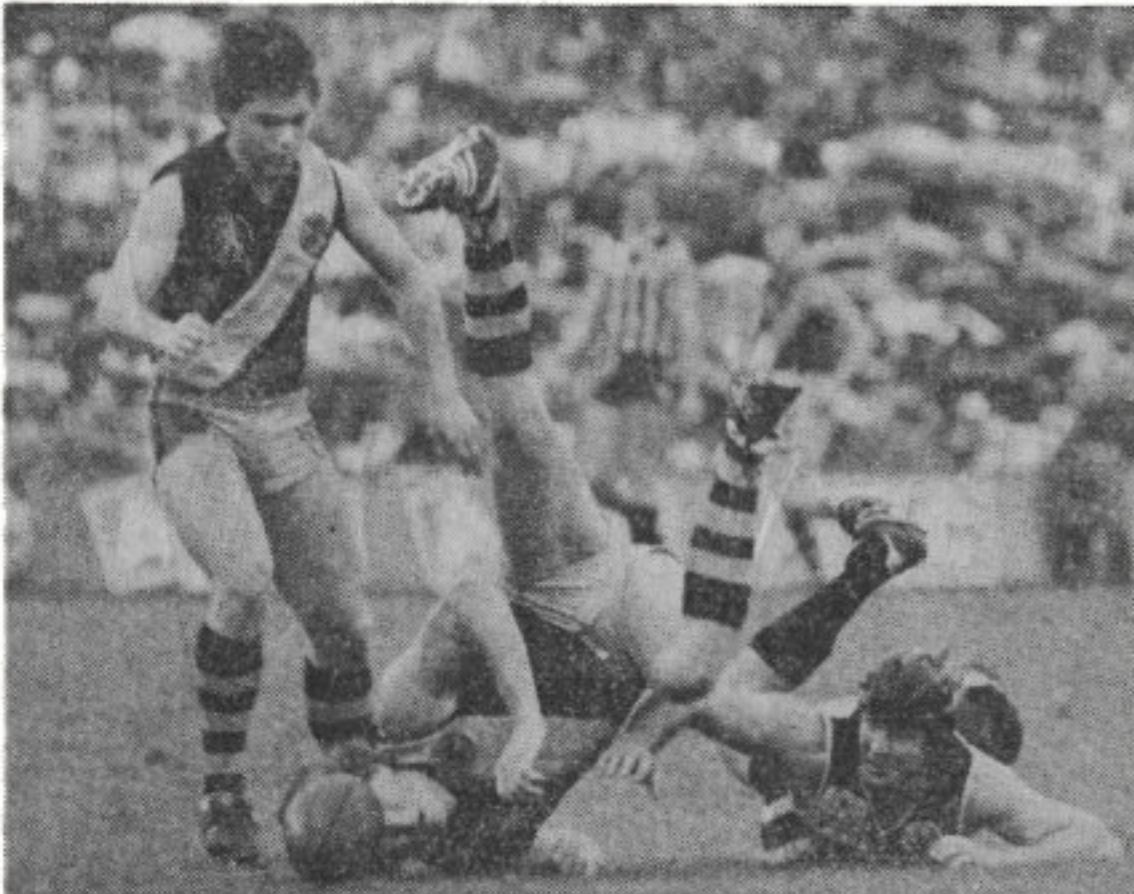
Glenelg will regain follower David Holst (concussion) and is expected to recall rover Tony McGuinness (ankle) against Norwood. McGuinness played for Glenelg reserves on Saturday.

Port full back Ben Harris limped off with an ankle injury late in the first quarter yesterday and was replaced by

Darren Smith. With a fortnight in which to recover, Harris seems certain to play in the grand final.

Ruckman Russell Johnston (shoulder) has a good chance of resuming on Sunday — with Port reserves.

Norwood wingman Duncan Fosdike hurt an ankle in the first semi-final on Saturday, but is expected to be available this week. — ALAN SHIELL



CHANGE OF CODES? Glenelg half forward Alan Stringer appears to head the ball forward soccer-style as Port's Steve Curtis hugs the ground and Glenelg rover Robin Kidney looks on.



VALIANT ATTEMPT: Glenelg forward Stephen Copping spoils an attempted mark by Port defender Anthony Williams yesterday. Waiting for the outcome is Glenelg's Mark Motlop.

Port hands out lesson in approach

The signs were ominous from the start. Port Adelaide always looked a winner against Glenelg in yesterday's second semi-final at Football Park.

Port handled the difficult conditions better because it was stronger physically, and longer and more direct in its approach to goal.

I gave up counting how many times Glenelg got the ball in the centre of the ground and attacked wide around the flanks.

Port played the percentage game. It adapted and didn't fessie. It also controlled the ball more, possibly taking about 60 p.c. of the play.

Other than playing in a bog, the blustery, slippery conditions could not have been worse or more demanding for players.

It was hard enough trying to read where the ball would go, let alone getting there.

And, of course, it was hard for players to control the ball on to their boots.

The only way to go goalward was as Port did — quickly and straight. This explains why it looked as if Port scored some "easy" goals whereas Glenelg invariably appeared to be struggling.

Port was superbly disciplined in the third quarter when it played the percentages by attacking and defending around the outer side of the ground — to where the strong south-westerly wind was blowing.

Glenelg really should have done more in the third quarter. It got a goal from Stephen Kernahan in the opening minute, then added only five points — while goals from follower Stephen Clifford and full forward Tim Evans gave Port a 22-point lead at three-quarter time.

I thought Glenelg could have attempted to re-arrange things a bit in that crucial third quarter.

Both teams, Port especially, tackled hard and often. Glenelg's tackling was not as effective because some of the more strongly-built Port players were able to brush it aside.

MALCOLM BLIGHT talks football with Alan Shiell

Glenelg really missed the body strength of ruckman Peter Carey and follower David Holst.

Adam Garton, Carey's replacement, battled gamely, but it's not slighting him to say that Carey would have found more holes in the play and put himself into more places.

The conditions suited defenders, not forwards, and most of the game's best players were in defence.

Clifford was one of the exceptions. I thought he was the best man on the ground. He read the play expertly, or just as you would expect for a player of his experience, and he did a lot of the hard work.

Glenelg needs a fine day and a dry turf to have its best chance of beating Norwood or Port.

The Tigers rely on the overhead marking of their forwards and the skills of their "touch" players.

I lean towards Norwood to win the preliminary final and I still fancy Port's chances of winning the premiership, although it still is very much a three-way fight.

At least Port already is in the grand final. That's a big advantage. But, as they say, the grand final will be a new ball game.

Saturday's first semi-final was tops in my book. It had everything.

With a severely depleted side, Central District put up a courageous effort to get so close to Norwood.