

Desperate, tough and hungry - Glenelg gets rid of a fragile finals tag



RUSSELL EBERT reviews the qualifying final with PETER HAYNES

Glenelg no longer is the fragile finals team of past seasons.

It now has the physical and mental toughness needed to keep persisting, even when put under enormous pressure by a finals-hardened opponent.

The past softness is gone and I think Glenelg now will be very difficult to beat in the remaining finals.

Its work rate yesterday was excellent, its players were desperate and hungry for the ball and they kept Norwood under constant pressure, especially in defence, which to a great extent caused Norwood's inaccuracy in front of goal.

And the Glenelg players were prepared to work and run into position to receive and assist.

It's pretty basic football, but Glenelg carried it out to the letter and basic football played well is always difficult to beat.

I think the first quarter set the game up for Glenelg. Its players were desperate and worked hard for the ball, and once they had it they made good use of targets up forward like Peter Carey, Adam Garton, Stephen Copping and, later in the game, Stephen Kernahan.

At half-time the game appeared evenly balanced because Norwood was getting value for possession and its pattern in the forward lines was good, but the work it did to get back into the game had taken a lot out of it.

It's particularly difficult to work so hard and still go in behind, knowing you have to come out and face the breeze.

Wayne Henwood gave Glenelg a big start in the middle. He was unspectacular but did the hard work in jumping against taller opponents, bustling, blocking and working in the packs and he stopped Norwood getting the ball out of the centre.

It might not show up in the statistics, but his work rate was excellent and I rated him Glenelg's best.

Garton at full forward was a bonus. He's a good player and gave Glenelg probably more flexibility than it would have had with big Steve Thomson.

I would have played Garton ahead of Thomson in the past three weeks because he can compete well in the air and is far more mobile, which gives the side more flexibility. His effort yesterday was excellent, not only for the goals he scored, but the others he set up.

Stephen Kernahan really worked hard, covered an enormous amount of ground and was one of Glenelg's best, while Copping played as we know Copping can.

The whole Glenelg defence was mean and tight with John Seebom cutting off an avenue of attack and Wayne Stringer, Tony Hall, Chris Duthy early and Ross Gibbs later in the game giving good rebound.

I was a little surprised to see Norwood apply a tag. It had Lester Ross on Tony

McGuinness but I thought the move took Keith Thomas out of the game to a degree in the first half.

McGuinness's pace in the first quarter was a telling factor in Glenelg's supremacy. The tag meant Thomas spent a lot of time off the ball when, as we know, he is of most value roving. Aish, particularly in the first half, and Taylor for the whole game were two of Norwood's best contributors.

David Payne did some excellent things but spoiled it with his kicking for goal. He kicked five points when he normally would kick three or four goals and the misses were at crucial times in the third quarter.

Phil Gallagher worked very hard and his use of the ball was good, while Garry McIntosh worked hard as he always does. McIntosh and Taylor worked well together and Taylor kicked a couple of vital goals in the second quarter.

I said before yesterday's game that whichever team won would go on and be hard to beat in the grand final. After watching the match I saw nothing which would make me change my mind.

Redleg gambles fail as Tigers triumph

Glenelg	7.4	11.7	16.10	21.13	139
Norwood	3.3	10.9	11.15	15.19	109

Glenelg edged a little closer to the 1985 league football premiership when it comfortably beat a disappointing Norwood by 30 points in the qualifying final at Football Park yesterday before a crowd of 25,316.



At times Glenelg was awesome. But mostly it was tough and persistent. Norwood on the other hand was inefficient. It won the ball enough times to win but it kept giving it back to Glenelg.

Certainly it was willing to take risks to create chances. But too often the gambles came unstuck — sometimes because of the pressure from Glenelg; sometimes not.

The statistics indicate Norwood's misuse of the opportunities. It had the same number of scoring shots (34) from 11 fewer kicks than Glenelg — 200 to 211. But it also had a whopping 158 handpasses to Glenelg's 99.

Norwood coach Neil Balme was nonplussed afterwards. "We just couldn't get the ball from one player to the next," he said. "There was a lot of undisciplined stuff going on out there and this week we'll have to have a look at why it happened."

Norwood struggled from the first quarter. It looked lazy and seemed to be playing in divers' boots — doing things in slow motion as Glenelg careered to a 25-point lead at the end of the first term.

It was only Mike Taylor, whose strong ballgetting and creative handball from the centre square, and Michael Aish who kept Norwood from bursting wide open even at that early stage.

Then, in a staggering turnaround, Glenelg surrendered almost all of its hard-won advantage. Or rather, it was wrenched from it by Norwood which, for a short while played with some of its usual flair and arrogance.

Taylor and Aish kept doing it, Garry McIntosh momentarily brushed aside Alan Stringer, Phil Gallagher on his wing began to concern Cornes and David Payne won a lot of balls in attack.

It edged to within four points at half-time but its challenge was over.

Glenelg completely dominated the second half. To be more precise, the Glenelg attack dominated the second half.

Aided by an important nonsense, no-frills performance by ruckman Wayne Henwood, Glenelg took control of the ball in the air. Almost everything that fell in the forward lines landed in the hands of Stephen Kernahan, Steve Copping, Tony Symonds, Adam Garton or Peter Carey.

Together — and in form — it is a formidable array of talent. And the real bonus for Cornes was Garton in the goalsquare. He played probably his best game for the club to get six goals and ensure he keeps his place in the side.

Kernahan, Copping and Symonds — a combination of classic skills and awesome power — demoralised the Norwood defence; had it jumpy and panicky as they swarmed into attack to pick off team-mates with deft handballs or accurate kicking.

They capitalised on chances created ahead of them by players such as David Marshall — sent to a wing to combat the threat of Gallagher — Alan Stringer in the centre and the defensive rebound of Wayne Stringer, Ross Gibbs, Tony Hall

SCORERS — Glenelg — Garton 6.2, Copping 5.0, S. Kernahan 4.3, Symonds 3.0, McGuinness 2.2, Carey 1.1, Marshall, Murphy, A. Stringer, Motlop, Maynard, 0.1. Norwood — O'Dwyer 3.1, K. Thomas 2.2, M. Aish 2.2, Taylor 2.1, G. Thomas 2.0, McIntosh 1.2, Noagle 1.1, Jenkins 1.0, Jarvis 1.0, Payne 0.5, Helyar, Michalanney, A. Aish, 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST — Glenelg — S. Kernahan, Symonds, Copping, Maynard, Henwood, W. Stringer, Garton. Norwood — Taylor, McIntosh, M. Aish, Gallagher, K. Thomas, Payne.

Umpires — J. Field and R. Kinnear.

and Chris Duthy. John Seebom also played his part by nullifying the potential danger of Jim Michalanney at centre half-forward.

Norwood could make very little impression. Taylor gave it all he had; McIntosh, despite the venom spilling all over him from the angry Glenelg fans, battled desperately; Michael Aish, Gallagher and Keith Thomas also staggered away from the game with their respect intact.

But they never were able to exert their usual influence. Mostly their efforts lacked the incisiveness that wins big games. And together with most of their team-mates they were whacked, belted and jolted off course by a Glenelg side that was physically very intimidating.



ALOFT AGAIN... Glenelg superstar Stephen Kernahan perches on Norwood's Tom Warhurst as he tries to complete a mark. But this time he couldn't make the final grab.

Elimination Final

West	5-5	7-13	14-20	17-21	123
Sturt	3-2	7-8	10-10	16-14	110

Next Week

First Semi Final: Norwood v West
Second Semi Final: North v Glenelg

★ Qualifying final stars

GEOFF KINGSTON	PETER HAYNES	RUSSELL EBERT
S. Kernahan (G) 3	S. Kernahan (G) 3	W. Henwood (G) 3
A. Symonds (G) 2	A. Symonds (G) 2	A. Garton (G) 2
M. Taylor (N) 1	A. Garton (G) 1	K. Thomas (N) 1

Totals: Kernahan 6, Symonds 4, Henwood 3, Garton 3, Taylor 1, Thomas 1.

★ Elimination final stars

GEOFF KINGSTON	ANDREW BOTH	KEVIN NEALE
D. Herbert (WA) 3	D. Herbert (WA) 3	D. Herbert (WA) 3
G. Fielke (WA) 2	D. Shaw (WA) 2	G. Fielke (WA) 2
N. Craig (S) 1	N. Craig (S) 1	C. Herbert (WA) 1

Totals: D. Herbert 9, Fielke 4, Craig 2, Shaw 2, C. Herbert 1.

