

Goal ace inspires Magpie rampage

Adelaide's enigmatic Crow Scott Hodges yesterday seized the SANFL qualifying final by the scruff of the neck, spearheading Port Adelaide into next week's second semi-final against the Eagles with an inspired nine-goal haul.

Hodges, who booted six of his goals in a stunning first quarter, beat four opponents as the Magpies maintained their modern-day major-round dominance over Glenelg with a comfortable 34-point win.

Consistent with Hodges' better performances with Port, he not only marked and kicked accurately but also created at least two other goals with handball and intelligent body work.

"He's always a problem for backmen because his hands are good, his kicking is good and he's probably one of the best tacklers in the game," Port coach John Cahill enthused after the game.

"Maybe he won't play for the Crows next week. They might not see what we see in him," he added.

Hodges' stellar individual effort marginally overshadowed a thoroughly convincing team performance that confirmed the Magpies' premiership favoritism.

After captain Greg Phillips did his bit by winning a crucial toss, the Port machine slipped straight into top gear.

With physical presence, a devastating running brigade and superb kicking for goal, Port applied a stranglehold on the game in the first 25 minutes.

Occasionally, it loosened its grip but when Glenelg looked like closing to within striking distance — like midway through the third term when a James West goal closed the deficit to four goals — the Magpies had the class, composure under pressure and goal scoring options to tighten their hold again.

Glenelg did itself no favors by managing only 4.10 with the gale in the second quarter but, reminiscent of Adelaide's conversion rate against Carlton on Saturday, four of those behinds were rushed.

Tiger coach Mark Williams looked for an injection of pace in attack by substituting ineffectual centre half-forward Hamish Stuart for Craig McRae late in the second term, but by then it was too little, too late.

Williams had once again tried to catch Port off balance with pre-meditated match-ups and surprise positional moves. Deane Bailey had the job on



FOOTBALL
PAUL DOWLING

Williams' brother Stephen, Lynden Bow tracked Darryl Borlase, Ross Gibbs started as a follower and Clayton Lamb picked up Hodges.

But they fell well short of having the desired affect.

Stuart later became Hodges' fourth and most successful opponent following in the footsteps of Lamb, West and Jarrod Hocking.

Despite fabulous efforts by Tiger rovers Phil McGuinness and an underdone Nick Chigwidden, Port's on-ballers won the day handsomely.

The Tigers at no stage could find an answer to the Magpies' ground-level dominance and an exhausted Chigwidden, playing his first match back from a knee strain, had to be taken from the ground late in the third term.

Troy Bond chose the qualifying final stage to produce one of his best performances. His 30-disposals were punctuated by electrifying pace, incisive dashes into the forward lines and the type of vision and poise which would have the Carlton Football Club in raptures.

Not even the occasional switch to a foreign back pocket, necessitated by Brayden Lyle's departure with a knee injury, could put the exciting 20-year-old off his game.

Teaming with Bond to complete Port's centre-square dominance were Tim Ginever, who produced his characteristic finals game, and lesser-known Sydney Swans draftee Troy Hull, whose ground-level ball-getting and intelligent handball prompted coach Cahill to compare him with Carlton champion Greg Williams.

"He's that type of player. Not as good as Williams of course but his handball is so constructive," Cahill said.

Ginever, a hardened finals campaigner, said Port's young players — Hull, Lyle and the brothers Bond — had been the story of the game.

"They came of age today," he said.

But Ginever also warned the Magpies had to improve another "10 or 15 per cent" to beat the Eagles next week.

But whether Hodges is there or not, Port, on the strength of

QUALIFYING FINAL TEAMS

Glenelg	Port Adelaide
F: McGuinness, Fidge, West.	F: Hodges, Tylor, T. Bond.
HF: Barton, Stuart, Mansell.	HF: Borlase, D. Smith.
C: Hele, Bailey, Marshall.	Angove.
HB: Bow, Hamilton, Thompson.	C: S. Bond, Hull, R. Smith.
B: Lamb, Hocking, Gibbs.	HB: Burton, Phillips.
1R: McCully, Kretschmer, Chigwidden.	Northeast.
Int: McRae, Flower.	B: Lyle, Delaney, Mead.
In: Chigwidden, Mansell (recov).	1R: Chalmers, S. Williams, Ginever.
Out: Bartlett, Hallahan.	Int: Rizonico, Foster.
	In: Borlase (recov), Rizonico.
	Out: Cockatoo-Collins (injured), Kemp.



HE'S BACK... Port full forward Scott Hodges was in devastating form with nine goals. *Picture: RAY TITUS.*

PORT ADELAIDE	9.3	12.4	21.10	22.14	(146)
GLENELG	2.1	6.11	11.13	16.16	(112)
BEST — Port: T. Bond, Hodges, Foster, Northeast, Hull, Borlase. Glenelg: McGuinness, Hamilton, Chigwidden, Bailey, Kretschmer, Bow.					
SCORERS — Port: Hodges, 9.1, Borlase 4.2, Tylor 3.4, S. Bond 3.2, Foster 1.1, Williams, Hull 1.0, Ginever, R. Smith 0.1, rushed 0.1. Glenelg: Fidge 4.3, Chigwidden 3.2, McGuinness 2.1, McRae 2.0, Gibbs, Barton 1.1, West, Mansell, Marshall 1.0, Hele, Thompson, McCully, Kretschmer 0.1, rushed 0.4.					
INJURIES — Port: Lyle (knee), Burton (ankle).					
UMPIRES — Michael Abbott, Tim Pfeiffer.					
BEST ON GROUND — Troy Bond (Port). TOP TEAM PLAYER — Dean Bailey (Glenelg).					
CROWD — 18,529.					

yesterday's ominous exhibition, will start a marginal favorite.

Other outstanding performers in a game, which was played with the typical Glenelg-Port finals spite, were Brett Chalmers, Julian Burton and Paul Northeast for the winners, and Bailey, Bow, Dwaine Kretschmer and Paul Hamilton, who closed down centre half-forward Darren Smith, for the losers.

Port full back Roger Delaney and John Fidge had a fluctuating duel that ultimately resulted in a draw, based on Delaney's fantastic third quarter and Fidge's battling effort to finish with 4.3.

Glenelg now must pass a tough assignment against Norwood in next week's first semi-final to avoid being dumped from the premiership race.

Williams was silent when asked to identify positives from yesterday's game.

"We have to look at our delivery to the forward lines," he said.

"The opportunities for the Port blokes were all lace out.

"We battled hard all day but once Port were so far in front they had nothing to play for.

"We have to regroup and get ready for Norwood."

Record to spark Tigers

By PETER PRIME

Fear, pride and the desire for revenge must be the sparks which set alight the fires in the bellies of Glenelg players at Football Park today.

SANFL heavyweight Port Adelaide — its opponent in today's qualifying final — is tough, resourceful and, above all, equipped to go all the way to yet another premiership.

John Cahill's street-smart Magpies have not earned their cherished reputation through lying down in football matches — especially in the major round.

The Tigers have copped plenty of stick from Port over the years. Records show the club has lost 14 of 22 finals against the Magpies and its only grand final success over Port came in 1934.

And, again, most keen footballing judges claim Glenelg will need a crowbar to prise victory from the Magpies.

But there is a lot to like about the Tigers. They have pace, class, versatility, aggression and, most importantly, a belief in themselves under the leadership of former Port supremo Mark Williams.

No-one would have done his homework better than the intense Williams, a ruthless, committed member of the Magpie team which overwhelmed Glenelg in last year's grand final.

"I'm happy with their preparation," Williams said. "We're a professional unit. We'll be ready for the first bounce."

Port, for all its experience and know-how in blockbuster matches, has had its share of hiccups in the second half of this season. But the Magpies — a warm 8/10 favorite to snare the 1993 premiership — look to have the answers today.

Port defeated Glenelg 19.22 (136) to 14.13 (97) just two weeks ago at SANFL headquarters.



John Fidge looms as danger for Port with his bulk and ability to kick big bags of goals

Mark Williams ... "We're a professional unit. We'll be ready for the first bounce"

In attack, Scott Hodges, despite his problems with injury and indifferent form, this season with the Crows, is a class act. He represents enormous danger to the Tigers this afternoon.

Mark Tylor, with 87 goals for the season, is a key forward and Darryl Borlase, creative Darren Smith and cunning rovers Tim Ginever and Troy Bond are all class.

That Magpie defence — as always — looks strong and dependable.

But those Magpie die-hards who believe Glenelg

will be blown away today are living in fantasy land.

The Tigers, too, have key performers up forward. John Fidge, with his bulk and ability to kick a bag of goals, must be curbed. Big Jim West, capable of playing in attack or defence, booted seven goals against the Bloods in a best-on-ground effort, while Phil McGuinness and the damaging Darren Mansell are clever and constructive.

And don't forget the silky smooth skills of David Marshall, Simon Hele and Dean Bailey across centre, and the talents of promising Stuart McCully, whose clash in ruck against Brett Chalmers will have a big bearing on the match.

Today's qualifying final promises to be a titanic struggle between two gallant, battle-hardened teams. Don't miss it!

● TIP: Port Adelaide 1-10.

Port's Mark Tylor ... a key forward with 87 goals for the season

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Port Adelaide

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 Int: Rizonico, Foster.
 In: Borlase (recov), Rizonico.
 Out: Cockatoo-Collins (injured), Kemp.

MATCH PROGRAM

10.30am: Car park open.
 11am: Gates open.
 12.30pm: League elimination final — Norwood v Central District.
 3.20pm: League qualifying final — Port Adelaide v Glenelg.