

PORT LOSE TOP PLACE

By LAWRIE JERVIS

Out of today's play, which added further to the confusion of league football form this season, emerges one fact—Port are no longer top.

Norwood's win—Port's fourth loss for the year—has tumbled the Magpies into second place.

North, who against West barely managed to avoid being the third victim of an upset today, now head the table with 16 points.

Port and Norwood are level with 14 points, but Port have the slightly better percentage.

The surprise Glenelg walkover means that Souths drop back to seventh place, with Glenelg inching into sixth position on percentage.

Although Glenelg, South, and Sturt appear to have no chance of making the final four, there is so little between top and bottom teams anything could happen.

With luck on their side, either West, Glenelg, or South could dislodge Torrens from fourth place.

Attendances today totalled 31,400, made up of Norwood Oval (Norwood v. Port), 14,000; Adelaide Oval (North v. West), 7,700; Unley Oval (Sturt v. Torrens), 5,500; Glenelg Oval (Glenelg v. South), 4,200.

Premiership list

	W.	L.	For	Ag.	Pts.
North	8	3	927	764	16
Port	7	4	836	637	14
Norwood	7	4	1026	810	14
Torrens	6	5	931	912	12
West	5	6	771	783	10
Glenelg	4	7	892	961	8
South	4	7	743	946	8
Sturt	3	8	776	1000	6

Top goalkickers

	Today	Ttl.
Willis (Torrens)	2	45
Phillips (North)	2	35
Head (South)	1	30
Bradford (Torrens)	-	26
Churchett (Glen.)	-	22
Maye (Norwood)	-	22
Brown (Norwood)	1	20
Rundle (Glenelg)	4	20
L. Taylor (Glen.)	4	20

LATE BID BY PORT FAILS

Norwood win exciting match by 11 points

By VIC JOHNSON

Port kicked 6—5 in a last-quarter bid to beat Norwood at Norwood Oval today, but the Redlegs weathered the storm and won by 11 points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Norwood	4—6	5—10	7—15	9—18	72
Port	1—3	2—5	2—8	8—13	61

Norwood played by far the better football throughout most of the game.

Port's good recovery had the large crowd on its toes. Until this final burst the Magpies looked anything but a good team.

Their fumbling tactics in front of centre were a contrast to the methodical way in which the Redlegs went about scoring.

Port were content, in the main, with trying to reach the goal front with futile handball, or by driving the ball in high with the hope that the tall men would mark it.

Norwood kept their flanks and pockets wide open, and usually found team mates with well directed footpasses which gave the Magpie backs little chance to intercept them.

Ran two rovers

The running of two rovers caused Port's recovery. Garland was the first to challenge Norwood's ruck supremacy, and Port's back-pocket player, Russell, who had come up to centre as a loose man, broke through repeatedly.

The whole team responded admirably, and, playing the ball forward with low passes, they looked a football team for the first time in the game.

McPherson (Glen.)	6	19
Hansson (South)	1	18
Williams (West)	2	18
Cave (Sturt)	2	17
Whitaker (Port)	2	16
Boland (Sturt)	1	15
Carr (Torrens)	-	15
H. McKenzie (Nth.)	1	15
Phillips (Sturt)	-	14
Oatley (Norwood)	1	13
Walker (Norwood)	-	13
Williams (Norwood)	2	13
Gilbourne (North)	-	12
Kennett (North)	1	12
Potts (Norwood)	1	12
Packham (West)	-	12
Foe. Williams (Pt.)	2	12

SOUTH GIVEN TROUNCING

By LEN SWAN

South were badly beaten by Glenelg at Glenelg Oval today.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Glenelg	7—1	11—6	15—12	19—14	128
South	0—2	1—3	3—7	9—10	64

The home side did practically as they liked for three quarters and finally doubled South's score to win by 64 points.

The game was a complete reversal of form for both sides.

South were hopelessly out of touch after their brilliance of the past few weeks. Glenelg, on the other hand, played again the type of football that wins matches.

The muddy patches on the field kept the ball heavy and this affected the game.

Glenelg owe most of their early success to their ruck strength and the control they had across centre. This supremacy, combined with an uncanny accuracy at the goalfrost, gave them eight goals, with only one point, while South struggled to post two points.

10-goal lead

This devastating control continued until the long interval to give Glenelg a 10-goal lead.

After half-time Deane went to centre to check Alf Bailey, but Glenelg

Last quarter effort won match for North

By AMOS BOTTRUFF

Only by a vigorous last quarter effort were North able to outscore West to win by a point three minutes before the final bell.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
North	2—5	3—9	4—11	6—14	50
West	1—2	5—4	7—6	7—7	49

The game was a slogging one. The oval had visible patches of water at several places and the ball stopped dead when it hit the glue-like centre patch.

North were not altogether lucky to win. I thought they were the better side,

but because conditions made it difficult for players to get distance with their kicking, they were only rarely successful in penetrating the strong West defence.

Thirteen points down at the last change McKay went into the ruck and Galloway came on the field in place of Carlson—also in ruck.

Vigor was the keynote of the play, and North were in attack for the whole quarter.

It was still not without great effort that they were able to penetrate the extra tight defence and scrape home by a point.

North's best

I would name McKay and Griffen as North's best. Griffen had more kicks than anyone on the ground and definitely outmanoeuvred Lynch on the day, but McKay is preferred as best man because of two things:

● He shouldered the main burden of defence in a decisive manner when he was not in the ruck.

● With defeat staring him in the face he gave his side an unchanged rucking performance that won the game in the last quarter.

Hancock continued his fine performance on a wing and Gilbourne, moved to centre half-forward during the game, played a sound attacking game.

Brown was West's best. He seemed to make posi-

tion well and cleared with great effect for most of the game.

Lewis came back to hold Ron Phillips down to two goals and Leith gave a somewhat overdue masterly performance at half-forward. It was his best game to date.

Best Players—North: McKay, Griffen, Hancock, Gilbourne, McKenzie, Cunningham, McCann. West: Brown, Lewis, Lynch, Leith, Slattery, Paehe, Elington.

Scorers—North: Phillips 21, Kennett 15, McKenzie 13, Aldenhoven 10, Renner 10, Carlson 02, McKay 01, Cox 01, Gilbourne 01. West: Williams 21, Agars 20, Hole 12, Brown 11, Slattery 10, Thomas 01, Packham 01, Leith 01.

5 umpires report L. Taylor

Laurie Taylor, Glenelg goalsneak, was reported in the second quarter at Glenelg by all five umpires for allegedly attempting to strike Abbott, South goalkeeper.

His brother, Don Taylor, did not play in the second half because of a leg injury.

Glenelg Football Club acknowledged Ray Hunt's 200th League game by a presentation before the start of the Glenelg-South match today.

Glenelg trophies today went to A. Bailey, and Crabb.

STURT HAD ONLY POINT TO SPARE

By BRIAN SHEA

Sturt snatched a one-point win over Torrens in a hard, slogging game at Unley. Sturt had to overcome a poor half-forward line, but their control across centre gave them the drive to force home attacks.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	2—4	4—6	5—8	7—10	52
Torrens	0—0	4—3	4—5	7—9	51

The ground was very sloppy at the start of play. The centre patch was a sea of mud and pools of water lay along the eastern wing. There was a strong cross wind.

Sturt adapted themselves better to the bad conditions early. Few of their players tried to kick the ball off the ground. Their efforts in going in hard for the ball enabled them to open the game up early in the first term to gain a good lead over Torrens.

Sturt had the call in ruck and Thompson's well-directed knocks gave them drive from the centre bounce. This ruck advantage, coupled with a winning centre line, continued to be Sturt's mainstay throughout.

Held scoreless

Torrens were held scoreless in the first term and seemed completely unbalanced by the speed and vigor of the opposition.

They had switched Clingly to the left half-forward flank in an effort to bypass Fitzgerald. But with Bob Hank out of the play, the move met with little success.

Torrens' dependence on Bob Hank was very pointedly shown. On the occasions when their brilliant captain came into the play they looked a different side. His accurate passes with the sodden ball opened up their attacks and in the second term they drew within three points of Sturt.

Torrens' worst blow was the eclipse of their wingmen. Hank was forced to roam out wide on the wings in an effort to keep them in attack.

Leske, quite at home on the muddy centre patch, continued to drive Sturt into attack.

Missed chances

There was never a decisive break between the teams after half-time. Although Sturt had the

greater share of the play their half-forward line let them down badly. Their outer attack failed time and again to convert the opportunities created by their winning centre line.

The last quarter produced easily the best football of the game. Sturt gained a three-goal break over Torrens when Ellis and Cave notched two quick goals, and it seemed Torrens had an impossible task to win.

Within minutes of the end of play Torrens made their last desperate bid and again it was Hank who sent them into attack.

They fought desperately to score three quick goals, but the clock was against them.

Fitzgerald cool

Leske, Sturt centreman, did not make a mistake. He played cool, purposeful football in the muddy centre and was always working to keep Sturt in attack.

Fitzgerald turned in another great game for the winners. His cool judgment going for the ball and his long driving punt kicks broke up many Torrens attacks.

Sturt were a very even team but mention must be made of wingmen Kutcher and Green, while Boland roved in fine style.

Reg Sully was easily Torrens' best. He never made a mistake in defence; always ready to cover the goals he refused to be rattled by the shocking conditions.

Alf Roberts, Torrens goalkeeper, also played well while Head, a 16-year-old colt, showed plenty of ability as a rover.

Best Players—Sturt: Leske, Fitzgerald, Kutcher, Green, Hodeaman, Boland, Thompson. Torrens: Sully, Roberts, Fischer, Head, Bob Hank, Graham, Cocksell.

Scorers—Sturt: Cave 12, Rattigan 12, Boland 12, Thompson 11, Ellis 11, Jenkins 10, Hunter 01, Kutcher 01, Torrens 01, Head 21, Head 11, Cocksell 11, Prior 10, W. Hank 10, Coverlid 10, Clingly 01, Ashby 21, rushed 02.