

The umpire - take him off the ground too ...

Footballers get dragged from the ground all the time these days. Their sins are so explicit that you can predict the team runner's next target even before he has been told.

The interchange system, now eight years old, has meant that players are far more susceptible to the fatal arm around the shoulder from the middle-aged ex-player in the tight tee-shirt than was the case in the last-resort days of 19th and 20th men.

By and large, it has worked positively. While a few egos may have suffered the odd contusion, the system has made the game more flexible, its strategies more varied.



Now perhaps it is time to extend the concept. At the second semi-final at Football Park yesterday, the question presented itself: Why not drag an umpire, too, if he's making an unholy mess of things?

There will be immediate reflex charges of umpire-bashing, and arguments against, along the lines that it would lead to inconsistency of interpretation, loss of respect for the umpire's role, loss of face for their sponsor Dandy Hams, and so on.

Well, I don't know what effect yesterday's game will have on sales of Dandy Hams in the delis of Nailsworth and Somerton Park. Only time will tell. But as sure as a 15-metre penalty is really 30 metres, and a reportable offence actually is not a reportable offence, it did nothing for respect for umpires.

Glenelg and North Adelaide performed a minor miracle to put on such a mighty game, given the conditions

under which they were forced to play it. Both teams displayed some pretty smart football — fast and exciting.

They weren't assisted in this by the umpiring, which was tentative one moment, overbearing the next. Messrs Argent and Hilton, the gentlemen in question, were a dead unlucky pair. By having off days on the same day, they compounded the misery for everyone else.

And if they didn't feel miserable, too, they should have.

This is not to imply that they are not as a rule good men-in-white. Obviously they are amongst the best we've got, or else they wouldn't have been out there.

But all human beings have days when nothing goes right. Finals nerves, or locking the keys in the Mazda are enough to compromise the split-second judgment needed for the job.

Yesterday, we were treated to the sight of a Glenelg player receiving a 15-metre penalty ostensibly for having been hit in the face by a North player. As the umpire acknowledged the offence by penalising it, it would seem

that the North player should have been reported. Not so.

Then we saw Ross Gibbs deprived of a soaring mark because Darel Hart, his stepladder, was propelled forward by the impact. If the umpire won't allow you to aspire to the big grab, you might as well take up jogging.

Out of this jumble of errors, North emerged the worse, I thought.

It makes sense that when two umpires' form is down and their views are so at odds, one should be replaced.

This regretful action could be decided on by the umpire's coach or observer, and carried out, as with team runners, by ageing ex-umpires with spotless Dunlop sandshoes.

Here I have to confess that although I think there is much merit in this quite serious idea, I doubt whether my opinion is enough.

But consider that there would be side-effects of benefit to us all, were it to be adopted. It would give a lot of old umpys something to do on Saturday afternoons.

And it would get many, many more of them out of the commentary boxes.

Bays barely! North nearly!

Glenelg, like the ancient salamander, is a survivor. Yesterday at Football Park it withstood a valiant charge by North Adelaide to win league football's second semi-final by 14 points before a crowd of 25,926.

It was a tough, character building performance — by both sides.

But whereas Glenelg's victory sends it straight into the 1985 grand final — North must now fend off West Adelaide in the preliminary final next Sunday.

The match was a superb contest — the best final of the major round so far — but it very nearly was sabotaged by two umpires who seemed determined to stop both sides playing with the football.

Umpires Laurie Argent and Graham Hilton blew their lips off; often for no good reason and in the Glenelg and North dressing rooms after the game, there was angry condemnation of them both.

North had edged 15 points clear at the end of the first quarter and at that early stage it was obvious Glenelg was going to have to make several changes to stay in touch.

On his wing Brenton Phillips was exposing some flaws in David Marshall's defensive technique. Something had to be done — and Scott Salisbury did it.

He came off the interchange bench two minutes into the second quarter and was so effective that Phillips vanished — as if by magic; and a dangerous threat was snuffed out.

Ruckman Mike Parsons was also looming as a threat in the forward pocket.

North players coming over the centre-line were aiming attacks at him in the pocket when much of the Glenelg defence was concentrated on Grenville Dietrich and Parsons was always going to pose a problem.

Yet it wasn't until the third quarter that Glenelg coach Graham Cornes posted Peter Carey alongside him.

While Parsons was a worry for Cornes, North's other ruckman Mike Redden was a major threat — especially in the centre square, where his aggressive leaping put Glenelg under early pressure.

With Redden in control centreman Andrew Jarman and rover Darel Hart squeezed every ounce of advantage out of the situation.



But against the resolute defence of Ross Gibbs, Tony Hall, John Seebohm and Wayne Stringer, North could not establish a consistent sure-fire winner in attack.

Meanwhile Glenelg kept plugging away and it was its Herculean effort in the third term — against the strong breeze — that probably made victory possible.

Wayne Henwood slowed the supply of chances from Redden and Parsons and the quick hands of players such as Alan Stringer in the centre, follower/rover Chris McDermott and rover Tony McGuinness began to trigger important chances.

Stringer's performance against several opponents was at times inspiring as was Stephen Kernahan at centre half-forward.

Kernahan was maybe not the colossal influence he might have been because of many missed marks but he managed to grab 13 and with the almost total eclipse of Steve Copping by John Riley, Kernahan's contribution was invaluable.

Tony Symonds, David Marshall and Adam Garton also worried the North defence.

They were never controlled completely and invariably were able to make scoring opportunities when there seemed none were possible.

Glenelg clung to an uneasy two point lead at the end of the third quarter and with the aid of a strong breeze it seemed it was headed for a comfortable win.

But North showed enormous courage. With Matthew Campbell (now in the centre) finding spaces that weren't there earlier, Parsons making plays for his smaller players and David Robertson pushing himself into the game, North hit the front by five points at the 13 minute mark when Dietrich potted his third goal.

But five minutes later Marshall restored the lead for Glenelg after John Riley was penalised 15 m and then, after nearly 23 minutes, Alan Stringer made it safe with a booming running goal from centre half-forward.

Second Semi Final

Glenelg	5.1	12.6	14.11	18.14	(122)
North	7.4	11.6	14.9	16.12	(108)

SCORERS — Glenelg: Garton 5.2, Marshall 3.2, S. Kernahan 2.3, McGuinness 2.2, Symonds 2.1, Maynard 2.0, D. Kernahan 1.2, A. Stringer 1.0, McDermott 0.1, Motlop 0.1. North: Parsons 4.1, Jarman 3.1, Dietrich 3.1, Phillips 2.1, Hart 1.1, Klomp 1.1, Hill 1.0, Tiller 1.0, Campbell 0.2, Antrobus 0.1, Robertson 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST — Glenelg: A. Stringer, S. Kernahan, McDermott, Gibbs, McGuinness, Salisbury. North: Hart, Redden, J. Riley, Jarman, Tiller, Parsons.

Umpires: L. Argent and G. Hilton.

★ Second semi-final stars

GEOFF KINGSTON	LANCE CAMPBELL	ANDREW BOTH
A. Stringer (G) 3	A. McGuinness (G) 3	R. Gibbs (G) 3
S. Kernahan (G) 2	A. Stringer (G) 2	M. Parsons (NA) 2
D. Hart (NA) 1	J. Riley (NA) 1	A. Jarman (NA) 1

First Semi Final

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	5-2	6-4	13-10	16-13	109
Norwood	3-3	5-6	7-6	13-7	85

GOALSCORERS — WEST: Meuret 3-1, Andrews 3-1, Morris 3-0, Lamb 2-2, Woodhall 2-0, Bennett 1-0, Rennie 1-0, Mickan 1-0, Smith 0-2, Fielke 0-2, Conlen 0-1, Ryan 0-1, rushed 0-3. NORWOOD: O'Dwyer 3-0, Taylor 3-0, G. Thomas 2-0, Fosdike 1-1, K. Thomas 1-1, Kelly 1-1, Michalanne 1-0, Payne 1-0, Gallagher 0-2, Neagle 0-1, McIntosh 0-1.

BEST — WEST: Mickan, C. Herbert, P. Winter, Meuret, Hamilton, D. Herbert, Lamb. NORWOOD: B. Winter, Taylor, Gallagher, Kelly, K. Thomas.

INJURIES — WEST: Derek Shaw, broken left collarbone. NORWOOD: Garry McIntosh, injured ankle.

UMPIRES—John Hylton and Rick Kinneer.

ATTENDANCE—25,419.

★ First semi-final stars

GEOFF KINGSTON	RUSSELL EBERT	PETER HAYNES
M. Mickan (WA) 3	M. Mickan (WA) 3	M. Mickan (WA) 3
B. Winter (N) 2	B. Winter (N) 2	B. Winter (N) 2
C. Herbert (WA) 1	G. Fielke (WA) 1	C. Herbert (WA) 1



Tony Hall finished up on top and with the ball ahead of North's Kim Klomp and team-mate Ross Gibbs.

The doors were locked but behind them Grahan Cornes was bringing his Tigers swiftly down to earth.

Like Scrooge at Christmas he denied them their celebration, toned down their exuberance and shut them off from the backslappers and camp followers.

For five minutes he gave them breathing space and captured their minds, reminding them that reaching the grand final was, however gratifying merely one necessary step in the premiership process.

And only when he was satisfied they had absorbed the knowledge did he release them to the showers.

Too many times in too many years Cornes has heard the champagne corks pop at the Bay before the grand final has even started.

This time he is determined it will be different.

Particle

And just as he has stage-managed every painstaking particle of preparation throughout this season, so will he demand and capture realism rather than euphoria in the 12 days that remain before October 5.

Fifty metres away, in the opposite room, Michael Nunan had the doors barred too as he praised his Roosters for their commitment and discipline.

He had watched them come back against the wind and a cruel imbalance in free kicks to snatch the lead and come within a hair's breadth of victory.

Then he had seen yet another decision remove that lead, in the end for good.

Nobody — least of all Cornes — would have blamed Nunan for

Cornes keeps the champers on ice



Geoff Roach

launching a verbal assault on the judgment of the umpires, particularly Laurie Argent.

Instead he used the situation positively.

"I can only say I am full of admiration for the way North Adelaide went about its task under all the circumstances," Nunan said.

"I was proud of what I saw. We kept working until the last kick. And we learnt a lot today."

Well, so did we all.

We learnt that even an umpiring exhibition so appallingly riddled with inconsistencies could not destroy a marvellous contest between two splendidly skilled and committed teams.

We learnt yet again that even under the sternest pressure this Glenelg side can steady and find something extra.

And we were clearly reminded North Adelaide has the talent and desire to finish off what it started back in March.

The Roosters kept coming yesterday long after a fabulous third quarter by the Bays against the breeze seemed to have brought them undone.

In the end it took Tony McGuinness's mercurial pace, Alan Stringer's disciplined desperation, the marvellous ball-reaching and disposal talents of Tony Hall and Ross Gibbs and the versatility and virtuosity of Stephen Kernahan, David Marshall and Chris McDermott to get the Bays home.

There were an equal number of red and white heroes, not the least of them skipper John Riley whose destruction of Steve Copping was a revelation and big Bristles Parsons whose game takes on an added dimension in finals.

Pace

Nunan wouldn't allow that the loss of Tony Antrobus 30 seconds into the second half had cost the Roosters.

But although The Ant had had little influence on the first hour the absence of his pace with the breeze in the third quarter didn't help.

Speed has become such a key factor in football that without it any team is doomed, especially against the Bays whose movement of the football is symphonic.



North Adelaide ruckman Mike Parsons battles with Glenelg centre half-forward Stephen Kernahan for the ball during yesterday's second semi-final at Football Park.—Picture RAY TITUS.

SECOND SEMI-FINAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Glenelg	5-1	12-6	14-11	18-14	122
North	7-4	11-6	14-9	16-12	108

BEST. — GLENELG: Gibbs, S. Kernahan, McGuinness, A. Stringer, W. Stringer, Hall, Garton, Duthy. NORTH: Parsons, J. Riley, Tiller, Jarman, Hart, Wildy.

SCORERS. — GLENELG: Garton 5.2, Marshall 3.2, S. Kernahan 2.3, McGuinness 2.2, Symonds 2.1, Maynard 2.0, D. Kernahan 1.2, A. Stringer 1.0, McDermott 0.1, Motlop 0.1. NORTH: Parsons 4.1, Dietrich 3.1, Jarman 3.1, Phillips 2.1, Klomp 1.1, Hart 1.1, Hill 1.0, Tiller 1.0, Campbell 0.2, Robertson 0.1, Wildy 0.1, Antrobus 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES. — GLENELG: D. Kernahan (shoulder). NORTH: Antrobus (facial, ankle).

UMPIRES. — Laurie Argent, Graham Hilton.

PRELIMINARY FINAL

North	2-1	8-8	13-11	18-13	121
West	5-6	6-8	10-12	16-14	110