

Four losses in a row but...

NO PANIC YET SAYS CORNES

And Cahill lashes out

By Ashley Porter and Gordon Campbell



Dwayne Russell is fully extended as he boots Port Adelaide forward

Glenelg yesterday stumbled down the premiership ladder with its fourth successive loss, but coach Graham Cornes is not ready to push the "panic button."

The Tigers have slipped from third to fourth, and could fall further if Sturt topples Norwood at the Parade tomorrow.

However, a disappointed Cornes said after the 12-point loss to Port Adelaide that Glenelg had "found something which has been lacking in the past three games."

He was talking about the Tigers' desperation, teamwork and run which they pitted against Port, but to no avail.

Glenelg was rocked with injuries, especially in the second term when Port rattled on 9-3 to turn a 15 point deficit into a 27 point lead at half time.

Cornes said Glenelg obviously became unsettled

with the injuries, but refused to use them as an excuse for losing.

"We showed improvement overall, but the cold hard facts that we lost when we desperately needed the premiership points."

Meanwhile across town, the other losing coach, West Adelaide's John Cahill, was far more angry after his side lost to West Torrens by 19 points.

He blasted his players after the game, and said: "With the final five virtually on the line, the commitment by some West players was appalling."

"We had too many so-called name players who did not work as hard as they should have... there were too many front runners in our side who were not prepared to put their bodies in and get the hard ball."

He said the loss had been the worst since he took over as coach.

"... it is atrocious to see league footballers running into open goals and missing them."

"Unfortunately, there are not enough players in the reserves to put pressure on league players for senior spots," Cahill said.

FOOTBALL PARK

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	3-3	12-6	15-9	19-15	129
Glenelg	5-6	7-9	13-14	17-15	117

BEST-PORT: Anderson, S. Williams, Bradley, Curtis, Evans, Leslie, Russell. **GLENELG:** McDermott, Maynard, Hewett, S. Kernahan, Gibbs, Walsh.
SCORERS-PORT: Evans 8.1, Grenfell 3.1, Curtis 3.6, Russell 1.5, Boyd 1.3, Anderson 1.0, R. Ebert 1.0, Simpson 1.0, Fiacchi 0.1, Belton 0.1, Bradley 0.1, rushed 0.2.
GLENELG: Gibbs 5.4, Maynard 4.2, Seeborn 3.1, McDermott 2.1, S. Kernahan 1.1, M. Motlop 1.0, Walsh 1.0, Russell 0.1, A. Stringer 0.1, rushed 0.4.
INJURIES-PORT: Johnston (dislocated shoulder), GLENELG: Marshall (dislocated finger), Hewett (knee), Russell (knee), Henwood (ankle).
REPORT-GLENELG: Gibbs during last quarter by goal umpire D. Bills for allegedly using abusive language to him. Garton, during second quarter, for allegedly striking a Port player with clenched right fist, by field umpire John Hylton.
UMPIRES-S. Ardill, J. Hylton.

RICHMOND OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	7-3	9-6	15-10	17-15	117
West Ad.	3-7	9-10	11-13	13-20	98

BEST PLAYERS-TORRENS: Lindsay, Sims, Stretch, Meehan, Sarau, Grbac. **WEST:** Kantilaftas, Lamb, Fielke, Mickan, Falting.
SCORERS-TORRENS: Roberts 4.3, Johnston 3.2, Meehan 3.1, Taylor 1.2, Dillon 1.1, Hanna 1.0, Payne 1.0, Downie 1.0, Foote 1.0, Stretch 1.0, Sarau 0.1, Sims 0.1, Cunningham 0.1, rushed 0.3. **WEST:** Woodhall 4.3, Shaw 3.1, Meuret 2.1, Herbert 1.2, Falting 1.1, Miller 1.0, Goodwin 1.0, Hamilton 0.3, Grosser 0.3, Fielke 0.2, Bennett 0.1, rushed 0.3.
UMPIRES-R. Scholefield, M. Mackie.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	L	F	A	Pts	%
*North	9	—	1290	905	18	58.77
*Norwood	7	2	2086	927	14	53.95
Torrens	6	4	1303	1151	12	53.10
Glenelg	5	5	1282	1079	10	54.30
*Sturt	5	4	1113	1039	10	51.72
*Central	4	5	1065	1150	8	48.08
Port	4	6	1139	1347	8	45.82
West	3	7	1149	1286	6	47.19
*Woodville	3	6	1072	1299	6	45.23
*South	1	8	848	1160	2	42.14

*To play tomorrow.

Next SANFL round

NEXT WEEK

CROWDS

INTERSTATE GAMES
Saturday — SA v WA (Perth), WA v ACT (Football Park).
Tomorrow — South v Woodville (Football Park); North v Central (Football Park); Norwood v Sturt (Norwood); Saturday, June 22 — South v West (Football Park); North v Torrens (Adelaide); Glenelg v Norwood (Glenelg); Sturt v Port (Unley); Woodville v Central (Woodville).

Johnston injury hits SA chances

By Ashley Porter

Port Adelaide ruckman Russell Johnston yesterday dislocated his left shoulder and will not play for SA against WA at Subiaco Oval next Saturday.

He was forced off the ground during the second quarter against Glenelg at Football Park yesterday.

Johnston's injury leaves the State selectors' with Mick Redden (North), Richard Cousins (Central) and Stephen Kernahan (Glenelg) to do the ruck work against WA.

However, it would not surprise if Sturt's Frank Spiel, who played well against WA in Perth two years ago, is added to the squad.

Port is hopeful Johnston will be able to play against Sturt at Unley on Saturday week. The shoulder "popped" back in after receiving the heavy knock, and the injury was described as "not serious."

But Glenelg came off second best besides on the scoreboard.

Reported

It had two players reported — Gavan Walsh by field umpire John Hylton for allegedly striking a Port player with a clenched right fist during the second term; and Ross Gibbs by goal umpire Donald Bills for allegedly abusing him during the last term.

Gibbs was angry after kicking what appeared to be a goal, but was recorded as a point during the dying stages of the match when Glenelg trailed by six points.

Worse for Glenelg was the injury list which left it with only 17 fit men for most of the game.

David Marshall dislocated an index finger and left the ground after only three minutes of play.

Mark Hewett was carried off with a knee injury. The extent of the damage will be known later today.

Meanwhile, West Adelaide reserves defender Bruce Ramsay was reported for misconduct towards field umpire Max Cuzzocrea at Richmond Oval.

Ramsay threw the ball at Cuzzocrea, hitting him in the groin.



All eyes on the ball as Port's George Fiacchi and Glenelg's Scott Salisbury battle for possession

Port escapes to victory and silences the critics

It was a battle between the magnificent Magpies and gallant Glenelg at Football Park yesterday, and football came out the clear winner.



Ashley Porter

Both teams turned on a superb performance, reminiscent of their past finals clashes, before Port Adelaide edged to victory and silenced its harsh critics.

There were signs of the Magpies of old with plenty of desperation, team work, and run, and on the grand effort, they are not yet out of the final's race.

But while they deserve the praise, so too do the Tigers for their unrelenting struggling against the odds until the end. They lost centreman David Marshall after only three minutes of play with a dislocated finger.

And in the second term, Football Park resembled a battle ground. Dennis Russell was carried off after pinching a nerve in his knee, and Wayne Henwood limped back on the field with a badly sprained ankle.

Port did not escape injury either. Ruckman Russell Johnston was forced off with a dislocated left shoulder.

Covered

However, Port covered the loss better. David Baker lifted and held the supremacy in ruck, and the Magpies slammed on 9-3 with the wind, with full-forward Tim Evans booting six of those goals.

In contrast, Glenelg coach Graham Cornes had to shuffle his side including switching winning full-forward John Seeborn to full-back, John MacFarlane to centre, Alan Stringer to half-forward, and later re-include Russell who returned to the field.

The Tigers kicked only 2-3 in that term and went into the second half with only 17 fit men and 27 points down.

But Glenelg never gave up

To their credit, they clawed their way back into the game to be down only five points going into time-on in the last quarter against the wind.

The pressure was intense, but Port showed signs of strength but withstanding it and producing some top football to counter the attacks.

The injuries were reasons why Glenelg dropped back in the second term, but they could not be used as excuses for losing because Port also had to overcome difficulties.

There were pleasing aspects for both sides.

For Port, it went beyond the premiership points.

Trevor Grenfell fitted into the side extremely well in his debut after transferring from North Adelaide, Stephen Williams was great in his first game in a back pocket for five years, and Greg Boyd showed promising signs in his long awaited return to league football.

It also was a welcomed return to league ranks for one of the stars of the game — Glenelg's Peter Maynard, whose determination, aggression, and brilliance consistently lifted the Tigers.

Port was also served well by Greg Anderson on a wing, Craig Bradley at centre, Steve Curtis on the ball, Evans with eight goals, and Martin Leslie, who for most of the game contained Stephen Kernahan.

Kernahan, however, lifted his game in the third term and was a key factor in Glenelg's revival.

Chris McDermott, who was used as a rover, was outstanding for Glenelg. He finished with 20 kicks and 17 handballs and repeatedly set his side alight with his effective and creative play.

Short stint

Port playing coach Russell Ebert, who was useful during his short stint on the field, said he expected Glenelg to fight back in the second half.

"Glenelg is a good side, it was third. It was not going to just lay down," he said.

The Tigers may have entered the contest on third spot, but Port certainly did not perform like a ninth ranked side either.

Its victory was full of merit. Play at times may have seemed congested, but neither side was prepared to allow easy passages of play and the pressure was fierce.

Every player on the field fought until the end, but perhaps the most exhausted man at Football Park was Cornes.

He made more changes than a mother with a newborn baby during the game, and described the hectic second term as his busiest since entering the coaching field.

However, no matter how hard or what Glenelg tried, in the end it could not find the answer to the rejuvenated Magpies.