

Monday, September 14, 1987

Woodville massacre a warning

By
GEOFF KINGSTON

Glenelg's 102-point demolition of Woodville in yesterday's league football elimination final at Football Park was a warning — an emphatic reminder that the club is back on target for a record-breaking three premierships in a row.

Its massive victory before a crowd of 15,537 would have triggered shock waves around the precincts of the three other clubs still in the fight — Port Adelaide, North Adelaide and Norwood.

They all begrudgingly acknowledge that Glenelg — at its best — can win its hat-trick of premierships.

Yesterday it was very nearly at its most powerful, all-conquering best. Certainly Woodville was undermanned and likely to struggle. Glenelg should have won, but the authority of its victory, the almost complete domination of the Woodville players was stark evidence that Glenelg is again an opponent to be feared.

Apart from the club's two interchange players Geoff Winton and Tony MacTavish, only centre half-forward Max Kruse failed to win his position. He was squashed by Andrew Rogers.

Darrell Pannizza in the centre also escaped the mauling suffered by every other Woodville player. He walked away from the game with his reputation safe. He did not win the centre, but he also did not lose it — breaking even with David Marshall and later Alan Stringer.

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes was buoyed by Glenelg's victory while at the same time circumspect. "We are about where we want to be," he said. "And I think our presence in the finals will concern a few teams."

The awesome power and all-round skill of Glenelg was never more obvious than in the performance of rover/follower Peter Maynard. He was a sensational player in a remarkable team.

A staggering 33 kicks, 14 marks and seven handballs were testimony to his wonderfully acrobatic talents. And when backed up by an all-consuming passion to conquer ... well, Maynard was unbeatable.

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|------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| GLENELG | 3.5 | 8.11 | 16.12 | 24.22 | (166) |
| WOODVILLE | 1.4 | 4.8 | 6.9 | 9.10 | (64) |

SCORERS — Glenelg: Maynard 5.4, Seebohm 4.5, Woodlands 4.1, Hewett 3.1, Hall 3.0, A. Stringer 2.0, Kidney 1.4, Murphy 1.0, W. Stringer 0.1, Carey 0.1, rushed 0.5. Woodville: Sewer 2.2, Nichols 2.1, Parker 1.0, Martin 1.0, Taylor 1.0, O'Dwyer 1.0, Jolly 1.0, Harris 0.2, Negri, Toome, Panizza 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST — Glenelg: Maynard, McDermott, Woodlands, Murphy, A. Stringer, Kidney, Kernahan, W. Stringer, Hall, Seebohm. Woodville: Panizza, Rogers.

He spearheaded a triumvirate that included Chris McDermott and Robin Kidney. All three ignored the mostly ineffectual tags — shrugged off Randall Jolly, Ian Dettmann, Michael Templeton and later Kevin Harris to hurt and embarrass Woodville unmercifully.

McDermott's work in the clinches was again masterful. He and Kidney and Maynard traded off the opportunities provided by ruck "giant" Peter Carey to manufacture an avalanche of attacks of overwhelming proportions.

There seemed no end to Glenelg's match-winning, play-making options.

Wingmen David Kernahan and Mark Hewett, with centremen David Marshall and Alan Stringer, were rarely beaten and provided a confusing (for Woodville) mix of classy ball skills and intimidating aggression.

And Michael Murphy at centre half-back snuffed out Woodville's potential dangerman Andrew Taylor with a performance that jolted the entire Woodville attack.

Wayne Stringer alongside him on a flank was unhurried and precise and David Grenvold on the other side completed an outer defence that rarely cracked.

But it was the Glenelg attack at the other end of the ground which brought the biggest smiles to the Glenelg faces. Clothed in doubt for a long while now, the forward lines emerged from the cupboard of confusion as a genuine attack with enough options to terrorise the best defences in the competition.

| Our three best | |
|------------------|---|
| P. Maynard (G) | 3 |
| C. McDermott (G) | 2 |
| C. Woodlands (G) | 1 |

John Seebohm, appreciating the dry, almost windless conditions and firm turf, was the competent spearhead Cornes and the selectors believe he is. While Kruse at centre half-forward failed to influence the outcome, every other player in the Glenelg forward lines played major roles in the triumph.

Craig Woodlands pinched four good goals and helped get many more. His quickness and clever ball control were telling weapons and with the artful Tony Hall at half-forward he was never controlled.

Then there was Alan Stringer and Kidney. They almost always were lurking nearby, threatening, intimidating and unsettling the Woodville defence with their at-times scary attacks on the ball.

All of that, plus a running, handballing game and an attitude that now demands and expects success makes Glenelg a formidable opponent for Port in next Sunday's first semi-final.

Woodville's collapse has left the club facing a summer of serious soul-searching; an off-season in which decisions must be made that will ensure Woodville does not slide to the bottom of the football world — where it was before Malcolm Blight came home.

Tigers display all their old finals confidence

It was a lopsided case of Glenelg's modern run-on style against Woodville's old-fashioned, slow-moving game.

I sensed as early as 10 minutes into the first quarter that Glenelg would win yesterday's elimination final at Football Park.

Glenelg exuded finals experience and confidence, Woodville looked uncertain.

The Tigers will be hard to beat now. They had a confidence and an arrogance about them yesterday that we came to expect at this stage of the past two seasons.

It was obvious from the outset that Glenelg's experienced players such as Chris McDermott, Peter Maynard and Tony Hall were going to dictate the terms.

And Michael Murphy's magnificent start at centre half-back completely closed out Andrew Taylor and gave Glenelg a defensive springboard.

Glenelg's use of the ball also was quicker, and more direct and purposeful. Woodville seemed to play more of a mark-kick game and couldn't get mobile.

Its only chance of victory was to attack. It had to have bustling Kevin Harris on the ball and big men Max Parker and Romano Negri on the ground for the whole game.

When you looked at Woodville's forward set-up, it really had only two options — centre half-forward Taylor and full forward Stephen Nichols. Parker or Negri would have given the Warriors another avenue of attack and provided additional worries for Glenelg's defenders.

The win did a lot for Glenelg. It needed a confidence booster after



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PAUL WESTON

having lost four of its previous five games. More importantly, perhaps, was the extra lift Glenelg will get through the fine performances of its two key forwards, Hall and John Seebohm.

While Woodville was disappointing, you have to applaud its efforts in getting into the finals in successive years after having been a punching bag for so long.

Malcolm Blight's departure as coach is sad. He has done much for Woodville and SA football, and his influence and presence will be missed — much more than we can afford.

Oops. I was horribly wrong with my qualifying final predictions, or at least with the way Norwood's injured players would survive.

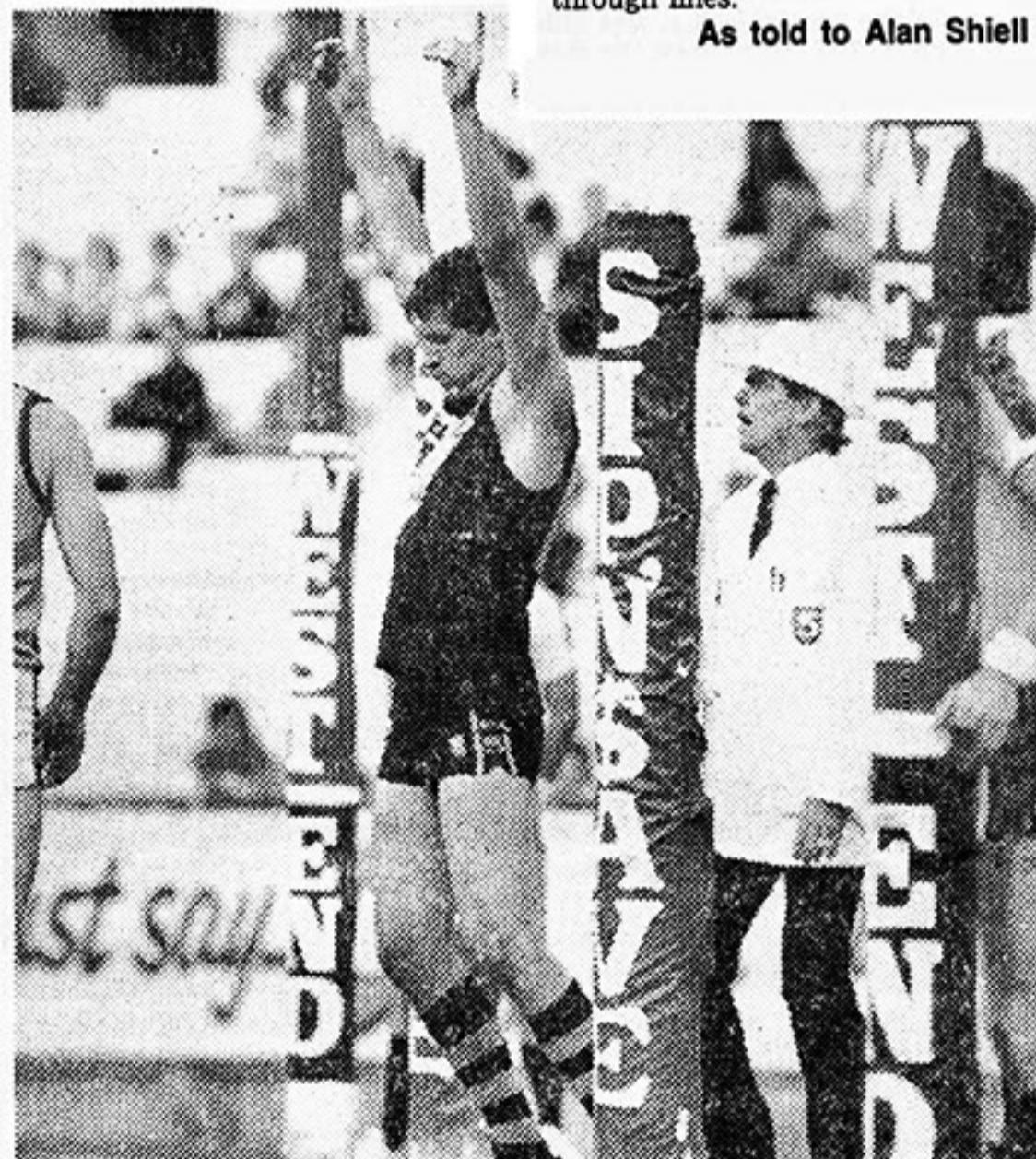
Michael Aish's first-half display was quite exceptional and inspirational. Without him, Norwood would have been much further behind.

Neil Balme's second-half use of his players, including moving Hall to full forward and Craig Balme into ruck, probably was decisive.

Balme competed strongly and running Redlegs such as David Payne, Stephen Rowe and Tim McNeil were just too quick for their Port Adelaide counterparts.

Norwood can only get better. Port must find some pace. Its players have to break away from packs, create the loose man and run through lines.

As told to Alan Shiell



ANOTHER SIX POINTS ... Glenelg star Chris McDermott raises his hands to signal another Tiger goal to the crowd at Football Park yesterday.
 Picture: MARTIN JACKA

Qualifying Final

Norwood 15-8 98 d. Port 8-16 64

Next Week

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