Peter Prime's Top 3

3. Nathan Buckley (Port). Fully deserved Jack Oatey Medal for best afield. Continually hurt Glenelg with pace and ability. The 1992 Magarey Medallist will go from strength to strength.

2. Bruce Abernethy (Port). Solid, reliable and inspirational. Again proved what a great big-time player he is. Hopefully, Port's brainstrust can persuade him to continue.

1. Roger Delaney (Port). Had the immense task of controlling Bay forward John Fidge and performed superbly. Fidge still managed 4.3 but Delaney provided enormous rebound and run for the Magpies.

Lawrie McCauley's Top 3

3. Nathan Buckley (Port). Picked up another medal, the Jack Oatey Medal, to go with his premiership medallion and Magarey Medal. What a player he promises to become in the future, wherever that future may be.

2. Bruce Abernethy (Port): Another polished, intelligent display from a fine player who surely now will be talked into playing another season with the Magpies, without Crows interruptions.

1. Darren Mansell (Glenelg): Tried to ignite the side early. Even while some others around him eventually ran out of puff, he kept on trying to stem the Port tidal wave.

Cruel break for tired Tigers

COMMENT by LAWRIE MCCAULEY

The SANFL must take strong action to ensure both grand final teams have a fair go when future premierships are decided.

The fact Glenelg went into yesterday's game with just six days between finals matches is unfair and does little justice to what should be the showpiece of football for the season.

No one could suggest Port Adelaide was not the best side in the competition, in the finals or in the minor round. It clearly was a cut above the rest in all facets of the game from start to finish of 1992.

When, as the Magpies' club song suggests, they were set to "tear down the thunder from the sky" in yesterday's match, no side could have hoped to match them. But the fact Glenelg players had just six days to recover from their preliminary final clash did not help their cause when they vainly tried to mix it with the eventual premiers.

Does six days rest make a difference? You bet it does – there have been eight grand finals since 1982 where one side has had the limited preparation. On all eight occasions they have lost – and lost without giving a yelp toward the finish. And it is the fourth time Glenelg has been in this situation in that time.

In 1982 it was Norwood by 62 points (against Glenelg), 1983 West Adelaide by 34 (Sturt), 1985 Glenelg by 57 (North Adelaide), 1987 North by 82 (Glenelg), 1988 Port by 29 (Glenelg), 1989 Port by 94 (North), 1991 North by 75 (West) and this year Port by 56 against Glenelg.

Winning the second semi-final deserves some sort of reward, and having a two-week break gives that side a chance to fully prepare, and for players to overcome niggling injuries.

But that advantage is emphasised too dramatically when its grand-final opponent has just six days in which to gear itself for a game that determines the premiership. After 10 minutes of the second term yesterday, Glenelg led 4.5 to 1.2. From that moment on, Port added 16.1 to 3.2. (In the reserves, where the Eagles had two weeks and Glenelg six days' break, Glenelg also bolted at the start but was overrun to the tune of 20 goals to four from early in the second term).

Fresh legs? Perhaps it was merely a matter of Port being vastly superior and the time difference in preparation for the match counted for nothing? No-one will ever know for sure.

The fact is, there shouldn't be any doubt. Why should Glenelg (and teams similarly disadvantaged in the past) be subjected to the cruel preparation when the SANFL is supposed to be marketing the grand final as *the* big day of the year.

One suggestion doing the rounds last night was it is time for the SANFL to bite the bullet on this issue.

It would be folly to have the preliminary final clash with the AFL grand final. But, rather than move the match to a Sunday – why not play it on a Saturday night under lights?

Traditionallists would say that too is wrong. But perhaps it is the lesser of two evils. Glenelg certainly wouldn't have minded an extra day to prepare for yesterday's game.

MAGPIE MAGIC

By PETER PRIME

Imposing Port Adelaide emphatically snuffed out another Glenelg tilt at premiership glory to win its 31st flag in a one-sided grand final at Football Park yesterday.

Before a rain-soaked crowd of 42,242, a calculating and highly-proficient Magpie outfit thrashed the disappointing Tigers by 56 points – 17.3 (105) to 7.7(49).

Port was brutal. It grew in stature as the day wore on. In the final analysis, the battle was merely a showcase for the its immense skills.

John Cahill's Magpies again proved they have a great ability to perform under pressure. They have a win-at-all-costs attitude and a touch of arrogance that typifies great sides.

Any critics of the club's on-field exploits must now be silenced. Glenelg, perhaps weakened by a demanding September, realised it needed to build an early buffer and hold on.

But it couldn't come to grips with Port's persistence, unswerving attack on the ball and body and its finals' know-how after quarter-time.

Hairline fractures suddenly became crevasses after the long-break. The Tiger forwards, apart from John Fidge (4.3), were neither lethal nor efficient. Finally, any flickering hopes of a revival were well and truly doused in a downpour of rain and a procession of Magpie goals.

Through class and audacity Port kept the Tigers at bay. There were no lapses of concentration or poor spells of bad luck. The Magpies just ground away refusing to drop their heads.

Then, of course, there was 1992 Magarey Medallist Nathan Buckley.

One of the biggest bouquets must go to this extraordinary talented youngster who was later named the winner of the Jack Oatey Medal as best afield.

Buckley was the best and one of the bravest, asserting tremendous influence on the game – bounding deep into attack and falling back into defence when required.

He beat several opponents, including rugged, dependable Tiger captain Scott Salisbury and young Dwayne Kretschmer.

Magpie veteran Bruce Abernethy, possibly in his last game for the club, was another solid, inspirational performer.

Defender Roger Delaney had a great battle with Tiger dangerman John Fidge, providing enormous run and rebound, while Scott Hodges (six goals) and Darren Smith (three goals) were key forwards.

But to single out individual players is unfair. Grand finals are not won by personnel deeds or exploits. The team is everything.

To use a well-worn football cliche, the Magpies' performance yesterday was a total team effort.

The Tigers were outclassed – but at least they were brave to the bitter end.

While tears of joy flowed and champagne was poured as the Magpies celebrated their magnificent victory, there was deathly silence in the Tiger rooms.

Glenelg players sat bunched on the floor with heads bowed. Another grand final had been lost and it hurt.

The club has a fine tradition and had won enormous respect after a tough September when it had to battle its way through from the sudden-death elimination final.

But Port, as always, was imposing. Under coach John Cahill, it doesn't just expect success, it demands it.

Cahill has now led Port to five grand final wins over Glenelg for seven flags in total – 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1988, 1990 and now 1992.

At the age of 52, he has now completed his 35th consecutive year in senior football and his 19th grand final – 10 as a player (four premierships) and nine as a coach (seven).

GRAND FINAL

At Football Park

PORT	**1.2**	**8.3**	**15.3**	**17.3**	**(105)**
Glenelg	**3.3**	**4.6**	**6.7**	**7.7**	**(49)**

BEST – PORT: Buckley, Abernethy, Delaney, Hodges, D. Smith, R. Smith, Northeast, Chalmers, Rizonico. **GLENELG:** Mansell, McKay, Hallahan, Thompson, Reubenicht, Fidge.
GOALS – PORT: Hodges 6.0, D. Smith 3.0, Buckley 2.2, Settre, Foster, Chalmers, Borlase, Brown, Ginever 1.0, S. Williams 0.1. **GLENELG:** Fidge 4.3, Lamb 1.2, Mansell 1.1, Salisbury 1.0, Seebohm 0.1.
INJURIES – GLENELG: Mansell (suspected broken nose).
UMPIRES: Michael Abbott, Kevin Chambers.

Crowd

Football Park 42,242

SA goalkickers

	Games	Y'day	Total
M. Tylor (Port)	21	0	97
J. Fidge (Glenelg)	14	4	84
M. Russell (Glenelg)	23	0	57
M. Jones (Norwood)	21	0	55
T. Modra (West)	10	0	53
C. Lamb (Glenelg)	25	1	53
C. Burton (North)	20	0	52
S. Morphett (Eagles)	25	0	51
G. Molloy (Norwood)	19	0	46
D. Borlase (Port)	19	1	45
D. Niemann (Eagles)	24	0	44
B. Atkinson (North)	24	0	42
A. Taylor (Eagles)	24	0	41
R. Handley (Central)	19	0	39

By LAWRIE McCAULEY

Port Adelaide coach John Cahill has played in four premiership sides and coached eight Port sides to the flag. Each one has a different feel and, as the joyous throng of people around him would testify, each one gives cause for serious celebrations.

JOHN CAHILL (Port): "Each one is different – they bring you so close to the players and personnel, the support staff.

"It was just a totally committed team effort on and off the ground. I was probably more nervous about this game than ever before, even at half-time, because we felt Glenelg would come back and keep having a go. It's a hard working club, and it paid off."

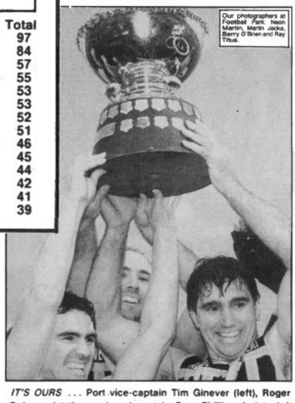
GREG PHILLIPS (Port captain): "It's unbelievable. Standing next to Max (SANFL president Max Basheer) made me feel 100 feet tall," he said after his first premiership as club captain.

"Early on I remember seeing Russell Ebert up there and now I realise how great it is to be captain of this great club. Ebert, Brian Cunningham, Russell Johnston, and now me.

"It's capped off a great career, although I don't know about next year yet.

"I'm so proud of the boys. They had their backs to the wall last year but there was so much support for the players and I really have to thank the lads who, unfortunately, missed out on making the 20 today, like Mark Tylor, Darren Mead, Julian Burton and a half a dozen others."

NATHAN BUCKLEY (Port's Jack Oatey Medallist): "It's a good win for the club. They do so much for you, all you want to do is give something back. The players and Jack (Cahill) have helped me so much. It really is like a big family." Buckley said he would not know for a few weeks where his playing future lies.



Our photographers at Football Park: Neon Martin, Martin Jacka, Barry O'Brien and Ray Titus.

IT'S OURS . . . Port vice-captain Tim Ginever (left), Roger Delaney (at the rear) and captain Greg Phillips hoist aloft the Thomas Seymour Hill premiership cup.

KYM HODGEMAN (Glenelg coach): "Their 17.3 was tremendous kicking for goal in a grand final. I respect them enormously, it's a great club and they were too good for us today.

"I feel for our players, they did a tremendous job getting to the grand final. If we'd converted better in the first and second quarters . . . but there's no ifs and maybes in a grand final."

SCOTT SALISBURY (Glenelg's retiring captain): "I'd like to thank everyone involved with the Glenelg Football Club. It wasn't our day, Port's experience outweighed ours and that took over in the end."

Reserves grand final

At Football Park

EAGLES	**1.2**	**6.9**	**14.14**	**21.25**	**(151)**
Glenelg	**5.9**	**7.11**	**9.15**	**10.15**	**(75)**

BEST – EAGLES: King, Chapman, McInneny, Lukisius, Devine, Sziller, Davey, DiBlase. **GLENELG:** Barton, McGuinness, T. Symonds, Deane, Flower, McIntosh.
GOALS – EAGLES: Lukosius 4, McInneny 3, Meade, Fuller, DiBiase Kluzek, Freeborn 2, King, Negri, James, Sziller. **GLENELG:** Russell, McGuinness 2, West, Budarick, McRae, McIntosh, Deane, Barton.

GLENELG

DARREN MANSELL

It was his best year and it showed. He was the Bays outstanding contributor. **(RATING: 8)**

CLAYTON LAMB

Disappointing, as he could not get into the game and Glenelg missed his brilliance of recent weeks. **(4)**

JOHN FIDGE

Played as well as he could in view of the fact others could not get the ball to him with any method. **(5)**

ANDREW McKAY

Did not stop trying. Is he is ready just yet for the AFL despite polling so many Magarey Medal votes? **(6)**

ALLAN BARTLETT

Should have been on earlier in the game when the Bays needed someone with strength as Port cleared away. **(4)**

DAVID MARSHALL

Started off in his usual immaculate style but was found wanting when Port started brushing everyone aside. **(6)**

CHRIS DUTHY

Up until yesterday, I regarded him as Glenelg's best player in the finals but he was another disappointment. **(5)**

PAUL ROUVRAY

Did no damage to his reputation despite being handed the unenviable task of standing Scott Hodges. **(6)**

LYNDEN BOW

Just could not handle the conditions and was interchanged throughout the day. **(3)**

NICK CHIGWIDDEN

Another who left his form off the field and failed to get to the ball of the ball and threaten Port's dominance. **(4)**

GRANT REUBENICHT

Some say he was lucky to be in the side but I thought he was in their best. He certainly did not disgrace himself. **(6)**

JOHN SEEBOHM

He was going along in his distinctive style until Darren Smith took charge and banished him elsewhere. **(4)**

PAUL HALLAHAN

For a quarter and a half he was very close to being best but was another who performed a disappearing trick. **(6)**

ROD JAMESON

Let's make the excuse he was not 100 per cent fit, but if so he should not have been selected. **(4)**

SCOTT SALISBURY

A sour note to end his career but he was not disgraced, particularly with the advent of the wind and rain. **(5)**

MICHAEL MURPHY

A disappointing performance after a wonderful season but, then again, nobody plays well on Greg Phillips. **(4)**

MARK VISKA

Like McKay, he will learn from the torrid experience of playing against Port Adelaide in a grand final. **(6)**

GARY CHRISTIE

He broke even with Brett Chalmers in ruck and marked fairly well until the rain came and he went missing. **(5)**

DWAYNE KRETSCHMER

Should have been a starter and showed determination needed in the second half battle from the interchange. **(5)**

ROB THOMPSON

He is one who can walk Jetty Rd with his head up because he did not surrender. **(7)**

Excuses all fall flat for tame Tigers

PORT ADELAIDE	1.2	8.3	15.3	17.3	(105)
GLENELG	3.3	4.6	6.7	7.7	(49)

SCORERS — **Port:** Hodges 6.0, D. Smith 3.0, Buckley 2.2, Settre, Foster, Chalmers, Borlase, Brown, Ginever 1.0, S. Williams 0.1. **Glenelg:** Fidge 4.3, Lamb 1.2, Mansell 1.1, Salisbury 1.0, Seebohm 0.1.

BEST — **Port:** Buckley, D. Smith, Abernethy, Delaney, R. Smith, Northeast, Chalmers, Foster. **Glenelg:** Mansell, McKay, Hallahan, Thompson, Reubenicht.

UMPIRES — Michael Abbott, Kevin Chambers.

CROWD — 42,242.

The perennial failure of a preliminary finalist after only six days' rest again is bubbling to the surface in a grand final wash-up.

But this time it was not the crucial factor on why South Australian league football again could not produce a quality, exciting grand final.

Saturday's debacle — a one-sided, 56-point win by highly professional Port Adelaide against Glenelg — did little to help promote the SA National Football League competition.

The cruel, whipping rain in the second half exacerbated the situation and largely contributed to this grand final being ranked not far behind the disasters of '89 when North Adelaide kicked 1.8 and last year when North and West Adelaide played "footbrawl".

Glenelg supporters cannot look to hardy lines for excuses about the unfairness of having only six days' rest, conditions, injury problems, nor the umpires — this time Michael Abbott and Kevin Chambers.

Some Glenelg players need to look at themselves.

Instead of trailing by 21 points at half time, they could have led by five or six goals.

They cannot blame the six-day factor on:

- Kicking 0.5 from seven set shots in the first half.
- John Fidge giving away four free kicks and inexplicably dropping the simplest of chest marks in the first quarter, and kicking 2.3 and twice out-on-the full from six set shots and a hurried kick in the first half.
- Giving away two foolish free kicks to Scott Hodges in the second term which saw him put Port in front.
- A defender kicking over John Seebohm's head and into the arms of Richard Foster for an easy goal.

FOOTBALL

ASHLEY PORTER

- Brett Chalmers being left unchecked and kicking a magnificent 80 metre goal from well inside the centre square.
- Magarey Medallist Nathan Buckley not being checked closely enough in the first half.

To use a hackneyed phrase, "fresh legs" did not put Port in front at half time.

It was a marvellous display of tough, skilful and honest football, and Glenelg's lack of ability to perform at the highest level under pressure.

That sensational goal from Chalmers — Port's third during time-on in the second term — can be seen as a deserving penalty against Glenelg for not seizing the rash of opportunities it had.

When Port unmasked its killer look from the second to the 23rd minute of the third term, kicking 7.0 to 0.1 (the behind from a set shot, of course), it looked magnificent.

Glenelg was reduced to a second-rate parklands side, floundering in the rain.

Despite this, such players as Darren Mansell and Grant Reubenicht still were running and chasing hard, still doing the tough things expected in a grand final.

Glenelg, in fact, took more marks and had more disposals in the last quarter than Port.

The Tigers inflicted their own wounds in the first half and the Magpies picked their raw flesh in the third quarter.

Port, especially through Buckley, Darren Smith, Bruce Abernethy and Roger Delaney, and, despite abysmal second-half conditions, played its part in trying to give the SA football public a worthwhile contest.

Sadly, too many Glenelg players badly let down everyone else — especially their coach and supporters.

There can be no excuses.

For coach Kym Hodgeman, a man who has prided himself on football excellence, that second half surely was the longest hour in his sporting life.

Yet he was one man who still had the courage after the game to look at people in the eye and say his piece.

Others remained silent and looked sideways.

When Glenelg captain Scott Salisbury, flanked by Hodgeman, sportingly went into Port's changerooms to offer his congratulations after the game, he threw a line something like: "You can hate 'em, but, gee, you've got to admire 'em".

You sure do.

Hodgeman looks sure to be back

By LAWRIE McCAULEY

Glenelg coach Kym Hodgeman is expected to stay at the helm next season — after playing an important role in the club's mammoth turnaround in 1992.

Glenelg last year failed to make the finals in any grade. But, remarkably, the club orchestrated a dramatic lift this season to win the Under-19 flag and finish runner-up in league and reserves competitions.

While the club still is suffering the disappointment of losing those two grand finals on Saturday (to Port and the Eagles), it soon will be able to step back and look at the incredible gains it has made — gains on which it will want to capitalise next year.

"It's something we set in place last year, and followed through," Glenelg general manager Laurie Rosewarne said.

"We had a meeting in September last year, when our season was finished, where our full (seven-member) board and treasurer went through every aspect of the club.

Step further

"We planned everything from coaching, to recruiting, to finance — everything was discussed.

"But while we have done reasonably well to turn around things from 1991, we now have to go that step further when we plan for next year.

"It's a very empty feeling to participate in two senior grand finals and lose both.

"We have to set new goals."

Unfortunately for Glenelg, Scott Salisbury, John Seebohm and Tony Symonds will not be a part of those plans — the star trio has announced its retirement after extraordinary playing careers.

Club captain Salisbury bows out after 241 league games and seven for SA, Seebohm played 319 club games and Symonds totalled 225 for Glenelg, one for SA and three for Hawthorn.

Kym Hodgeman: Plans to build on gains made in 1992.

David Marshall, who has played 331 games for Glenelg, two for SA (he was vice-captain this year against WA) and 26 with the Crows also is contemplating retirement.

But he has agreed to discuss his playing future with Rosewarne before making a firm decision.

He already has told the Crows he will not continue next year in the AFL.

All other senior players are contracted — although the demands of AFL clubs may also cut into those plans.

After a two-year moratorium, SA will be open to next month's national draft and each SANFL club is expected to be hit hard by AFL teams on the hunt for fresh, new talent.

While the SANFL, as a whole, agreed that contracted players could be released to pursue an AFL career if drafted — Glenelg strongly opposed that move and will be doing all it can to maintain stability within playing ranks.

It also is expected that coaching stability will be maintained with Hodgeman (league), John Schneebichler (reserves), Paul Whaley (Under-19s) and John Lynch (Under-17s) retained for 1993.

All coaching positions will be assessed, as is the case every year.

But the enormous gains of 1992 suggest all four will be given their chance to capitalise on the groundwork now in place.

Eagles notch historic triumph

A magnificent team performance spearheaded the Eagles to the reserves premiership with a 76-point thrashing of Glenelg on Saturday.

Despite trailing by eight points at half-time, the Eagles' slick ball movement allowed them to kick 15 goals to three after the break.

It was the club's first premiership since the merging of Woodville and West Torrens at the end of 1990.

Eagles 21.25 (151) d Glenelg 10.15 (75).

Best — Eagles: King, Chapman, McInneny, Lukosius, Devine, Sziller, Davey, DiBiase. **Glenelg:** Barton, McGuinness, T. Symonds, Deane, Flower, McIntosh.

Goals — Eagles: Lukosius 4, McInneny 3, Meade, Fuller, DiBiase, Kluzek, Freeborn 2, King, Negri, James, Sziller. **Glenelg:** Russell, McGuinness 2, West, Budarick, McRae, McIntosh, Deane, Barton.

GRAND FINAL STATISTICS

Port

	Kicks					Marks					Handballs					Frees		Scores		Hit	Tackles
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		F	A	G	B	out	
B.ABERNETHY	3	6	7	6	22	1	0	1	2	4	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1
S.HODGES	0	4	4	0	8	0	1	3	0	4	1	0	2	0	3	2	4	6	0	0	2
D.BROWN	2	3	3	4	12	0	0	2	2	4	1	2	7	1	11	0	0	1	0	0	1
D.BORLASE	0	1	3	2	6	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
D.SMITH	3	3	4	0	10	1	1	2	0	4	0	2	1	1	4	2	1	3	0	1	0
S.WILLIAMS	3	0	0	2	5	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	3	5	1	1	0	1	0	1
D.HUTTON	2	3	3	4	12	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
N.BUCKLEY	8	4	8	2	22	3	0	0	2	5	2	0	0	2	4	1	3	2	2	4	2
R.SMITH	1	2	2	3	8	0	1	1	2	4	5	2	6	4	17	0	0	0	0	0	1
R.FOSTER	2	2	3	1	8	2	0	0	1	3	4	0	2	1	7	1	0	1	0	0	1
G.PHILLIPS	2	1	1	1	5	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	0	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	5
P.NORTHEAST	2	2	4	5	13	0	2	1	1	4	2	3	2	4	11	0	0	0	0	0	2
G.FIACCHI	1	2	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	2
R.DELANEY	5	2	4	5	16	3	1	1	2	7	3	1	1	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	1
P.RIZONICO	3	1	3	5	12	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0
B.CHALMERS	3	3	1	0	7	1	2	1	0	4	0	1	0	1	2	1	3	1	0	16	0
M.WILLIAMS	2	0	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	2	10	2	3	0	0	3	2
T.GINEVER	1	6	2	3	12	0	1	0	1	2	4	4	2	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	3
D HUGHES	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
A.SETTRE	0	1	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1
																RUSHED 0					
TOTALS	43	46	57	48	194	14	12	12	18	56	30	25	32	24	111	18	20	17	3	28	23

FREES			
BACKS	CENT.	FOR	TOTAL
8	6	6	19

PENALTIES	
50 M	GOALS
0	0

GOALS			
FREE	PLAY	MARK	TOTAL
3	8	6	17

DIST. OF GOALS			
0-15	15-30	30-40	40 +
3	4	7	3

Glenelg

	Kicks					Marks					Handballs					Frees		Scores		Hit	Tackles
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		F	A	G	B	out	
D.KRETSCHMER	0	0	3	3	6	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.FIDGE	4	4	2	1	11	3	3	1	0	7	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	3	0	0
G.REUBENICHT	1	3	4	6	14	2	3	1	3	9	2	4	0	3	9	1	0	0	0	0	0
C.LAMB	4	2	1	4	11	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	1
M.MURPHY	3	1	5	0	9	1	1	2	0	4	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	4
N.CHIGWIDOEN	5	0	3	0	8	1	0	1	0	2	3	2	1	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
L.BOW	5	0	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	2
D.MARSHALL	2	3	5	3	13	2	3	0	0	5	1	2	2	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	1
R.JAMESON	2	2	0	0	4	1	2	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	2
M.VISKA	1	4	1	3	9	1	3	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
J.SEEBOHM	3	1	4	3	11	2	1	3	1	7	0	1	0	2	3	3	0	0	1	1	2
A.MCKAY	3	2	4	3	12	1	2	1	0	4	0	0	2	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	1
C.DUTHY	3	1	0	2	6	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
P.ROUVRAY	0	4	2	5	11	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	4	2	0	0	0	1
R.THOMPSON	3	3	5	3	14	1	1	2	0	4	1	1	2	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	2
G.CHRISTIE	1	4	2	0	7	1	2	0	1	4	0	2	1	2	5	3	3	0	0	19	1
D.MANSELL	5	9	3	7	24	3	2	3	1	9	2	1	4	2	9	2	1	1	1	0	1
P.HALLAHAN	6	5	3	2	16	1	1	0	0	2	4	2	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	5
S.SALISBURY	3	1	1	2	7	1	2	0	2	5	0	2	0	3	5	1	0	1	0	0	2
A.BARTLETT	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
																RUSHED 0					
TOTALS	54	49	48	53	204	23	28	15	14	80	19	19	17	26	81	20	18	7	7	20	32

FREES			
BACKS	CENT.	FOR	TOTAL
5	10	5	20

PENALTIES	
50 M	GOALS
2	0

GOALS			
FREE	PLAY	MARK	TOTAL
0	4	3	7

DIST. OF GOALS			
0-15	15-30	30-40	40 +
3	2	2	1

I had to go, says Hodgeman

Whispers led to turmoil at the club: Salisbury

By ALAN SHIELL

Kym Hodgeman, an emotional ball of energy, talked himself out of one of the most prized coaching jobs in South Australian football.

He is the latest casualty of that old sporting cliche: The club is bigger than the individual.

Glenelg chiefs — and some Indians, too — finally lost patience with his many demands and what they regarded as unnecessary interference in the running of the club over the past two seasons.

They did not query his coaching ability, but grew tired of a series of confrontations with the club's senior personnel, including president Craig MacIntosh, general manager Laurie Rosewarne, youth development officer Wayne Stringer and league runner and fitness coach John MacFarlane.

For all that, Hodgeman's abrupt departure is expected to invoke much sympathy and support among Glenelg fans, who, inevitably, will perceive the often-outspoken MacIntosh as the "villain".

Hodgeman was characteristically frank and fair, and self-effacing, without delving too far into the nitty-gritty, during a 5AA interview with Ken Cunningham and David Hookes late yesterday.

"In the end result, I had to go and I agreed with their decision," he said.

"There are no problems about that. I have no regrets about it. There's no use getting into a bunfight. It was an irreparable situation.

"The board had to do what they thought was right. I didn't resign."

Hodgeman said: "It's not a nice feeling. It's unfortunate ... you can't buck the system, it doesn't matter who you are or what you are.

"I don't believe I'm a martyr in this at all. I wanted to coach Glenelg. Unfortunately for me and the club, I couldn't resolve my differences.

"I've got principles and I stood by those principles, and it didn't work out in my favor.

"What Glenelg has to do is close ranks ... be very strong with this situation and get on with their footy.

"... I haven't been able to negotiate the way that, maybe, I should have negotiated.

"Obviously, the board's gone in one direction, and I've gone in the other.

"... I've made a lot of mistakes and you learn by those mistakes. Of course, I made a big mistake. I couldn't resolve the differences between the people who counted and myself, and that's something I've got to look at.

"I've hurt my reputation as a coach by not getting on with certain people."

Glenelg's only formal comment yesterday came in a media statement, signed by Rosewarne. It said: "At a meeting with an appointed subcommittee of the board of directors at 7.30 last night (Monday), Kym Hodgeman advised he would no longer continue as senior coach of the club as the position for both parties had become untenable.

"After many meetings between the board and Kym there were still unresolved differences of opinion that would have precluded a smooth working relationship in the future. These differences had developed during his term as senior coach.

"The matter of finals' payments to players was not the reason for the continuous discussions of the past few days as this matter was resolved at a meeting with the players last Friday night and will be finalised at the scheduled monthly board meeting tonight (last night).

"The board regrets this situation has arisen and sincerely wishes Kym the best for the future.

● Continued Page 30

MOVING ON Kym Hodgeman unpacking at new work premises yesterday.

Scott Salisbury

By LEO SCHLINK

Outgoing Glenelg captain Scott Salisbury yesterday admitted the club had been bedevilled by "a bit of turmoil" during Kym Hodgeman's two-year reign as coach.

"There have been a lot of whispers, you could say, and that has bred a bit of turmoil at the club," said Salisbury, who retired from league football following the Tigers' 59-point grand final loss to Port Adelaide on October 3.

"A lot of people have got carried away with their own egos.

"A lot of people believe that the players don't really put in. That is just not right. Everyone, on the field, has been trying.

"I'm very disappointed that Kym won't be there any more. The players have always appreciated his support and it is unfortunate none of the parties (the Glenelg board and Hodgeman) could come to an agreement."

Unsure of all the nuances of a heavily complicated web of intrigue, accusations and counter-claims, Salisbury contends many of Hodgeman's players will never know — let alone understand — precisely why their coach had been dismissed.

The developments of the past three weeks have dismayed Salisbury — and, he suspects, many of his former colleagues — at a time when the club desperately needed to regroup following an abysmal grand final performance.

"I'm disappointed at the outcome of a number of points," Salisbury, a veteran of 248 matches, said.

"The club needs to take a new direction and it needs to be united. The things that have happened in the past week haven't helped at all.

"The club has to realise, from the president down to the sprigger, that everyone has to be united. The Glenelg Football Club needs to take a good look at itself.

"Hopefully all of this will smooth out in time.

"I don't think there will be wholesale changes.

"I just hope there will be changes in attitude."

Salisbury, who has no plans to seek a position (off-field) with Glenelg, said he intended to call a player meeting.

There, Salisbury said, he would dispense advice, including "for the players to carry a tape recorder in with them when they're working out their contracts."

Seebohm: Axing atrocious

Craig MacIntosh

Vice-captain John Seebohm, who ended his 15-year career in a Tiger jumper after the grand final, yesterday described the Glenelg Football Club board's treatment of Kym Hodgeman as "atrocious".

"To say I'm disappointed is an understatement," he said. "It's atrocious. I'm most disappointed at the way it's all been handled.

"I don't know how you can appoint someone one week and sack them the next.

"It's behind me, but it's still my club. I'm pretty upset, but there's nothing I can do."

Former coach Graham Cornes, whose resignation to take over as inaugural coach of the Adelaide Football Club paved the way for Hodgeman's appointment last year, said he thought Hodgeman "did a very good job to get the Bays to the grand final, but obviously there was some conflict there".

"I am surprised (at Hodgeman's sacking), but really you can't comment intelligently unless you know everything that transpired behind the closed doors," Cornes said.

When pressed for comment about his own relationship with Glenelg administration, Cornes said "obviously the relationship was great".

"I certainly had no problems in my time as coach," he said. "It's been two years since I've been at the club, but the administration hasn't changed at all.

"The club had three presidents (Bob Campbell, Graeme Bignell and Craig MacIntosh) while I was coaching Glenelg, and each was excellent in his own individual way."

— Karen Phillips

Fans have right to know what went wrong

COMMENT: By KAREN PHILLIPS

Less than a month ago, on the eve of his grand final coaching debut, Kym Hodgeman was adamant: "The success of the club is more important than the individual".

If ever he was to find occasion not to follow his creed, it would have been yesterday. Mere hours after he had been sacked as coach of Glenelg, it would have been understandable if Hodgeman was overcome by animosity toward the club that had divorced him so dramatically.

But Hodgeman apparently harbored no such bitterness. As a hurricane of rumor swept across Adelaide yesterday, the eye of the storm stood in his new business premises unexpectedly supportive of "the club".

It mattered not that he was the individual who had suffered at its expense. He was coach of Glenelg, now he wasn't ... life goes on.

Most importantly, *the club* would go on.

But how will it go on?

What does Hodgeman's assistant, John Schneebichler, do? Does the reserves grand final coach follow Hodgeman, so sacrificing a continuation of his one-year-old coaching career? Or, remain and work for people who potentially could treat him as they have his immediate boss?

And the players? Those most likely to take a stand have retired or were among the group which had complained at his treatment of them this year and were unlikely to buck the system. That left any protest in the hands of juniors unlikely to risk the years of football ahead of them. Anyway, as the consummate players' man, Hodgeman would not wish them to risk their necks for one he accepts as decapitated.

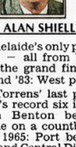
What of the football public? Until October 14, when Hodgeman was reappointed, second seemingly was good enough for the GFC board. Are the fans to be told precisely why it dismissed a man who took a league side from sixth last year to second, from a mid-season slump to fourth and then the grand final? What if the Tigers had beaten Port — would the position with Hodgeman have been so "untenable" if he had provided Brighton Road with something only three men have been able to give it since 1921?

Having been alerted to the existence of dirty linen piled upstairs in the Brighton Road clubrooms, the public should be told the composition of the stains.

● Continued Page 30

Magpies, Tigers to continue tradition

Hodges, Fidge will slug it out



BY ALAN SHIELL

Football Park, the swamp from which rose one of Australia's greatest sporting stadiums, will test its 19th South Australian league football grand final tomorrow.

On an international, even a national, scale, the event can be dismissed as fairly small-fry; a footy match between two suburban teams from little old Adelaide.

To the believers, though, it is much, much more than that, as a sell-out crowd of 46,000 will prove again tomorrow.

Played almost exclusively at Adelaide Oval until it moved to Football Park in 1974, the SA grand final is a historic, significant part of this State's culture.

While, thankfully, television has brought the world's sporting stages into our homes and SA proudly hosts such a global happening as a Grand Prix, and now has a representative team in the so-called national football competition, the grand final remains, for the time being, at least, a cherished, respected occasion on the local sporting and social calendars.

And it has a century of glorious tradition to reinforce its worth to the community.

Football finals of any code really are among the grandest of sport's grand parades, and SA has played its part in providing its people, and others, with an annual contest guaranteed to tear at the emotions and stretch friendships like nothing else Adelaide can offer.

Some of us of the faith identify years with grand finals and premierships (and Magarey medals), such as ...

1925: Norwood went top and Alick Lill won the medal; 1927: West Adelaide's year and the second of Bruce McGregor's two successive medals; 1934: Glenelg's first premiership and "Bluey" Johnston's medal; 1935, '38 and '64: South Adelaide's only premierships this century — all from beating Port Adelaide in the grand finals.

1947, '61 and '83: West premierships; 1953: West Torrens' last premiership; 1954-59: Port's record six in a row and West's Ron Benton beat South's Jimmy Deane on a countback for the 1957 medal; 1965: Port beat Sturt by three points and Central District's Gary Window beat West's Neil Kerley by one vote for the medal.

1966-70: Sturt's five in a row and, in 1969, Glenelg's Fred Phillis became the first full forward to win the medal; 1971-72: North Adelaide's two in a row; 1973: Glenelg's thrilling defeat of North for its first flag since '34 and Graham Cornes' heroic late mark and goal in the last grand final at Adelaide Oval.

1978: Norwood beat hot favorite Sturt by a point; 1979-81 and 1988-90: Port's three in a row each time, and North scored only 1.8 in the '89 grand final; 1984: Norwood, the "historymakers", became the first and only team to win a grand final from fifth position; 1985-86: Glenelg finally broke through for two grand final victories (both against North); 1987: North's turn to triumph against Glenelg.

Simple, really, when you're born and bred on it all, and it becomes a way of life. So now, after a nine-team "war" which started too long ago — it is all of 28 weeks since March 21 — only old antagonists Port and Glenelg have survived to fight the last battle of 1992.

In only three of Football Park's previous 18 grand finals has neither club been represented — 1978 (Norwood beat Sturt), 1983 (West beat Sturt) and last year (North beat West).

Port and Glenelg clashed in the grand finals of 1977, 1981, 1988 and 1990, and Port won each time — by eight, 51, 29 and 15 points respectively.

Port has won seven of the nine grand finals it has played at Football Park. But Glenelg has won only two of its 10 grand finals there.

Port is used to winning, yet it still could swallow its pride and cope with losing this grand final, as painful as it would be for SA's most successful club.

There is, however, some doubt about how or whether Glenelg could and would handle another grand final loss, especially to Port.

They say it's only a game. Bravely, try telling that to the Tigers at 5pm tomorrow if things don't go according to their grand plans.

By LAWRIE McCAULEY

Scott Hodges will lead the Port Adelaide attack in tomorrow's SANFL grand final against Glenelg — although the Magpies have not ruled out the possibility of Mark Tylor also playing for the 1992 premiership.

Port last night added Tylor and Darren Mead to a squad of 22, while Glenelg recalled Rod Jameson to a squad of 21 after he proved he has fully recovered from a viral infection.

Although Hodges will be at the opposite end of the field to Glenelg goalsneak John Fidge their battle for goals could prove the key to victory.

Tylor would rank as one of the unluckiest players in the club's history if he fails to earn a guernsey tomorrow.

He assumed the role of chief goalscorer at the beginning of the year and has booted 97 goals in 21 games.

But a hand injury ruled him out of the second semi-final, allowing Hodges to return after a successful season with the Crows. Tylor's bid to return, and notch the three necessary goals to reach the ton, was aided by a successful return via the reserves last weekend.

But it always was unlikely that Port would revert to having him at full forward for the most important match of the season.

Tylor may be aiming to become only the third Port player to reach the ton in a season — but Hodges is one who already has done so (Tim Evans is the other). Hodges set a new goalkicking record in the 1990 grand final (against Glenelg) when he booted six goals to take his season tally to 153.

The selection of versatile Mead in a squad of 22 will make it difficult for Port selectors to decide between him, Tylor, Danny Hughes and Adrian Settre for the two spots on the interchange bench.

Jameson, who last year was the leading goalkicker for the Crows, played in the reserves last Sunday and has this week shown no ill-effect of the virus.

His arrival means one player must be omitted from the side that beat the Eagles on Sunday, with Grant Reubenicht or Allan Bartlett the most likely to fall by the wayside.

They have been named as candidates on the interchange bench — with captain Scott Salisbury.

Port will not be complaining about having two key forwards vying for the job in the goalsquare. Last year, when the club was eliminated in the first week of the major round, Darryl Borlase topped the club's season goal-tally with 25. But this year six players have scored 25 goals or more. Tylor leads the way with 97 but also among the goals have been Boriase (44), Darren Smith (34), Nathan Buckley (30), Mark Williams (26) and Rohan Smith (25).

Remarkably, Hodges has been given the nod after kicking just 15.10 in his five outings with Port. However, his six goals against the Eagles in the second semi-final guaranteed he would start in the goalsquare. His 48 goals with the Crows (to head their list) wouldn't have hurt his chances either.

Glenelg's hopes of victory will rest squarely on the ability of its full forward, Fidge, to more than match Port's strike-power. He was outstanding last weekend, booting 11 goals in Glenelg's 19.12 to 9.8 victory.

He has the imposing figures of 80 goals in 13 matches in 1992. But, like Port, Glenelg will not rely on one man to run the show. It too has six players with 25 goals or more — Fidge, then Mark Russell (57), Clayton Lamb (52), Darren Mansell (28), Nick Chigwidden (27) and Michael Murphy (26).

Roger Delaney will be assigned the task of standing the rampaging Fidge, while the job of minding Hodges is expected to be given to Paul Rouvray.

Just as important will be the roles of opposing centre halfbacks. Port skipper Greg Phillips will have to try to contain Murphy while John Seebohm has the job of keeping Darren Smith quiet.

So far this season, no-one has been able to contain the brilliance of young Port centreman Nathan Buckley as he stepped to a clear win in the Magarey Medal.

David Marshall has been named to start in the middle for the Boys and it will be interesting to see if he lines up there and battles one-on-one, or whether Glenelg coach Kym Hodgeman opts to try and curb Buckley by placing a tagger on him.

However, Glenelg has won its way into the grand final with decisive wins against South, North and the Crows by playing an attacking brand of footy. It has a damaging half-back line that provides plenty of attacking options and on-ballers like Mansell and Paul Hallahan have been in great touch.

Port breezed into the finals with a tremendous 18-4 win-loss record in the minor round. There were fears its build-up to the finals may have left it underdone with a loss to Central followed by a bye, a narrow win against Sturt, a loss to Norwood, and another bye.

But its 16.15 to 10.12 victory against the Eagles in the second semi-final dispelled any doubts that the Magpies are primed and ready to go into this match as favorites to capture their 31st league premiership.

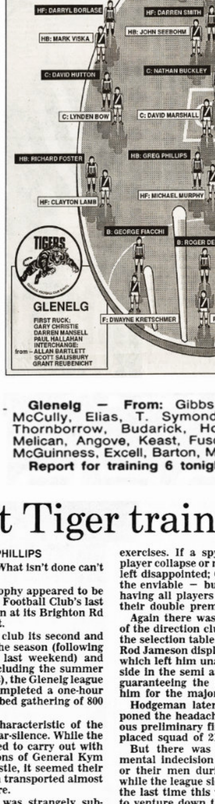
Grand final on TV, radio

Television

Tomorrow — Channel 9, 11.30am: Reserves grand final, Eagles v Glenelg. Live. **Channel 9, 2pm:** SANFL grand final, Glenelg v Port. Includes KG's Footy Show.

Radio

Tomorrow — 5AN, 12.10pm: Grand final coverage. Port v Glenelg. **5RPH/5AA, 2pm:** Grand final, Port v



Grand motorcade

The traditional SANFL grand final motorcade will start at Victoria Square at 11am today.

The Port Adelaide and Glenelg players will be driven along King William St, Grenfell St and Twin St before being introduced on the Renaissance Centre walkover in Rundle Mall.

Past clashes

GRAND FINALS

October 6, 1934. Adelaide Oval

GLENELG	5.4	10.8	15.10	18.15	(123)
PORT ADELAIDE	2.4	6.13	11.17	16.18	(114)

SCORERS — Glenelg: Goldsworthy 4.2, Owens 3.3, Colyer, Johnston 3.0, Bergin 2.1, Percy 1.5, Link 1.3, Leak 1.0, rushed 0.1. **Port:** Quinn 5.2, Hollingsworth 4.7, Preston 4.2, Hender 2.1, Reval 1.1, Yates, Ween 0.2, Hooper 0.1

BEST — Glenelg: Goldsworthy, Colyer, Link, Sallis, Johnston, Brock. **Port:** Dermody, Quinn, Hollingsworth, Whicker, Bampton.

REPORTS — Port: A. Reval (hacking), C. Wightman (throwing ball away). K. Obst (throwing football at field umpire).

UMPIRE — L. Thomas. **CROWD** — 30,045.

September 24, 1977. Football Park

PORT ADELAIDE	4.3	9.7	13.9	17.11	(113)
GLENELG	5.2	8.4	12.6	16.9	(105)

SCORERS — Port: Evans 7.2, Eckerman 3.2, Granger 2.1, Cunningham 2.0, James 1.2, Blethyn 1.1, Sorrell 1.0, Belton 0.1, rushed 0.2. **Glenelg:** Paech 5.0, D. Phillis 3.0, Rady 2.1, Carey 2.0, Hodgeman 1.2, W. Phillis, McInerney, D. Johnston 0.1, rushed 0.3.

BEST — Port: Spry, Cunningham, Gerlach, Evans, Light, Hannan, Ebert. **Glenelg:** Hodgeman, Voigt, W. Phillis, Carey, Paech.

INJURIES — Port: D. Cahill (thigh), Eckerman (thigh), Kinnear (concussion). **Glenelg:** Rady (leg).

REPORTS — Port: Light (striking).

UMPIRES — R. Bennet, P. Mead. **CROWD** — 56,717.

October 3, 1981. Football Park

PORT ADELAIDE	6.5	8.6	12.11	14.11	(95)
GLENELG	1.0	2.4	2.5	6.8	(44)

SCORERS — Port: Bradley 3.1, Evans 2.2, Ebert, Clifford, Cahill 2.0, Martyn 1.1, Granger, Kinnear 1.0, Belton 0.2, Johnston 0.1, rushed 0.4. **Glenelg:** McDermott, Brown, Walter, Paynter 1.1, Copping, Marshall 1.0, Weston 0.2, Rady, McGuinness 0.1.

BEST — Port: Ebert, Clifford, Belton, Kinnear, Warren, Cunningham, Martyn. **Glenelg:** Kuhlmann, Lihou, Carey, Weston, McGuinness.

INJURIES — Glenelg: Caldwell (concussion).

JACK OATEY MEDALLIST — Ebert (Port).

UMPIRES — P. Mead, R. Scholefield. **CROWD** — 52,659.

October 1, 1988. Football Park

PORT ADELAIDE	2.2	4.6	7.10	12.12	(84)
GLENELG	3.3	3.5	4.7	8.7	(55)

SCORERS — Port: Hodges 4.0, Brown 2.2, Ginever 2.0, Foster 1.2, Harrison, S. Williams 1.1, R. Smith 1.0, Hutton 0.2, Mahney, Kerr 0.1, rushed 0.2. **Glenelg:** Budarick 3.0, Mansell 2.0, Hewett, Hodgeman 1.1, A. Stringer 1.0, Marshall 0.2, Carey, Maynard 0.1.

BEST — Port: Phillips, Hynes, Abernethy, Leslie, Ginever, Delaney, S. Williams, Fiacchi, Brown. **Glenelg:** Seebohm, Hewett, A. Stringer, McDermott, Marshall, W. Stringer, D. Russell.

JACK OATEY MEDALLIST — Abernethy (Port).

UMPIRES — J. Hyton, M. Abbott. **CROWD** — 50,313.

October 7, 1990. Football Park

PORT ADELAIDE	4.5	10.7	13.9	16.12	(108)
GLENELG	5.2	6.7	9.11	13.15	(93)

SCORERS — Port: Hodges 6.3, Settre 3.0, Wangerdon 2.0, Smith 2.0, S. Williams, Mahney 1.1, M. Williams 1.0, Tregenza 0.2, rushed 0.3. **Glenelg:** Fidge 5.3, Murphy 3.0, Christie, Liptak 1.2, Jameson, Marshall 1.1, Salisbury 1.0, Symonds, McDermott, Chigwidden 0.1, rushed 0.3.

BEST — Port: Fiacchi, Abernethy, M. Williams, Hynes, Rizonico, Wangaeneen, Hodges. **Glenelg:** Seebohm, Jameson, Symonds, Bartlett, Thompson.

JACK OATEY MEDALLIST — Fiacchi (Port).

UMPIRES — R. Kinnear, M. Mackie. **CROWD** — 50,589.

THIS YEAR'S MINOR ROUND CLASHES

May 9, Glenelg Oval — round eight

PORT ADELAIDE	2.4	7.10	11.15	17.20	(122)
GLENELG	2.3	4.5	9.7	14.12	(96)

SCORERS — Port: Tylor 8.3, Borlase, Settre 2.2, Brosnan 2.1, Bond, D. Smith 1.1, Hutton 1.0, M. Williams 0.3, Buckley, Dittmar 0.2, Ginever, R. Smith 0.1, rushed 0.1. **Glenelg:** Murphy 6.1, Lamb 4.3, Russell 1.2, Thornborrow, Kretschmer 1.1, Salisbury 1.0, Mansell 0.2, Chigwidden 0.1, rushed 0.1.

BEST — Port: Chalmers, Buckley, Tylor, R. Smith, Rizonico, Delaney, Ginever. **Glenelg:** McKay, Murphy, Marshall, Mansell, Gibbs, Hallahan.

REPORT — Port: Brosnan (striking).

UMPIRES — K. Chambers, D. Elliott. **CROWD** — 7107.

July 11, Football Park — round 17

PORT	3.3	8.6	11.8	15.12	(102)
GLENELG	4.1	8.5	9.10	12.13	(85)

SCORERS — Port: Tylor 5.0, Borlase 4.0, Buckley 2.0, Hodges, R. Smith, Hutton 1.1, Settre 1.0, M. Williams, S. Williams 0.1, rushed 0.7. **Glenelg:** Fidge 6.1, Russell 3.2, Lamb 1.3, Gibbs, Reubenicht 1.0, Kretschmer 0.2, Bow, Hallahan 0.1, rushed 0.3.

BEST — Port: Buckley, Hutton, Tregenza, Borlase, Chalmers, Abernethy. **Glenelg:** Jameson, McKay, Viska, Mellican, Reubenicht, Hallahan, Duthy.

UMPIRES — K. Chambers, R. Williams. **CROWD** — 10,891.

RESERVES GRAND FINAL TEAMS

EAGLES v GLENELG
(Football Park, 11.35am)

Eagles — F: Chapman, Trkula, DiBiase; **HF:** Meade, Lukosius, Kluzek; **C:** James, Fuller, Freeborn; **HB:** Devine, Kennedy, Hannan, Pisani, Spry, Schwartz. **1R:** Negri, McInneny, Sziller. **Inter:** King, Russell. **Emerg:** Davey, Gunn.
Report 10.15am.

Glenelg — From: Gibbs, McIntosh, Hele, McCully, Elias, T. Symonds, Deane, West, Thornborrow, Budarick, Hocking, Bromilow, Melican, Angove, Keast, Fusco, Flower, Stuart, McGuinness, Excell, Barton, McRae, J. Symonds.
Report for training 6 tonight.

Tense silence at last Tiger training run

NOT TOO FUSSED ... Glenelg spearhead John Fidge didn't appear overwhelmed by the prospect of a grand final appearance at training. Picture: TRINA TEPPER

By KAREN PHILLIPS

What's done is done. What isn't done can't be done now.

Such a simple philosophy appeared to be the basis of the Glenelg Football Club's last pre-final training session at its Brighton Rd headquarters last night.

Seeking to give their club its second and third premierships of the season (following the under 19s' victory last weekend) and fourth for the year (including the summer Foundation Cup success), the Glenelg league and reserves squads completed a one-hour session before an absorbed gathering of 800 devotees.

The overwhelming characteristic of the session was its tense near-silence. While the players' bodies remained to carry out with precision the instructions of General Kym Hodgeman and his whistle, it seemed their minds had at times transported almost 48 hours into the future.

Their audience, too, was strangely subdued. It saw a program similar to that enacted by the squads on Tuesday night — light running followed by around-the-ground circuit work and a division of the 40-plus men into the A and B squads. The league side continued with match-simulated passages and short passing routines until General Hodgeman ordered fitness co-ordinator John MacFarlane to supervise its cool-down exercises. If a spy had hoped to see one player collapse or note another's absence, he left disappointed; Glenelg's selectors are in the enviable — but stressful — position of having all players available to help realise their double premiership ambitions.

Again there was no hint during training of the direction club officials would take at the selection table later tonight. Forward Rod Jameson displayed no signs of the virus which left him unable to play in the league side in the semi and preliminary finals, so guaranteeing the selectors could consider him for the major final.

Hodgeman later showed they had postponed the headache, naming the 20 victorious preliminary finalists and Jameson in a placed squad of 21.

But there was no sign of physical or mental indecision apparent in the leaders or their men during the brief session, or while the league side walked off the oval for the last time this winter. As they prepared to venture down the tunnel for a meeting, Hodgeman demonstrated how he values the support of the club's fans, calling upon his players to thank those who had watched training. Led by retiring captain Scott Salisbury, the players looked to the stands and applauded with sincerity. But like their running and kicking earlier in the evening, their actions appeared robot-like. Their minds were focused elsewhere.

Third better than second: Hodgeman

By KAREN PHILLIPS

There have been only three years in the 19 since Kym Hodgeman first played league football that Glenelg has not been involved in the major-round fight for the premiership.

Once was in 1979, the year after he won the Magarey Medal and two seasons before he left for a five-year stint with North Melbourne. It happened again in '83, when he witnessed the disappointment from Victoria. And again in 1991 — Hodgeman's debut year as coach.

It won't happen a fourth time. The anger and distress which followed Glenelg's sixth placing last year laid the foundations for what became a rapid rise in 1992. Tomorrow Glenelg will contest yet another grand final, its 11th in those 19 seasons.

His failure to keep his Tigers on their familiar road was a shocking blow to Hodgeman last year. He says it "hit home very hard".

"It was a learning year," he said. "I'd never coached before, and because of my inexperience I didn't put a lot of ideas I had into practice. You listen to people all the time — you never stop listening — but this year I've made a calculated gamble to do things my way."

Despite widespread public suggestions he did not attract support at Glenelg, Hodgeman believed there was "never any doubt" he would be reappointed to lead the club in 1992.

"If either party had had doubts, I wouldn't be here. The success of the club is more important than the individual, whether that individual is the coach or the general manager, the president or the captain," he said.

"You can't put any one player above the team. But if we win on Saturday, it will be the players' win."

Since its resurrection during what became a victorious Foundation Cup campaign, Glenelg has been unavoidably different, undeniably better. Hodgeman points to many factors, but highlights one: the Tigers are *settled* in 1992. The word summarises his satisfaction.

Last year, 13 of his men were on call to the Crows, spending at least half of their training times with the Adelaide squad. This year, 11 Glenelg players were Crows' squad members, but there was less to and fro.

"This year, the players understood what was happening with the Crows — where everything fitted," Hodgeman said.

"Plus, we had no injuries to key players. Last season, there was (Craig) Elias, (Gary) Christie, (Scott) Salisbury — the list went on. With a bit of luck, we'll continue the present status of having everyone available for the finals."

He attributes the lack of minor, niggling injuries almost solely to the innovations employed by the club's new fitness co-ordinator, his former teammate and now runner, John MacFarlane. In addition to a regime Hodgeman decrees has made Glenelg the fittest team in the league, "John Mac" has stressed the need for injury-prevention warm-up and cool-down stretches in which Hodgeman is now a believer.

Yet despite the positive factors, Hodgeman still selected 39 players in his teams this year, only two fewer than during the season he'd rather forget.

"We have been more settled, yet we *have* struggled," he said. "We've been inconsistent for most of the year — we've only been consistent when we've had the same players four or five weeks in a row. Fortunately, that's what's happened now."

Hodgeman points to his club's reserves as evidence of the strength of Glenelg's league side. Former Sydney Swan Jim West, 1991 State team member Simon Hele, premiership players such as Ross Gibbs and Tony Symonds ... all point to the quality of his personnel.

However, he denies there is pressure from former teammates such as Gibbs for preferential treatment at the selection table. "If there is pressure, it's from within myself to get the team right," he said. "You can't have favorites. Obviously I have a lot of respect for Gibbs and Symonds — but they're still not playing league footy."

A subconscious decision to divorce himself from the possibility of claims of favoritism may have been another factor in Glenelg's return to prominence this year. About six months ago — at the time of the Boys' Foundation Cup win — Hodgeman found himself steering away from "the blokes".

"It was not a conscious decision, rather part of a resolve that this year I'd make or break season," he recalled.

"I never consciously said to myself or them that I was going to break the ties. But after coaching for two years, it's only the last six or so months I've really broken away as I'm not their mate, I'm their coach.

"It's taken them a long time to get to know me as their coach. It's been hard for some of them to accept, and it's been a hard time, too. I've got great memories of playing with this club. But you want to make a go a success, and that was part of it.

"It's like team selection. You have to be clinical. Ruthless. But it culminated in one premiership, and a 50-50 chance of another this weekend."

Such "clinical" talk may surprise outsiders, who perhaps have considered Hodgeman the coach as little different to "Hodgey" the magical little rover who thanked his mum and dad *and* his parents during his Magarey Medal acceptance speech in 1978.

It has even been said that if Glenelg wins the 1992 premiership, it will be in spite of Hodgeman; not because of him.

"I'm a very strong-minded person," he replies to such suggestions.

"I'm a disciplinarian — no doubt about that. There've been some penalties imposed on players during the year (which others don't and won't know about) because I've regarded their actions as undisciplined.

"As far as I'm concerned, the group will impose the disciplines on the individual. If the individual is unscrupulous, and the group does not reject the individual, the group will become undisciplined. So, the group will throw him out.

"That's what has happened this year. The players wanted to be successful, so as a group they have been disciplined.

"It's a family spirit. The family wants success — and this particular family wants to win the grand final."

Hodgeman unhesitatingly admits he would rather finish third than second — a position he knows well after playing in losing grand final teams in 1974, '75, '77 and '88. His one premiership in 17 seasons at Glenelg and North Melbourne came on his return to Adelaide in 1986.

"I've been there too many times and lost it," he said. "I'd rather the semi-high of finishing third than the total low of finishing second.

"When I came back from Melbourne, I was never a lot of guys who'd been hurt by losing a few, then learned from that hurt and won in '85. Then we came together again and did it again in '86.

"That feeling of 1986 ... I want it again. I can't have it as a player, so I want it as a coach. Glenelg had a reputation for playing in finals and winning finals in the 1980s. We have to get that reputation in the '90s."

KYM HODGEMAN ... "I'm a disciplinarian — no doubt about that."