

Bays alive, but West desperate

By MERV AGARS

West Adelaide can no longer claim to be a legitimate final-five contender.

Not even a home-ground advantage and a desperate need to win to preserve its finals aspirations were enough motivation to save it against Glenelg at Richmond Oval yesterday.

It went down by 19 points to record its seventh loss in its past eight games.

And don't be fooled by the final margin. With the last term more than half over, West trailed by a whopping 55 points and Glenelg looked a chance to make up enough percentage to tip West out of the five.

But Glenelg dropped the bit and West made a belated rush which brought it seven goals in about 12 minutes to save some face and keep its precarious hold on fifth spot.

Yet the result was enough to give Glenelg coach Graham Cornes one of his rare opportunities this season to smile.

"We are not dead yet," he said. "There were some encouraging signs today."

Not the least of these was the form of captain Chris McDermott in his comeback game, plus one.

Most of the familiar courage and skill were there as he repeatedly won the hard balls, and the importance of his deft hands was emphasised again as he shot out 19 unerring handpasses to team-mates.

He finished with 32 possessions in an effort similar to the performances which had become routine until his career was rudely interrupted at the end of last season.

But there were other important factors in Glenelg's win.

Defender Mark Donovan made a huge

Glenelg	4.2	11.5	19.7	23.10	(148)
West	5.4	8.8	12.10	19.15	(129)

contribution by shutting down ace West centreman Grantley Fielke.

He not only blanketed Fielke, but also made some important plays as he gathered 20 possessions.

Glenelg's control became apparent when West could not contain key forwards Jim West and Craig Budarick. The pair kicked 11 goals between them, eight of them from strong, clean marks.

West's inability to get the ball away from the centre-square bounces, where McDermott was dominant, and the strength and judgment of Glenelg defenders Chris Duthy and Neville Smith were other key factors.

Glenelg also took command across centre from halfway through the second term when wingman Mark Hewett and David Marshall got on top. Hewett produced a blazing second half in which he accumulated 17 kicks.

Despite ruck problems, West's best players were its rovers, Neville Shaw and Leon Grosser.

Shaw was a constant contributor around the ground with 33 possessions, and Grosser was the biggest threat to the Glenelg defence as he kicked five goals.

Defenders John O'Donohue, Tony Burgess and Brian Cordy were courageous and honest triers.

SCORERS — Glenelg: Budarick 6.3, West 5.1, Gibbs 3.1, Maynard 2.1, McDermott 2.0, Bow, Hewett 1.1, MacTavish, Marshall, Hodgeman 1.0, rushed 0.2. **West:** Grosser 5.0, Miller 2.2, James 2.1, Bennett, Edwards, Winter 2.0, Bayes 1.3, Shaw, Patterson 1.2, Bartsch 1.1, Twomey, O'Donohue 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST — Glenelg: Hewett, McDermott, Donovan, West, Duthy, Budarick, Maynard. **West:** Shaw, Grosser, Burgess, Cordy, O'Donohue, Bennett.

We just surrendered

VICTORIA	6.3	9.6	14.10	22.17	(149)
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	1.2	3.6	6.7	9.9	(63)

Interstate football is a story of glory and failure — of memories, good and bad.

Unfortunately for South Australia, the red ink of history will record a black mark against July 1, 1989.

Because that was the day it surrendered — without a fight, beaten by Victoria by a massive 86 points in a match many viewed as crucial to the future direction of football in Australia.

It was important for the healthy growth of the game at a national level that South Australia did not fail.

If it did, it was equally important that it did so with honor. It didn't.

Against an enemy in a stadium full of people wanting it to lose, it was always going to be tough because serious football has got little to do with fair play.

It is often bound up with anger, respect, boastfulness, sometimes a disregard for the rules and occasionally violence ... war without the shooting.

But South Australia never ever took aim.

From the start it was off balance and struggling between desperation and catastrophe.

The subconscious fear of what was about to happen was evident in the mutterings of coach John Cahill as early as the first quarter.

Twenty minutes into the game Cahill observed to his chairman of selectors, Dave Boyd: "Christ, they (the Victorians) are very, very quick."

Even before that he had been urging some commitment from some players. "Come on Greg ... Braddles, pick him up for God's sake ... Oh, no".

And, to runner Allan Gill, "Tell 'em (Danny Hughes and Roger Delaney) they've gotta play 'em from in front."

With Cahill locked away in his glass perch high above the game, the players had no chance of hearing.

But even when they were told, it seems they didn't hear.

Lindsay put on to Daniher

And it seemed, too, that the 91,960 crowd had conspired to make things even more difficult for Cahill.

Mid-way through the second quarter and worried by the influence of Terry Daniher across the Victorian half-forward line, Cahill shouted down the line to Gill (the message carrier) to "get Anderson off, put Stretch to a wing and Lindsay on to Daniher."

It was the right move, but the roar of the crowd distorted things ... and Lindsay was heard as Lindner.

It was no big deal and Daniher did not run amok during the confusion, but it was a frustration and a distraction Cahill hardly needed when the fight for survival was in the balance.

And while the grim reality of the situation was reflected in the eyes of the South Australian coach as he searched desperately for a way out of the confusion, a few feet to his left and behind the soundproofed glass was Bill Goggin, coach of the Victorian side — smiling and occasionally laughing with his co-selectors Ted Whitten and Ron Barassi.

But Cahill didn't see them.

Their joy was triggered by a performance that was staggering in its brutal denunciation of the South Australian game.

Down 35 points at half-time and still with time to believe that success is not based on where you start but where you finish, Cahill and Boyd poured over the first-half statistics looking for an answer.

It wasn't hard to find.

As suspected, Victorian ruckman Simon Madden was a huge force.

He is so tall it is not possible to know for sure whether he actually has a face.

Certainly, no-one in the South Australian team ever got close enough to find out.

But that did not come as a great surprise.

What was a shock was the almost total eclipse by Victoria of South Aus-



tralia's John Platten, Mark Naley, Michael Aish and Tony McGuinness.

In recent years their pace and creative genius have provided the impetus for some stirring victories.

It was thought they would spearhead another.

They did nothing of the sort. Instead, they were hunted and hounded out of the game by a disciplined and destructive band of "assassins" such as Andrew Bews, Dale Weightman, Andrew Collins and Brett Lovett.

Their quick hands and quick heads made a mockery of some big reputations.

During the break, Cahill, Boyd and Barrie Robran devised a plan; figured they had two chances of succeeding — by their own industry or by the folly of the Victorians.

It was a long shot but, in the words of Cahill ... "We (have) got nothing to lose."

The major problem for South Australia was its failure in the centre square.

It could not generate anything, so Cahill installed Craig Bradley in the middle and moved Andrew Jarman to a following role, with Aish switching to a half-forward flank.

Jarman's performance in the muddled history was superb and, in the end, he deserved to win the Fos Williams Medal as South Australia's best player.

And Bradley was a better player away from the fierceness of Victorian wingman Darrin Pritchard.

But Victoria was in the mood to tear the hide off an elephant. It would not be stopped; no way.

It had suffered three humiliating defeats by South Australia in the past three years and revenge was its goal.

And when Tony Hall was crippled by a serious knee injury just after the start of the third quarter, South Australia seemed to sag even further.

Hall had given the attack some spark, some hope, had taken some risks and made things happen.

It was like a blow to the heart, and Cahill felt it.

He hoped the players didn't. But he remarked — to no-one in particular: "That can shatter you when you see your mate carried off on a stretcher like that."

But things got worse — especially at the other end of the ground, where Jason Dunstall and Tony Lockett played with all the subtlety of a couple of sledgehammers, but with the skill of two superb artists.

They put in jeopardy the State careers of Danny Hughes and Roger Delaney, who never came to terms with the fairly basic fundamentals of defence, one of which is to play in front of your opponent.

Midway through the last term and with 15 minutes to play, Victoria's Dermott Brereton was toying with the South Australian defence; taunting it with his skills, his arrogance and his lime-green boots.

It was too much for Cahill and, without too much emphasis but with a whole lot of feeling, he murmured to Boyd: "Well, Dave, we've had some highs and some lows, but this is one of the lowest."

"Yep," said Boyd.

"It sure is."

SCORERS — Victoria: Lockett 5.2, Dunstall 4.1, Brereton 3.0, Bruns 2.1, Daniher 2.1, Murphy 1.2, Scott 1.2, Weightman 1.1, Bews 1.1, Watson 1.0, Pritchard 1.0, Collins, Mitchell, Stoneham, 0.1, rushed 0.1. **South Australia:** Kernahan 4.3, Smith 2.1, D. Jarman 2.0, Lindner 1.0, Aish, Hall, Mickan, McGuinness, 0.1, rushed 0.1.

BEST — Victoria: Brown, Pritchard, Madden, Daniher, Couch, Bruns, Dunstall, Lockett. **South Australia:** A. Jarman, Kernahan, Bradley, Streich, Whittlesea.

Umpires: Laurie Argent (SA), Peter Carey (Vic).

Premiership table

	W	L	F	A	P.c.	Pts
NORTH	11	1	1462	922	60.66	22
PORT	10	2	1478	1034	58.83	20
TORRENS	7	5	1478	1221	49.38	14
CENTRAL	7	5	1191	1221	48.91	14
WEST	5	7	1198	1571	48.80	10
W'DVILLE	5	7	1088	1235	46.83	10
GLENELG	5	7	1069	1232	46.46	10
NORWOOD	4	8	1167	1185	49.62	8
STURT	3	9	1019	1190	46.13	6
SOUTH	3	9	1010	1312	43.50	6

GOALKICKERS

R. MANDEMAKER (Central)	2.1	56.31
S. HODGES (Port)	2.3	48.38
C. LINDSAY (Torrens)	4.1	41.11
A. JAKOVICH (Woodville)	6.7	39.36
J. WEST (Glenelg)	5.1	35.10
I. WILLMOTT (Sturt)	4.6	34.15
P. HARPER (Woodville)	3.0	33.7
S. TASKER (North)	1.0	31.20
R. SMITH (Port)	7.0	30.12
P. BENNETT (North)	-	28.18

SA DRAW

13th SERIES

Saturday — FOOTBALL PARK: West v Torrens. ADELAIDE OVAL: Central v Woodville. ALBERTON OVAL: Port v Norwood. PROSPECT OVAL: North v South. GLENELG OVAL: Glenelg v Sturt.

GLENELG	KICKS				TOTAL	M	H/B	P/B	M/B	F/B	H/B
	1	2	3	4							
RUSSELL	1	3	-	-	4	2	10	1	-	-	1
BUDARICK	4	1	3	2	10	8	-	-	-	6	3
MacTAVISH	3	3	1	2	9	-	4	2	2	1	-
BOW	2	3	2	1	8	2	11	-	2	1	1
WEST	1	3	4	1	9	6	9	1	3	5	1
CHRWIDDEN	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	1	-	-
HEWETT	5	4	9	8	26	5	5	1	-	1	1
DEANE	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
MARSHALL	5	5	7	4	21	4	6	-	2	1	-
THOMPSON	2	4	4	7	17	6	3	1	-	-	-
BEEBOHM	1	2	1	1	5	2	5	-	-	-	1
DONOVAN	2	2	3	3	10	-	10	-	2	-	-
SALISBURY	2	4	3	-	9	4	11	2	-	-	-
DUTHY	3	3	-	3	9	5	8	-	-	-	-
SMITH	1	3	3	-	7	1	8	2	-	-	7
MELICAN	2	2	3	-	7	5	10	1	-	-	29
McDERMOTT	4	3	3	3	13	-	19	4	2	2	-
HODGEMAN	3	2	4	3	12	-	8	1	2	1	1
GIBBS	1	4	4	1	10	2	4	2	3	-	-
MAYNARD	2	4	7	1	14	8	7	2	3	2	1
RUSHED	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTALS	44	55	81	46	206	58	137	22	23	23	35

WEST	KICKS				TOTAL	M	H/B	P/B	M/B	F/B	H/B
	1	2	3	4							
GROSSER	4	3	5	5	17	1	7	2	1	5	-
FOOT	1	4	2	2	9	7	8	1	2	-	15
MILLER	4	3	-	-	7	6	1	-	-	2	2
PATTERSON	4	2	1	3	10	5	5	-	1	1	2
TWOMEY	4	2	1	1	8	3	12	-	1	-	1
LAMB	2	4	3	3	12	5	9	2	3	-	-
BAYES	2	3	4	3	12	6	11	3	-	1	3
FIELKE	1	3	3	3	10	1	8	1	-	-	-
BENNETT	2	5	1	2	10	1	13	3	1	2	-
CORDY	2	7	3	5	17	5	6	1	1	-	-
O'DONOHUE	7	3	2	2	14	8	7	2	1	-	1
BURGESS	2	5	3	4	14	5	9	2	-	-	1
HERBERT	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-
WINTER	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	2	-	-
DENNERMAN	2	4	3	-	9	4	7	2	1	-	-
BARTSCH	1	1	-	-	2	4	7	6	-	-	16
LARKINS	1	2	3	1	7	-	8	1	5	-	-
SHAW	9	7	3	4	23	2	10	2	2	1	2
EDWARDS	-	-	-	-	0	3	2	-	1	2	-
JAMES	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	2	1
RUSHED	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTALS	49	58	45	55	207	70	135	23	22	19	33