

Pocket dynamo

Clayton inspires Magpies

Zac Milbank

HE was the smallest player on the ground but Port Adelaide's Jeremy Clayton had by far the biggest impact at Alberton Oval yesterday.



The 175cm, 76kg dynamo was the Magpies' chief engineer as he amassed a staggering 26 possessions in the first half to inspire his team to retain its top-five berth with a comfortable 37-point victory against Glenelg.

Coupled with the support of teammate Daniel Elstone (21 first-half disposals), Clayton did as he pleased as he revelled in the slippery conditions at ground level, refusing to waste any of his valuable touches.

"He's a great player, he's very courageous and he helped set the game up in the first half," Port Adelaide coach John Cahill said of Clayton who finished with 34 disposals and five tackles.

And when the duo finally slowed down somewhat in the second half, the human timebomb - Clive Waterhouse - exploded with five goals after the main change, thanks mainly to his nemesis Paul Sherwood leaving the arena with a hamstring injury.

Nevertheless, Waterhouse thrilled the Magpie faithful with his unrivalled unpredictability, regularly playing

SCOREBOARD											
				Alberton Oval Crowd: 1888							
MAGPIES				108		V		71		GLENELG	
3.4	7.7	12.14	15.18					1.3	5.5	9.5	10.11
GOALS								GOALS			
Waterhouse 5; Surjan 4; J Wait 2; J Clayton, Brown, Harry, Slattery								Mitchell 3; Duldig, Schuback 2; Backwell, Culpitt, Bode			
BEST								BEST			
J Clayton, Elstone, Surjan, Harry, Brown, Poulton, Waterhouse								Culpitt, Backwell, Gibbs, Rogers, Sherwood, Neely			
INJURIES/REPORTS											
MAGPIES: Poulton (ankle), Maric (knee), J Clayton (corked thigh)											
GLENELG: Sherwood (hamstring), Schuback (shin)											
Umpires: T Day, M Cousins, T Pfeiffer											

on in front of goal when most players would prefer to settle down and have a set shot.

"He just couldn't take it cleanly in the first half but in the second half he was good," Cahill said of Waterhouse.

"He was the difference in the finish because he put the game away by kicking some goals."

Despite being quiet in the first half, Waterhouse's ability to handle the conditions was symbolic of how well the Magpies dealt with the first serious taste of winter in 2005, a point Cahill stressed before the game.

"Our courage and our endeavour was superb and the fierceness at the ball was everything a coach could want," Cahill said.

"That was the theme today - we had to win the 50/50 contests and if we tackled strong we knew we'd win the game."

Dropped from the Power, Jacob Surjan regained some

much needed confidence with 4.2 while recycled Eagle, Roc Harry, also thrived in the wet weather with 29 possessions in defence.

Not completely outclassed, the Tigers chose to take the Magpies on rather than trying to put the clamps on the likes of Clayton and Elstone.

And when the tireless Heath Culpitt (38 disposals) and Brett Backwell (29) did manage to get their hands on the football, they lacked a major target across half-forward to aim at, a point which wasn't lost on coach Peter Simmons.

"We were second to the football early in the first quarter and we couldn't get it to work across the half-forward line and that just killed us," Simmons said.

"We just couldn't get any marking power and we just couldn't hold the ball in our forward area, so that's where we really fell down."



CAUGHT: Glenelg's Matthew Bode is tackled by Port's defence.

Picture: Sam Wundke

SCOREBOARD											
 Broadspectrum Oval Crowd 1147											
WEST				40	V		71	NORWOOD			
1.4	1.5	4.8	5.10					4.1	7.3	9.4	11.5
GOALS Wiggins 2; Dragicevic, Fisher, Bayliss 1						GOALS Neill 3; Clements 2; Vlatko, Bown, Gallagher, Borlace, Patfull, Massie 1					
BEST Dragicevic, Jericho, Donaldson, Bayliss, Porplyzia						BEST B James, Massie, Borlace, Campbell, Clements, Gallagher					
INJURIES/REPORTS											
WEST: Myles (thumb), Rusca (hamstring) NORWOOD: Nil											
Umpires: C Rowston, C Bowen, G Symons											

PORT											
Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl			
TAYLOR	10	4	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
WATERHOUSE	14	11	4	0	1	5	1	0	0	0	0
POULTON	14	7	7	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	0
SLATTERY	9	5	8	2	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
BUTLER	4	3	7	1	1	0	1	9	0	0	0
SURJAN	17	5	12	2	0	4	3	0	3	0	0
WAIT	4	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
BROWN.T	9	6	13	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
CARR	10	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
CLAYTON.M	7	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MORRISON	7	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
DEPASQUALE	9	1	5	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
LEES	10	7	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
STEVENS	18	8	3	1	5	0	3	0	4	0	0
FITZGERALD	7	3	8	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
MARIC	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	1	0	0
ELSTONE	17	5	13	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	0
CLAYTON.J	21	6	13	2	2	1	2	0	5	0	0
HARRY	20	7	9	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
JAKES	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
EICHNER	10	4	6	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Totals	219	87	132	17	19	15	18	23	36		

GLENELG											
Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl			
MITCHELL	9	5	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	0
DULDIG	6	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	0
BACKWELL	18	8	11	0	1	1	3	0	3	0	0
BODE	7	3	13	1	0	1	0	0	5	0	0
KIRK	2	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	5	0	0
SCHUBACK	9	3	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
GIBBS	15	8	6	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
FISHER	15	3	8	1	1	0	0	0	6	0	0
REAVILL.M	6	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
BUTCHER	11	1	9	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
ROGERS.P	10	7	8	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
MULES	9	6	7	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0
STATHAM	8	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SHERWOOD	4	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
PANOZZO	7	4	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
CRANSTON	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
CULPITT	30	4	8	4	1	1	2	0	7	0	0
NEELY	16	8	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HEBERT	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	18	0	0
GREENWOOD	9	5	8	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
DOSWELL	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	198	76	113	19	17	10	11	33	36		

LADDER

TEAM	P	W	L	For	Agst	Str	%	Pts
EAGLES	10	8	2	1147	823	W4	58.22	16
NORTH**	10	6	4	1025	860	W2	54.38	12
SOUTH	10	6	4	1059	904	L2	53.95	12
PORT	11	6	5	1061	997	W2	51.55	12
STURT	10	6	4	901	923	L2	49.40	12
Central	10	5	5	904	888	W2	50.45	10
Glenelg	11	5	6	1105	1143	L1	49.15	10
Norwood	11	4	7	892	1077	W1	45.30	8
West	11	1	10	764	1243	L8	38.07	2

STATS LEADERS

GOALS		
Rank/Player	(R12)	Tot
1 Warren (SA)	(1)	39
2 Waterhouse (P)	(5)	34
2 Mitchell (G)	(3)	34
4 Schell (CD)	(2)	31
5 Duldig (G)	(2)	28

ROUND 13

Saturday: Central v Port, (Elizabeth); South v Glenelg, (Noarlunga); North v Sturt (Prospect); Eagles v West (Thebarton).
Bye: Norwood

SCOREBOARD											
				Noarlunga Oval, Crowd 1079							
SOUTH				51		V		78		CENTRAL	
0.0	1.3	3.5	7.9					4.10	7.10	11.10	11.12
GOALS						GOALS					
Tuckey 2, Davey, Warren, Newberry, Hall, Handby.						Schell, Arnott, Scoullar 2, C. Gowans, Hopwood, Healy, Officer, Slade.					
BEST						BEST					
Handby, Fleming, Hall.						Arnott, J. Gowans, C. Gowans, P. Scoullar, J. McKenzie, Bello, McCabe.					
INJURIES/REPORTS											
Nil											
Umpires: R. Williams, P. Williams, T. Philp											

SCOREBOARD											
STURT				Unley Oval							
37								114			
3.2 3.2 4.4 5.7								3.2 8.6 12.10 17.12			
GOALS						GOALS					
Wicks 2, Cooper, Colreavy, Bratton.						Passador, Knights, Cicolella 3, Inkster, Watts 2, Stokes, King, Treeby, Rugolo.					
BEST						BEST					
Smith, Beveridge, Sheedy.						Cicolella, Powell, Lindsay, Knights, Stokes, Passador, R. Fiacchi, Treeby, Hall.					
INJURIES/REPORTS											
STURT:Thurstans (calf) withdrew from selected squad, Beveridge (bruised calf). EAGLES: Angus (virus) withdrew from selected squad											
Umpires: C. Doddridge, D. Kowal, C. Joyce											