

KINGSTON
ON SPORT

Geoff
Kingston



Cornes and Basheer still remember

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes is trained to kill. So is Max Basheer, the president of the South Australian National Football League.

And while Cornes is not sure whether he has killed someone, Basheer never quite got the chance... although he was ready, if required.

Yesterday, Anzac Day, Cornes recalled his fighting days in the steamy and dangerous jungles of Vietnam, where death hovered close by. Just a few hours earlier, when his players were preparing for combat with Port, Cornes was remembering — and marching down King William Street alongside his mates from those days in the killing fields.

It was 1970, Cornes was 22 and conscripted into the Army. He didn't want to be there but he was sent with the 7th Battalion to Vietnam.

His war initially was not unlike the television version as portrayed in M.A.S.H.

"I had a pretty cushy job with the mortar platoon," he said. "But then I got into a little bit of trouble and was told I had to be put where my temperament would be best suited. So I was sent to the infantry — and the front line."

The "bit of trouble" Cornes refers to included refusing to pick up cigarette butts when asked to do so. "I didn't smoke so why should I have picked them up," was his reasoning in those days.

Later he spent seven days in jail for disobeying a command. "I bought a soft drink and went to watch a film after I was told not to," he said.

So he was arrested and placed in detention barracks for a week and then dumped by helicopter into the middle of his jungle. Very soon he was to be petrified by fear.

"That was really scary — especially at night," he said. "You could hear them (the Viet Cong) out there but couldn't see them. We were right on the front line and we had some contact with them."

"I don't know whether I shot any of them... I certainly tried. It was a war out there."

Carrying a machine gun and laden with supplies, Cornes and his buddies spent their days and nights on patrol, squelching through mud, sleeping when and where they could, setting ambushes and screening villages. It was dangerous, soul-destroying work.

Cornes was hoping to survive and trying to kill his fear.

"I think there are people who have this romantic notion about war," Cornes said. "They think soldiers are daring and brave — and some of them are."

"It's true that war does highlight bravery but it also highlights folly. And war is hard, and boring a lot of the time. You are always dirty, always hungry; your socks rot on your feet and you drink out of puddles. It goes on and on, 24 hours a day."

Cornes, like most of the other conscripts, believed in what they were doing at the time.

"We were not murdering innocent mothers and babies," he said. "Out in Phuoc Tuy Province you only had to see the atrocities; to see the village chief and teachers killed and garrotted only because they did not support the other side."

"We were trying to save those people."

Cornes did make it home after seven months and over the past years the experience has become an increasingly important part of his life... especially on Anzac Day.

"Anzac Day represents the spirit of Australia," he said. "While it seems stupid to worship a day when a group of Australians were ridiculously ordered to a slaughter it is nonetheless the spirit on which Australia was born."

"And I think it's important to cling to some of the old values and traditions."

"But it took me a long time to march. It's only in the past four years I've done so and I suppose part of my reason was that we were made to feel self-conscious about that unpopular war."

"But I've come to terms with that now and will continue to march when I can."

And when he talks about that ugly time in history of which he was an unwilling player you get the feeling Cornes must wonder... "can anything be more ridiculous than that a man should have the right to kill someone just because he lives on the other side of the water and because his boss has a quarrel with mine — though I have none with him?"

There is no doubt Vietnam has had an impact on Cornes's life. But while the war may have killed the people and killed some comrades, it did not kill the spirit that is epitomised in his willingness to remember — and march.

Tigers reflect the tradition of Anzac Day

By ASHLEY PORTER

Glenelg picked up its ball, went home a winner by eight points, and knocked Port Adelaide's competitive arrogance on the head.

This was the story from Football Park yesterday as 26,135 fans witnessed the tradition of Anzac Day — never giving up despite the odds.

The field umpires, Michael Abbott and Leslie Harrison, who replaced Steve Semmler who went off with a calf muscle injury in the third term, refused to use Glenelg's football in the last quarter.

They considered it "too flat" for them to bounce, but Glenelg was not deterred. It merely went about achieving the day's goal — winning.

According to league rules, the umpires are supposed to use the brand of footballs favored by each side for half a game.

While it was a relatively minor incident, the players knew about it and intensified their will to win.

In doing so, the competitive edge Port has enjoyed over Glenelg since last season disappeared with the occasional showers.

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes summed up his side's spirit of the day when he said: "It was an important game because one had the impression they were becoming a bit arrogant against us."

"We had to put a stop to this." Glenelg did just that, set up by a magnificent first quarter when it led by 29 points, leaving Port to play "catch-up footy".

As hard as Port tried, it couldn't capture the lead as Glenelg withstood the pressures.

These teams have been renowned for flexing their muscles and South Australian National Football League commissioner Brian Martin, QC, could have been excused for thinking he would be required at a tribunal tonight.

But while it was a magnificent contest, neither Glenelg nor Port produced the spite or bitterness they had shown in previous big clashes.

The hardest bump of the day was produced by Glenelg's Scott Salisbury against Paul Northeast early in the second term, but while it warranted a free kick, it was neither vicious nor reportable.

To the credit of both teams, they played the ball — contesting fiercely, almost as if they were playing their grand final again.

Port coach John Cahill admitted his side did not play well early, which ultimately cost his team the game.

"Glenelg got the jump and we were trying to catch up all the time," he said. "We weren't fluent, but I think we can improve a lot."

Glenelg	6.3	8.4	11.4	13.7	(85)
Port	1.4	5.6	8.8	11.11	(77)

SCORERS — Glenelg: West 3.0, Hodgeman 2.1, Chigwidden 2.1, Marshall 2.0, Garton 1.1, Jameson 1.1, Hewett 1.0, Maynard 1.0, Salisbury 0.1, rushed 0.2. **Port:** R. Smith 4.1, Phelps 2.3, Hodges 2.2, S. Williams 2.1, Ginever 1.0, Johnston 0.1, Obst 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST — Glenelg: Marshall, MacTavish, Hodgeman, Jameson, Maynard, Hewett, West. **Port:** Delaney, Ginever, R. Smith, Tregenza, Fiacchi.

Umpires — Steve Semmler (replaced by Leslie Harrison third quarter), Michael Abbott.

"We were due for a loss, if you want to look at it in a positive way, and now we have to respond."

Port lost two of its running players, Wayne Mahney (calf) and Mark Warton (ankle), forcing Cahill to place his side top-heavy in the forward lines.

Newcomers make win more special

But, as expected from a man who has rarely, if ever, made excuses, he took nothing away from Glenelg's win.

There was a tremendous build-up for the game by both sides because it was Anzac Day... the tradition, huge attendance, and the fact it was a re-match of the grand finalists.

If there was a pre-match doubt about Glenelg, it centred on the players it has introduced to league. They could have become overawed by the occasion, flustered, and tentative by the might of the reigning premier.

But they didn't, especially half-forward Rodney Jameson, who was one of Glenelg's best.

It was the promising performances by the newcomers which made the win even more special. Glenelg has contested six of the past eight grand finals and to remain as one of the league's measuring sticks after losing so many players along the way is a credit to the club's administration.

In assessing where Glenelg won the game, one could not go past its quick movement of the ball, particularly in the first quarter.

Both teams were highly committed but when the ball was loose, Glenelg was there first more often.

Port had too many players down on form. They included Bruce Abernethy, Mahney (partly due to injury) and Greg Phillips.

Glenelg also had its share of "big-name" players who didn't fire, including Adam Garton who was well contained by Roger Delaney, wingman Tony Symonds who was eventually taken off,

and Salisbury after starting well.

But the difference was that Glenelg was able to carry its top players who had an "off" day by producing an overall team effort and displaying admirable desperation to win the hard ball.

Cahill made some good moves during the match but it wasn't enough to change the tide. Full forward Scott Hodges switched with centre half-forward Geoff Phelps, while David Brown and Andrew Obst switched on the ball.

While Glenelg's "kids" acquitted themselves well, which speaks volumes for the future, it was the old campaigners who really showed how to perform on a big day.

Centreman David Marshall's form lifted 100 per cent on recent efforts and he was tenacious in winning the ball, showing the guts and character which can lift a side and present opportunities for team-mates.

And Kym Hodgeman, the man who almost didn't play this year because of persistent injuries, was inspirational.

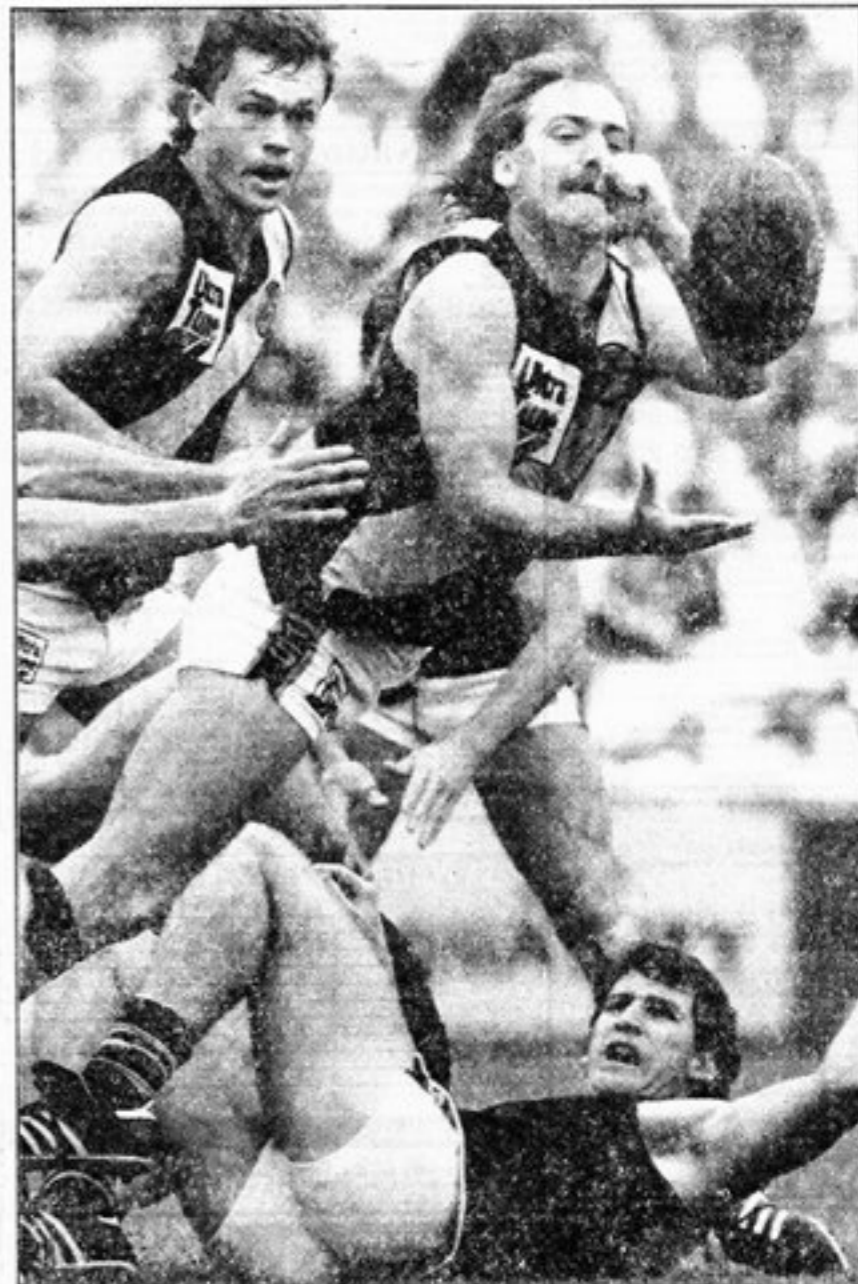
He may have lost some pace compared with his 1978 Magarey Medal season but he is still blessed with skills, creativeness and the ability to ignite Glenelg from the packs and in the forward lines.

Then there was Tony MacTavish. Even some Glenelg stalwarts used to rate him as "just a league player".

But yesterday he was resilient in a back pocket. His courage, determination and ability to remain calm under pressure epitomised Glenelg's game.

Port received top contributions from Stephen Williams, whose persistence was again admired, while Frohan Smith was ever dangerous in the forward line.

The ruckmen did not have a great influence on the match, although Glenelg's Gary Christie won in this area.



TIGERS' DETERMINATION... epitomised by Kym Hodgeman as he handballs from a pack. Watching is team-mate Adam Garton, with Gary Christie on the ground. Picture: BARRY O'BRIEN

Ladder

	W	L	D	F	A	P.c.	Pts
Torrens	2	-	-	325	185	63.73	4
Norwood	2	-	-	223	137	61.94	4
North	2	-	-	239	151	61.28	4
West	2	-	-	256	175	59.34	4
Port	1	1	-	224	200	52.83	2
Glenelg	1	1	-	162	165	49.54	2
Woodville	-	2	-	184	256	41.82	-
South	-	2	-	177	257	40.78	-
Sturt	-	2	-	175	282	38.29	-
Central	-	2	-	150	307	32.82	-

Goalkickers

A. Jakovich (Woodville)	4.4	11.7
L. Schache (Torrens)	7.4	11.5
P. Harper (Woodville)	5.0	9.1
D. Stoeckel (South)	5.7	8.7
R. Mandemaker (Central)	4.3	8.4
D. Kitschke (Sturt)	2.0	7.3