

1959

GLENELG SNATCH LAST-MINUTE VICTORY

Seemingly beaten, with just two minutes to play, Glenelg staged a remarkable fightback to snatch victory from Sturt by one point in the 1959 first semi final, thanks to the great play of full forward Fred Pemberton.

Throughout the game, Sturt were better served in ruck through Clayton "Candles" Thompson who was in top form and around the packs where young recruit Roger Rigney was the best rover afield. At centre half forward Len Fitzgerald was also in brilliant touch.

Sturt goaled first through Clayton Thompson after good passes from John Halbert and Len Fitzgerald. Another goal came quickly from Tony Goodchild but then the Glenelg defence led by Haydn Linke, Kevin Abley and Ian Stock tightened up their game, as half forward Brian Hill kicked the Tigers first goal. Across centre, John Halbert was in control at the pivot for the Blues, but Tigers wingman Graham Fraser was winning his wing.

After leading by 11 points at quarter time, Sturt quickly moved to a 3 goal lead. Don Douglas then kicked truly for Sturt, but Fred Pemberton replied for the Bays. Just before half time, Sturt were 25 points ahead thanks to a brilliant goal from Roger Rigney. But then Glenelg rallied with a brilliant 4 goal burst from Acting Captain Don Hewett (deputising for injured coach Neil Davies) — 2 goals and rover Colin Richens — 2 goals, to level the scores at half time.

Tony Clarkson and Roger Rigney both scored early goals in the third term to give Sturt the lead as Glenelg's defence was under continual pressure. However the Tigers held firm due to the strong play of Stock, Kevin Abley and Haydn Linke. Two late goals in the third term to Glenelg's centre half forward Brian Hill left the Bays just 5 points in arrears at the final change.

Early in the final term play see-sawed as Sturt's Len Fitzgerald goaled and Colin Richens replied for the Bays. But Sturt gradually pulled away to an 11 point lead, 5 minutes from time, thanks to goals from Bruce Jarrett and Roger Rigney.

The ball was rarely out of Sturt's forward zone, but Glenelg's defence was fanatical and prevented any further Sturt scores. With time running out, it was Sturt's Glyn Williams, John Halbert, Roger Rigney, "Candles" Thompson or Trevor King who continually kicked the ball back into attack.

The break came when Glenelg moved the ball along one wing and this play saw Fred Pemberton snatch a spectacular diving mark. The Glenelg full forward kicked truly to narrow the Blues lead to 5 points, with 2½ minutes remaining.

Rover Colin Rickens took the ball away from the centre bounce and kicked it over the half forward line. Then Fred Pemberton crashed through a wall of players to mark brilliantly. From 35 metres out, he kicked the winning goal to give Glenelg a one-point victory. The ex-St. Kilda player, now 36 years of age, had won the match for Glenelg with his third goal of the match.

Adelaide Oval

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| Glenelg..... | 3.3 | 9.7 | 12.13 | 15.17 | 107 |
| Sturt..... | 4.8 | 8.13 | 12.18 | 14.22 | 106 |

BEST — Glenelg: Stock, Hill, Abley, Fraser, Branson, Richens. **Sturt:** Rigney, Fitzgerald, Thompson, Halbert, Williams, Rattigan, King.

SCORERS — Glenelg: Hill 4.2, Pemberton 3.4, Richens 3.3, Hewett 2.1, Cutten 1.2, Webber 1.1, Leahy 1.0, Fraser 0.2, Howard 0.1, Herron 0.1. **Sturt:** Fitzgerald 3.2, Rigney 2.3, Douglas 2.2, Goodchild 2.1, Smith 2.1, Clarkson 1.3, Jarrett 1.2, Thompson 1.1, Williams 0.4, Rattigan 0.1, rushed 0.2.

REPLACEMENTS — Glenelg: Robinson (facial injury) replaced by Chisholm in the third term. **Sturt:** Dunn (ankle injury) replaced by Jarrett before commencement of play.

UMPIRE — J. L. Sweeney.

ATTENDANCE — 29,899