

□ REDLEGS Lester Ross and Tim McNeil mixed it with Tiger Robin Kidney at Glenelg Oval yesterday. Photographer Ray Titus was on the spot to catch the action as Kidney was somewhat late with his tackle on McNeil (Picture 1). Ross and McNeil set to wrestling Kidney (Picture 2) and Kidney went to ground (Picture 3). Kidney got the upper hand (Picture 4) but Ross and McNeil had the final say (Picture 5).

'Legs learn a lesson

Norwood and Glenelg each learned valuable lessons during yesterday's dramatic cliffhanger at the Bay.

And those lessons, if heeded, can only serve to make the two sides even more of a premiership threat in the finals.

Norwood held on to win 14.13 (97) to 13.14 (92) to register its first win at Glenelg for 10 years.

It also helped consolidate the Redlegs' position on the second rung of the premiership ladder.

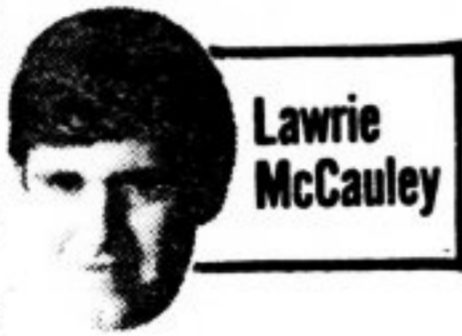
But coach Neil Balme was not particularly pleased.

Toward the end of the third term, Norwood held a commanding 14.10 to 7.10 lead.

But that advantage gradually was eroded by a fiercely committed Glenelg side that suddenly found new resolve in its quest for the premiership points.

In the final term, Norwood could register just one point as Glenelg steamrolled its way to near victory.

Balme conceded his side was "lucky" to hold on for a five-point win and stressed his side did not cope with the pressure situation very well.



Lawrie McCauley

He now is in his eighth season as coach of Norwood and has been involved in the finals every year. He knows what finals footy is all about and told his players they can expect that kind of pressure for four quarters of every finals match.

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes was lamenting time ran out when it appeared his side finally had the measure of the 'Legs.

The lesson Glenelg players must learn is that they can not afford to let top sides like Norwood gain the early initiative.

The loss now has sent Glenelg to fifth spot on the premiership table and places it in jeopardy of missing out on a finals double-chance.

It has a tough build-up to the major round with games against Port (at Alberton), West (Richmond) and Sturt (Adelaide).

Despite the dominance of Norwood in the first half and Glenelg in the second,

the match proved a highly entertaining and physically aggressive confrontation.

Best-on-ground honors were keenly pursued by Garry McIntosh and Chris McDermott from start to finish.

McDermott picked up an amazing 19 kicks and 25 handballs to continually set Glenelg alight. He was a constant threat around the packs and got many of his teammates going in the frantic second half.

But McIntosh, despite having "only" 11 kicks and 24 handballs, deserves the nod for best afield.

Those statistics do not fully show how his fierce tackling and relentless harassment of Glenelg players made him such a tremendous headache for opposition players.

He was the player who guided the side and served as the major inspiration when the team was running hot AND when it badly needed someone to lead it to victory.

Rover Stephen Rowe also was a powerful influence around the packs and was able to find open space far too often.

Rookie Tim McNeil booted four valuable goals and outfoxed his opponents many times with his clever

reading of the ball; Mark Ducker was a threat close to goal; Michael Taylor continued his masterly form; Roger Murdoch was a rock in defence and follower Stephen Richardson picked up many possessions.

Glenelg did not have many winners in the first two terms but there was a feast of them to join McDermott in the run home.

Scott Salisbury made life tough for anyone who tried to stand in his way; Peter Carey rucked well throughout and dished out 16 handballs; Peter Maynard was a force as a follower and even more so in the forward lines, where he booted three goals; Ross Gibbs helped show the way with some inspirational work and David Marshall also flashed in and out of the game to good effect.

Glenelg's quest for a top three berth, and a finals double-chance, really relies on the side winning all three remaining minor round games.

It trails Norwood by two wins and Port and Woodville by one win - Woodville having the chance to extend that lead today if it can beat West Adelaide in the late game at Footy Park.

North Adelaide already is

Coaches comments

NEIL BALME (Norwood): "Our first half was pretty good."

"But in the last quarter the other side gained the initiative and we were lucky to win."

"Glenelg applied a lot of pressure and we didn't respond very well."

"That's something we'll have to learn from for the finals - it will be like that for four quarters in the finals."

GRAHAM CORNES (Glenelg): "We shouldn't have put ourselves in a position where time could run out on us."

assured of one top three position.

Norwood plays Sturt, North and Port in the run home; Port plays Glenelg, Central and Norwood while Woodville plays West, Central, Torrens and North.

Defending back-to-back premierships would be made extremely difficult for Glenelg from the elimination final.



Norwood's Stephen Richardson and Scott Salisbury collide enroute to the ball. Glenelg's Wayne Stringer looks on