

WEST'S VICTORY WAS HIGHLIGHT

By SAM GALLAGHER



West Adelaide's comfortable win over night competition premiers Port was the highlight of today's opening to the 1961 league football season in near-perfect conditions.

West won by 23 points after being down 11 points at half-time. In the other two games of the split series, Glenelg scraped in by nine points from South at Kensington, and Torrens at Thebarton outclassed Sturt to win by 59 points. Jeff Pash, who saw the Port-West clash at Alberton, reported that the Magpies, with Ian Hannaford in superb form, looked the winners at half-time. Port suffered a severe setback in the first few minutes of the third quarter when captain-coach

Geoff Motley went off with a leg injury. This, coupled with telling position changes by West, swung the game the Red-and-Black's way. A powerful third quarter in which they added 6-4 to 1-3 by Port proved decisive. Main position change by West was Ryan to centre, where Motley had outplayed Garnett, and Garnett to centre half-forward via half-forward left. Unbalanced after Motley's retirement, Port also made changes, sending Wheilan to centre half-back

and Dittmar to centre half-forward, where Bray had been a stumbling block. An important feature of the game from the viewpoint of carnival hopes was the fine form of top ruckmen Kerley and Hannaford. Their fine performance was matched by a fine display by Bob Morrell in Torrens' big win over Sturt at Thebarton. The result of this game was not long in doubt. The Eagles set up an early ascendancy in ruck and across centre to lead by 31 points at half-time. The most obvious lesson from this game for the Double Blues is that they cannot afford to play Tony Goodchild at half-forward right. Switched to centre half-forward after half-time, he at once gave the attack direction. Sturt's other big guns Halbert and Thompson fired only occasionally, Thompson looking short of match practice.

Exciting tussle to Bays

South and Glenelg fought out the close game of the day at Kensington. New South full-forward David Kantilla made a great start in league football with six goals. Bob Hank, who saw this game, reported that Kantilla's was a most promising performance, marked by fine marking and accurate kicking. I select North to win Tuesday's game against Norwood. I do this on the basis that North have fewer team changes to test.

the rucks and the centre line. I doubt if South have enough good players in these sections to take the game away from the Eagles. North will approach the clash with Port at Prospect with a certain amount of confidence, provided the Redlegs do not damage their morale on Anzac Day.

Vigorous Again on the basis that they have fewer changes to test, North should beat Port. Last time West went to Norwood everything went their way. That was in the last minor round match last season. The expected dampening effect on West's speed of the confined oval area did not eventuate. The Redlegs will no doubt play much the same type of vigorous game as last year, and this brand of football can upset any team. At Unley, Sturt will take on Glenelg. The Bays have a win behind them. Sturt a resounding defeat. I think Glenelg will have enough margin in attack and on the fringes to win

Today's details at a glance

CONDITIONS: IDEAL

At Kensington

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Glenelg	5-7	7-8	14-10	15-13	103
South	3-2	9-6	11-11	13-16	94

BEST PLAYERS—GLENELG: Kernahan, Herron, Linke, Cutten, Beal, Branson, Leahy. **SOUTH:** Kantilla, Lewis, Christie, Panizza, Judd, Hilder Jackson.

SCORERS—GLENELG: Kernahan 3.1, Crompton 3.0, Webber 2.3, Richens 2.2, Hewett, 2.0, Cutten 1.1, Payne 1.1, Kenda 1.0, Herron 0.2, Fraser 0.1, rushed 0.2. **SOUTH ADELAIDE:** Kantilla 6.1, Judd 3.1, Christie 2.2, Panizza 1.1, Wilson 1.1, Kitchen 0.3, Lewis 0.2, Neale 0.1, Chirgwin 0.1, rushed 0.3.

REPLACEMENTS—SOUTH ADELAIDE: Panizza (leg), replaced by Parham at three-quarter time. Judd (knee), replaced by Neale in last quarter. **GLENELG:** Richens (thigh), replaced by Kendall at three-quarter time. Kernahan (cramp), replaced by Butler in last quarter.

At Thebarton

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	3-3	6-7	10-13	14-23	107
Sturt	0-4	1-6	4-11	6-12	48

BEST PLAYERS—TORRENS: Morrell, Rawson, Kingston, Head, Bills, Livesey, Russel. **STURT:** Cunningham, Schoff, Williams, Goodchild, Caust, Sadford, Halbert.

SCORERS—TORRENS: Kingston 7.6, Bills 3.1, Marchioro 2.4, Livesey 1.3, Shearman 1.2, Robertson 0.3, Vaux 0.1, Cavuoto 0.1, rushed 0.2. **STURT:** Schoff 3.0, A. Richardson 2.0, J. Richardson 1.0, Sawford 0.3, McCarthy 0.3, Williams 0.2, Thompson, Jarrett, Hicks, Martin, each 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS—TORRENS: Gibson (knock in face), replaced by Lucas in the last quarter. Livesey, replaced by Klaffer in last quarter. **STURT:** Kutcher (bruised ribs), replaced by Martin at half-time.

At Alberton

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	3-4	6-5	12-9	14-14	98
Port	2-5	7-10	8-13	10-15	75

BEST PLAYERS—WEST: Kerley, Bray, Roach, Ryan, Reu, Tregenza, Benton. **PORT ADELAIDE:** I. Hannaford, Hayes, Cahill, Thompson, Potter, T. Obst, Johns.

SCORERS—WEST: Kerley 4.1, Hogan 3.5, Ryan 1.2, Garnett 1.2, Barfker 1.1, Shrubsole 1.1, O'Driscoll 1.1, Benton 1.0, Thomas 1.0, Sara 0.1. **PORT:** Johns 4.3, Hayes 3.6, I. Hannaford 1.2, Luke 1.1, Dittmar 1.0, P. Obst 0.2, Cahill 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS—PORT: Motley (leg), replaced by Fabian in the third quarter. **WEST:** Nil.

LEADING GOALKICKERS

Kingston (Torrens)	7.6
Kantilla (South)	6.1
Johns (Port)	4.3
Kerley (West)	4.1
Hayes (Port)	3.6
Hogan (West)	3.5
Judd (South)	3.1
Kernahan (Glenelg)	3.1
Bills (Torrens)	3.1
Crompton (Glenelg)	3.0
Schoff (Sturt)	3.0

PREMIERSHIP

	W.	L.	For.	Agst.	Pts.	%
Torrens	1	—	107	48	2	69.03
West	1	—	98	75	2	56.64
Glenelg	1	—	103	94	2	52.28
South	—	1	94	103	—	47.72
Port	—	1	75	98	—	43.36
Sturt	—	1	48	107	—	30.97
North	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norwood	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	27,050

ATTENDANCES

Thebarton	11,500
Alberton	11,500
Kensington	4,200

switched to centre half-forward after half-time, he at once gave the attack direction. Sturt's other big guns Halbert and Thompson fired only occasionally, Thompson looking short of match practice.

Glenelg just home in brightest game of day

By BOB HANK

Last season's Cinderella teams, Glenelg and South Adelaide, figured in a thrilling game at Kensington Oval, with the Tigers just holding the lead in a desperate finish.

The more experienced Bay side started well and finished with a shade more steadiness, but the youngsters and newcomers to South should benefit from this nerve-wracking opening game.

Although beaten by nine points, the Panther camp was quite cheerful about their showing, and if their confidence continues to rise, they will be a headache for the higher-rated teams.

The game was played in perfect conditions, and for an opening match the pace was a real cracker, with the furious tempo maintained by both sides till the bitter end.

Kevin Abley was successful in his 100th game. He was given the honor of tossing, and chose the southern goals. Although up-hill and favored by very little breeze, this proved the scoring end throughout.

Glenelg, through the safer marking of Kernahan and Cutten, and the solidarity of the backmen, were far too accomplished for the hesitant South side, and had 3-3 up before the Southerners scored.

Then two well-placed deliveries from Hilder and Judd on South's half-forward flanks gave Darwin

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aboriginal David Kantilla his first chance, and he literally rose to the occasion in great style.

The lanky full forward made no mistake. South supporters made him their hero immediately, and with the rest of the team inspired by this encouraging sign, they began to fight back.

They did this with such purpose that South dominated the second quarter with a flood of scoring (Judd bursting into prominence with three successive goals) that had the Tigers rattled.

More than 20 minutes of the quarter had gone before the drought broke for Glenelg. Then a behind to captain Herron and two goals from the brilliant Kernahan put a stop to South's 6-4 and left the Tigers 10 points down at half-time.

With Glenelg again kicking south, it was their turn to pile on the pressure, and with Branson giving Kernahan ruck support, Herron and Beal across centre drove in relentlessly, and the whole forward zone sprang to life.

Late in the quarter South put together a string of behinds that cost them dearly.

Glenelg's 7-2 for the quarter gave them a three-goal break that should have taken the bite out of the Panthers with the strenuous last term making a big call on their physical reserves.

Panizza went off with a leg injury during the last

break and Richens for the Bays was replaced with a thigh injury.

Then the slogging match began with neither side willing to give in, but both showing signs of the wear and tear.

LIMPED OFF

Judd limped off and Kernahan was helped off with the cramp. Reserves were on the field and only points separated the teams as South hammered away, trying to bridge the gap.

Kernahan and Herron were consistently fine performers all day — the former strong and active in his marking and ruckwork, the latter dashing and accurate with his disposals from centre.

Cutten began in brilliant style but faded somewhat under the relentless checking of South centre half-back Jackson.

Crompton, former Melbourne player, showed he will be a great team unit with intelligent handball and position play.

SPEARHEAD

Kantilla did not rely on his color to make him prominent, but really gave South a spearhead with intelligent leading, spirited leaping, accurate kicking and even at times constructive handball.

Colt wingman Lewis made a great debut with the senior side. One of his hip-and-shoulder bumps against experienced Don Hewett putting the spark to the South Adelaide recovery



Kernahan Lewis

VOTING FOR TROPHY

Voting for the Mildara Trophy by The Sunday Mail experts today was:—
Glenelg.—H. Kernahan, W. Herron, H. Linke
West.—N. Kerley, J. Bray, D. Roach.
Torrens.—R. H. Morrell, B. J. Rawson, G. H. Kingston
Port.—I. Hannaford, N. Hayes, J. Cahill
Sturt.—N. W. Cunningham, R. P. Schoff, G. B. Williams.
South.—D. Kantilla, G. Lewis, G. Christie.



ATTEMPTING A BREAKAWAY from a pack in the Glenelg-South game at Kensington Oval today is M. Churgwin (left). Trying to prevent Churgwin getting away is Glenelg's Rowett, while behind him is Kupsch (South).