

WEST AS TOP TEAM

But Torrens still unbeaten

By SAM GALLAGHER

In beating North by 63 points at Richmond today, West emerged as the outstanding side in the fight for the 1961 league football premiership.

West Torrens, the only other unbeaten team, kept their record intact after an exciting struggle against Glenelg at the Bay.

The Eagles had seven points to spare.

South followed last Saturday's rousing win over Port with a comfortable 21-point margin from Sturt at

Adelaide Oval.

At Norwood, the much-maligned Redlegs went down quickly to Port by 41 points.

West and Torrens have

now opened up a two-game gap over Port. South, Glenelg, and North with Sturt and Norwood two games further away, and yet to win.

Tough early

At Richmond North made it hard for West in the first half. They won the wings and West had no answer to Whitford's dash on the ball.

But West adjusted the balance across centre in their favor after half-time and gradually drew away.

North, held goalless in the third quarter, had no consistent player ahead of centre.

They were down 42 points at the last change and West finished in a style approaching their brilliant best to kick six goals straight in the last term.

It was a victory for West's team play over North's individual efforts.

The Red-and-Whites have struck a bad patch with injuries, and will find it hard to match Torrens at Thebarton next Saturday.

Torrens struck unex-

pected trouble in beating Glenelg, at the Bay.

After an even first quarter, the Tigers shook the Eagles with a six-goal second term.

Torrens returned the compliment in the third to set the stage for a thrilling finish.

The Bay fans were roaring as the home side hit the front by four points with only minutes left, but Torrens came again to win.

For the second week in succession, South produced a match-winning third quarter at Adelaide Oval.

Down four points at half-time, the Panthers kicked 5-4 to Sturt's 0-5, and were untroubled to win.

Sturt's defence continues to be its main concern.

Not even the remembrance of things past could bring Norwood any closer than 41 points away from Port in a disappointing match at Norwood Oval.

Next week Torrens and North meet at Thebarton, South and West clash at Adelaide, Port entertain Glenelg at Alberton, and Norwood and Sturt go to Kensington to decide who will be last to break the ice.

Torrens should at least break even with North on the Red-and-Whites' strongest line, across centre.

The Eagles look the more

impressive by far in attack and elsewhere appear to have the strength to prevent North doing enough damage to stop their unbeaten run.

South and West at Adelaide will provide a further assessment of South's improvement.

The Panthers tackle hard and fast and it would not surprise to see them make a game of it.

However, West look better equipped for rovers and have a more highly developed sense of teamwork. They should win.

Following their good performance against Torrens today, Glenelg will go to Alberton full of confidence.

But Port have Alberton on their side and a win behind them to restore confidence. They should finish in front in a close game.

Norwood and Sturt at Kensington will be a dour struggle to get on the first rung of the ladder out of the cellar.

Sturt's main strength is in attack, Norwood's in defence. This could produce a stalemate, and the game could be decided across centre and in ruck.

With nothing to go on but past loyalties, I select Norwood to win.

FOOTNOTE: Six teams have won at least two games each so far and Sturt and Norwood have yet to win.

DETAILS AT A GLANCE

CONDITIONS: FIRM. WEATHER: FINE.

At Norwood

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	2-6	4-10	6-12	12-15	87
Norwood	2-3	3-6	5-8	6-10	46

BEST PLAYERS.—PORT: Potter Traynor, Johns, Abley, Cahill, Hannaford, Tierney. NORWOOD: Wedding, Brenchley, Lill, Miller, Vivian, McMahon, Knebone.

SCORERS.—PORT: Traynor 5.0, Johns 2.5, Dittmar 2.0, Potter 1.1, Thompson 1.2, Huddleston 1.0, Hannaford 0.1, Luke 0.2, rushed 0.3. NORWOOD: Vivian 2.2, Lill 2.2, Gimm 1.2, Sawley 1.0, Ralston 0.1, Dolphin 0.1, Miller 0.1, Brenchley 0.1, rushed 0.2.

At Adelaide

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
South	3-4	5-6	10-10	12-15	87
Sturt	3-6	5-10	5-15	8-18	66

BEST PLAYERS.—SOUTH: Panizza, Christie, Parkinson, Durbridge, Hilder, Day, Chirgwin. STURT: Thompson, Williams, Halbert, Goodchild, Harris, Hicks, Freundt.

SCORERS.—SOUTH: Day 3.1, Kantilla 2.5, Panizza 2.1, Lewis 1.1, Ploenges 1.1, Chirgwin 1.1, Kimber 1.0, Kupsch 1.0, Parham 0.2, O'Brien 0.1, Christie 0.1, rushed 0.1. STURT: McCarthy 3.0, Sawford 2.4, Kriewaldt 1.4, Halbert 1.0, Thompson 1.0, Goodchild 0.3, Mitchell 0.2, Williams 0.2, Hicks 0.1, J. Richardson 0.1, Freundt 0.1.

At Richmond

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	2-5	4-9	8-16	14-16	100
North	1-1	3-1	3-4	5-7	37

BEST PLAYERS.—WEST: Hogan, Reu, Eustice, Tregenza, Ryan, Roach, Bray. NORTH: Barbary, Gambling, T. Lindner, Whitford, Trenorden, Bubber, Gilbourne.

SCORERS.—WEST: Phipps 3.6, Hogan 3.0, Wright 2.2, Thomas 2.1, Roach 2.0, Sara 1.1, Ryan 1.1, Garnett 0.2, Benton 0.1, De Broughe 0.1, rushed 0.1. NORTH: Hambly 2.1, Gambling 1.1, Blackman 1.1, Thomas 1.0, Hughes 0.2, Craig 0.1, rushed 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS.—WEST: Sara (knock on leg) replaced by Rosetto in last quarter. NORTH: Craig (leg) replaced by Hall at three-quarter time.

REPORTS.—T. Hughes (NORTH) reported by field umpire Sweeney for allegedly striking D. Thomas (WEST) in the last quarter.

At Glenelg

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	4-5	7-8	13-11	15-18	108
Glenelg	3-3	9-14	11-17	14-17	101

BEST PLAYERS.—TORRENS: Vaux, Kingston, Shearman, Landers, Head, Bills, Russell. GLENELG: Richens, H. Linke, Herron, Hewett, Beal, Fraser, Butler.

SCORERS.—TORRENS: Kingston 5.6, Shearman 4.5, Marchioro 2.1, Young 2.1, Townsend 1.2, Livesey 1.1, Morrell 0.1, rushed 0.1. GLENELG: Richens 3.3, Hewett 3.2, Crompton 2.4, Webber 2.2, Kernahan 2.1, Herron 1.1, Fraser 1.0, Cutten 0.2, Kendall 0.1, rushed 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS.—WEST TORRENS: Nil. GLENELG: Rowett (stitch over eye) replaced by Barnes during third quarter.

LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	For	Agst.	Pts.	%
West	4	—	430	247	8	63.51
Torrens	4	—	382	243	8	61.12
Port	2	2	280	272	4	50.72
South	2	2	310	330	4	48.43
Glenelg	2	2	410	452	4	47.56
North	2	2	287	328	4	46.66
Sturt	—	4	312	419	—	42.68
Norwood	—	4	232	352	—	39.72

LEADING GOALKICKERS

	Today	Matches	Total
Kingston (Torrens)	5-6	4	23-18
Crompton (Glenelg)	2-4	4	13-11
Webber (Glenelg)	2-2	4	13-7
Johns (Port)	2-5	4	12-13
Kantilla (South)	2-5	4	12-11
Hogan (West)	3-0	4	10-10
Phipps (West)	3-6	3	9-9
Richens (Glenelg)	3-3	4	9-8
Wright (West)	2-2	2	9-5
McCarthy (Sturt)	3-0	4	8-5
Kernahan (Glenelg)	2-1	4	8-4
Shearman (Torrens)	4-5	4	7-13
Panizza (South)	2-1	3	7-7

ATTENDANCES

Adelaide	7,000
Richmond	7,000
Norwood	12,500
Glenelg	9,000

Total 35,500

EAGLES, BAYS WILL BE HANDFULS

By BOB HANK

The scales were evenly balanced in the Glenelg-West Torrens clash at the Bay today, but the slight tip in the Eagles' favor at the end was due largely to Bob Shearman.

His presence in the Torrens team was the difference between the two sides, in an exciting finish.

After a slow start, he unwound a terrific finishing effort that carried the Eagles to their narrow seven-point victory.

It was not a game of high standard but the tense finish more than compensated for earlier shortcomings.

Both teams are to be commended for their fighting performances, given in excellent competitive spirit.

Smoother

Glenelg gained a four-point lead with only time on left, but Torrens' smoother functioning attack found the well-performed Kingston get the goal that sealed the result.

Torrens, after their pre-match warm-up exercises, jumped right into top gear and with their followers and centreline on top played a brand of football that suggested they could get right on top of the Tigers and stay there.

But Glenelg's backmen, Linke and Butler, had other ideas and in conjunction with improved ruckwork and spirited roving from Richens and Fraser a recovery was set in motion later in the first term, that finally carried them to a three-goal lead at the long interval.

This Glenelg burst was spoilt only by inaccurate snap-shooting.

Their forwards often had the break on the over-worked Eagle defenders, but too often they failed to take advantage of this by kicking hurriedly with disastrous results.

Wing clash

Wingman Don Russell had been an early force for Torrens, but when tigerish little Glenelg winger Beal fought back into the game to lessen Russell's power, the Bays were able to go into attack more often.

Head and Herron played wide of each other all day,

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and both took leading attacking roles.

Head's immaculate disposal stood out in his play, while Herron's long drop kicking deep into his forward lines was of great value.

Play generally was inclined to be congested and ragged, but first Torrens and then later Glenelg produced spasms of constructive handball that started some systematic attacking moves.

As the second term had been Glenelg's quarter, so the third belonged wholly to Torrens.

Vaux and Head, across centre, sent the ball in time and again and, with Shearman beginning to show some form, the Eagle forwards swarmed in to get their noses in front at the last change.



Vaux Richens

The stage was set for a tight finish, for after Shearman had extended Torrens' lead to two goals, the Bays came back with a rush to add three full-pointers.

But from then on their half-forwards were shut out by the tight outer defence of Torrens, whereas the Eagles' outer attack got on top for the first time with Livesey and Townsend joining Shearman in the desperate fight back.

But it was Torrens' turn to miss the big sticks and their inaccuracy lessened what could have been a greater winning margin...

A close game is a good game and the uncertainty of the final result made it a crowd-pleasing spectacle free of any spite.

No player of either side dominated the scene all day, but for the winners experimental wingman Barry Vaux gave a consistently tenacious and effective performance on the wing to rank with the best.

Full forward Geoff Kingston is a vastly improved player on last season. His leading, marking, and ever-present team sense made him a constant threat to the Glenelg defence.

Shearman's last half was a match-winning effort, whereas Landers was safe and dependable all day at centre half-back in opposition to the speedy Cutten.

Lindsay Head's good effort at centre lacked only some attention to a quicker return to defence, while Fred Bills gave another lion-hearted following effort.

For Glenelg, rover Richens recaptured some of his best form around the fringes and in the thick of things.

Hastiness when shooting for goal was costly at times.

Haydn Linke and Ian Butler lacked inches across half-back, but this didn't stop either from marking and clearing with dash and good judgment.

Herron and Beal did well across centre without subduing their immediate opponents, and Don Hewett was a consistent avenue of Tiger attacks at half-forward left.

Crompton has a cool, unhurried style all his own and was a valuable unit in the Bay attack.