

Steve McKee Says Glenelg Will Be Stronger This Season Than Ever Before

BROWN WILL STRENGTHEN SIDE

Sexton Likely to Play Centre Again

TEAM BADLY NEEDS RUCKMEN

(BY STEVE McKEE)

GLENELG'S steady improvement during recent seasons will be well maintained if the side acts up to expectations, and weighing the gains and losses since last season's ending, the strong official optimism appears to be well founded.

Alf. Hack and W. Hill are the only two of the 1928 team missing, but the news that F. R. Brown will strip, and the probability that he will lead, have greatly heartened the seashiders.

Brown's outstanding tactical skill, and his individual excellence as a player, will make Glenelg a dangerous team on its day. It is considered improbable that he will occupy the pivotal position.

Sexton is well again, and rapidly running into form; but Brown in a defensive role, in which he first began with Torrens in 1921, or at half-forward, where his sound delivery of the ball would have greatest effect, will make either section more efficient than was the case in 1928.

Sexton, whose disablement occasioned a spirited controversy last season, is a centre man who is lacking in only one respect. There can be no doubting his skill in gaining possession of the ball.

I saw him give Alec Lill a thorough test at Glenelg, but his kicking to the forwards is not deliberate enough. Replace that high punt from midfield by the skimming pass of which Brown is a master, and Sexton will be right in the top flight.

OLD PLAYERS SHAPE WELL

Jim Handby, Magarey medallist for 1928, trained with plenty of vigour last night, and Glenelg's two great wingers, Barbary and Lloyd, are close enough to top form to ensure the "Tigers" centre line to again be a strong post.

"Blue" Johnstone showed notable improvement in his foot passing, and has only to act up to his reputation to earn a second interstate selection, and Wiese should receive a permanency in Glenelg's rearguard.

Other old players out running were P. Winkler, W. Gotsche, B. Drew, Rosewarne, a smart forward in the making, C. Hill, T. Oliver, and Percy.

The lastnamed is still youthful, but has put on weight, and appears to be the best equipped for the key position at half-forward.

Jack Owens, record breaking goal-getter, was not out. He makes amends for his inability to train regularly with the side by early morning practice at the oval, and reports indicate that Owens is finding the goal with all his former con-

sistency.

Two notable defenders in L. Sallis and C. O'Malley were also absentees. The latter is expected back from Mount Gambier, and with Handby and Sallis, will form a half-back line as strong as any in the League.

Glenelg is fortunate in that it has none among its seasoned players showing signs of failing powers. Their regulars are a virile band, and combined with the cream of the new material offering, the Bay team will trouble its opponents more than at any other period of its eight years' existence as a League Club.

LIKELY RUCKMEN

Featherstone is a finely proportioned youth from a Victorian Amateur League Club, who may develop into a useful follower.

It is for ruckmen that Glenelg is most anxiously searching, and Ludeman, a reachy player from Goodwood, is also of that class. Like Featherstone, the latter is on the slow side, but if Brown can effect improvement in their ground handling, a nice blending of weight and reach will have been attained.

Experienced men in J. Bullock, late of Sturt, and Feutrill, ex-West Adelaidean, should prove useful, and George King, a local junior, is showing such fine kicking power and judgment on the goal line that selectors are seriously considering him for the position.

E. Thomson from the B. team, shapes well. Griffiths is another newcomer possessed of more than ordinary football ability, and A. Purdie did so well in a representative association side, that he has been strongly recommended for league honours.

Prince and Evans, two recruits from Melbourne, have returned there temporarily, but will return for the practice game tomorrow, and others strongly contending for positions are D. Harris, R. Wickham (McLaren Vale), W. Morley, and Donithorne.

Altogether, Glenelg is well pleased with the prospects of a good season, and the writer confidently predicts that the Tigers will show to better advantage than ever before.