

LEAGUE FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

POOR FOOTBALL AT GLENELG

Sturt Wins On Sodden Ground

A weak forward line and blind kicking, particularly in the last quarter, cost Glenelg the match at Glenelg, and enabled Sturt to retain a place in the four. Worried by strong cross-field wind and a sodden ground, Sturt and Glenelg gave a poor exhibition. The Glenelg forward line showed its weakness early in the game, offering no resistance to the determined defence of Sturt. Fumbling, inaccuracy in kicking, and a very low standard of marking made the game a scramble on the ground for the better part of the match, although in the third and final quarters flashes of good form were shown. Owens played a disappointing game, trying six times without success before he scored a goal. Sturt forced the pace from the start, and establishing a handy lead in the first quarter, maintained it without difficulty despite Glenelg's vastly improved form in the second quarter. The slippery ground made successful bumping easy, and Sturt's greater weight told. In the second quarter Glenelg rallied wonderfully, and King made many good saves, frustrating determined Sturt onslaughts which had previously broken through the Glenelg defence with little trouble. For a time the play was confined to the Glenelg end, and centred around the water pools, making it impossible for anything but punts and kicks off the ground to be used. The Glenelg back line improved greatly, and offered stout resistance to the Sturt attacks, keeping play up the Glenelg end for the best part of the quarter and allowing Sturt to add only one point to the first quarter scores. Sawatzke, playing goalsnake, showed none of his recent form, getting few opportunities and spilling those which did come his way. Up to this stage the ruck work was poor and the roving unimpressive, the

slippery ground spoiling the knocking out. In the Sturt back line Parsons worked well, but not well enough to stop the Glenelg onslaughts.

Sturt's Improved Form

The opening of the third quarter showed a distinct improvement in Sturt's system. Play opened out and speeded up and became noticeably freer from the congestion which had marred the first half. Sturt rallied, and within a few minutes of dashing play, regained the ground they lost in the previous quarter. Good knocking out and better roving sent the ball into Sturt territory and within a few minutes Green, who had replaced Sawatzke as goal sneak, scored. A few minutes later Sawatzke, showing marked improvement in the forward pocket, added another goal. In an effort to stem the disastrous Sturt attack, Handby brought Hill in as rover to assist Colyer. The change made no difference and Sturt again swept the ball through the weak Glenelg defences and Sawatzke scored again. To counter the improved ruck work of Sturt, Glenelg brought Percy in place of Rosewarne. The move had the desired effect, and for the first time in the quarter Glenelg broke through Sturt's solid defence. Poor play followed at the Glenelg goal mouth. A fierce scrimmage produced one of the brightest spots of the day's play. Suddenly, from a tangled mass of legs, Owens emerged and sent the ball flying between the posts, scoring his second goal. Sturt swept through the opposition defence in dashing style, but was again balked by King's good saves in goal. Both teams lost their vigor and play was confined to the centre of the field. Handby, who played a solid game from start became the central figure on the field, using his weight to advantage and infusing fresh hope into his team by his dashing play. Towards the end of the quarter the game speeded up considerably, Glenelg straining every nerve to pick up but unable to overcome the ever-evident weakness of its forward line. Green, who had been lagging in the first half, showed himself in a much better light as goal sneak.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

Table with columns: W, D, L, P, A, Pts. Rows include N. Adel., Norwood, P. Adel., Sturt, W. Tor., W. Adel., Glenelg, S. Adel.

Wind Helps Sturt In Last Quarter

Shortly after the final quarter started, the wind freshened and veered round in Sturt's favor. Griffith was taken off early in the quarter, and McKinnon replaced him in forward pocket. Within a minute or so McKinnon had justified his inclusion by scoring a goal through unattended posts. Sturt retaliated immediately after, a series of quick passes and well timed short kicks giving Smith the chance to score. Johnston, who was the outstanding figure on the field, left the ruck at this stage and played loose man at centre. Treleaven retired with a bruised thigh and was replaced by S. Headon, who took up a half forward flank position, while Longmore went to the wing. Play opened out again, but Glenelg, possibly over anxious, went to pieces, particularly the forward line, and kicked blindly and inaccurately, often into Sturt's hands. With both sides unable to add to their scores, but fighting gamely to the bell, Sturt went on to win easily. Scores:—

Small table showing scores for Sturt (42, 43, 98, 108) and Glenelg (12, 37, 48, 713).

Goalkeepers:—Sturt—Green (4), Sawatzke (2), Martin, Smith, Dunn, and Longmore; Glenelg—Owens (2), Percy (2), Rosewarne, Hale, and McKinnon.

Sturt's Strong Defence

The primary cause of Glenelg's collapse in the latter part of the final quarter was the wandering of the forwards. They attacked vigorously, but without system, and were unable to break Sturt's defence to get a chance to score. Sturt's success was due to the fact that the men kept their places and the back line was strong. In ruck Sturt showed slightly better form than Glenelg.

Best players:—Sturt—Sims, Simon, Fisher, Martin, Parsons, Alstrope, Wadham, and Green. Glenelg—King, Handby, Johnston, Hale, Coleman, Hill, Colyer, and Percy.

PORT SHOWS SOUND FORM

Half Forward Line With Big Possibilities

In defeating West, at Alberton, Port Adelaide showed great defensive strength and a glimpse of sound team work, which should be a big asset to it in its fight for the finals. The Alberton Oval, because it absorbs moisture better than any other ground, allowed a firm foothold, but the strong wind blowing almost straight across was adverse to good football. But Port, particularly in the third quarter, when fighting against the breeze, showed that it has been well schooled in how to get the ball forward by low foot passes. Swift stabbing kicks whipped the ball along as fast as was possible under the conditions, and enabled it to check West in a move to use the breeze for a match winning burst. Port Adelaide, 8 goals 16 behinds. West Adelaide, 4 goals 9 behinds. Goalkeepers—Port Adelaide, N. Hender (3), Hooper, Eden, A. Hender, Whicker, and Dermody; West Adelaide, Williams (2), Ralph, and Goiding.

Wightman Makes Good

Wightman showed that the reports which preceded him from the country were not exaggerated by playing a strong high-marking game at centre-half-forward. While he was following he was not impressive, his inexperience in combating a bustling opponent often forcing him out of position. He was the best man on the ground in the first half, faded in the third quarter, but played excellently in the last quarter. Mucklow showed much of his old skill for three quarters, working cleverly on the ground, and winning through by his pace and tenacity. A bad attack of influenza has left him without his former stamina, and he had to leave the ground in the last quarter. Except that he kicked in weakly at times, Gilbert played flawlessly in goal. He was the star of a robust, dashing defence, which also included Mott, Terrell, R. Johnson, Allingham, and Wren. Whitaker disposed of the ball skilfully at centre, and Dermody handled the ball at centre wing with almost classic sureness. The Hender brothers did much to make the forwards look impressive, and Hooper and Ede roved well. Eden, Utting, and Reval, following, did a difficult job well.

Connell's Great Following

Connell was the best follower on the ground, and marked as well as Wightman. His long, well directed punches from the rucks should have given his side a much greater advantage than they did. Solomon and Shea handled the ball skilfully on the ground, and were among the few who made good use of it, and Branson, first at half-back right, and later at centre-half-back, defended resolutely. Ralph and Williams, except for lack of anticipation in accepting the knock-out from the ruck, roved excellently, Ralph particularly showing that he is suited to the roving task he took over two games ago. McInerney was a valuable link at half forward in the first half, but was shifted to full-forward in the second half, and wasted. The best of the others were Mason, Hill, Goiding, Callier, and Simons.

NORWOOD DEFEATS SOUTH ADELAIDE

Comfortable Win Over Weak South Team

Norwood defeated South Adelaide by 22 points at the Norwood Oval, but, because of the absence of three of the strongest South players—Jaffer, Masters, and Barker—the margin was not greatly to its credit. From the spectators' point of view, the game was disappointing and spiritless. The sodden nature of the ground and a strong wind made it impossible for the players to kick mark or handle the ball with any sureness. Consequently, for the most part the game was a series of rushes and scrambles, the ball travelling from one to the other aimlessly. South Adelaide played with determination all through, and did well under the circumstances. All of the visiting players pulled their weight, and showed more vigor than might reasonably have been expected from a rather light side. The Souths were obviously contending with a more powerful and robust team, though many of the Norwood players played listlessly. Only when the win seemed in doubt did the team rouse itself fully. With the win clinched it became lethargic and careless again. A sprinkling of the players, especially Sorrell, Page, and Johns, were out of touch for the greater part of the game. Kicking for goal at times was wretched. Norwood, 12 goals 21 behinds. South Adelaide, 10 goals 11 behinds. Goalkeepers:—Norwood—Krome, Biddell, E. A. Johnson, Mutton, and W. McCallum (2); Heffernan, and Window. South Adelaide—L. Baxter (4), Hall (3), Errey, Dayman, and H. Baxter. Splendid Display By Hickman Hickman, the Norwood centreman, was not affected by the wet conditions, as might have been expected, considering his finger-tip style of play. He was equally as reliable as Errey on the ground, better in the air, and of greater value to his team because he covered a wider area with excellent anticipation and almost faultless disposal. A large share of the defence fell on the shoulders of Pike, who was equal to the occasion, always clearing with fast strides and a good punt. Biddell was the most capable of the forward division that was below form. He received his most valuable assistance from the followers and rovers, of whom E. A. Johnson and Woodroffe were seen to especial advantage at times. Curver was always sound in the half-back line, and the wingmen, particularly Medlen, gave Hickman a lot of help. O'Brien's methods were tireless, and he sent the ball away frequently. Hewitt has settled down as a very capable half-back. He was rarely beaten in a struggle for possession, and his clearances were well directed. Hall was tireless and enterprising, and his three goals were the reward of dauntless scouting. Tully, who had the leadership of South, set his team an example of unflinching effort and skill. Errey, in the second half, was among the most conspicuous and capable of the Souths. Long was noticed for good ruck work. Mulcahy, Dornan, and Hasset for spirited defensive work, and L. Baxter, goalsnake, for four goals. T. W. Elliott umpired, and though his decisions were faulty on several occasions, controlled a difficult game reasonably well.

DETERMINATION AND VIGOR WIN

North Capitulate To Torrens

Incentive to win played a big part in West Torrens' defeat of North Adelaide at the Adelaide Oval. Knowledge that it must win to remain in the running for a place in the final four lent added speed, greater determination and the extra ounce of recklessness which so often means the difference between gaining possession and losing opportunities. The manner in which Torrens fought back after North's early lead—the score at one stage being three goals to one against Torrens—showed in the first quarter that the team would fight fiercely. Although it drew to within a few points of Torrens in the second quarter and threw out another challenge in the third, North Adelaide was always behind after the first few minutes. Its play lacked much of its usual zest, probably as a result of the knowledge that defeat would not seriously affect its premiership chances. Torrens fairly revelled in the slush and bumped with a wholehearted vigor throughout the game. West Torrens, 13 goals 17 behinds. North Adelaide, 9 goals 12 behinds. Scorers Of Goals And Behinds West Torrens—Waltie, 3 goals 3 behinds; Bertram, 2; Sirock, 2; Hocking 2; Drury, 1; Pontifex, 1; Shepherd, 1; McKenzie, 1; Frogley, 0.1; Harris, 0.1 and one behind was rushed. One of Waltie's kicks hit a goalpost. North Adelaide—Farmer, 2; Melvin, 2; Storer, 1; Taylor, 1; Purier, 1; Knuckey, 1; Parrett, 1; Hemers, 0.3; Parnell, 0.1, and one behind was rushed. Frogley's Best Game Frogley showed a great liking for the centre position, and the manner in which he subdued Luck when the North man was playing at his top was convincing. It was one of the best games he has played. Quinn was as reliable and as determined as usual at half-back. Sirock played excellently when he returned to his half-forward flank, and Bertram roved cleverly. His remarkable snap kicking ability makes him a dangerous forward when resting. Williamson showed that his enforced spell has not affected his form, and, when not rucking, his presence in defence made that department much sounder. Ashby and Hocking again rucked intelligently. Drury (roving), Waltie (who covered a lot of ground in the forward lines), Read (half-back), Pontifex (half-forward), and Shepherd (who divided honors with Drew) were the best of the remainder. Courageous Rover Hemers, lacking in inches and ounces, but not in pluck and football ability, was North's best man. He roved for long spells and displayed amazing stamina and pace. Mackay recovered much of his 1931 speed and skill at centre wing and, in the last two or three quarters, defeated Thornton almost pointlessly. Lock's effort in the first half and Purier's rugged, reliable ruck-work were other important features of North's play. Storer roved in his customary resourceful manner; Taylor and Knuckey were occasionally bright at half-forward; Mangeladorf, McNamara, and Burton were the best of the defence, and Farmer, although he did not get many opportunities, marked the greasy ball well several times. Raven allowed reasonable attitude in view of the conditions, and did not unduly penalise the man in possession.