

FINAL FOUR IS NOW WIDE OPEN

By SAM GALLAGHER

Wins to Glenelg and North over Norwood and Torrens in today's league football have thrown the composition of the final four wide open.

At Glenelg, the Bays kicked 7-3 in a match-winning second quarter, and hung grimly to their advantage to win at the finish by four points.

North had 25 points to spare over Torrens at Thebarton.

The remaining two matches went as expected, although Sturt put up determined resistance to West for three quarters at Richmond.

The home team eventually won by 68 points, and moved ahead of Norwood into second place.

Port went four points clear in top position by defeating South at Adelaide Oval. The Magpies won by 79 points.

North and Glenelg are now only half a game behind Torrens in fourth place, and the Bays are drawn against the Eagles at Kensington on Saturday week.

At Glenelg today, Norwood's dramatic slump continued. The Redlegs' despairing inclusion of Stephens at full forward did nothing to lift the side, which has now lost three games in succession.

Jeff Pash, who reported this game, said that Norwood did not develop any marked superiority in ruck, and although they recovered from the Bays' fine second term, they never moved with any freedom in attack.

Richens was outstanding for Glenelg. His consistently good riving could win him a place in the SA side to meet WA next Saturday.

At Thebarton, Torrens were in trouble from the start when captain Bob Shearman withdrew from the side.

Pull forward Geoff Kingston went down early with an ankle injury, and

at half-time full back Trevor Searle was forced to retire with a suspected kidney injury.

The Eagles, who started with Hawke at centre half-back, had to make-shift throughout and were never comfortable against the resurgent Red-and-Whites.

Don Lindner's continued good form could solve a problem for the State selectors in view of Neil Hawke's inability to strike the form of the opening games.

Although West won easily from Sturt at Richmond, the Red-and-Blacks had to go flat out to get clear.

A winning centre line and magnificent defence in the first half prevented West from sewing the game up early.

West contributed to their own poor performance by inaccurate kicking, but the Blues were well in it until late in the third quarter.

Rex John's six goals for Port against South took him ahead of Geoff Kingston to the top of the goal-kicking list.

In view of Kingston's injury, which will almost certainly keep him out of the interstate game, Johns could easily be at the goal-front for SA next Saturday.

The only other possibility is Doug Thomas, of West Adelaide, but his performance is not as good as Johns.

The break next week will give Norwood and Torrens that much more time to ponder the problems of their startling loss of form.

Unsettled by injuries today, Torrens are probably better provided with valid excuses for today's loss.

With Norwood it's different, and the selectors are probably wishing they could go into hiding for a fortnight.

BAYS SCORED IN THRILLER

By JEFF PASH

Superior agility and safer overhead marking at critical times gave Glenelg a four-point win over Norwood at the Bays.

The home team held on tenaciously and sealed their win with a late goal. Glenelg also made an excellent start against the wind, and held a four-goal lead over the Redlegs at half-time.

Norwood looked top-heavy and sluggish in the first half.

They played much better after half-time, held the lead two or three times in a desperate last quarter, but could not manage to establish their characteristic scoring rush.

The Bays played well, showed a lot more dash than Norwood on the day, and deserved to win since they still missed a number of scoring opportunities in the last quarter.

Their forward lines, based on Cutten and Rowe, looked dangerous all day, and particularly when Kendall, who replaced Gulliver in the first quarter, was stationed there.

Their rucks did not master Wedding on the day, but were otherwise much more consistent and faster moving than Norwood's and Richens played what was almost a match-winning game.

Half-way through the quarter, Norwood, through the efforts of Sawley at half-forward left and Minervini in the pocket, managed to get going and at the bell they led by eight points. In the circumstances it did not seem enough.

In the second quarter, after a slow start during which Lill with two goals kept Norwood in the game, Glenelg gradually got the upper hand.

Cutten was marking well at centre half-forward and manoeuvring agilely on the ground, and Norwood, late in the term, shifted Aish from the flank to cover him.

The new goalsneak Rowe was well in the picture (scoring his third goal in this quarter) and on the flanks Kendall (also

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Glenelg	3-3	10-6	10-8	14-14	98
Norw'd	4-5	6-5	9-8	14-10	94

two goals in this period) and Herron were playing strongly.

In the strongest burst of attacking football for the day, Glenelg put on 7-3, and at half-time were right on top and 25 points ahead.

The Redlegs persevered with their line-up in the third quarter — with Aish remaining at centre half-back.

It was a grim, even struggle for the whole of this term. The wind seemed to have dropped somewhat, but the Bays had to rely heavily on their defences.

Norwood slowly added to their score. They brought Vickers, one of their reserves, on the field — a desperate measure, but understandable.

Incomprehensibly, however, they took off centre-man Kite, who had played usefully on Hewett, and was one of the small, burrowing type they seemed to need most.

Goalsneak Stephens had his first kick for the match at this point, and shortly after scored cleverly with a left-foot snap.

By three-quarter time Norwood were moving better and had reduced Glenelg's lead to six points.

The question was: How strong would be the wind? In the last quarter Sawley was brought to centre; he had been the mainstay of the Redleg attack and perhaps risked being left idle at half-forward.

Wedding now proceeded to play a brilliant last quarter, and it looked for a while as though Norwood were going to snatch the game from the fire.

It went by alternate bursts of two or three goals from there in a most thrilling struggle.

With time running out, Cutten sent in to Rowe who marked in front for the match-winning goal.

For Glenelg I thought



Richens Sawley

Richens was the best player. He was always in the thick of it, in defence, up forward, and Norwood didn't have the pace about the rucks to contain him.

He was closely followed by Cutten (brilliant at centre half-forward—fast, agile, and marking in great style), and Hunt, dashing, determined, and safe at half-back.

Others to play well were Kernahan, Abley, Beal, H. Linke, Rowe, Campbell, and Davies.

But the Bays were an even side and everyone did his bit, including Kendall when he came on.

For Norwood, Sawley again played an excellent game at half-forward, brilliantly clever and strong in his best style.

Wedding warmed up to his best over the four quarters, and just failed to inspire Norwood to victory. Inglis was the pick of a defence that has not settled down to a steady confidence yet—he played a strong, determined game.

Lill made brilliant contributions to the attack, scoring four quickly managed goals at critical times.

Kneebone, although shifted, saved repeatedly. Modra and Bowe had their moments on evenly fought wings. Minervini and Harrison played solid games.

TODAY'S RESULTS

CONDITIONS: GOOD

At Adelaide

Port	8-5	12-10	18-16	19-17	131
South	2-0	5-3	5-3	8-4	52

BEST PLAYERS.—PORT: Potter, Tierney, Johns, Luke P. Obst, Motley, Matters. SOUTH: Day Kantilla, Stewart, Backman, T. Roenfeldt, Shippides, Ploenges.

SCORERS.—PORT: Johns 63, Potter 55, Luke 44, Matters 11, Traynor 11, Bates 11, P. Obst 10, Hannaford 0.1, Marrett 0.1. SOUTH: Day 40, Backman 2.1, Kantilla 1.1, Shippides 1.1, Foster 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS.—PORT: Bates (cramp) replaced by Doyle in last term, Marrett (ankle) replaced by Thompson in last term. SOUTH: Foster (leg) replaced by Chirgwin at half-time.

At Richmond

West	2-2	3-11	8-16	15-24	114
Sturt	1-1	2-1	6-4	7-4	46

BEST PLAYERS.—WEST: Williams, Hogan, Eustice, Barker, Bennetts, Ryan, Shrubsole. STURT: Schoff, Clarke, Hicks, Westphalen, Rigney, Sims, Wiebusch.

SCORERS.—WEST: Benton 3.1, Eustice 3.1, Hogan 2.4, Thomas 2.4, DeBrough 2.2, Ryan 2.1, Shrubsole 1.0, Kerley 0.3, Williams 0.3, Garnett 0.3, Barker 0.1, Day 0.1. STURT: Hicks 3.0, Wiebusch 1.1, Clarke 1.1, McCarthy 1.0, Rigney 1.0, Jarrett 0.1, Fedorowith 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS.—WEST: Nil. STURT: McCarthy (shoulder) replaced by Coulter in the second quarter. Adcock (leg) replaced by Guerin in the third quarter.

At Glenelg

Glen'lg	3-3	10-6	10-8	14-14	98
Norwood	4-5	6-5	9-8	14-10	94

SCORERS.—GLENELG: Rowe 4.1, Richens 2.1, Stalte 2.1, Kendall 2.0, Cutten 1.3, Payne 1.2, Herron 1.1, Campbell 1.0, Hewett 0.1, rushed 0.4. NORWOOD: Lill 4.2, Minervini 3.0, Sawley 2.3, Stephens 2.0, Grantham 1.0, Wedding 1.0, Modra 1.0, Oatey 0.1, Kite 0.1, Vickers 0.1, Feehan 0.1, rushed 0.1.

BEST PLAYERS.—GLENELG: Richens, Cutten, Hunt, Abley, Beal, Kernahan, H. Linke, Hewett. NORWOOD: Sawley, Wedding, Inglis, Lill, Kneebone, Minervini, Modra, Bowe.

REPLACEMENTS.—GLENELG: Gulliver (injured leg) replaced by Kendall in the first quarter. NORWOOD: Kite (leg) replaced by Vickers in the third quarter.

At Thebarton

North	5-0	9-2	9-8	11-13	79
Torrens	2-2	4-3	7-9	7-12	54

BEST PLAYERS.—NORTH: T. Lindner, Paull, R. Gilbourne, Barbary, D. Lindner, Ashby, Heading, Gambling, Martin. TORRENS: Bills, Braidwood, Townsend, Head, Dix, Young, Livesey, Graham.

SCORERS.—NORTH: Martin 3.4, Heading 3.0, Pascoe 1.3, Ashby 1.2, D. Lindner 1.1, Whitford 1.0, R. Gilbourne 1.0, Barbary 0.2, Hughes 0.1. TORRENS: Braidwood 2.1, Hawke 1.2, Porter 1.1, Townsend 1.0, Dix 1.0, Bills 1.0, Russell 0.2, Young 0.2, Marchioro 0.2, Head 0.1, rushed 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS.—NORTH: Whitford (head knock) replaced by Don Gilbourne at half-time. Hughes replaced by Bubner in the final term. TORRENS: Kingston (sprained ankle) replaced by Hanrahan during first quarter, Searle (kidney knock) replaced by Gibson at half-time.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst.	Pts.	Prem.	%
Port	9	1	—	1,048	558	18	65.25	
West	7	3	—	969	708	14	57.78	
Norwood	6	3	1	899	837	13	51.78	
Torrens	5	4	1	843	755	11	52.75	
North	5	5	—	864	782	10	52.49	
Glenelg	5	5	—	904	988	10	47.78	
Sturt	2	8	—	739	1,073	4	40.78	
South	—	10	—	564	1,129	—	33.31	

GOALKICKERS

	Today	Matches	Total
R. Johns (Port)	6.3	10	36.31
Kingston (Torrens)	—	9	33.23
D. Thomas (West)	2.4	10	26.27
Hogan (West)	2.4	9	25.16
Backman (South)	2.1	9	25.10
Lill (Norwood)	4.2	10	24.18
Potter (Port)	5.5	10	22.19
Hawke (Torrens)	1.2	10	20.24
Hicks (Sturt)	3.0	10	19.22
Sawley (Norwood)	2.3	10	18.19
Richens (Glenelg)	2.1	9	18.16

ATTENDANCES

Glenelg	12,000
Thebarton	12,000
Richmond	5,500
Adelaide	5,400
Total	34,900

STAB KICKS

Torrens were in trouble from the word go against North this afternoon, writes Bob Hank.

Skipper Bob Shearman had to stand down with a bruised calf, and forward Geoff Kingston was lost early in the first quarter.

Kingston, who has a badly sprained ankle, is certain to miss the game against WA next Saturday.

When the team took the field at half-time, full back Trevor Searle was suddenly found to be suffering from a knock in the kidneys, and rover Bob Gibson had to make a hurried entrance from the bench.

To make matters even worse, Don Russell aggravated a thigh injury and spent most of the second half limping in a forward pocket.

Replacement Gibson was given hasty first-aid for a gashed eyebrow in the final term, as his exit would have left the Eagles with only 17 men on the field—virtually 16 with Russell almost immobile.

LINDSAY Backman is a forward with a future.

He leads well and is a sound mark, but is often troubled by the high, floating punt kicks that South players persist in putting up to him.

This point was obvious today with the strong Port defence.

NORWOOD'S gamble in playing their giant goalsneak, Phil Stephens against the Bays after only one game in the Seconds did not come off.

The big man looked short of a gallop, and had his first kick of the game in the third quarter when he was awarded a free against an opponent for holding the ball—a rare prize. It was.

He kicked two good goals later to improve the record.

Bad luck story

THE West-Sturt game at Richmond, a much better game than was generally expected, was notable for some fine individual clashes.

Day and Halbert at centre, Westphalen and Sara on the wing, Sims and Thomas, Benton and Cunningham, and Schoff and Garnett were all well worth watching.

WEST wingman Sara, outclassed in the first half by promising Sturt recruit Westphalen, showed one of the most important qualities of a good player when he fought back strongly in the second half.

GLENELG'S half-forward Trevor Kendall, nineteenth man today, seized his opportunity with both hands when he replaced Gulliver in the first quarter.

He played a fine game at half-forward left (later right) confirming earlier promise in the position.

PORT Adelaide's two terms with the breeze were very productive, as from these they scored 14-11 of their 19-17.

Luke got four goals in these terms, as did Johns and Potter. The other goalkickers were P. Obst and Marrett.

FEATURE of the Glenelg - Norwood game was the marking

of Glenelg at times. In particular, their centre half-forward Peter Cutten brought down some spectacular high ones.

His second-half opponent, Peter Aish, still uncertain in his ball-handling, marked in something like his old style once in the last quarter.

WEST'S Tom Shrubsole brought, into the side to cover Don Roach's absence through injury, played so well today that the selectors will find it hard to leave him out when Roach is fit again.

THERE were several spectacular marks at Thebarton today with Don Lindner providing his usual share and Lindsay Head twice using opponent John Bower's back to gain the extra lift.

One of Lindner's freak leaps had teammate Whitford and opponent Rowson staggering about holding their backs after he had used both as "stepladders".

PLAYING an unobtrusive part in fostering Glenelg's gathering strength is former captain-coach Neil Davies, who often sets them going to the right place in attack and, now and again, shows glimpses of the wonderful speed that was.

STURT rover Roger Rigney, not noted for the accuracy of his kicking, had the angles nicely calculated for Sturt's third goal at Richmond.

Weaving his way through a pack, Rigney, under heavy pressure, snapped a goal from an angle right through the middle.

THE Johns brothers—Rex and Keith—after today's games head the league and Seconds' goalkicking lists respectively.

Each man has kicked 36 goals!