

Keen fight for final four after upsets

By RAY BARBER

A day of major upsets in the tenth series of league football matches has made the fight for the final four more complex.

With eight series to be played before the first semi-final on September 11, every team has a chance to make the final four.

Norwood (bottom bottom) beat the top team—Port—and South (now bottom) ran West (second) to two points.

That is an indication of the evenness of the six teams fighting for third and fourth positions.

Port and West seem assured of the double chance of the first and second positions at the end of the minor round.

From now on the competition is going to be even more cut-throat than so far.

Torrens, 1953 premiers, after being well behind the field since the second series, beat the more-fancied Glenelg to throw out a strong challenge in fifth place.

North have taken third position from Sturt following their easy win at Naracoorte in the third of the country games.

West and South will play the last one at Murray Bridge on July 31—a week after the State game against Victoria, at Adelaide Oval.

Next Saturday's games are:—

West v. Torrens (Adelaide Oval).

North v. Port (Prospect Oval).

Glenelg v. Sturt (Glenelg Oval).

South v. Norwood (Kensington Oval).

Official attendances at today's matches:—Adelaide Oval, 7,200; Norwood, 10,570; Thebarton, 8,800; Naracoorte, 4,500.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

Team	W	L	For	Agst.	Pts.
Port	9	1	964	621	18
West	8	2	845	819	16
North	5	5	784	778	10
Sturt	5	5	760	841	10
Torrens	4	6	725	747	8
Glenelg	3	7	775	806	6
Norwood	3	7	711	818	6
South	3	7	645	832	6

TOP GOALKICKERS

Player	Today	Total
McKenzie (North)	3	46
Garland (Port)	4	32
Rundle (Glenelg)	2	30
Read (South)	2	25
Fitzgerald (Sturt)	1	22
Hall (Port)	1	22
Faeh (Sturt)	1	21

TORRENS WIN THRILLER WITH SUPERB DEFENCE

By RAY BARBER

Superb defence won Torrens a thriller at Thebarton Oval today. They beat Glenelg by five points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	4—2	5—4	8—7	10—10	70
Glenelg	3—1	4—5	7—7	9—11	65

If Torrens can develop more sting in their attack, they will be a definite threat.

With the two points they earned today, they are now within striking distance of the leading four—after having been a no-hoper a few series ago.

The game was in doubt until the final bell. Rundle, Glenelg goal-sneak, had the chance to bring the first draw for the season when his shot, from 45 yards away, swung across the goal for a point, with less than two minutes to go.

About to bounce

That made the difference five points, and from the kick-in Glenelg forced the ball to within 15 yards of the goal for a ball up.

Umpire Aplin was about to bounce the ball when the siren went.

Rarely has a side had so many of their best players in defence. Everyone in the division pulled his weight.

Clingly was outstanding among them. He played his best game for the season, while Graham, who could not get a place earlier in the season—after being one of their stars in the last few hectic minutes of the 1953 grand final success against Port—came back into his own.

At three-quarter time Torrens led by the same same margin with which they finished.

After Glenelg had set up a ruck superiority early to bring the scores level with 18 minutes of the last quarter gone, Torrens were able to steady and get two valuable goals at the crucial time.

Sandwiched between them was Potts, getting goals to bring his total to four after playing only half the game. He replaced Laffin (injured face) at half-time.

It would be hard to get such an even game. The margins at each change were seven, five, and six points respectively.

It was a typical Torrens-Glenelg joust, with the game played at close quarters for most of the day.

There were plenty of mistakes, including short passing that went badly astray, but there were many brilliant individual efforts.

Unexpectedly Glenelg did not have it all their own way in the rucks.

Coverlid did a great job in going with Crabb and Hall, and Torrens' rovers and wingmen picked up some of Glenelg's knocks.

Actually, on the day, there was little between the rucks, with Crabb and Hall winning on points for Glenelg.

Head found form

With Head eclipsed by Davies up to half-time, Torrens did a good job to lead in that session, but in the third quarter Head found his form.

It was good judgment to leave him there, for he lifted the Torrens attack after half-time.

Glenelg had little to be ashamed of, for they had Laffin, one of their key men lately, off the field and Alf Bailey restricted with an early ankle injury which necessitated him having it heavily bandaged like a racehorse, on the outside of his boot.

Torrens won the game with just an edge in pace and coolness.

Back to form

Clingly came right back to his best form, with stout-hearted defence, including strong overhead work.

Ron Ashby held Don Taylor capably for most of the day and often put Torrens into successful attacks. Coverlid had a lot to do and did it well in the ruck, besides getting two valuable goals.

Alf Roberts made Rundle earn every opportunity and Graham and Cockshell were other strong units in that fine defence.

Lodge, who returned to the side with a good performance, and Pratt, who battled on well all day, were the best of the others.

Crabb best

For Glenelg, Crabb was best with an outstanding ruck performance. He was cool and effective, particularly with his marking.

Pat Hall, one of the most consistent men on the field, captured the ball with some of his old skill.

Wickham played another fine game in the back pocket, always meeting the ball with judgment and disposing of it cleverly.

Hewitt was a versatile player either at half-forward flank or at centre

wing after half-time. Every game of his looks better. Davies and Marshall were the best of the rest.

Scorers—Torrens: Downey 22, R. Hank 21, Coverlid 20, Dawson 20, Parham 11, Slaven 10, Head 0.2, W. Hank 0.1, Lynch 0.1, Coleman 0.1, rushed 0.1. Glenelg: Potts 41, Rundle 22, McPherson 11, Taylor 1.1, Bailey 1.1, King 0.5.

Best Players—Torrens: Clingly, Ashby, Coverlid, Roberts, Graham, Cockshell, Pratt, Glenelg: Crabb, Hall, Wickham, King, Hewitt, Davies, Marshall.



CLINGLY... best game of season.

RAY Curnow today took over the Glenelg secretarial reins from Harry Clamp, who has become SANFL assistant secretary at Thebarton Oval today.

Twenty-three years ago Curnow played the first of his 88 games at Thebarton.

All Curnow would say today about that debut was that neither he nor his opponent, Merv Waite, Torrens goalsneak, got in the best players.

Waite went on to represent Australia in cricket Tests in England and later joined Glenelg as a footballer.

Don Laffin injured

Don Laffin, Glenelg ruckman did not resume after half-time in the league football match against Torrens at Thebarton Oval today.

He received a knock in the face and was taken home.

He will be X-rayed for a possible fractured cheekbone tomorrow.



WEST TORRENS PLAYER R. Ashby, with the ball in the West Torrens-Glenelg match at Thebarton this afternoon. The other players are from left, G. McPherson (Glenelg), J. Coverlid (Torrens), D. Taylor (Glenelg).

South fight out finish but lose by 2 points

By LEN SWAN

West finished two points in front of South at Adelaide Oval today. After a poor start the game developed into a vigorous, exciting struggle, with the result in doubt until the bell.

West	4—6	5—7	6—11	8—15	63
South	0—2	1—7	6—12	8—13	61

Play never reached a high standard, but the closeness of the scores in the closing stages kept the spectators on their toes.

South looked like winning when, with 35 seconds to go, Ray Panizza took a left-foot shot for goal that curled at the last minute and hit the post.

Read kicked South's last four goals—some from very acute angles.

West, on the day, had the balance of power across centre, with Burkett and Eglington providing the drive. On the other wing Jones gave South a strong-point.

West had few better than Burkett, who kept his side moving all day. The centre patch soon became cut up, but this inconvenience did not deter the West centreman.

Eglington made another avenue to goal for West by playing the wing position with intelligence.

Costello battled hard at centre half-forward, where he showed plenty of pace and determination.

It is hard to separate Allen and Jones as South's best. Both fought hard all day.

Allen was rarely beaten at the centre bounce and he brought down some magnificent marks. Jones is an elusive wingman who knows how to use his pace and judgment.

Guy battled on, while Read deserves a mention for his part in South's rally.

Best Players—West: Burkett, Eglington, Costello, Wright, Lee, Thomas, G. Williams. South: Allen, Jones, Guy, Read, D. Panizza, Linke, Hewitt.

Scorers—West: Costello 20, Wright, Brown, Richardson 13, Packham, G. Williams 11, Cannon 10, Klee, Lynch 0.1, rushed 0.2. South: M. Read 52, Zubrinich 1.1, Guy 1.1, Fraser 1.0, D. Panizza 0.3, R. Panizza, Jones, Richards 0.1, rushed 0.1.

NARACOORTE, Saturday: North's determination and a superb defence were responsible for a last half burst that enabled them to defeat Sturt comfortably at Naracoorte Oval today.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
North	3—2	3—7	6—11	8—11	59
Sturt	3—4	3—9	3—14	3—17	35

PORT DEFEATED FOR FIRST TIME THIS YEAR

By VIC JOHNSON

Norwood became the first team to defeat Port this season when they got home in a low-scoring game at Norwood Oval today by the narrow margin of one goal.

It was no mean performance, as I think Norwood, realising the respective placings on the premierships list, caught the Magpies on the hop.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Norw'd	4—6	5—8	5—13	7—14	56
Port	1—2	3—6	5—9	6—14	50

The Redlegs held a definite ruck advantage throughout the game and had a winning centre line and a band of players with a set purpose—that of overthrowing the league leaders.

Charnstrom was best for Norwood. His great speed and well placed kicking formed a constant menace to Port.

Weiss held centre, first against Motley and later McDonald. He handled the mud very well.

Marriott followed strongly as usual. Fosdike roved well, Nicholls gave strong support to Marriott, and Roberts and Skinner also did finely at times.

Parham is my pick for Port. Always safe and sure

in defence, he had plenty to do. Clift did not spare himself at centre half-back. They received good support from Robinson.

Coldwell won at centre half-forward, and Garland at the goal front. Trowse and Hall were useful.

Best players.—Norwood: Charnstrom, Weiss, Marriott, Fosdike, Nicholls, Roberts, Skinner. Port: Parham, Robinson, Clift, Garland, Coldwell, Trowse, Hall.

Scorers.—Norwood: Walker 20, Farrelly 1.1, Sawley and Aish each 1.1, Brown and Charnstrom each 1.0, Fosdike 0.3, Vivian and Skinner each 0.2, Weiss and Youngs each 0.1. Port: Garland 4.2, Coldwell 1.1, Hall 1.2, Zucker 0.3, Trowse 0.2, Kretschmer and Williams each 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS.—Butler (Norwood), concussion replaced by Hicks in last term. Vivian (Norwood), leg injury, replaced by Fox in last term.



GLENELG player B. Potter (nearest camera) clashes with West Torrens' Ray Hank in an aerial duel in the Glenelg-West Torrens match at Thebarton Oval this afternoon.