

Still hard to choose final four teams

By RAY BARBER

The league football final four is still obscure with three series to play before the major round begins on September 11.

Torrens, 1953 premiers, became bigger news by going to third place — from fourth — to displace North, who slumped to sixth position, after a four-point loss today to West.

Sturt went into the four again and now face a tremendous task of staying there with their game against Torrens coming up at Kensington next Saturday.

Norwood kicked the score of the season (22-27) against Glenelg, but are conceding two precious premiership points to Torrens and Sturt.

Torrens had an all-the-way win against Port, 1953 runner-up — the first time they have beaten Port this season in three meetings.

The way the final four is shaping it could still be left until the last minor-round game — on September 4 — for it to be resolved.

Norwood are engaged in the other vital game next week — against West at Adelaide Oval. One could not pick the winner with confidence.

North have to go to Glenelg, whose team kicked 15-6 today and yet were beaten by Norwood by 10 goals.

The Port and South game is the only one of next series which means nothing to the composition of the premiership ladder.

Games next Saturday in the sixteenth series will be: — West v. Norwood (Adelaide Oval), Torrens v. Sturt (Kensington Oval), Glenelg v. North (Glenelg Oval), Port v. South (Alberton Oval).

Attendances at today's games were: Adelaide Oval, 6,600; Thebarton Oval, 12,200; Prospect Oval, 7,200; Norwood Oval, 6,800. Total, 32,800.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

GOALKICKERS

	Today	Ttl.
McKenzie (N)	4	63
Rundle (G)	5	44
Read (St)	6	39
Garland (P)	2	28
Fitzgerald (S)	2	32
Walker (Nor)	5	31
Hall (P)	—	28
Head (T)	6	28
Pacch (S)	1	28

PREM. LIST

	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	%
Port	12	3	1436	971	21	59.6
West	11	4	1273	1159	22	52.3
Trens	8	7	1180	1154	16	50.5
Sturt	8	7	1166	1300	16	47.7
Norwd	7	8	1242	1184	11	51.1
North	7	8	1189	1196	11	50.5
South	4	11	952	1259	8	47.9
Glenelg	3	12	1114	1378	6	44.7

Redlegs took over in second half

By LEN SWAN

Norwood took over completely in the second half of their game against Glenelg and ran out easy winners by 63 points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Norwd	7-6	10-10	18-16	22-27	159
Glenelg	4-2	11-3	13-4	15-6	96

The first half was an interesting, even struggle, with Glenelg holding their own.

Norwood looked a well-balanced, reachy side, and they handled the greatly improved Bay team impressively.

Glenelg supporters — the few that were at Norwood Oval today — must have been pleased with their team's play up to half-time, for Glenelg looked a sound 18 as they played open, fast football to match the home side.

Couldn't compete

Glenelg's biggest handicap was their inability to compete with the many big Norwood men in the aerial duels.

The effort required for the smaller Bay players to get further into the air in order to be on equal terms eventually took its toll, and Glenelg faded out.

The Bay forward line, particularly in the first half, looked really impressive as Davies and Rundle combined to keep the Norwood defenders busy.

It was a fast game, full of interest and good football.

Bays first away

Both sides were unchanged and Marriott had choice of ends — he chose the southern goal which had the advantage of a slight breeze.

Glenelg were first away, through the strong efforts of Crabb and Bailey, but it was Norwood who posted the first score.

The first 15 minutes were even, open football, with the scores level twice.

Then Norwood, playing clever, fast football, made a break, and it looked as if they would sweep Glenelg aside.

Their high fliers played havoc with the Bay defence.

Vivian was a danger, too, as he scouted cleverly and snapped goals from acute angles. Walker and he both scored from what appeared impossible angles.

The second quarter was Glenelg's, as Alf Bailey nearly kicked his leg off sending the ball into the forward lines.

Davies was like a race-horse at half-forward, and Rundle did his part in front of goals.

By half-time Glenelg had crept up to within one point of the home team, and it looked to be anyone's game.

After half-time it was a different story. Norwood settled down, and, with calculated precision, forged ahead and left Glenelg without a chance of recovery.

The Glenelg defenders persisted in trying to mark with Marriott, Walker, and company, instead of concentrating on spoiling.

Kicked five goals

Marriott posted five goals in this term, and in addition missed two easy chances. He marked everything that came his way, and capped it with straight kicking.

The last quarter was a repetition of the third. Glenelg did not offer any serious challenge and Norwood just bombarded their goal.

Norwood lost Charnstrom (leg), and Glenelg Hall (thigh) in this term. They were replaced by Nelson and Potts.

For Norwood, Walker is mentioned first for his fine sustained effort. He kicked five goals, and marked everything that came his way.

Not always brilliant in his ground play, he certainly has a good pair of hands.

Marriott is rated high for his phenomenal third quarter. In this period he kicked five goals, and it could easily have been seven.

Wells played the half-forward flank position to perfection. He has pace and tenacity and never missed an opportunity to send the ball goalward.

Glenelg had none better than Alf Bailey. He never gives up and when Glenelg went into attack it was usually through his efforts.

Wickham did a grand job and deserves full marks for his game.

Rundle had more opportunities today and he took full advantage of his chances with clever position play and accurate kicking.

Scorers: Norwood.—Marriott 6-3, Vivian 5-6, Walker 5-3, Fosdike 2-5, Wells 2-4, Skinner, Young 1-1, Aish 0-2, rushed 0-2. Glenelg.—Rundle 5-2, Davies 3-0, Crabb 2-1, Wickham 1-1, Guy, Potter, Hall, Yeo 1-0, rushed 0-2.

Best players — Norwood: Walker, Marriott, Wells, Vivian, Edwards, Fosdike, Roberts. Glenelg: Alf Bailey, Wickham, Rundle, Leaby, Crabb, Davies, Guy.

NORTH JUST FAILED TO BEAT WEST ON SIREN

By VIC JOHNSON

In a desperate finish, North just failed to snatch the game against West out of the fire at Prospect Oval today.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	0-3	4-7	8-11	10-13	73
North	3-2	4-4	7-6	10-9	69

With a few minutes of play left, West appeared to have the game won, but North, swarming in, goalied, and then returned again.

They had the ball in the goalmouth when the siren signalled West winners by four points.

Players couldn't hear the siren and were still milling about seconds after it sounded.

North were unlucky, but no credit can be taken from West, who had one of their hardest games of the season.

I rank Lovegrove as best for West. He rarely made a mistake in the back pocket and gave a fine exhibition of defensive football.

Bishop turned in a grand game, and it is evident West have another fine rover.

A'Court was in fine form, possibly his best game this season in ruck.

Brown roved well and Williams, McGregor, and Eglinton all gave valuable aid.

McCann safe

McCann held centre half-back safely for North, McKay was his usual self in goal.

Vaughan won centre, and Fuller was safe and reliable at centre half-forward.

Bunton gave a good performance roving or placed, Tanner's rucking effort was solid, and Hewitt, on a wing, also was under notice.

Best Players—West: Lovegrove, Bishop, A'Court, Brown, Williams, McGregor, Eglinton. North: McCann, McKay, Vaughan, Fuller, Bunton, Tanner, Hewitt.

Scorers—West: McGregor 2-4, Brown 2-1, Bern Blattery 1-3, Costello 1-2, Phillips 1-1, Cannon 1-0, Paeshe 1-0, Williams 1-0, Kies 0-1, rushed 0-1. North: McKenzie 4-4, Bunton 4-1, Hill 0, Fuller 1-0, Gilbourne 0-2, Stringer 0-1, rushed 0-1.

STURT OPENED BRILLIANTLY AND KEPT GOING

By HUBERT BIGGS

Sturt won a vigorous clash against South at Adelaide Oval with 26 points to spare.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	5-3	7-11	12-12	14-15	99
South	1-0	4-3	8-4	11-7	73

But determined South made them fight every inch of the way.

Sturt owed their success chiefly to a sensational opening burst in which they raced on four goals in six minutes.

For the rest of the match, South fought back with vim and purpose. Although they could not head their rivals they challenged them strongly at times, particularly in the second and last quarters.

It was difficult to separate Sturt's three best players.

I would name Fitzgerald, Caust, and Harris as their match-winning trio, although most other members of the side also shaped well at times.

Fitzgerald's first quarter was brilliant. He was still more than useful afterwards, too, especially for his leadership.

Caust's eight goals stamped him as probably the best forward find for the season—he kicked six last Saturday without a miss.

I thought Harris was easily Sturt's outstanding defender.

Harbison once more showed promise at centre, and Hunter and Tester were often under notice.

Ray Linke gets my first vote in South. They would have been swamped but for his fine marking and elusive ground work at half-back.

Kimber, in the absence of South's star ruckman Allen, played in convincing style. His was a tremendous task, and it was perhaps his best effort for the season.

Read must be mentioned for his six goals in seven scoring shots. He didn't miss the big posts until the closing stages.

Richards was neat and effective at centre, and Polden (half-back), and Guy (half-forward) turned in valiant displays for the losers.

Best Players — Sturt: Fitzgerald, Caust, Harris, Harbison, Hunter, Green, Tester, Boland, South: Linke, Kimber, Read, Richards, Polden, D. Panizza, Guy, Fraser.

Scorers — Sturt: Caust 8-1, Fitzgerald 2-3, Kotaris 2-2, Harbison 1-1, Pech 1-1, Phillips 0-2, Shanks 0-1, Green 0-1, Goldfinch 0-1. South: Read 6-1, Haussen 2-1, Parham 1-1, Pavli 1-0, Zubrinich 1-0, Fraser 0-2, D. Panizza 0-1, Guy 0-1.

TORRENS' FORWARD PLAN WORKED, PORT'S FAILED

By RAY BARBER

Torrens had a forward zone that functioned, Port didn't, and therein lies the tale of Torrens' 39-point runaway win at Thebarton Oval.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	2-4	8-6	9-6	15-6	96
Port	2-1	3-2	6-7	8-9	57

Torrens kicked seven goals without a behind in the last half.

Except for an even first term—when Torrens led by three points—and a period in the third quarter, the winner was never in danger.

Torrens had position play in front of centre somewhat approaching that of last season when they went top.

Port, on the other hand, struggled for everything they got—except for that third-quarter purple patch.

Only Coldwell threatened consistent trouble among the Magpie forwards—and he left the ground with torn shoulder ligaments at three-quarter time.

Torrens made a point of attacking through the right flank where Bob Hank has lifted their play.

On the other side Torrens resting followers were able to have a rest in the real sense of the word.

Bob Hank, his brother, Bill, and Head shot holes in the Port defence.

Lindsay Head was the best of an even Torrens team. His six goals were the result of fine position play and accurate kicking. He was a constant danger to Port with his precision.

Clingly was the best defender, but he had plenty of good colleagues for support. He was a big barrier in more ways than one in the back pocket.

Bob Hank played in something like his old style whether at half-forward right, or centre, where he replaced Lynch in the third term. Roberts, as usual, was among his side's best with strong, rugged defence capped by long dropkicking.

Graham has made the Torrens half-back line more potent with his return to form. Coverlid was a conspicuous ruckman.

Roger Clift was easily Port's best with a fine pair of hands overhead and plenty of dashing clearances to put the ball into attack. If Port had had more of his calibre they would have been much nearer.

Coldwell looked the part at centre half-forward with strong overhead work and appreciation of the play-on game.

Williams was not so noticeable as in the past, but still serviceable many times.

Parham (back pocket) and Whelan (ruck and defence) were best of the others, who fell away in prominence.

Scorers—Torrens: Head 8-1, Oehme 4-1, Adams, W. Hank 2-0, Pratt 1-1, Coverlid 1-2, Bob Hank 0-1. Port: Garland 2-2, Dittmar 2-1, Hayes 1-1, Zucher, Williams, Motler 1-0, Stevens, Leaver, Whelan, Trowse 0-1, rushed 0-1.

Best Players—Torrens: Head, Clingly, Bob Hank, Roberts, Graham, Coverlid, Ashby, Port: Clift, Coldwell (torn injured), Williams, Whelan, Parham, J. Lake.