

# Opening of the Football Season

## LARGE ATTENDANCES AND CLOSE FINISHES

|                |          |            |
|----------------|----------|------------|
| Norwood        | 9 Goals  | 11 Behinds |
| Sturt          | 8 Goals  | 10 Behinds |
| North Adelaide | 10 Goals | 12 Behinds |
| South Adelaide | 7 Goals  | 5 Behinds  |
| West Torrens   | 8 Goals  | 10 Behinds |
| West Adelaide  | 7 Goals  | 14 Behinds |
| Port Adelaide  | 10 Goals | 15 Behinds |
| Glenelg        | 5 Goals  | 4 Behinds  |

### PREMIERSHIP LIST.

|                | P. | W. | L. | For. | Agst. | Ps. |
|----------------|----|----|----|------|-------|-----|
| Port Adelaide  | 1  | 1  | —  | 75   | 34    | 2   |
| North Adelaide | 1  | 1  | —  | 72   | 47    | 2   |
| Norwood        | 1  | 1  | —  | 65   | 58    | 2   |
| West Torrens   | 1  | 1  | —  | 58   | 56    | 2   |
| West Adelaide  | 1  | —  | 1  | 56   | 58    | —   |
| Sturt          | 1  | —  | 1  | 53   | 65    | —   |
| South Adelaide | 1  | —  | 1  | 47   | 72    | —   |
| Glenelg        | 1  | —  | 1  | 34   | 75    | —   |

### NORWOOD FULLY EXTENDED.

Many thousands of people went to the Norwood Oval to see whether the premiers of last season are likely this year to continue their victorious career. They watched the struggle for supremacy sway between the redlegs and the representatives of Sturt and, mainly, left the ground after the match without having answered the question which had agitated their minds. Norwood are still in the public eye; the glamor of last season has not departed, but whether Norwood of 1923 are as good as when they won the premiership last year it is too soon yet to say. Bryant, Toovey, Johns, and Hart are not now in the team. Whether Lee, Symonds, Ackland, and Lill will collectively make up for those who have been lost, time alone can show. It may be said, however, that the team as a whole give much promise. One could not expect them in the first match of the season to show the form or develop the team work which distinguished Norwood last year. It is enough that there was more than a hint, in Norwood's play of the brilliant combination and systematic attack which made them the best team in 1922. Individually their new men are not such good footballers as those whose places they fill, but each promises to be a champion. Norwood may safely look for improvement in the younger members of their old team and thus, when the new men have had experience, keep the red and blue colors in the van of football.

The oval was in good order after the rain of Saturday morning, save that the ground in parts was rough. The attendance was estimated at 11,500 and the gate takings totalled £348—quite remarkable figures for a first match on a suburban oval. During the greater part of the match a fairly strong wind blew diagonally across the ground, favoring the southern goal. The teams were as published on Saturday, Cave and Plunkett standing out of the Norwood 20 and Caldwell being 19th man for Sturt. White (the Norwood captain) won the toss from Richardson and Norwood kicked first to the parade end.

There were three phases in the game. In the first half both teams tested their own strength and measured the opposition. In the third quarter the real struggle for supremacy began. Norwood proved their superiority in this term and secured a useful margin of points. In the last quarter the third phase occurred, for Sturt made a desperate attempt to wrest victory from their opponents, and got closer to success than most Norwood supporters liked.

The quarter scores were:—

First Quarter.

Norwood, 1 goal 5 behinds.

Sturt, 1 goal 1 behind.

Second Quarter.

Norwood, 3 goals 7 behinds.

Sturt, 3 goals 3 behinds.

Third Quarter.

Norwood, 8 goals 9 behinds.

Sturt, 5 goals 5 behinds.

Final.

Norwood, 9 goals 11 behinds.

Sturt, 8 goals 10 behinds.

Best players:—Norwood—Stephens, Potts, Bent, W. Scott, Ackland, Townley, and J. L. Sturt—Barron, Richardson, Lyne, Colquhoun, Wilson, Riley, Sharp, and Nicolle.

Goal-kickers:—Norwood—Bent (5), Wadham (2), Sibley, and Lee. Sturt—Waters (2), Jackson, Scrutton, Nicolle, Jackson, Whitehead, Leak, and Wilson.

### A CLOSE FINISH ON THE ADELAIDE OVAL.

The charm of the popular winter pastime attracted more than 10,000 persons to the Adelaide Oval on Saturday afternoon, when a stirring encounter took place between West Adelaide and West Torrens, who last season were second and third respectively on the premiership list. The pace set from the outset was a cracker, and, to the astonishment of many, it was maintained to the end, so wonderfully well trained were the sides. It required, even with the advantage of a breeze, a Herculean effort on the part of the blue and gold, who looked neat in their new attire, to make up a leeway of thirteen points in the final term. However, Brown's young team were equal to the task, thrusting home in the closing minutes of the game after skilful manoeuvring in the face of a determined group of defenders and amidst intense excitement, they made two spirited attacks, each of which produced a minor. The first put Torrens one point ahead, the second placed the issue beyond doubt. The visitors won a fast, open game, which was exceptionally fine for an opening match, by a margin of two points.

First Quarter.

West Torrens, 2 goals.

West Adelaide, 3 goals 6 behinds.

Second Quarter.

West Torrens, 4 goals 2 behinds.

West Adelaide, 4 goals 10 behinds.

Third Quarter.

West Torrens, 6 goals 5 behinds.

West Adelaide, 7 goals 12 behinds.

Final.

West Torrens, 8 goals 10 behinds.

West Adelaide, 7 goals 14 behinds.

Apart from two or three on each side, who stood out a little more prominently than their colleagues, it was difficult to determine who should be included in the list of best players. The choice is:—West Torrens—Marvell, Strugnell, Brown, Os, O'Grady, Broderick, Oaten, Lock, and Naylor. West Adelaide—McGregor, Barnes, Martin, Huxtable, Dance, Lee, Shea, and Manuel.

Goal-kickers:—West Torrens—Wyld (3), Marvell (2), Mills, Ashby, and Broderick. West Adelaide—Martin (4), Whitford (2), and Bailey.

### SOUTH ADELAIDE BEATEN AT PROSPECT.

Lack of co-ordination lost for South Adelaide their first match against North Adelaide on the Prospect Oval on Saturday. The contest did not attract a large crowd, nor did it rouse the spectators to a great deal of enthusiasm, except for a few minutes in the second quarter, when the visitors rushed a point ahead of their opponents—the only time they had a lead during the afternoon—and in the last 10 minutes' play, when they made a valiant effort to reduce a big deficit. Even for an opening match of the season it was only a fair display, but this cannot be taken as a criterion of what may be expected of these teams as the season advances. North Adelaide, a combination of young and virile footballers, will undoubtedly do better when they settle down to their work. Last year they improved wonderfully as the weeks passed, and had a good record at the close. South Adelaide, on the other hand, who have invariably given the red-and-whites a hard tussle, and have striven hard for several years to regain the premiership honors, which they last held in 1899, were seriously handicapped on Saturday. Allen was on the injured list, and could not play, and C. Daly, who showed such excellent form last year, stood down on account of an operation he underwent recently. In addition, the blue-and-whites had five new juniors, all of whom showed promise, but who will have to pay more attention to team work.

First Quarter.

North Adelaide, 3 goals 1 behind.

South Adelaide, 3 goals.

Second Quarter.

North Adelaide, 7 goals 6 behinds.

South Adelaide, 3 goals 2 behinds.

Third Quarter.

North Adelaide, 8 goals 11 behinds.

South Adelaide, 4 goals 3 behinds.

Last Quarter.

North Adelaide, 10 goals 12 behinds.

South Adelaide, 7 goals 5 behinds.

Best players:—North Adelaide—Kinnear, Lewis, Curnow, Lowe, Fuss, Thomas, McDonald, and Sprigg. South Adelaide—Caust, J. W. Daly, Oliver, Moriarty, Waye, Williams, Burrows, and Palmer.

Goal-kickers:—North Adelaide—Lewis (5), Dawe (2), Kinnear, Lowe, and Thomas. South Adelaide—J. W. Daly and Moriarty (each 2), Caust, Williams, and Waye.

### A GOOD GAME AT ALBERTON.

The Port Adelaide Corporation, in preparation for the first match of the season on the Alberton Oval, had the ground well watered during the week. However, the heavy rain on Saturday morning and subsequent showers throughout the day made this attention unnecessary. The sandy nature of the soil places this oval in a better position than any other, inasmuch as it takes a great quantity of rain to make the ground soft, and there was little to object to on Saturday. The chief effect of the weather was to crowd the grand stand out before half-past 2. Considering the weather the attendance outside the enclosure was also good, and £190 was taken at the gates. The Port Adelaide Philharmonic Band, under Mr. Paddock, rendered selections. Port Adelaide's first ruck was formed by Bayley, C. Dayman, and C. Shearer, and Glenelg's by Hanley, Cook, and Holdsworth. C. Dayman won the toss from Hanley, and kicked with the wind. The ball was sent well into Glenelg territory, but returned. Allingham took a good mark about 50 yards out from Shearer and found the big opening. A few minutes later he had a long chance, but only raised a single. L. C. Dayman, who was playing well, sent on to Latimer, who secured six points. Latimer was given a free, but the ball was stopped. Galliford, from a free, had a chance to score, but missed. Asplin had a chance, but Ford knocked the ball out. Spry passed to Harrold, who had a fairly easy chance, but kicked out of bounds. C. Dayman was saving well, and G. Barnett was doing much effective work for Glenelg. Allingham, from a free close up, made sure of the shot with a nice drop kick. Harrold, from a free, had a fair shot and got Glenelg's first goal. Galliford countered a few moments later with a major for Port Adelaide.

The second quarter began briskly. Glenelg lost no time in making a forward move, and within a minute Harrold called up one flag. At the kick-off the visitors again rushed the play, and Harrold, finding the posts unprotected, screw-punted an easy goal. Glenelg again attacked, and Ross, bringing the ball along the railway wing, passed to Asplin, who drop-kicked another goal, bringing Glenelg to within seven points of the home team's score. The Glenelg men were now playing much better together, and the Port backs appeared to be disorganised. It looked as though Glenelg might win. Ross was playing a good game for them. Adams stopped a determined attack, but Head snapped a goal, putting Glenelg within two points of Port Adelaide. Vigorously retaliating, the home team worked the play to their end, where Allingham scored the full points. Port continued to apply the pressure, and Bayley had a shot, but allowing too much for the wind only registered a minor. Up and down play followed for several minutes, in the course of which C. Dayman did spectacular defence work. Ford effected a remarkable save right on the dance line. It was of little avail, as Harrold a few moments later, in a scrimmage, smartly picked the ball up and screwed it through. The rucks during the second quarter were:—Port Adelaide, Barker, Cornish, and Latimer; and Glenelg, Oliver, Ross, and Spry.

Up and down play for several minutes marked the opening of the third term, until a minor was scored from a long kick by C. Dayman. Glenelg were defending well and repelled several attacks, until determination prevailed, and Latimer made the six points. Glenelg's goal custodian frequently blocked Port Adelaide from scoring. Allingham was awarded a free within a comfortable distance and raised the two flags. The ball was sent well down again by Port, but a free to Head resulted in the attack being turned. Latimer from a free had a good opportunity, but only secured a minor. Galliford from a free sent well down, but Gates saved. Glenelg were showing a strong defence, but had failed to add a point when the bell went for lemon.

A vigorous attack was made by Port Adelaide in the final quarter. Hodge, getting the ball well down, kicked to C. Dayman, who took a fine mark in front of goal and secured a major. Bayley, in a long run, eluded several obstructors and got close in, but only raised one flag. A little later Cornish received a free, giving him a good chance, but misjudged. The play was then transferred to the opposite end, and it looked as though Glenelg meant business, but only a single resulted. Play began to get rough, but mainly through over-eagerness. C. Keal sent the ball to Allingham, who marked well, but only a single resulted. L. C. Dayman passed to Mucklow, who secured the maximum. Latimer from Allingham had a fair chance, but hit the post. Cornish a little later lost a good opportunity. C. Dayman was feeding his men well, and a little later he passed to Keal, who sent on to Bayley. The latter got a goal. Glenelg scored only one point in the second half. Detailed scores:—

First Quarter.

Port Adelaide, 4 goals 2 behinds.

Glenelg, 1 goal.

Second Quarter.

Port Adelaide, 5 goals 6 behinds.

Glenelg, 5 goals 3 behinds.

Third Quarter.

Port Adelaide, 7 goals 8 behinds.

Glenelg, 5 goals 3 behinds.

Final.

Port Adelaide, 10 goals 15 behinds.

Glenelg, 5 goals 4 behinds.

The goal-kickers were:—Port Adelaide, Allingham (4), Latimer (2), C. Dayman, Galliford, Mucklow, Bailey. Glenelg, Harrold (3), Asplin, and Head. Prominent players:—Port Adelaide, C. Dayman, Mucklow, Shearer, Allingham, Bailey, Latimer; Glenelg, Gates, Hinea, Brenton, Perry, Hanley, Harrold, Spry, G. Barnett.