

TODAY'S FOOTBALL

Norwood Fail in Tense Finish Against Magpies

PORT defeated Norwood by 17 points in a desperate finish to the main league football match at Alberton Oval this afternoon, thrilling one of the biggest crowds ever seen at the Port ground.

West, Torrens, and South were the other winners in a fine opening to the season. One of the surprises of the day was the defeat of North, favorites on their home ground, by Torrens.

West, with a team reorganised since the start of the trial game period, won a closely fought game from Sturt. South scored from Glenelg after conceding the tigers the home-ground advantage.

WON IN LAST MINUTES

By Roy Colmer

THE Port-Norwood game, chockful of thrills, speed, and vigorous man-to-man clashes, was in doubt until the last five minutes. Port were behind with seven minutes to go, but won in an exciting finish.

NO one player on either side could be credited with playing the game of the day. Quinn, perhaps, did more than any other Port man to deserve the honor, but Gallagher, on a centre wing for Norwood, was little behind him.

Until the last five or six minutes, I thought the honors of the game were with Norwood. They countered the Port rucks soundly, played on smoothly, and all told, appeared to have a half-yard of pace their way most of the time.

In the closing minutes of the game, he redlegs lost their concentration on the ball. They handled their opponents too much, giving away frees that proved match-winners for Port.

Norwood took more than 10 minutes to balance themselves at the start. In that period, Port were all over them, but their play was so haphazard they must have caused their leaders more than a little worry. The magpies, and this went for some of their more experienced men too, seemed to be too excited to concentrate on good football.

When Norwood did get moving, mainly through the brilliance of Gallagher and the cool work of Farrow and Dalwood on the straight road to goal, they cut away from their opponents. Four goals came from five shots to Norwood; Port had one goal from seven attempts.

There was never much between the teams throughout the first three quarters. However, Norwood always appeared to be going the smoother. Port reminded me of a runner getting on even terms with the leader, but taking too much out of himself in the effort.

Norwood had bad luck to lose Oatey at half-time, but a reshuffle of positions to allow Olds to play as a rover maintained the strength of the side.

The third quarter was not a good one for the redlegs, because Kretschmer shaded Gallagher when they clashed. Up to that time Gallagher had given Norwood most of their attacking power.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Final | Pts. |
|------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|------|
| Port . . . | 3-6 | 6-9 | 10-11 | 15-13 | 103 |
| Norwood . | 4-3 | 6-7 | 10-8 | 13-8 | 86 |

Norwood appeared to have a good chance of forcing a win when they led with seven minutes to go. However, the Port ruckmen gained control for the first time. Until then they had been fighting desperately to break even. When they did get on top, Quinn's roving sent the magpies surging in to the attack.

Norwood fought hard to hold Port out, but their defenders gave away too many frees, particularly in their attempts to check the big Port men in the air.

Umpire George gave a good exhibition. He seemed to lose control for a minute or two in the later stages of the game but regained it quickly.

Goalkeepers—Port: R. McLean (5), Mills, Gates (3), Hall, Growden, Jolly, Hoffman. Norwood: Dalwood, Way, Drape (3), Burke (2), Williams, Farrow. Best Players—Port: Quinn, Kretschmer, Schumann, Mills, Roberts, Gates, R. McLean. Norwood: Gallagher, Holmesby, Roberts, Farrow, Olds, Way, Giles.

West Defeat Sturt In Thrilling Game

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Final | Pts. |
|-------------|-----|------|-------|-------|------|
| West . . . | 5-5 | 7-10 | 11-10 | 16-13 | 109 |
| Sturt . . . | 3-4 | 8-6 | 13-8 | 15-11 | 101 |

By Amos Bottruff

IN a thrilling finish, West Adelaide outpaced and outmanoeuvred Sturt to win by eight points at the Adelaide Oval today.

Few opening games have provided the speed, vigor, and excitement of this encounter, which lacked brilliance, but in which recklessness and tear-through tactics rather than purposeful football, prevailed.

Both teams endeavored to grasp every early opportunity, but, showing more initiative, West reaped the greater success.

It was their stronger ruck work headed by Taylor and Williams that gave them five scoring shots before Sturt found openings through which they could reply.

West continued to hold sway well into the second quarter, by forceful methods and a better understanding of the latitude the umpire allowed.

Sturt gradually, but slowly, picked openings in the West defence with more purposeful tactics, and drew to within a point of West.

Then Schober and Langley came into the play, and brilliant work by Harvey took the double-blues to a nine-point lead.

Faehse, Taylor, and Williams

were still in the picture, and held up the Sturt advance. Coad also came into the play, and for some time there was a strong battle with neither side giving way, and only points separating them.

Fortunes Change

A marked fluctuation in midfield play was evident in the important third quarter. Tilley, F. N. Giles, Gibson, Black, and Merchant—in fact nearly every Sturt player—produced their best in an effort to take control, but the West rucks, and the fine work of Burkett at centre, checked their efforts.

The early part of the last quarter saw West again in the ascendancy, and goals from Zeuner, Coad, and Cannon gave them a nine-point advantage.

The last half of the final term was as exciting as a closely fought grand final.

Coad almost clinched victory for Sturt when twice he marked brilliantly within distance. But he kicked badly.

It was the brilliant scouting of Coad that finally gave West their match-winning burst.

Goalkeepers—West: R. Zeuner (5), Cannon, Coad (each 3), William 2, Hill, Atkins, Blattery. Sturt: Harvey, Black, Langley (each 3), Schober, Cane (each 2), Merchant, Tilley.



UP FOR THE BALL at the Adelaide Oval when the league football season opened this afternoon, are R. Stringer (West) and G. Black (Sturt). Running in to take the ball is M. Merchant (Sturt).

Premiership Table

| | P. | W. | L. | For | Agst. | Pts. |
|-------------|----|----|----|-----|-------|------|
| South . . . | 1 | 1 | — | 109 | 86 | 2 |
| Torrens . . | 1 | 1 | — | 94 | 75 | 2 |
| Port . . . | 1 | 1 | — | 103 | 86 | 2 |
| West . . . | 1 | 1 | — | 109 | 101 | 2 |
| Sturt . . . | 1 | 1 | — | 101 | 109 | 2 |
| Norwood . . | 1 | — | 1 | 86 | 103 | — |
| North . . . | 1 | — | 1 | 75 | 94 | — |
| Glenelg . . | 1 | — | 1 | 86 | 109 | — |

SOUTH TOO STRONG IN THE RUCKS

By Ray Barber

DOMINATING ruck work, speed and cohesion in the forward lines earned South a 23-point win against Glenelg, at Glenelg Oval today.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Final | Pts. |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|-------|------|
| South . . . | 4.3 | 7.5 | 12.9 | 16.13 | 109 |
| Glenelg . . | 2.1 | 5.4 | 9.7 | 13.5 | 86 |

Whenever Glenelg looked like throwing out a challenge, South had the situation well in hand. The Bays never gave up the chase, but their fighting spirit was not enough.

Ball and Templeton, the smaller followers, were the first to get going, and with Laphorne dashing in and out of the packs, South ran to a three-goal lead before Glenelg goalied after 20 minutes.

Then Veitch exerted such an influence that he was the best man on the ground for three quarters. Boyle, coming on late in the third term, took over when Veitch tired.

Glenelg's bigger followers were sluggish, but Haussen, on the ruck edges, was playing a similar role to that of Laphorne.

Hurried Kicking

Glenelg's scoring shots came mostly from hurried kicks, with South defenders hot on their trail. Hickinbotham, South centre half-back, converted defence into attack with long dropkicks.

South clinched victory in the first few minutes of the third quarter, when they kicked four goals from five shots.

But Glenelg, using the straight route to goal, played their best football of the match to reduce the deficit by four goals.

Batson was the instrument, and towered above the packs to kick three goals when resting from the ruck.

Glenelg's last line of defence was their outstanding section. Gun, South's new full forward, was shut out completely by Hunt, and Pryor, who replaced him there later, was only moderately successful.

Goalkeepers—South: Veitch (4), Templeton, Deane (3), Pryor, Laphorne (2), Ball, Boyle, Glenelg: Batson (5), Haussen, White (3), Churchett, Mordelet. Best Players—South: Laphorne, Templeton, Hickinbotham, Deane, Ball, Lirke, Glenelg: Haussen, Hunt, Low, Batson, Millard, White, Crabb.

Torrens Get First Win Over North

By Lawrie Jervis, Jun.

Much faster and surer in their handling of the ball, Torrens rather surprisingly defeated North at Prospect.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Final | Pts. |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|-------|------|
| Torrens . . | 5.3 | 7.5 | 11.7 | 14.10 | 94 |
| North . . . | 2.2 | 5.7 | 7.9 | 11.9 | 75 |

AS was to be expected in the first game of the season, the first 10 minutes produced nothing but scrambles.

When the ball broke into the open to allow Pedlar, of North, to mark a long way out and goal, the effect proved a steadier to both sides.

Torrens, sticking close to their opponents, developed system through Ray Phillips, at centre half-forward.

For nearly 10 minutes Torrens attacked persistently, with small results, with the ball going into North's forward line only thrice. With Parsons showing out in attack, Torrens piled on four goals, from Mehaffey, Phillips, Glastonbury, and Wood, before Lehmann, from Waikerie, had his first kick, for a goal.

A chain of passes which streamed from Bob Hank to S. Wood, then to Mehaffey, and onward to Parsons, enabled the lastnamed to kick Torrens' fifth goal. Hank had proved a sturdy crankshaft for the blue-and-gold drives.

In the second term North immediately established a ruck ascendancy, and Torrens were relegated to the position of having to pursue red-and-white guernseys instead of leading them.

Little Arbon got two North goals, and Aamodt another before the term finished.

Torrens' only reply was a goal from Bill Hank, kicked after a pass from brother Bob at centre had thumped him on the chest in a forward lead.

TORRENS CONFIDENT

Torrens, with a 10-point lead, began confidently in the third quarter, and quickly had goals on the board from Mehaffey, Pyatt, and Ken Wood. Their two rovers, Mehaffey and Hutchinson, were giving them an edge in the packs.

North were without one vital solid peg in their defence because of McKay's lack of form. McKay was more out of touch, than eclipsed by Phillips.

Pash, too, at centre, was no match for Bob Hank, who being a left-footer, was giving Ken Wood, at half-forward left, many opportunities.

Pedlar was still North's best, and, with Lehmann, managed to keep Torrens' score within reasonable bounds. Each got a goal.

With the game seemingly won, Torrens got the shock of their lives at the start of the last quarter when, after Pyatt had goalied—and a few minutes later left the field—North came with a rattle.

They swept Torrens aside while Lehmann, Hoskins, and Cearnis all goalied. Cox, from a fair way out, took a running shot for a goal, which left the home team only five points behind.

However, the Thebarton men recovered their wits, and in two fighting bursts got goals from Bill Hank and Hutchinson to run to a 17-point lead again. From then on they held their lead without many qualms.

Goalkeepers—Torrens: Mehaffey, Phillips, Pyatt, Wood, W. Hank, Hutchinson (each 2), Glastonbury, Parsons. North: Lehmann (3), Arbon, Pedlar (each 2), Hoskins, Cearnis, Aamodt, Cox.

Best Players—Torrens: Bob Hank, Hutchinson, Phillips, Wood, Sully, Mehaffey, Edwards. North: Arbon, Pedlar, West, Burton, Hoskins, Aamodt, Beechings.