

Magpies show fighting spirit until the very end

WARREN PARTLAND

THE Port Adelaide Magpies built a club on foundations of fighting spirit, an incredible competitive passion and a fierce lust for success.

The Magpies next year will become the Power reserves.

Yesterday, they gave fans a glimpse of their proud history when they came from behind to beat Glenelg by 16 points at Brighton Rd in a terrific advertisement for SANFL football.

Appropriately, Magpies captain James Meiklejohn kicked the team's final goal 23 minutes in the last quarter in his final game to give his side a commanding 23-point lead and put the result beyond doubt.

The full-time siren sparked amazing scenes when fans rushed onto the ground to join the players in singing the club song in the centre square.

"At half-time we were down and out and looking pretty bad," Meiklejohn said.

"Credit to the boys - they dug really deep and played like Port Adelaide does and got the result they deserved.

"I spoke to the players about the resilience they have shown.

"They have been kicked and kicked and kicked and they keep bouncing back. It is a shame it is never going to be again."

At three-quarter time, Magpies coach Ken McGregor took his players to the northern end in front of the team's cheer squad, hoping to feed off the fan's emotion and the side responded with a stunning final quarter.

The visitors had opened the contest with intent, hungry for the contest and desperate to make an early statement.



Zane Kirkwood was dominant in defence for the Magpies, shutting down threatening raids before sparking plenty of run.

Sam Gray, favourite to claim the Magpies' best and fairest, also had little trouble finding the ball. The first quarter was an entertaining affair as both teams looked to move the ball with pace and the action swung from end to end.

There was an abundance of turnovers because of skill errors from both sides but many were the result of players attempting to be creative and attack with conviction.

After withstanding the early assault from the visitors, the Tigers found fluent run and

PORT ADELAIDE V GLENELG

 MAGPIES	3.4 4.7 8.9 14.12	96
 TIGERS	2.6 7.9 9.10 11.14	80

BEST

Magpies: Kirkwood, Meiklejohn, Summerton, H. Slattery, Beard, Thurgood, L. Slattery

Tigers: Curran, Clurey, Bradley, Davenport, Tapp

GOALS

Magpies: Thurgood 4; AhChee 3; Johansen 2; Meiklejohn, J. Butcher, Cockshell, Summerton, Lemmens.

Tigers: Carger, Proud, Kirkby 2; Tenace, Bradley, Curran, Gamble, Davenport.

UMPIRES

Dey, Thompson, Giouftsis

CROWD

2723 at Glenelg Oval

their movement became more confident. They used the loose man in defence to telling effect and linked well to launch attacking raids.

Magpie Steven Summerton snapped a goal on the quarter-time siren to give his side a four-point lead before the Tigers seized control in the second term.

Four unanswered goals for the Tigers enabled them to build a 20-point buffer and put the Magpies under the pump and needing answers. When Jacob Carger kicked a goal for the Tigers six minutes into the third term, their advantage was 21 points and they were in control.

However, this was a Magpies outfit determined to finish off the season in style after

SANFL PREMIERSHIP LADDER ROUND 23

	P	W	L	For	Agst	%	Pts
Norwood	19	16	3	1659	1006	62.25	32
West Adelaide	19	12	7	1610	1163	58.06	24
Eagles	19	12	7	1645	1414	53.78	24
North Adelaide	19	11	8	1779	1434	55.37	22
Central District	19	11	8	1601	1408	53.21	22
Port Adelaide	20	8	12	1428	1693	45.75	16
Sturt	19	7	12	1460	1719	45.93	14
South Adelaide	19	5	14	1118	1843	37.76	10
Glenelg	20	4	16	1442	2064	41.13	8

RACE TO THE FINALS: TODAY'S GAMES

NORWOOD (1) v NORTH ADELAIDE (4)

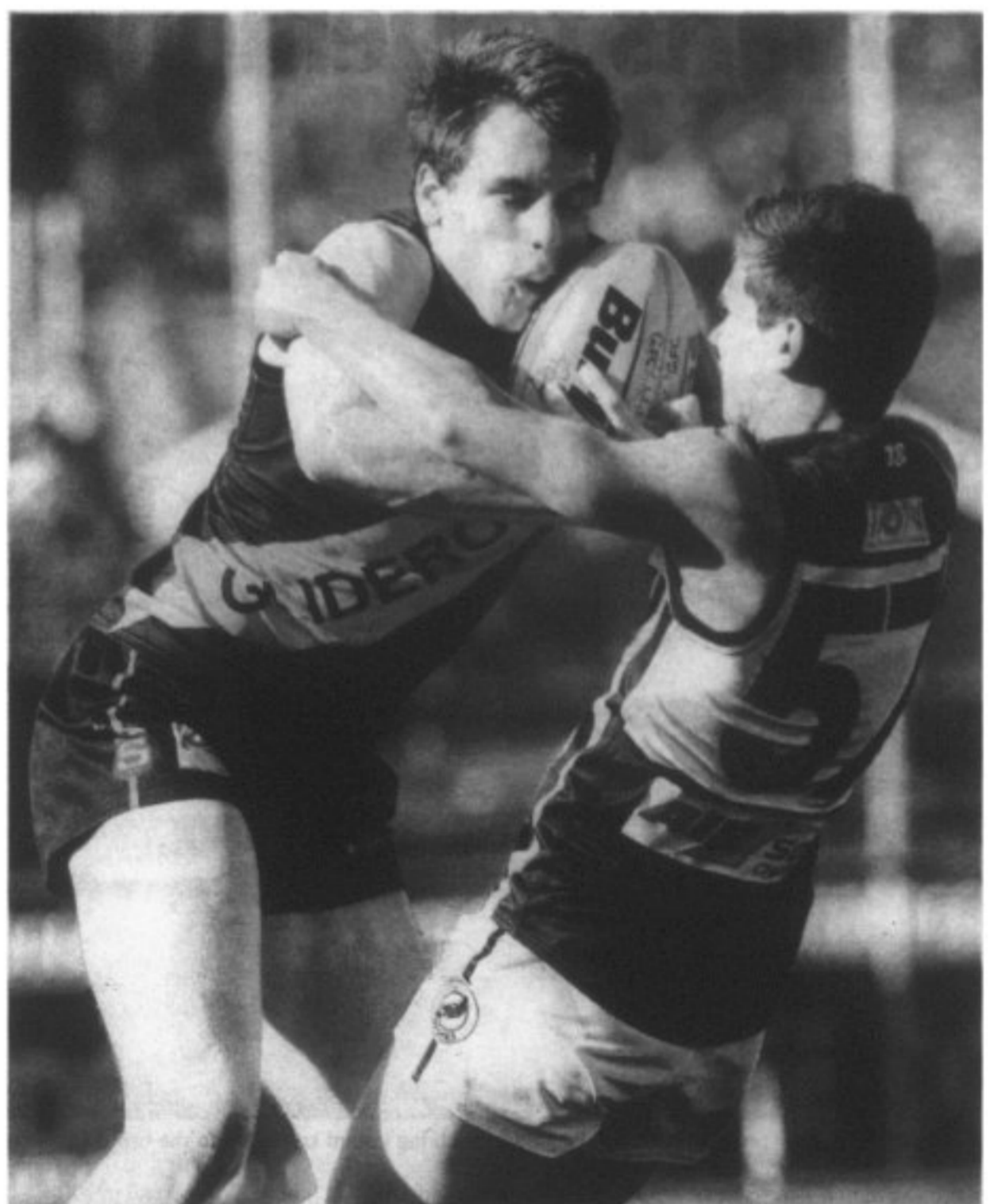
- Norwood Oval, 2.10pm
- Norwood finishes top regardless of the result
- North needs to win and West to win to finish third

STURT (6) v CENTRAL DISTRICT (5)

- Unley Oval, 2.10pm
- Sturt has already been eliminated from finals race
- Central needs to win and West and Norwood to win to finish third

WEST ADELAIDE (2) v EAGLES (3)

- Richmond Oval, 2.10pm
- West needs to win to finish second
- Eagles need to win or North and Central to lose to finish third



UP CLOSE: Glenelg's Craig Pitt runs into Port Adelaide's Jake Johansen. Picture: SARAH REED.

GLENELG V PORT ADELAIDE MAGPIES

GLENELG OVAL

	K	M	H	F	A	G	P	HO	T		K	M	H	F	A	G	P	HO	T	
Clurey	16	10	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	Meiklejohn	5	3	9	3	0	1	0	0	26	0
McInerney	7	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	2	Slattery	12	4	5	2	1	0	0	0	1	
Tenace	11	7	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	Gray	14	5	6	1	3	0	2	0	0	
McFarlane	5	3	5	2	0	0	1	0	2	Kullkowski	4	2	8	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Bradley	14	9	9	2	2	1	0	1	1	Slattery	12	7	11	0	1	0	1	0	3	
Carger	7	4	6	0	1	2	0	0	4	Scanlon	7	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Allen	6	4	6	2	0	0	0	0	6	Butcher	9	5	5	3	0	1	5	0	2	
Jolly	18	6	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	Kirkwood	29	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Proud	8	6	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	Beard	14	10	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	
Curran	11	3	14	2	0	1	0	0	2	Sharrad	2	2	9	0	3	0	0	0	4	
McGinty	6	3	7	1	1	0	0	15	3	Thurgood	7	5	5	1	0	4	1	0	1	
Kirkby	12	7	0	3	0	2	2	0	2	Watt	14	9	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	
Milne	13	7	10	1	1	0	0	0	2	Cockshell	5	3	3	1	1	1	0	16	2	
Pitt	11	5	5	1	2	0	0	0	1	Brain	6	5	6	0	1	0	0	0	2	
Mules	6	3	9	1	4	0	0	0	2	Summerton	18	6	14	0	1	1	0	0	1	
Tapp	6	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	3	Ah Chee	9	4	6	1	0	3	0	0	2	
Gamble	10	4	7	0	1	1	0	0	1	Lemmens	11	4	5	2	1	1	1	0	1	
Underwood	14	8	7	-1	0	0	0	1	1	Sawford	4	3	10	3	0	0	0	0	2	
Davenport	23	10	5	0	1	1	2	0	1	Madden	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Nicholson	8	7	4	0	0	0	1	0	2	Ralikwasa	10	8	8	1	1	0	0	1	2	
Gill	2	2	4	0	3	0	1	8	0	Johansen	8	2	3	1	3	2	1	0	0	
TOTALS	214	111	118	20	21	11	14	26	36	TOTALS	206	104	133	21	20	14	12	44	30	