

BAYS GIVE STURT A REAL FRIGHT

By VIC JOHNSON

Sturt hold off Bays to retain big league lead

Sturt retained their decisive lead in league premiership points when they held on to beat Glenelg by two points in the main league football game at Unley Oval today.

Glenelg, trailing 39 points at the last change, and with the last use of the wind, gave Sturt a terrible fright at Unley Oval today. The Bays went down fighting by two points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	6-2	10-4	14-10	15-10	100
Glenelg	1-1	6-7	8-7	14-14	98

As in their meeting in the opening match of the season, Sturt, league leaders, and Glenelg, fifth, provided a thriller today.

The first use of the wind had been of great value to Sturt. And, although knowing that Glenelg had it to come home with, few would have given them much chance at three-quarter time.

But Laffin rose to great heights—literally—in the last quarter, and kicked five goals to make it eight for the game without a miss. It was an excellent and almost a match-winning effort.

Even though Sturt had varying good leads from the start of play and always seemed to be going the better until the last term, the game never lacked interest.

The ruck battles between May and Fitzgerald for Sturt and Crabb and Laffin for Glenelg always had the crowd tingling with excitement.

Strong wind

Neither team made any alterations, and Sturt kicked towards the southern goal assisted by a strong wind, after Fitzgerald had won the toss. Umpire E. J. Cogdell was in charge.

Kotaras quickly scored the opening goal for Sturt, but Laffin began his grand effort by answering for Glenelg.

But that was Glenelg's only goal for the term. Sturt was continually in attack, and the Bay defenders had a desperate time. As yet neither ruck had been able to obtain the upper hand.

Most of Sturt's drives began from Harris at centre half-back. His checking and well directed kicks gave Sturt power.

Fitzgerald, Phillips, Goodchild, Pike, and Martin all added goals for Sturt in a welter of thrusts. The Bays answer was a point from Yeo to leave them trailing 31 points at quarter time.

Sturt took 10 marks and received eight frees; Glenelg 16 marks and six frees.

Slight gain

Glenelg gained only slightly with their use of the wind in the second term. They added five goals six behinds, but Sturt replied with four goals two behinds—a fine effort considering the wind.

Breaking away smartly and using handball effectively Sturt goaled through Goodchild, but Abley swiftly replied for Glenelg.

Then a curious incident occurred, and it went against Glenelg.

Rundle appeared to get his boot to the ball as it was going goalwards, but to the astonishment of the spectators only a point was allowed.

I feel certain the ball was not touched, and could not understand the ruling. Laffin added two more goals for Glenelg before Sturt found an answer through Freundt. And when Rundle and Crabb each goaled for Glenelg, their leeway was only 16 points.

But Fitzgerald, who turned on one of his best games today, tore through to give Sturt the handsome lead of 21 points at half-time.

Abley had given Harris a lot more opposition at centre half-forward in this term, and Wilson roved brilliantly for Glenelg.

Sturt: 20 marks, six frees. Glenelg: 15 marks, nine frees.

Sturt advanced further with the wind, adding four goals six behinds to Glenelg's two goals in the third term.

This was Caust's fine patch for Sturt. He got his only three goals for the game, Fitzgerald getting the other.

Wilson and Hall scored for the Tigers in a gruelling hard-hitting term.

Sims had been replaced by J. Tester in this term, and the ruck battles were a feature. Hard knocks were the order, and they were given and taken without query.

Sturt led 39 points at the last change. They had taken 15 marks and got four frees. Glenelg: 10 marks and seven frees.

They tore in

Laffin quickly got into his stride in the last term and quickly had two goals on the board, one off the ground.

Without an answer from Sturt, Laffin accepted Crabb's pass and again kicked truly. Sturt led by only 18 points.

When Yeo goaled for Glenelg, the side scented victory and tore in with a will.

May and Fitzgerald were doing everything in their power to stop them, and Fitzgerald landed a timely goal.

Down 14 points, Glenelg saw Laffin goal twice more, the last one being just before the siren.

Sturt took 14 marks and received eight frees, making it 59 marks and 26 frees for the game. Glenelg took 13 marks and received nine frees, making it 54 marks and 31 frees.

Fitzzy back

If he was ever out of form, Fitzgerald returned to it today with a vengeance. He gets my vote for Sturt. Not only did Fitzgerald kick four goals, but he was always doing something whenever he was.

He received his usual fine support from May, who never fails to give of his best.

Harris was again in fine form at centre half-back. Kotaras roved well, Rattigan and Mabarrack defended strongly, and Halbert was strong at centre.

Laffin storred

Laffin was undoubtedly Glenelg's best. He followed strongly, and his eight goals when resting were splendid accuracy.

Brian Wright played the centre half-back position well until replaced by Alan Wright.

Wilson, the best rover afield, Crobb, following, Alf Bailey, centre, Abley, centre half-forward, and R. Baillie also did well.

Best Players—Sturt: Fitzgerald, May, Harris, Kotaras, Rattigan, Halbert, Mabarrack, Glenelg: Laffin, B. Wright, Wilson, R. Baillie, Crabb, Alf Bailey, Abley.

Replacements—Sturt: Fitzgerald 4.0, Caust 3.3, Goodchild 2.1, Pike 2.0, Kotaras 1.2, Martin 1.2, Phillips 1.1, Freundt 1.0, Sims 0.1. Glenelg: Laffin 8.0, Yeo 1.3, Wilson 1.3, Rundle 1.3, Abley 1.1, Crabb 1.1, Hall 1.0, Leahy 0.2, Edwards 0.1.

Replacements—T. Sims (Sturt), stomach upset, replaced by J. Tester in third quarter. J. Green (Sturt), blistered heel, replaced by F. Tester in last quarter. B. Wright (Glenelg), ankle injury, replaced by A. Wright in last quarter.

TODAY'S FOOTBALL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
STURT	6-2	10-4	14-10	15-10	100
GLENELG	1-1	6-7	8-7	14-14	98

Best players.—STURT: Fitzgerald, May, Harris, Kotaras, Rattigan, Mabarrack, Beckman. GLENELG: Laffin, B. Wright, Wilson, Crabb, A. Bailey, R. Baillie, Abley.

GOALKEEPERS — STURT: Fitzgerald (4), Caust (3), Goodchild, Pike (each 2), Kotaras, Phillips, Martin, Freundt. GLENELG: Laffin (8), Yeo, Abley, Rundle, Wilson, Crabb, Hall.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
NORWOOD	6-1	11-4	14-11	17-15	117
WEST	2-2	4-4	6-5	9-10	64

Best players.—NORWOOD: Roberts, Nicholls, Koerner, Fosdike, Vivian, Williams, Dickson. WEST: Thomas, Slattery, A'Court, Lovegrove, Williams.

Goalkeepers.—NORWOOD: Vivian (5), Nash, Dickson (each 3), Fosdike, Young (each 2), Walker, Skinner. WEST: Slattery, A'Court, Richardson (each 2), Costello, Brown, Cannon.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
SOUTH	1-2	5-10	7-13	10-19	79
NORTH	3-6	4-8	7-12	7-19	61

H: Hewitt, Haussen, Best players.—SOUTH: Richards, Linke, Poulden, Parham, Ballantyne. NORTH: Hewitt, Griffin, Tanner, Westley, McKay, Bunton, Way.

Goalkeepers.—SOUTH: Judd (3), Richards (2), Haussen, Ballantyne, Greer, Souter, Zubrinich. NORTH: Griffin, Bunton (each 2), Fuller, R. Carroll, Tanner.

South got a start at last by soundly defeating North at Adelaide Oval.

Norwood had no trouble in defeating West in a one-sided game at Kensington Oval.

Sturt led by 39 points at three-quarter time, but Glenelg's determination, backed by a strong breeze, brought them to within two points with the last kick of the day.

Laffin kicks 8

Laffin, Glenelg ruckman, kicked eight goals without a point, "resting" at full forward.

Vic Johnson, who covered the game for The Sunday Mail, says Sturt's first use of the breeze won them the game.

Fitzgerald proved his lapse of form was only very temporary by kicking four goals and taking several sensational marks to be Sturt's best man.

Glenelg had nearly 15 minutes to get the three goals needed to hit the front, but once again the rocklike Sturt defence saved them.

Thrills came often.

Stars collide

In the first quarter Alf Bailey, Glenelg centreman, and Tony Goodchild, Sturt centre half-forward, met in a heavy head-on collision which had them in the trainers' hands for several minutes.

In the last quarter Glenelg centre half-back Brian Wright had to leave the field with a recurrence of an ankle injury which kept him out for a month recently. He was Glenelg's best man until he went off.

South's defence was back to last year's excellent form when they beat North by 18 points.

Des Panizza, their best follower, was taken to Royal Adelaide Hospital for two stitches in the head after he received a knock in the second quarter.

Vivian, Norwood rover, kicked five goals in their good win against West.

On Monday the big game of the series will be the holiday attraction at Adelaide Oval.

Port, last season's premiers, will play Torrens, who finished third.



STURT GOALSNEAK Paul Caust led out well to take this pass from a rover in today's game-of-the-day at Unley Oval. Too late to spoil him is Glenelg defender Brian Potter. Caust kicked three goals.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.	%
Sturt	7	1	-	714	574	14	55.4
Nrwd.	5	2	1	692	560	11	55.2
Trns.	4	2	1	608	497	9	55.0
Port	4	3	-	656	515	8	56.0
Glnlg.	4	4	-	643	679	8	48.6
West	3	5	-	644	779	6	45.2
North	2	6	-	615	671	4	47.8
South	1	7	-	513	810	2	38.7

TOP GOALKICKERS

	Today	Total
Caust (Sturt)	3	29
Chown (Torrens)	-	25
Rundle (Glenelg)	1	25
Lindner (North)	-	22
Nash (Norwood)	3	20
Fitzgerald (Sturt)	4	20
Pyatt (Torrens)	-	16
Wright (West)	-	15
Bunton (North)	2	15

LEAGUE ATTENDANCES

Adelaide Oval	8,100
Unley Oval	14,500
Kensington Oval	9,500
Total	32,100

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES

MONDAY
Port v. Torrens (Adelaide).
SATURDAY
Norwood v. Torrens (Norwood)
South v. Glenelg (Adelaide).
Port v. West (Alberton).
North v. Sturt (Prospect).