

# Opening Football Matches Closely Fought

## YOUNG NORWOOD TEAM SURPRISES NORTH

### Leads At Third Quarter, Overpowered In Last; Farmer Kicks 10 Goals

## WINS FOR PORT AND GLENELG

Close games marked the opening of the League football season on Saturday. The biggest winning margin was that gained by Sturt over South Adelaide, 29 points. Port Adelaide beat West Torrens at Alberton by four points, and Glenelg defeated West Adelaide at the Showground by eight points.

The surprise of the day was the form shown by the reconstructed Norwood team. Playing fast football, it held a lead of nearly three goals from the 1931 premiership team, North Adelaide, at half time, and was still a goal ahead at the end of the third quarter. Only fine goalkicking by Farmer in the last quarter enabled North to win by three goals.

### HARD FOUGHT LAST QUARTER

#### Glenelg's Win At Wayville

The Glenelg-West Adelaide match, at the Showground, was a wild, unskilful game with only a close finish to commend it.

There was no lack of vigor, and the way the teams withstood the strain, combined with severe buffeting, so early in the season was a tribute to their training, but, for the most part, it was force badly applied, and a little more skill and judgment with half the expenditure of effort would have achieved far better results. The last quarter, in particular, was marked by wild slogeing, crowds on the ball, and much aimless kicking. Twice the field umpire (Elliott) called up play to allow some of the dozen or more men following the ball to get back to their places, but they soon roamed from them again.

In almost every respect the teams were well matched, and it was because Glenelg had Owens that it won. He was not at his best, and had only about 12 kicks, of which less than 50 per cent. got goals, but because he was at full forward, Glenelg was able to advance with a definite objective in its attack. West lost because it had no reliable means of clinching its forward drives. It lost its goalsneak, Kempster, who twisted his knee early in the second quarter, but he had not played well, and the defeat could not be attributed to his absence. Parry was brought on in his stead, and after that one of the tall men in the side played full forward.

#### Snell Not Available

The absence of Snell was of more moment to West Adelaide. As his clearance had not arrived from Tasmania he could not play, and the side had to be partly re-constructed. Solomon went from the wing to centre, and J. Bennett took his place. Glenelg made no alteration in its side.

Although Glenelg was in front except for a few minutes of the last quarter, it was not impressive. It has an abundance of big tall men, but most of them are slow, and it seems that to win many matches the selectors will have to have a greater infusion of players with dash. Its defence was sound, but across the centre it was beaten. Its most satisfactory features were ruck and forward, and the way Goldsworthy, a recruit from Peterborough, filled the centre half forward position must have satisfied selectors.

#### Strong Half-Forward Line

West Adelaide has improved its half-forward line, which is fast and has players good in the air. For most of the match it was superior to the opposition, particularly in dash, and had the play been kept open closer to goal, the chances put in there should have sufficed to win the match for the home team.

Glenelg was definitely superior in the first quarter, emerging from a first 10 minutes of poor football with a run of three goals by Owens, Link and Griffiths. The three goals' lead indicated a semblance of combination, opposed to the haphazard play of West. Glenelg, too, was smarter to the ball.

However, its superiority disappeared in the unscientific vigor of the second and third quarters. West, revealing marked improvement in pace and kicking, particularly in long drop kicks, had the ball before its goal most of the second quarter, and more than half of the third, but it got only behinds when it needed goals. One bright dash, in which Matthews and Jarvis carried the ball right round the wing, should have been rewarded with a goal, but Jarvis's shot hit a post. Glenelg, lumbering badly, did not score a goal in the second quarter until within a minute or two of the bell.

The third quarter was almost a repetition, West outmarking Glenelg, and disposing of the ball more effectively.

Connell's goal within a minute of the beginning of the last quarter brought West to within three points, and from then until the end, both teams threw all their energies, but little skill, into the play. The lead fluctuated, and half way through West had a three points advantage. Four minutes from the end, Owens, after being pulled down about 40 yards out, put the ball through, and placed the scores out of touch. The finish was exciting, but West could not pull up on that. Scores:—

Glenelg	4.3	5.5	6.10	10.12
West	1.3	3.9	5.13	8.16

Goalkickers:—Glenelg—Owens (5), Rosewarne (2), Link, Griffiths, Goldsworthy, West Adelaide—D. Williams and Roberts (2), Connell, McInerney, Parry, and Golding.

#### Veteran Shines

Glenelg had no more useful man than Handby. Always where the fight was thickest, he marked better than he has for years, employed all the points of the game which his long experience have taught him, and never missed getting his kick. Percy's marking and powerful following should place him in the side permanently, for he handled the ball more surely than anyone on the ground, and kicked strongly. Goldsworthy's game at centre half forward should be the prelude to a valuable career in league football. Although slow, he is tall and powerful, and marks well. His disposal is intelligent. Hill opposed Shea on the wing effectively, trying for everything. Link must be the fastest rover in the game. Although the crowded play did not give him much opening for his lightning dashes, he occasionally broke away, picking out a comrade cleverly. He was useful when resting in a forward pocket. Edwards, a solid plodder, Winkler, a good first quarter, K. Olliver and Rosewarne were useful.

West had no outstanding man, Shea, Roberts, and McInerney being three of the best. Shea was not effective in the air, but his pace, and good use of the ball made his ground play valuable.

Roberts was one of the links of the improved half forward line. He marks well, has good pace, and delivers the ball accurately. McInerney did well on the same line, taking position well, and doing best when the play was open. Connell and Jarvis both started poorly, but were much more prominent after the first quarter, their long kicking helping West frequently. The Williams brothers, who shared most of the roving, were clever and persistent. D. Williams doing his best work in the first half. Branson, one of the unostentatious type, was there when needed at many crucial moments. Mesecke, Golding, Simons, and Hamilton shone on occasions.

### PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	Prem.
Sturt	1	1	—	96	67	2	
N. Adelaide	1	1	—	112	94	2	
Glenelg	1	1	—	72	64	2	
P. Adelaide	1	1	—	79	75	2	
W. Torrens	1	—	1	73	79	—	
W. Adelaide	1	—	1	64	72	—	
Norwood	1	—	1	94	112	—	
S. Adelaide	1	—	1	67	98	—	

Before the match at Prospect the 1931 premiership shield was presented to the patron of the North Adelaide club (Sir Lewis Cohen), by the chairman of the League (Mr. T. S. O'Halloran, K.C.).

Farmer kicked six goals in the last quarter of the match, and finished with 10, easily the best goal tally of the day. Morton, marking well, kicked six for Sturt, Owens five for Glenelg, and Bertram five for West Torrens.

### PORT'S NARROW WIN FROM TORRENS

#### Winning Team Has Promising Material

Making a good recovery from a patchy exhibition in the opening two quarters, Port Adelaide converted a probable defeat at the hands of West Torrens on the Alberton Oval into a four-point win.

Port	2.7	2.10	9.14	10.19
Torrens	4.0	6.4	9.6	11.9

Goalkickers:—Port Adelaide—Kellaway and Logan (3), Eden, Mucklow, Hooper, and Jennings. West Torrens—Bertram (5), Head (3), Drury, Horsborough, and Bridgman.

### STURT OUTLAST SOUTH

#### Intelligent Combined Play Tells In Last Quarter

Sturt	3.2	7.6	10.9	14.12
South	2.6	6.9	9.10	9.13

Goalkickers:—Sturt—Morton (6), Johnston (2), Wunderlich, Leak, Treleaven, Dunn, King, and Robertson. South Adelaide—Venning, Gardiner, and Hall (2), McGregor, Tully, and Masters.

### NORWOOD'S BAD MOVE GIVES NORTH WIN

#### Farmer Opens Brilliantly With 10 Goals

North	3.4	6.8	9.15	16.16
Norwood	3.2	9.5	11.9	14.10

North Adelaide—16 goals 16 behinds. Norwood—14 goals 10 behinds. Goalkickers:—North Adelaide—Farmer (10), Burns and Proud (2), Phillips and Taylor. Norwood—Lyon (3), Biddell, W. B. McCullum, Plumstead, and Johnson (2), Krome, Hall, and Window.