The Advertiser
SPORT

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Awesome Bays have grand look

By GEOFF KINGSTON

Glenelg looks to be rolling inexorably towards yet another grand final. Yeah; it seems ridiculous to suggest that after just two games. But the way it wrecked Sturt yesterday was awesome.

And when you look closely at the make-up and balance of the side, it is difficult to find any weakness which should cause coach Graham Cornes any great drama.

It is solid in ruck, where Chris Melican and Gary Christie are tough and resourceful, and its on-the-ball players are a fascinating mix of textbook skill and alleycat cunning. There is a brutish ingredient, too, which stiffens not only Glenelg but also some opponents.

And Cornes for the most part was satisfied with the 65-point victory. It was the umpires, however, who caused him some anguish ... and the fans seemed as confused as the umpires.

It was not a good day for Max Cuzzocrea and David Weston, who seemed on the verge of "losing" the game in the last term when tempers began to fray. But the disenchantment began as early as the first term when Cornes sent Glenelg runner Trevor Jaques to query a decision by Cuzzocrea. Cuzzocrea obviously was not impressed by the discussion and told Jaques to " ——— off you little ———."

It seemed like a case of abusive language.

Cornes was still upset long after the game had ended, but explained reluctantly that he could not be quoted publicly because in the past — when he had been outspoken about umpires — he had been chastised by the league.

Glenelg, however, shrugged off not only the distraction of the umpires but also Sturt, which for two quarters looked a very worthy and capable member of the league competition.

In the first half Sturt rocked and shocked Glenelg with its pace and its willingness to challenge Glenelg's authority.

Greg Whittlesea was superb against Chris McDermott. The Sturt captain's performance in or near the centre square was masterful and, with him in full flight, Sturt looked menacing.

Ruckman Brett Lienert pushed a lot of chances at the smaller Sturt players, whose speed got them there first and enabled them to escape, to hurt and harass Glenelg all over the ground.

John Paynter, while not his usual unhurried but creative self, was nonetheless quietly effective — mostly in attack; so too was Michael O'Brien, whose explosive quickness at half-forward unbalanced the Glenelg defence constantly. Jason Bastian, either at half-forward or on the ball, also created a little panic for Glenelg, as did Mark O'Keefe at times at centre half-forward.

Glenelg	**2.1**	**8.6**	**14.8**	**21.10**	**(136)**
Sturt	**4.5**	**6.8**	**9.9**	**10.11**	**(71)**

SCORERS — Glenelg: Fidge 10.1, Liptak 3.2, Mansell 3.1, Lamb 2.1, McDermott 2.0, Symonds 1.1, Bartlett 0.1, Rouvray 0.1, Hodgeman 0.1, ruched 0.1. **Sturt:** O'Brien 3.3, O'Keefe 2.1, Sutterby 2.0, Nuske 1.2, Paynter 1.0, Lienert 1.0, rushed 0.5.

BEST — Glenelg: Liptak, Fidge, Symonds, Bow, Seebohm, Hodgeman, Marshall, Mansell, Gibbs. **Sturt:** Paynter, Whittlesea, Burke, Johns, Bower.

UMPIRES: Max Cuzzocrea, David Weston.

Darren Bower stung Glenelg, too, with his own version of the game and Andrew Johns at times made his more experienced opponents look pedestrian.

It was the Sturt pace and alertness that bamboozled Glenelg early. Had it not been for a virtuoso performance by John Fidge at the goalfront, Glenelg would have been in deep manure at half-time. As it was, Fidge's five goals (to that point) enabled it to scramble to a 10-point lead — 6.8 to 8.6.

And that was the ball game. It ended right there. In the next two quarters Glenelg kicked 13.4 to Sturt's 4.3 to quickly dismiss Sturt as a genuine heavyweight contender. The two simply play different games.

Glenelg's is built on guts and skill and many different combinations of those qualities. Its game also is about persistence and not quitting when things get a little serious.

Sturt, on the other hand, must learn not only to play when it hurts but also to understand there are two games out there these days — attack and defence. It played only one — attack. And it didn't have the firepower to bother Glenelg after the first half.

Its failure to defend, to employ even the most basic defensive tactics, allowed the skilful Glenelg players to toy with Sturt in the end.

Players such as McDermott, beaten by Whittlesea in the first half, just kept doing it, just kept persisting; and Kym Hodgeman, Darren Mansell, Tony Symonds, Peter Maynard, David Marshall, Lynden Bow, John Seebohm, Ross Gibbs and Matthew Liptak completed the demolition.

Liptak maybe was the best player on the ground. His 18 kicks, four marks and 21 handballs exerted tremendous pressure on Sturt; pressure that eventually blew it wide open.

And with 10-goal Fidge unstoppable at the goalfront, Glenelg gave the impression it already has the personnel to give this 1990 premiership a very serious shake.

FIDGE AGAIN ... *Glenelg's John Fidge in action yesterday.*

SA LADDER

After second series.

	W	L	F	A	P.c.	Pts
Port	2	–	295	157	65.26	4
Glenelg	2	–	240	135	64.00	4
North	2	–	207	140	59.65	4
West	2	–	207	190	52.14	4
Torrens	1	1	166	169	49.55	2
Woodville	1	1	179	192	48.24	2
South	–	2	172	212	44.79	–
Sturt	–	2	179	245	42.21	–
Norwood	–	2	153	231	39.84	–
Central	–	2	144	271	34.69	–

GOALKICKERS

	Series 2	Total
J. Fidge (Glenelg)	10	17
S. Hodges (Port)	6	16
D. Stoeckel (South)	3	7
C. Burton (North)	2	7
P. Foott (West)	2	6
B. Winton (West)	2	6
A. Jakovich (Woodville)	2	6
B. Minchington (Central)	1	6

THE DRAW

Third series: Saturday — FOOTBALL PARK: Woodville v Central; **PROSPECT:** North v Torrens. **Sunday — ADELAIDE OVAL:** South v Sturt; **RICHMOND:** West v Norwood; **Monday, April 30, 8pm — FOOTBALL PARK:** Glenelg v Port.

CROWDS

Football Park (Port v Norwood)	36,397
Adelaide Oval (Sturt v Glenelg)	12,147
Total for second series	**60,479**

Port	**4.4**	**7.8**	**16.16**	**18.19**	**(127)**
Norwood	**3.2**	**8.5**	**9.7**	**12.9**	**(81)**

SCORERS — Port: Hodges 6.4, Settre 2.3, Brown 2.2, Wanganeen 2.0, Stringer, Tregenza 1.2, R. Smith, Hynes, Borlase 1.1, Phillips 1.0, McKay, Hutton 0.1, rushed 0.1. **Norwood:** Muster 3.0, Rowe 2.0, Payne 1.2, Thomas, Weeding, Smart 1.1, Jarman, McIntosh, Murdoch 1.0, Robran 0.1, rushed 0.3.

BEST — Port: Brown, Tregenza, Hynes, Abernethy, S. Williams, Phillips, Borlase. **Norwood:** Jarman, Robran, Staritski, Pyke, Rowe.

UMPIRES: Michael Abbott, Laurie Argent.

Lamb sidelined

Glenelg half-forward Clayton Lamb could miss six or seven weeks because of a suspected depressed fracture of the cheekbone. Lamb was hit hard in yesterday's game and was taken to hospital for X-rays and examination.