

Percentage may finally decide position FINAL-FOUR RANKING IS STILL IN DOUBT

By RAY BARBER

Fourth place for the league football major round is still wide open following today's dramatic turn of events.

It's Torrens, Norwood, or South to play Port in the first semi-final on September 6.

Next Saturday's last series of the minor round will say which one.

The three teams battling for fourth place are all on 13 points, with only .97 separating them.

With 15 premierships points earning fourth place it will probably create a record for such a low return over the 18 minor-round games.

Tough job

It's going to be a tough job for one of these three teams to take the coveted fourth place.

It could well be that percentage will finally determine that ranking—and the honor of playing in the first semi-final.

Torrens met Sturt at Unley, Norwood play Glenelg at Glenelg, and South go to Alberton.

If form over recent seasons is any guide, Torrens cannot be counted as a hot favorite against Sturt as the Double-Blues have had their measure consistently.

On Glenelg's form in holding West (second) for three quarters today, they will be no pushover, even conceding Norwood's mighty performance in downing top team North.

Port's return to something like their devastating form of the past five seasons—now they have star goalgetter Rex Johns back—suggests South have the hardest job of the three teams seeking major-round participation.

Anyone's guess

Form has been so hard to follow that it is still

anyone's guess on the outcome of the last series.

Result will finally come after a record season of complexity.

Norwood take pride of place in performance of the latest series. The Red-legs gave North a 38-point start at half-time and conceded a 29-point margin at three-quarter time.

These figures represent a record win over the 17 series so far this season.

Sam Gallagher, who covered the game at Norwood, says half-time switches which placed Sawley to centre half-forward, Kneebone to full forward, Eric Butler to centre, and a changeover of centre wings, set Norwood on the right track.

Their big followers—Wedding and Nicholls—took over from half-time and the half-forward line—Young, Sawley, and Miller—played a winning last quarter.

Norwood's high-powered run home brought 8-3 to five points in the last quarter.

Rugged

South, says Vic Johnson, deserved their win over Torrens through sticking to a task which became more rugged as the game progressed.

Ten minutes to go, South led by four points. Then in the final stages they went away to get a meritorious margin of 29 points.

South's 'boom'

South's winning centre-line, with Jones and Kitchen brilliant, had most to do with their latest success.

South, occupying either seventh or bottom position in postwar football, will have the majority of football fans hoping they will finish in fourth position.

At Alberton, Port had the season's record win against a Sturt who were hopelessly outclassed.

Magpie supporters went home almost delirious with joy because of one major factor—the State's best goalkicker, Rex Johns, came back to the side following a cartilage operation which had him idle for 10 matches.

Held on

He kicked 11-5 of Port's 24-28 to emphasise how much he means to Port's bid to take off a record five premierships.

At Richmond Oval, it took West three quarters to shake off the fighting Tigers.

Gil Langley, who covered the game, says West ran riot in the last term when they kicked 6-8 to Glenelg's 2-1 after leading by only two points at three-quarter time.

West's mosquito fleet, says Langley, wrested control in this period.

Vic Johnson selects . . .

In the final series of league games next Saturday, with fourth place still in doubt, Glenelg meet Norwood at Glenelg, North play West at Prospect, Sturt are at home to Torrens at Unley, and Port meet South at Alberton.

I am choosing Norwood, West, Torrens, and Port as my likely winners.

SECONDS TO PLAY FIRST

MELBOURNE, Sat.: The Victorian Football League decided last night that Seconds games will provide the curtainraisers to league matches next season.

TODAY'S DETAILS AT A GLANCE

GROUND: FAST

At Adelaide Oval

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
South	2-4	6-5	11-7	16-12	108
Torrens	1-2	4-2	8-4	12-7	79

BEST PLAYERS — SOUTH: Jones, Lapins, Kitchen, Christie, Judd, Mortimer, Reimann. **TORRENS:** Morrell, Graham, Coleman, Head, Lucas, Roberts, Russell.

SCORERS — SOUTH: Judd (5.2), Christie (3.1), Guy (2.0), Parham (1.2), Fulwood (1.1), Kitchen, Blum, Baraglia, Browne (1.0), Richards (0.5), rushed (0.1). **TORRENS:** Head (4.1), Teasdale, Edwards (2.2), Taylor, Searle, Russell, Slaven (1.0), rushed (0.2).

REPLACEMENTS — SOUTH: Kimber (leg injury) replaced by Fitzgerald in third term, Jones (ankle injury) by Atkins in last term.

At Norwood Oval

Norwood	1-6	1-9	5-17	13-20	98
North	4-6	7-11	10-16	10-21	81

BEST PLAYERS — NORWOOD: Sawley, Bunton, Young, Nicholls, Butler, Miller, Liebelt, Wedding. **NORTH:** Gilbourne, Hewett, Rogerson, Carter, Barbary, Yates, Koerner.

SCORERS — NORWOOD: Sawley (3.4), Dickson, Bunton, Miller (2.2), Kneebone (1.4), Young (1.1), Moody, Vivian (1.0), Swanbury (0.2), Salo, Butler, Wedding (0.1). **NORTH:** Lynch (2.4), Barbary, Whitford (2.3), Bubner (2.1), Lindner (1.2), Yates (1.0), Trenorden (0.4), Taaner (0.3), Carter (0.1).

REPLACEMENTS — NORWOOD: Moody (back injury) replaced by Vivian; Butler (cramp) by G. Nicol, both last quarter. **NORTH:** Stringer (torn shoulder ligaments) replaced by Brown at half-time, Hewett (pulled thigh muscle) by Taylor last quarter.

At Alberton Oval

Port	7-8	12-12	19-22	24-28	172
Sturt	0-1	2-2	4-2	5-6	36

BEST PLAYERS — PORT: Johns, Boyd, F. Williams, Gill, T. Williams, Thompson, Whelan. **STURT:** Halbert, Shanks, M. Little, Harris, Hunter, Rattigan, Goodchild.

SCORERS — PORT: Johns (11.5), Fos Williams (4.4), T. Williams (3.2), Obst (2.2), Boyd (1.5), Gill, Whelan (1.2), Hannaford (1.0), Marrett (0.2), Thompson, Garland (0.1), rushed (0.2). **STURT:** Olds, Shanks, Thompson (1.1), Freundt, Shapter (1.0), Marshall, Hocking (0.1).

REPLACEMENTS — STURT: M. Little (bruised hip) replaced by V. Little, D. Blows (pulled muscle) by King. Both at three-quarter time. **PORT:** Nil.

At Richmond Oval

West	6-2	7-5	11-12	17-20	122
Glenelg	5-1	8-4	12-4	14-5	89

BEST PLAYERS — WEST: McGregor, Eustice, Wright, Tregenza, Kerley, Richardson, Wundke. **GLENELG:** Hewett, Richens, Fraser, Cartwright, Flew, Linke, Rocher.

SCORERS — WEST: Kerley (5.3), McGregor (4.2), Wright (2.5), Wundke (2.3), Fraser (1.2), Brown (1.1), Johnson, Williams (1.0), Costello, Roach, Eglinton, Richardson (0.1). **GLENELG:** Flew (4.2), Fraser (3.0), Hewett, Richens (2.0), Davies, Cutten, Rocher (1.0), Milbank (0.2), Kupsch (0.1).

REPLACEMENTS — GLENELG: Davies (knee injury), replaced by Kupsch in third quarter. **WEST:** Nil.

PREMIERSHIP

	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst.	Pts.	%
North	15	2	—	1635	1147	30	58.77
West	14	3	—	1689	1303	28	56.45
Port	12	5	—	1640	1130	24	59.21
Torrens	6	10	1	1288	1485	13	46.45
Norw'd	6	10	1	1258	1505	13	45.53
South	6	10	1	1182	1417	13	45.48
Glenelg	5	12	—	1303	1531	10	45.98
Sturt	2	14	1	1264	1741	5	42.06

LEADING GOALKICKERS

	Today	Games	Total
Wright (West)	2.5	17	44.1
Johns (Port)	11.5	7	41.12
Rocher (Glenelg)	1.0	16	37.12
Head (Torrens)	4.1	15	36.22
Kerley (West)	5.3	16	35.25
Judd (South)	5.2	16	33.32
Fraser (Glenelg)	3.0	16	31.26
Williams, F. (Port)	4.4	14	30.45
Taylor (Torrens)	1.0	16	30.24

ATTENDANCES

Adelaide	11,000
Norwood	10,000
Alberton	8,000
Richmond	5,000
Total	34,000

SIAB KICKS

Fos Williams celebrated his 200th game with a brilliant performance against Sturt today.

He had four goals to his credit and some alert moving about and through the crushes that really baffled the opposition.

And Fos was still going great guns in the last quarter.

BEFORE the game at Richmond Oval, West coach Jack Oatey reminded his side of the drubbing Glenelg gave them early in the season.

After being given many frights, West were able to avenge the defeat and make sure of playing in the second semi-final against North on September 13 at Adelaide Oval.

WEST SAVED BY LATE REVIVAL

By GIL LANGLEY

A West revival in the last quarter ended Glenelg's persistent fight in a fine game at Richmond Oval today.

The Red and Blacks ran riot in the last term.

West held the edge in the general ruck work, but it was only towards the end of the game that their little men were able to take the initiative.

Glenelg owed their competent first three quarters by the performances of Richens and Fraser, who capitalised on their pace.

This placed the Tigers well in the running, and it was only in the final stages when they tired that West got on top.

West wingmen called the tune, but this was counter-balanced by Glenelg who, through Davies — and later Hewett — controlled centre for most of the day.

West were not allowed to settle into their usual play-on game, and made things difficult for themselves by falling into the bad habit of too much handball.

Both sides had a lot of trouble coping with the strong breeze, and seemed to play better football when kicking against it.

An early feature was the outstanding opening, when the forward work was so productive that 11-3 came

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	6-2	7-5	11-12	17-20	122
Glenelg	5-1	8-4	12-4	14-5	89

in the first quarter — West 6-2, Glenelg 5-1.

West, showing fine system and keeping the ball low, made scoring look easy.

Hewett, at half-forward, was a strongpoint in their forward movement.

West held a lead of only seven points at the first change — a tribute to Glenelg's game.

Close work

Glenelg soon levelled the scores in the second term with fast, open play, but then they fell into the mistakes West made in the first quarter by attacking through the wrong flank.

Play at this stage was all at close quarters with neither side gaining a clear advantage.

Glenelg held a well earned lead of five points at the long interval.

Racing away in the third quarter West went to a lead of 15 points, but Glenelg, still full of fight, kept in touch.

Four goals without a miss against the breeze to West's 4-7 to maintain close scores.

Beginning the last term with a lead of only two points, West looked like being in trouble as Glenelg had last use of the wind.

But with fine system and winning nearly everywhere, they kicked 4-3 while holding Glenelg scoreless.

Then Glenelg came back with two goals to be still in it, but West over the last 10 minutes went right away from them with speed and purpose. They won by 33 points.

Umpire Smith's exhibition was very inconsistent. I am sure that most of the crowd went away feeling that it was a very indifferent performance.

Was brilliant

McGregor's brilliant ruckwork and four goals to go with it made him West's best player.

Eustice for strong, fast, heady football at centre wing came next.

For Glenelg Hewett, whether half-forward left or centre, controlled his position.

Richens, with a fearless roving display gained second vote.

NORWOOD back pocket player Jim Liebelt, chasing Lindner's kick through the goal in the first quarter, might have got a touch before the ball crossed the line, but his acting was certainly not very convincing.

The goal umpire, if he had been in doubt, was not persuaded by the tentative hand raised by the Norwood defender.

GLENELG captain-coach Neil Davies had to be assisted on to the ground to address his team at three-quarter time at Richmond Oval.

He went down with a bad knee injury half-way through the third term.

Trying to play on he could not make it—and was carried off by trainers.

A HEWITT (or a Hewett) began the game as vice-captain of his side in the match at Richmond Oval.

Max Hewitt is West vice-captain, and Don Hewett is Glenelg vice-captain.

Hewett became Glenelg acting captain when Davies left the field in the third quarter.