

# WEST IN 3-EDGED FIGHT FOR LEADERSHIP

By RAY BARBER

West's five-point win over Port today has given a triple edge to the fight for the 1958 league football premiership.

It was Port's second successive loss. They went down to North last week.

Not since 1952, when they lost six games for the season, have Port lost two matches straight.

The leading four are North, West, Port, and Norwood.

It is Port's lowest position on the premiership table since mid-June, 1955.

Gil Langley, who covered the match of the day at Richmond, said West's accurate kicking, small men, and stamina in the last term earned them their five-point win.

## See-sawing

It was a game that always had the scores within touch.

The lead changed several times and scores were level three times.

The margins quarter by quarter, were eight points in Port's favor, seven (West), and two (Port).

There was another thriller at Kensington, where Torrens got home by six points with a goal in the last minute of play.

Coleman had kicked a point to make the scores equal shortly before.

Hanrahan, switched to centre half-forward in a winning move by Torrens, swung out of a pack and kicked the goal that mattered most.

Vic Johnson, who saw the game, says Norwood looked a winner in the third term with Sawley (centre) and Kneebone (centre half-forward) providing power football.

Torrens, Johnson says, took a chance on playing Lindsay Head who was doubtful until a trial this morning.

Although Head was obviously hampered by his leg injury he was still among Torrens' best.

## First win

Another winning switch by Torrens was Cunningham from half-forward to strengthen tiring rucks.

Sturt saved their first win for the season for their home ground — against Glenelg.

They went away in the last term to increase a five-point lead at three-quarter time to a 12-point win.

Sam Gallagher, who was at Unley Oval, says Halbert, with another brilliant game at centre, and the rovers, Hocking and Heath, took Sturt away towards the end.

The Sturt rovers were their weak link in previous matches.

In a disappointing game at Adelaide Oval North won by 23 points after South had led to half-time.

North had a shocking day at goalgetting, getting only eight goals from 25 scoring shots.

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South led 4-5 to 2-10 to half-time but North gradually got on top from there.

North increased pressure when their rucks got on top and they finished with a lot more good players than did South.

Peter Sheppard, North rover, with four goals today took second place to Rex Johns (30-7).

Sheppard has kicked 26-16 and Lindsay Head 26-13.

Attendances totalled 41,500 in a day of ideal conditions. Best crowd was 15,500 at Richmond.

Sturt's 13-9 was the highest score of the day with South's 6-6 the low-

## TODAY'S DETAILS AT A GLANCE

### GROUNDS: Fast

(At Richmond Oval)

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	2-1	8-2	11-4	13-8	86
Port	3-3	6-7	10-12	11-15	81

**BEST PLAYERS.—WEST:** Eglinton, G. Williams, Wright, Johnson, Fraser, Roach, Hewitt. **PORT:** Obst, Key, Abley, Zucker, Hannaford, Motley, F. Williams.

**SCORERS.—WEST:** Wright (3.1), Kerley (3.0), Johnson (3.0), G. Williams (2.0), Costello (1.2), Richardson (1.2), McGregor (0.1), rushed (0.1). **PORT:** Zucker (4.0), Boyd (2.1), Marrett (2.1), Jaggard (1.4), Obst (1.1), Whelan (1.0), Hannaford (0.4), F. Williams (0.2), Thomas (0.2).

**REPLACEMENTS.—WEST:** Bray (injured thigh), replaced by Perry in third quarter. **PORT:** Nil.

(At Kensington Oval)

Torrens	3-2	4-2	8-5	11-10	76
Norwood	0-3	4-5	9-8	10-10	70

**BEST PLAYERS.—TORRENS:** Hanrahan, Russell, Ashby, Morrell, B. Jarman, Cunningham, Head. **NORWOOD:** Sawley, Kneebone, Vivian, Aish, Butler, Bunton, Minervini.

**SCORERS.—TORRENS:** Hanrahan (2.3), Taylor (2.1), Head (2.0), Morrell (2.0), Searle (1.1), T. Jarman (1.0), Philmore (1.0), Coleman (0.3), rushed (0.2). **NORWOOD:** Vivian (3.2), Davis (2.2), Kneebone (2.1), Bunton (1.2), Sawley (1.0), Nicholls (1.0), Liebelt (0.1), Wedding (0.1), rushed (0.1).

**REPLACEMENTS.—NORWOOD:** Miller (infected throat), replaced by Salotti at three-quarter time. **TORRENS:** Nil.

(At Unley Oval)

Sturt	5-3	6-6	10-7	13-9	87
Glenelg	3-4	7-7	9-8	11-9	75

**BEST PLAYERS.—STURT:** Halbert, Hocking, Shanks, Marshall, Little, Hunter, Sawley. **GLENELG:** Fraser, Hawker, Davies, May, Edwards, Baillie Linke.

**SCORERS.—STURT:** C. Thompson (4.3), Olds (2.2), Shanks (2.0), Hocking (1.2), Sawley (1.1), Heath (1.1), Blows (1.0), Halbert (1.0). **GLENELG:** Fraser (4.2), Rocher (3.0), Leahy (1.2), Abley (1.1), Peek (1.0), Davies (1.0), Marshall (0.1), rushed (0.3).

**REPLACEMENTS.—STURT:** Freundt (ankle), replaced by V. Little at half-time. Blows (ankle), replaced by Shapter, third quarter. **GLENELG:** Abley (knee), replaced by Butler at half-time. Slattery (thigh), replaced by Howard, second quarter.

**REPORTS.—**May (Glenelg) reported by field umpire B. May for allegedly kicking an opponent during third quarter.

(At Adelaide Oval)

North	1-4	2-10	5-11	8-17	65
South	1-3	4-5	6-5	6-6	42

**BEST PLAYERS.—NORTH:** Rogerson, Sheppard, McCann, Lindner, Yates, Westley. **SOUTH:** Polden, Blum, Kitchen, Richards, Guy, Christie.

**SCORERS.—NORTH:** Sheppard (4.4), Lynch (2.0), Potts (1.2), Carter (1.0), Lindner (0.4), Trenorden (0.2), Barbary (0.1), Bubner (0.1), Koerner (0.1), Tanner (0.1), rushed (0.1). **SOUTH:** Richards (3.2), Yates (1.0), D. Parham (1.0), G. Parker (1.0), Speed (0.2), Christie (0.1), rushed (0.1).

**REPLACEMENTS.—SOUTH:** Yates (twisted knee), replaced by Harris; Lapins (injured nose), by Papalia, both in last quarter.

### LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP

	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst.	Pts.	%
North	9	1	—	966	712	18	57.57
West	8	2	—	966	795	16	54.85
Port	7	3	—	939	665	14	58.54
Norwood	4	5	1	783	874	9	47.25
Torrens	4	5	1	748	861	9	46.49
Glenelg	3	7	—	844	888	6	48.73
South	2	7	1	648	858	5	43.03
Sturt	1	8	1	768	1009	3	43.22

### LEADING GOALKICKERS

	Today	Matches	Total
Johns (Port)	4	6	26.7
Sheppard (North)	4	9	26.16
Head (Torrens)	2	10	26.13
Wright (West)	3	10	25.18
Rocher (Glenelg)	3	9	24.8

### ATTENDANCES

Richmond	15,500
Kensington	11,000
Adelaide	8,500
Unley	6,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,500</b>

# Sturt strong in first 1958 win

By SAM GALLAGHER

Starting with great dash and recovering from a second-quarter slump, Sturt finished full of running to score their first win for the season in a vigorous game against Glenelg at Unley.

The Double-Blues won by 12 points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	5-3	6-6	10-7	13-9	97
Glenelg	3-4	7-7	9-8	13-9	87

The spirited roving and forward play of Hocking, Olds, and Heath cut holes in Glenelg's defence as Sturt began with aggressive football.

C. Thompson, who played all day at full forward, threatened to put the issue beyond doubt at once.

## Grand display

He took two good marks, one of them almost a one-hander, and it looked as though Hawker, conceding a good eight inches in height, had no hope of holding him.

However, after this early superiority, Thompson, although he finished with four goals, was checked by a grand defensive game from Hawker.

Meanwhile, Sturt had plenty of other shots to fire. Only across centre were the Bays in the picture at this stage, with Edwards a clear winner but the others barely breaking even.

Sturt, through Marshall's menacing strength and Blows' more subtle methods, had control in ruck.

Ian May, named in Glenelg's first ruck, was finding his land legs in a back pocket following a hectic dash from the airport.

He soon emerged as the player we have come to

look for. His clashes with Marshall would not have been out of place at the stadium.

An improved showing in ruck, Fraser's dashing roving, and a slight improvement at half-forward, say Glenelg hit the front in the second quarter.

Sturt's roving power, with the exception of Hocking, had fallen away somewhat and although Halbert and Shanks across centre provided plenty of chances, the Glenelg defence had tightened after an untidy start.

From half-time onward Rattigan was in ruck for Sturt, M. Little taking centre half-back. V. Little, placed in defence, had replaced Freundt.

Sturt had to reorganise further when Blows retired in the third term. He was replaced in ruck by R. Thompson, Tester going to half-back, and Shapter, the reserve, to half-forward.

Glenelg were in similar trouble. Howard had replaced Slattery on a wing in the second quarter, and Davies switched to ruck before half-time, stayed there when Abley retired at the long interval. Butler took over at centre.

Twice in the third quarter, Glenelg led by 13 points, but Sturt came with

a rush late in the term. Halbert and Hocking doing most of the damage, to lead by five points at three-quarter time.

Sturt attacked for about 10 minutes after the last quarter started, but their failure to score looked ominous.

As so often happens, a solitary Bay attack produced a goal from Davies. Glenelg led by a point.

But the Bays could not go on from there. With Halbert in commanding form at centre, Sturt's rovers again took control and the Double-Blues ran out convincing if not comfortable winners.

Halbert was the best player on the ground. He shaded Davies in the first half, and in the second was unbeatable, repeatedly sending Sturt back into attack.

Hocking was the one Sturt rover to maintain his game throughout. He was equally effective whether on the ball or placed at half-forward.

Shanks had one dull period when Howard first came on, but he recovered to be a consistent avenue of attack for Sturt.

## His strength

Marshall's bone-crushing strength was a valuable Sturt asset, while Little, Hunter, and Sawley also stood out in an even team performance.

Fraser, Glenelg's only consistent source of attack, was their best player. More effective than usual, he even had the temerity to challenge the formidable Marshall in a tense last quarter.

Hawker's full back game on Thompson was a beauty. When in front he marked strongly, and spoiled most effectively from behind. His determination was an example.

May took all that was coming and more without flinching or calling for help. He provided the power in a ruck that was beaten on the day.

Davies was always useful without reaching the heights, while Edwards, Baillie, and Linke were also prominent.

Umpire May's strange reluctance to give a holding-the-ball decision in the first half would have been more acceptable if it had been consistent to the end.

## Bay ruckman reported

Glenelg ruckman Ian May was reported by central umpire B. May for allegedly kicking an opponent in the Sturt-Glenelg game today.



Glenelg ruckman Ian May kept club officials on tenderhooks at Unley Oval today. May had been in Melbourne on holidays and his plane to Adelaide was delayed by fog.

May arrived at West Beach airport with only 25 minutes to get to Unley Oval. He got there with only minutes to change.

May had a torrid afternoon, was one of the Bay's best players—and was reported for allegedly kicking an opponent.

JOHN Abley, Port goalkeeper, and Neil Kerley, West full forward, turned on a relentless duel at Richmond Oval today.

Abley's unceasing watch on Kerley restricted the West man to three goals. He did not kick a point. His previous two games brought six and seven goals.

The heavy clashes

between the two — with weight freely used — had the crowd yelling.

Kerley is almost certain to play full forward for SA in the carnival to begin in Melbourne on Wednesday.

TWO of Sturt's goals at Unley were in the lucky class. Blows in the first quarter and Heath in the second each failed to make the distance, only to see the ball break past a Bay defender and bounce through for a goal.

RAY Richards, of South, was using punts in front of goal in the first quarter.

But he looked really good only when he started to drop kick—he got two nice goals that way in the second quarter.