

Ropable Redlegs seek solace in a premiership

By ANDREW CAPEL

The hurt and anger at being overlooked for an AFL berth and the SANFL's decision not to relocate the Crows to the Parade is providing Norwood with the motivation to win its first premiership since 1984.

Single-minded in their attempt to claim the number one prize in SANFL football, the Redlegs went on a massive recruiting raid in the pre-season and indications are that will pay big dividends in the next six weeks.

Norwood is nicely placed (second) for a strong crack at the premiership. With two minor round series remaining it has already secured the double chance.

Redlegs general manager Glenn Rosser, a member of the club's 1975 and '78 premiership teams, said the club had never been more determined to win a grand final.

"We've suffered some enormous setbacks - more than setbacks, kicks in the gut - by the SANFL decision-makers in the past six to eight months and that's become a motivating factor for us," he said.

"We believe the decisions to give the AFL licence to Port Adelaide and the failure to

relocate the Crows to Norwood were wrong and, as a club, we can only respond by having the most competitive team on the field.

"As a result we decided to become more insular as a club and put all our energies into the team. Our total focus is on winning the flag. Our decision-making now is clearly what's in the best interests of the Norwood Football Club."

Norwood's recruiting has netted players from all over the country. It secured Victorians Anthony Harvey (St Kilda), Ashley Reade (Melbourne), Paul McCormack (Carlton), James Thiessen and Simon Dennis (Richmond) and Adam Barnett (Sydney) and resurrected the careers of South Australians Troy Clements and Matthew James from the Eagles, Sturt's Barrie Schoell and Whyalla's Trevor Growden, who played under-age and reserves football with West Torrens.

Half-back Scott Robinson was enticed back from Sydney along with utility Nathan Irvin from Footscray and centreman Gary Smallridge (WA). The recruits added to last year's impressive additions in ruckman Matthew Primus (Geelong), centre half-back Jason Millar (Brisbane), half-back Dale Fleming (Fitzroy) and on-baller Kym Russell (Sturt).

Three other interstate players - Carlton's Brett Anthony, Geelong's Daniel Fletcher and Sydney's Shayne Smith - signed pre-season, struggled to get a senior game and left the club. Anthony and Fletcher returned to play in the VFA while Smith moved to Tasmania.

Of this year's recruits, half-forward Thiessen (46 goals), on-baller Harvey, half-back Clements and utility Growden have been the pick, while Reade kicked 7.5 from full forward against West Adelaide last week.

Primus and Fleming, accomplished players last season, have taken the next step with Primus one of the favorites for the Magarey Medal and Fleming, who has flourished since moving into defence, likely to finish high in the club's best and fairest award.

After a slow start to the season, Norwood has played some premiership-type football, winning 14 of its 20 matches and having the competition's best percentage - 58.95. Twice

this year it has kicked more than 30 goals in record-breaking wins against Sturt (round 14) and the Eagles (round 16).

Norwood's performance is commendable considering it lost several key players to AFL clubs this year - best and fairest Stephen Patterson and Scott Burns to Collingwood and Jonathon Robran to Hawthorn. Another of last year's stand-out performers, on-baller Richard Kelly, has missed most of the season after undergoing a second knee reconstruction, ruckman Michael Thompson has not played a league game since damaging his knee in a pre-season trial and the consistent Billy Dolan returned home to Broken Hill.

Norwood has been an SANFL power in recent years (winning premierships in 1975, 78, 82 and 84) but it also has been a great under-achiever. Coach Neil Craig believes Norwood had more raw talent than any other team in the 1985-89 period, but failed to make a grand final, finishing third three times.

It is this concern which led him to blast his players after last week's 57-point win against finals aspirant West. Terrific for three quarters, the Legs were outscored by 12 points in the final term.

"It's the first time all year we've played with that sort of pathetic attitude," Craig said later. "We need a huge improvement in attitude because the key (to winning a premiership) is how disciplined they (the players) are going to be. Instead of playing like spoilt kids they've got to play like men. They stand up and be counted or they won't be picked."

Harsh words with a clear message: anything less than a premiership is unacceptable.

While the premiership is a priority, Norwood still holds hopes of fielding a team in the AFL.

"Obviously that's unlikely at the moment but our philosophy has always been to play in the best competition," Rosser said.

"We don't accept our current position but who knows what could happen in the future? We owe it to our members and supporters to explore any opportunity which may arise.

"There's not much between us and Port and, with 26 premierships, we're head and shoulders above any other club in the SANFL."

SANFL SCOREBOARD

SANFL ladder

	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
CENTRAL	21	16	4	1	2202	1542	58.81	33
NORWOOD*	20	14	6	0	2209	1538	58.95	28
PORT	20	14	6	0	2264	1751	56.39	28
NORTH*	20	12	8	0	1843	1698	52.05	24
SOUTH	20	10	10	0	1868	2056	47.60	20
West	20	9	10	1	1960	1809	52.00	19
Glenelg	21	8	13	0	2026	2067	49.50	16
Eagles*	20	7	13	0	1677	2006	45.53	14
Sturt	20	0	20	0	1391	2973	31.87	0

* Bye

SA goalkickers

	Games	Rd 23	Total
D. Del-Re (South)	20	0	81
S. Simister (West)	20	6	61
M. Tylor (Port)	14	9	53
G. Coffee (Central)	13	0	52
J. Thiessen (Norwood)	18	0	46
J. West (Glenelg)	20	3	44
D. Wheildon (West)	16	2	43
C. Waterhouse (Port)	19	2	42
D. Woonnam (West)	14	1	41
A. Pierri (Norwood)	15	0	39
C. Prime (Norwood)	12	0	36
M. Wakelin (Central)	21	6	36
T. Olsen (Port)	16	0	33
D. Squire (North)	20	0	33
B. Parker (North)	15	0	31
J. Scripps (Glenelg)	15	2	29
T. Cook (Central)	21	1	29
J. Burton (Sturt)	16	3	26
D. Smith (Port)	20	3	25
B. Mancini (North)	18	0	25
J. Wynd (Central)	17	2	25
S. Sutherland (Sturt)	20	0	24
B. Atkinson (North)	20	0	24
N. Chigwidden (Glenelg)	20	3	24
P. Green (Central)	19	1	24

Glenelg Oval

GLENELG	2.6	11.7	15.11	20.22	(142)
Sturt	3.3	7.6	11.12	12.17	(89)

BEST - GLENELG: Chigwidden, McGuinness, Hall, Hele, Hamilton, Strooper, Angove. STURT: Thredgold, Lennon, Richter, Irvine, Feast, Geddes, Sutherland.

SCORERS - GLENELG: Chigwidden 3.3, McGuinness 3.3, West 3.2, Hall 2.3, Scripps 2.3, Brooks 2.2, Moore 2.0, McNamara 1.2, Bartlett 1.1, Hallahan 1.0, Strooper 0.1, Roehrich 0.1, Ottens 0.1. STURT: Burton 3.3, Irvine 3.1, D Thomas 2.2, McEvoy 1.1, Sutherland 1.0, Obst 1.0, Becroft 1.0, Feast 0.3, Richter 0.2, Lennon 0.1, Geddes 0.1, rushed 0.3.

UMPIRES: Michael Abbott, Jeff Jeanes, Andrew Swaffer.

Elizabeth Oval

CENTRAL	1.4	5.5	12.7	18.12	(120)
West	4.3	5.9	7.12	13.12	(90)

BEST - CENTRAL: Arnold, Ingerson, Girdham, Healy, Wynd, Schwerdt, Haraida, Wakelin. WEST: Watkins, Simister, Barrett, McMahon, Kilpatrick, Hamilton.

SCORERS - CENTRAL: Wakelin 6.2, Conway 3.1, Ingerson 2.1, Wynd 2.0, Cook, Healy 1.2, Girdham, P. Green 1.1, Cotton 1.0, rushed 0.2. WEST: Simister 6.2, Wheildon 2.2, Hamilton 2.0, Woonnam 1.2, Godden 1.1, Morris 1.0, Symes, Carlson, Kilpatrick, Banik, Barrett.

INJURIES - CENTRAL: Craig Potter (bruised hand). WEST: Michael Godden (calf).

UMPIRES: Ron Bettridge, David Elliott, Tim Pfeiffer.

Football Park

PORT	5.3	14.6	21.12	28.13	(181)
South	5.4	6.11	9.13	14.15	(99)

BEST - PORT: Ginever, Borlase, Tylor, Malakellis, West, Darcy, Brown, Waterhouse. SOUTH: Polkinghorne, West, Sholl, Lamb, Lade.

SCORERS - PORT: Tylor 9.2, Brown 3.2, Warrior 3.1, D. Smith 3.0, Waterhouse 2.2, Borlase 2.1, Ginever 2.0, West 1.2, R. Smith, Fiacchi, T. Malakellis 1.0, Carter 0.1, rushed 0.2. SOUTH: Sholl 4.2, Harris 3.1, Lamb, T. Powell 2.1, Osborn 1.1, Stoekel, Tongerie 1.0, rushed 0.3.

UMPIRES: Troy Burton, Kevin Chambers, Craig Doddridge.

SA crowds

Elizabeth Oval	3851
Glenelg Oval	2096
Total	5947

SA draw

ROUND 24 - Saturday: North v West (Football Park), Norwood v Sturt (Norwood), Port v Central (Alberton), South v Eagles (Noartunga). Bye: Glenelg.

Reserves

GLENELG	1.4	10.9	14.14	18.18	(126)
Sturt	3.7	5.9	7.15	11.15	(81)

BEST - GLENELG: Symonds, Deane, Fiesfadar, Spivey, McDonald, Smith. STURT: Nash, Raymond, Brammy, Hage, Kennett, Turner.

GOALS - GLENELG: Symonds 4, K Sodomka, Dryden 3, Giney, Deane 2, Smith, Hocking, Kretschmer, Fiesfadar. STURT: Turner, Betts 3, Slade 2, White, Telling, Neylon.

Glenelg	Kicks				Marks				Handballs				Frees				Scores				Hit				Tackles					
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	F	A	G	B	F	A	G	B	F	A	G	B	F	A	G	B		
J.WEST	3	3	3	4	13	2	2	1	3	8	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L.OTTENS	2	1	2	2	7	1	2	1	0	4	0	2	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.HALLAHAN	7	4	1	6	18	1	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.MCNAMARA	3	3	1	3	10	1	1	0	1	3	3	2	1	3	9	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.BARTLETT	3	3	2	2	10	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.SCRIPPS	4	1	3	0	8	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G.REUBENICHT	1	4	1	1	7	0	0	3	1	4	4	2	5	2	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T.HALL	4	3	2	3	12	2	3	2	3	10	1	5	3	0	9	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.MOORE	3	0	1	3	7	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.HAMILTON	3	5	4	1	13	2	3	1	1	7	4	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.STROOPER	5	5	2	2	14	1	3	1	2	7	2	3	1	1	7	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L.BOW	4	4	5	4	17	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.ANGOVE	2	3	3	3	11	2	3	3	1	9	1	2	1	1	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R.WAUGH	3	3	4	2	12	1	2	1	2	6	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.HELE	6	1	6	2	15	0	2	2	1	5	1	2	2	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.MCCULLY	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.CHIGWIDDEN	8	4	6	8	26	1	2	3	1	7	1	2	5	1	9	2	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.MCGUINNESS	5	4	4	6	21	2	1	1	3	7	1	3	4	2	10	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.ROEHRICH	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.BROOKS	0	4	2	2	6	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	3	6	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	66	57	51	59	233	20	28	22	24	94	24	28	28	17	97	26	15	20	22	20	16									

Bays run away in last quarter

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By ANDREW CAPEL

GLENELG rose to the occasion in the final term to overpower a committed Sturt at the Bay Oval yesterday.

For three quarters Sturt took the game up to the Tigers and looked capable of an upset, but in the final term Glenelg broke clear to win comfortably by 53 points.

At the final change it led by just 23 points and if it had not been for some bad, unforced errors, Sturt could easily have been in front.

Sturt kicked the first three goals of the game and surged forward many times, only to turn the ball over at half-forward.

This allowed Tiger defenders Paul Hamilton, David Strooper and Simon Angove to mop up, rebound strongly and set up several goals.

But the catalysts for Glenelg's victory were courageous captain Nick Chigwidden and lively midfielder Phil McGuinness.

They were the game's two dominant players, with Chigwidden gathering 35 hard-earned possessions and McGuinness 31. Both players also kicked three goals.

Axed Crow Tony Hall was also a valuable player, hauling in 10 marks, while Simon Hele, playing his 100th game, relished his role in the back pocket.

He picked up 20 touches and continually hit his targets on the chest.

Glenelg only looked a shadow of the side which began the season so brightly, but it has blooded some promising youngsters in recent weeks, including the talented Damian McNamara and Ben Moore.

Until it fell away in the final term, being outscored 5.11 to 1.5, Sturt was tough at the ball and body and played with plenty of passion.

Captain Chris Thredgold was tremendous at centre half-back and he received good support from wingman Bruce Lennon, on-baller John Richter, ruckman Simon Feast and utilities Barry Irvine and Andrew Geddes.

Irvine was superb in the air, grabbing nine strong marks, while Feast dominated the ruck. He is agile, has a good spring and strong hands but ruins his game with poor disposal.

Despite recording their 20th straight loss this season, Double Blues coach Phil Carman was satisfied with the performance, claiming it was one of Sturt's better efforts.

"It was a pretty positive performance," he said.

"We didn't make as many errors as we have in the past and I was more than pleased with our effort.