

Fidge sinks Magpies

Glenelg last night removed some gloss from Port Adelaide's Anzac Day triumph over Norwood with a magnificent 26-point victory before 15,290 fans at Football Park.

The hero again was full forward John Fidge, who booted eight goals to take his tally to 25 from only three games.

Glenelg's prize was to go a win clear on top of the premiership table.

But far more significantly, the manner in which the victory was achieved strengthened the popular belief Glenelg again is one of the big teams to beat this season.

After missing the grand final last year for the first time since 1984, the Tigers undoubtedly are on the prowl again.

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes said he had been pleased with his team's ability to contest the ball, and do something with each possession.

"There were times when our discipline and defensive action were not as good as it should have been, but fortunately we were able to get back on top of it before Port Adelaide could do any damage," he said.

Cornes naturally was happy with Glenelg's overall team performance, and especially the effort by Fidge, who worked hard for his kicks.

Fidge, who struggled with injuries last year, obviously has made that difference in this extremely capable Glenelg unit.

Port coach John Cahill said Glenelg played well and his side was fortunate to stay within about four goals.

"Their alertness was better than ours," he said.

"You couldn't question our commitment and endeavor, but our alertness was not good."

Port suffered casualties. David Brown and Adrian Settre strained hamstrings and are unlikely to play in Saturday's crucial game against North Adelaide at Alberton.

Glenelg and Port had one of the tightest starts between them — it took Glenelg 11 minutes to score the first goal. Then the Tigers leapt clear.

Their second quarter was superb, stunning Port with a six-goal burst to lead by that margin at half-time.

Cahill was forced to shuffle his side in a desperate effort to recapture some of the crisp teamwork and dazzling style which had captivated the fans only five days earlier.

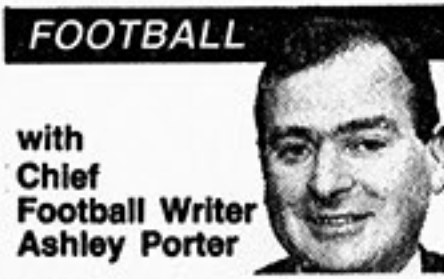
Bruce Abernethy went to centre, Stephen Williams to a flank, Paul Williams to a half-forward flank, Scott Hodges, who had earlier switched with Paul Stringer at centre half-forward, went back to full forward, Richard Foster went to half-back and injured Settre started the second half on the bench.

Glenelg	4.2	10.6	13.7	17.13	(115)
Port	2.3	4.6	8.11	13.11	(89)

SCORERS — Glenelg: Fidge 8.3, Marshall 3.0, Mansell 2.3, Jameson 2.0, Rouvray, McDermott 1.0, Liptak 0.4, Bartlett 0.1, rushed 0.2. **Port:** S. Williams 5.1, Wanganeen, Hodges 2.1, Settre 1.2, Stringer, Hutton 1.1, Brown 1.0, R. Smith, Abernethy, Phillips 0.1, rushed 0.1.

BEST — Glenelg: Marshall, Fidge, Elias, Bartlett, Liptak, Thompson, McDermott. **Port:** Abernethy, S. Williams, Tregenza, Northeast, Fiacchi.

Umpires: David Elliott, Steve Semmler.



FOOTBALL

with
Chief Football Writer Ashley Porter

The results were quick. Port hauled itself back into the game to get within 17 points at the 14-minute mark.

The Magpies seemed to be on a roll. But, suddenly, the wheels buckled on the machine.

They kicked four consecutive behinds, including one from centre half-back Greg Phillips, who attacked from the backlines and hit the post.

However, there was still a big chance Port, which had gazed at defeat at half-time, would snare victory.

But the hero of the night, Fidge, emerged from the crisp, floodlit air and seized control of the game.

He had already kicked five goals. With a lightning handball, he found David Marshall, who kicked a crucial goal at the 27-minute mark.

And seconds before the siren, Fidge plucked another gem for another goal. The solid work dented Port's hopes. After fighting to reduce the deficit to 13 points, Glenelg suddenly led by 26 at three-quarter time.

If those goals didn't inflict pain on Port, those from Rod Jameson and Fidge (yet again) in the opening minutes of the final quarter certainly did.

Port never stopped trying and earned respect for its tenacity, especially Stephen Williams, who was valiant.

But the damage, caused late in the second term and at the beginning of the last, was too much for even the premiership side to overcome.

Port did not play as well as it did against Norwood last Wednesday. The skills level was slightly down.

But the major reason for this was the pressure Glenelg applied from the opening bounce.

Adding credence to this magnificent Glenelg triumph was the fact its youngsters stood up to the fierceness Port applied in the third term.

There were glimpses of panic among the Tigers at that stage but, overall, they were good enough to ride the bumps. The match was hailed as a battle for top spot between two strong sides and, as a contest, it was a fine example of South Australian league football.

It also was to be a shooting battle between the league's leading full forwards, Fidge and Hodges.

But it proved a one-sided affair as Hodges rarely was allowed to get near the ball, not only because of outstanding defensive efforts by Craig Elias, but also because Port did not deliver the ball to him as well as Glenelg steered the ball towards Fidge.

Hodges finished with only two goals, both scored in the last term when the match was all but lost.

Glenelg's defence was like a brick wall. Time and again it repelled Port's attacks, adding pressure on the Port defence to sustain its effort.

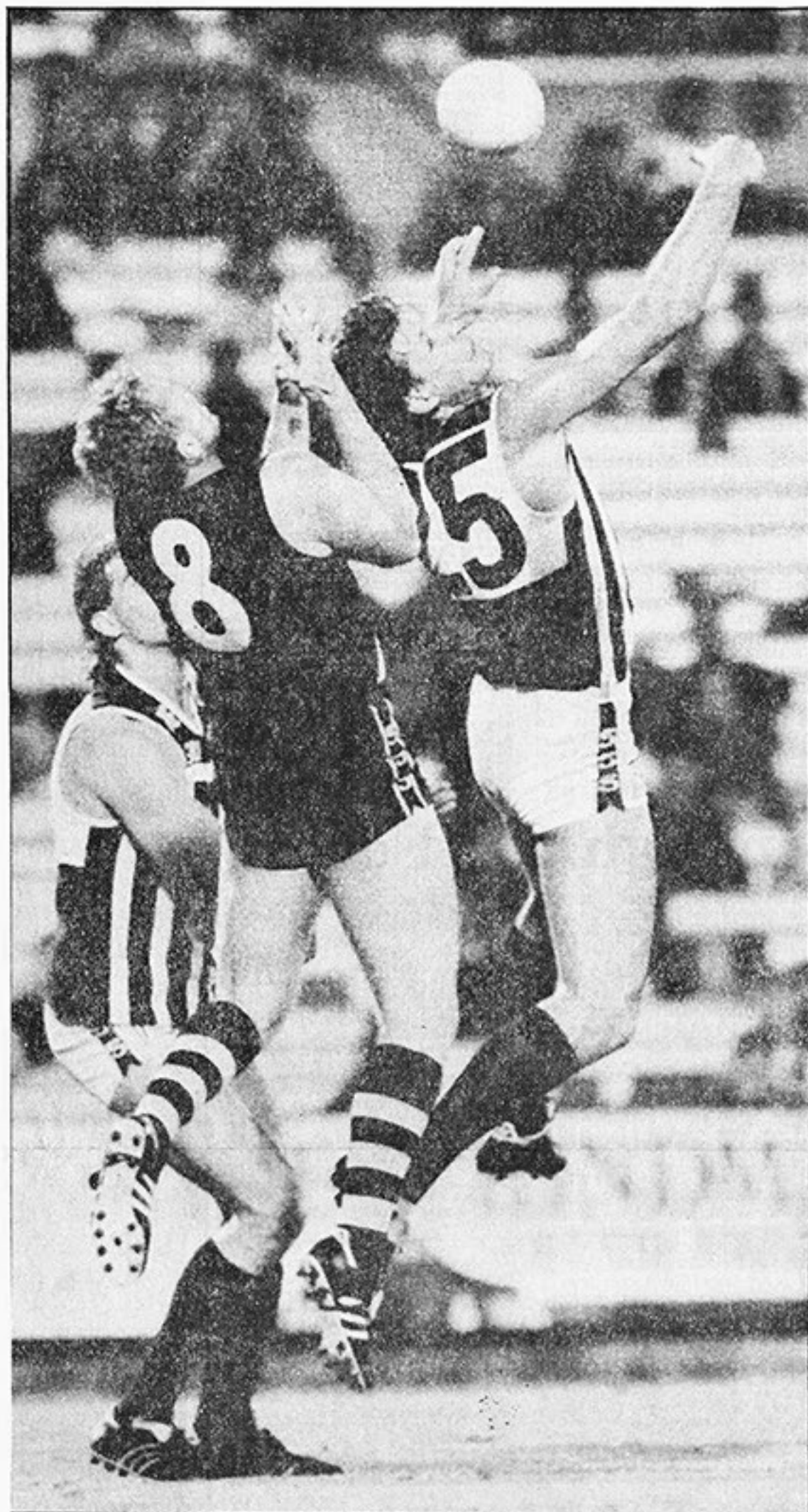
Phillips had a tardy first half but played a key role in Port's third-term revival.

Glenelg had many fine players on the night apart from Fidge and Elias.

Allan Bartlett was a tower of strength at centre half-forward, smaller players Chris McDermott, Peter Maynard and Matthew Liptak were damaging, while the entire defence was impressive.

Marshall played a fine game at centre, even though his early opponent, Williams, was one of Port's best, kicking four of his five goals in the second half.

Abernethy gave a top effort at half-back and in the centre, but, unfortunately for Port, not enough of his teammates were consistent throughout the game.



EIGHT GOALS FOR No. 8... Glenelg spearhead John Fidge and Port's Geoff Phelps fly high for a mark in the game at Football Park last night. Pictures: NEON MARTIN

Premiership table

	W	L	F	A	P.c.	Pts
Glenelg	3	-	355	224	61.31	6
Port	2	1	384	272	58.53	4
North	2	1	288	232	55.38	4
Torrens	2	1	258	250	50.78	4
Woodville	2	1	270	279	49.18	4
West	2	1	283	346	44.99	4
Norwood	1	2	309	307	50.16	2
South	1	2	280	287	49.38	2
Sturt	-	3	254	353	41.85	-
Central	-	3	231	362	38.95	-

Top goalkickers

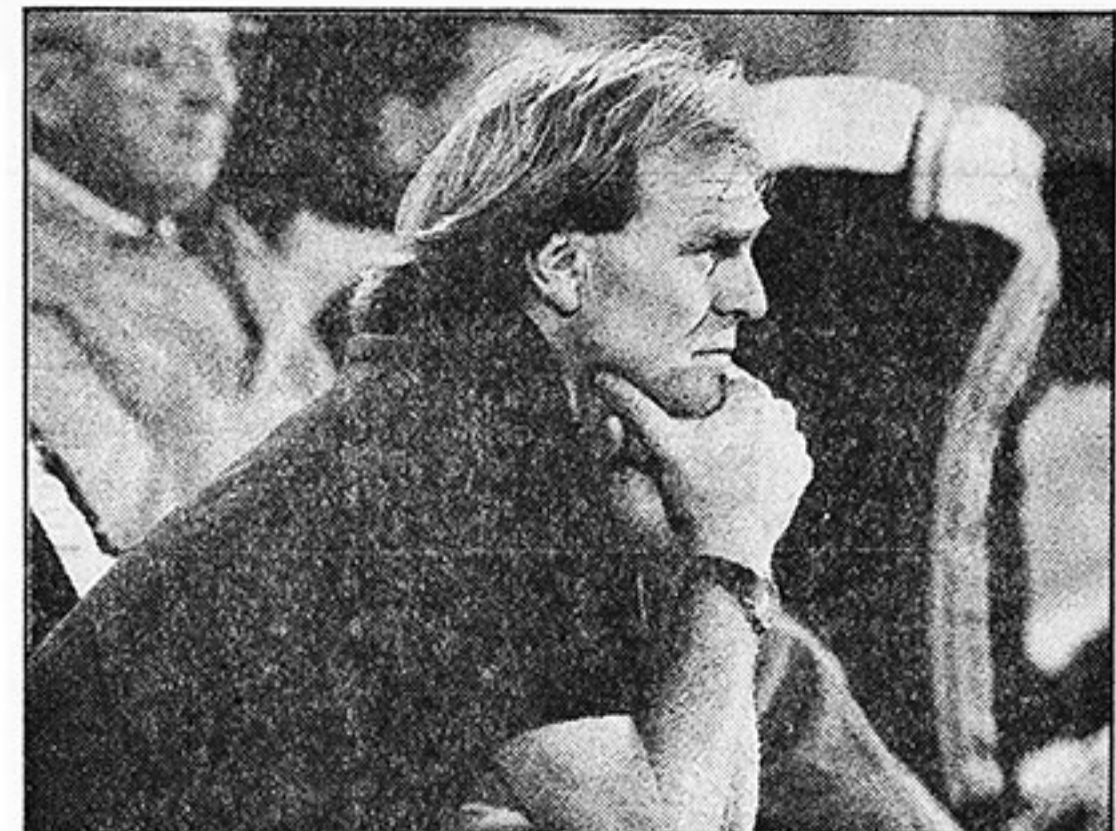
	Series 3	Total
J. Fidge (Glenelg)	8	25
S. Hodges (Port)	2	18
A. Jakovich (Woodville)	6	12
D. Niemann (Torrens)	2	9
D. Stoeckel (South)	2	9

Glenelg steamrolled Port in the reserves curtain-raiser.

	Series 3	Total
GLENELG	5.4	8.8
PORT	1.4	3.8

GOALS — Glenelg: Murphy 6, Barton 4, Thornborrow, Hocking, Deane 2, Hallahan, Cunningham. **Port:** Tyler 3, Niesen 2, Chalmers.

BEST — Glenelg: Barton, Deane, Murphy, Hallahan, McCully, Cameron, Smith. **Port:** Burton, Wade, Belton, Kerrison, Mead.



A pensive but obviously pleased Graham Cornes last night.

LAST NIGHT'S FOOTBALL STATISTICS

GLENELG	KICKS				M	R/B	FREES				
	1	2	3	4			TOTAL	M	R/B	FOR	AG
LIPTAK	4	5	7	7	23	4	13	2	4		
FIDGE	2	4	3	3	12	6	4	2	8	3	
HODGEMAN	2	4	1	1	8	1	4	1	1		
ROUVRAY	1	4			5	1	3	1	1		
BARTLETT	9	3	1	2	15	7	5	4	5	1	8
MANSSELL	2	3			7	12	2	7	1	1	2
SYMONDS	1	3	2	1	7	1	6	2	1		
MARSHALL	9	3	3	3	18	8	9	3	3		
JAMESON	3	2	2	5	12	5	7	1	1	2	
BOW	3	3	4	1	11	2	14	1	1		
SEEROHM	7	1	3	2	13	2	4	2			
THOMPSON	2	6	3	2	13	3	5	2	1		
GIBBS	2	4	5	3	14	3	6	2			
ELIAS	2	2	3		7	4	14	4			
BROMILOW	2	4	2	4	12	3	7	2	2		
MELICAN	1				3	4	2	6	2	1	23
MAYNARD	4	3	5	3	15	3	7	1	1		
MCDERMOTT	3	7	5	1	16	6	15	3	1		
CHRISTIE	4	1	3	8	6	2					19
CHIGWIDDEN					2	2	1	9			
TOTAL	59	65	53	50	226	70	147	25	27	17	13

PORT	KICKS				M	R/B	FREES				
	1	2	3	4			TOTAL	M	R/B	FOR	AG
WANGANEEN	1	1	6	2	10	2	5	4	1	2	1
HODGES	3	1	3	7	3	1	3	2	1	2	1
SETTRE	4	5	2	1	12	3	5	5	2	1	2
McKAY	1				2	3	1	4			
STRINGER	2	2			4	2	1	1	1	1	6
SMITH R.	3	5	2	1	11	2	9	1			
HUTTON	1	2	4	2	9	4	4	1	1	1	1
WILLIAMS S.	5	3	6	7	21	8	2	3	4	5	1
TREGENZA	4	3	4	11	4	9	2	1			
ABERNETHY	8	6	5	6	25	5	2	1	1	1	1
PHILLIPS	1	3	6	1	11	5	8	1			1
NORTHEAST	3	5	2	5	15	3	6	1	2		
FIACCHI	4	4	2	4	14	4	7	1	1		
PHELPS	2	3	1		6	3	2	2			
RIZONICO	3	1	3	7	3	4	2				
HYNES	2	2	3	7	5	8	1				16
BORLASE	4	3	3	3	13	4	4	2	1		
BROWN	2	1	6	2	9	1	11	3	3	1	
FOSTER	3	2	5	5	5	1					
WILLIAMS P.	2	1	3	2	4						1
TOTAL	49	49	58	47	203	64	102	27	25	13	26