

SPORT

Round 17, 1990

Warriors set to move

Woodville's game against Sturt yesterday was probably its last at Woodville Oval. If all goes to plan, Woodville will relocate to Football Park for the 1991 season as West Torrens' co-tenant. Early this season Woodville and Port (before its AFL bid) were mooted as possible co-tenants with West Torrens. West Torrens was able to seal a deal pre-season which enabled it to use Football Park for home games while it continues to use Thebarton Oval for training.

Roosters in command

Genial giant Mike Redden couldn't hide his delight. In fact, the Rooster ruckman and Pekina farmer seemingly had a smile as wide as his mid-North country property.

The scene was the vast expanses of Football Park and Redden was being hoisted from the field by joyous teammates after becoming the first Rooster to play 300 games.

And the fact that North had just downed top-of-the-table Glenelg by 21 points made it yet another special Saturday afternoon in the illustrious career of this laid-back country cocky.

The Roosters victory yesterday was full of heart, character and commitment and they now command considerable attention.

At one point midway through the third term North trailed by 32-points, yet it was still able to pick itself up off the canvas and deliver the telling knockout blow to Glenelg.

The win also consolidated its position in third spot as the major round draws closer — and put even more pressure on fellow combatant Norwood as they thrash it out in the hope of securing that vital double chance.

Even at this volatile stage of the season North has shown it will be well equipped come finals time in September, although its fire power in attack remains a concern.

Darren Jarman was used forward during the third term yesterday and is capable of blitzing any opposition with goal-kicking exploits.

But that takes away from his majestic class and inspirational abilities in the centre square and around the ground — a real Catch-22 for coach Mike Nunan and his brains trust.

Both North and Glenelg have forged a fierce rivalry over the years. Indeed

Mighty boost for final hopes



Standing Tall ... Glenelg defender Ross Gibbs uses teammate Chris Duthy as a step-ladder during the heat of battle against North Adelaide

football magic, while in defence, Sean Tasker, centre-half-back Trevor Clisby and Bradley Ryan were dependable.

Rookie Darren Vanzetta picked up four goals and showed he is a player of considerable promise and in ruck, Mike Redden had an absorbing tussle with Glenelg duo Gary Christie and Chris Melican — and further celebrated with a late goal.

It was a different story for the Tigers, in what was Scott Salisbury's 200th league game.

Skipper fought well throughout

David Marshall stood out with a tremendous game on a wing. He was again a big possession winner, picking up 25 kicks, nine marks and 13 handballs. And as always, he used the ball to considerable effect.

Captain Chris McDermott, back from injury, battled valiantly all day while in defence, Ross Gibbs, Robbie Thompson and Rod Jameson were solid performers.

ground — a real Catch-22 for coach Mike Nunan and his brains trust.

Both North and Glenelg have forged a fierce rivalry over the years. Indeed the record books show one or other has taken part in the past five grand finals.

At various times yesterday the Tigers appeared as if they would race away with proceedings and grab the two premierships points.

After trailing by three points at half-time they jumped out of the blocks in the third term, rattling on six goals to a solitary point to the 15-minute mark.

But for some inexplicable reason Glenelg stopped working. North fought its way back into the game and suddenly ignited.

Rooster skipper Darel Hart was again the catalyst, continuing his football domination this winter.

He finished with 31 kicks, eight marks, 14 handball and three goals and was supported by a committed band of teammates who were unrelenting in their pursuit of victory.

But he was supported by a committed band of teammates who were unrelenting in their pursuit of victory.

Jarman displayed his usual touch of

PORT FACING NEW SETBACK

By Lawrie McCauley

The 14 AFL club directors may have little alternative but again to defer tomorrow night's crucial vote on Port Adelaide's entry into the AFL in 1991 or beyond.

Indications from Melbourne are that at least four clubs still are opposed to the Port-AFL push, and other are unsure which way they should vote.

Growing concern over the legal aspects of the move; the new SANFL proposal to join the AFL; and the AFL clubs' hesitancy caused by fears they are being rushed into a decision could force the deferral of a decision.

As of yesterday, Hawthorn, Collingwood, Melbourne and Footscray still are believed to be against Port's admission. The West Coast Eagles, Sydney Swans and Geelong are expected to vote "yes" with the remainder refusing to make their decision public. A minimum of 10 clubs must vote yes for Port's bid to be accepted.

According to one Melbourne newspaper yesterday, an inside source highly-placed in the AFL said that with each passing day it

becomes more likely that a composite side will represent the SANFL.

But while the 14 AFL clubs have the final say, the AFL commissioners (who secured the heads of agreement deal with Port) are still pushing the Port barrow.

AFL chairman Ross Oakley and co-commissioner Alan Schwab yesterday continued their attacks on the SANFL board over a possible conflict of interest.

On the eve of the meeting that Mr Oakley still hopes will see Port voted into the AFL, he said he would not desert the SA Magpies.

"I've a commitment to Port Adelaide and delighted to have it," Mr Oakley said.

"The other aspect of the argument is a philosophic one. If you look at what the SANFL is saying it is that they want to have a composite team and it will be run by the 10 directors of their league.

"The president of the SANFL will be the president and the general manager of the league will also be the general manager of the club. Now if that isn't a conflict of interest, I don't know what is."

Ladder

| | W | L | D | F | A | % | Pts |
|-----------|----|----|---|------|------|-------|-----|
| PORT | 14 | 3 | 0 | 2201 | 1609 | 57.77 | 28 |
| GLENELG | 13 | 3 | 1 | 2093 | 1552 | 57.42 | 27 |
| NORTH | 11 | 6 | 0 | 1794 | 1337 | 57.30 | 22 |
| NORWOOD* | 10 | 6 | 0 | 1742 | 1378 | 55.83 | 20 |
| CENTRAL | 8 | 9 | 0 | 1757 | 1823 | 49.08 | 16 |
| South | 7 | 10 | 0 | 1596 | 1907 | 45.56 | 14 |
| West | 6 | 10 | 1 | 1681 | 2032 | 45.27 | 13 |
| Woodville | 6 | 11 | 0 | 1636 | 1837 | 47.11 | 12 |
| Torrens* | 6 | 10 | 0 | 1353 | 1631 | 45.34 | 12 |
| Sturt | 2 | 15 | 0 | 1363 | 2110 | 39.25 | 4 |

* To play today.

Football Park

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| North | 3.1 | 7.7 | 11.11 | 16.15 | (111) |
| Glenelg | 5.6 | 6.10 | 12.10 | 13.12 | (90) |

BEST — NORTH: Hart, Jarman, Tasker, Clisby, Vanzetta, Redden, Ryan, Klomp. GLENELG: Marshall, McDermott, Gibbs, Jameson, Thompson, Hallahan.

GOALS — NORTH: Vanzetta 4.1, Hart 3.3, Jarman 3.2, Bennett 2.2, Parsons 1.2, Saliba 1.1, Dixon, Redden 1.0, Klomp, Craig, Sanders 0.1, rushed 0.1. GLENELG: McDermott, Lamb 3.0, Bartlett 2.2, Hallahan 2.1, Murphy 1.4, Marshall 1.2, Deane 1.0, Rouvray, Mansell 0.1, rushed 0.1.

UMPIRES — David Elliott, Richard Williams.

Alberton Oval

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Port | 5.4 | 12.10 | 19.12 | 24.20 | (158) |
| South | 1.2 | 3.6 | 5.7 | 8.11 | (59) |

BEST — PORT: Hodges, M. Williams, Abernethy, D. Smith, Brown, R. Smith, Phillips, Tregenza, Wanganeen. SOUTH: Trevena, McIntyre, Bennett.

GOALS — PORT: Hodges 11.4, D. Smith 3.2, Hynes, Sattre 2.0, Ginever, S. Williams, Johnston, R. Smith 1.1, Wanganeen 1.0, Phillips 0.3, M. Williams, Tregenza, Brown 0.1, rushed 0.4. SOUTH: McIntyre 3.1, Stoeckel 2.1, Winton 1.3, Tatterson 1.1, Grummet 1.0, Schmid, Bennett 0.1, rushed 0.3.

REPORT — Michael Whitford (South) by field umpires Mark Mackie and David Trembath for allegedly tripping Simon Tregenza (Port) during the first quarter.

INJURIES — PORT: Paul Rizonico (slight concussion).

SOUTH: Marty Dillon (leg).

UMPIRES — Mark Mackie, David Trembath.

Richmond Oval

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| West | 8.4 | 9.8 | 21.11 | 25.14 | (164) |
| Central | 0.1 | 8.3 | 9.6 | 12.10 | (82) |

BEST — WEST: G. Fielke, Banfield, Grosser, Fitzsimmons, Gribble, Goss, Ebert, Baldwin, Blythe. CENTRAL: Girdham, Ghazi, Schwerdt, Lounder, Haraida.

GOALS — WEST: Byrne 6.1, Goss 5.0, Fitzsimmons 4.1, G. Fielke 3.2, Grosser 3.1, Banfield 2.2, A. Fielke, Rehn 1.1, rushed 0.5. CENTRAL: Chaplin, Ingerson 3.0, Coffee 2.2, Lynn 1.3, Ghazi, Mandemaker 1.1, McAdam 1.0, Bubner 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES — CENTRAL: Lee (groin).

UMPIRES — Laurie Argent, David Weston.

Woodville Oval

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|
| Woodville | 6.5 | 9.6 | 18.8 | 22.11 | (143) |
| Sturt | 1.1 | 6.3 | 10.5 | 11.7 | (73) |

BEST — WOODVILLE: Klug, Jakovich, Hicks, Fuller, Dettmann, Klemm. STURT: Johns, Radbone, Field, Lienert.

GOALS — WOODVILLE: Jakovich 10.3, Klug 4.3, Fuller 3.1, Hicks 2.1, Sewer 1.1, Totham, P. Schwarz 1.0, Grant, Cox 0.1. STURT: Field 4.0, Radbone 2.0, Bonner 1.3, Argus, Williams, Johns, Grivell 1.0, Friebe 0.2, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES — WOODVILLE: Haylock (cracked ribs).

STURT: Wallensky (ill), Argus (slight concussion).

UMPIRES — Jeff Jeanes, Rick Kinnear.

Goalkickers

| | Games | Rd | Tl | Total |
|-------------------------|-------|----|----|-------|
| S. Hodges (Port) | 17 | 11 | | 103 |
| A. Jakovich (Woodville) | 16 | 10 | | 77 |
| J. Fidge (Glenelg) | 12 | 0 | | 58 |
| R. Mandemaker (Central) | 16 | 1 | | 48 |
| D. Stoeckel (South) | 17 | 2 | | 43 |
| D. Jarman (North) | 16 | 3 | | 43 |
| C. Lamb (Glenelg) | 14 | 3 | | 41 |
| J. Weeding (Norwood)* | 13 | — | | 40 |
| R. Smith (Port) | 17 | 1 | | 39 |
| J. Klug (Woodville) | 17 | 3 | | 38 |
| G. Coffee (Central) | 16 | 2 | | 38 |

* To play today.

Crowds

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Football Park | 10,229 |
| Alberton | 5775 |
| Richmond | 2877 |
| Woodville | 2008 |
| Total | 20,889 |



'Don't turn us away'

WILDY: Since your football playing days, you have achieved a lot, becoming a solicitor, TV sports presenter and, of course, a very well known football commentator. Have you always been an ambitious person?

MARKER: Yes, I suppose so. Like most of us, I enjoy a challenge and I don't like doing the same thing for very long. Variety is important to me.

WILDY: There haven't been too many footballers who have become solicitors. Was it hard to combine your studies with the demands of league football?

MARKER: At times life was hectic. My first year of league football also was my first year at university and there were times when football had to take second place.

WILDY: After retirement, you went straight into football commentating and made that a success. I must admit though, I am surprised that you never went on to coaching. Were you ever asked to coach?

MARKER: I was asked on several occasions to apply for league coaching jobs and I was also offered two league coaching jobs but, after a lot of thought, I decided I wasn't really interested.

WILDY: With which team — Glenelg?

MARKER: No. I had negotiations with the Woodville Football Club after I retired as a player and another club offered me the job as a playing coach when I was still playing with Glenelg. At the time I was only 22 and far too young to seriously consider it.

WILDY: You had a smooth transition into the media. How did that eventuate?

MARKER: It all started with regular appearances on the old Channel Nine Football Shows with Eldon Crouch, Max Hall and Wally May and a talkback show on 5DN in the 'pre-KG' days. Fortunately, Neil Kerley was very supportive in this area. He never objected. In fact, on one occasion in Melbourne, Neil negotiated an appearance for me with a local television station and didn't even charge me commission.

WILDY: Do you think in your day,

players were given more freedom to talk to the media than the footballers of today?

MARKER: Yes, that certainly seems to be the case. For instance, there have been many, many instances during the past 12 months or so when football clubs have chosen not to make players available for media appearances. On many occasions we've been left with no alternative but to drop a football story from our news service and include a story from an alternative sport. I'm certainly not challenging a club or coach's right to refuse permission to interview a player. However, it seems odd that a sport which is crying out for promotion and sponsorship dollars can at the same time turn the media away. Our game is very short of personalities and drawcards and one of the reasons is that many of our younger players are being deprived of media exposure and the opportunity to develop media skills. These opportunities are rightfully being given to others.

WILDY: Getting back to your days as a commentator. You had 10 good years and then suddenly pulled the plug. Why?

MARKER: Firstly, Channel 10 lost the football rights. Secondly, while I enjoyed calling State games and some finals matches, I wasn't enjoying a lot of the football I was watching.

WILDY: So, in a nutshell, you were sick of football.

MARKER: Yes and no. It really got to the point where I was watching far too much of it and the enjoyment wasn't there any more.

WILDY: Have you been to the football much since?

MARKER: The last game I saw in Adelaide was the 1988 grand final and I also saw the State of Origin match at the MCG last year. While I didn't relish the thrashing and humiliation, it was an important match because it brought our football public and more importantly some of our football administrators down to earth again.

WILDY: It seems incredible that, after all these years, you can suddenly switch off from watching football.

MARKER: I haven't totally switched off — but that's the way



■ Wildy



■ Marker

Wildy face-to-face with Peter Marker

■ **FORMER** Glenelg champion and Channel 10 sports presenter Peter Marker believes it is "odd that a sport which is crying out for promotion and sponsorship dollars can at the same time turn the media away".

■ **MARKER**, in part one of an exclusive interview with *The News* special writer David Wildy, says football "is very short of personalities and drawcards and one of the reasons is that many of our younger players are being deprived of media exposure".

■ **MARKER** played 239 games for Glenelg and 15 for SA between 1967 and 1978 and was skipper of the Bays' 1973 premiership side.

■ **PART two** will be in *The News* next week.



● Glenelg champion Peter Marker in his heyday

life is. Recently I have seen much more basketball than football and I occasionally watch AFL football on television. In fact, many of my friends (including some ex-league footballers) follow the AFL.

WILDY: Looking at your own career. You started in 1967, which coincided with Glenelg's revival as a force in league football. What caused the big change?

MARKER: Neil Kerley was the reason for the change. Neil transformed the club from a social "cellar dweller" into a competitive unit — a metamorphosis if you like.

WILDY: At the time you were only 18. What were your first impressions of Kerley? It must have been a daunting experience training under him for the first time.

MARKER: In fact, my initial emotional response to Neil could be summed up in one word — fear. The very first words Neil said to me were: "Get a haircut". You see, in the late 1960s men were starting to wear their hair long — mine was not far short of shoulder length at the time and this didn't suit Neil, who preferred the 'Sergeant Major' crewcut style.

WILDY: Was he approachable?

MARKER: Yes, very easy to approach — but a shade inflexible.

WILDY: When you say 'inflexible' do you mean completely set in his ways on certain things?

MARKER: Definitely. Neil had a set of rules in those days which he applied rigidly. In addition, he trusted instinct and first impressions. I can recall some players who 'disappeared' from the league football scene overnight after failing his 'first impression' test. However, the record shows that his judgment of a player's worth is first-class and one of the reasons for his great success.

WILDY: As time went by, did he mellow?

MARKER: No, he didn't become softer — but certainly refined and changed his coaching methods. When I first played under Neil I anticipated a defensive, negative style of football. Strangely enough, he was just the opposite. Contrary

to popular opinion, Neil Kerley was a highly skilled footballer and this was reflected in his coaching style. He promoted an open, fast, aggressive, attacking style of play which proved reasonably successful.

WILDY: In 1973 Glenelg finally won a grand final after going close in 1969 and 1970. As a spectacle it was one of the greatest grand finals. What are your memories of that match?

MARKER: My memory of that game is somewhat blurred. It was a very hot day and there was an added dimension in that we were expected to win. Moreover, I wasn't really looking forward to sharing with Graham Cornes the onerous task of standing Barrie Robran — a footballer's ultimate nightmare. At the time Barrie was special and at the very height of his football career. I can remember Rex Voigt and Peter Carey playing very well and Bob Hammond (according to the best judges) playing perhaps the best game ever by a full back. Of course, I remember Graham Cornes' contribution at the finish, but most of all, I remember the colossal effort of Bob Tregenza. He was truly magnificent. He played a lone hand in ruck all day in very hot conditions and when his job was finally done he was exhausted — a mere shell. He vomited continuously after the match, could not celebrate the victory and was physically sick for several days. Bob didn't have the Indiana Jones image — but he certainly was a hero that day.

WILDY: What were the players' thoughts in regard to Royce Hart playing in the 1969 grand final for Glenelg? It seems strange that he played all year for Richmond and was allowed to play that one-off game with you.

MARKER: Royce Hart was able to play for Glenelg because of a peculiar rule which applied to footballers undertaking Army National Service. Royce trained with us and we got to know him very well. But I think the players were divided as to whether or not he should have played for us in the 1969 grand final.

WILDY: I bet Daryl Moss, the player Royce Hart replaced wouldn't have been too happy.

MARKER: Naturally, Daryl would not have been happy about it — who would have? Essentially though, it was Neil Kerley's decision. You must remember that Hart was a 'Rolls Royce' — the best footballer in Australia at the time and possibly the best centre half-forward of all time. In this context, it is easy to understand why Neil Kerley wanted him irrespective of the circumstances.

WILDY: How did Royce Hart become tied to the Bays?

MARKER: As I understand the position, Royce went to the highest bidder, although I think he had a preference for Glenelg because he played for Richmond in the VFL. In fact Sturt (which easily beat Glenelg in the final) had the same opportunity as Glenelg to secure Hart — in the end, I think Glenelg was prepared to pay more.

WILDY: Do you know how much it was?

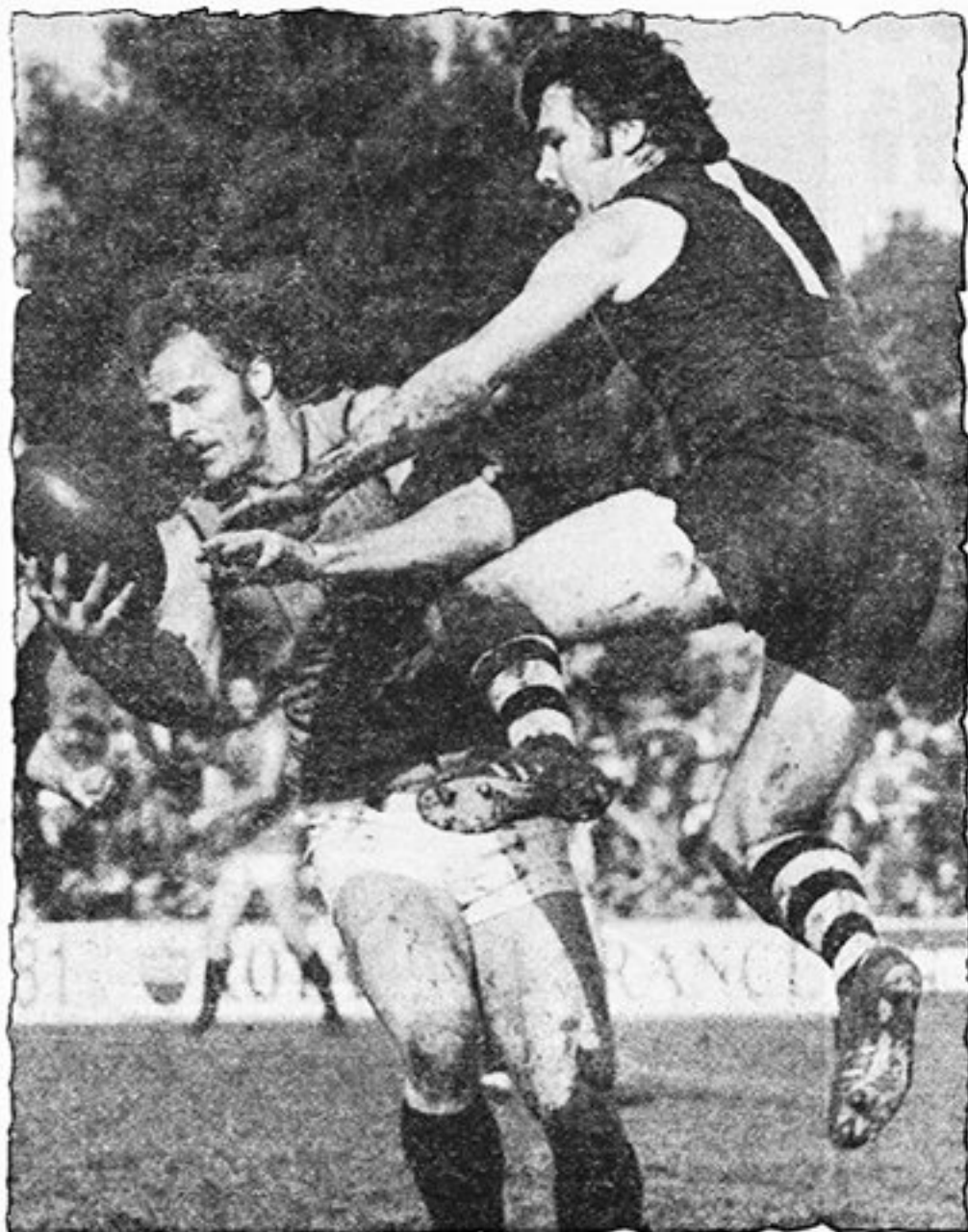
MARKER: I'm not sure — but the figure of \$2000 was mentioned at the time.

WILDY: In those days that would have been considered a fortune.

MARKER: Yes. And another point on that subject. A few years ago I had a chat with Jack Oatey who coached Sturt that year and he said he definitely would have played Hart in his side had Sturt been able to secure him.

WILDY: As it turned out he was knocked out in the opening minutes. Was that deliberate?

MARKER: No it wasn't. I understand that Royce later wrote a book in which he described being 'king hit' in the opening minutes of the game and I can understand why such suspicious circumstances may have prompted him to form such a belief. However, eyewitnesses say that Royce's jaw accidentally came into contact with a Sturt player's boot — it was as simple as that. Despite being knocked out, Royce recovered and was Glenelg's best player that day.



● Marker contests a marking duel with Sturt's Sandy Nelson in 1974

We played 'hard to get' too long

WILDY: When you first played league football what was the standard payment?

MARKER: In 1967 the match payment was about \$12 per game and in 1970 it "jumped" to about \$1000 per year.

WILDY: Was that considered good money?

MARKER: At the time I thought it was generous.

WILDY: Looking back over your career, everything seemed to happen so quickly for you, grand finals, a premiership and State captain all before you had reached the age of 23.

MARKER: You're right. Things happened very quickly. I was lucky to be with a good club and coach at the right time.

WILDY: Did you ever contemplate playing interstate?

MARKER: Yes. In fact, after signing with Footscray I moved to Melbourne to live in 1971. But Glenelg would not give me a clearance and, in the end, I lived and worked in Melbourne for two years and flew back to Adelaide each weekend to play football.

WILDY: Did you try hard to force the issue?

MARKER: Yes I did. I thought that moving to Melbourne would be sufficient evidence of my intentions. However, I was not prepared to force the issue in court and Glenelg's final proposal to retain me was too good to refuse.

WILDY: In 1977 you suffered an horrific leg injury which brought your career to an abrupt halt. What happened there?

MARKER: I was tackled awkwardly while kicking the ball and my left lower leg and ankle proceeded in different directions.

WILDY: Graham Cornes said it was the worst injury he'd ever seen on a football field. He can still picture you dragging yourself through the centre of Glenelg Oval screaming in agony. To make matters worse the crowd went deathly silent and were witness to your agony.

MARKER: It wasn't pleasant. Everyone could see that my leg was badly deformed - in particular, my left foot was pointing in the wrong direction. Apparently, I was continually "blacking out".

WILDY: Was your broken leg the reason you gave football away?

MARKER: Not really. I had already decided to retire at the end of the 1977 season. I played four games the following year but that came about as a result of a private arrangement with our coach John Nichols.

WILDY: Well why did you retire. You were only 28 with plenty of good football ahead of you.

MARKER: I didn't really want to play anymore. This was just after a lengthy dispute between our league and the VFL which resulted in interstate trial matches being cancelled. To me, these matches against interstate clubs (particularly Victorian clubs) were the most enjoyable of all.

WILDY: It sounds as though

Wildy face-to-face with Peter Marker

■ **FORMER** Glenelg champion and Channel 10 sports presenter Peter Marker believes the SA National Football League played 'hard to get' for far too long on the issue of joining the AFL.

■ "I said last May that our league had signed its own death warrant on this issue when it again postponed the move and proposed terms which were (in my view) unreasonable," says **MARKER**, in the second part of an exclusive interview with *The News* special writer David Wildy.

■ He says this fuelled discontent in the AFL and created the circumstances which led to Port Adelaide doing precisely what our league could not do.

■ **Marker** believes if Port does field a team in the AFL it certainly will not be "the end of football in this State".

■ He also says our league now should be replaced by a commission made up of people like Jack Oatey, Neil Kerley, Ken Eustice, Bob Hammond or John Halbert.

■ **MARKER** played 239 games for Glenelg and 15 for SA between 1967 and 1978 and was skipper of the Bays' 1973 premiership side.

you would have liked to see a national competition set up then. At least that would have given you the challenge to keep playing.

MARKER: The idea first surfaced in 1976 when a group of people (including players) thought it would be a super idea to put an Adelaide-based team in the VFL. In fact I spoke with Allen Aylett (VFL president) about it at that time.

WILDY: You're kidding. How did all that eventuate?

MARKER: Strangely enough, there were complaints about the standard of our football and dwindling crowds even then. It seemed a simple, logical step and a decision was made to approach the VFL about it.

WILDY: So that dream of a national competition first originated 14 years ago. Was it kept secret at the time?

MARKER: Yes, in the initial stages, although the story first appeared in the Press in 1978.

WILDY: When you spoke with Allen Aylett what was his reaction to your proposal?

MARKER: Well, he too had a 'national' vision although his plans were only at an embryonic stage at that time. Naturally, Dr Aylett was much more interested in developing the game in the eastern States and his priority was establishing a team in Sydney. In fact, the VFL had only just decided to play some home games in Sydney to 'test the water'.

WILDY: Were you convinced a national league was the only way to go?

MARKER: I was at that time, although my reason was a selfish one. I wanted to play in the best competition every week and that meant getting an Adelaide team into the VFL.

WILDY: Are you bored with our local competition?

MARKER: Not really. I just prefer to watch the best quality football.

WILDY: It's easy to see what side of the fence you sit on, but over the last few years your views have not been supported by the general media.

MARKER: I believe that our general media has failed to be objective and analytical on this issue for a long time. The media seems to have paid 'lip service' to the views of our league while at the same time painting the AFL as an ogre and blaming it for everything that has allegedly gone wrong in our game. Many people seem to have forgotten that the AFL has had a prominent role in developing the game in this country and it should continue to have a prominent role in the future.

WILDY: I think the media, certainly in some sections, has changed its views recently. You can tell one newspaper, in particular, is trying to drum up support to join.

MARKER: The media has mirrored a change in people's attitudes. The football public knows that the quality of the game here is inferior, irrespective of how many parochial commentators say otherwise.

WILDY: So you're saying our football is on the decline?

MARKER: There's no simple answer to that question. On the one hand our junior grades are very strong and our coaching staff are developing fine footballers - but many of them are going to the AFL. As a result, our showcase (the league competition) is looking a bit jaded.

WILDY: But the AFL has some huge problems as well. Look at the Brisbane Bears and the Sydney Swans. It wouldn't surprise me in the near future if they collapsed.

MARKER: The push to a nat-

ional competition has only just started - it's in its infancy. Mistakes have been made (the AFL Commission admits that) and more mistakes will be made. The AFL has and will learn by its mistakes and modifications will be made.

WILDY: Like what?

MARKER: Well, it seems that our football is not ready for private ownership. Money alone does not make a club strong. Football clubs need a lot of voluntary support and a strong, fanatical supporter base.

WILDY: But, realistically, can you see the Brisbane Bears or Sydney Swans being successful?

MARKER: Only time will tell. The important thing is that the AFL Commission is made up of the highest quality football and business administrators who can react responsibly to change and make the necessary adjustments (e.g. draft rules and travel subsidies) to ensure the survival of these teams. In particular, the AFL Commission must invest heavily in coaching our junior football in Queensland and NSW.

WILDY: It may well be that the AFL abolish the Bears, Eagles and Swans and return to their own VFL competition.

MARKER: Anything's possible. However, in view of the giant strides being made in basketball, rugby and (to a lesser extent) baseball, that would be a retrograde step.

WILDY: What's your attitude on Port's bid to join the AFL?

MARKER: The full story may never be told but I said last May that our league had signed its own death warrant on this issue when it again postponed the move and proposed terms which were (in my view) unreasonable. In doing this our league fuelled discontent in the AFL and created the very circumstances which eventually led to Port Adelaide doing precisely what our league could not do.

WILDY: If Port succeeds, how will it affect our local competition?

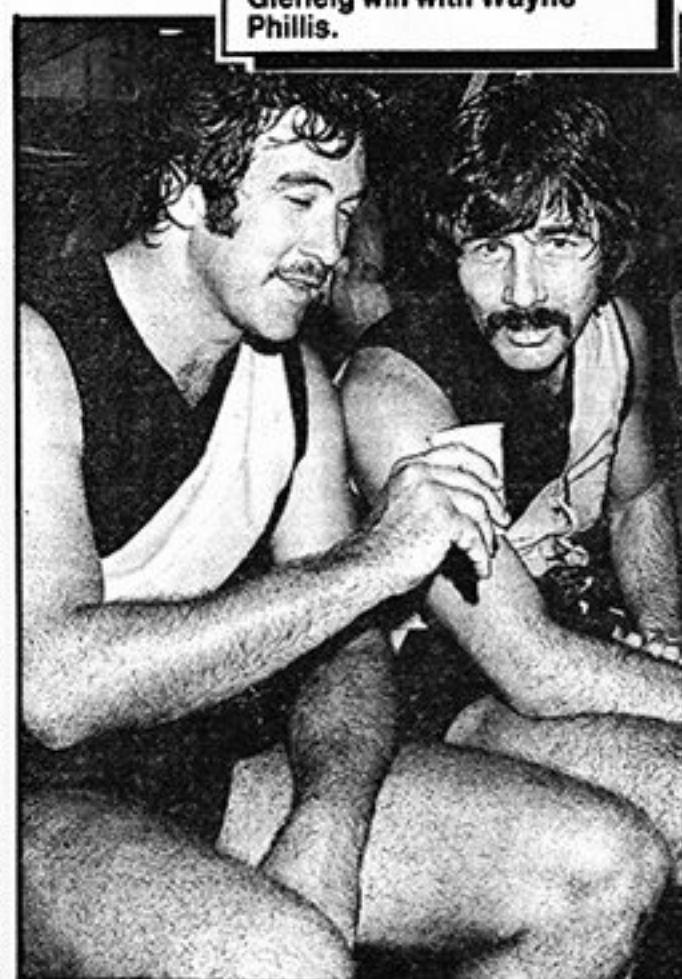
MARKER: It would be nice to have a crystal ball but it certainly will not be "the end of football in this State" as certain parts of the media would have us believe. The trouble with this whole issue is that it is nearly impossible to get a comment from anyone who is not speaking from a position of self interest. The effect on our local competition (if Port succeeds) will very much depend on the stance taken by the SANFL.

WILDY: Whatever happens, has this woken up the SANFL?

MARKER: Definitely. But the unfortunate thing is that the AFL now occupies the high ground and our league is reacting to necessity rather than dictating terms - we played 'hard to get' for far too long. It has never been more obvious than now that the league (because of the way it is structured and the inherent difficulty in making decisions on major issues) should be replaced by a commission made up of the right people, such as Jack Oatey, Neil Kerley, Ken Eustice, Bob Hammond, John Halbert.



■ **Former** Glenelg champion Peter Marker in action during the early days of his league career. In 1967 he was paid about \$12 per game. **BELOW:** Marker (right) celebrates another Glenelg win with Wayne Phillis.



■ **Marker** recovering in hospital in 1977 from the terrible leg injury which almost ended his league career. Graham Cornes said it was the worst injury he had seen on a football field.

