

Successful Opening Of Football Season

1937 FORM MAINTAINED Semifinalists Win First Series Of Matches

NORTH EXTENDS PORT AT ALBERTON

Conducted by ROVER

The opening series of League football matches on Saturday provided no surprise results, for each of the top four teams in 1937 won, although the opposition offered by North Adelaide to Port Adelaide at Alberton augured well for a successful season by the reconstructed Prospect team.

Norwood won a closely-fought match against Sturt, and West Torrens's overpowering third quarter beat Glenelg. South Adelaide outclassed West Adelaide in the last half of the match at Adelaide Oval.

The attendance, despite the increased admission charges, were more than for the opening series last year.

Games At A Glance

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	Final
Port Adelaide ..	6.8	9.11	13.14	14.18
North Adelaide ..	5.1	9.5	10.11	12.13
Norwood	3.5	8.8	10.14	12.18
Sturt	0.6	8.9	8.11	10.13
West Torrens ..	3.5	7.10	13.14	17.17
Glenelg	4.3	9.3	11.8	13.12
South Adelaide ..	4.7	9.14	17.19	25.24
West Adelaide ..	3.1	9.2	12.13	15.5

Premiership Table

	W.	L.	F.	A.	P.c.	Pts.
South Adel.	1	—	174	95	64.6	2
West Tor. . .	1	—	119	90	56.9	2
Norwood .. .	1	—	90	73	55.2	2
Port Adel. . .	1	—	102	85	54.5	2
North Adel. .	—	1	85	102	45.4	—
Sturt	—	1	73	90	44.7	—
Glenelg	—	1	90	119	43.0	—
West Adel. . .	—	1	95	174	35.3	—

Leading Goalkickers

K. Farmer (North Adelaide) .. .	6
E. R. Foote (West Torrens) .. .	6
A. Hollingworth (Port Adelaide) ..	6
J. Kinlough (West Torrens) .. .	6
C. P. Rosewarne (South Adelaide) ..	6
J. P. Dawes (South Adelaide) .. .	5
W. E. Isaac (West Adelaide) .. .	5
E. H. Biggs (Sturt)	4
A. Link (Glenelg)	4
L. Lush (Glenelg)	4

West Annihilated In Last Half

By ROVER

Remarkable accuracy by West Adelaide—the scores were level at 11.2 to 9.14 a few minutes after the third quarter began—enabled it to keep within reach of South Adelaide during half the match at Adelaide Oval, but the marked superiority which South Adelaide had shown in most phases of the game and parts of the ground then brought better results, and West Adelaide was annihilated in the last three-quarters of an hour of play.

SOUTH ADELAIDE, 25 goals 24 behinds (174 points).

WEST ADELAIDE, 15 goals 5 behinds (95 points).

Scorers Of Goals And Behinds
South Adelaide—Rosewarne, 6 goals 5 behinds; J. P. Dawes, 5.2; Hardiman, 3.6; Rusby, 3.2; Pryor, 2.2; Laphorne, 2.1; Jobson and Murdy, each 1.2; Sterzi and Cahill, each 1.0; Templeton, 0.2.

West Adelaide—Isaac, 5.0; Souter, 3.1; Taylor, 2.0; Long and Codd, each 1.1; Hudson, Ray, and Powell, each 1.0; Mesecke, 0.1; and one behind was rushed.

Better League Crowds

Despite the increased admission charges, the crowds at the first series of League football matches on Saturday were in excess of the attendances at the opening series last year, the figures being 22,300 and 22,032 respectively.

Saturday's crowds were as follow:—

Alberton Oval (P.A. v. N.A.) .. .	7,000
Unley Oval (N. v. S.)	5,800
Adelaide Oval (S.A. v. W.A.) .. .	3,000
Glenelg Oval (W.T. v. G.) .. .	3,500
Total	22,300

Torrens' Superior Stamina

The greater stamina shown by West Torrens from half-way through the third quarter, and superior ability to adapt itself to the wet conditions under which the closing stages of the match were played, were factors which contributed towards its success at the expense of Glenelg, at Glenelg Oval, on Saturday. The home team more than held its own in the first half, but against West Torrens's more vigorous tactics towards the end of the match, it was unable to fulfil its earlier promise.

A slight superiority in the air, and greater speed on the ground, combined with more expeditious disposal of the ball, gave Glenelg the advantage in the first 10 minutes of rather scrappy play. When the game opened up, however, West Torrens, flying high and employing handball with good effect, established a definite advantage, which it maintained until a few minutes before the first quarter ended, when Johnston, shooting smartly from an acute angle, gave Glenelg the lead once more.

Although the fairly even rate of scoring which had marked the first quarter was maintained in the second, the home team had the better of the play until towards the end of the term. Glenelg invariably won in the race to the ball, and it frequently showed pleasing flashes of combination play. Its handball, of which it had made little use in the first quarter, was now equal in effectiveness to that of West Torrens. One of the outstanding instances of the value of the judicious use of the hand pass during the match was when Halliday, finding himself in a tight corner, passed to Johnston, who flicked the ball to Lush, and the last-named put on a goal. Although West Torrens fought hard, its efforts, until half-time drew near, for the greater part lacked the co-ordination which Glenelg's attacks possessed.

Relying rather too much on the use of handball, West Torrens lost many opportunities for effective disposal of the ball in the early stages of the third quarter. Largely due to this weakness, there was little to choose between the apparent strength of the two teams until the term was half spent.

Turning Point In Game
That marked the turning point in the fortunes of West Torrens. It levelled the scores, then, playing vigorously, continued to hurl itself at Glenelg's defences. Although the home team stuck gamely to its task, it was outplayed in practically every department. Rain which began to fall appeared to have less effect upon West Torrens than upon the home side. West Torrens held a lead of 17 points when Foote put on his fifth goal in a row, and Kinlough followed almost immediately afterwards with another.

There was a brief respite from the rain in the last quarter, but about half-way through the term a heavy fall set in, and gloves were taken out to the players. Glenelg was only a shadow of itself, compared with its display in the first half. West Torrens appeared to be less handicapped by the rain, and it obviously possessed greater stamina. When the quarter was well advanced, Glenelg added its first goal since early in the previous term. Johnston scoring from near the boundary, with a fine punt-kick. Glenelg continued to fight desperately, but, with a deficit of 28 points only a few minutes before the end of play, its cause seemed a forlorn one. In the waning stages, Searle, 19th man for West Torrens, took the field in place of Scott, who had an attack of cramp. Final scores:—

WEST TORRENS, 17 goals 17 behinds (119 points).

GLENELG, 13 goals 12 behinds (90 points).
Goals and behinds were scored by:—West Torrens—Kinlough, 6 goals 6 behinds; Foote, 6.4; Juttner, 2.0; Riggs and Mullins, each 1.1; S. J. B. Smith, 1.0; Heath and Scott, each 0.1; rushed, 0.3. Glenelg—Lush, 4.3; Link, 4.1; Johnston, 3.0; Maple, 1.1; Wheare, 1.0; Hunt, 0.3; Halliday, 0.2; Robent, 0.1; rushed, 0.1.

Footie Outstanding

West Torrens's outstanding performer was Foote, who, playing in a forward pocket, scored six well-earned goals. He showed judgment in making position, and kicked with extreme accuracy. Mullins, at centre half-forward, was a useful ally to Thiele at centre in the West Torrens attacks. He marked well, and used his weight to advantage. Kinlough, who was playing for West Torrens again after a season with the Amateur League, added strength to the attack in the full forward position, although Ahrendt set up stern opposition in the first half. Juttner was sound in ruck, and did useful work also on the half-forward wing. Brideman was another follower who performed soundly, and Thiele was solid at centre. Cox (particularly in the second half), Heath, and Pilsell also did well.

Although, like most of the home team, he faded out of the picture in the last quarter, Halliday's brilliance in the earlier part of the game won for him first mention among the Glenelg side. He roved untiringly, always being in or near the thickest of the fray, and invariably made excellent use of the ball. Link, also roving and in a forward pocket, did splendidly, especially in the second half, and Johnston performed some excellent work in ruck. Maple and Corbett were other followers who did well, and Hunt, at centre half-forward, was often in the picture. Ahrendt, at full-back, set up a sound defence early in the game, which he maintained until West Torrens definitely took command. Lush, who hails from Geranium, was outstanding among Glenelg's many new men. On Saturday's game, he appears to be a valuable "find." Although he reached the oval only three minutes before play began—he changed in the motor car on the way to the ground, and took the field without having had a rub down, and before he had had an opportunity to meet some of his team-mates—he quickly settled down at full forward and scored four goals. Possessing plenty of weight and height, he has ability to secure the ball himself, without having to rely on being "fed."

Port's Experience Wins At Alberton

Although 17 points behind when the final bell rang at Alberton, the reconstructed North Adelaide side emerged from the game against last year's premier with great credit. North's most sanguine supporters could hardly have expected a team including 10 players new to League company to contest the issue with such ability and courage.

PORT ADELAIDE, 16 goals 18 behinds (103 points).

NORTH ADELAIDE, 12 goals 12 behinds (83 points).

Scorers of goals and behinds were:—Port—Hollingworth, 6 goals 3 behinds; Doyle, 2.5; Quinn, 2.1; Yates, 1.1; Johnston, 1.1; Heath, 1.0; Rudd, 1.0; Reval, 0.2; Hender, 0.2; Wightman, 0.2; Roberts, 0.1.

North—Farmer, 6 goals 6 behinds; Neville, 2.1; Alexander, 1.0; Stigwood, 1.2; Bennetta, 1.1; Rn. 1.1; Purier, 0.1; and one knocked through.

Strong Defence Checks Sturt

In a game which was unusually fast and vigorous for an opening fixture, Norwood was too good for Sturt at the Unley Oval on Saturday. One of the few indications of rawness on the part of both teams was the erratic passing, a department in which Norwood was probably the worse offender.

NORWOOD, 12 goals 18 behinds (90 points).

STURT, 10 goals 13 behinds (73 points).

Goalkickers:—Norwood—Schultz, 3 goals 7 behinds; A. McLean, 3 goals 1 behind; Warhurst, 2 goals 4 behinds; Brown, 2 goals 1 behind; O'Brien, 1 goal 1 behind; Huxtable, 1 goal 1 behind; Plunkett, 2 behinds; G. Sawley, 1 behind.

Sturt—Biggs, 4 goals 2 behinds; Wunderaltz, 3 goals 2 behinds; Schultz, 2 goals 4 behinds; Morton, 1 goal 1 behind; D. A. Rudd, 2 behinds; A. Smith, 1 behind; one rushed.

Saturday's Stars

- * A. REVAL (Port Adelaide).
- * F. C. BENNETT (North Adelaide).
- * L. FOWERAKER (Norwood).
- * E. H. BIGGS (Sturt).
- * E. R. FOOTE (West Torrens).
- * R. HALLIDAY (Glenelg).
- * L. W. CAHILL (South Adelaide).
- * C. G. SMITH (West Adelaide).