

Sturt Succeed in Football Semi-Final

GAME MARRIED BY SPITEFUL INCIDENTS IN LAST TERM

Spectators Roar Disapproval Of Torrens' Tactics

VICTORY FOR BLUES' HIGHFLIERS

In a spiteful last quarter, in which S. Headon (Sturt) was carried off the field unconscious, and later admitted to Narma Hospital suffering from concussion, Sturt scored a convincing victory over Torrens in the first league football semi-final on the Adelaide Oval this afternoon.

Torrens played grandly in the second quarter, but in the third and final terms they crumpled before Sturt's aerial supremacy. They became rattled, and began to play the man. The resultant exhibition was not flattering to the Australian national game, and the spectators roared their disapproval.

Sturt, as a result of their victory today, have earned the right to meet on Saturday week the losers of the second semi-final between Glenelg and Port next Saturday. Final scores:—Sturt, 14—15, d. Torrens, 12—14.

Only one alteration was made in the selected teams. Golding, who was suffering from influenza, was replaced by Whitehead in the first ruck for Sturt.

TORRENS.—Backs—Bridgman, Conroy, Adeock. Half-backs—J. Read, Simpson, Quinn. Centres—Shepherd, Hanrahan, Thornton. Half-forwards—Waite, Foote, Wilson. Forwards—McKenzie, P. Read, Baird, Ruck—Frogley, Coulter, McLoughlin, Roberts (19th).

STURT.—Backs—Wadham, Tuohy, Cameron. Half-backs—Headon, Sims, Aitrope. Centres—Treleaven, Day, King. Half-forwards—Longmore, Mussman, Biggs. Forwards—Baxter, Morton, Sawatzke. Ruck—Parsons, Whitehead, Wandersitz. Green (19th).

Headon carried off unconscious during last quarter. Replaced by Green (19th). Empire—S. A. D. Hill.

Foote won the toss, and Torrens kicked towards the northern goal, which was favored by a slight cross breeze.

Hanrahan was at centre for Torrens, Shepherd at centre wing, Baird at the goal front, and Frogley in the first ruck.

Torrens set a hot pace from the bounce, and but for bad kicking by Baird would have had two goals on the board in quick time. The forward marked well both times, but scored only behinds from easy position.

Gaining pace, and with the centre line obtaining the upper hand, Sturt went in fast, but their first two shots brought only singles. Then Morton goaled from an acute angle after a doubtful mark.

Another single came to Sturt before Torrens got the ball away. McLoughlin was roving brilliantly for Torrens. Foote missed with an angle shot.

Baxter called up Sturt's second goal after a fine dash, and Torrens scored three more behinds. One shot by Foote hit a goal post, but the other misses were due to sheer bad kicking.

When Biggs kicked a goal for Sturt the Unley team were 15 points in front with one scoring shot less than the opposition. Coulter and McLoughlin increased the singles tally.

Players of both side were resorting to hard, slogging tactics. Torrens were forcing in as the bell rang, and Bradley put his foot to the ball. It went through a fraction of a second after the bell rang, and the score was disallowed. This brought a demonstration from the spectators.

First Quarter			
	G.	B.	Pts.
STURT	3	3	21
TORRENS	0	8	8

No improvement was made in the standard of play by either side at the start of the second quarter, but Torrens were more determined. Realising that a great effort was required of them the blue-and-golds threw every ounce of weight into the game. Baird kicked their ninth behind, but raised the hopes of Torrens by calling up their first goal within a minute or so. One kick had brought Torrens within a goal of Sturt.

Torrens were uncertain in their general play and attack, and with Tuohy and Headon playing soundly they could make no further headway.

Showing their first accurate passing for the game, Sturt nonplussed Torrens

It had been a brilliant recovery, a result of strong, determined play. Morton flew high in the goalmouth to mark before punting Sturt's fifth goal. Apart from this score the double-blues were right out of the picture.

Torrens were as accurate as they had been inaccurate in the first term. Waite and Coulter goaled again to give them a 13-point lead. They had put on six goals from eight scoring shots for the term.

A foolish short pass by Conroy was intercepted by Mussman, and Sturt's sixth goal resulted from the kick.

Torrens had gained a richly deserved seven-point lead.

Half-time			
	G.	B.	Pts.
TORRENS	6	10	48
STURT	6	3	39

Bridgman was at centre half-back for Torrens at the start of the third quarter. Quinn was in a back pocket. Headon came to centre half-back for Sturt. Sims went to half-back right.

Realising that goals were needed, Sturt forced their way through, and Whitehead scored their first behind since the first quarter.

Frogley was instrumental in Torrens sustaining an attack that was turned time after time. Then P. Read snapped Torrens' seventh goal. From then on Sturt had by far the better of matters. This was because of their aerial strength. Day at centre and Morton at the goalfront were outreaching Torrens. Twice Morton flew high to outmark a bunch, and two goals followed. Then Sawatzke goaled after a long kick.

Torrens were rattled. Their back men wandered and with Day making centre a strong post with his high marking, the blue-and-golds were being badly beaten.

Foote switched Frogley to centre in an attempt to hold Day. Hanrahan went to the right wing, and Shepherd to a forward pocket.

A long kick by Longmore brought up the tenth goal for Sturt.

Another reshuffle was made by Torrens. J. Read went to centre half-back, and Bridgman was sent to a back pocket. The move was made obviously to check the Sturt high-fliers at the goalfront.

Four singles came in a row to Sturt—three from Mussman—before Foote scored Torrens' twelfth single.

Sturt increased their lead to 22 points with a goal from Baxter, but they should have been much farther in front on the play. Foote missed an easy chance for Torrens just before the bell rang.

Third Quarter			
	G.	B.	Pts.
STURT	11	10	76
TORRENS	7	13	55

Foote was roving for Torrens at the start of the last quarter, and Baird was at centre half-forward. P. Read was in the goalfront. The Thebarton team were 21 points behind. They appeared a beaten team, and were playing like one.

For a minute or so, The drive culminated in Mussman dashing through and scoring a goal.

Parsons went down from a solid bump and limped away.

Making a supreme effort to take the lead, Torrens swept everything before them, and put on three goals from McKenzie, Coulter, and Waite. The blue-and-golds were leading by seven points.

Furler on Unpleasant Semi-Final Incidents

BAD SPORTSMANSHIP WHEN FACING DEFEAT

(By Percy Furler)

Feeling between the Torrens and Sturt players ran high in the closing stages of the first semi-final on the Adelaide Oval today. At the time Torrens were being badly beaten, and their display of arrant bad sportsmanship was unworthy of a league team.

These ugly incidents were a blot on the game, and it is to be hoped that strong measures will be adopted to guard against a recurrence.

Sturt's dash and superiority in the air enabled them to hold off Torrens' bid late in the final term.

Playing brilliant football in the third term, Sturt raced away from the tiring Torrens side to build up a match-winning lead.

Torrens jumped into the game with characteristic determination, but faulty kicking in their forward lines left them down badly.

Sturt showed understanding and precision with their handball, and repeatedly opened up the game and forged forward.

Bad kicking by both sides was probably caused by the over-anxiety in disposing of the ball. Sturt were "sharking" better than the blue-and-golds, whose players often jumped together and opposed each other on the ground.

Sturt's small men were proving invaluable, darting in and showing better direction in their dispatch. Torrens' backmen, although tearing into the game, were worried by lack of height when the ball was in the air, and were forced to resort to spoiling tactics to bring the ball to the ground.

Value of Highfliers

It appeared as though lack of inches in defence might cost the blue-and-golds dearly. Sturt were strengthened in aerial power by the return of Mussman and Morton.

Shocking kicking by Torrens in the early stages left them with a stiff uphill fight to face after the first term. Baird, out of three comparatively easy essays for goal in the opening 10 minutes, could manage only two points.

Foote was leading the bumping exchanges in the Torrens side, but was wandering too far, leaving the direct route to goal unmanned.

Winning at practically every point Sturt kept the ball penned into their forwards for the first 10 minutes. Wandersitz hit a post when running into an open goal, but after Sawatzke had scored another single, Wandersitz goaled giving Sturt a 29-point lead.

Play became spiteful with Sturt going further ahead. Headon was carried off, apparently badly injured as a result of an incident that had the crowd wildly hooting a Torrens player. Three Sturt men had to receive attention, and feeling ran high among the players. Torrens were badly beaten, and were handling the man unnecessarily.

Scoring was now only a minor consideration, for with the game well in hand Sturt were obviously allowing Torrens to go through without running the risk of injury.

Baxter and Mussman goaled for Sturt, while Torrens scored full-pointers from McLoughlin (2), P. Read, Baird, and Shepherd.

The bell brought a welcome end to a spectacle that was not a credit to South Australian football.

Final			
	G.	B.	Pts.
STURT	14	15	99
TORRENS	12	14	86

Goalkickers.—Sturt—Lawson (4), Mussman, Baxter (each 3), Sawatzke, Longmore, Biggs, and Wandersitz. Torrens—Waite, P. Read, Coulter, Baird, McLoughlin (each 2), McKenzie, and Shepherd.

Best Players — Sturt — Mussman, King, Treleaven, Day, Baxter, Morton, Tuohy. Torrens—Coulter, McLoughlin, J. Read, Bridgman, Foote, Frogley, Wilson.

The blue-and-golds broke their long sequence of behinds by a goal from Baird after the second quarter had been in progress for five minutes.

The football was not of a particularly high standard because of the many scrimmages. Then Torrens ran wild. A succession of pulls and tripping found Sturt attacking. Only the determined defence of Conroy and Simpson kept Sturt from breaking away.

King, at centre wing, was playing stylishly for Sturt, and initiated frequent advances. Only the stout defence of the blue-and-golds prevented them from facing a big deficit.

Then a startling change came over the game.

Burst of System

For the first time for the day Torrens played together. Accurate kicking and a burst of system yielded three goals in quick succession, and threatened Sturt's superiority.

Showing decided strength in their rucks, Torrens had practically forced Sturt out of the picture, and at half-time had staged a great recovery to lead Sturt by seven points.

It was evident that Torrens realised the necessity of greater height in their back lines.

After half-time Bridgman was transferred to the key defence position to oppose Mussman, who had proved too strong for Quinn in the first half.

Torrens were now showing more dash than Sturt, and appeared to be the better team. McLoughlin was roving in great style, and took full advantage of his team's strong ruck work.

Whitehead soared into the air to mark over a bunch within 20 yards of the goalmouth, but foolishly dashed away to kick into a man who ran in to tackle him. Torrens seemed to be playing with the idea that the only way to win was to bump Sturt off the oval.

Their anxiety in this respect resulted in players hurling themselves at opponents and either missing them altogether or connecting with teammates. This often resulted in two Torrens men being on the ground together because of errors of judgment.

Sturt took full advantage of Torrens' attempts at playing the man. Producing the most sparkling football of the day, they raced away with a useful lead.

Day flashed into the picture at centre, and with brilliant high marking held command. This forced Foote to transfer Frogley to centre in an attempt to subdue him.

Sturt appeared to be everywhere. Their forwards opened out and marked in great fashion. Had they kicked accurately they would have held practically an unbeatable lead.

With the stage set for an exciting finish Sturt dashed goalward. Morton and Mussman outmarked the Torrens defenders. Torrens were tiring, and watched the Sturt players break away.

The anger and disgust of the crowd was raised to a high pitch when a Torrens player jumped feet first into Headon and rolled him to the ground.

Then Sims was heavily grassed. Feeling between the players ran high. Torrens were badly beaten, and their display of arrant unsportsmanship was unworthy of any football team.

Torrens dashed through to score two quick goals. Sturt were disorganised, and football of a high standard in the circumstances prevailing was an impossibility. The welcome sound of the bell put an end to an unedifying display.

