

FOOTBALL
SECTION

Steve McKee on Premiership Position

CONDUCTED
BY
ROY COLMER



R. Pratt

**MAY SCORE 150
GOALS**

Pratt's Brilliant Record

BOB Pratt, South Melbourne's goal-kicking star, looks certain to put up figures this season that will stand for many years. With only 15 matches of the minor round played, he has captured the Australian record, previously held by Ken Farmer with 126 goals.

Pratt required 12 goals at the start of the game against Footscray to pass Farmer's record, and he secured the required number of goals.

With 127 goals opposite his name and probably four more matches to play, Pratt may finish with a tally of between 150 and 160 goals. He has an average of eight and a half goals a match so far for the season, and if he can maintain this average, will finish with an aggregate of 163 goals.

Now only 21 years of age, Pratt has been with South Melbourne since 1930, and in 83 games has kicked 373 goals. He topped the goalkicking list for the Victorian League last year with a tally of 109 goals, beating Gordon Coventry by one.

Pratt is one of the most modest footballers in the game, and although his feats are the talk of the football world he is not carried away by them. Asked one day how he became a champion forward, Pratt said: "Oh, it's easy. All you have to do is to get the ball and put it through."

He was a member of the Victorian carnival team in Sydney last season, and played for Victoria in Adelaide in June. He was selected to play against South Australia in Melbourne, but had to withdraw on account of illness.

SIX TEAMS HAVE GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING IN "FOUR"

Saturday's Matches Are of Vital Importance

The most remarkable qualifying round in league football history will reach the penultimate stage on Saturday. Torrens, who are at the top of the premiership table, have to fight desperately to remain in the four, while North (sixth) still have a good chance of taking part in the finals.

For Torrens, Sturt, Glenelg, Port, West, and North the next two games are of vital importance. There will be so much interest in the games on Saturday that attendances at nearly all ovals should show a marked increase.

With a thorough appreciation of dramatic values, South, fielding their weakest eighteen of the season, last Saturday earned the distinction of being the only team to defeat Torrens at Thebarton.

And, in achieving this success, South have made it imperative that Torrens defeat Sturt at the same ground on Saturday. Otherwise the odds will be strongly against the premiers of 1934 figuring in the major round.

Should Torrens fail against Sturt for the third time this season, their survival will depend upon the game with Port at Alberton a week later.

As the magpies will probably be endeavoring to clinch first or second position, and there is a doubt regarding the soundness of prominent Torrens players, this contract appears beyond the gold-and-blues.

Torrens and Sturt will be assured of inclusion in the major round if they win one of their two remaining engagements. One win will give them 20 premiership points.

Port, and either Glenelg or West, can finish the minor round with 21 points, but 19 points is the maximum attainable by North, and the loser in the Glenelg-West clash at the Bay Oval on Saturday.

If Sturt win at Thebarton they will lead the field into the semi-finals. If Torrens triumph I believe that Sturt, Torrens, and Port can be safely named as semi-finalists.

Glenelg, West, and North are locked together in a keen fight for the last position in the four.

Should either of the former win both remaining engagements they will be certain of inclusion, irrespective of results of other games.

This would give them 21 premiership points, sufficient to prevent North's "percentage" superiority becoming a decisive factor.

Glenelg and West meet on Saturday. The winners will retain fourth place unless South spring another surprise by overthrowing Port at Adelaide Oval.

The outcome of the Torrens-Sturt game is of vital importance to the team defeated in the Glenelg-West encounter. If the home team wins at Thebarton the loser at Glenelg is definitely out of the major round.

North, too, are largely dependent upon the results of games other than those in which they are directly engaged.

The combination of two wins each to Port and Glenelg, and one each to Torrens and Sturt would put North out of court but, if West defeat Glenelg North can reach the major round by defeating Norwood and West at Prospect.

Another possibility is that in the event of Torrens losing to Sturt and Port, "percentage" will decide third and fourth positions. In this case North will get in ahead of the team losing at Glenelg on Saturday, provided they win twice at Prospect.

With this fact in mind Glenelg and West will be after every possible match point at their next two appearances.

With the composition of the final four remaining so well concealed at this advanced stage, the more important problem of premiership has been relegated to the background for the time being.

As usual, partisan camps profess a complete confidence in the ability of their representatives to secure the ultimate honor, but no team has shown form convincing enough to warrant a particular preference.

Not one of the teams with premiership possibilities is at the moment certain of participation in the major round. And all of the six teams still in the running have weak links that expose them to the danger of a collapse, such as Torrens experienced against South.

Torrens' weakness has become hydra-headed, and is affecting their power in the rucks, at centre-wing, and at several attacking points.

During the greater part of the season the only serious weakness in Torrens has been the lack of a reliable forward.

Had the gold-and-blues possessed a talented goalgetter like Bennetts, Farmer, Munro, or Rosewarne they would now be a long way ahead of the field.

Pontifex made an excellent substitute, but Torrens were not able satisfactorily to replace their leader at mid-field. He has had to return to the pivot, and judged by the material at hand it would appear that the attacking power of the team will be affected.

The fact that Torrens have had 150 fewer points scored against them than any other team indicates that they will stand or fall on their defensive strength.

The weakness of the Torrens attack is strikingly illustrated by the premiership table, which shows that South, in bottom position, have scored the equivalent of 26 goals more than the gold-and-blues.

Sturt have deteriorated in defence, and there has been a scoring uncertainty in front of goal, not so definite as in Torrens' case, but nevertheless a source of danger.

Port are steadily acquiring greater strength behind centre. If Wightman can pick up his true form the magpie rucks will have no superior, and although the forwards are comparatively inexperienced they have consistently revealed high scoring ability.

There will not be a better balanced side if Port get Ween and "Bob" Johnson into action before the end of the qualifying round.

Glenelg are troubled by a lack of pace on the centre flanks. Hill and Shakes are a good, game pair of wingmen, strong and eager, but lack the brilliant pace necessary to hold the position safely against fliers of the Dermody, Treleaven, and Mackay type over the distances wingmen are called upon to traverse at Adelaide Oval.

West are playing evenly, and have the necessary pace at every part of the field to make them dangerous under semi-final conditions. But the red-and-blacks have to get there first!

North, the last of the possibles, will be a difficult team to defeat if they reach the major round, particularly if Burton returns to the side.

The success of brilliant juniors like Rush, Batt, and Bowman, and the steady improvement of the second ruck make North appear more formidable than at any other part of the season.

North's defeat of Glenelg was of particular merit when it is considered that Taylor and Hawke were partially disabled very early in the game.

In common with the five teams ranking higher North have yet to earn the right to contest a semi-final. If they do and are able to field at full strength I believe the red-and-whites will be very hard to defeat at Adelaide Oval.

HOW TEAMS STAND

	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst	Pts	%
Torrens	15	9	6	-	1379	1279	18	51.88
Sturt	15	9	6	-	1430	1429	18	50.02
Port	15	8	6	1	1606	1477	17	52.09
Glenelg	15	8	6	1	1607	1547	17	50.95
West	15	8	6	1	1550	1499	17	50.84
North	15	7	7	1	1573	1388	15	53.12
Norwood	15	5	10	-	1443	1655	10	46.58
South	15	4	11	-	1539	1853	8	45.37

Saturday's Games

South v. Port, Adelaide Oval.
North v. Norwood, Prospect Oval.
Torrens v. Sturt, Thebarton Oval.
Glenelg v. West, Glenelg Oval.



G. C. HALE, veteran Glenelg ruck shepherd, who has given the tigers fine service this season.

JACKA MAY PLAY FOR GLENELG

GLENELG may make an effort to strengthen their half-back line for the game against West at the Bay Oval on Saturday. Practically every man on the training list will be available for selection.

Jacka and Percy have recovered from the knee injuries that kept them out of the North game, and they may be included this week.

Percy may be used as a ruckman, changing from full forward, and Jacka seems certain to find a place on the half-back line. Brock, at centre half-back, and Wells, should retain their positions on this line.

If Jacka is not placed at half-back, a reshuffle of positions is likely to bring either Hale or Whitaker to that position. If Hale is played there, Rosewarne may return to act as the shepherd for the second ruck.

The selectors may decide to retain Hale as a shepherd, and in that case they could bring James into the side again at full back, and shift Whitaker to half-back.

Colyer will resume training tonight after a long spell because of an ankle injury. He is likely to be given another week's training before being included in the team.

Seeley, who stood down last week because of influenza, has recovered and will be available for selection. Sallis is in Melbourne this week, but he will return on Saturday morning to participate in the West game.

Glenelg now have 31 players on the training list. As the association team has finished for the season, Birrell, Highett, and Harford have been invited to continue training with the senior team.

Torrens, Glenelg, North, and Port Win

 CONDUCTED
BY
PERCY FURLER

MAGPIES GO TO SECOND POSITION, GLENELG THIRD

Last Series of Matches Vital To Four of Five Leading Teams

TORRENS ONLY CERTAINTIES

Today's winners—Torrens, Glenelg, North, Port. As a result of today's league football matches, Port have jumped to second position and Glenelg to third. Sturt's defeat by Torrens sends the double-blues back to fourth, a point ahead of North, whose hope of inclusion rests on victory in the last match and the defeat of Port, Glenelg, or Sturt.

Next Saturday's games, the last series of the minor round, can drastically affect four of the five leading teams. Port, for instance, have a chance of becoming minor premiers; on the other hand, they may yet be removed from the final four.

Torrens are the only team certain of inclusion. But should they lose to Port, and should Glenelg win against Norwood, the blue-and-golds will fall from first to third position. Another boil-over by South against Sturt would result in the double-blues being out of the fight, with the winner of the North-West encounter to fill fourth place.

Glenelg must defeat Norwood to make their inclusion certain. Should the redlegs overthrow Glenelg, and North beat West, the red-and-whites' better percentage would give them preference over the tigers. Appearances point to the four being Port, Glenelg, Torrens, and Sturt.

After an evenly fought match at Thebarton, Torrens scrambled home from Sturt, who were seriously handicapped by having to finish the game with 17 men.

Glenelg beat West after a hotly fought finish, and North and Port scored comfortable victories over Norwood and South respectively.

GOALKICKERS

	Today	Total
Farmer (North)	11	93
Bennetts (West)	4	86
Munro (South)	-	74
Owens (Glenelg)	8	72
Prideaux (Port)	-	72
Schultz (Norwood)	4	64
Brown (Norwood)	3	52
Link (Glenelg)	2	44
Wundersitz (Sturt)	4	42

WEST'S FAULT INACCURACY

AFTER one of the most sternly fought battles of the minor round, Glenelg defeated West by 11 points at Glenelg. The game was played at a break-neck pace throughout, and the issue was always in doubt. Inaccuracy in front of goal, which was mainly the result of dashing play by the Glenelg defenders, cost West the match.

GLENELG—Backs—Griffiths, Whittaker, Hale. Half-backs—Carlos, Brock, Wells. Centres—Hill, Sallis, Shakes. Half-forwards—Rosewarne, Goldworthy, Leak. Forwards—Owens, Percy, Edwards, Rock. Johnston, Oliver, Link, Cox (19th). Hill (injured leg) replaced by Cox in the third quarter.

WEST—Backs—C. Bennett, Mattiske, Graham. Half-backs—Webber, Jarvis, Tonkin. Centres—J. Bennett, Matthews, Shea. Half-forwards—E. Hill, J. Hill, Keane. Forwards—Bennetts, Jackson, Heddle, Rock—Connell, Simons, Parry, March (19th).

Umpire—S. A. D. Hill. Jarvis won the toss for West, and gave his team the advantage of a strong breeze favoring the northern end.

James had dropped out of the Glenelg team because of influenza, and Whittaker, who took his place, went to full back. Cox was made nineteenth man for Glenelg, and March for West.

In little more than two minutes three goals were on the board—two for Glenelg and one for West. The bays moved in strongly from the bounce, but Jarvis stopped the rush and began a West dash that yielded full points from Jackson 45 seconds after the start.

Monopolising the attack because of greater dash and better handling of the ball, Glenelg rattled on goals from Owens, Link, and Owens in that order.

A hard-bumping West recovery brought a goal from Parry, who was roving in dashing style. Nice combination between the Glenelg forwards, gave Leak an easy chance, and Glenelg's fourth goal without a point came up.

Then West swept in twice, and Jackson and J. Hill gave them the lead with a goal each. Parry had previously kicked two points.

	G.	B.	Pts.
WEST	4	5	29
GLENELG	4	0	24

Freed in front, Bennetts kicked badly, then Edwards goaled for the Bays.

At the other end Connell was given an easy shot, but the ball was caught by the wind and only a point resulted.

Sallis, who had the measure of Matthews at centre, gave the bays several chances, but the tall West defenders prevailed until Link posted Glenelg's sixth goal straight. Owens followed with the seventh almost immediately.

Bennetts scored his first goal for West before Glenelg, now playing delightful, systematic football, again swung into their stride. Johnston brought down a brilliant finger-tip mark, and recorded the eighth goal. Owens broke the sequence with a long snap that just missed.

Regaining command as suddenly as Glenelg had seized it, West swept in against the wind with smart dashes, and Bennetts rattled on two nice goals. When Parry followed with a single West were only a point behind.

The Bays fought back, and Owens goaled just before the bell.

	Half-time	G.	B.	Pts.
GLENELG	9	2	56	
WEST	7	7	49	

Throwing all their weight into the fray, both teams attacked in turn, but strong defensive play held up scoring. Wells was in grand form for the Bays, stopping drive after drive.

Goldworthy broke a scoreless spell of sternly fought play with a point snapped running in, and Bennetts followed with a goal for the red-and-blacks.

The scrimmages were being fiercely fought, and the evenness of the game had the crowd on tip-toe.

J. Hill and Parry marked at handy range for West, but each could manage only one flag, and the scores were level.

Heddle capped a hard-bumping West onslaught with a point, but West did not retain the lead for long. Strongly marking a neat pass from Sallis, Goldworthy drove the ball through.

Brilliant play between Sallis and Link sent the bays in again, and Owen goaled from an angle.

Towards the end of the term the red-and-blacks succeeded in opening up the game, and Jackson, and J. Hill goaled.

		Third Quarter		
		G.	B.	Pts.
WEST	10	11	71
GLENELG	11	3	69

With the stage set for a great finish both teams jumped into the play with rare vim. Securing at an angle Owens raised Glenelg's hopes with his sixth goal.

Responding to the challenge West threw all their energy into a hard-bumping advance, and Connell goaled as he fell. West's next drive was brilliantly turned by Griffiths, who magnificently marked over the pack with one hand.

Fighting tooth and nail for the lead, West attacked relentlessly, and secured it after a grim tussle, with a point from Bennetts and a goal from Connell.

A lightning recovery by the Bays carried them in, and Goldworthy hit a post. This gave West a two-point lead. Then a great punt by Goldworthy sailed through for Glenelg, and Rosewarne and Johnston added singles.

A great mark and strong kick by Percy sent Glenelg in again and Owens goaled. Points from Bennetts and Keane were the only reward of a hotly sustained West counter-attack.

Edwards raised one flag for the Bays, and put them 1-5 in the lead a few minutes before the bell.

The task of getting two goals in as many minutes was too much for West, and Glenelg held them off without any addition to the score.

HOW GAMES ENDED

Adelaide				
Port	25-21	d. South	4-12	
Prospect				
North	23-14	d. Norwood	15-9	
Glenelg				
Glenelg	15-8	d. West	12-15	
Thebarton				
Torrens	15-13	d. Sturt	13-13	

HOW TEAMS STAND

	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst	Pts	%
Torrens	16	10	6	-	1482	1370	20	51.96
Port	16	9	6	1	1777	1513	19	54.01
Glenelg	16	9	6	1	1705	1634	19	51.06
Sturt	16	9	7	-	1521	1532	18	49.82
North	16	8	7	1	1725	1487	17	53.70
West	16	8	7	1	1637	1597	17	50.62
Norwood	16	5	11	-	1542	1807	10	46.04
South	16	4	12	-	1575	2024	8	43.76

Better Kicking Wins Match for Glenelg, Says Furler UNDERSTANDING IN ATTACK VALUABLE Sallis' Game Plays Big Part in Victory

(By Percy Furler)

Showing greater accuracy in kicking for goal and displaying better understanding in the forward lines, Glenelg scored a narrow victory over West at Glenelg. The Bay side held a strong point at centre, where Sallis played a big part in their victory.

Under ideal conditions the game began at break-neck speed. The players raced to the ball with enthusiasm, and each attack was the culmination of high-class football. Weight was used unsparingly in the encounters.

Glenelg were on top in the bumping onslaughts and many of their attacks were the result of vigorous play.

Umpire Hill was giving the players plenty of latitude in going through with the ball, at times a little too much.

Favored by a cross breeze, West fought determinedly, but Wells proved a stumbling block. The red-and-blacks were not taking full advantage of the cross breeze, repeatedly playing to the pavilion wing, and driving into the breeze.

Glenelg held the centre safely, where Sallis was playing in top form. Matthews was wandering out of position, leaving Sallis to dominate the midfield play.

West had held slightly more of the play in the first term, but had been erratic in attack. Glenelg consistently attacked in the second quarter, but the forwards, in their anxiety, interfered with one another, and many opportunities were lost.

NO WEAK DEFENCE LINE

Tonkin and Jarvis were stars in the West backline, which up to this stage had not possessed a weak link. Sallis, apart from his own brilliant work, was showing outstanding skill in his delivery. When in possession he repeatedly got the ball out to the wing favored by the breeze, and picked out his man with great accuracy.

Glenelg were now showing signs of slackening, which allowed West to come into the game, and two goals in quick time from Bennetts found Glenelg's superiority challenged.

	Final	G.	B.	Pts.
GLENELG	15	8	98	
WEST	12	15	87	

Goalkickers—Glenelg—Owens (8), Link, Goldworthy (each 2), Leak, Johnston, Edwards. West—Bennetts (4), Jackson (3), J. Hill, Connell (each 2), Parry.

Best Players—Glenelg—Sallis, Wells, Link, Griffiths, Hale, Owens, Whittaker. West—Tonkin, Jackson, Heddle, Jarvis, Simmonds, Webber, Shea, Connell.

PORT could not have given a more impressive indication of their premiership chances than they did in inflicting a 22-goal defeat on South at Adelaide. South's poor football did not detract from the brilliance of Port's victory.

PORT	25	21	171
SOUTH	4	12	36

Goalkickers—Port—Hollingworth, Ween (each 7), Hender (6), Quinn (3), Reval, Hooper. South—Rosewarne (2), Murdy, Mason.

Best Players—Port—Hollingworth, Dermody, Ween, Hender, Obst, V. Johnson, Quinn, Wightman. South—Murdy, Mason, Forrester, Tully, Cockburn, Dawes.

NORTH	23	14	152
NORWOOD	15	9	99

Best Players—North—Farmer, Fleet, Mangelsdorf, Hemers, Knuckey, Batt. Norwood—Krome, J. Chinnery, Schultz, Brown, Allington, Lines, H. Page.

Goalkickers—North—Farmer (11), Mangelsdorf (3), Bowman, Hemers, Spencer (each 2), Speck, Batt, Strauss, Norwood—Krome (5), Schultz (4), Brown (3), Allington (2), Nelson.

The game up to half-time had been very strenuously fought, with honors between the teams practically even.

The scoring on resumption was kept down because of strong play by both backmen. West finally gained control as a result of superior marking.

Glenelg then became disorganised, their forwards strayed from their places, and but for the stout defence of the Bay backmen West would have secured a commanding lead.

Foolish handball by Glenelg let West in, but Bennetts tried to beat the field when within five yards of the goal, and the opportunity was lost. Johnston was being closely checked by the West ruckmen, and was not the powerful force he has been in some games this season.

The players threw themselves into the game for the final term. The lead went from one side to the other, but Glenelg appeared to be settling down to a strong finish better than the red-and-blacks. Consistent attacks by West were repelled by strong defensive work or nullified by bad kicking.

West persisted in their attack, and had Glenelg rattled. The Bay men man-handled their opponents in their anxiety. Goldworthy, with a punt, snatched back the lead for Glenelg and the spectators were wildly excited when Owens followed suit with only five minutes to go. Only a marvellous burst by West could pull the game out of the fire.

West battled on strongly, but two points, when goals were badly needed, left them struggling. The closing stages saw Glenelg holding their own in the hard-fought crushes.

TORRENS	15	13	103
STURT	13	13	91

Goalkickers—Torrens—Foote (3), McKenzie, Frogley, P. Read, Waite, Downs (each 2), McLoughlin, Conroy, Sturt—Longmore, Wundersitz (each 4), Smith (3), Baxter, Johnston.

Best Players—Torrens—Bridgman, Downs, Frogley, Perkins, McKnight, P. Read, Quinn. Sturt—Headon, Day, Robertson, Golding, Longmore, Smith, Sawatzke.

Stab Kicks and Flick Passes



L. Sallis

SALLIS must be given pride of place as the best man on the ground at Glenelg. His brilliant ground play found him dominating the centre, and initiating most Glenelg attacks.

WELLS and Griffiths rendered sterling work in defence for Glenelg. But for their efforts West might have scored heavily during the third term.

LINK (Glenelg) sparkled on the ruck fringes. His clever turning and accurate foot passes brought him under notice continually.

DAY rendered fine service for Sturt by shading Pontifex in the first three quarters. In the last quarter his activities were curbed through Torrens playing Conroy as an extra man in his area.