

The signs of a lively season

By SAM GALLAGHER

Close results in the games between last year's finalists and a convincing 26-point win by Woodville over Norwood today heralded the keenest season for many years.

At Adelaide Oval South got in by six points from Sturt, who had four more scoring shots, and Port scraped home by three points against Glenelg at the Bay.

The sensation of the day was Woodville's first win over one of the established sides.

The new team were in control practically throughout, holding Norwood to two goals in each of the Redlegs' terms with the breeze, and kicking 5-3 in a powerful last quarter.

At Richmond, West led throughout to beat Torrens by 14 points, while North had a seven-goal third quarter to thank for their 38-point margin over Centrals at Prospect.

Great effort

At Adelaide, Sturt were nearly five goals clear early in the third quarter before South found some semblance of last year's premiership form.

With Kantilla and Darley absent from the ruck, the Panthers again leaned heavily on a marathon effort by Neil Kerley.

Kerley and Skuse started

the South revival halfway through the third quarter, and in a match-winning last term against the breeze, the Panthers out-scored Sturt to win by a goal.

New Sturt rover Christopolous kicked three goals in a promising debut.

Port's predicted ruck weakness was not evident at the Bay, where Philp and Salmon had the better of the more highly regarded Glenelg followers.

McGowan made up some of the leeway, but the outstanding performance of the game was by Freeman, at centre half-forward.

John Cahill, back in the game after breaking a leg late last year, had an even duel on the wing with Merv Peek.

With the breeze, Glenelg had the chances to win in the last quarter, but kicked only four goals from nine shots.

Woodville's speed and tenacity gave Norwood no chance to settle down in the game at Woodville.

The Norwood move of using two rovers instead of the usual follower and rover in ruck was not a success.

Their ruck was left without sufficient strength and height in the field, and Woodville follower Braidwood had a field day.

At Richmond, West's small men made the most of the chances created by the gusty conditions.

New Torrens captain Fred Bills apparently finding the conditions hard to handle, played one of his rare poor games and the Eagles missed his steadying influence.

Next week

Highlight of next week's round will be the Sturt-Glenelg clash at Unley.

Both played well enough today to suggest that they have closed the gap that clearly separated them from South and Port last year.

Norwood, whose trial game form stamped them as the team most likely to improve, will go to Thebarton in an attempt to prove today's form wrong.

The Redlegs are not likely to make panic changes, but even allowing for a day off, the present line-up is not particularly impressive.

The South-Port clash on Anzac Day should be a real thriller—in the style of their clashes last season.

Although their margin of superiority is smaller, they are still the two top sides and the outcome will establish which is to hold pride of place for the time being.

LEAGUE DETAILS

AT WOODVILLE

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Wdv.	3-3	6-4	8-5	13-8	86
Nwd.	2-1	4-4	6-8	8-12	60

BEST PLAYERS.—WOODVILLE: Braidwood, Simunsen, Crammond, Clasohm, Atkinson, Christie, K. Kelly, Hansch. **NORWOOD:** French, Redden, Kneebone, Bunton, P. Oatey, Nygaard, Modra.

SCORERS.—WOODVILLE: Smith 2.1, Christie 2.1, Perry, 2.0, Clasohm 1.2, Braidwood, 1.2, Hoffman 1.0, K. Kelly 1.0, Simunsen 1.0, Atkinson 1.0, P. Obst 1.0, rushed 0.2. **NORWOOD:** Woolford 2.0, Simeon 2.0, French 1.4, Brewer 1.2, Modra 1.1, Oatey 1.0, Martin 0.1, Bunton 0.1, Harrison 0.1, rushed 0.2.

REPLACEMENTS.—WOODVILLE: Perry (leg) by Everingham, last quarter. **NORWOOD:** Nil.

UMPIRE.—R. M. LeCornu.

AT GLENELG

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	5-2	6-6	11-12	11-14	80
Glen.	2-2	7-5	7-6	11-11	77

BEST PLAYERS.—PORT: Freeman, Philp, Spiers, Salmon, Elleway, Errey. **GLENELG:** McGowan, Kendall, Peek, Fluechter, Button, Anesbury.

SCORERS.—PORT: E. Freeman 3.3, T. Obst 2.1, Cheatham 1.4, Potter 1.2, Dittmar 1.0, Salmon 1.0, Philp 1.0, McKay, 1.0, Errey 0.1, rushed 0.3. **GLENELG:** McGowan 3.1, Kernahan 2.1, R. Rowe 2.0, Fluechter 1.3, D. Long 1.1, Payne 1.1, Button 1.1, Anesbury 0.2, Blackburn 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS.—PORT: T. Obst (leg) by K. Spencer, third quarter. **GLENELG:** Nil.

UMPIRE.—M. Posa.

AT ADELAIDE

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
South	2-3	3-3	7-5	10-6	66
Sturt	1-2	5-9	6-11	8-12	60

BEST PLAYERS.—SOUTH: Kerley, Skuse, Jackson, Shaw, Ploenges, Backman, Foster. **STURT:** Adcock, Dunn, Bagshaw, Raymond, Halbert, Clarkson, Langridge (until injured).

SCORERS.—SOUTH: Skuse 4.2, Foster 2.1, Kerley 1.1, Roennfeldt 1.1, Sims 1.0, White 1.0, Backman 0.1. **STURT:** Halbert 3.3, Christopolous 3.1, Dunn 1.1, Langridge 1.1, Schoff 0.2, Hicks 0.1, rushed 0.3.

REPLACEMENTS.—SOUTH: Gibbs (knee) by Judd, second quarter. Schmidt (cramp) by Rivers, third quarter. **STURT:** Chessell (fractured bone right hand) by Saddington, third quarter. Langridge (ankle), by Thomas second quarter.

UMPIRE.—K. G. Cunningham.

AT RICHMOND

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	4-0	5-2	7-5	10-5	65
Torr.	2-2	4-4	5-6	7-9	51

BEST PLAYERS.—WEST: Bitmead, Hughes, Hooper, Pope, Bennetts, DeBroughe. **TORRENS:** Wildy, Head, Gibson, Williams, Jackson, Minervini (until replaced), J. Wright.

SCORERS.—WEST ADELAIDE: Bitmead 4.0, Hooper 2.2, Benton 2.1, Thomas 1.1, McGrath 1.0, Bertelsmeier 0.1. **WEST TORRENS:** J. Wright 2.1, Lawson 2.0, Minervini 1.3, Kingston 1.2, Wildy 1.0, Head 0.1, Virgo 0.1, Gould 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS.—WEST ADELAIDE: Walsh (leg) by G. Thompson, last quarter. **WEST TORRENS:** Minervini (thigh) by Virgo, third quarter.

UMPIRE.—B. Lees.

AT PROSPECT

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
North	3-9	4-9	11-16	14-17	101
Cent.	0-0	4-5	4-5	9-9	63

BEST PLAYERS.—NORTH ADELAIDE: Bloch, Farrell, Geisler, Lindner, Phillips, Byers, Martin, Cearns, Hammond. **CENTRAL DISTRICTS:** Haylock, Kemp, Martin, Barron, Window, Eustice, Stutley, Bentley.

SCORERS.—NORTH ADELAIDE: Martin 5.4, Cearns 2.3, Paull 2.1, Taylor 1.3, Lindner 1.2, Bloch 1.1, Pascoe 1.0, Trenorden 1.0, Hammond 0.2, Dixon 0.1. **CENTRAL DISTRICTS:** Barron 2.2, Window 2.0, McGee 2.0, Burns 2.0, Hill 1.0, Daly 0.3, Eustice 0.2, Townsend 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS.—NORTH ADELAIDE: Braunack (dislocated shoulder) by Phillips, first quarter. Pascoe (bruised heel) by Mitchell, last quarter. **CENTRAL DISTRICTS:** Ayliffe by Burns, last quarter.

UMPIRE.—M. O'Connell.

ATTENDANCES

Adelaide	11,646
Glenelg	9,137
Richmond	5,441
Woodville	5,428
Prospect	4,325

TOTAL 35,977

HIGHEST, LOWEST

LEAGUE: North 14.17 (101), Torrens 7.9 (51).
SECONDS: Sturt 13-12 (90), and North 13-12 (90), West 2-7 (19).

PORT HANG ON; 3-PT. WIN

By BILL HENDERSON

Glenelg just failed to snatch victory from Port in a very even hard-fought match at Glenelg Oval today. The Bays finished only three points behind.

Both teams played a close-checking game.

Port won the toss, and elected to kick with a strong assisting wind, but did not make good enough use of it throughout the quarter.

Port already in this term showed that they were determined to gain supremacy in ruck.

Salmon and Philp won many hit-outs, and with Philp playing a kick behind the game, gained many kicks around centre. This gave Port their early drive.

Fierce tackling

Port rovers Potter and T. Obst helped in most of the early scoring, but this was the only quarter in which they gained any of their usual drive.

Glenelg maintained their fierce tackling throughout this term, and when Button gained the better of Mead to drive the Bays in for two important goals, it looked promising.

But immediately Port, through Freeman at centre

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	5-2	6-6	11-12	11-14	80
Glen'lg	2-2	7-5	7-6	11-11	77

half-forward, quickly added a goal. It took the Bays quite a while to steady before they turned on some really determined play.

After Kernahan and McGowan had goaled, a brilliant piece of play by Kendall, shepherding off, allowed Button to come through and goal from well out.

But just when it looked like Glenelg going on to a handy lead, Port stopped them with some fine hard tackling.

This did not deter the Bays from fighting on to gain the lead for the first time just before half-time.

In the third term, the Bays saw Port hold a five-goal lead at the change.

Glenelg continued to play determined football. But although they got within three points at the finish, Port closed the game up so well that every

time the Bays tried to score it was against a wall of players.

At one stage in the dying moments of the last term there was not one player on either side ahead of centre in Port's forward area.

In picking the best players for Port, one cannot go past Eric Freeman at centre half-forward.

He opened up an avenue for his team to come into attack, and it did not matter whether Freeman's opponent was in front or behind him, he still outplayed him.

His last half was polished football.

Philp in ruck won many hit-outs, and his field play was excellent.

Salmon proved his selection as a follower was warranted, and Gill and Dittmar were not disgraced without being prominent.

Spiers on the half-back flank played like a veteran.

This chap will certainly help Port, as Motley, not so prominent today, may need experience if Port are to persevere with young Thiele at centre half-back.

Team effort

Glenelg had a very good team effort excepting perhaps one or two players who looked lost in their positions.

Edwards at half-forward flank was the most prominent of these players.

Button at centre started off as though he was the key to Glenelg up forward. He drove them in repeatedly in the first half. When he was subdued in the third term Glenelg seemed lost.

This brought Max Peek into prominence as he took over from Button in putting his team into attack.

Kendall, at half-back flank was Glenelg's best back man. His tenacious approach and unselfish play let many players in for his side.

McGowan and Doug Long had many good moments, and these two players in the last term nearly won the game for their team with their individual efforts.

NORTH TOPS THE LIST

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	For	Agst.	Pts.	Prem.	%
North	1	—	101	63	2	—	61.58
Woodville	1	—	86	54	2	—	61.43
West	1	—	65	51	2	—	56.03
South	1	—	66	60	2	—	52.38
Port	1	—	80	77	2	—	50.95
Glenelg	—	1	77	80	—	—	49.05
Sturt	—	1	60	66	—	—	47.62
Torrens	—	1	51	65	—	—	43.97
Norwood	—	1	60	86	—	—	41.09
Centrals	—	1	63	101	—	—	38.42

TOP GOALKICKERS

Martin (North)	5-4
Skuse (South)	4-2
Bitmead (West)	4-0
Halbert (Sturt)	3-3
Freeman (Port)	3-3
McGowan (Glenelg)	3-1
Christopolous (Sturt)	3-1

NEXT WEEK

Central Districts v. Woodville (Elizabeth).
North Adelaide v. West Adelaide (Prospect).
West Torrens v. Norwood (Thebarton).
Sturt v. Glenelg (Unley).
April 26: South Adelaide v. Port Adelaide (Adelaide).