

Tigers on target for a hat-trick

By
GEOFF KINGSTON

Glenelg's bone jarring, 46-point defeat of Norwood in the league football preliminary final at Football Park yesterday put it right on target for a another show-down with North Adelaide — and a record-breaking three premierships in a row.

The two most outstanding teams in the competition will meet again in Saturday's grand final — for the third consecutive year.

Yesterday's awesome dumping of Norwood was a grim warning to everyone at North that maybe it will not be a simple case of "third time lucky".

Glenelg was unstoppable in the second half of yesterday's match played before a crowd of 30,969.

In the last two quarters it kicked 13.5 to just 4.4 by Norwood, which has now won only one of its past six finals games.

Since winning the premiership in 1984, Norwood has been beaten in two finals games in 1985 — by 30 points by Glenelg in the qualifying final and 24 points by West in the first semi-final.

Last year it lost to Woodville in the elimination final and this season it was defeated by North Adelaide in the second semi-final and Glenelg in yesterday's preliminary final.

Its only finals success in the past three years was its nine point win against Port Adelaide in the second semi-final a week ago.

It is time the club had a very close look at the type of players in whom it has put its faith.

Norwood coach Neil Balme was rocked by the meek submission.

"To capitulate the way we did was very disappointing," he said. "Some of our guys are not quite good enough for finals footy. They didn't stand up under pressure, and it is pretty obvious that some of our boys are too soft."

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes, on the other hand, was delighted — but guarded. "It was obviously a good win," he said. "But all it does is give

Our three best

M. MURPHY (GI)	3
C. McDERMOTT (GI)	2
P. CAREY (GI)	1

us a chance to contest the grand final again."

It also gives Glenelg the opportunity to become only the second team in history to win the premiership from the elimination final. Norwood did it in 1984.

Cornes did, however, concede that Glenelg was very aggressive yesterday — especially after half-time. That was the most salient and impressive part of its entire game.

Its sheer physical power overwhelmed Norwood to a degree that was unimaginable and it forced the weak surrender.

Typical of that fierce approach was Michael Murphy at centre half-back. He seems to have adopted the belief that in difficult situations, the boldest plans are the safest.

He was the wedge that split Norwood wide open. Running, hitting, hurting and tackling he led a tough, almost brutal Glenelg defence that wrecked Norwood.

Balme, in a desperate bid to find a way to goal, reorganised his attack, switching and changing every player in the forward lines — but it was all a futile task.

Just ahead of Murphy and his squad of destruction was a collection of latter-day bushrangers.

Centreman David Marshall and the wingmen alongside him — Mark Hewett and David Kernahan (until injured) — held up Norwood repeatedly to rob it of chances. And strangely, they were allowed to get away with it — almost scott free.

Tim McNeil on one wing worked hard and could not be compared to the at-times disgraceful performances by some of his team-mates. But he alone could not build a retaining wall high enough or quickly enough to block Glenelg.

And the Glenelg attack, criticised and sometimes ridiculed during the cold and wet months of winter, is now able to instill a little panic wherever it goes.

GLENELG	1.5	3.9	9.13	16.14	(110)
NORWOOD	4.5	5.6	8.9	9.10	(64)

SCORERS — Glenelg: Seebohm 4.4, Woodlands 3.0, Hewett 2.1, Hall 2.0, Winton 1.2, Marshall 1.1, Kidney 1.0, Maynard 1.0, Gibbs 1.0, A. Stringer 0.1, rushed 0.5. Norwood: Rowe 4.1, Ducker 3.1, Balme 1.1, Klæbe 1.0, Payne 0.2, B. Maynard, Hall, Aish, McIntoch, 0.1.

BEST — Glenelg: Murphy, McDermott, Carey, Marshall, Hewett, Woodlands, Hall. Norwood: Rowe, McNeil, R. Maynard, B. Maynard, McIntosh, Fosdike.

Centre half-forward is still a problem. Cornes has not been able to find anyone who can dominate the position but he has put some fine players nearby who alone, or together, can trigger a match-winning surge.

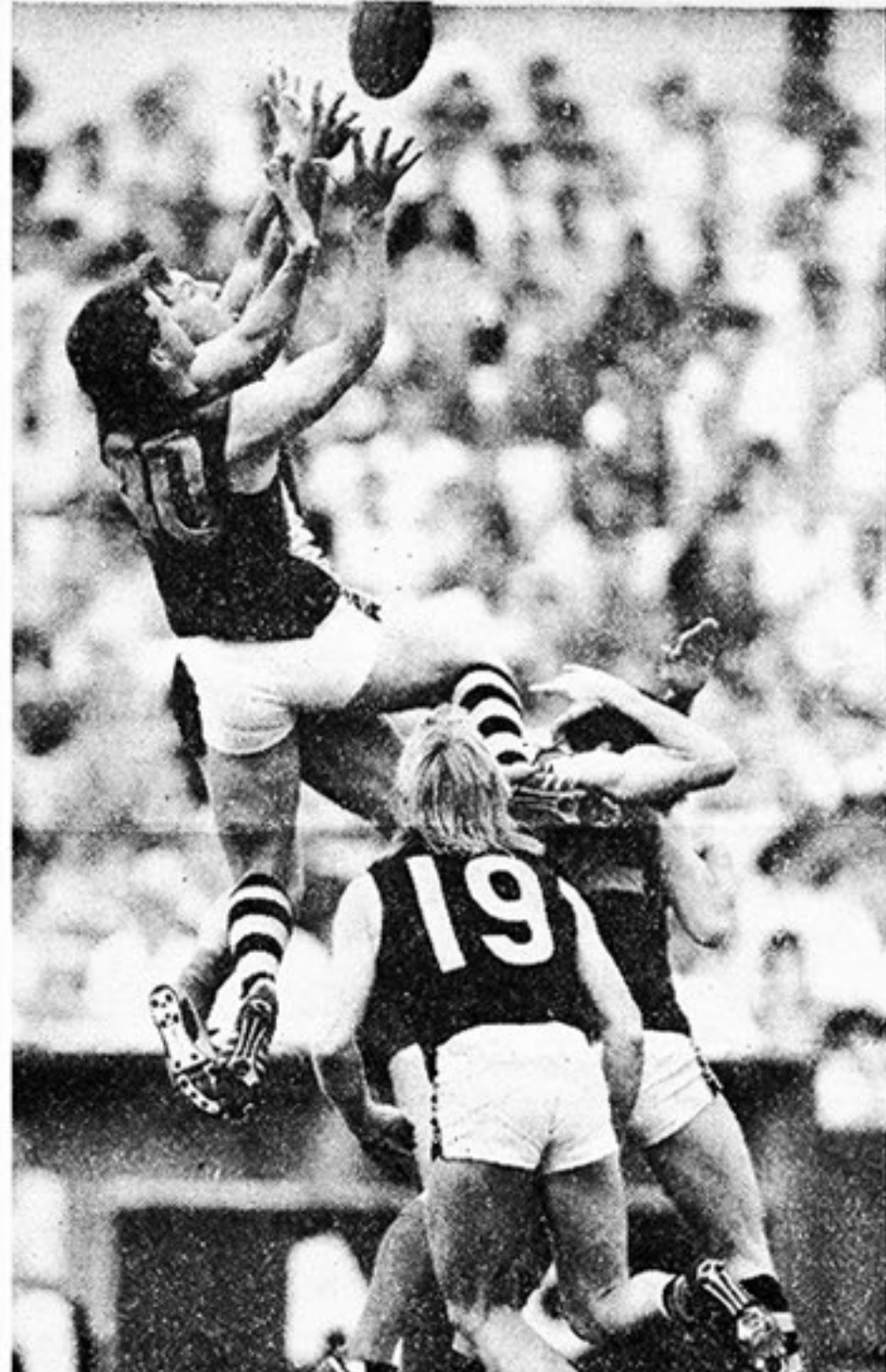
John Seebohm's performances in the dry, almost windless conditions of the finals, have enabled him to pose a serious threat. But it has been the recovery from injury of Tony Hall and Alan Stringer that has done most to revamp the Glenelg forward lines.

They intimidate with their skill and their aggression. Add to them the outstanding playmaking skills of players like Chris McDermott, Peter Maynard and the astonishing Peter Carey, and the at-times uncanny goalkicking by Craig Woodlands, and the Glenelg attack cannot easily be dismissed as it once might have been.

Cornes now faces five days of hoping and planning.

Already the preparation has begun. Minutes after the players left the arena yesterday they were hustled into a private conference where Cornes spoke to them for about 15 minutes.

He declined to reveal what was said except to confirm smilingly that it was aimed at the history-making task at the end of this week.



HIGHFLYING PAIR... at Football Park yesterday are Norwood's Brenton Maynard (part hidden) and Glenelg full back Jim West. Waiting for the outcome is Glenelg half-back David Grenvold. PHOTO: STUART MANNAGAN

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3 IN A ROW AWAY WE GO!

OK North, you asked for The Tigers. Now let's see you tame them.



Geoff Roach

If you can, all the humiliation of the past two grand finals will be forgotten.

Because now there is no doubt whatsoever that despite the talent drain to the VFL in the past two years, this team of Tigers is as talented, fierce and dedicated as either of the glory crews which preceded them.

Yet again A Certain Person, or Graham Cornes as he's known at the Bay, has created a combination with such an insatiable lust for premiership glory that nothing, it seems, can stop it.

Heck, two of yesterday's heroes, Michael Murphy and David Grenvold, weren't even considered good enough to be in the side this time last year.

Now they are dedicated, composed, rebounding defenders who would be automatic inclusions in a State squad.

Murphy stood out like the Hope diamond in a heap of pebbles yesterday with aerial, acrobatic judgement that totally sealed off Norwood's route to goal.

Grenvold took on a succession of opponents and whipped them all with raw talent and resolve.

Around their defiance in the first quarter under pressure, a fire started smouldering which, in the second half, became an uncontrollable blaze of talent.

Feeling that heat, the three or four Norwood players who aren't clad in asbestos sought safety rather than man the pumps.

And that's all it takes in finals to turn a contest into a rout.

Nobody knows that better these days than Mike Nunan after the debacles of the past two grand finals.

All this year he has examined not just the physical talent at Prospect but the inner fortitude as well.

Now he's made confident by the knowledge that none of the 20 he will name will back away from any sort of physical competition. They won't want to because Glenelg's blue collar values were what won yesterday's game after Cornes blasted them at half-time over some "un-Glenelg like" indifference over the ball in the first half.

Suddenly, every time it desperately mattered, Glenelg won the loose ball, either by tapping, blocking or handballing it to either a team-mate or the open space.

In those circumstances the sheer class of David Marshall, unsung wingman Mark Hewett, Chris McDermott and Peter Maynard put chances down the Bay forwards' throats.

Another under-rated performer, Craig Woodlands, relished his switch to half-forward with three key goals and John Seebohm always created something with his swift leading and, eventually, devastating finishing.

Tony Hall too, will benefit enormously from his wonderful contest with Rodney Maynard which ended in a draw after Hall held a big advantage early.

Norwood had only individuals who could worry the Tiger defensive pattern, none more effective than Stephen Rowe, Tim McNeil, and, as always, Garry McIntosh.

Later analysis might show Norwood did well to finish third with the talent it had. But after the start yesterday, it surrendered far too softly for the likes of Balme and football director Wally Miller.

As for the Bays, their grand final preparation started the moment they walked off the ground. Cornes had them closeted for a 1/4 hour amid total silence in the rooms. Smilingly, he declined to reveal what he had told them.

But whatever it was, it works. And it means next Saturday's grand final may be one of the greatest contests of them all.

Nunan desperate to beat Glenelg

North Adelaide will meet Glenelg yet again in a grand final — and North coach Mike Nunan is rapt.

"I've been saying since the start of the series that I would have been disappointed if we did not play Glenelg in the grand final," Nunan said.

"It's not very often in a footballer's lifetime that he has the chance to atone for the misery and despair like our players have suffered.

"We've had a huge monkey, almost a gorilla, on our backs over the past two years. We've worked very hard to get the monkey off, where others could have fallen by the wayside."

Glenelg beat North in the 1973 grand final, the last at Adelaide Oval, by seven points, by 57 points in 1985 and by 48 points last year.

The score is one-all in the minor round series this year, North winning by 75 points and Glenelg by 26 points, which was North's only loss in its past 18 matches.

And Nunan is not talking about just winning next Saturday.

"We are not talking about winning,

but beating Glenelg," he said. "They don't give anything away, and you have to beat them at their own game."

"We've shown throughout the minor round that we are a better side than last year in terms of our overall ability and discipline."

Nunan added that North would train tomorrow night and Thursday at Prospect Oval and have its usual skills night at the Underdale Sports Centre on Wednesday.

"Everything will be as normal," he said.

But there have been a few subtle changes in North's latest countdown for the battle for the Thomas Seymour Hill premiership trophy.

Nunan has decided the players would not have a special breakfast on Wednesday morning, like they had had the past two years.

The only players unavailable from its recently pruned squad are defenders David Wildy (dislocated shoulder and dislocated wrist) and Jason Roe (suspended). Steven Trigg is expected to start on a half-back flank, while Michael Armfield is likely to go into the 20, starting from the bench.

Ashley Porter



Glenelg forward Tony Hall takes this screamer over team-mate Geoff Winton while Norwood's Rodney Maynard attempts to spoil in yesterday's preliminary final at Football Park.