

GLENELG MASTER TORRENS

Efficient attack key to victory

By HAYDN BUNTON, as told to LAWRIE JERVIS, jun.

Glenelg had an efficient attack, and Torrens did not. That sums up Glenelg's 38-point win in the first semi-final at Adelaide Oval today.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Glenelg	4—0	8—3	11—7	14—9	93
Torrens	3—3	5—5	7—11	7—13	55

In addition to holding down a majority of the set positions, Glenelg played very robustly from the outset.

With Churchett in probably his best form for the season, the Bays had a razor-sharp spearhead.

Torrens, on the other hand, were beaten at centre half forward and at full forward. If it hadn't been for Bradford, resting from roving in a forward pocket, they might have been even worse off.

The last quarter was as tame as a domestic cat, and had less spirit.

Torrens knew the game was over, and played like it, while the Bays took things rather leisurely, yet still held control.

On the day, Torrens broke at least even in the rucks, and at times over the last three quarters were on top.

In the first half, they worked to a plan to make Mick Clingly, at centre half forward, their first link in the attacking chain. But the plan failed dismally. Clingly was too slow, and not quick enough in anticipation to match his opponent Brian Wright.

Every time the ball was sent towards Clingly—and that was often—Brian Wright was there first. He did not make a mistake.

Early, Umpire Aplin's decisions were completely bewildering. He refused to give the man with the ball the slightest latitude in getting rid of it, and the result was a "tiggy-touchwood" game.

It was probably an effort to develop tight control, for afterwards, he became more lax in giving the man with the ball a chance.

Cockshell in form

Out on the half-forward flank, though, Cockshell had not made an error against Bill Prior, who was off form.

After half-time, Torrens made the obvious switch, putting Cockshell in against Wright and sending Clingly out on the half-forward flank.

Cockshell was fast enough to go with Wright, and Clingly played over Prior. That solved the half-forward problem.

But Willis, as goalsneak, on whom Torrens had pinned other hopes, could not cope with the Bay defence plan.

Whenever the ball came in high to Willis, Bay goalkeeper Ray Hunt went with him, aided by Johnny Taylor, who came in from the back pocket.

Between them they effectively smothered Willis.

So on the day, Torrens won only one of the down-the-middle positions—at centre. Bob Hank, in spite of his injury-affected ankles and shins—he had stitches removed only yesterday from a shin gash—beat Davies.

Churchett fast

Colin Churchett "lost" Torrens goalkeeper Alf Roberts most of the day. Churchett led out fast, and played a great game.

He had to battle hard for the free he got in the last quarter, when he kicked his eighth goal for the match and hundredth for the season.

His goals today came from three frees, two marks, and three running snaps. One, in the second quarter, was a beautiful running hook.

There was plenty of fire in the game early, particularly in the first quarter. The Bays got four goals from four shots, and, while Torrens plugged away more, they picked up 3-3.

In the second quarter, as soon as the Bays got the ball past centre, they looked for Churchett, and he didn't let them down. In one burst he kicked 3-1.

Even when under pressure in the back lines Glenelg moved with calm assurance. They backed up well, and often there would be three Bay defenders in opposition to two Torrens forwards, with the inevitable result.

In the third quarter Glenelg ran off to a 33-point lead, and the game looked over. Torrens surprisingly fought back and, in a burst of fine football, put on goals from Clingly and Bradford, while shots from Clingly and Ray Hank just missed.

Dying burst

Glenelg's best was undoubtedly Brian Wright, at centre half-back. In the first half he was unbeatable, although more subdued in the second half when up against Cockshell.

Don Taylor won centre half-forward well, while any goalsneak who gets eight goals in a semi-final, as Churchett did, is good. Johnny Taylor played a captain's game. He was always round when Willis looked dangerous and helped Ray Hunt to blanket the goalsneak.

Kempson, on a half-back flank, and Potter and Laffin in ruck also played solidly.

Torrens' best was Glastonbury, on a centre wing. He beat first Laffin, then Lord, and played with determination and skill throughout. Bradford was their best goalgetter and best rover.

Torrens' three ruckmen, Prior, Pyatt, and Coverlid, all did well, while Graham, on a half-back flank, won his position.

Bob Hank beat Davies at centre although he slowed up over the last quarter, and Ray Hank turned in his best game for some time when roving.

Senior Colts semi-final played today resulted:—Sturt 10-15, West Torrens 4-5.

Junior Colts preliminary final resulted:—Port 6-15, Torrens 4-2.

Best Players—Glenelg: B. Wright, D. Taylor, Churchett, J. Taylor, Kempson, Potter, Laffin, Hunt, Torrens; Glastonbury, Bradford, Prior, Graham, Pyatt, R. Bully, Bob and Ray Hank, Coverlid.

Scorers—Glenelg: Churchett 8.1, Laffin 2.1, D. Taylor 2.0, Rundie 1.1, Bailey 1.0, Brooker 0.2, Potter, McPherson, Crabb and J. Taylor each 0.1. Torrens: Bradford 3.3, Clingly 2.1, Cockshell 1.0, Coverlid 1.0, Ray Hank 0.0, Willis 0.2, Pyatt 0.1.

SNAPSHOTS

Goalkeeper Alf Roberts led Torrens on to the field in the semi-final today to mark his 100 games in league football.

Captain Bob Hank was last out, 20 yards behind the others.

Glenelg gave five players trophies. They were Brian Wright, Churchett, Laffin, Kempson, and Bailey. A special trophy of £5 was awarded to Churchett.

Vice-president Merv Wood also gave every man in the side 10/- each.

Torrens' trophies went to Stewart Glastonbury and Jim Bradford.

As Bay ruckman, Alan Crabb arrived at the Oval today, he jokingly remarked to an inquirer, "I've had it. I've been doing the housework all the morning."

The household chores were necessary because the Crabbs' third child—a

daughter—arrived yesterday. Mr. and Mrs. Crabb now have two girls and a boy.

"Nipper" Bradford, Torrens rover, the smallest man in SA League football, is practically the only man in the game who doesn't bounce the ball when he runs with it. He prefers to stoop, with the ball in his grasp, and touch it lightly to the ground. His size allows him to do that with ease, and he doesn't have to risk the chance of a bad bounce.

Former Torrens and State rover and coach G. M. ("Wacka") Scott coached Minnipa to this year's premiership of Le Hunte Association. Pat McEvoy is Minnipa's captain, and Scott plays at half-forward. "Wacka" is licensee of Minnipa Hotel.



IT'S OBVIOUS from this scene under the showers in the Glenelg dressing room who won the Glenelg-Torrens semi-final at Adelaide Oval today. Relaxing after the match are (from left) A. Bailey, J. McDonald, D. Laffin, and W. Prior.

Captains' views on the game

After the match Glenelg captain-coach Johnny Taylor said: "Today's result proves we are not just a wet-day team, as everybody thought we were."

"We proved we could pace it on a fast turf with a fast side like Torrens."

"Today every man pulled his weight. We had the breaks of the ball, which is just luck. That's the kind of break-a team needs if it's going to win a grand final."

Torrens captain-coach Bob Hank said: "Glenelg combined far better in attack than we did. They played with more purpose going forward, and with Col Churchett right on his game, it was too much for us."

"We lacked good purposeful drive in the forward lines." When Hank went into the Glenelg room after the game to congratulate Glenelg, he said, "You're a very even side, and you beat us by top football today."

Top goalkickers

	Today	Total
Churchett (Glenelg)	8	100
Bradford (Torrens)	3	52
Willis (Torrens)	—	51
Phillips (North)	—	49
Laphorne (South)	—	48
Brooker (Glenelg)	—	35
Stringer (North)	—	35

28,000 see league match

Today's attendance at the league football semi-final between Torrens and Glenelg at Adelaide Oval was officially given tonight as 28,000.

Sturt defeat Port

Sturt played fast, open football to defeat Port in the association football preliminary final at Norwood Oval today.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	4-2	10-8	11-10	14-22	50
Port	1-2	3-5	6-10	9-17	23

Port threw the game away with atrocious kicking for goal—2-14 in the third quarter.

Sturt will meet West in the grand final as a curtain-raiser at Adelaide Oval next Saturday.

Early in the game, Port had no answer to Sturt's fast play-on game. Sturt had a decisive advantage in the rucks and they played straight down the ground with good effect.

Best Players—Sturt: Murray, Cave, Phillips, Marshall, Mackintosh, Tester, Shanks, Port: R. Carr, Hall, Leaver, Dittmar, Trimbell, Lewis, L. Gates.

Goalkickers—Sturt: Phillips (6), Gave (3), Ollen (2), Coullis, Shanks, Port: Leaver (3), Renningsen, Trimbell (each 2), Carr, McKenzie.

Glenelg's Forward Efficiency Reopens Football Fight

By HARRY KNEEDONE

The many who considered that Port Adelaide had a stranglehold on the 1951 league football premiership must revise that belief after Glenelg's display in the first semi-final at Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

Chief factor in Glenelg's elimination of West Torrens was the efficiency of its attack. It alone of the three teams left in the premiership fight, has an accomplished specialist as its centre forward, and the value of this asset was significantly stressed in Saturday's match.

The significance of the manner in which Glenelg won is heightened from the premiership viewpoint by the fact that the favorite for the title, Port Adelaide, only the week before had nearly gone under, on its own ground, to the very team Glenelg so confidently defeated on Saturday.

Port Adelaide's difficulty in handling West Torrens was due almost solely to the failure of its attack to return reasonably good results for superiority farther afield.

On Saturday Glenelg conceded West Torrens a ruck advantage and also the balance of power across the centre and yet, except for the first few minutes, was never headed nor even seriously challenged.

The apparently paradoxical result was brought about by two factors on which Glenelg's premiership claims are soundly based—

● Strongly manned goal-to-goal line.

● The possession of a centre forward who kicked 8.1 from opportunities from which it is unlikely that any other forward in the major round would have scored more than three or four goals.

Glenelg's successful application of the elementary principle that the straightest route is also the quickest and shortest was due to the fact that it held overpowering mastery of four of the five key goal-to-goal positions:—

- (1) Churchett at centre forward.
 - (2) Don Taylor at centre half-forward.
 - (3) Wright at centre half-back, and
 - (4) Hunt, aided by Johnny Taylor, at full back.
- Willis being kept goalless.

Bob Hank, though handicapped by injuries to a shin and both ankles that would have kept a less great-hearted player out of the game, gave his team considerably better than an even chance of gaining possession at centre, but Glenelg's direct, long-kicking game more often than not, made midfield a no-man's land.

Wright's long, clearing kicks almost invariably transferred play from centre

half-back to centre half-forward while the by-passed midfield section helplessly watched the ball pass overhead.

This powerful spine should ensure that Glenelg will not collapse against any opposition.

One Glenelg weakness that Port Adelaide, especially may be able to emphasise by its own strength in the corresponding section, is roving.

Half-back Star

In Brian Wright, Glenelg has next year's State half-back star. This young player performed brilliantly in unfavorable conditions during the minor round. Now that fine weather seems likely for the major round he should reach even greater heights. He is one of the best judges of the flight of the ball seen in action for years.

He forced West Torrens to switch Clingly for Cockshell after half-time in a not very successful attempt to circumvent him.

Churchett, despite the handicap of a "leg," was at his freakish, mercurial best. There was a spontaneous congratulatory scene on and off the field when he kicked his eighth goal for the match and his 100th for the season.

Potter (a safe-marking untiring worker in ruck), Don Taylor (at centre half-forward), Brooker (dogged and determined rover) and Kempson (dashing at half-back left) were also prominent for the winner.

Lafsky (recurrent appendix trouble) did not resume after half-time. He may not play again this season.

Glastonbury's calm efficiency at centre wing was an outstanding feature of West Torrens's play. He maintained his position as a stronghold for his team throughout the match.

Bradford (attack and roving), Bob Hank (centre), Graham (a determined display on a half-back flank), Pyatt (whose strong, well-directed kicking was a feature) and Ray Hank (the best rover, as a rover, afield) were others whose efforts deserved better results than a six-goal defeat.

SEMI-FINAL STARS
 *B Wright (Glenelg)
 *C Churchett (Glenelg)
 *A Glastonbury (West Tor.)

FINAL
 GLENELG, 14 pts. 9 bds. (91 pts.)
 WEST TORRENS, 7 pts. 13 bds. (55 pts.)

GOALKICKERS
 GLENELG—Churchett, 8.1; LaMn, 2.1; D. Taylor, 2.0; Rundle, 1.1; Bailey, 1.0; Brooker, 0.2; Potter, J. Taylor, Crabb McPherson, each 0.1.
 WEST TORRENS—Bradford, 3.3; Clingly, 2.0; Coverlid, 1.1; Cockshell, 1.0; Ray Hank, 0.6; Willis, 0.2; rucked, 0.1.

Leading goalkickers this year are—

	Sat.	Mchs.	Total
Churchett (G.)	8.1	19	100.65
Bradford (WT.)	3.3	18	52.45
Willis (WT.)	0.2	19	51.60
Lapthorne (RA)	—	28	47.37
Brooker (G.)	0.2	19	33.23



ON HIS KNEES, but not yet beaten, Glenelg captain-coach (Johnny Taylor) hand passes to back pocket team mate Stan Wickham in the league football semi-final at Adelaide Oval on Saturday. From left—Ray Hank (West Torrens), Ray Hunt (Glenelg) and Don Prior (West Torrens).

Tigers wound up Torrens fling

By JACK OATEY as told to RAY BARBER

Pace and goalkicking skill by their forwards were the main factors in Glenelg's 38-point win in the knock-out semi-final against Torrens at Adelaide Oval today.

Glenelg looked the winner early in the third quarter. They then appeared to be moving a little smoother than Torrens.

Both sides were showing signs of wear and tear brought about by playing on a hard turf and warm conditions for the first time for many weeks.

Poor passing early in the game was due to these factors. As players became used to the conditions, passing became more accurate.

More cohesive

Glenelg won the game by their more cohesive forward work, through Churchett (full forward) and Don Taylor (centre half-forward).

The amazing part of the game was that Torrens soundly beat Glenelg at centre bounces and throw-ins. But Glenelg offset this disadvantage by out-marking and outplaying the Torrens' big men in the field play.

It was obvious from Glenelg's first kick of the day that their plan was straight down the centre with long dropkicks.

Torrens in adopting this same method in the second quarter fell into an error from which they failed to recover. They sent the ball high to Willis, where he was effectively countered by Johnny Taylor flying from the front and Ray Hunt going from the back with spilling tactics.

The only time they tried any other avenue was to Bradford, in the forward pocket. This yielded two very quick goals in the third term.

When the two teams ran out sunshine was streaming on to a ground that had made a remarkable recovery from the mud patches of previous weeks.

Johnny Taylor won the toss and the river end he chose was worth two goals. It was favored by a nice handy breeze.

At the first bounce Glenelg's plan for the day seemed clear. A mighty punch down towards Don Taylor was the indication that Glenelg would go straight down the ground to capitalise on their strong key position men.

First score should have been a goal to Torrens, but Bradford's kick was off the line.

Ray Hunt, with his kick-in, sent the ball straight down to Davies at centre. The pattern was unmistakably clear now.

Churchett "in it"

A beautiful kick by Churchett brought the first goal.

In the early passages Torrens didn't rely on any method. They just muddled along.

Churchett was in it again. Great football brought his second goal with the game just started. He's a freak when he gets the run of the ball.

John Willis, with a chance to get his side going, played badly and another point came to Torrens.

Rundle was giving Glenelg drive at half-forward left. Three times the ball went along his flank and three times he got it.



EYES GLUED to the ball, West Torrens half-forward Jim Bradford fends Glenelg goalkeeper Ray Hunt off with one hand while he gets in his kick in the league football semi-final today. Bay rover Alf Bailey is running in from behind.

Wright was right

Brian Wright appeared to be playing to his instructions—straight down the middle to Don Taylor. All day long Wright turned defence into attack.

The ruck battles were even, with Torrens playing over the top and breaking into the open.

At the start of the second term Torrens tried long kicks down the centre to get the ball to Willis.

Torrens were persistently going through centre half-forward when their passage through 'he flanks had brought better results.

Torrens were beginning to get drive from Glastonbury at centre wing mainly because Lafsky, out of position, was giving him too much rein.

They had also taken charge of the rucks, where Coverlid was in complete control.

The second quarter was outstanding for two features. Torrens won in the ruck, but their forwards failed to convert this advantage. Glenelg, on the other hand, did convert their chances.

When the teams came out for the third term, Torrens had Clingly at half-forward left with Cockshell at centre half-forward. The move was expected, as Brian Wright had dominated the centre half-back position.

The game was slowing down as the quarter progressed, but its brightest feature was the accuracy of Colin Churchett. Roberta was playing well, but finding him a handful.

With the board showing 11-6 to 5-8, Torrens looked "under," but they came to light and had two goals on the board in quick time to be still in it.

At three-quarter time Glenelg led by 20 points—a good lead.

The last quarter was Glenelg's, for they put on 3-2 to only three points.

I ranked the best for each side this way. Glenelg: B Wright, Churchett, Ray Hunt, D. Taylor, J. Taylor, Rundle Potter, Brooker, Torrens, Glastonbury, Bradford, Bob Hank Coverlid, Ray Hank, Sully

HOW TEAMS LINE UP

(Glenelg kicking up and names underneath)

Roberts Churchett		
Pyatt	R. Sully	
Laffin	Brooker	
Bennett	Graham	Crammond
Rundle	D. Taylor	McDonald
Slaven	Bob Hank	Glastonbury
McPherson	Davies	Lafsky
Loates	Clingly	Cockshell
Kempson	B. Wright	Prior
Coverlid	Bradford	
Potter	Wickham	
Willis Hunt		

Rucks—Glenelg: Crabb, J. Taylor, Bailey, Laffin, Potter, McDonald, Torrens; Prior, W. Hank, Ray Hank; Coverlid, Pyatt, Loates.

Reserves—Glenelg: Lord, A. Wright, Torrens; McKenzie, Wyatt.

Umpire—K. L. Aplin.