

Port shakes off lethargy

By ALAN SHIELL

Port Adelaide dusted off some of the cobwebs that were threatening to engulf it and finished 22 points clear of Glenelg in a mistake-ridden struggle in front of 10,521 fans at blustery Football Park yesterday.

And Port will get much stronger, with no fewer than eight players itching to resume soon from injury — Mark Williams, Tim Ginever, David Brown, Daryl Borlase, Ben Harris, Paul Rizonico, Paul Williams and Peter Crerar.

So stop worrying about the old Maggies. They'll be there again when the whips are cracking.

A relieved coach John Cahill last night was able to talk positively, for a change, about his players.

"This was a good team effort," he said. "I was pleased we played a lot harder. We hadn't been showing much for our effort, but the players really responded today."

Cahill, however, wasn't in too much of a benevolent mood, and called for a training run at Alberton Oval at 7am tomorrow.

Why so early?

"'Cos I'm nice," he said, with a hint of a smile. "And the players can then have the rest of the weekend free."

Cahill had been concerned enough about Port's recent form, or lack of it, to have his players attend a team dinner at Alberton on Tuesday night.

"It's been a big week," he said.

Port went a long way towards its fourth win in six matches by outscoring Glenelg by a goal in the first quarter — 4.2 to 3.2 — despite having to kick to the southern end, into a powerful, swirling south-westerly wind, which later eased slightly.

Port did not capitalise fully on the wind assistance in the second term, but a half-time lead of 21 points was satisfactory for the considerable sweat it had expended, and a somewhat stunned Glenelg was left with the daunting challenge of having to produce a huge third-quarter recovery to get back into the match.

The Tigers responded and added 4.4 to 0.2 for a five-point break until the Magpies fought back late to be three points ahead at three-quarter time.

Then Port duly ran away with the wind in the last quarter, sealing the result early and, in all, booting 5.4 to Glenelg's 2.3.

PORT	4.2	7.6	8.10	13.14	(92)
GLENELG	3.2	4.3	8.7	10.10	(70)

SCORERS — Port: Settre 3.2, Boyd 3.1, Smith 3.0, Wildman 2.4, Grimm 1.2, Smallridge 1.0, McKay, S. Williams, Chalmers 0.1, rushed 0.2. Glenelg: Deane 3.2, Russell, Thornborrow 2.1, Chigwidden 1.2, Mansell, Hele 1.0, Elias, Liptak, Seebohm 0.1, rushed 0.1.

BEST — Port: Smallridge, Settre, Mahney, Phillips, Fellowes, Fiacchi. Glenelg: Chigwidden, Bow, Salisbury, Liptak, Christie, Deane.

INJURIES — Glenelg: Lamb (five stitches in top of head), off first quarter.

UMPIRES — Mark Barnett, Les Harrison.

CROWD — 10,521.

Short, rugged centreman Gary Smallridge was instrumental in Port's bold showing in the first half, during which he had 29 disposals — 19 kicks and 10 handpasses.

Smallridge's effectiveness was not so pronounced after half-time — Lyndon Bow played him closer than Simon Hele had earlier — but the mop-haired left-footer from WA still completed a best-afield performance by spreading 41 disposals — 28 kicks and 13 handpasses — and doing the difficult, heavy work that pleases coaches.

Those who already have backed Smallridge to win this year's Magarey Medal can feel contented about their investment at this early stage of a long season.

He is a tough, socks-down character, with the essential knack of being where the ball is and finding it, and delivering it with style and effect.

Port, of course, had several other prime movers, including rovers Adrian Settre and Wayne Mahney, follower Stephen Williams and wingman David Hutton.

Wes Fellowes, the big ruckman from those other Magpies over the border, played his best game in the local black-and-white jumper — he was due for a good one — and Port's defence was not much short of being typically physical and stingy.

Greg Phillips directed the traffic from centre half-back, comforted by

the knowledge he had a solid, rebounding trio behind him in George Fiacchi, Roger Delaney and Mark Warton.

Three players stood out for Glenelg — rover Nick Chigwidden, defender-cum-centreman Bow and captain-follower Scott Salisbury — and rover Matthew Liptak, ruckman Gary Christie and left-footed forward flanker Brett Deane probably were the most prominent of the rest, who tailed off alarmingly.

Glenelg coach Kym Hodgeman clearly was frustrated at losing Robbie Thompson and Michael Murphy to the Crows, and appeared to be biting his tongue when he said: "It's no use saying anything. Until last night, I was under the impression I'd have them. We can only go with the players available to us, and they weren't good enough on the day."

"We've got to get back to basics. We made a lot of basic mistakes in our defensive actions and discipline. We'll have to rectify these things on the track with drills we haven't done previously."

"Port's commitment was stronger than ours and the way we turned the ball over to them so often was atrocious, as it was against North Adelaide last week."

"Yet our ballwork on the track has been fine over the past two weeks."

"We have some good junior players with the necessary skill levels, but the kids have to pick up the tempo of league footy and come to terms with the tackling. They're not getting rid of the ball quickly enough."

SANFL PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	L	D	F	A	P.c.	Pts
Eagles	4	-	-	464	315	59.56	8
North	4	1	-	662	458	59.11	8
Port	4	2	-	539	516	51.09	8
Glenelg	3	2	-	562	515	52.18	6
South	2	3	-	671	560	54.51	4
Central	2	2	-	383	339	53.05	4
Sturt	1	4	-	464	639	42.07	2
West	1	5	-	479	686	41.12	2
Norwood	1	3	-	352	528	40.00	2

PORT ADELAIDE	KICKS					FREES					H/O	
	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	M	H/B	FOR	AG	GLS		BHS
SETTRE	6	3	2	2	13	4	9	1	2	3	2	
WILDMAN	2	1	3	2	8	6	3	1		2	4	2
CHALMERS			1	5	6	4	1				1	2
BOND	4	2	2		8	2	2					
SMITH	2	3	2	3	10	6	8	3	2	3		
KEMP				3	3	1	4		1			
HUTTON	4	3	5	4	16	2	3	3	2			
SMALLRIDGE	10	9	4	5	28	3	13	2	1	1		1
McKAY	1	2	2	2	7	5	2		2		1	
FOSTER	2	3	2		7	1	3	2	1			
PHILLIPS	1	4	3	2	10	3	5	1				2
NORTHEAST	3	1	3	2	9	7	4	1				
FIACCHI	4	3	2	3	12	3	8	2	3			
DELANEY	2	2	4		8	5	1	2				
WARTON	5	4	5	1	15	2	2	1				
FELLOWES	3		3		6	2	6	2	1			15
WILLIAMS S.	5	3	2	2	12	3	5		2		1	
MAHNEY	3		5	4	12	1	12	1	1			
BOYD		2	3	1	6	5	3			3	1	
GRIMM	3	4	4		11	2	2	1	1	1	2	5
RUSHED											2	
TOTAL	60	49	57	41	207	65	96	25	19	13	14	27

GLENELG	KICKS					FREES					H/O	
	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	M	H/B	FOR	AG	GLS		BHS
LIPTAK	5	3	2	2	12	3	12	2	3		1	
RUSSELL		2	3	2	7	4	2	1	1	2	1	
MANSELL	1			1	2	1	3		2	1		
SYMONDS	1		4		5	1	6		3			1
BARTON	1	1		2	4	4	11		3			
LAMB	1				1							
BOW	2	4	4	4	14	1	9	2				
HELE	4	8	2	4	18	3	5	1		1		
ROUVRAY	5	3	2	2	12	3	5	1				1
BROMILOW	3	3	1		7		7	1	2			
SEEBOHM	3				3	1	6		1		1	2
McKAY		4	2	2	8	5	4	1				
ELIAS	2	3	2	1	8	3	4		2		1	1
DONOVAN	2	1	1	2	6	2	2	1	1			
McINTOSH	2	1	6	1	10	4	8	2				
CHRISTIE	2	1	1	2	6	2	1	1	1			8
SALISBURY	2	2		5	9	1	9	2	4			
CHIGWIDDEN	1	3	4	5	13	2	13		1	1	2	
THORNBORROW	4		1	1	6	4	1		1	2	1	1
DEANE		3	5	5	13	1	7	4		3	2	
RUSHED											1	
TOTAL	41	42	40	41	164	45	115	19	25	10	9	14