

TORRENS BLOCK BAY STARS FOR 44-POINT WIN

By Haydn Bunton as told to Lawrie Jervis, jun.

Torrens set out to blanket Glenelg's star key men today at Thebarton and when they did had no trouble in winning by 44 points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	7-4	10-7	15-10	20-11	131
Glenelg	6-3	9-3	9-5	13-9	87

Torrens proved today that Glenelg, as grand final contenders, must develop more system.

Too many of Glenelg's victories have been based on the efforts of players like Laurie and Don Taylor, Crabb, and Churchett.

Last week Laurie Taylor and Alan Crabb were match-winners. Today, they were covered so well that they got few kicks.

In the first term Glenelg played so fast and intelligently that they had Torrens running in circles, fooling round with some of the silliest handball I've seen this season.

Handball crazy

The Bays put three goals on the board before Bradford kicked Torrens' first.

Glenelg took pretty well all the ruck bounces, while Torrens defenders let their opponents stray up to 10 yards away.

Then Churchett, outmanoeuvring Torrens' goalkeeper, Alf Roberts, either marked or picked up from the ground half a dozen kicks, which produced 3-2.

To that stage, with their defenders handball crazy (handball inexpertly done), Torrens looked set to be a pushover for Glenelg.

Then they steadied down. Mehafeff and Bradford were roving in great style. Mehafeff, Coverlid, and Mehafeff again got the goals which gave Torrens a seven-point lead at quarter time.

In the second term, tightest of the match, Torrens just kept ahead, scoring 3-3 to Glenelg's three goals.

At centre half-back, Don Taylor was in trouble in trying to keep Phil Bennett out of the play, while Churchett had Roberts following him like a shadow.

Glenelg still won the ruck knocks, but Bradford and Mehafeff showed such anticipation and speed that repeatedly they thieved the "knock" for Torrens.

For most of the second term, the game was a battle between the opposing defence lines with each team occasionally breaking through.

After half-time, Glenelg did not once look like making a race of it.

Torrens sent the ball in high to the goals, and Willis, showing good judgment and safe hands, got three goals. The rovers, Bradford and Mehafeff, each got others.

The game was over by three-quarter time. Torrens opened the scoring with a goal from Mehafeff in the last term, and Glenelg replied with one from Laffin.

From then to the end, it was goal-for-goal. Torrens seemed always able to control the play, while several in the Bay team played as if they were only waiting for the bell.

Today's match was a particularly good illustration of how teamwork will beat brilliant individualism.

For Glenelg to be a grand final contender, they must build their team round the Laurie and Don Taylor, Crabb, Churchett combination — not rest on it. If they intend to sink or swim on the efforts of a brilliant quartet, they'll sink more often than they swim.

So many Torrens men played well it is hard to pick the best.

● Mehafeff and Bradford (roving) and Jim Coverlid (in ruck), all were in the thick of the fight all day.

● Mehafeff dived into the crushes today after the ball in great style, and got six goals. It looks as if he has definitely turned the corner of the bad spell he had for a few weeks.

● Jim Coverlid rucked strongly throughout, and did well when spelling. Bradford showed a combination of real football brains, ability, and straight kicking. He did his best work sharking behind the flying packs.

Fischer also played well at half-back and did not waste one of his kicks. Hollis, too, held a wing open all day.

● Don Taylor, shifted from centre half-back to goalkeeper in the third quarter, was probably Glenelg's best. Bennett had proved a handful for Taylor at centre half-back, but Taylor did well against Willis when he switched with Ray Hunt.

● Brooker roved strongly, while Karutz and Robjert played strongly without being brilliant.

Best Players—Torrens: Mehafeff, Coverlid, Bradford, Fischer, Hollis, Prior, Bob and Bill Hank. Glenelg: D. Taylor, Brooker, Karutz, Robjert, Hunt, Laffin, Haussen.

Scorers.—Torrens: Mehafeff 6.3, Willis 5.3, Bradford 4.2, Prior 2.1, Coverlid 1.2, Bob Hank 1.0, Oates 1.0, rushed 0.1. Glenelg: Churchett 5.4, Laffin 3.1, Brooker 2.3, Crabb 1.0, Miller 1.0, L. Taylor 1.0, Prior 0.1.

Convincing win to Port at Prospect

By LEN SWAN

Port strengthened their claim to a position in the final four with a convincing win over North at Prospect today. Faster to the ball and more certain in the air, they finished 22 points in front.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	4-2	6-5	8-8	10-13	73
North	4-0	5-2	7-6	7-9	51

Although North won the toss and fought grimly, Port looked the better side from the outset.

North were only two points behind at the first change, but only accurate kicking for goal kept them in touch.

It was hard to see why North were only nine points down at the long interval.

Port were winning in the race for the ball and had command in most of the set positions, yet North hung on, mainly through the fine defence of McKay.

Port ruck influence

It would not have surprised had Port finished five goals in front at the half-time break.

Port's fine string of ruckmen had their usual influence on the game and apart from a short period of opposition from McKay, gave the ball to Williams and Whitaker with upset-

ting accuracy.

Marrett in particular was a tower of strength. North could not find an effective counter.

North certainly did not look a premiership side.

North uncertain

Besides their ruck supremacy, Port received match-winning drive from the pivot where Boyd did everything right and forced North to attack through the flanks.

Although North kept within range until the final term, they were not at any stage certain in their play and generally muddled along.

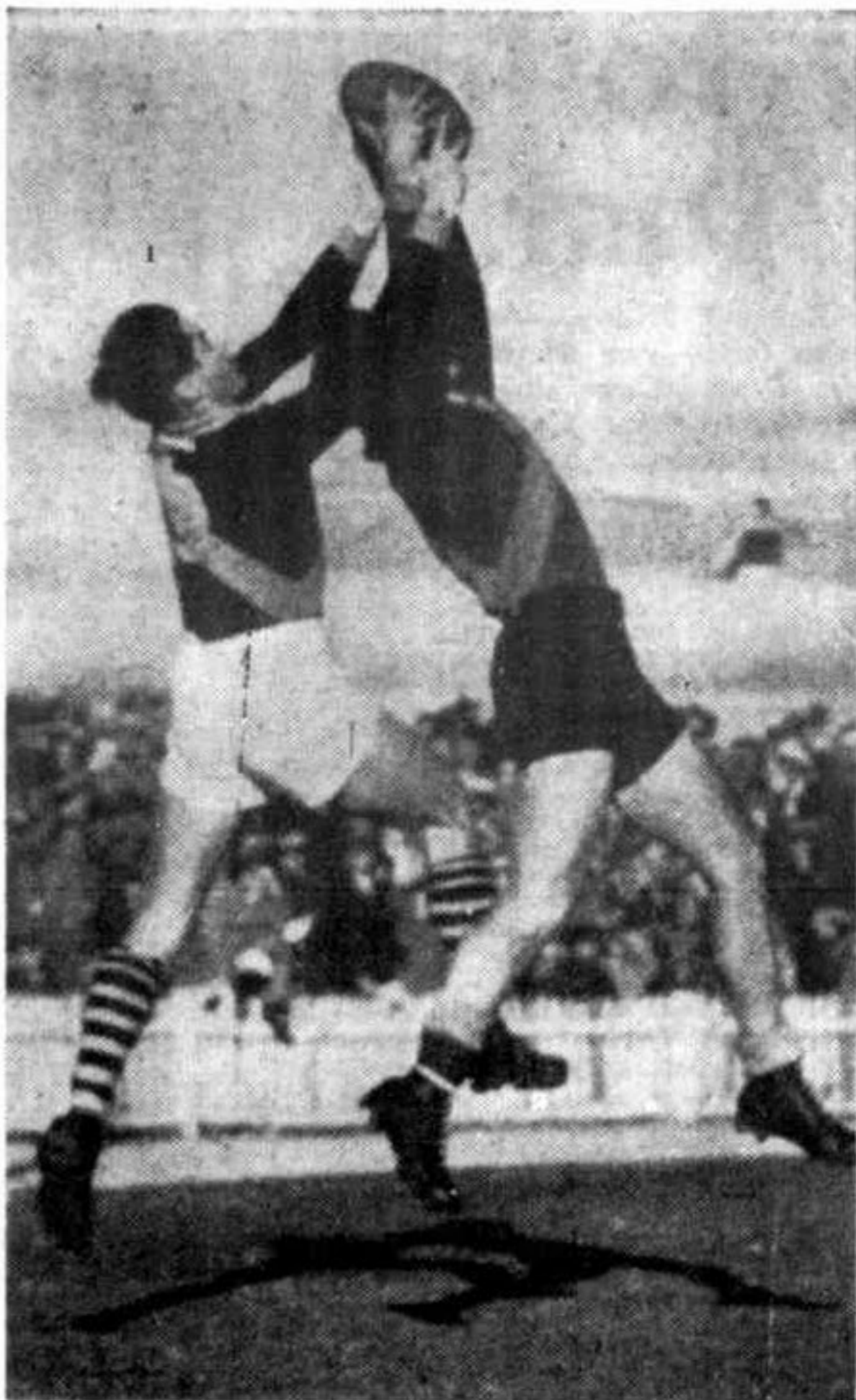
Their short play was intercepted by the Port defenders and they persisted in playing high to Phillips, who was closely and effectively checked by Dayman.

Top goalkickers

	Today	Total
Churchett (Glenelg)	5	69
Williams (Norwood)	4	37
Thompson (Sturt)	3	32
Mehaffey (Torrens)	6	30
Zucker (Port)	—	29
Fos Williams (Port)	2	29
Dalwood (Norwood)	2	28

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	P.	W.	L.	Points For	Points Against	Points
Norwood	12	11	1	1443	853	22
Glenelg	12	8	4	1152	988	16
Port	12	8	4	1026	897	16
West	12	7	5	1080	919	14
Torrens	12	7	5	1029	1005	14
North	12	5	7	1039	980	10
Sturt	12	2	10	895	1305	4
South	12	—	12	734	1442	—



COLIN CHURCHETT (Glenelg) raced in from behind to try to take this ball from Reg Sully (Torrens) during the league game at Thebarton Oval this afternoon, but Sully had a firm grip on the ball to take the mark and divert the Glenelg attack.

Redlegs too systematic

Norwood completely overwhelmed South by their systematic style and all-round brilliance at Kensington Oval and won by 16-4.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Norwood	7-3	17-10	18-11	25-17	167
South	4-3	7-4	10-6	10-7	67

West centre line strong

West easily defeated Sturt in an uneven game at Adelaide Oval. They were closely pressed in the first half but proved too strong across centre.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	5-4	8-8	11-14	13-22	100
Sturt	3-1	6-3	7-6	8-6	54

Many of the North attacks broke down forward of centre where the Port defenders, using fine judgment, did not give their opponents a yard.

On today's form, North will find it hard to find a place in the major round—they lacked fire in their play and did not use the hip and shoulder often enough.

● Boyd was Port's best. He hardly put a foot wrong and, using his pace to advantage, sent Port attacking with accurate foot-passing and intelligent handball.

● Whitaker, in possession, is a pleasure to watch. His evasive turns often leave the opponent flat-footed.

Fletcher gave a tireless and effective display whether on the ball or resting in a set position. His fellow ruckman, Marrett, generally did as he wished at the centre bounce.

● For North, McKay stands out. In fact his sustained effort for the match, I think, made him best on the ground. He is at his best in defence and his fine work in this department was largely responsible for North keeping in the picture.

When he went on the ball, North rallied, but he cannot do everything and if he has a fault it is that he stays too long on the ball in an effort to keep his side attacking.

● Griffin did well at centre wing and Galloway battled hard against strong ruck opposition.

Best Players—Port: Boyd, Whitaker, Fletcher, Batt, Marrett, Dayman, Growden. North: McKay, Griffin, Galloway, Tidwell, Cox, Crouch, Kennett.

Scorers—Port: Fletcher 3.2, Williams 2.2, Whitaker 2.1, Carr 1.1, Growden, Marrett 1.0, Mills 0.2, Whelan, Thompson, Batt 0.1, rushed 0.2. Whelan hit post. North: Cox, Kennett 2.0, W. McKenzie 1.3, Phillips, Gilbourne 1.1, H. McKenzie 0.2, Griffin, Galloway 0.1.