

Bay champ does it again . . .

Carey poised to beat Ebert's mark



By Lawrie McCauley

Glenelg and State ruckman Peter Carey is a champion . . . a footballer who always can be relied on to give his best on the playing arena.

And the fact he is in the SA squad preparing to meet WA on May 24 is testimony Carey still is at the top of his craft.

But Carey, 34, and on the verge of eclipsing the Australian record for most league games played, wasn't always such a star.

In fact a lanky 17-year-old version didn't last out his first league game — the only thing Carey today has trouble remembering about his league debut.

Carey will on Saturday equal Russell Ebert's Australian record of 446 games. He has played 427 with Glenelg and represented SA 18 times.

Ebert played 392 club games with Port, 25 for North Melbourne and 29 for SA.

For Carey, it is a long time since he donned his boots for that first league game against Central District on June 18, 1971.

"I remember being very nervous — I was still at Seacombe High School," he said. "In fact I remember it all very clearly.

"The day before was a day when you could come to school out of uniform if you paid 10 cents, which they used to do to raise money for our student council.

had a long time sitting out at Elizabeth waiting for the league game."

But it was worth the wait because Glenelg, which finished out of finals contention in sixth position that year, caused an upset.

"I remember we won the game, and it was a real big game to win out at Elizabeth because we were about seventh or eighth at the time and Central went on to do pretty well in the finals (third)," he said.

And for Carey, it was a big effort because he barely had been introduced to any of the league players.

He was rushed into the team after a season-and-a-half of Under-17s, five Under-19 games and four games in the reserves.

"The first time I'd trained with the league side was on the Thursday before the game, so I virtually had not met half the players I played with," he said. "That was back in the days when the league and reserves players were split at training.

"I still remember Neil Kerley that Thursday night. It was halfway through training and I thought I heard this voice from the other side of the oval calling my name.

"I wasn't sure so I turned around and started walking toward Neil Kerley.

"That's when he told me that when he talks, I jump, run and listen — not walk. That was my introduction to Neil Kerley.

"It was an incredible experience training with those guys. I used to watch the league side at every opportunity.

"The year before, when I was playing Under-17s we used to go to watch them, and I'd always stay after the reserves to watch my heroes.

"Peter Marker was one of my favorite players back in those days with the Phillis brothers, Brian Colbey, Graham Cornes and a few others."

Carey has remained while other great players and great teams have gone. He will continue to wear the black and gold for as long as he enjoys the game that has dominated half of his life.

"Obviously there have been a lot of ups and downs," he said.

"Some people say if you don't experience the downs you don't appreciate the highs.

"We've had a few low times at Glenelg. Probably '83 was the lowest when we lost eight in a row and Graham Campbell got the sack as coach midway through that season, and was reinstated later on.

"I feel that was one of the low periods — but there have been some great performances by the club and we've won more games than we've lost.

"We haven't won the premierships we could have, but we've started to rectify that in the past few years.

"I'd certainly do it all over again if given the chance because it has been so enjoyable."

And how does he feel about equalling the record this week and breaking it a week later (at his home ground this time against Central)?

"One thing I haven't done is play to break records," he said.

"I've played because I enjoy it.

"I guess it is nice to achieve goals and break records but the great thing is to keep on enjoying the game and I don't ever want to give it up . . . although I suppose there will come a time."

● Peter Carey, right, pictured last night at State training, sharing a joke with Darel Hart. Picture — Ray Titus

Elizabeth — June 18, 1971

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts
GLENELG.....	5.3	10.8	18.8	22.13	(145)
CENTRAL DISTRICT	2.4	6.11	10.13	16.15	(111)

Best — Glenelg: Voigt, Colbey, Barton, D. Phillis, Rosewarne, Osborne, Cornes, Marker. **Central:** Mulholland, Haughan, Swinstead, Norsworthy, Casserty, Nicks, Skinner, Vivian.

Scorers — Glenelg: D. Phillis 7.6, Voigt 5.1, Sandland 2.1, Barton 2.1, Button 2.1, Osborne 2.0, Carey 1.0, Pattinson 1.0, W. Phillis 0.1, Marker 0.1, rushed 0.1. **Central:** Norsworthy 4.0, Jones 3.0, Mulholland 2.2, Haughan 2.2, Wyley 1.5, Skinner 1.2, Casserty 1.1, Vivian 1.0, Saywell 1.0, Jones 0.1, Jarman 0.1, Mobbs 0.1.

Replacements — Glenelg: Carey by Hockridge last quarter. **Central:** Farnham (ankle) by Moore and Mobbs (twisted knee) by Johns third quarter.

Umpire — Murray Ducker. **Crowd —** 5394.

Reports — J. Wyley (Central) for allegedly striking B. Colbey in the last quarter. Reported by Ducker and boundary umpire M. Biggs.

● Scoreboard from Carey's debut on June 18, 1971

Gigantic

"I remember collecting money on the gate and not doing much school work because I was thinking about the game and coming up against Dean Farnham, who was at that stage a State ruckman, and a gigantic six foot, nine inch (206cm) man.

"I didn't know any of the league players and I didn't have a car so on the Saturday, I got a ride with Richard Thomlin and John McFarlane, who were playing in the seconds.

"They had to be at the oval at 10.30, so I certainly



He plays with his heart and his brain



Remarkable footballer and sportsman



1985 and his 400th club game were special



Best eye, hand, foot co-ordination I've seen

He's Super

It was a meeting of the football giants at Woodville Oval yesterday when Glenelg's Peter Carey equalled Russell Ebert's Australian record of 446 games.

Carey has played 428 games with Glenelg and represented SA 18 times.

He played in Glenelg's 1973 premiership, captained it to successive flags in 1985 and 1986, has won the club's best and fairest award three times and has topped the club goalkicking list once.

Today, columnist NEVILLE ROBERTS and other SA greats pay tribute:

I recall playing against Peter Carey while he was still at Seacombe High School.

He was a tall, lean, gangly youth who dominated every game.

He still is an awesome opponent, a little slower, but with quicker hands, not as much leap, but a lot harder to jump over.

He still covers a lot of turf and knows exactly where to be. His value apart from his consistent work rate is in his "set-up" and "organising" on the field.

His value for possessions always has staggered me. He is rarely caught and has great "feeling" for people around him.

Peter resisted all opportunities to play in the VFL and has a remarkable record as a one-club man.

The seasons are longer and the number of games greater these days, and it becomes much harder as you get older. I guess that's why so many players admire the man.

There have been times lately when the question of carrying on has been raised.

It always is a difficult decision and involves a great risk. It's one thing to make that decision to carry on, but much harder to go out there and do it.

But Peter has done that with distinction, and selection in the State squad for this month's clash against WA is proof of his prowess.

Peter's career is testimony to his persistence and hard work, a great example for anyone who wants to have a go at anything.

NEIL KERLEY, who "started" Peter's career said last week:

"If you give Peter Carey a job to do you can guarantee it'll be done. If he has a bad day or is being beaten, he's still great value because he's an incredible nuisance to the opposition. He's a real goer, he plays with his heart and with his brain."

Carey has played alongside many fine players. One was PETER MARKER, who captained Glenelg's 1973 premiership team.

"I remember coming to the football early on Saturdays to watch the seconds and I recall the amazement in the faces of people gazing at the massive highly talented

youth. "Neil Kerley, like all coaches, was concerned at promoting players to league ranks too early. But Peter was so good, so dominant, Neil and the selectors had no choice."

Marker prompted my memory, but there is an old and well-known story about Carey.

Before a Saturday outing against the Eagles at Thebarton, many of the team had suffered a virus. Symptoms were headaches, muscle weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea and so on.

Peter believed he could survive the game and lined up in his customary position at centre half-forward. Still fighting the symptoms of diarrhoea, the inevitable occurred, endearing him neither to his team mates nor the opposition.

At that time there was no interchange rule - if you left the ground you were off.

Peter that day found he could move around in an area the size of a paddock since no player, team-

years, has been a great support to him. She has seen it all, the discomfort, the anger, the heartbreak and the joy.

"There have been two most memorable moments. We weren't married in 1973, Peter's first premiership, so naturally 1985 was one of those special moments, and the other was his 400th club game last year."

Linda also has witnessed the disappointment when Peter was suspended and missed the preliminary final in 1984, the many lost grand finals in the '70s and '80s, and all the times of pain.

"He has been very lucky with injuries. He had a strained cruciate at the end of 1980 but recovered before the next season.

"He also had a bad driving muscle in 1982 but managed to play all the finals despite it."

Linda and Peter have two children, Justin, 7, and Matthew, 9, who take a lot of interest in dad's footy. But it's not one way.

"Peter coaches Paringa Under-8s where Justin goes to school. They train on Saturday mornings and play every Sunday afternoon," Linda said.

One man who has more right than most to discuss Peter's milestone is the man whose record he has equalled, former Port legend, now Woodville coach RUSSELL EBERT.

"It's a fantastic achievement, it's something that requires a lot of discipline and commitment. To play the number of games he has played each season is incredible.

"Playing at centre half-forward or in the ruck for most of his career he gets hit every week. He carries injuries most players couldn't.

"He is the smartest big man with the best eye, hand and foot co-ordination I have seen."

Carey's record-breaking match will live long in the minds and hearts of Glenelg fans and football lovers everywhere.

- as told to Peter Hurt.



by former Norwood and State star Neville Roberts

mate or opponent, could bear to get near him. I bet he washed his own gear that week!

Another teammate, close friend and current coach, GRAHAM CORNES feels strongly about his leader.

They have a subtle crack at each other publicly, to each other's enormous enjoyment and humor.

"His unathletic frame belies his brilliant football talent and uncannily quick football brain.

"He is a remarkable footballer and sportsman. He is more and more developing and flexing his muscles as a football authority."

Graham was responsible, and indeed claims full credit, for Peter's famous nickname, "Super".

But not all Peter's fans are footballers or football coaches.

LINDA CAREY, Peter's wife of 10



Well done, Super... coach Graham Cornes congratulates Peter Carey after the 1986 grand final

Kerley reiterates scathing attack

Neil Kerley's face twisted into that familiar, intensive grimace and the words tumbled out with utter conviction.



Geoff Roach

"I am looking for footballers with character, footballers you can build a strong side around, footballers with iron discipline," he said.

"I am a total believer in team guidelines and discipline.

"If players won't observe team discipline you have to let them go.

"I have got rid of some players with real ability because the time will come when they let you down.

"And usually that is the time when you can least afford it."

It was typically powerful straight-from-the-heart Kerley stuff.

But he wasn't talking of his current glamor side at Elizabeth or even recently.

The words were spoken during an interview more than four years ago, on the occasion of his 50th birth-

day, for the benefit of a Victorian newspaper audience.

They were part of a scathing attack he launched not just on the VFL and its policies, but on aspects of Australian youth and life.

Now 50 months later, as I reviewed them this week, they have been found to be extraordinarily spot on.

On the VFL he said: "The VFL is an ogre and I think even Victorians are beginning to realise it.

"It thinks only of itself. It doesn't give a damn if football is wrecked throughout Australia.

"Why doesn't Victoria try to develop some more players like Whitten, Bobby Skilton and Ron Barassi in-

stead of looking interstate all the time?"

"When will Kevin Sheedy break away from Tommy Hafey's style of training 10 years ago?"

"How can lower VFL clubs hope to lift themselves when they spend a million dollars on a couple of players?"

"I don't care how good they are, no players are worth that much. All you get out of that sort of deal is trouble.

"Nine times out of 10 the money is wasted and you create all sorts of rivalries, envies and bad feelings in the club.

"You create a monster which is exactly what the VFL has done.

"Too many footballers who play like amateurs are being paid like pros in Victoria. It is a vicious circle.

"Football clubs all over Australia are going broke."

Kerley learned something of values in life when his father, Laurie, died in 1945 leaving his mother with 20 bare acres and six children.

He was even more caustic about

Australia's direction in that same interview.

"I am particularly disappointed with society at present," he said.

"Teaching seems all wrong about a lot of things, particularly things like morals and character.

"Most modern kids are spoiled and self-indulgent, but what chance have they of being otherwise in a TV society?"

"It is too easy for them to push a button and opt for a fantasy life instead of doing things for themselves.

"In most of the shows they watch, even the police shows, the so-called hero always seems to be doing the wrong thing, trying to beat the law or enjoy some new kick.

"Honestly, we are going backwards."

Shown those words again this week, Kerley studied them and smiled: "I wasn't too far wrong was I?" he smiled.

"May be I should set up a business

as a consultant. But it doesn't give me much pleasure to be right because the same problems still exist in football and society."

But then he got to the final part of that story, where he had discussed his own future.

"I plan at this stage to retire at the end of this year from business - and probably from football also," he predicted.

"I've always wanted to retire at 50 and fish my way around Australia. I don't want to die a millionaire."

Of course, that's not what happened at all. Kerley found a new path to adventure with the SA America's Cup Challenge before his shock return to football as coach of Centrals this year.

"Oh well, it just shows a man's not infallible I suppose," he laughed.

"I reckon I might like to be a millionaire at least the day before I die.

"And I still intend to do that fishing stint. But not before October 1, Grand Final Day, this year. That's another peerless prediction."