



2019 GRAND FINAL



Tigers of old show no fear to win flag

WARREN PARTLAND

JUST three years after the Save the Tigers campaign was launched amid a financial mess, Glenelg has snapped a 33-year premiership drought, with a team-driven 28-point triumph over Port Adelaide in yesterday's grand final at Adelaide Oval.

The Tigers, seriously in danger of having their doors locked shut forever with mounting debts in 2016, were never headed and found all the answers whenever challenged, to claim their first premiership since 1986 and the fifth in the proud club's history.

The victory was a personal triumph for coach Mark Stone in his second year in charge.

Port has now been beaten in the final game of the season in three of the six years it has been the Power reserves.

"I thought we won around the contest," Stone said.

"Interesting, at half-time the stats were in Port's favour.

"But from the eye it did not look like that.

"Our pressure was fantastic and we took out chances inside 50, we were able to scrap some goals."

There were plenty of nervous moments from both sides in the early minutes, with fumbles and clumsy skill errors.

Tigers forward Luke Reynolds gave his team the chance to settle three minutes into the contest when he kicked a goal while being pressured.

Eight minutes later, Carl Nicholson capitalised on a tremendous smother from team-mate Darcy Bailey to nail the second goal for the Tigers and lift their confidence.

Port forward Billy Frampton

missed a couple of set shots and dropped some marks before coming to the bench for treatment on what appeared to be split webbing in his hand.

Ball magnet Jack Trengove was getting plenty of possessions for Port, which dominated the clearances.

But it was the Tigers applying the scoreboard pressure, with Brad Close and Josh Scott bagging goals to give their side a 22-point advantage at quarter-time.

When Reynolds got a favourable bounce to snap a goal a minute into the second quarter, the Tigers had built a handy 28-point buffer.

It took Port until 12 minutes into the second term to register its first goal, when Tobin Cox scored with his first disposal.

Joel Garner was outstanding in defence for Port and as the second quarter lengthened, his side grabbed more control of the contest.

The Magpies got their hands to more ball and spent lengthy periods camped in attack, to put the Tigers' defence under the pump.

As with any grand final, there were the inspirational moments, such as Tigers defender Aaron Joseph's desperate sprint to knock the ball through for a behind.

Just 40 seconds into the third quarter, the Tigers forced the ball forward to find Scott running towards goal — and his wobbly kick sailed through.

Marlon Motlop then put his name on the highlights' reel, knocking the ball towards the boundary line, before regathering and evading a defender to snap an amazing goal.

Frampton was a concern for the Tigers' defence and after he took a strong mark, the ball

SCOREBOARD

GLENELG	4.1 6.2 9.5 11.7	73
PORT ADEL.	0.3 2.7 5.8 6.9	45

BEST

Glenelg: Snook, Agnew, White, Motlop, Reynolds, Partington, Curran, Proud.

Port Adelaide: Sutcliffe, Garner, Frampton, Lienert, Drew, Mayes.

GOALS

Glenelg: Motlop, Scott 3, Reynolds 2, Partington, Close, Nicholson.

Port Adelaide: Sutcliffe 3, Cox 2, Frampton.

JACK OATEY MEDAL

Glenelg: Matthew Snook

UMPIRES

Crosby, Bryce, Harris.

CROWD

39,105 at Adelaide Oval.

landed with Sutcliffe who kicked a much-needed captain's goal from 50m.

Port threw Trent McKenzie forward and Todd Marshall to defence searching for answers.

The Tigers seemed to go defensive and were under pressure as Sutcliffe bagged two more goals.

But in a repeat of the first three quarters, the Tigers got an early goal in the final term, courtesy of Scott — and they were glory bound.

"It was probably the start that got us," Port coach Matthew Lokan said.

"They were probably tougher and cleaner with the ball.

"We didn't use the ball well in the first quarter and after that we were just playing catch up. Credit to Glenelg, they've been the best team all year."



STALWART: Matthew Snook.



HIGHLIGHT: Glenelg's Marlon Motlop celebrates after kicking an amazing goal in the grand final. Picture: SARAH REED

Workhorse helps carry cup home

WARREN PARTLAND

PUTTING Matthew Snook's name on the Jack Oatey Medal defined more than just a best-on-ground performance in yesterday's SANFL grand final at Adelaide Oval.

There have been few more loyal servants for the Tigers over years of frustration, when the club finished closer to the bottom than top more often than not.

Snook will never be known as flashy. The onballer is a workhorse, brave and committed, who always refuses to take a backward step in his desperation to win possession. His performance on the league's biggest stage was simply Matthew Snook being Matthew Snook. And, typically, he said he just played his role.

"I'm pretty emotional to be honest," Snook said as he proudly paraded his medal to the Tigers' faithful. "I never thought I would be here. The way the boys fought it out, it's bloody beautiful. This is something I never thought would happen, to be up there with some of the great names in the game is something special."

Snook had a game-high 28 disposals, plus eight tackles and seven clearances, in an incredible response to what he described was a poor game against Adelaide last week.

Snook admitted to being down on himself for a couple of days before coach Mark Stone restored his belief.

"Stoney backed me in and started me in the middle (in the grand final)," Snook said. "I'm happy he gave me that chance."

"He has been professional and the boys have bought in. It has happened sooner than we thought, but you take these moments and we grabbed it with both hands. Stoney is incredible, the time he puts in behind the scenes. He is a wizard, a great coach."

We were on a mission to create history: Stone

ANDREW CAPEL

TRIUMPHANT Glenelg coach Mark Stone paid tribute to the club's loyal band of supporters while declaring his players were on a mission to create their own history against Port Adelaide in the SANFL grand final.

While the Tigers broke a 33-year flag drought and beat the Magpies in a grand final for just the second time — and first since 1934 — Stone said his men were focused on starting their own era of success.

"This means an enormous amount to the football club but we wanted to write our own history," he said after leading Glenelg, which hadn't played

finals since 2011, to a flag in just his second year in charge.

"It is really special to me because I am the fortunate one (coach) that got to break the drought and bring the Cup back (to Tigerland)."

"It's going to be an amazing time over the next week for everyone involved with the club, those people with black and yellow in their blood."

"We understand what is behind us but it is something we can't change. All we can create was the present and the future."

"History is there and I am aware of the rivalry (with Port) and all that but this is our own little period."

"So we just set about ticking off some boxes this year. Beating Central at Elizabeth, that had been 10 years. Beating the Eagles at Woodville had been 10 years. Winning the minor premiership had been 11 years and it had been 11 years since we'd won a final."

"So we just kept ticking boxes and taking the next step, and this was another step."

Stone described winning the flag — just Glenelg's fifth from 18 grand finals — as "sur-

real".

He is contracted to the Tigers for next season but was non-committal about his future. Having been an assistant coach at West Coast, Sydney and Fremantle, he could be offered another AFL job.

"I am contracted but who knows, my main priority is to support my family," Stone said.

"At the moment I'm just thrilled to be a part of this wonderful football club that has

given me an opportunity to coach, the first job I've had in my own right for a long time."

Captain Chris Curran, 28, won't be at the club next season after confirming he would spend next year in Renmark in the Riverland, on placement with his medical studies.

He did not rule out returning to the Bay in 2021.

"It's just incredible to win a premiership with this group," Curran said.

GLENELG ENDS 33-YEAR PREMIERSHIP DROUGHT



PREY: Port Adelaide's Jarrod Lienert is about to get pounced on by the Tiger's Luke Reynolds in yesterday's grand final at Adelaide Oval. Picture: SARAH REED

Beating the Magpies at their own game

ANDREW CAPEL ANALYSIS

THIS was payback for 42 years of pain and misery inflicted on it by Port Adelaide.

Glenelg yesterday ended a run of five consecutive grand final losses to its bitter arch-rival, dating back to 1977, by beating the Magpies at their own game.

Where once the Tigers were made to look like pussycats by their nemesis in grand finals, this time the tables were turned.

Glenelg – under master coach Mark Stone, in just his second year in charge – produced the tough, aggressive football that has been the hall-mark of Port in big games in its glorious history.

Without a flag since 1986 – and having been on life support financially just three years ago – the Tigers used the fighting spirit of their coach, president Nick Chigwidden and a strong board, to play with a fierce determination that won the game against a power-packed team fielding 17 AFL-listed players.

"They reminded me of how Port Adelaide usually plays in grand finals," said six-times Magpies premiership player and triple premiership-winning coach Stephen Williams on ABC radio. "They were great, they didn't give Port a sniff. Every player was totally committed to the cause, they sacrificed their bodies for their teammates and played great team footy.

"They were measured, they never panicked, they held their nerve and they all did their job, which is what you have to do to win on grand final day."

Glenelg jumped out of the blocks. Former Magpie Luke Reynolds got the ball rolling for the underdog when he kicked truly under pressure from 40m.

Wingman Carl Nicholson booted his first goal for the season with a wobbly punt after some smart work from teammate Darcy Bailey.

Brad Close and Josh Scott (from a strong, juggled mark in the goalsquare) then put the Tigers four goals up as they booted the only four goals of the first term.

When Reynolds, who bagged five in last week's win against the Crows, snapped brilliantly at the northern end of the ground in the opening minute of the second term, Glenelg's lead was 28 points.

But under serious pressure – and with the game in danger of slipping out of their grasp – the Magpies suddenly lifted.

Joel Garner won some key defensive contests and Billy Frampton started to impose himself on the game at the other end. He used his physicality to push opponents out of the way and be involved in Port's first two goals.

The Pies drew to within 13 points in the second term but a goal in the first 45 seconds of the third quarter to Scott pushed the Bays clear again.

They never gave the Mag-

pies another sniff, despite captain Cam Sutcliffe's third quarter heroics when he kicked all three of Port's goals for the term to keep it alive.

But when Scott goaled in the first minute of the final term, the game was over.

Suddenly, the number of Glenelg premiership players rose from 63 to 84.

Port laid 14 more tackles.

But the Tigers laid the ones that counted most. When they wrapped their arms around a black and white jumper they held tight.



FINALLY: Luke Partington, centre, celebrates with his Tigers team-mates.

Picture: SARAH REED

Lokan says Bays were better side

DANIELA ABBRACCIAMENTO

PORT Adelaide coach Matthew Lokan is proud of his side for never giving up but concedes it lost the grand final to a better team yesterday.

The Magpies were on the back foot from the first bounce and trailed by as many as 32 points early in the third term.

They fought back hard but eventually lost by 28 points.

The defeat means Port Adelaide has gone down in three grand finals (2014, 2017 and 2019) in the past six years.

Its SANFL flag drought remains at 20 years – which is foreign to so many of the black-and-white faithful, who have been spoiled with plenty of premiership success.

Lokan said his players had given everything they had and should hold their heads high despite the defeat.

"Although it's extremely disappointing that they lost today, we won't necessarily base their season on the result," Lokan said.

"We went into the game pretty confident we could compete with them but we just couldn't get the job done.

"Our guys are pretty flat at the moment.

"But I am extremely proud

of how they stuck together against the odds.

"For the young guys playing in big games, it's good for their development and their experience but we just weren't able to match Glenelg. They put us under a lot of pressure in that first quarter and that caused us to turn the ball over."

Lokan's job of planning for next year is made tough with seven Power-listed players who featured in the SANFL grand final, including Billy Frampton, Trent McKenzie, Cam Sutcliffe and Jack Tregrove, now out of contract.

Although he could not comment on the make-up of next year's squad, Lokan said it was important to celebrate what had gone right this season.

"We will go through a process now, we'll do reviews like everyone else would this time of year," he said.



DEJECTED: Magpies coach Matthew Lokan and captain Cameron Sutcliffe.

"Our primary measure is effort," a jubilant Stone said after the 28-point win.

"Our tackling was great and so was our pressure around the ball. We just wouldn't let

the ball out.

"We never lost belief this year and we deserved this."

The Tiger army is roaring again.



IN SPOTLIGHT: Tiger Luke Partington celebrates a goal in the second semi-final. Will Port skipper Cam Sutcliffe curb him in the grand final? Picture: SARAH REED

PORT ADELAIDE GLENELG

ADELAIDE OVAL, SUNDAY, 3PM

▼ MAGPIES

T. McKenzie 12
J. Scott 15

TIGERS ▲

T. Corcoran 42	J. Garner 27
L. Reynolds 7	L. Partington 10
C. Hewett 44	J. Lienert 40
M. Motlop 8	L. McBean 1
P. Ladhams 38	J. Atley 30
J. White 18	B. Close 23
S. Mayes 34	K. Farrell 24
C. Gregson 16	C. Nicholson 45
J. Trengove 19	W. Drew 28
B. Agnew 6	M. Snook 3
S. Davidson 10	T. Marshall 13
A. Joseph 4	C. Curran 5
S. Hayes 25	B. Woodcock 36
J. Scharenberg 2	B. McCarthy 14
T. Cox 47	
W. Gould 31	
W. Frampton 14	
M. Proud 19	

INTERCHANGE

K. Pudney 48,
M. Frederick 45,
R. Grundy 41, M.
Appleton 9, J. Strange
37, B. Edwards 4,
J. Elsworth 50.
In Frederick, Pudney,
Grundy, Appleton,
Edwards. Out
Johnson (suspended)

Rivalry

The Tigers won three battles in a row before Port won the second semi-final by four points. Since the Magpies became the Power reserves in 2014 they have won seven of 12 battles.

INTERCHANGE

M. Virgin 29,
M. Uebergang 21, J.
Koster 44, T. Slade 34,
D. Bailey 9, D. LeCornu
49, F. Betterman 13. In
Betterman, LeCornu,
Slade, Uebergang

HEAD TO HEAD Port Adelaide 170 wins, Glenelg 73 wins, 3 draws
FINALS RECORD Port Adelaide 16 wins, Glenelg 8 wins
LAST TIME Second semi: Port 11.10 (76) d Glenelg 11.6 (72) at Adelaide Oval

Medallist McBean's fit and raring to go

WARREN PARTLAND

GLENELG full forward Liam McBean has removed the moon boot protecting his sore heel and will train fully at the Bay tonight.

The Ken Farmer Medallist had been wearing the boot since getting a knock to the heel late in the preliminary final win over Adelaide at Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

"He is right and good to go," Tigers football manager Paul Sandercock said.

McBean was named at centre half-forward for the grand final confrontation against Port Adelaide at Adelaide Oval on Sunday but is expected to line up at full forward where he hurt the Crows with four goals.

Strong-marking forward Josh Scott is also available for the Tigers after accepting a \$200 fine and reprimand with an early guilty plea to striking Crows captain Matthew Wright.

The Tigers named a 25-man squad, which will be trimmed to 23 before the Rundle Mall Parade at noon tomorrow.

Tigers coach Mark Stone is not expected to finalise the 21 until game day.

Cam v Luke again?

SHADOW

PORT Adelaide captain Cam Sutcliffe is expected to get the job tagging Magarey Medallist Luke Partington. The Tigers midfielder had a heavy influence early in the second semi-final before Sutcliffe got to work. Sutcliffe said he was unsure what role he would have but a betting man will punt on him being somewhere very close to Partington. Billy Frampton's approach will be interesting after being physical in the second semi-final.

WHICH MARLON?

THERE were two Marlon Motlops in the preliminary final against Adelaide last weekend.

Josh Koster was brought into the side to face the Crows, replacing Matthew Uebergang. However, Uebergang fronted in the second semi-final and he will be seriously considered for a return to combat Port's depth of tall options.

Darcy Le Cornu, Todd Slade and Finn Betterman

In the first half he had very little impact and struggled to get into the contest. In the second half, he showed his true talents to impact significantly on the contest for the Tigers.

TIPS

Warren Partland: Port 13-24.
Patrick Keam: Glenelg 1-12.
Dani Abbracciavento: Port 1-12.
Andrew Capel: Glenelg 1-12.
Phantom: Glenelg 13-24.
Matthew Heath: Glenelg 1-12.

TV/RADIO

TV: Channel 7, live stream sanfdigitalpass.com.au
RADIO: 1629 SEN SA, 107.9 Life FM, 891 ABC Grandstand, 104.7 Triple M, 1395 FIVEaa

were also included on an extended bench.

The weather – rain is forecast for Sunday – could also determine Stone's decision on his line-up.

Port coach Matthew Lokan has been forced to make at least one change after talented forward Aidyn Johnson was

banned for two games following his unsuccessful appeal of a striking charge.

It is expected rookies Kai Pudney or Marty Frederick will be the replacement for Johnson after playing 15 and 19 SANFL games respectively this season. Contracted top-up players Matt Appleton and Ben Edwards, as well as Riley Grundy, have also been promoted to a 25-man squad.

The Frederick family has already had premiership success this week with Marty's twin brother Michael earning the Alan Stewart Medal for his best-on-ground performance for Woodville-West Torrens in its under-18 grand final win over South Adelaide at Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

Port will have an open training session at Alberton Oval tonight from 4.45pm, while the Tigers will train at the Bay from 5.30.

Norwood youngsters Cam Taheny and Dylan Stephens will give AFL recruiters another glimpse of their talents when they contest the reserves grand final against the Eagles. Stephens cemented his spot in the league side but is able to drop back to the reserves because he is 18.



Glenelg v Port Adelaide Adelaide Oval, 3pm tomorrow



THAT WINNING FEELING: Jubilant Glenelg coach Neil Kerley is hoisted shoulder-high on Adelaide Oval after the 1973 grand final triumph while, above right, Tigers skipper Peter Carey celebrates in 1985 and, below, Chris Natt, Tony Giles, Russell Ebert and David Granger hold the premiership flag after Port Adelaide's 1981 grand final win against Glenelg at Football Park.

Love-hate GF feeling

GORDON ARMSTRONG

YEARS ago Glenelg was regarded as one of the big four of the SANFL – Port Adelaide, Sturt and Norwood were part of that club.

Then came the new kid on the block in Central District with premierships galore and even Woodville-West Torrens grabbed a few flags and were regulars in finals.

But has any SANFL club endured a more love-hate relationship with grand final day than the mighty Bays?

This glutton for punishment has been there for the bad and occasional good in what we call the modern era.

1969 V STURT

SOMEHOW we found Richmond great Royce Hart in the team on some National Service exchange rule. We had plenty of hope with warm conditions to suit. Hart was knocked out early but came back to play well. Malcolm Greenslade kicked a bag and Sturt piled on the goals in a record 24.15 with their supporters yelling "pretty to watch". Long ride home on the train. Lost by 65 points.

1970 V STURT

WE came from the first semi and started well. But it was wet and all I remember in the second half was getting poked in the head and eye by stupid umbrellas. Every time we kicked a goal in the second half, Sturt would kick two. Wayne Phillis was OK as was Ray "Baby" Button but I was too wet to be upset. Lost by 21 points.

1973 V NORTH ADELAIDE

APART from getting married and having kids this was surely the greatest day created? A group of us Bay-ites camped overnight outside Adelaide Oval gates, stirred up the North cheersquad all night and then fell asleep at 9am when the colts GF kicked off



the next day.

When Cornesy goaled and then Sandland on the bell I nearly lost one jumping over the picket fence to join the mad celebrations. Driving back to the club along Anzac Highway was bizarre with scarfs and people hanging from car windows, horns tooting, cars swerving. Let's say SAPOL must have had its Bay supporters working that patch. Won by seven points.

1974 V STURT

FIRST grand final at Football Park with more than 58,000 packed in. Great form to come from elimination final. Kicking into a howling wind was no fun as we trailed 6.5 to 0.1. But two great quarters and we were five points down at the last change with the gale to come home with. Surely we can't lose. Then Sturt coach Jack Oatey produced a telling move by bringing on Rob Barton who had a big impact. Thanks Jack. Lost by 15 points.

1975 V NORWOOD

THIS one hurt. Low scoring but the Bays looked okay at half-time. But when a Rex Voigt goal was disallowed the wheels seem to fall off. Norwood steadied in the last quarter to win by 12 points, ending their 25-year flag drought.

1977 V PORT ADELAIDE

ANOTHER big crowd of 56,000 plus. I think Fred Phillis and Tim Evans must have been great mates as they had a quiet lie down together after emotions had run high. It was a high-scoring game but we just seemed to be two or three goals adrift after quarter-time. Made a late charge but never looked like pinching it. Port the best team all season. Lost by eight points.

1981 V PORT ADELAIDE

DIDN'T give a yelp, weather was good. Lost by 51 points.

1982 V NORWOOD

SAME as 1981 really, lost by 62 points.

1985 V NORTH ADELAIDE

THANK heavens for North Adelaide. A nervous start but good signs before half-time. Stephen Kernahan dominated, copped a whack and then the cavalry hit the scoreboard. The return of Graham Cornes to the club as coach was pivotal. Won by 57 points.

1986 V NORTH ADELAIDE

PLAYED each week of the finals but this win and the margin was a surprise. Led by 33 points at half-time and we all waited to get run over but the boys stood tall to win by 48 points. A great day.

1987 V NORTH ADELAIDE

All the North jokes were forgotten quickly as the karma bus smacked us big time. One goal on the board at half-time was tough to watch. Could not wait to slink out of the ground. Lost by 82 points.

1988 V PORT ADELAIDE

STARTED well to trail by seven points at half-time but Port Adelaide again too strong when it counted. Disappointing but not shattering. The club still rocked on at night. Lost by 29 points.

1990 V PORT ADELAIDE

DOWN by 24 points at half-time but we hear good news. Scott Hodges has broken two legs, an arm and has a crushed sternum and Port Adelaide has six other injuries. We are going to win the last game before the Crows come into the AFL. What the? Hodges has surgery on his broken limbs, returns to action and kicks goals. This is a Bay thing. Lost by 15 points.

1992 V PORT ADELAIDE

A GREAT finals series coming from the elimination final. But blown away in the second half by ... was it Craig Bradley or Nathan Buckley? Can't remember. It was some young gun in black and white. Kym Hodgeman coached his final league game, from memory. Lost by 56 points.

2008 V CENTRAL

A LONG lay-off from the big day but feeling good after a big win in the preliminary final. A tight first half, just a few points down. But the Central machine cranked up and our scoring went down the gurgler. Disappointing but not good enough. Lost by 42 points.

2019 V PORT ADELAIDE

THE Bays have never lost a grand final to Port Adelaide at Adelaide Oval so here's hoping that continues tomorrow and it's a great day.

GRAHAM CORNES



Inaugural Adelaide
Crows coach and SANFL
premiership player and
coach at Glenelg

MAGPIE IN THE SKY

WHAT makes a great football club? It's a question that footy scribes have grappled with for well over a century.

Is it longevity? Is it premiership success? Is it a jumper? Is it status within the local community? Is it the people within? Perhaps it's all of the above.

Port Adelaide and Norwood share a similar timeline. So does South Adelaide and North Adelaide.

Port Adelaide, North Adelaide and South Adelaide were all foundation members of the South Australian Football League in 1877. (The "National" part of the SANFL nomenclature was added in 1927.)

Norwood joined in 1878. Norwood, South and Port won 23 of the first 24 premierships.

In 1901, South Adelaide would have been regarded as a great club. Not so much now. Central District didn't join the SANFL until 1964.

Its greatness was established when it appeared in every grand final between 2000 and 2011, winning nine.

But the glory and the greatness fade unless you can regularly repeat those successes.

Port Adelaide is the only one of those foundation clubs that has regularly reproduced periods of dominance.

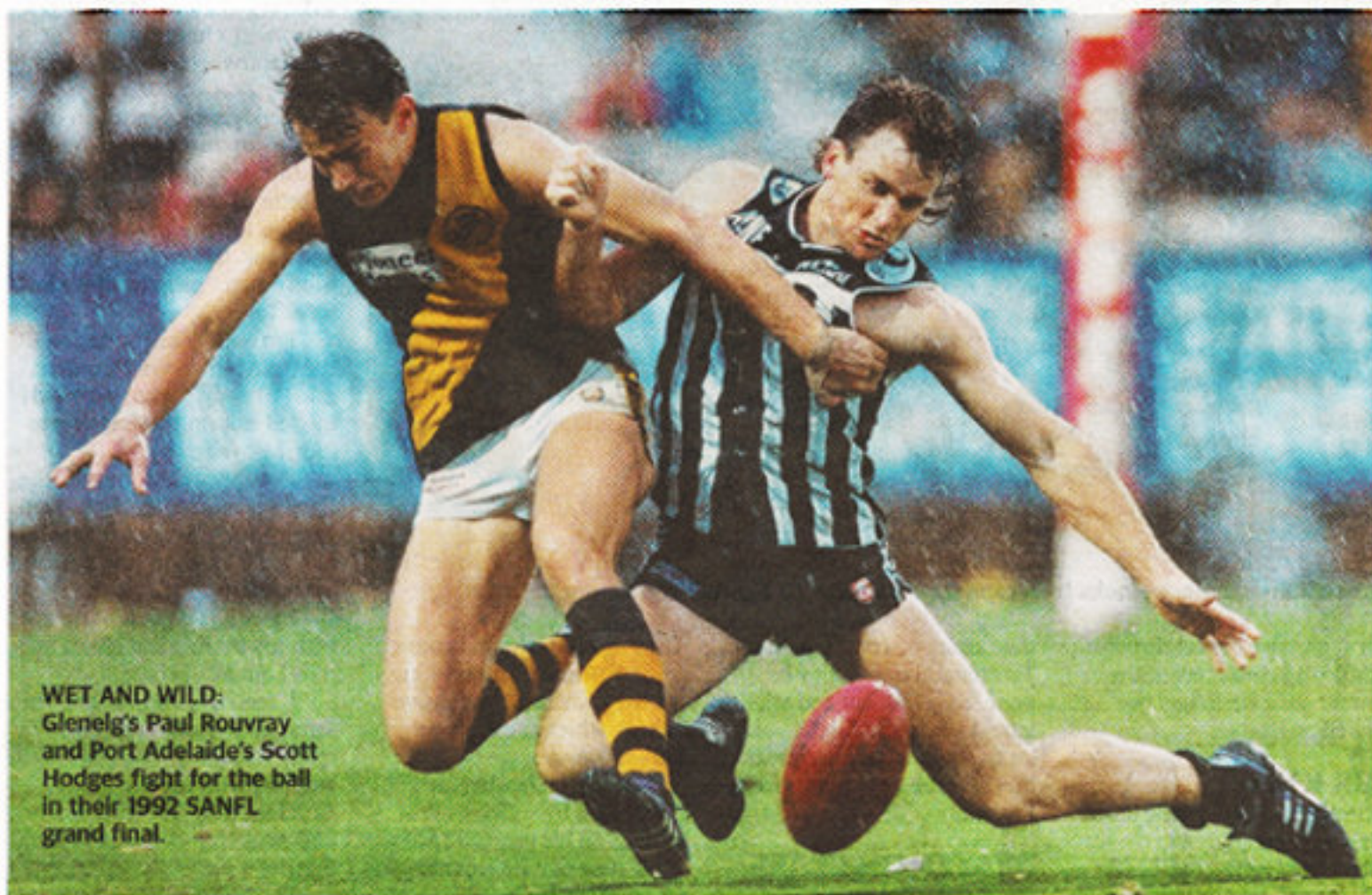
After the 1990 upheaval and subsequent formation of the Port Adelaide Power to enter the AFL, the Port Adelaide Magpies seemed doomed.

Banished to Ethelton in 1997, the team – under Stephen Williams – miraculously appeared in the next three grand finals, winning two.

But which team was the real Port Adelaide?

The identity crisis was solved when the two teams became one club in 2011.

The greatness was restored, although neither the Power or the Magpies have won a flag since then.



WET AND WILD:
Glenelg's Paul Rouvray
and Port Adelaide's Scott
Hodges fight for the ball
in their 1992 SANFL
grand final.

You may hate them – in fact they challenge you to hate them – but you can't deny the record. It's a great club, albeit one that chooses to be identified on a national, even global scale these days, rather than being confined to those suburbs west of the Cheltenham Cemetery.

Glenelg cannot claim the premiership successes of Port Adelaide, nor can it claim its history. It can lay claim to periods of dominance, but 33 years without premiership success and periods of crisis when the club almost folded are stark reminders that greatness is also built on longevity.

Nevertheless, the Glenelg Football Club's relevance is how important it is to the community.

The AFL and its two South Australian teams dominate the hearts and minds of the football public, but they don't represent a community like the Glenelg Football Club does.

The Tigers didn't officially enter the SAFL until 1920, although there is a report of a Glenelg Football Club playing its first match, ironically against the Adelaide Football

Club, on May 15, 1880.

Still, its impact on those communities that occupy the tract of land from The Patavolonga to Marino Rocks has been significant.

People, as much as premierships, make a great club. They are not necessarily born into those clubs. Neil Kerley went to Glenelg after being at West Adelaide and South Adelaide.

The greatest men within the Port Adelaide Football Club – Fos Williams, Bob McLean, even John Cahill – came to Port Adelaide from other clubs. Russell Ebert came from Waikerie.

I loved the Glenelg Football Club the moment Neil Kerley stood in front of me holding a Glenelg jumper in a gnarled fist. Such was his power and aura he made the club great and inspired a new generation of Glenelg footballers.

He swept into the club in 1967, setting new standards and demanding new attitudes.

The jumper was to be honoured and never shamed.

Never shirk a contest and never let your opponents know you were hurt.

Before Kerley, Glenelg had been a great social club, but the players didn't really expect to play finals.

After he arrived, we didn't expect not to.

He was there 10 years and Glenelg played in five grand finals. But we won only one. I have the perverse record of playing in eight grand finals, only one of which we won.

The great Peter Carey has the best record of any Glenelg player. He played in 10 grand finals, yet won only three.

There is no football justice in that, although I've learned over the years that Port Adelaide, all too often, defy the laws of football justice.

My favourite Glenelg player, Allan Crabb, never played in a premiership.

Tall, eloquent and heroic, he had flown in the Battle of Britain during World War II.

He was runner-up twice in the Magarey Medal, was awarded the 1949 medal posthumously, captained the Bays, but never won a flag.

So tomorrow, Port Adelaide play Glenelg in the SANFL grand final.

It's the classic contest of

good against evil. It's not the Port Adelaide that we've known over the years.

The fusion of the Power and the Magpies has distorted the identity of the club to all but the Port Adelaide fans, who can shift their allegiance conveniently between a black, white and teal jumper and a black and white one.

With the resources of the AFL club behind them, bolstered by AFL-listed players and fuelled by the demands of a chairman that they win premierships, the Magpies are formidable opponents.

It hardly seems fair.

Two weeks ago, an Adelaide AFL reserve team trounced Norwood in the first semi-final. I sat there seething at the inequity of it all. In the following match on the same day, Glenelg and Port Adelaide played out an epic semi-final, with the Magpies winning by four points.

It was a great game, but the prospect of a Port Adelaide-Adelaide SANFL grand final threatened to destroy my faith in the game and the competition that I so love.

The crisis was averted momentarily when Glenelg beat the Crows last week, but whatever the result tomorrow, the inequity of it can't be disguised and action needs to be taken to address it.

But suspend the politics of it all momentarily. At 3pm tomorrow, two traditional clubs face off against each other.

One, undoubtedly by all standards a great club, the other's greatness defined by its people, its communities and fleeting moments of dominance. Fully-committed coaches and players desperate for premiership success will battle for football's ultimate prize.

On May 29, 1880, a Port Adelaide team of 20 players played a team of 24 Glenelg players on what is now Camden Oval. Port won by a goal and that Glenelg team simply faded from the history books. If there is a football god, please don't let it happen tomorrow.

The bitter finals clash sparked one of SANFL's fiercest rivalries

MICHELANGELO
RUCCI
ON SATURDAY



NOT one player in the Port Adelaide and Glenelg line-ups for tomorrow's SANFL grand final will know just where and how their clubs' bitter rivalry began and festered.

They will hear again and again that these two clubs hate each other, but very little of this rivalry has to do with the old-school Magpies beating the Tigers in the 1977, 1981, 1988, 1990 and 1992 deciders.

To be fair, not even the rival coaches of the infamous day in 1976 – Neil Kerley, then at Glenelg, and John Cahill at Port Adelaide – knew at the time their ambitious teams

had been put on a warpath.

And that the angst would continue for more than a decade and create some of the biggest controversies and changes in SANFL football.

Four days after that defining second semi-final at Football Park, "Kerls" and "Jack" were – as long-time mates more so than rivals – on a Adelaide jetty fishing.

That semi-final, won by the Magpies, became hot with two moments from Glenelg's Phillis brothers, Fred and Wayne.

Fred's off-the-ball act at the start of the second half was typical of SANFL football in an era when the game demanded hard men physically intimidate their opponents.

There was no video review or post-match report of either

Phillis' swing or the all-in brawl that followed.

Nor was there a match review panel to deal with Fred Phillis' "clash" that dazed Port Adelaide full forward Tim Evans well behind the play in the 1977 grand final.

The precursor for the "match review officer" – and escalation of the Magpies-Tigers rivalry – came after the 1981 SANFL grand final, when Glenelg demanded the SANFL act on Port Adelaide key forward David Granger for a behind-the-play hit that ended the career of popular Tiger utility Neville Caldwell.

Granger became the first player charged and banned on video evidence.

A year later, after creating havoc in incidents with Ste-

phen Barratt and Graham Cornes in the 1982 preliminary final against Glenelg, Granger had his career end with a long-term suspension.

This final – decided by one point after Cornes pushed Granger in the back but did not concede a free kick in a marking contest 50m from the southern goal – could have ended with a riot had the Magpies won.

"If we win this, run for the car park (not the rooms) – otherwise we won't get out of here alive," Cahill said to his staff after the three-quarter time huddle.

Cornes was probably lucky to survive his entry to the victorious Port Adelaide rooms to congratulate the Magpies on their 1990 triumph ... and to

condemn the club's leadership for their "treachery" in seeking an AFL licence that year.

It was Glenelg that months earlier gained the Supreme Court injunction against Port Adelaide's AFL deal.

Last week's tension between the Tigers and Magpies as the SANFL tribunal hearings against Port Adelaide duo Billy Frampton and Aidyn Johnson stretched across two nights is minor compared with all these clubs endured from 1976-1990.

But it adds nicely to the backdrop for another highly anticipated Port Adelaide-Glenelg SANFL grand final ... even if the players will not know why so many of the fans at the Oval on Sunday will be more fired up than them.