Yes, we'll go national

But my tip is '89, not '88

Geoff Roach

SOUTH Australia will not enter any expanded national football competition until 1989.

That's not a fact. It's my opinion.

It is based, however, on knowledge of a timetable scenario set out to ensure we enter on the best possible terms.

I believe when the vote is taken next month — not by June 30 as the VFL wants — the SANFL will resolve to join the expanded competition in 1989.

It will then have 12 months to fully plan and staff the Adelaide club as well as negotiate and clinch the favorable terms it desires.

That year also will provide the breathing space to recast the SANFL competition; to reduce it to eight, perhaps even six, clubs and to plan a revised style of premiership with the finals in November after the national competition has ended.

The hierachy already has resolved not to be rushed or panicked into a premature decision.

It has seen and absorbed the myriad mistakes made by the WAFL in its senseless haste to sample the VFL pie.

Under no circumstances will it fall into the same unbelievably stupid trap of surrendering the rights to control the club to an outside interest.

And it knows full well the VFL prizes not only its participation but the use of the jewel that is Football Park — so much so, that if given a firm commitment for 1989, the VFL will not countenance the attempted re-location of a struggling Melbourne side here.

By recognising the need to pay the $4 million licence fee, the SANFL already has made a concession towards joining.

But it is a concession that strengthens its hand with the six other major negotiating points.

Clearly it will stand solidly on the issues of TV, programming, the right to exclude SA players from the draft for at least two years and to have its travelling costs paid from the VFL pool.

Its stated aim to have the name of the competition changed is not, however, etched in stone and could be conceded in the knowledge that any national competition would benefit by identifying itself as such anyway.

Its other aim is to secure a proportional share of the VFL equalisation fund rather than an equal portion in the knowledge its percentage would be higher.

But it can get around that anyway by pre-selling season membership in the Adelaide club as only cash admissions go into the fund.

The League's planners already have decided how an Adelaide club would be staffed (three members each from the 10 clubs, plus selected imports to fill noticeable gaps), run, marketed and promoted.

And only two things now stand in the way of it happening.

The first could be avoided should the league rescind its decision to seek again the public feeling on the matter through a survey.

Should the SA football public vote overwhelmingly against joining the national competition — as seems possible given the usual emotion involved in reducing the number of clubs locally — it would be difficult to then proceed.

Instead of a survey, the League directors should go ahead with what they have been elected to do — make decisions in the best interests of football.

However, the possibility does exist the directors will vote against the expansion into the VFL.

Three clubs are said to be opposed, others are unsure and the country delegate is also to vote in a ballot that requires a two thirds majority.

By the time of the crucial meeting, however, there should be sufficient evidence to show football here would be overwhelmed unless we go united and organised into the national sphere.

The time to do that is 1989. Not before. And that's how it will turn out.

● What do you think? Fill in the Sunday Mail coupon — "Should we join the VFL?" — on Page 64.

PORT SOFT, FUMES EBERT

By Ashley Porter

Port Adelaide coach Russell Ebert unleashed a stinging attack on his players after yesterday's 54 point drubbing by a mighty Woodville, claiming it was the softest performance in his 20 years at the club.

And to rub salt in the wound, the Magpies were hit with injuries to Martin Leslie and Greg Anderson.

Both are likely to miss the interstate clash with WA in Perth on Tuesday week.

Leslie damaged his left shoulder and will have X-rays today.

Anderson is extremely doubtful because of an ankle injury which almost prevented him from playing yesterday.

Ebert said the loss of Leslie and Anderson certainly unsettled Port, but said it would be grossly unfair to Woodville to use the injuries as excuses for a pathetic effort.

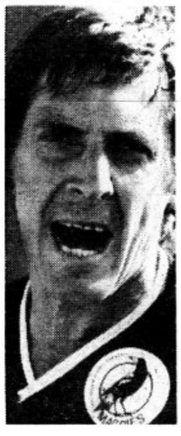
"I hope everyone who has been writing us up and talking about us as a star-studded side saw this game," he said.

"Too many players were soft. Too many players have been riding along with the key players who have been doing the work.

"When they did get over the ball, they were found wanting."

It was Woodville's greatest victory over the Magpies, and its twelfth in its past 14 games at Football Park.

Fiercely competitive Colin McDonald was one of the many Warriors who played well, and is likely to be added to the State squad.



● *ANGRY: Russell Ebert*

And West Torrens, like Woodville with a dreadful record since the competition was expanded to 10 teams in 1964, also showed up one of the powers of SA football with a thrilling eight-point victory over Norwood at Thebarton.

The Redlegs led by eight points at three quarter time, and even coach Neil Balme thought they would capture the premiership points.

But in a grand display of will-to-win, the Eagles fought on courageously to record an upset win.

The ninth round will be completed with a double-header at Football Park tomorrow in which Central plays Sturt and North meets West.

Slow death for Panthers

South Adelaide suffered a slow, agonising death for season '87 at the hands of a reluctant executioner at Glenelg Oval yesterday.

Glenelg substantially lowered the guillotine in the first quarter but then almost offered South a reprieve by half-time.

The executioner still looked unsure about carrying out the death sentence in the third quarter, with the victim sniffing freedom.

Then, in one quick, devastating blow in the final term, South's head rolled into a basket reserved for football's "goners."

While the guillotine operator was unconvincing for most of the event, he is still alive to plan and talk about a future this season.

South's two biggest problems after its fourth successive loss again were evident yesterday. The club lacks depth of league standard players and those available players collectively are short on character.

Forward John Menzel represented South's last, desperate hope of winning when he marked 20m from goal in the final quarter. Normally accurate, Menzel kicked a point and the Tigers maintained their five-goal lead.

His failure reflected a game riddled with errors.

A man who epitomises football character and honesty, Glenelg's John MacFarlane, kicked a crucial goal late in the third quarter of his 300th game.

His clever snap was followed quickly by a superb long goal from wingman David Kernahan to give Glenelg breathing space and maintain impetus for the final term.

The Tigers maintained that impetus with telling goals from interchange Robin Kidney, forward Max Kruse and damaging youngster Craig Budarick, within nine minutes.

South will not win many more games while its best goalkicker, Chris Stasinowsky, wastes time in futile conversations with opponents.

That attitude is great in a Sunday social competition but is unacceptable at league level.

Glenelg also has its problems . . . it failed to boot a goal from 61 kicks on the small oval in the second term.

Panther half-back Michael Bennett was unbeatable in that quarter, and was ably supported by Michael Whitford, Darryl Hewitt and Andrew Brockhurst.

Ross Gibbs, virtually by default, was Glenelg's best. He minimised mistakes in a match marred by a stunning lack of pressure.

Gordon Campbell

■ **RICK DAVIES (South):** Bitterly disappointed and unavailable.

John Schneebichler (captain): Again, we played reasonably well for three quarters. But now, making the finals is a week-by-week proposition.

David Bertelsmeier (general manager): We need a big change in attitude and players who will have a go.

It'll be very difficult to make the five from here, but nothing's impossible.

■ **GRAHAM CORNES (Glenelg):** I'm grateful for the premiership points.

First and final quarters were good and commitment was very good.

But overall we're not there yet . . . there's room for improvement.

● *WELL DONE SNOUT . . . a huge banner welcomed Glenelg's John MacFarlane, playing his 300th game against South yesterday*

Glenelg's John MacFarlane in a strong clash during game 300

GLENELG	KICKS 1	2	3	4	TOTAL	M	H/B	FREES FOR	AG	GLS	BHS	H/O
WOODLANDS	4	3	1		8	1	2	1	1	2	1	
SEEBOHM		1	1	1	3	3	2	1	2		2	
MACTAVISH	2	7	3	3	15	4	4		2	1	2	
BUDARICK	6	1	3	5	15	12	5	3	2	3	4	3
KRUSE	1	3	2	4	10	7	6	1	3	1	3	
MARSHALL	2	6	4	3	15	7	11	3	2	1	2	
KERNAHAN	5	4	5	4	18	8	12		2	1	1	
SALISBURY	3	2	4	3	12	5	8	5	3		2	
MacFARLANE	2	4	4	3	13	3	5	1	2	1	1	
W STRINGER	2	2	2	2	8	1	8	3	1			
MURPHY	5	6	2		13	7	2	3	3			
GRENVOLD	1		3	3	7	2	4	1	2			
GIBBS	1	7	3	2	13	8	5	1	1			
DONOVAN	1	1			2	1	4	1	1			
WEST	1	1	1		3	3	3	2	2		1	3
CAREY	2	4	3	3	12	5	6	4			1	42
McDERMOTT	7	5	3	3	18	3	10	2	4	1	1	1
MAYNARD	7	4	5	4	20	1	4		1	1	2	
WINTON				4	4	2	2				1	
KIDNEY				3	3	1	3			2		
RUSHED											1	
TOTAL	52	61	49	50	212	84	106	32	34	14	25	49

SOUTH	KICKS 1	2	3	4	TOTAL	M	H/B	FREES FOR	AG	GLS	BHS	H/O
MENZEL		2	1	2	5	5	2		5	3	1	
DEWHIRST	4	2	2	1	9	4	7	3	2			
FAIRCLOUGH	3	5	2	4	14	4	3	4	2	1	1	
TAYLOR	2	2	2		6	2		2	2	1		
SCHNEEBICHLER	6	5	2	4	17	6	1	1	4	3	4	1
STASINOWSKY		3	2	2	7	5	6	2	1	3		
EDDY	2	1	1	2	6	1	5	3				
KAPPLER	3	4	2	1	10	2	11		2			1
DICKINSON	4	2	1	1	8	2	8	1	1			
BROCKHURST	2	2	5	5	14	4	3	2	1			
WHITFORD	1	3	3	1	8	1	6	3	3			1
BENNETT	1	7		1	9		8		3			
HEWITT	3	5	3	3	14	2	10	2				
BROOKSBY	3	3			6	2	2	3	2			2
BODE		2	1	1	4	2	2	2	1		1	
BAKER			1		1	1	5		1			17
BUTLER	4		2	3	9	5	8	2				
PITMAN	4	3	3	7	17	4	6	1			1	
CHRISTIE	2		2		4	3	2	1	2			5
JARVIS		1	6	3	10	1	3	1		1	1	
RUSHED											1	
TOTAL	44	52	41	41	178	56	98	33	32	12	10	27

Premiership table

	W	L	F	A	%	Pts
NORTH*	6	2	927	732	55.88	12
NORWOOD	6	3	1008	868	53.73	12
WOODVILLE	6	3	1007	911	52.50	12
PORT	5	4	946	877	51.89	10
WEST*	5	3	894	909	49.58	10
Glenelg	4	5	1001	1021	49.51	8
Central*	4	4	890	925	49.04	8
Torrens	3	6	840	861	49.38	6
South	2	7	792	994	44.34	4
Sturt*	2	6	761	968	44.01	4

*To play tomorrow.

Leading Goalkickers

	Games	Y'day	Total
J. Roberts (North)	8	—	45.17
R. Mandemaker (Central)	8	—	43.18
S. Nichols (Woodville)	9	9.1	36.19
D. Smith (Port)	9	0.1	35.18
C. Stasinowsky (South)	9	3.0	29.14
J. Seebohm (Glenelg)	9	0.2	28.16
D. Stoeckel (South)	6	—	27.9
D. Twomey (West)	8	—	22.15

Football Park

WOODVILLE	2.4	10.8	15.10	21.15	(141)
PORT	4.0	7.4	8.6	13.9	(87)

BEST— **Woodville:** Taylor, Rogers, Schwarz, McDonald, Panizza, Nichols, Parker. **Port:** Abernethy, Curtis, Ginever, Borlase, Phillips, Lum.

GOALS— **Woodville:** Nichols 9.1, Taylor 4.5, Haylock 2.0, Schwarz 2.0, Harris 2.0, Parker 1.0, Martin 1.0, Templeton 0.2, Lynch 0.2, Panizza 0.1, Fuller 0.1, rushed 0.3. **Port:** Tylor 4.1, Abernethy 2.0, Borlase 2.0, Curtis 2.0, Belton 1.2, Hynes 1.1, Phillips 1.0, D. Smith 0.1, Anderson 0.1, Ginever 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES — **Port:** Leslie (shoulder), Anderson (ankle).

UMPIRES — David Crase, John Hylton.

Thebarton Oval

TORRENS	7.1	8.2	10.4	15.6	(96)
NORWOOD	4.3	6.12	9.18	11.22	(88)

BEST— **Torrens:** Morphett, Weston, Christensen, B. Lindsay, Robson, C. Lindsay, Taylor. **Norwood:** Aish, Connelly, Ducker, McNeil, Taylor, Pyke, Rowe.

GOALS— **Torrens:** Dietrich 4.0, McGrath 2.2, Barratt 2.1, Taylor 2.1, B. Lindsay 2.0, Christensen 1.0, Fotia 1.0, Eichner 1.0, Hodson 0.1, Baker 0.1. **Norwood:** Ducker 4.3, Connelly 2.2, Disbury 2.1, Payne 1.1, Kelly 1.1, Neagle 1.0, Aish 0.2, McIntosh 0.2, D'Antiochia 0.2, McNeil 0.1, Helyar 0.1, Hall 0.1, Rowe 0.1, rushed 0.4.

INJURIES — **NORWOOD:** Balme (concussion), Helyar (hamstring).

UMPIRES — Neville Thorp and David Trembath.

Glenelg Oval

GLENELG	5.7	5.11	9.16	14.25	(109)
SOUTH	1.2	4.5	8.7	12.10	(82)

BEST— **Glenelg:** Gibbs, Carey, Murphy, McDermott, Donovan, MacTavish, Kernahan, Budarick. **South:** Bennett, Kappler, Hewitt, Brockhurst, Schneebichler, Whitford, Pitman, Fairclough.

GOALS— **Glenelg:** Budarick 3.5, Woodlands 2.0, Kidney 2.0, Kruse 1.3, MacTavish 1.2, Marshall 1.2, Maynard 1.2, MacFarlane 1.1, McDermott 1.1, Kernahan 1.1, Seebohm 0.2, Salisbury 0.2, Carey 0.1, Winton 0.1, West 0.1, rushed 0.1. **South:** Schneebichler 3.4, Menzel 3.1, Stasinowsky 3.0, Fairclough 1.1, Jarvis 1.1, Taylor 1.0, Pitman 0.1, Bode 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES — **Glenelg:** Maynard (corked thigh).

UMPIRES — Ross Campbell, Michael Abbott.