

West, North, Port, and Torrens in Final Four

PORT DEFEAT STURT

Norwood Too Strong For Torrens

NORTH AND WEST WIN

As a result of the final round of league matches played today West Adelaide, North, Port, and Torrens are the teams left to contest the finals.

Port Adelaide at Alberton easily defeated Sturt, and another surprise was the defeat of Torrens by Norwood.

North scored an easy victory at the expense of South and West Adelaide's victory over Glenelg gave them the minor premiership.

FINAL FOUR

Positions of Clubs

	P.	W.	L.	For	Pts.	Prem.
West	17	14	3	1,560	1,168	28
North	17	11	6	1,397	1,039	22
Port	17	10	7	1,288	1,095	20
Torrens	17	10	7	1,211	1,193	20
OUT OF THE FOUR						
Sturt	17	10	7	1,152	1,185	20
Norwood	17	7	10	1,309	1,412	14
Glenelg	17	4	13	1,209	1,432	8
South	17	2	15	1,075	1,677	4

PORT V. STURT

Chief interest in the games was taken in the Port-Sturt contest at Alberton, where one of the largest crowds the oval has seen this season gathered. Defeat meant exclusion of the losing team from the final four. Thus the engagement had a premiership flavor. Added interest was provided by the reappearance of "Shine" Hosking, who retired six years ago, but who stripped in as good condition as men many years his junior.

PORT	2-3	5-12	8-15	11-21
STURT	1-4	3-5	4-5	5-6

Goalkeepers.—Port—Logan (6), J. Wade (8), Hosking and Fitzgerald. Sturt—G. Scrutton (2), Riley, Weller, Whitehead. Best Players.—Port—Mucklow, Hodge, Alingham, Bampton, Hosking, Galliford, J. and S. Wade. Sturt—C. Whitehead, Barron, Wadham, Stuart, J. Smith, Sharp (until hurt).

GLENELG'S LAST GAME

West Adelaide Extended

CLOSE CONTEST

Glenelg had their last game of the season this afternoon, when they met West Adelaide on the seaside oval. Although defeated by the minor premiers the home team was not disgraced, and with an ounce of luck should have won.

There was only a small attendance when the match commenced. Weather conditions were threatening and rain fell during the latter part of the first quarter.

Both clubs were strongly represented, though West were without the services of Snell and Chaplin. Oliver played in Chaplin's stead. Glenelg's only absentee was Bail, who injured his knee last Saturday. Ellis stripped in his place. Umpire A. A. Raven was in charge of the game.

Both sides commenced at a fast rate, but scrambling play soon held up the thrusts. Glenelg forced the game their way, but Ryder cleared admirably. A shot by Bishop went dangerously close, but Page saved.

The visitors pressed hard. Stokes, after marking well, raised the twin flags for the first time during the afternoon. Batt supplemented the score with a six-pointer in the next move, and from the bounce the red-and-blacks attacked with vigor.

For a few moments the yellow-and-blacks flashed out, and a free to Dunbar placed Owens in possession, and Glenelg's first major was registered. Weight was being used freely by players of both sides, but there was little merit in the play.

McGregor beat his opponent in the air and capped the mark with a six-pointer. Schoff was prominent in defence, while Page was doing well for the home team in goal. Flashing out of the pack, Bishop had an uninterrupted run to the goal and scored his side's fourth major.

Owens had a chance to equalize the score, but only a behind resulted. He did better, however, when the ball came his way again, and registered his second goal.

After a period of up-and-down-the-ground play the home team surged goalward. A bitter struggle was staged round the big opening, and Owens, who had the advantage of a free, scored a six-pointer just as the quarter terminated.

Quarter-time

WEST ADELAIDE	4-1
GLENELG	3-1

The home team began the quarter auspiciously, and 30 seconds after play started Owens goaled. Supporters of the yellow-and-blacks cheered wildly when the same player, after sharking round a crush, picked up the ball and piloted it safely through the big opening. Glenelg were now in front for the first time, and a free to Page gave the home team a respite, but the red-and-blacks were soon attacking again.

TOO LATE FOR FINALS

Norwood Again Win Match

TORRENS LACK STAMINA

Norwood and Torrens provided a fast, thrilling game at Thebarton today. Norwood eventually winning by 17 points.

For three quarters there was little between the teams, but Norwood finished better than Torrens, and they were the better team on the day.

Their winning turn, however, came too late for their inclusion in the final four.

NORWOOD	3-1	6-2	10-8	12-12
TORRENS	2-1	5-5	10-6	10-7

Goalkeepers.—Norwood—Conlon and Cornelius (each 3), Biddell and Whitfield (each 2), Renfrey and Mutton. Torrens—Footo (3), McCarthy and Troughton (each 2), Kempster, Phillips, and Geue.

Best Players.—Norwood—Scott, Wadham, Symonds, Whitfield, Biddell, Conlon, and Lawson. Torrens—Fleet, Ward, Ashby, Phillips, Troughton, Adams, and McCarthy.

NORTH V. SOUTH

NORTH	5-2	7-4	11-8	15-9
SOUTH	4-1	6-7	8-8	8-10

Goalkeepers.—North—Furler and Townley (each 4), Moyle and Taylor (2), Fleet, McDowall, and Munn. South—A. J. Ryan (3), Griffen (2), Oliver, Tabo, and Robertson.

Best Players.—North—Furler, Lewis, Townley, Ramsay, Ween, Moyle, McDowall, and Hawke. South—A. J. Ryan, Mackay, C. Ryan, Jackson, Robertson, Lewis, and Tabo.

NOTES ON THE PLAY

NORTH TOO GOOD

Better System Than South

Although they showed flashes of good form against North in the first half and were only three points behind at half-time, South were no match for the red-and-whites on the day, and their deficit of almost seven goals at the conclusion of the match is a fair indication of the play.

In the last quarter, although they seemed to be taking things leisurely, North advanced their tally by four goals one point in reply to two singles by South.

Football was fairly open in the early stages, but on the whole the standard displayed was not good. However, North revealed markedly better system than in their game against Torrens.

The kicking of North (15-9) was more accurate than usual, thanks to the efforts of Furler and Townley, each of whom scored four goals. These two players were the most effective wearers of the red-and-white guernseys, and also performed well following.

Percy Lewis gave a finished exhibition of goalkeeping, and was skilful all day. Ramsay was most impressive of the other defenders, although Conrad flashed out at times.

Ween did creditably in his new role as rover, and Moyle, Hawke, and McDowall were the best of the remaining northerners.

On the day the North centre line and half-back division were outclassed.

For South A. J. Ryan was clever and elusive as scout and forward. Mackay was responsible for a fine performance on one of the wings.

Tabo (following) and Jackson and Lewis (defending) were also effective on most occasions. Playing his first game, Griffen showed distinct promise.

NORWOOD FINISH WELL

Too Strong for Torrens

In a fast and hard-fought contest at Thebarton today Norwood defeated West Torrens by 17 points. Superior stamina gave victory to Norwood, who again showed that they are a much improved side.

For Norwood Scott stood out as the best man on the side. In the first quarter he was exceptionally brilliant, and throughout the contest played with great skill and determination.

The red-and-blue defence was particularly effective, and Scott had able assistants in Parker, Simmons, and Ackland.

With the exception of Symonds, who outclassed his immediate opponent, Norwood were not strong across the centre line, although Lill and Brown were both responsible for only moderate performances.

In the forward lines Biddell, Mutton, Whitefield, Cornelius, and Conlon all scored goals, and every man of the five played solidly.

Renfrey and Wadham were others who did their share to bring success to their side, while Lawson, playing his first game, showed promise.

For Torrens Ashby and Ward in defence were sound, and at times brilliant, while Fleet on the central flank eclipsed his immediate opponent and showed a welcome return to form.

Footo, although not a champion at getting the ball, is a fine kicker, and his three goals were of great help to Torrens. McCarthy and Kempster were other gold-and-blue forwards who did fairly well.

Troughton and Phillips roved with plenty of dash, while Malloney, Broderick, and Adams played solidly.

WEST HARD PRESSED

Glenelg Display Good Form

If the form displayed by West Adelaide against Glenelg today is any criterion of their future exhibitions, the red-and-blacks will have to improve considerably if they are to be 1927 premiers. In view of the fact, however, that they are already minor premiers, there is a possibility that Bruce McGregor and his men took things rather on the easy side. It nearly cost the visitors the game.

Rugged football was played by both sides, and Umpire Raven allowed plenty of latitude, although he kept the game in hand.

An indication of the evenness of the contest can be gauged by the fact that there was no difference in the scores at "lemons."

For the winners Schoff was one of the best performers, and seldom was he beaten in the back lines. He received fine support from Lee, and these two players did extremely well.

Bennetts and McGregor were also prominent, although the latter played a quieter game than usual. However, when he got hold of the ball McGregor generally placed it to advantage. His four goals was the highest tally of his side.

Others who did well for the red-and-blacks were Bennetts, Bishop, Jarvis, and Hale.

Owens maintained his reputation as a goalgetter by kicking six majors. He scouted well for the ball and his marking was excellent.

Johnson impressed with his fine aerial feats, while Barbary on the afternoon's play had the advantage of Scanlon, who was opposed to him.

Sexton, Hack, Lloyd, and Dunbar were often in the limelight, while Page, as goalkeeper for the seagiders, did exceptionally well.

After Batt had scored a single McGregor marked right in front and scored a major.

Wretched passing by Glenelg spoilt any chances they had of scoring, while the visitors made few mistakes in picking out their clubmates. Bennetts and Hoff goaled in quick succession, while a try by Drew produced only a minor. Schoff, Sexton, and Hoff were seen in an exhilarating display of aerial work.

Even scoring was the order for a while, and then Hack and Bennetts kicked goals in quick succession. A point now separated the scores, but McGregor, who was left unguarded, soon put his side a goal ahead.

Johnson and Sexton marked admirably, and a kick by the former was productive of a minor. West were in possession when the bell rang.

Half Time

WEST ADELAIDE	8-4
GLENELG	7-4

Play commenced in a shower of rain. After the home team had gone forward West reversed the trend of play, and McGregor notched a major. Barbary made a fine run from the centre and put his side in a scoring position. Dunbar with a long kick raised both flags.

The home team were playing rugged football, and were more than holding their own. Dunbar and Hack were doing extremely well in the air, and as a side the seagiders were playing admirably.

After being pressed hard the visitors at last took a hand, and Bishop goaled. Owens kicked his sixth goal immediately afterward as the quarter terminated.

Three-quarter Time

WEST ADELAIDE	10-6
GLENELG	10-6

Johnson saved right in the teeth of the goal, but Glenelg soon had play at the opposite end, and a try by Owens hit one of the big posts. Bennetts notched a minor for the visitors, after a stern struggle round the northern citadel. A behind from Scanlon equalised the scores, but after each team had added minors Payne snapped a goal. When Bennetts kicked another six-pointer the game appeared fairly safe for the red-and-blacks, but the seagiders fought on grimly, and though beaten the side was not disgraced.

Final Scores

WEST ADELAIDE	12-9
GLENELG	10-11

Goalkeepers.—West Adelaide—McGregor (4), Bennetts (3), Bishop (2), Stokes, Batt, and Payne (each 1).

Glenelg—Owens (6), Hack, Hoff, Dunbar, and Exley (each 1).

Best Players.—West Adelaide—Lee, Bennett, Schoff, Bishop, McGregor, Jarvis, Hale, and Bennetts.

Glenelg—Barbary, Owens, Sexton, Hack, Johnson, Dunbar, Page, and Lloyd.

LEADING GOALKICKERS

Owens' Record

J. Owens, the Glenelg forward, by kicking six goals in today's game against West Adelaide, brought his total to 80 for the season, and established a new record for South Australia, eclipsing his last year's figures by 16 goals. It must be borne in mind, however, that in 1926 only 14 matches were played, while this year 17 games were contested. His average per match in 1927 was 4.70 and in 1926 4.56.

Owens (Glenelg)	80
Logan (Port)	62
Ryan, A. J. (South)	55
McGregor (West)	44
Bennetts (West)	42
Biddell (Norwood)	40
McCarthy (Torrens)	40
Scrutton, G. (Sturt)	37
Townley (North)	34
Dayman (Port)	32
Furler (North)	32
Payne (West)	32
Taylor (North)	32
Kempster (Torrens)	28
Troughton (Torrens)	25

NEXT SATURDAY'S GAMES

Next Saturday North Adelaide (second) will meet Torrens (fourth) in the first of the finals for the football premiership. In previous years the first and third teams opened the ball, but the league has adopted the system that prevails in Melbourne.

LEAGUE MATCHES

Attendances and Takings

	Attendance	Takings
Alberton Oval	12,200	£492
(Port v. Sturt)		
Thebarton Oval	7,911	302
(Norwood v. Torrens)		
Adelaide Oval	4,000	200
(North v. South)		