

SOUTH AT LAST

And wasn't new coach Rick Davies so joyous

Rick Davies, previously dubbed the Jumbo Prince at Unley, yesterday became the King of South Adelaide.

And the joy of the Panthers' first success of the season—and against big name Glenelg—showed in emotional scenes in club-rooms after the match.

Davies, 33, in his first game as playing coach and second as coach of South, led the Panthers to their first win of the season with a 30-point triumph over Glenelg at Adelaide Oval.

The former all-Australian captain, a veteran of 317 league games with Sturt, 20 for SA and 20 for VFL club Hawthorn, was cleared by the Blues on Friday.

For the first time wearing the blue and white guernsey in a match, but still with the beloved number 24, Davies kicked three goals while masterminding South's success.

"It was like winning a grand final. It was like a dream come true," Davies said in delight after the game.

"The signs were there when we lost to Central last week.

Defeat

"I thought we just needed to compete harder, and I stressed that during the week.

"The thing I didn't want was for them to start accepting defeat—that's far too easy," Davies said.

Davies took over as South coach after the resignation of former Hawthorn teammate Don Scott.

Scott had resigned after the completion of round six—when the Panthers had been humiliated by Port Adelaide by 67 points for their sixth successive loss.

Davies, who was high on South's wanted list at the end of last season, before the club set-

By Peter Cornwall

led on Scott, accepted the post just 11 days ago.

For South players and supporters, the win ended a forgettable run which had seen it lose 10 successive league games.

Indeed its last win had been in round 20 last year against West Torrens—when Graham Cornes, who yesterday was in opposition to Davies, had been Panther coach.

"I have told the players to be more relaxed in the way they play and train—to get more enjoyment from their football," Davies said.

Davies described himself as being "very underdone" as he had been training for just a week.

"But I thought it was important that I played."

Although he said he was possibly South's only "loser" on the day, he exerted some influence with his three goals, but his very presence appeared to lift South.

Panthers break the ice for Davies

South Adelaide coach Rick Davies described it as the longest afternoon of his life. But it is doubtful he has had many that were more rewarding.

"It was like winning a grand final. It was like a dream come true," Davies said amid jubilant scenes in the Panther rooms after they had recorded their first win of the season.

And it wasn't just the win, but the manner of the win that delighted Davies and the South officials, players and fans.

The Panthers had totally outpointed third-placed Glenelg to win by five goals—and had they not relaxed slightly in the closing stages they would have won by even more.

"I'm proud of the boys, each and every one of them," Davies said. "I didn't think we had a loser all day—except perhaps me."

Lift

Really, Davies wasn't that bad. In his first game as playing coach he kicked three goals from the forward pocket and his very presence appeared to give South a lift.

Davies, who took on the job of South coach after the resignation of Don Scott, which came after six straight losses, saw the good signs during his first game as coach when the Panthers played Central District last Monday.

Although South lost that game by 61 points, it played patches of the top-quality football everyone knew it could play, only to suffer from some lapses, especially late in the game.

Yesterday saw further progression.

Indeed a six-goal blitz in the opening 15 minutes signalled the Panthers had arrived, and that Glenelg had a real struggle on their hands to try to prevent South's first league win since round 20 last year.

In the first 15 minutes of the game, strong-marking full forward Darren Harris kicked two goals, while John Menzel, Mark Naley and the Kappler brothers, David and Darren, also scored majors.

Before the Bays knew what was happening, South had 6-2 on the board, while Glenelg had



Peter Cornwall

managed a solitary behind. It was a starting handicap Glenelg was unable to overcome.

While it all came as quite a surprise to the Adelaide Oval crowd, it was not so much to Glenelg, and former Panther, coach Graham Cornes.

"South has just got too many good players for them to not sooner-or-later play well, and with a game," Cornes said.

"I was disappointed our lads allowed them to get such a good start—I wasn't surprised by it."

Rover Mark Naley was simply magnificent in that first term. He was everywhere, winning the ball in defence, across centre and in attack, eluding opponents with ease and finding teammates with hand or foot.

While he picked up 11 kicks in the opening term, it was only Ross Gibbs on the last line of defence who was turning the Panthers out. He too picked up 11 kicks in the first quarter, maintaining the brilliant form he has shown in recent weeks.

By quarter time, Glenelg had cut back its deficit to 5-2, with goals to Alan Stringer and Mark Motlop. But the damage had been done.

The Bays trailed by the same margin at three quarter time when

Davies told his charges that might not necessarily be enough. Glenelg was the sort of side that could kick five goals in next to no time he said. South was not going to let them. Indeed, quick goals to Wayne Slattery, Phil Would, Davies and Darren Kappler helped it to a 50 point lead.

Superb

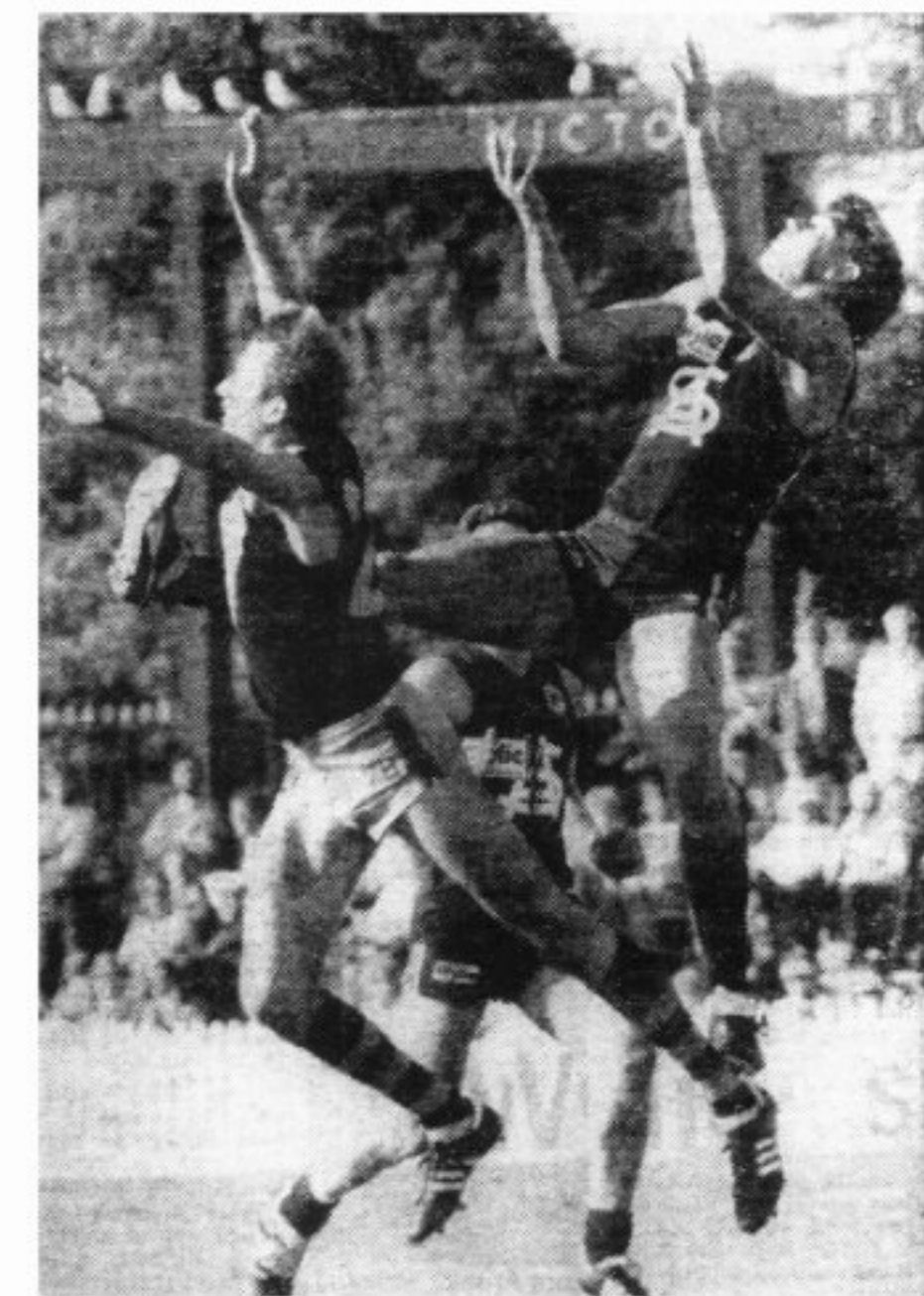
While Naley was possibly the best of an entire line-up that shone, the Kappler brothers, Phil Would, captain John Schneebichler and Craig Dewhurst all were superb.

And Michael Lockman did a fine job in restricting Glenelg's goalkicking star Stephen Copping to just two kicks—and no goals.

Glenelg's best was probably Gibbs, although ruckman Stephen Kernahan gave a lionhearted performance.

His statistics of 18 kicks, 14 marks, 18 handballs and 17 hit outs signified the effect he had on the game.

But the day belonged to South—and in particular to coach Rick Davies. The afternoon may have taken a long time to end, but it is certain it is one he will take much longer to forget.



South Adelaide's Darren Harris flies over Tiger Chris Duthy

FOOTBALL PARK

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	4-3	8-8	10-10	14-12	96
West	3-4	9-7	12-9	14-11	95

BEST—PORT: Anderson, Belton, Bradley, O'Brien, Ginever, Curtis, Simpson, Harvey. WEST: Fielke, Grosser, Williams, Lamb, Miller, McKinnon.

SCORERS—PORT: Evans 4.2, Simpson 2.1, Curtis 2.0, Anderson 1.2, Russell 1.1, Bradley 1.1, Ginever 1.0, Owens 1.0, O'Brien 1.0, rushed 0.5. WEST: Luders 5.0, Grosser 3.1, Woodhall 3.0, Winter 2.2, Fielke 1.2, Mickan 0.1, Goodwin 0.1, Bennett 0.1, Shaw 0.1, Herbert 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES—PORT: Ben Harris (ankle).

UMPIRES—Bob Schofield, Neville Thorp.

ADELAIDE OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
South	7-4	12-6	15-7	19-8	122
Glenelg	2-2	6-3	10-5	14-8	92

BEST—SOUTH: Naley, David Kappler, Would, Schneebichler, Darren Kappler, Dewhurst, Lockman, Palmer, G. Hewitt. GLENELG: Gibbs, S. Kernahan, D. Kernahan, Hewitt, McDermott, McGuinness, Marshall.

SCORERS—SOUTH: Harris 4.2, Davies 3.1, Would 3.0, Slattery 2.1, Darren Kappler 2.0, David Kappler 1.1, Menzel 1.1, Naley 1.0, Holt 1.0, Schneebichler 1.0, Honor 0.1, rushed 0.1. GLENELG: A. Stringer 3.0, Murphy 2.1, Hewitt 2.0, Motlop 2.0, Seebohm 2.0, McGuinness 1.3, Carey 1.0, Talbot 1.0, Marshall 0.2, Kernahan 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES—SOUTH: Menzel (slight concussion).

UMPIRES—John Hylton, Steve Semmler.

UNLEY OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
North	4-1	9-4	11-9	15-13	103
Sturt	5-2	7-8	10-9	14-14	98

BEST PLAYERS—NORTH: Antrobus, J. Riley, Hill, Robertson, Jarman, Hart, Armfield. STURT: Fry, Spiel, Willmott, Motley, Whittlesea, Martin.

SCORERS—NORTH: Brearley 4.3, Antrobus 2.1, Parsons 2.0, Hart 1.1, Tiller 1.1, Campbell 1.1, Bennett 1.1, Hill 1.0, Jarman 1.0, Redden 1.0, Armfield 0.1, rushed 0.4. STURT: Willmott 7.2, Martin 3.1, Hollis 1.1, Smith 1.1, Viney 1.1, Spie 1.0, Motley 0.3, Paynter 0.2, Ky 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES—STURT: Wark (concussion).

UMPIRES—G. Bowles, D. Schramm.

NORWOOD OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Norwood	5-0	12-4	16-11	18-13	121
Central	5-4	7-7	10-7	12-8	80

BEST PLAYERS—NORWOOD: McIntosh, McGrath, Helyar, K. Thomas, Gallagher, Laughlin. CENTRAL: Cousins, Krige, P. Babner, Trigg, Dearaugo, Roe.

SCORERS—NORWOOD: M. Aish 4.0, McGrath 3.3, Michaelanney 3.0, K. Thomas 2.2, Neagle 2.1, Warhurst 1.1, McIntosh 1.0, Jarvis 1.0, Scanlon 1.0, Payne 0.2, Vardanega 0.2, Rendrey 0.1, rushed 0.1. CENTRAL: Cousins 3.2, Dearaugo 2.1, Trigg 2.0, Hull 2.0, Norsworthy 1.0, Fraser 1.0, Krige 1.0, Boehm 0.1, Platten 0.1, P. Graham 0.1, Collins 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES—NORWOOD: K. Thomas (badly winded).

UMPIRES—Laurie Argent, Mark Mackie.

THEBARTON OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	4-4	11-7	15-11	23-17	155
Woodville	6-4	9-8	14-11	16-13	109

BEST—TORRENS: Sims, Sarau, Payze, Cunningham, Stretch, Hanna. WOODVILLE: Stephens, Blight, Haylock, Harris, Dettman, Sewer, Beecroft.

SCORERS—TORRENS: Johnston 4.2, Roberts 3.2, Sims 3.0, Hanna 2.2, Payze 2.2, Stretch 2.1, Dillon 2.0, Taylor 1.1, Cunningham 1.1, Turner 1.0, Collier 1.0, Sarau 1.0, Foote 0.1, Barrett 0.1, rushed 0.4. WOODVILLE: Beecroft 6.0, Blight 4.8, Stephens 2.0, Mazy 1.1, R. Fuller 1.0, Heaney 1.0, Schwarz 1.0, Haylock 0.1, rushed 0.3.

REPORT—WOODVILLE: Robert Muir, for allegedly striking John Roberts (Torrens), by goal umpire Don Bills and field umpire Jim Field in second quarter.

INJURIES—TORRENS: Roberts (slight concussion, cut over eye requiring stitches); Dillon (concussion—taken to hospital for observation); Collier (slight concussion).

UMPIRES—Jim Field, Rick Kinnear.

LEADING GOALKICKERS

PLAYER (Club)	GAMES	YEST.	TOTAL
BLIGHT (Woodville)	7	4.8	46.38
COPPING (Glenelg)	8	—	38.10
WILLMOTT (Sturt)	7	7.2	36.15
J. ROBERTS (Torrens)	8	3.2	33.13
BEE ROFT (Woodville)	8	6.0	33.10
DIETRICH (North)	7	—	32.12
ANTROBUS (North)	8	2.1	24.19
JOHNSTON (Torrens)	7	4.2	21.8

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	L	F	A	Pts	%
North	8	—	1145	836	16	57.80
Norwood	7	1	1001	801	14	55.55
Glenelg	5	3	1063	853	10	55.48
Torrens	5	3	1072	916	10	53.92
Sturt	4	4	976	925	8	51.34
Central	3	5	954	1048	6	47.65
Port	3	5	901	1102	6	44.98
West	2	6	930	1085	4	46.15
Woodville	2	6	944	1190	4	41.24
South	1	7	776	1011	2	43.42

CROWDS

Football Park	9488
Norwood	8650
Unley	11,017
Thebarton	4834
Adelaide Oval	6352

NEXT WEEK

Glenelg v Central (Football Park), Port v Woodville (Adelaide), Norwood v West (Norwood), Torrens v Sturt (Thebarton), North v South (Prospect).
--