

Umpire rulings anger coaches

By LEO SCHLINK

Glenelg and Sturt officials were appalled and bewildered yesterday over the standard of officiating by field umpires Mark Barnett and David Elliott in the match at Football Park.

Unable to comment publicly because of draconian South Australian National Football League rules relating to public criticism of umpires, officials from both clubs were incensed at the umpires' apparent inconsistencies.

Coaches Kym Hodgeman (Glenelg) and Steven Trigg (Sturt) both alluded to Barnett and Elliott after Glenelg's 28-point triumph in a match steeped in malice.

Both coaches are likely to make known their feelings to the umpiring fraternity through appropriate channels — and hope similar situations do not recur.

Of 57 free kicks awarded, Glenelg (32) benefited only slightly more than Sturt (25). It was the placement and timing of the decisions that was most irksome.

Glenelg was given nine free kicks on its forward line from which it scored two goals. Sturt had three free kicks in attack — and did not score.

Surprisingly, only one player — Blues ruckman David Reynolds — was reported during an often rugged, spiteful affair that saw increasingly frustrated players from both teams go beyond the laws of the game to exact retribution.

When the game was allowed to lurch out of control during a hectic second term, inexperienced Sturt regained composure more quickly

than Glenelg to breathe renewed life into what had threatened to become a lopsided encounter.

By half-time, the Blues had converted a 21-point quarter-time deficit into a three-point surplus, and with Tiger captain Scott Salisbury clearly disadvantaged after a collision with Reynolds, Glenelg's hopes of winning were in jeopardy.

At three-quarter time, having had the use of a strengthening southerly, Glenelg led by a modest eight points. As a buffer, it did not appear to be anywhere near enough — and neither should it have been.

Trigg, whose reformation of a club once in disarray has been impressively swift, was left with mixed emotions over his team's lack of potency when the match was there to be taken.

"I was very proud of the way they committed themselves, but we blew it in 10 minutes," Trigg said. "The cohesiveness is developing very well, but the familiarisation of the players with each other is taking some time."

"They still have to take the step from being competitive to winning. Two wins from eight games (and a return to bottom spot) is not very flattering, but I think we have improved."

Hodgeman agreed, acknowledging "we knew Steven Trigg would have a team of committed players", while also expressing incredulity at Salisbury's willingness to compete with little or no consideration for his own safety.

"It's amazing how often he (Salisbury) goes in and how much punishment he can take," Hodge-

GLENELG	6.3	8.5	11.12	17.15	(117)
STURT	3.0	9.2	11.4	14.5	(89)
BEST — Glenelg: Chigwidden, Christie, Hele, Bromilow, Donovan, Rouvray. Sturt: Paynter, Bubner, Hammond, Gask, Stevenson, Robinson.					
GOALS — Glenelg: Chigwidden 6.2, Seebohm 3.1, Mansell, Symonds 2.1, Elias 2.0, Salisbury, Lamb 1.0, Hele, Barton 0.2, Deane 0.1, rushed 0.5. Sturt: Stevenson 6.0, O'Keeffe 3.0, Paynter 2.0, Thredgold, Graham, Bower 1.0, Gask 0.2, rushed 0.3.					
Umpires: Mark Barnett, David Elliott.					

man said. "When he went down in the second quarter, we panicked a bit."

"We had started very positively (five goals in 13 minutes), but we lacked some cohesion for a while during the second quarter. It was a very good win in the end. It was a tremendous performance."

"Some of the moves worked well — Craig Elias (from full back, where he was well beaten by Jamie Stevenson, to the forward line, where he kicked two goals), Tony Symonds and Paul Rouvray — and the blokes reacted positively."

More specifically, Glenelg prospered because of the industry and spark provided by rover Nick Chigwidden (21 kicks, four marks, seven handpasses and 6.2), Gary Christie's fine performance in ruck and classy Simon Hele's relentless drive.

Faced with the challenge of thwarting Sturt's drive for victory, Glenelg revealed poise under pressure.

Elias and John Seebohm, who had been trounced at full forward by Peter Bubner, suddenly elevated themselves to greater levels of creativity, and Sturt quickly

found itself out of range.

Glenelg's defence placed a high premium on the importance of playing tight and was, in no small way, responsible for the victory. Sturt, likewise, drew much of its strength from its defence.

Bubner held sway with a dash and confidence reminiscent of his best days with Central District, while Rick Hannam, Tim Hammond, Andrew Johns, Peter Reid and Simon Sutterby were generally effective.

Stevenson (six goals) apart, however, Sturt could not find a strong channel in attack under extreme pressure. Mark O'Keeffe, who was switched from centre half-back and collected three goals before being injured, provided assistance but also lacked support.

Most of the Blues' drive emanated, again, from captain John Paynter (22 kicks, three marks, 10 handpasses and 2.0), follower Trevor Robinson, Barrie Schoell, Ben Judd and Jeremy Gask.

In the end, however, Sturt was not quite as advanced, as canny or experienced in a crisis. And that, the umpires notwithstanding, was the difference.

Ruckman reported

By LEO SCHLINK

Sturt ruckman David Reynolds will appear tonight at the South Australian National Football League tribunal to answer a charge of allegedly striking Glenelg captain Scott Salisbury with an elbow.

Reynolds was reported during the second quarter of a spiteful encounter at Football Park yesterday by field umpire Mark Barnett, who claimed the Tiger follower had been struck on the face.

Blood-spattered Salisbury, who was involved in a number of unseemly incidents with Blues players, left the ground shortly before half-time to have stitches to the left corner of his mouth.

Salisbury appeared dazed and disorientated on his return during the third quarter, but Glenelg officials

said later he was suffering no ill effects from the match.

Sturt, however, was left to consider a depressingly extensive injury list.

Ruckman Brett Leinert spent last night in hospital recovering from concussion after a sickening collision with centreman Ben Judd, who was heaved into Leinert's path by Glenelg defender Mark Viska.

Vice-captain Mark O'Keeffe was stretchered from the field with suspected torn ankle ligaments and left Football Park on crutches.

Additionally, experienced Robert Veale (concussion), Paul McWilliam (ankle), Mark Turner (ankle) and Brenton Sanderson (gashed eye) were injured during the reserves match.

Veale was admitted to hospital. McWilliam was restricted to moving about on crutches.



Scott Salisbury at Football Park yesterday.



Reynolds and Salisbury clash yesterday. Video: courtesy ABC News

SANFL PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	L	F	A	P.c.	Pts
North	7	1	1100	654	62.71	14
South *	5	3	1008	816	55.26	10
Glenelg	5	3	942	863	52.19	10
Port	5	3	738	736	50.06	10
Eagles	5	3	805	838	48.99	10
Central	3	5	740	791	48.33	6
Norwood	2	6	707	900	43.99	4
West	2	6	679	876	43.66	4
Sturt	2	6	738	983	42.88	4

* Denotes bye in ninth round

Top SA goalkickers

Player (club)	Rd 9	total
J. Stevenson (Sturt)	6	29
S. Morphett (Eagles)	8	26
R. Mandemaker (Central)	1	25
P. Bennett (North)	0	23
M. Dittmar (North)	1	21
N. Chigwidden (Glenelg)	6	20
D. Payne (Norwood)	0	19
S. Sims (North)	3	18
P. Page (South)	0	16
C. Woodlands (South)	0	16
D. Stoekel (South)	0	16
M. Russell (Glenelg)	0	16

SA draw

ROUND TEN

Saturday — FOOTBALL PARK: North v South. ADEL-AIDE OVAL: Sturt v Eagles. RICHMOND OVAL: West v Port.
Sunday — FOOTBALL PARK: Glenelg v Norwood. Central bye.

Crowds

Football Park (y day)	5983
Elizabeth Oval	3823
Norwood Oval	5173
Football Park (Sat)	8870
TOTAL	23,849