

NORTH AGAIN IN RUNNING FOR PREMIERSHIP

Outplay Norwood: Win by 21 points

By HAYDN BUNTON, as told to Lawrie Jervis, Jnr.

In the biggest football upset of this season North toppled Norwood at Prospect Oval today by 21 points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
North	1—1	4—3	9—5	11—7	73
Norwood	1—5	3—7	5—10	7—10	52

This puts North again in the running for the final four, and adds interest to the fight between North and Glenelg for fourth position.

North were given little hope of beating Norwood today, but won in a tradesman-like style.

North outplayed Norwood in ruck, set positions, and in general tactics. Actually North looked winners from half-time onwards.

The league leaders, Norwood, look as if they are going stale.

Norwood looked today as if they are losing their sting after a hard season of football.

They ... not seem able to make the extra yard or two needed, and didn't tackle with the same zest that they have shown in previous games.

For North, it is hard to pick between Arbon, in a back pocket, and Blunden at half-back, as their best. Arbon did not give away a point today and showed particular care in marking Oatey, while

Blunden repeatedly cleared, particularly in the second half.

Carroll rucked so strongly that he took the initiative away from Norwood's strong man, John Marriott.

For Norwood, Doug Olds was on his own. Not once was he beaten on his wing.

Lionel Blackmore did well in ruck, or placed, while Oatey, particularly in the last quarter, pulled out all the stops in an attempt to give Norwood a win.

Roberts, at half-back, and LePage, in a back pocket, also played good football.

Best Players—North: Arbon, Blunden, Carroll, H. McKenzie, Aamodt, Phillips, Crouch, Kennett. Norwood: Olds, Blackmore, Oatey, Roberts, LePage, R. Williams, Marriott.

Scorers—North: H. McKenzie 3.0, Aamodt 2.2, Aldenhoven 2.1, Kennett 1.2, Phillips 1.1, Cox 1.0, W. McKenzie 1.0, rushed 0.1. Norwood: Blackmore 3.2, Williams 3.2, Dalwood 1.2, Tilbrook 0.2, Olds 0.1.

NEXT WEEK'S MATCHES

LEAGUE

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

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	For	Ag.	Pts.
Norwood	12	3	1718	1098	24
Port	11	4	1305	1124	22
Torrens	10	5	1532	1187	20
Glenelg	10	5	1420	1227	20
North	8	7	1309	1107	16
West	7	8	1274	1213	14
Sturt	2	13	1048	1703	4
South	—	15	878	1885	—

Top goalkickers

	Today	Total
Churchett (Glenelg)	1	81
Mehaffey (Torrens)	5	53
Williams (Norwood)	3	48
Willis (Torrens)	1	45
Bradford (Torrens)	4	37
Dalwood (Norwood)	1	35
Fos. Williams (Port)	2	34

BRIAN Tohl, reserve for Glenelg Colts in the game at Adelaide Oval today, was rolled in the mud in the centre of the ground by members of both teams at the conclusion of play. He came on late in the last quarter, and players evidently objected to his spic-and-span uniform.

TODAY'S league football attendance figures were:—Adelaide, 2,500; Thebarton, 5,500; Alberton, 3,250; Prospect, 6,000.

GLENELG WERE NOT PRESSED

By BRIAN SHEA

Glenelg easily defeated South in a scrambling game at Adelaide Oval. They were in command in nearly every position on the ground.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Glenelg	2—9	4—13	9—20	12—26	98
South	0—0	2—2	2—2	3—6	24

A sodden turf and intermittent heavy showers made a sorry spectacle of the greater part of play.

South had a hard fight early in the game and their defence was under strong pressure. So much so that the first five singles to Glenelg were rushed through by the South backmen.

The Tigers were never challenged in the rucks and this, coupled with Don Taylor's drive from centre, where he was in control throughout the game, kept them attacking strongly.

The game was fought out at close quarters and the vigorous tackling of Glenelg unsettled South, who did not seem to be able to cope with the muddy conditions.

Glenelg should have been well clear after holding South scoreless in the first term, but they were off target.

Kicking blindly

They were kicking blindly close to goal and although the muddy ball was a big factor in their inaccuracy, many easy scoring chances were missed by hurried kicking.

Don Taylor continued to play faultless wet-weather football at centre for Glenelg and the co-operation with Laurie Taylor at centre half-forward kept the Tigers attacking strongly over the latter part of the game.

South found it hard to force the ball into scoring range and on the four occasions when they got within striking range they were driven out by the close-checking Bay defence.

The brightest spot for South was provided by Linke, South goalkeeper, whose close checking and vigorous ground play shut Churchett out of the game.

The Glenelg rucks continued to call the tune over the latter stages of play and they continued to drive the ball straight

down the ground, through Laurie Taylor.

Glenelg ran out easy winners in a tame finish.

Don Taylor was easily Glenelg's best today. He played correct wet-weather football to hold the centre position throughout the game. His safe marking of the wet ball and his good disposal of the ball gave Glenelg plenty of drive from centre.

Brooker roved with plenty of dash. His elusive ground play and accurate kicking for goal made him Glenelg's chief goalkicker.

Others to do well for Glenelg were L. Taylor, who held centre half-forward throughout the game, and combined well with D. Taylor at centre. J. Taylor, who battled hard in ruck, and Karutz, who played well at centre wing.

Linke, who was easily South's best, did a magnificent job in shutting Churchett out of the game. His close checking and vigorous clearances broke up many Glenelg attacks and he battled on with little support from other South defenders.

Panizza, a much improved junior, played soundly in ruck.

Others to show form in a beaten side were Fuss, who battled on gamely at centre, and Laphorne, who had a hard job roving to beaten rucks.

Best Players — Glenelg: D. Taylor, Brooker, L. Taylor, J. Taylor, Karutz, Prior, Laffin. South: Linke, Panizza, Fuss, Laphorne, Chapman, Gould, Sullivan.

Scorers — Glenelg: Brooker 4.3, Haussen 3.3, Prior 2.4, Churchett 1.4, L. Taylor 1.2, Kempson 1.0, Karutz 0.2, Wickham 0.1, rushed 0.7. South: Laphorne 2.0, Fuss 1.0, Hyam 0.2, Tait 0.2, Gould 0.1, McLeod 0.1.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	2—2	10—8	12—9	14—15	99
Sturt	4—6	5—6	8—11	10—11	71

Torrens put West out of final fight

By IAN McFARLING

Holding West scoreless in the last term, Torrens overwhelmingly defeated them by 70 points at Thebarton Oval today. With two games left in the minor round, West are now eliminated from the struggle for the final four.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	4—2	9—7	10—11	17—14	116
West	1—4	2—4	6—10	6—10	46

Torrens convincingly outplayed West in each quarter except the third. In that term West snapped out of their lethargy to put on 4—6 to 1—4 by Torrens.

In the last quarter West hardly looked like scoring, while Torrens scored 7—3 almost at will.

Torrens asserted their ruck and roving supremacy from the first bounce. This, with their extra yard in the race for the ball, kept the ball up their end most of the match.

Best Players—Torrens: Bradford, Mehaffey (until injured), Pyatt, Coverlid, Hollis, Prior, Bill Hank West: Paehse, Cannon, Brown, Atkins, Eginton, G. Williams, Bernie Slattery.

Scorers—Torrens: Mehaffey 6.2, Bradford 4.1, Ray Hank 3.0, Coverlid 2.1, Prior 2.0, Willis 1.2, Bennett 0.2, Pyatt 0.2, M. Sully 0.1, Bob Hank 0.1, rushed 0.1, Mehaffey hit a post. West: Bruce Broadstock 2.0, G. Williams 1.2, Cannon 1.2, Trestrall 1.1, Hewitt 1.0, Agars 0.2, A'Court 0.1, Bernie Slattery 0.1, rushed 0.1.

Second term burst gave Port victory

By AMOS BOTTROFF

A brilliant second quarter burst by strong rucks and a dashing display by Mills in front of goals in that quarter gave Port their win over Sturt at Alberton Oval.

SPORTING PROFILE

He rose through maze of clubs

Sturt rejected him, he gave Glenelg away, Port wanted him, but West got him. And that's how Fos Williams, brilliant State rover and now captain-coach of Port, worked his way through a maze of clubs into league football.

Fos admits that the story of his entrance into the senior ranks here is confusing. It's simple, though, if you don't hear it too quickly.

Fos—short for Foster—was born at Quorn 27 years ago last February. His father was a good footballer, his older twin brothers, Alec and John, were of league standard.

Alec got a job in the city and before the war played for Sturt, but John, as good as Alec, didn't bother to come to Adelaide.

Fos joined the PMG when he left Quorn High School, and after a spell in Darwin PO—he left there in December, 1941, two months before the big raid—was transferred to the city.

Because Alec had played with Sturt, Fos trained at Unley.

He played the second half of a trial game. His name didn't go on the list of players to continue.

"Bring him along"

He joined the RAN in 1942 and served in three corvettes—the Bowden, Wagga, and Kiama—round the Australian and New Guinea coasts, and was discharged in 1946.

He had met Laurie Toms during the war. Toms was training Glenelg B in 1946. Fos Williams trained at the Bay, but when he was picked only twentieth man for the B's, he wasn't very happy.

His brother Frank, though, was playing with Port. He said to the late Charlie Hayter one night, "My brother's a pretty good footballer, and he can't get a game with the Bays. What about giving him a try?"

"Sure," said Charlie. "Bring him along."

Fos soon showed his form. But when Port tried to prise him away from Glenelg through a clearance, West suddenly jumped in. It appeared that while he was working in the city during 1942, Fos had lived with a relative in West's district.

Hurt first match

In the meantime, Fos had played one game with Exeter, in Amateur League.

But West claimed him, and their claim was granted by the league. He had one practice night with West, and they picked him to play against Glenelg on the Saturday.

He seemed fated to break into the game the hard way.

In that first league match he was skittled, hurt a shoulder, and was out for three matches. However, by the end of the season he had clinched his place in the side.



In 1947, the year West went top, Fos was equal second with Neville Way (Norwood) as runner-up to Bob Hank for the Magarey Medal.

He played 54 games with West, until he left them to become captain-coach of Port this season.

He has represented the State in the Hobart and Brisbane carnivals, against Victoria here and over there in 1948, and against WA here and in the West last year.

Like practically any first-class athlete you can name, he's a stickler for physical fitness. For a start, he doesn't drink or smoke.

And there are no half-measures over whether he is fit to play. He will not take his place in a side if he has any doubts about his capacity to see out the game. He is strict on this point almost to being dogmatic.

He will do anything possible to get himself well, but no trainer can talk him into playing if Fos thinks he is not 100 per cent.

"Floating" bone

Yet for all that, he played nearly half a season in 1948 with an injury to his right knee which later necessitated an operation. He hurt the knee one practice night with West.

It was a peculiar injury. At times there was not the sus-

picion of anything wrong. At others, his knee felt as if a hot knife had been jabbed into it. X-rays showed nothing wrong.

In the end, he went to a specialist, who took deep X-rays. They showed the fault—a piece of bone which had broken away on the kneecap, and which, when in place, gave no trouble.

At times, though, the bone fragment twisted a little out of place, and that's when it hurt. He had the fragment removed, and the knee has been good ever since.

Ask Fos the hardest match he's played in, and he'll think hard, and maybe tell you it was the preliminary final, 1948, when Norwood beat West. But ask him the easiest, and he'll promptly recall the SA-WA game last year.

It was so one-sided it was easy going.

Perhaps you'd like to know if Port forged a particular plan to beat Norwood last Saturday. Naturally they did. It was a tip-off about a Redleg weakness which Fos was given, and immediately realised the possibilities.

Although Norwood probably know all about it now, it would hardly be fair to Fos and Port to go into details. You never know, they might meet in the grand final.

If you're unwise enough to bet on probable Magarey Medal winners, it looks as if you'll at least run a place with Fos this year.—Lawrie Jervis, jun.