

THE SEASON OPENED LAST YEAR'S PREMIERS BEATEN.

West Adelaide	8 goals 8 behinds.
Port Adelaide	7 goals 6 behinds.
West Torrens	8 goals 5 behinds.
Sturt	4 goals 12 behinds.

	Goals.	Behinds.
South Adelaide	8	12
Norwood	7	10
North Adelaide	12	11
Glenelg	9	4

The League football season opened on Saturday with two matches—Port Adelaide (last year's premiers) against West Adelaide on the Adelaide Oval, and West Torrens against Sturt on the Thebarton Oval. The weather at the outset was fine, but rain fell later.

WEST ADELAIDE DEFEAT PORT ADELAIDE.

The premiers of last season did not turn out their strongest eighteen against West Adelaide, for P. Taylor and Keal, two of their best half forwards were on the sick list. Morgan, West Adelaide's new forward from Carlton (Victoria), owing to injury to an ankle, was unable to take the field, and T. Kempster, a recruit from the St. Patrick's Club, filled the vacancy. Brown, a good back man, also was an absentee. There were eight new players wearing red and black. In view of the uncertainty of the weather the attendance was good for an opening match. The Port uniform was improved by a wider chest band. Both teams looked well in the field with weight apparently in favor of West Adelaide. Howie (the Port captain) won the toss from Peters and Port kicked to the river end. Mr. Hickey was the central umpire.

West Adelaide, 8 goals 8 behinds.
Port Adelaide, 7 goals 6 behinds.

Best players.—West Adelaide, Barnes (best on the ground), Peters, J. Bishop, Jr. J. Bishop, Huxtable, Kempster, Oosey, Ellis, Dancy, O'Den, and Scanlon; Port Adelaide, Adams, Q. Dayman, Maywald, Bower, Ford, Lloyd, Dexas, and Allingham.

Goalkeepers.—West Adelaide—Barnes (3), J. R. Bishop (2), J. Bishop, Paech, and Peters; Port Adelaide, Allingham (2), Howie, Beck, Congear, O. Dayman, and Bampton.

WEST TORRENS VERSUS STURT.

The new home ground of the West Torrens Club at Thebarton was used for the first time for the popular winter pastime on Saturday. The local side were pitted against Sturt, whose recent internal troubles were sufficiently settled to enable them to place a strong combination in the field. Several prominent players were notable absentees from their ranks, but the reappearance of V. Y. Richardson, the inter-State player, added strength to the double blue. The beautiful rains of the past few days had made the ground a trifle soft in several places, but otherwise the conditions were good. During the afternoon the Thebarton Municipal Brass Band enlivened the proceedings with musical selections. Mr. Quigley had charge of the game.

West Torrens, 8 goals 5 behinds.
Sturt, 4 goals 12 behinds.

Goalkeepers.—West Torrens—Mills (8), C. Currow, Patten, Jones, Nesbitt, and Marvell (1 each). Sturt—Riley (2), Baker, and Golding.

Best players.—West Torrens, Strugnell, Brown, Outen, Karney, Richmond, Mills, and Davies; Sturt, Odgers, Lyne, Richardson, Sharp, O. and K. Gearty, and Wiley.

Cricket.

THE EIGHT-BALL OVER.

ARMSTRONG'S TRENCHANT CRITICISM.

Mr. Warwick Armstrong, interviewed on arrival from Melbourne, expressed disapproval of England's decision in favor of the eight-ball over in matches played by English teams touring Australia. The whole tendency in recent years, he said, had been to make the bowlers' lot harder. The tendency now was to deprive the bowler of any natural assistance from the weather by covering up the wicket and making him bowl two more balls in the over. The bowler found eight balls too much, and took a breather by pitching a couple on the off, which tended to slow the batsman. The effect of assisting the batsman at the expense of the bowler would be to make all young players turn to batting and neglect bowling.

He opposed covering the wicket. The last thing the management thought of was cricket and the first thing was "gates." Questioned on the subject of the rumored exodus of Australian cricketers to England, Armstrong said it was news to him. He did not know anything of Collins' and Bardeley's and the others' movements. He understood that Oldfield went home with the idea of opening a business. In Sydney there would be a big gap if all these players left Australia.

NORTH ADELAIDE DEFEAT GLENELG.

The first league game on the Prospect Oval, the new home ground of the North Adelaide club, was played on Monday afternoon, the contestants being the local team and Glenelg. The visitors, who were not fortunate enough to win a match last year, had infused considerable new blood into their team, and they entered the arena full of confidence. Two notable absentees from the northerners' ranks were Leahy, who has retired from the game as a player, and Hamilton, who is awaiting a clearance to play for West Adelaide, stars of the ruck and half-back respectively. Quigley and Dave were omitted from North's twenty, and Liebelt was nineteenth man for Glenelg. The turf was in excellent condition after the recent rains. Mr. O'Connor started the game in ideal weather.

Lewis, who won the toss from Hanley, selected the northern goal as his objective. Headed by Davies, North instituted a well-directed attack, which was stopped on the goal line by Thomas. The seashiders forced the sphere to their citadel, and Hillier had an opportunity, but was erratic and sent the ball just outside the behind stick. Hesitancy in passing nearly proved fatal to the seashiders, who, however, quickly recovered, and Hillier secured again, and from a neat place kick registered the first goal on the ground. A retaliatory onslaught by North was again stopped on the goal line, but Davies, a minute later, screw-kicked a major and equalised the tally. Mutton brought down a fine mark and had an angle shot which produced a behind. Davies and Lewis were conspicuous in a rally in front of North's goal, the former punching a behind, and Lewis, after marking beautifully and kicking well, sent the ball through, but it was touched in transit. However, Wedger was more successful and brought up both flags. Several well-directed attacks by the Bay men were repelled by the last line of defence, and then North, using their superior pace to full advantage, instituted counter moves in the open which culminated in goals by Davies and Bosisto. The sound of the bell relieved the yellow and blacks from a dangerous position. Scores:—

North Adelaide, 4 goals 4 behinds.
Glenelg, 1 goal 1 behind.

The promising manner in which the Bay men signalled the opening of the second term heartened their supporters. By neat, concerted action they worked the sphere round the pavilion wing and placed Hillier in possession. His long place kick just missed the opening. Some desultory play, which kept the ball hanging within the vicinity of the centre, was succeeded by a dashing onslaught by the seashiders, who, through the instrumentality of Oliver, increased their aggregate by six points. The effort was unsustained, and North, opening out again, effected a drive and Wedger, receiving the sphere within easy distance, kicked true. Hanley, by marking superbly, was setting a good example to his team, and by working a system of combination in the forward lines Hillier was given another opportunity, his place kick again reaching home. The visitors had temporarily assumed command, and Hanley and Hillier figured conspicuously near goal, the latter's kick once more being true. Marshalling their forces, North Adelaide took charge, and Kinnear culminated some tricky work with a six-pointer. Previously an effort by him was marred by a wretched shot. Continually the home team launched offensives and gave the opposing defence an anxious time. After several futile attempts to break through, Wedger, ever on the alert, registered his third goal just prior to the ringing of the bell for the long interval, when the board showed:—

North Adelaide, 7 goals 5 behinds.
Glenelg, 4 goals 2 behinds.

With a meritorious rush from the bounce, Mutton found the goal posts undefended, and with a clear run and a punt he registered the Bay's fifth major. The play hitherto had lacked sparkle, but both sides now infused life and speed into the game. The home men used superior judgment in their open play, and Kinnear found the right opening, thus keeping the red and whites well ahead. A further six-point increase was given by Wedger, who secured his fourth, and his side's ninth goal. The cramped play of Glenelg was in marked contrast to the style temporarily adopted by North Adelaide, who opened out, and kept the opposing defence busily engaged. Glenelg

for several minutes had a good run, and Hanley placed Hillier in possession. That reliable forward aroused great enthusiasm by another beautiful goal from a place-shot. Copying their opponent's method, the Bay forwards opened out, but a bad kick was resultless. Another tussle in the danger zone, and Hanley, who received a free, scored a goal. The play again lapsed into its former dullness. After some cramped play and much-fumbling Curnow secured, and sent up the tenth goal for North Adelaide. Smith and Lewis brought down fine marks just before the bell rang. The standard of play was not high, but the dogged persistence with which the seashiders tackled the problem in front of them kept the game always up to an interesting point. At "lemons" the position was:—

North Adelaide, 10 goals 9 behinds.
Glenelg, 7 goals 2 behinds.

Farrelly had an excellent opportunity to score, but he fumbled badly, and the North defenders rushed the sphere to the centre. After more uninteresting play Davies shot out from a crowd along the southern wing, and raised a flag. An exciting episode near North's citadel ended by Conrad emulating Davies' effort, and, running to the undefended uprights, he dribbled in the eleventh goal for North Adelaide. Glenelg rallied, and Oliver, after marking superbly, kept up the visitors' reputation for accurate shooting. Hanley was battling grandly, and passed to Hillier. That player kicked well, but on this occasion only raised one flag. After a fierce encounter in front Mutton forced his way through a crowd, and reduced his side's deficit by six points. Curnow was too impetuous in front, and missed a good opportunity by inches, but Sprigg piloted the leather through with a low kick, the back man being out of place. North's lead was still too big for Glenelg, whose play was now two uninspiring to give interest to the game. There was little excitement when the bell rang, with the scores:—

North Adelaide, 12 goals 11 behinds.
Glenelg, 9 goals 4 behinds.

The game was marred by the frequency with which the players cramped the play. It was not a first-class exposition.

Goalkeepers.—North Adelaide—Wedger (4), Kinnear (2), Davies (2), Bosisto, Curnow, Conrad, and Sprigg. Glenelg—Hillier (4), Oliver (2), Mutton (2), and Hanley.

Best Players.—North Adelaide—Davies, Fuss, Wedger, Lewis, Stennett, Crawford, and Curnow. Glenelg—Hanley, Perry, Hillier, Smith, Conlon, Mutton, and Marshall.

SOUTH LOWER NORWOOD COLORS.

ATTENDANCE 21,600.

Both the size of the crowd and the high-class display of football given by the opposing teams on the Adelaide Oval on Monday, were more characteristic of a premiership contest than an opening match of the season. The game is going to boom this season as it never did before. It is an unheard of thing for an opening match in South Australia to attract 21,600 people, but that is the official figure for yesterday's match, which was between Norwood (last year's runners-up) and South Adelaide, who went very close to the premiership of 1921. The takings amounted to £602. The match was not only closely contested, but was particularly spectacular. Such excellent combined play would not have been looked for during the first month of any season. Until Norwood showed signs of disorganisation in the last two minutes, the result was always in doubt. The redlegs were very impressive in the first quarter, but South Adelaide, though in arrears until after half-time, always kept their opponents from breaking away, and their speed, excellent system, and splendid stamina at length won them victory.

The outstanding players in the South Adelaide team were D. Moriarty, Allen, Oliver, Easton, Caust, Waye, Gibson, J. W. Daly, and Vickers. There were several others almost as prominent. Norwood were best represented by Bryant, W. Scott, B. A. Scott, Close, Toovey, Johns, Biblev, Fowler, and Townley. The goalkeepers were:—South Adelaide—J. W. Daly and O'Brien (each 2), Easton, Waye, C. Daly, and Caust; Norwood—B. A. Scott (4), Bryant, Close, and Bent.