

Port, Norwood, North and Sturt Victorious in Opening Matches

REDLEGS MAKE HISTORY

First Time West Defeated on Home Ground

NORWOOD A VASTLY IMPROVED COMBINATION

(By O. J. O'GRADY)

In defeating West Adelaide (premiers of last season) at Wayville West today Norwood made football history, as this reverse constitutes the first that the redoubtable red-and-blacks have sustained at their headquarters in league contests.

Although it is difficult to conjecture how West would have fared but for their heavy injury list, the game today clearly demonstrated that the redlegs are a vastly improved combination, and bid fair to regain their former prestige.

The recent rains had made the Wayville grounds ideal for football, and considering that it was the first match of the season the exhibition was good and provided interesting entertainment.

The feature of the team play of Norwood was their partial return to their former hard bumping game, each player getting right into the play and not sparing himself. The main point of the play of West, as compared with last season, was, in my opinion, the fact that their defence, although good, was not quite up to form.

The feature of the match was the high standard of football for an opening game, and an improvement as a result of the interpretation by Umpire Hill of the new holding the ball rule. The result of this seems to be that there will be fewer frees for holding the man than formerly, and a consequent tendency toward a go-through game.

Regarding the players, Lill was outstanding, and his exhibition was first class. Next to him, I think Johnson, the sturdy redleg rover, was the best of his side. Besides scoring three goals Johnson scouted well with any amount of dash and gameness.

Ackland was himself as goal custodian, being specially prominent when West were making their final effort to gain the lead.

Whitfield, particularly in the first half, was a useful man at half-forward, while Siggins and Biddell worked tirelessly, and with good effect all day. Griffith was often under favorable notice at half-back, while Gleeson was a serviceable follower and defender.

Scott played a solid game, and set an example to his men by the effective use of his weight.

Krome, a junior follower, looks as if he may make good, and Bent, although not the Bent of old, may with restored confidence be formidable again. If Bent does stage a comeback Norwood will be an exceedingly hard nut to crack.

Considering their disabilities West staged a plucky fight, and were by no means disgraced by the defeat. Had they had a full team throughout it is quite on the cards that they would have won. It is a distinct tribute to their prowess that they, about a quarter of an hour before time, needed only a goal to take the lead.

In looking over their individual performances it seems to me that West players are not showing their form of last season.

The superb form of McGregor in the third quarter recovery of his team shows that he is still a champion. Snell was not up to his best standard at centre, although this may be largely the result of the strong opposition of Lill.

Bennetts began the season well, scoring four goals as the result of clever play. Stokes, Bennett, Batt, and Chaplin were all responsible for good performances, while the form of Hale at centre wing resulted in several West forward moves.

Cornell, a follower, looks like finding a permanent place in the side.

Umpire Hill gave a good exhibition, and it was refreshing to see a vigorous game so free from any sign of bad feeling or unfair tactics.

NORWOOD 2-2 5-8 9-9 15-13
WEST 1-4 4-8 7-10 8-11

Goalkickers.—Norwood—Johnson (3), Whitfield, Bent, Krome, Siggins, Matton (each 2), Wadham and Wilson. West—Bennetts (4), McGregor (2), Stokes, Batt.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Premiership Table

	P.	W.	L.	For	Ag.	Pts.
Norwood	1	1	—	96	58	2
Port	1	1	—	77	48	2
North	1	1	—	73	67	2
South	1	1	—	70	68	2
Sturt	1	1	—	68	70	—
Glenelg	1	1	—	67	73	—
Torrens	1	1	—	48	77	—
West	1	1	—	58	96	—

NORTH 9-10
GLENELG 9-13

Goalkickers.—North—H. Hawke (5), Tucker (2), Foulis, and Tobin. Glenelg—Gotts, Toms, Rosewarne (each 2), Thompson, Kean, Leverington.

Best Players.—North—Hargreaves, McInnis, Tucker, Hawke, Lines. Glenelg—Morley, Toms, Thompson, Gotts, F. Oliver.

PORT VICTORIOUS

Glenelg Lose by Seven Points

KEEN STRUGGLE

Glenelg Oval was visited by one of the largest crowds in its history today for the match between Glenelg and Port.

The visitors won a keen contest by seven points.

Umpire Quinn had charge of the game. In the first quarter both teams were finding their feet, and little system was infused into the play. Bad kicking was frequent and passing was faulty. Port won the game in the second quarter, when they overwhelmed the opposition. They predominated in the air, and to take full advantage of this sent the ball forward with long, well-directed kicks. On the ground they shepherded better, and appeared always to be in front of their immediate opponents when the ball was sent their way.

After the long interval Glenelg clapped on the pace, and kept the ball low. Both teams bumped hard and frequently. The gold-and-blacks hustled their opponents throughout, and did not allow them to develop the system which had been so successful in the previous term. Both teams settled down to the last quarter with a will, and there was little advantage either way. Glenelg players, however, did not watch their men as closely as Port.

Port were first to advance, and Terrell placed Ween in possession. His shot produced only a single, but Quinn made amends with full points a few minutes later. Glenelg rushed a point, but the visitors continued to hold sway. Handby and Sallis were prominent in defence. Through the agency of Lloyd and Drew Owens was given a chance, but again one flag was raised. Hack kicked a goal from a penalty kick, and Olliver followed with another.

Continuing to press goalward, Glenelg gave Bail an opportunity of which he made the best use. Rushing the ball to the other end, Port placed K. Johnson in possession. A good try struck a goalpost. Mucklow produced a point with a long kick, that was worthy of better results. Keal registered a goal before the bell rang, leaving Glenelg with an advantage of six points.

Ween sent Port forward, but Johnston and L. Sallis relieved. Cornell and Keal returned the ball, and Dayman had a place shot. His kick fell short, but Wade picked up cleverly and snapped full points.

ALLINGHAM DOMINATES CENTRE

Allingham was dominating the centre at this stage. Another goal came from the boot of Ween before the home team took a hand, and points were added by Hack and Owens.

Their advance was short-lived, and V. Johnson registered a full pointer. Terrell was the next to score a goal, and then a shot by Cornell was touched as it passed through the posts. Port continued to hammer at the goal, and Cornell made amends with a major. Wade added another, putting his team 30 points in the lead.

Glenelg opened determinedly in the third quarter. Hack brought up the two flags, and then Dayman produced similar results for Port. Owens sent the ball through, and then a shot by Percy bounced through an undefended goal. Port retaliated with a goal from K. Johnson, and Bail next added two in succession for the home team. O'Malley, who had been quiet in the early stages of the game, was defending well. Owens put on the ninth goal for Glenelg before the bell rang, leaving his side with a deficit of eight points.

Fighting grimly to maintain their advantage, Port placed K. Johnson in possession, and he added a full pointer. Johnston, who was now playing brilliantly, registered two goals in quick succession for Glenelg, bringing them within a point of their opponents. The crowd was cheering every move. Ween improved the position of his side with a goal, and Dayman made it safe with another. Handby was battling like a tiger in defence. Owens brought up two flags, but the time was too short for the gold-and-blacks to retrieve their position. They had a deficit of seven points when the game closed.

In addition to leading his team well, V. Johnson played good football throughout. M. Allingham had a marked influence on the game by his telling work at centre, and N. Terrell played like a veteran at centre half-forward. A. Cornell showed promise of developing into a champion ruckman.

J. Handby was the outstanding player for Glenelg, turning back attack after attack. Fine support was rendered him by L. Sallis and C. O'Malley in the latter half of the game. A. Hack was outstanding in the first half, and G. B. Johnston did well in the closing stages. His marking and kicking in the last quarter was exceptional.

PORT 2-5 8-7 10-11 15-13
GLENELG 3-5 3-7 9-9 12-12

Goalkickers.—Port—Ween, K. Johnson, Dayman, and Wade (each 2), Quinn, Keal, V. Johnson, Terrell, Cornell. Glenelg—Bail and Owens (each 3), G. B. Johnston and Hack (each 2), Olliver and Percy.

Schoolboys at Play

Before the Glenelg-Port match at Glenelg Oval this afternoon a match was played between St. Leonards and Brighton Schools. Final scores:—

ST. LEONARDS 14-9
BRIGHTON 5-5

Scott won the trophy for the best player in the St. Leonards team and Chapman for Brighton.

STURT VANQUISH TORRENS

Double Blues Superior in Air

VIGOROUS CONTEST

Brilliant marking and long kicking were features of the match between Sturt and West Torrens at Thebarton Oval.

The double-blues led, at the end of each term, and won by 16 points.

Recent rains had left the oval in excellent condition. Umpire T. Plew had charge of the game.

Throughout a strenuously fought contest, Sturt retained the advantage gained in the initial minutes of the game. Torrens, however, did not lose heart, and strove hard for supremacy, with the result that onlookers were provided with a vigorous exhibition of football.

Sturt were far superior in the air, and as far as possible kept the ball out of reach of their opponents. Torrens, on the other hand, tried to reach the goal with forceful tactics.

From the outset Torrens' defenders were kept busy repelling attacks for 10 minutes. Hine, their goalkeeper, left the uprights with judgment and was prominent all the afternoon. His kicking off was all that could be desired.

During the past month there has been much discussion on finicky football, and players, as well as umpires, have been criticised for the gentle nature of the game played in South Australia, as compared with that witnessed in the other States. Bearing this in mind, each team used every ounce of weight at its disposal, and hard and frequent bumping was in evidence throughout the match. The game, too, was not altogether free from spite.

The new holding rule allowed plenty of scope for the "come through" type of football, and players secured a good hold on their opponents who were frequently thrown to the ground. This resulted in numerous scrambles. Nevertheless many fine exchanges occurred, and the ball, being accurately handled or foot-passed, travelled quickly from goal to goal.

STURT 3-6 6-7 12-12 7-21
TORRENS 0-2 4-3 6-3 7-5

Goalkickers.—Sturt—Martin, Rose, and C. Whitehead (each 2), Barron, Torrens—Troughton (4), Karney, Franklin, and Williamson.

NORTH DEFEAT SOUTH

STANDARD OF PLAY FAIR

Victors Show Better System

After an interesting contest North defeated South by 27 points at Adelaide Oval today. The red-and-whites registered 13 goals 15 behinds, and South 10 goals 6 behinds.

North began with uncertainty, but improved as the game progressed. After the long interval they instilled more system into their play, which hitherto had been a trifle congested. South appear to be an improved combination. At half-time they were only four points behind their opponents. In the early stages they were slightly superior to North in their marking, but at the finish the tall members in the ranks of the northerners were marking strongly.

On the whole the standard of football was fair, considering that it was the first match for the season.

For North, Townley was a solid performer throughout. His general play and kicking for goal were excellent. Three majors came from his boot. Furler was also effective in ruck and attack.

Rush and Pitzner shaped commendably considering they were making their debut into senior football. Taylor marked well. Lewis was safe in goals, and Thomas and McDowall were skilful rovers. Morris, Ramsay, and Dillway were a reliable trio in defence.

A. J. Ryan was probably the liveliest man in the ranks of South. His marking and anticipation were as good as ever, but his kicking for goal was slightly less accurate than it has been in previous seasons. Nevertheless, he kicked three goals. Oliver was one of the best in the side.

Robertson was the outstanding forward until the long interval, and May, Taber, Lingwood-Smith, and Jackson were all useful in their respective spheres. Downs was another who scored three goals.

Of the new men, Hebbard and Lovelock were promising in defence. Both should be persevered with. Margitich was patchy.

First Quarter
NORTH 4-2 7-7 10-10 13-15
SOUTH 3-1 7-3 8-6 10-8

Goalkickers.—North—Townley and Rush (each 3), Taylor (2), Munn, Thomas, Furler, Pitzner, and Hawke. South—A. J. Ryan, Robertson, and Downs (each 3), and Margitich.

POSITION OF CLUBS

	P.	W.	L.	Points.	Prem.	
Norwood	1	1	—	103	59	2
North	1	1	—	93	66	2
Sturt	1	1	—	63	47	2
Port	1	1	—	91	84	2
Glenelg	1	—	1	84	91	—
Torrens	1	—	1	47	63	—
South	1	—	1	66	93	—
West	1	—	1	59	103	—

Leading Goalkickers

Bennetts (West)	4
Troughton (Torrens)	4
Bail (Glenelg)	3
Downs (South)	3
Johnson (Norwood)	3
Owens (Glenelg)	3
Robertson (South)	3
A. J. Ryan (South)	3
Rush (North)	3
Townley (North)	3

LARGE ATTENDANCES

Spectators	Number	Takeings
Showground (Norwood v. West)	9,950	£507
Thebarton Oval (Sturt v. Torrens)	9,436	£449
Adelaide Oval (North v. South)	9,100	£351
Glenelg Oval (Glenelg v. Port)	6,000	£295
Grand totals	34,486	£1,602

SHIELD FOR WEST

Presentation at Wayville

An interesting ceremony took place at Wayville Oval prior to the match between Norwood and West. Mr. J. J. Woods (deputy vice-chairman of the South Australian National Football League Limited) presented the league shield to the red-and-blacks, who were premiers last year.

Mr. Woods in making the presentation said that West had proved a remarkably fine team.

The Hon. W. J. Denny (patron of West) in responding on behalf of West said that the red-and-blacks had always played the game in the best spirit. No other league captain had fulfilled his duties more admirably than B. McGregor.

Mr. E. W. Peet (chairman of West) also spoke. Among others present were Mr. F. Marlow (secretary of the league), the Hon. L. L. Hill (Leader of the Opposition), and officials of Norwood.

West Rover Injured

In the first quarter of the match between Norwood and West at Wayville today Jack Bishop, the popular West rover, dislocated his right elbow. He was playing well at the time.

He left the field and was examined by Dr. A. W. Welch. It will be at least three weeks before he can play again. West continued the game with 17 men.

It was unfortunate for Bishop, as last year he announced his retirement, but was persuaded to strip again.

TIGER FOR L. SALLIS

Gift of Club Supporters

Prior to the Port-Glenelg match at Glenelg Oval this afternoon Mr. H. S. Rugless (Mayor of Glenelg) handed to L. Sallis (captain) a small cloth tiger which had been purchased by his well-wishers. They hoped that it would bring him and the club luck during the coming season.

In response Sallis thanked the donors through the mayor for the gift, and expressed the hope that the team would do well.