

STURT STRONGER IN GRUPELLING FINISH

By GORDON SCHWARTZ

A well-disciplined and determined Sturt defeated Glenelg by 15 points at Adelaide Oval yesterday because it was able to depend on more players in the gruelling last quarter.

Working together with the wholeheartedness that has marked the team's play for the past five years, Sturt kicked 3.3 to 0.1 in the run home after trailing by five points at the last change.

For three quarters nothing separated the teams as players used weight and strength relentlessly to inch the ball towards goal.

Skill, tenacity and stamina were essential in the wet, windy, muddy conditions — and in all aspects Sturt was supreme in the last term.

Sturt won the ruck through Greg Wild, had the best rover Roger Rigney and a solid defence headed by centre half-back Phil Nelson and back pocket Brenton Adcock.

In addition, the creative skills of Daryl Hicks and Paul Bagshaw, the strength and experience of Rick Schoff and the sure high marking of full forward Rick Davies contributed to the hard-fought victory.

Others played in patches.

Second-game wingman Michael Graham was one. He used his skill with devastating direct play in the first half but was rarely seen in the second.

Davies showed surprising aptitude in the air as he gripped the wet ball strongly, but his kicking was not as reliable.

He finished with 3.4 but could have had five or six goals.

Once he soccered through for a point from five yards.

Glenelg champion Fred Phillis kicked four goals from five scoring shots but his opportunities were not as plentiful as Davies's.

Players of both sides were subjected to stifling blocking and tackling but Sturt broke free more often in the last 25 minutes after matching Glenelg in the jarring physical clashes.

In this period Sturt directed the ball to full forward while Glenelg attacks foundered at half-back or on the last line where Adcock was impassable.

Like Horatio on the bridge, he was prepared to put himself between the enemy and its goal — and with intelligent interceptions he crushed many dangerous attacks.

The Glenelg defenders led by Neville Caldwell had been sturdy, but they could not maintain steadiness in the last quarter against the constant Sturt forward surge fed by Rigney, Hicks, Peter Friedrichs and Paul Bagshaw.

Throughout Rigney was plucky and persistent. He was courageous enough to go into the packs and strong enough to force his way out with the ball.

Rigney is anything but a stylist but his durability and tenacity were evident until late in the game when he was met heavily, and retired.

The advent of reserve Ray Button in the last quarter did not help Glenelg's cause.

Soon after he replaced ruckman Harry Kernahan, Button felled Friedrichs and Sturt kicked a free after disposal 45 yards downfield.

Umpire Des Foster appeared to speak to Button.

Thereafter Foster who had controlled the game with commonsense interpretations, appeared to let the Button incident influence him.

Three questionable decisions that went Sturt's way resulted from play in which Button was involved.

Two Glenelg players — centreman Peter Marker and half-back Caldwell — were far superior to their team-mates.

In the first term, in which he had 11 kicks, Marker twisted and used his speed to puncture Sturt's defence but as his influence waned so Glenelg's chances lessened.

Caldwell met the ball confidently and turned many attacks but his normally-safe marking let him down twice in the crucial last term.

Rain squalls and high winds ruled out any question of sustained systematic football and restricted the crowd to 7,992.

Sturt	2.0	5.5	7.7	10.10	(70)
Glenelg	3.1	5.4	8.6	8.7	(55)

GOALKICKERS — Sturt — Davies, 3.4; Rigney, 2.1; Hicks, 2.0; Schoff, Elliott, 1.1; Wild, 1.0; Graham, 0.2; Ottens, 0.1. **Glenelg —** D. Phillis, 4.1; Pattinson, 1.3; Voigt, Sandland, Hamilton, 1.0; Rosewarne, Cornes, 0.1; rushed, 0.1.

BEST — Sturt — Adcock, Wild, Rigney, Nelson, Bagshaw, Hicks, Friedrichs. **Glenelg —** Marker, Caldwell, Rosewarne, Colbey, Kernahan.

Umpire — D. Foster.



A MUDLARK would have been at home at Adelaide Oval yesterday, but the conditions were far from familiar for the Sturt and Glenelg footballers. A saturated oval, driving rain and gale force winds made conditions unpleasant as Sturt fought to a 15 point victory. ABOVE — Glenelg player Jim Hinson keeps his eyes on the ball as he slithers in the mud while being closely checked by Sturt's Terry Short.

STURT SILENCES CRITICS AGAIN

Sturt again silenced critics who persist in saying that it cannot handle wet, heavy conditions with its win at Adelaide Oval yesterday.

It proved in last year's grand final that it is a capable wet weather side, but I feel it gave further proof yesterday in conditions I regarded as the worst footballers have ever been asked to play in.

And it did it with a side depleted by the absence of eight members of last year's premiership team.

Although disappointed that Glenelg did not win, I saw several signs in yesterday's performance that better times are just around the corner.

Peter Marker's performance in winning 27 kicks in the centre magnum was by far his best effort for the year and with Laurie Rosewarne and Terry Crabb finding form alongside of him, our forwards can expect a lot of opportunities in the games to come.

Sturt had many good players, particularly noted mudrunners Brenton Adcock, Roger Rigney and Phil Nelson.

Adcock was especially brilliant. In conditions where reading the game ahead is vital, there is none better than the Sturt back pocketman.

His anticipation, brilliant interceptions and kicking, both long and short, gave Sturt great rebound.

Rigney of course is at his best when there is a bit of mud about and he outroved the Glenelg pair under these conditions.

I lost count of the number of times that Rigney was bumped off his feet but still recovered to put the ball to the advantage of a team-mate.

He, like Adcock, has great recovery and tremendous balance.

The way in which Nelson and Rick Davies marked the ball overhead amazed me and, I'll bet, spectators, too.

Sturt's Greg Wild again proved what a valuable ruckman he is and I thought his game was as important to Sturt as was Adcock's and Rigney's.

He repeatedly found a rover and team-mate with well-directed knocks and backed this up with strong field play.

Bay winners

On the other side of the ledger, I felt Glenelg was on top across centre but well beaten in attack.

Our half-forward line could not get into the game consistently enough to take advantage of the many opportunities created by Marker, Rosewarne and Crabb.

Graham Cornes looked as if he was going to have a field day as he started in magnificent style, but unfortunately for Glenelg a rib injury put paid to his early dominance.

Neville Caldwell's game on the dangerous Tony Burgan was another bright light for disappointed Glenelg supporters.

He was a clear winner and his long kicking gave Glenelg great rebound from the half-back line.

For sheer football brains they do not come much better than Daryl Hicks.

Always thinking, he is a most constructive player and one who takes full advantage of any looseness or lack of checking by the opposition.

Sturt's new wingman, Michael Graham, impressed me as a player with a future.

His first half was really great and conditions did not upset him in any way.

Although Rosewarne's experience cut him out of the game in the second half, Graham will fit smoothly into Sturt's renowned run-on game.



NEIL KERLEY

Glenelg's failure to maintain the goalscoring pattern that had been followed for three quarters left it 15 points down at the finish.

Five goals had been kicked in each of the first three quarters — three to the river end and two to the northern end.

Sturt still got its three at the river end in the last but Glenelg failed to kick a goal at the other end.

If ever further proof was needed of the value of the kick out of bounds on the full rule, it was provided yesterday.

Played two years ago the game would have been a succession of throw-ins on the eastern side and players of both sides would have forced the ball out on the full continually.

The new rule changed all of that and there was as much play on the grandstand side as on the "dead" side.

THE STARS

- B. Adcock (St.) .. 3
- G. Wild (St.) .. 2
- P. Marker (G.) ... 1

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	P.c.
PORT ADELAIDE	4	—	479	287	8	62.5
NORWOOD	4	—	480	390	8	55.2
STURT	3	1	409	226	6	64.4
NORTH ADELAIDE	3	1	438	297	6	59.6
SOUTH ADELAIDE	3	1	512	452	6	53.1
WEST ADELAIDE	2	2	355	368	4	49.1
CENTRAL DISTRICT	1	3	366	399	2	47.8
GLENELG	—	4	362	419	—	46.4
WEST TORRENS	—	4	283	378	—	42.8
WOODVILLE	—	4	238	707	—	25.2

TOP GOALKICKERS

	Sat.	Matches	Total
COLIGAN (N)	4.4	4	24.13
HOWLETT (SA)	6.1	4	23.12
R. ROBRAN (NA)	3.1	4	18.12
D. PHILLIS (G)	4.1	4	16.12
JONES (CD)	1.4	4	15.10
BACKMAN (SA)	2.3	4	13.8
J. CAHILL (PA)	4.4	4	10.13
YEO (St.)	—	4	10.6

This week's matches

ADELAIDE OVAL — Norwood v. Woodville. ALBERTON OVAL — Port Adelaide v. Central District. GLENELG OVAL — Glenelg v. West Torrens. RICHMOND OVAL — West Adelaide v. North Adelaide. UNLEY OVAL — Sturt v. South Adelaide.

Yesterday's attendance, 7,992. Season's aggregate, 171,849.