

# Magpies swoop smoothly towards 19th league pennant

Undaunted by the wildest free-for-all for many seasons, Port Adelaide yesterday summarily dismissed the challenge of Glenelg and stormed magnificently into the 1976 football grand final.

Mike Coward reports

## Weston should be fit

GLENELG coach Neil Kerley expects his ace defender Paul Weston to be available for Saturday's preliminary final with Sturt at Football Park.

Weston was concussed and had to leave the ground during the second quarter of the second semi-final yesterday.

The champion half-back was not rendered unconscious, but he was still ashen and most seedy after the game.

Kerley said he expected to have a full list available.

PORT ADELAIDE rovers Brian Cunningham and Darrell Cahill both had treatment for facial injuries.

Cunningham was bleeding from his left ear and Cahill was cut above the eye.

Coach John Cahill was pleased that half-back John Ede was not worried by the hamstring injury which forced him out of the last minor round match.

Port players will keep in touch in a "friendly" match among themselves at Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

STURT full forward Ken Whelan is about 85 p.c. fit at the moment and 95 p.c. certain to resume against Glenelg.

A broken finger has kept him out of the two major round games but he trained with more assurance on Thursday.

Sturt this week will be without stand-in full forward Malcolm Greenslade (broken arm) and wingman Noel Pettingill (medial ligament).

Pettingill will undergo surgery tomorrow to repair the ligament damage.

Doubt also exists about full back Bruce Winter, who injured his right knee in the third quarter against Norwood on Saturday.

Colin Casey (forearm) and Geoff Lauder (eye) were sore yesterday but will be available.

Attempting to end the most unsuccessful period in the club's history — it has been without a pennant for 11 years — Port crushed Glenelg by 43 points in the second semi-final at Football Park.

A crowd of 42,448 — only 1006 short of the 1966 record for a second semi-final — saw Port Adelaide unmercifully beat Glenelg into submission.

From quarter time, Port scored 15.19 to 6.9 and by midway through the third term had reduced Glenelg to a fumbling, pedestrian outfit.

And it did it with a superb blend of run, strength and skill. The performance had the unmistakable stamp of class — the class we've come to expect from anyone influenced by John Cahill.

Port, which has lost the past five grand finals it has contested, must now start a very short priced favorite for its 19th premiership since 1907.

The match erupted during the third quarter and umpire Bob Schofield was hardpressed to keep order.

The first explosion came when young Glenelg defender Daryl Rady was felled behind the play. A dozen players exchanged blows as play went on down the ground.

Schofield glanced at the milling, angry players but called "play on" and Brian Cunningham

worked the ball forward for Randall Gerlach to goal and give Port a three-goal advantage.

But moments later all hell broke loose across Port Adelaide's half-forward line at the northern end of the ground when Wayne Phillis, with arms flailing, emerged from a tussle with Cunningham.

Players converged from all over the ground in some of the wildest scenes seen in an SA match since the infamous donnybrook days of the 1950s.

In the end, 28 players were involved in the melee and six more stood nearby in a most agitated state. Graham Cornes and Max James — sole occupiers of the southern end of the ground — were the only players not in the "red alert" zone.

Immediately after the many and varied exchanges, Cunningham was treated for a nasty ear gash. He and Phillis collided again minutes later and trainers again raced to assist the ace Port rover.

But Port was totally unruffled by the drama and added 2.2 to three points for the remainder of the quarter.

PORT	2.2	6.6	12.12	17.21	(123)
GLENELG	5.5	6.8	7.13	11.14	(80)

A delighted Cahill said after the match: "They were told that in the event of an incident, they had to turn it to their advantage. And that is what they did."

Port's powerful running, strong tackling and immaculate use of the ball with both hand and foot, began to wear Glenelg down late in the second term.

Unsettled by the loss of Paul Weston, who was concussed in the second term, Glenelg lost all its well-earned authority during the third quarter when Port kicked 6.6 to 1.5.

Players so conspicuous by their presence in the first half, were conspicuous by their absence after half-time. Adrian Rebeck, Neville Caldwell, Graham Cornes, Stephen Copping and Colin Anderson were notable drop-outs.

Had it not been for Peter Carey, Peter Marker, who eclipsed Russell Ebert for three quarters, Bob Paech, who was playing in his first final, and Rady, Glenelg's image would have been further tarnished.

Port, which all day had Carl Fragomeni — did he make a mistake? — and Max James performing extraordinary feats on the last line of defence, steadily grew in stature. By early in the third quarter, its confidence was such that it totally and ruthlessly dictated proceedings.

Its fitness was superior and its leg-power greater. Obviously the week's rest was of great value to it.

Cahill's interchange of Tim Evans and Greg Phillips had a very great bearing on the match.

When Evans moved to centre half-forward and Phillips to a forward pocket, Port was able repeatedly to lock the ball in. And when it came to ground, Darrell Cahill, Cunningham, David Granger, Andy Porplycia and Kym Kinnear, who had a marvellous game, were more than equal to the occasion.

Glenelg was unable to counter the subtle interchanges of Port personnel. In addition to the Evans - Phillips switches, Cunningham, Cahill, Granger, Porplycia and Robert Whatman caused their customary chaos.

Neil Kerley made many moves — including Fred and Wayne Phillis and Greg Croser to centre half - back, Graham Cornes and Colin Anderson to full forward and David Holst to a half-forward flank — but he could do nothing to get his men back into the game.

Rarely has a Glenelg side capitulated so dramatically.

"Of course I'm disappointed, but I'm not too concerned. They'll come up OK," Kerley said.

"Port got the run and played very well. They were first class. In fact, I doubt if they can play any better than that."

Goalkeepers — Port — Gerlach, 5.1; Cahill, 4.3; G. Phillips, 2.3; Evans, 1.3; Whatman, Cunningham, 1.2; Light, 1.1; Ebert, Porplycia, 1.0; Granger, Jackman, 0.1; rushed 0.4. Glenelg — Carey, 3.1; D. Phillis, 3.0; Rady, Holst, 1.2; Rebeck, 1.1; Marker, Caldwell, 1.0; McInerney, 0.2; Cornes, Anderson, Copping, 0.1; rushed, 0.3.

Best — Port — Fragomeni, Evans, Kinnear, James, Cunningham, Ebert, Cahill, N. Phillips. Glenelg — Carey, Marker, Paech, Rady.

Umpire — R. Schofield.

## A thumping good game



Port Adelaide rover Brian Cunningham (top right) is down and his adversary, Glenelg follower Wayne Phillis, has disappeared under a heap of players at Football Park yesterday. This incident in the third quarter of the second semi-final sparked off a donnybrook involving 28 players. Cunningham was treated for a gashed ear. No player was reported during the match.