

STURT BEAT GLENELG IN TERRIFIC BATTLE

Final burst

By VIC JOHNSON

Fighting back grimly and aided by a determined defensive effort from Wally May, Sturt won a fiercely fought game against Glenelg at Kensington Oval by seven points.

It was a terrific struggle throughout. Although Sturt began with a fine first quarter burst, Glenelg came back strongly for the remaining three quarters.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	6—5	8—5	9—8	13—12	90
Glenelg	3—3	7—9	9—14	11—17	83

Glenelg held a 6-point lead with a few minutes of play left, but a final tigerish burst gave Sturt their winning margin.

There was no wind to affect play, but conditions were warm and unpleasant throughout.

No changes were made by either team, and Fitzgerald chose the northern goal for Sturt after he had won the toss. Umpire K. L. Aplin had charge.

Fitzgerald opened the scoring with a goal for Sturt after receiving from Pike. Glenelg answered with a point from Rundle.

It was evident it was going to be a hard tough game. Weight was freely used, and players went over like skittles.

Brilliant form

Sturt had easily the better of the argument in the first term. They won easily in the rucks and their rovers, Kotaris in particular, took full use of the looseness allowed them.

Fitzgerald was in brilliant form all over the ground and, making position splendidly, he gave his forwards many opportunities.

As yet Wilson had rarely been sighted for Glenelg, but he had a lot of sting taken out of him early in the game.

Few in the Bay side, with the exception of Alf Bailey at centre, were showing to advantage but Sturt had combined well to lead 20 points at quarter time.

In this term Sturt took 23 marks and Glenelg 17. Sturt were awarded eight frees and Glenelg nine.

Wilson enters

Wilson immediately put himself into the game on the resumption, and with Glenelg's ruck assuming more power, it became the Tigers' turn to call the tune.

They added 4 goals 6 behinds in this term to Sturt's 2 goals to decrease their deficit to two points at half-time.

Potter had been called into the ruck for Glenelg, and Hewett was at centre half-forward. This move and Hall's improvement were instrumental in Wilson's showing.

Actually the Bays reached the front with three parts of the quarter gone — a splendid recovery. But Sturt countered by throwing Rattigan in as a follower and he paved the way for a goal from Fitzgerald.

Alf Bailey had taken complete charge at centre, but despite his tireless efforts, Fitzgerald's goal gave Sturt their two-point lead at half-time.

Sturt took 14 marks in this term, Glenelg 21.

Sturt received seven frees and the Bays eight. Phillips went to centre for Sturt after half-time in an effort to curb Bailey, Beckman being at half-forward right.

His turns on the ball were very brief, but he still rendered fine service in defence.

It was all in during the rest of the game. Weight was thrown about recklessly, neither side showing any sign of turning it up, although the pace had slackened considerably.

Glenelg led six points at the last change, but inaccuracy let them down—only four goals from 13 scoring shots, while Sturt got two goals from five attempts.

Sturt took 16 marks and received seven frees. Glenelg got 13 marks and were awarded six frees.

Full of thrills

The last quarter had all the thrills necessary to satisfy anyone. Fitzgerald played a real leader's part, and May was an able lieutenant.

The captain, with two valuable goals, gave his team every chance, and May did his part trying to keep Glenelg out.

Kotaris had made the scores even with an easy snap, and Fitzgerald gave Sturt the lead. Then points from Wilson and Hewett, and a goal from Rundle, restored the lead to Glenelg—a point.

A decision against Crabb allowed Sturt to rush a point and even the scores.

Just when it seemed the game would end in a draw, Phillips broke away from into the attacking area, he centre, and kicking well saw Caust pick up and goal. That gave Sturt a six-point lead, and Fitzgerald added another point on the bell.

Good start by Port

By Kay Barber

Port, 1954 league football premiers, started this season well with a 24-point win over Torrens at Alberton oval today.

It was a successful opening day for the league season, with a total crowd aggregate of 31,000 and each match providing pace and thrills.

North and Sturt, who missed out for the final four last season, got handy win points against South and Glenelg respectively.

The Magpies have reason to be well pleased with themselves, for they were without Fos Williams (captain), Davey Boyd (vice-captain), Roger Clift, and Colin Parham.

All but Clift (suspension) are injured. Torrens, their opponent, suffered heavily.

Slaven was taken off with a probably fractured jaw and Morrell, their new 17-year-old ruckman, went off with an injured leg.

They were replaced by Adams and Phillips.

Then Bob Hank went down twice with a heavy knock on the left leg.

He limped to a forward pocket and Torrens played the last quarter with only 17 men.

Port had the edge all day and finally won by 24 points.

Chown gets five

Chown, Torrens' new goalsneak, got five goals—the highest of the match.

Full-forwards were in good touch today, for Lindner (North) got seven goals, Rundle (Glenelg) five, and Caust (Sturt) three.

Sturt, with three minutes to go, were trailing by six points, but got up in time to win by seven points.

North had the biggest win of the day—77 points.

Because of their big win North head the premiership table with 133 points for and 56 against, which gives them a percentage of 70.3.

Port are next with 56.1. West and Norwood still have to play at Adelaide Oval on Monday to complete the round.

0.2. Glenelg: Rundle 5.5, Wilson 1.2, Chisholm, Potter each 1.1, Crabb, Abley, Hall each 1.0, Hewett 0.4, Murphy 0.1, rushed 0.3.

REPLACEMENTS—R. Mabarrack, Sturt, leg injury, replaced by P. Tester in last term. J. Murphy, Glenelg, leg injury, replaced by A. Yeo in last term.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	Pts.	Prem.	F. A.	Pts.
North	1	—	133	56	2	70.3
Port	1	—	109	85	2	56.1
Sturt	1	—	90	83	2	52.0
Glenelg	—	1	83	90	—	47.9
Torrens	—	1	85	109	—	43.8
South	—	1	56	133	—	29.6

TOP GOALKICERS

Lindner (North)	7
Sheppard (North)	5
Rundle (Glenelg)	5
Chown (Torrens)	5
Fitzgerald (Sturt)	4
Bunton (North)	3
McKenzie (North)	3
Ballantyne (South)	3
Kotaris (Sturt)	3
Caust (Sturt)	3
Jaggard (Port)	3

ATTENDANCES

Alberton Oval	13,400
Kensington Oval	10,700
Prospect Oval	6,900

Total .. 31,000

ON MONDAY

West v. Norwood (Adelaide Oval).

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES

West v. Port (Adelaide Oval).

Torrens v. Norwood (Thebarton).

Sturt v. North (Unley).

Glenelg v. South (Glenelg).

In the last term Sturt took 13 marks and received five frees. Glenelg took 11 marks and received four frees.

For the match, Sturt took 66 marks and were awarded 27 frees. Glenelg took 62 marks and received the same number of frees as Sturt—27.

Captain's effort

I would name Fitzgerald as Sturt's best. His was a true captain's effort whether following or placed.

May gets my second vote for a tireless display, despite unfitness, from beginning to end.

Kotaris roved in fine style, and kicked three goals, while Harris, Hunter, and Rattigan also played their part in the victory.

Alf Bailey is my choice for Glenelg. He stood up to a severe buffeting at centre, and showed great dash throughout.

Wilson, after a quiet opening, played well as the game progressed. Hall and Potter followed well, and Edwards and Murphy were always under notice.

Best Players—Sturt: Fitzgerald, May, Harris, Kotaris, Rattigan, Hunter. Glenelg: Alf Bailey, Wilson, Hall, Potter, Edwards, Murphy (until injured). Scorers—Sturt, Fitzgerald 4.2, Kotaris, Caust, each 3.3, Pike 2.1, Robins 1.0, Sims 0.1, rushed

Our experts sum up..

NO QUARTER WAS GIVEN IN HARD FOUGHT MATCH



THE first match of the year against Glenelg was a close, hard-fought battle, with no quarter given or expected by either side.

The game seemed almost lost half-way through the last quarter, but a great rally put Sturt in front at the final bell.

However, the Bays should not be disappointed with their showing.

On paper the Glenelg rucks looked stronger than ours, but on the day we broke even with them.

Our three rovers were on top and gave us the edge around the packs, which made a lot of difference.

The rucks are still small, but can be bolstered. Rattigan, who was having an indifferent day at full back, was brought into the ruck, and the tall fellow's game improved out of sight.

I was more than pleased with the performances of our eight new players, and as the season progresses a lot will be seen and heard of them.

Many of last year's problems have been solved. All the players have developed plenty of determination and are trying from start to finish.

Our back lines, which were our big weakness last season, are functioning well. Watchman, the new addition to the half-back line, will be a stumbling block for teams this season.

The half-forward line still needs a little more height.

Glenelg should also be pleased with the showing of their new players.

RAY HUNT

FITZGERALD

won the game for Sturt with a dazzling display of forward work in the last quarter against Glenelg at Kensington Oval today.

The game throughout was at a fever-high pitch of excitement.

Fitzgerald won the game for Sturt and Don Harris at centre half-back stopped Glenelg from winning it.

Harris was practically unbeatable. He turned in a top-notch performance.

Sturt showed pace early and this earned them a good goal lead at the end of the first quarter, but soon afterwards the game developed into a hard slugging match.

Glenelg's centreline held away all day, but that was practically the only place they held.

Edwards, Alf Bailey, and Murphy, a first-year player, did well. They were a safe avenue.

Harris and Fitzgerald must be in Sturt's best and I would include Kotaris. He is heady and dangerous and succeeded in ripping holes in the Glenelg defence.

Wilson, the Victorian rover, played a steady game and he did not waste a kick, but he lacked dash and vigor.

The ruck battles were even, and I think Pat Hall did best in this department.

Honors were more even when Hall met May in a set position.

But all through a handy lead helped Sturt. Glenelg found it just too much to fight back, hit the front, and stay there.

It was a great game and a great victory.



GLENELG PLAYER R. BAILLIE (CENTRE OF PICTURE) rushes through a pack of Sturt players while teammate Stan Wickham (face hidden) successfully shepherds his opponents. Cottle (Sturt, left) tries to stop the rush by grabbing Baillie, and Sturt forward Caust dashes in to help. This was one of many incidents in the hard-fought game on Kensington Oval this afternoon.