



**GLENELG
NORTH**

**3.3 4.5 13.9 17.16 (118)
2.3 8.7 11.9 14.11 (95)**



Glenelg's Jason Bromilow is the stepping stone for a Darren Jarman mark while (right) Kim Klomp (North) and Glenelg's Darren Mansell battle for possession



THE STARS

Lawrie McCauley selects:

1. Rod Jameson: Did well in defence and then lifted the side when switched to centre in the second half. Cool, precise and effective.
2. John Fidge: Wore North full back Simon Trenorden like a shadow but still managed six goals.
3. Darren Jarman: Whether at centre or full forward, Jarman is all class. Not normally noted for his performances in big games — but yesterday showed the way for North.

Peter Prime selects:

1. John Fidge: A superb focal point all day for Glenelg, kicking 6.4. His strong marking was again a feature.
2. Rod Jameson: Had many touches and used the ball effectively all day.
3. Darren Jarman: Represented a danger all day for Glenelg with his inspirational qualities and football magic. He finished with four good goals.

Glenelg 'hot' for Magpies

By Peter Prime

It promises to be the best match of the finals — the first time Glenelg and Port have clashed since July 31, the day Port announced it had signed a heads-of-agreement deal with the Australian Football League.

The clubs have met in court since then, but not on the football field.

Glenelg won the right to face minor premier Port in Saturday's second semi-final when it beat North Adelaide in yesterday's qualifying final at Football Park before a crowd of 15,626.

The Bays stormed home in the second half to win 17.16 to 14.11 after trailing by 26 points at half-time.

North's first half ascendancy was fired by an incident between Glenelg's Michael Murphy and Rooster ruckman Mick Redden seconds after the first bounce. Murphy ran through the centre square and collected Redden with a vigorous bump that seemingly stunned the North big man.

Glenelg and Port last met on July 15, when the Magpies won by 20 points.

MURPHY'S LAW IN CHARGE!

By Lawrie McCauley

Glenelg dramatically exposed and then exploited North Adelaide's alarming lack of depth in yesterday's qualifying final at Football Park.

Four things stand out from yesterday's game.

The most important is that Glenelg was able to haul itself from a 26-point deficit at half-time to emerge victorious 17.16 (118) to 14.11 (95).

The other three all involved Glenelg centre half-forward Michael Murphy.

Murphy was involved in a heavy clash with big North ruckman Mike Redden within seconds of the opening bounce. At first it appeared a monumental blunder because Redden, after eventually picking himself up off the turf, played an inspired game and kicked three goals in the first half.

But after another clash with Murphy, during the third term, Redden eventually was forced to leave the field with slight concussion.

The other incident involved a collision between Murphy and North defender Sean Tasker, who had to leave the field with an ankle injury.

The North camp was not happy with all three incidents but the fact remains that no umpire saw anything untoward. That is the only thing that matters.

What should be of concern is that North did not have the personnel to replace Redden and Tasker when they left the field. Tasker's exit signalled a complete collapse from North.

The Roosters were in total disarray late in the third term and Glenelg registered five goals in seven minutes. Two of them came from uncharacteristic North errors that perhaps best indicated the side had been thrown off balance.

Glenelg sensed it and quickly pounced. If you give Glenelg a sniff of vulnerability it will act ruthlessly.

North began the game well, with Darren Jarman, Darel Hart, Neil Craig and David Sanders creating enormous drive. Glenelg faltered in the centre square and its forwards were being starved of opportunities.

Glenelg had only one serious option in front of goal — John Fidge, who booted three of Glenelg's four goals to half-time.

But Rod Jameson, who had performed well across half-back in the first half, was moved into the centre for the rest of the match and he made a tremendous amount of difference.

Cool, precise and effective — he rescued the situation by combating the North ballgetters.

Fidge maintained his impact by kicking six goals, despite a gallant attempt by Simon Trenorden to blanket him.

Little Paul Hallahan was creative and damaging. John Seebom led the defence with his intelligent reading of the play. Darren Mansell kicked four goals, three of them in the third term to help spark the revival, captain Chris McDermott picked up a lot of touches and Jason Bromilow stuck to his task at full back.

North will rue the many missed opportunities in the first half, when it could have sealed the game. It also will be carefully assessing its team composition during the week as it prepares to meet the winner of today's game between Norwood and South Adelaide.

Losing Redden and Tasker, with Troy Lehmann and Steven Sims on the bench, was the worst possible scenario.

Everyone knows North is rebuilding — but opposition sides couldn't care less about that in the finals, especially now that every game North plays will be a knock-out match.

Jarman, Hart, Trevor Clisby, Bradley Ryan, Craig, Sanders and Redden all lifted for the added pressure of the opening finals contest. But the end result shows there still are some question marks hovering over the North line-up.

Glenelg, on the other hand, answered its critics in the second half of yesterday's game and now is looking forward to Saturday's clash with minor premier Port Adelaide.

Port and Glenelg have not met since Port lodged its application to join the Australian Football League. And if you think the possible AFL move has nothing to do with Saturday's match and the feeling it will generate, think again... and make sure you get to Footy Park to watch the game.

The details

BEST — GLENELG: Jameson, Fidge, Hallahan, Seebom, Mansell, McDermott, Bromilow. **NORTH:** Jarman, Hart, Clisby, Ryan, Craig, Sanders, Redden.

GOALS — GLENELG: Fidge 6.4, Mansell 4.1, Lamb 2.1, Hallahan 2.0, Chigwidden 1.1, Marshall 1.0, Salisbury 1.0, Thompson 0.1, Murphy 0.1, Jameson 0.1, rushed 0.6. **NORTH:** Jarman 4.0, Redden 3.0, Burton 2.3, Saliba 2.0, Hart 1.2, Parsons 1.1, Klomp 1.0, Vanzetta 0.2, Sanders 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES — NORTH: Tasker (ankle), Redden (slight concussion)

UMPIRES — Rick Kinnear and Mark Mackie

CROWD — 15,626

Elimination Final

South 19-18 d. Norwood 13-12

Qualifying Final

Glenelg 17-16 d. North 14-11

Next Week

First Semi Final: North v South

Second Semi Final: Port v Glenelg

X-rays for Tasker but he may play

By Lawrie McCauley and Peter Prime

North Adelaide defender Sean Tasker may play in next Sunday's first semi-final.

Tasker last night had X-rays to determine the extent of an ankle injury, suffered in yesterday's loss to Glenelg.

It showed no fractures and he has suffered only a sprain.

Medical advice last night indicated he is a chance to play — but that will have to be properly assessed during training.

Tasker left the field on a stretcher

during the third term and could only watch from the sidelines as his side collapsed under the pressure Glenelg exerted to win the match.

He left Football Park on crutches and was immediately taken for X-rays.

North also was concerned about the availability of ruckman Mike Redden.

He also did not complete the game. After two heavy clashes with Glenelg forward Michael Murphy, he left the field with slight concussion.

However, he is expected to shrug off the after-effects and it would take a lot more to prevent the man who holds the club record for the most number of games played (304) not to add to that tally.

North will meet the winner of today's

elimination final, between Norwood and South Adelaide, next Sunday.

Glenelg emerged from yesterday's game unscathed and will contest Saturday's second semi-final against minor premier Port Adelaide.

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes had every reason to smile after the 23-point triumph.

"I was very pleased with the win, especially our second half," he said.

"We didn't play well in the first two quarters, that was obvious."

"But North Adelaide was very, very good."

"We had to improve."

"I think we were always confident that if we were in touch at three quarter time, we had a good chance."

"However, I hadn't really counted on

that five goal burst at the end of the third quarter. That gave us a buffer zone which we needed."

Before that five goal burst, North had been leading 11.9 to 8.6.

But when Tasker was taken from the field, North appeared to lose its way and Glenelg was quick to capitalise.

"We definitely came unbalanced when we lost Tasker," said North coach Mike Nunan.

"But you can't take anything away from Glenelg. They played better than us on the day."

"We had our opportunities but weren't good enough to take them."

"We didn't have the depth to replace players and that's a problem we as a club must fix."

Perhaps the most disappointing

aspect of yesterday's match was the fact only 15,626 people attended.

North and Glenelg have given their fans some great finals moments in recent years. They contested the 1985, '86 and '87 grand finals with Glenelg winning two and North the third.

Glenelg reached the grand final in 1988 and North last year, only to lose to Port.

Perhaps the only excuse for such a dismal crowd, in such good weather, is the fact both had the double-chance and the result did not jeopardise their premiership hopes.

But for North, next week becomes a cut-throat final, and that's when it will expect full supporter backing.



AS REDLEGS CALL FOR SHOCK MERGER TALKS:

WHERE WILL IT END?

By Lawrie McCauley

An eight-team competition next year, with a six-team competition before the end of the 1990s.

These have now become serious options in the wake of the most dramatic period in the history of the South Australian National Football League.

The shock merger proposal by Norwood, one of SA's most powerful teams, hot on the heels of the Woodville West Torrens pact, has left supporters wondering where it will all end.

Likely participation by an SA team in the AFL next year and the resultant financial consequences for local clubs, have been the catalyst for upheaval.

However, SANFL general manager, Mr Leigh Whicker, yesterday hit out at the swelling ranks of football's doom-and-gloom prophets, claiming SA football was on the threshold of a "very exciting era".

Despite the turmoil from the rush for an AFL licence, steps are being taken to ensure the long-term viability of football in SA, if a composite side gets the nod ahead of "rival" Port Adelaide.

"It's not all doom and gloom," Mr Whicker said. "It could be an enormously successful venture, as long as the local competition is given a priority when the national team begins."

"And that means maximising Football Park, match programming so we don't conflict with AFL games, preventing live footy from the AFL into SA and joint marketing opportunities."

"We could be heading for a very exciting era ... if we get it right," he said.

It is only realistic for clubs to review their situations. An expected 40-50 per cent decline in attendances will hit them severely.

They will, however, receive additional revenue from the State's AFL team. And more people will go to footy, albeit with the majority attending AFL games.

The league has scheduled a meeting for financial directors and general managers of each SA club this Thursday. It has prepared detailed financial statements for the clubs to review.

They give a current overview of the financial impact an AFL team in SA will have on each club. The clubs will be able to compare what they now spend and earn with the 1991 scenario.

"An AFL team will have a significant impact and it is important we work together on ways of lessening that impact," Whicker said. "Teams have to be competitive, viable and present a reasonable standard."

Whether the domestic competition should be reduced to eight or six teams is debatable. The fact clubs are talking about reducing the number is a promising sign.

There is no question the introduction of an AFL team decimated football in Western Australia.

Clubs there refused to accept the inevitable.

With all the hype and excitement about the emerging West Coast

Eagles, the AFL team's impact on the domestic competition initially was overlooked.

In SA, clubs are gearing for change and embracing it with courage and determination, as shown by yesterday's merger revelation made by Norwood general manager, Wally Miller.

Football is all about tradition, emotion and business acumen.

The game will survive if the clubs place the game first. And that appears to be happening despite the furore initiated by Port signing its heads-of-agreement deal with the AFL nearly seven weeks ago.

Whicker said it was too early to say if the league

would convene a major convention to discuss the future.

Until Wednesday night's historic AFL meeting, no-one knows what the future holds.

It still is not known if the 14 AFL clubs will vote on whether or not to accept a composite side.

Those 14 clubs will vote on Port's bid. If they reject it, the AFL can legally consider the SANFL composite side submission.

The meeting will change the face of football in this State.

And if all goes well, the change could be for the betterment of the game and the people who go to watch it every week.



Leigh Whicker

Weidemann first new Eagle

Wayne Weidemann has signed to play with the proposed new Woodville-West Torrens Football Club for the next two years.

Weidemann, 23, recruited from Canberra where he played for Eastlake in 1988-89, was one of the Eagles' stars in his debut season.

A ruthless, ball-getter, with fine skills, he was a big possession winner and with 97 tackles, led the league in that category.

Weidemann is the first player to officially sign with the new "Eagles".

"We're delighted," West Torrens general manager, Tony Farugia said.

Fighting for survival

By Lawrie McCauley

Call it amalgamation or merger — but more teams will follow in the wake of Woodville-West Torrens and bite the bullet to form new club alliances.

The expected inroads an Australian Football League team will have on the South Australian National Football League will be dramatic, and already we have seen the results with the powerful Norwood club announcing its willingness to talk about a merger.

Woodville and West Torrens acted swiftly when they saw the writing on the wall and, for the sake of football in this State, another club must join forces with the Redlegs.

Working on the assumption a composite side will win the AFL licence this Wednesday — the number of teams in the domestic competition must be reduced.

For close to a decade, people have been saying South Australia cannot produce the talent to field 10 teams.

If Woodville-Torrens goes ahead, there will be nine teams in the SANFL and another in the AFL. The spread of talent will merely be weighted heavily in favor of the composite side.

We, as spectators, are left with nine local clubs who have had the cream of their talent stripped away.

But mergers involve much more than just football talent. The almighty dollar will dictate which clubs survive and which will be threatened with extinction before coming to grips with the word "amalgamation".

The debate about eight teams or six teams will surely be a talking point until it is finally determined



HISTORY IN THE MAKING ... Last week's final encounter between Woodville and West Torrens — how many other clubs will bite the bullet?

how good the competition is in the wake of AFL participation.

Six teams seems drastic. But many are saying dramatic measures will be needed to offset the turmoil to follow.

What would probably happen then is a reduced season. Each of the six teams — say Port, Glenelg, Norwood-Sturt, North-Central, South-West and Woodville-Torrens — would play each other three times, making it a 15 round minor season. Playing each other four times may be seen as "over-kill" and is not a popular option.

There then would be a final four

major round to determine the premiership.

The advantage of this method is that each of the six clubs should be financially viable and the spread of talent should ensure each is able to produce a good standard of play good enough to attract spectators to watch the games.

The shorter season would also enable fans to switch off from the local competition in time to properly concentrate on the AFL finals. And it would be hoped the SA composite side is doing well enough to be involved in the race

for the flag against their national league opponents.

The advantage of an eight-team competition is that teams would be required to play each other three times, making it a 21-round minor season. That may well ensure more money with an extra six weeks of play, which is fine if people support the competition.

A final four probably would still apply.

Another advantage is that you are not left with as many disgruntled club fans, who have the power to make or break any move.

Fans of Woodville and Torrens may be upset and decide to walk away from the newly formed side next season. If other teams decide to go the same way, you have more people upset with the harsh change that they would be asked to accept.

Those who talk of the proud history and heritage of their club would naturally be miffed to see that watered down by being integrated with another team.

But if the WA experience is anything to go by, then change is inevitable.

Clubs can expect a 40 to 50 percent drop in attendances at their games.

That will result in a hefty loss in revenue. Players will have to be paid less, as will coaches, office staff and administrators.

If there are six clubs, there is more money paid to each from the profits expected to be gained from the composite side in the AFL. If there are eight sides those profits would not go as far.

The time to make hard decision already is here. Whether Wednesday night's vote of AFL club directors favors a Port or a composite side entry — the fact is that SA will have a team in the AFL in 1991.

Only time will tell how many SANFL teams will weather the storm.



Composite AFL team 'would hit SA footy'

Port Adelaide club president Bruce Weber (pictured above) believes his club's future would be in doubt if a composite side was entered in the Australian Football League next season.

"If a composite side goes into the AFL, we at Port Adelaide believe the income to all the clubs with large members would mean we would have to look seriously at our situation," he said.

"We believe that if a composite side is entered you would take players away, junior development would suffer and football would be on a decline as it is in WA."

Weber says Port's bid protects each club in this State, claiming they then would have time to get their house in order.

He said a composite team would result in the even distribution of funds — pooling — to the detriment of clubs like Port, Glenelg, North and Norwood who have worked hard to build up a power base of members and junior development within their zones.

With all clubs gaining equal benefit from the composite side, there would be less incentive to do the hard work needed to foster the development of the game.

Weber makes no apology for Port being the catalyst that already has sparked merger talks between West Torrens and Woodville, and now has Norwood openly admitting it wants to talk to other clubs about amalgamation.

"The 10 league clubs have been talking about mergers for the past three years that I know about," Weber said.

"Football has to progress in South Australia and that means change."

"And change is something they have been trying to hold back on."

"People complained when the horse gave way to internal combustion engines."

"But change is usually for the good."

— LAWRIE McCauley