

The great turnaround

By ASHLEY PORTER

At half-time, and midway through the first quarter of Saturday's match between Glenelg and Central District, the Glenelg fans could have been excused for looking at the program in the "Football Budget" to assess whether West Adelaide had a good chance of replacing their side in the finals.

Glenelg was five goals down at half-time, and trailed by 51 points at the 15th minute mark of the third term.

Fermenting the concern was its second-half effort against Port Adelaide the previous week, when Glenelg kicked only 1.5.

What was to happen over the remaining 46 minutes of play was nothing short of remarkable. Full forward John Fidge kicked eight of his 11 goals, his team-mates added another two, and until the dying minutes of the match, Central was held scoreless.

The result was a six-point win to Glenelg. Sadly, there were only 2514 fans at the game to see this thrilling finale.

But while even the most hardened Glenelg fans would have earlier doubted whether their side, for that matter any side, could turn a match around so magnificently, the final result came as no shock to Glenelg coach Kym Hodgeman.

Amid the controlled excitement and relief in the changerooms after the match, he explained he believed his side could win, even when it was trailing by 51 points.

The confidence was based upon the homework he did during the week, repeatedly watching a video tape of Central's game against South Adelaide. In that match, South led early, but ultimately lost by 52 points.

"I thought Central started fantastically last week but some of their young players fell away," Hodgeman said.

"They (Central) again played some great football for two and a half quarters, and I knew we just had to persist, keep on putting the

GLENELG	1.4	5.6	9.7	16.15	(111)
CENTRAL	6.4	10.6	14.9	16.9	(105)

SCORERS — Glenelg: Fidge 11.1, Elias 1.3, Rouvray 1.2, Battiston 1.1, McIntosh, Chigwidden 1.0, Mansell, McGuinness 0.2, Hele, Reubenicht 0.1, rushed 0.2. **Central:** Mandemaker 4.2, Lynn 4.1, Sutton 4.0, Holmes 2.1, Girdham 1.1, Ingerson 1.0, Coffee, Jenkinson 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST — Glenelg: Fidge, Elias, Reubenicht, McCully, Seebohm, Viska. **Central:** Chaplin, Girdham, Pyman, Roe, Handley, Ingerson.

INJURIES — Central: Schwerdt (broken jaw), Haraida (ribs), Holmes (back).

UMPIRES — David Elliott, Jeff Jeanes.

CROWD — 2514.

pressure on and make things happen.

"We also learnt an enormous lesson from Port when we were beaten by a mentally stronger side.

"It helps when your full forward kicks 11 goals."

Sadly for Central, crucial errors gave Glenelg the momentum, but perhaps no one should be too critical for squandering such a big lead because it would deny Glenelg the praise it deserves.

Central at least had a real go, a "red hot go" to quote coach Alan Stewart, and if that first 2½-quarter effort can be sustained, it will beat any of the teams in the competition.

After its top-five spot was feeling threatened, Glenelg appears to be again gearing for a significant role in the major round series.

Fidge is back in top form, Ross Gibbs returns this week against the Eagles after serving his 10-match suspension (Brighton Hotel to a brick field umpire Michael Abbott doesn't get this game), an injury-troubled Clayton Lamb was best on ground in the reserves, Scott Salisbury has recovered from another bout of concussion, while resolute performers Lynden Bow and Gary Christie are also ready to resume.

Equally importantly, the forced changes Glenelg has been forced to endure this season, because of injuries and particularly through the in-out-in again selection routine provided by the Crows, have allowed the youngsters who

have carried responsibilities to further progress.

Central has some fine young talent and players like Anthony Ingerson who has matured as a top league footballer, but at this stage, lacks Glenelg's depth of experienced players to call upon. But the positive signs are there.

Before that astonishing recovery, a joke in the members' stand was that every time a Glenelg player made a mistake, Hodgeman would penalise him by sending him down the changerooms to watch the Crows play on television.

Perhaps the Crows should now watch how a game can be turned around.

SANFL PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	L	F	A	P.c.	Pts
South	11	4	1778	1311	57.56	22
Port	10	5	1470	1268	53.69	20
Eagles	10	4	1342	1265	51.48	20
North	9	5	1593	1217	56.69	18
Glenelg	8	6	1517	1476	50.68	16
West	6	8	1265	1372	47.97	12
Norwood	4	10	1176	1485	44.19	8
Central	3	11	1203	1437	45.57	6
Sturt	3	11	1103	1616	40.57	6

● Denotes bye in round 16

SA goalkickers

	Rd 16	Total
J. Stevenson (Sturt)	4	53
S. Morphet (Eagles)	4	49
R. Mandemaker (Central)	4	41
M. Dittmar (North)	2	40
S. Schmid (South)	0	32
D. Payne (Norwood)	4	31
P. Bennett (North)	0	27
G. Cameron (South)	2	26
N. Chigwidden (Glenelg)	1	26
S. Sims (North)	1	25
G. Meilor (West)	0	24

SA draw

17th SERIES — Sunday — FOOTBALL PARK: Glenelg v Eagles ADELAIDE OVAL: South v West. ELIZABETH OVAL: Central v Norwood PROSPECT OVAL: North v Sturt. Port bye.

NORWOOD	4.3	6.4	8.5	11.7	(73)
STURT	0.2	4.4	4.5	6.5	(41)

SCORERS — Norwood: Payne 4.3, Ducker 3.0, Aish 2.0, Visser 1.1, Murdoch 1.0, Thomas 0.2, rushed 0.1. **Sturt:** Stevenson 4.1, Bower 1.1, Paynter 1.0, Field, Brooks, Wark 0.1.

BEST — Norwood: Rowe, Aish, McIntosh, Payne, Thomas, Mellow. **Sturt:** Paynter, Dent, Lienert, Stevenson, Field.

UMPIRES — Les Harrison, Mark Barnett.

CROWD — 2539.

Kernahan saga 'simple as 1-2-3'

By LAWRIE MCCAULEY

The Stephen Kernahan will-he-won't-he return to Adelaide next season saga is as simple as 1-2-3 as far as the Adelaide Crows are concerned.

While speculation concerning his 1992 playing future continues to mount, and no doubt will be heightened due to the fact the Carlton captain will lead the AFL Blues against the Crows in Melbourne this weekend, little can be done until the end of this season.

Kernahan maintains he will decide at the end of the season. Until then, he is a Carlton player and there is little the Crows management can do to even find out if one of South Australia's favorite footballing sons will return home.

"The boy is under contract and we can't talk to a player who is under contract, it's as simple as that," said Crows football manager Neil Kerley.

"He is a Carlton player until the end of the year. If he doesn't sign again with Carlton, then we can talk to him."

There is speculation Carlton

may be able to enforce a one-year option on his contract for next season, but the Crows are unsure whether that option exists or not.

Due to AFL rules, the Crows can only entice one Carlton player back, on the proviso he is uncontracted. The Crows must choose from either Stephen Kernahan, his brother David Kernahan or Craig Bradley.

"You can only have one — you can't be greedy," said Kerley. "You have to make your selection."

"Step one is to find out who is available."

"Step two is to decide your choice."

"Step three then is to sit and have discussions with the player. That's the order things have to happen."

Kerley said that while it is obvious Kernahan is the type of player the Crows would want to "sit down and discuss terms with" the speculation of his future at the moment is premature because nothing can be done until the end of the season — and then only if Kernahan does not sign for a further stay with Carlton.

SOUTH	4.5	6.6	9.7	11.8	(74)
PORT	0.5	2.7	5.8	6.9	(45)

SCORERS — South: Boné 4.0, Cameron 2.0, Page 1.1, Naley 1.1, Dillon 1.0, Brockhurst 1.0, Winton 1.0, Dewhurst 0.2, Bennett 0.1, rushed 0.3. **Port:** Ginever 2.1, Borlase 1.2, Phillips 1.0, S. Williams 1.0, Hutton 1.0, M. Williams 0.2, Kemp 0.1, Rizonico 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST — South: Naley, Brockhurst, Battams, McCarty, Quinn, Stoeckel, Kappler. **Port:** Settre, Foster, Ginever, Borlase.

UMPIRES: L. Argent, R. Kinnear.

CROWD: 4440.

EAGLES	1.3	4.5	12.6	14.10	(94)
NORTH	3.2	4.6	5.8	8.9	(57)

SCORERS: Eagles — Prymke 5.1, Morphet 4.1, O'Dwyer 2.0, Neave 1.2, Klomm 1.1, Fuller 1.0, Negri, James, Payze 0.1, rushed 0.2; **North —** Parsons 3.1, Dittmar 2.2, Sims 1.1, Roe, Hamilton 1.0, Bennett 0.2, Marshall, Klomp, Savage 0.1.

BEST: Eagles — Klomm, Prymke, Meade, Fuller, Lynch, Payze, O'Dwyer; **North —** Perkins, Barratt, Saunders, Sims.

UMPIRES: Kevin Chambers, Mark Mackie.

CROWD: 3475.

11 to Fearsome Fidge

By ASHLEY PORTER

Glenelg and its magnificent full forward John Fidge staged one of the most remarkable turnarounds in SA league football to beat Central District by six points at Football Park yesterday.

Down 51 points at the 15th-minute mark of the third term, and looking a certain loser, Glenelg crippled its opposition when Fidge kicked 11 goals in the last 46 mins. of play.

And remarkably, after kicking 10.9 to nothing and building a three-goal lead with four minutes of play remaining, Glenelg almost threw the win away when Central fought back tenaciously, but belatedly, kicking two goals within 23 seconds of play.

Until the revival midway through the third term, sparked by a costly error by Central in defence, Fidge had recorded only two handballs after being well held by rookie Andrew Balkwill, while Glenelg lacked cohesion and defensive skills.

The Bulldogs were playing with aggression and teamwork, always backing-up teammates and forcing Glenelg into errors. Their much-sought victory, the first in eight weeks or since the seventh series, seemed assured.

However, even though Central extended its half-time lead from 30 to 51 points, Glenelg's never lost its feeling of self-belief.

It was coupled with numerous changes steered by coach Kym Hodge-

man, including using rover Darren Mansell at centre, shifting Adrian Battiston from a half-forward flank to a back pocket where he kept Central's forward pocket players kickless, and moving Craig Elias from centre half-back, where he had played well, to centre half-forward where he played even better.

The moves clearly were effective. Central coach Alan Stewart also made some good moves, but the wave created by Glenelg was ultimately too great.

Despite producing an amazing recovery, Hodgeman was not entirely happy with his team's performance. As he pointed out, the demand was for four quarters of top football and the win was achieved with less than one.

At the same time, Hodgeman gave praise, claiming it was a "win of character", something Glenelg had lacked in pressure games.

"I guess it helps when your full forward kicks 11," he said.

It may seem as if the Bulldogs had every reason to bury themselves with their bones. After all, they led by 51 points and this was their eighth consecutive loss.

However, in this tale of woe also lay some positive aspects, especially the manner in which Central moved the ball for two and a half quarters. And the way it almost snatched back the victory was a pleasant indication that this relatively young side, like Glenelg, had character.

Speaking soon after the game, Stewart had not had time to analyse whether the breakdown was due to a lack of fitness or mental toughness.

Perhaps it was a combination of a lack of experience and Glenelg's endeavor.

For most of the game Central, especially through Gavin Chaplin, Roger Girdham, Trevor Roe, Dale Holmes, Anthony Ingerson, Chris Pyman and

Gary Sutton, worried Glenelg.

Full forward Rudi Mandemaker kicked four goals and was responsible for at least two others, while at the same time, his opponent John Seebohm did some terrific defensive work for Glenelg.

