

# 1974 GRAND FINAL Sturt v Glenelg

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## STURT SINK TIGERS AT FOOTBALL PARK

Sturt defeated Glenelg by 15 points to record their eleventh League Premiership in the 1974 Grand Final — the first to be played at Football Park. The Blues had superior rucks and rovers and they proved the winning factor in a match dominated by a strong breeze and wet weather.

Umpire Ducker was in charge of the game as Sturt's Paul Bagshaw won the toss and kicked with a strong breeze, worth about 5 goals.

Sturt wasted no time as Rick Davies won the first tap out, Mike Nunan gathered it up and Robbert Klomp finished off the first attacking move of the game to score full points after only 30 seconds. Glenelg received an early setback when rover Greg Bennett came out of a clash with Michael Graham, with a leg injury that forced him off the ground at quarter time.

The Blues added points before Tony Burgan scored Sturt's second goal at

the 10 minute mark after the clever pass from Mike Nunan. Sturt were just gaining momentum now as Rick Davies brilliantly dummied around two opponents and facing the wrong way kicked the ball high with his left foot from the eastern pocket. The wind completed the job as his kick sailed through the middle of the goals.

Sturt had many winners at this early stage and Brenton Adcock, Rick Davies and Michael Graham were in outstanding form, while for the Tigers, Peter Marker and Greg Croser were in fine touch.

Fifteen minutes into the first term, Ken Whelan received a free kick right on the boundary line and the Sturt full forward kicked a magnificent goal for Sturt to lead 4-3 to 0-0. Klomp's long drop punt sailed through for full points minutes later. Glenelg's first opportunity came when John MacFarlane marked some 35 metres out on a slight angle. However the strong wind carried his kick out of bounds on the full.

At last, Glenelg's first score was registered at the 25 minute mark as Paul Weston's long shot scored a point. However, a minute later, Michael Graham ran into an open goal to give Sturt a convincing 40 point lead at quarter time.

The second term began in a similar fashion to the first, when Graham Cornes flew over Davies at the centre bounce to knock the ball towards half forward, then followed it up, gathered the ball and kicked a magnificent 50 metre goal. So the Tigers had scored in only 30 seconds! Immediately after, MacFarlane's long handpass found Neville Caldwell, whose long drop punt also scored full points. This was despite Jack Oatey's move of Robbert Klomp into defence as a loose player.

Fred Phillis came into the act as he marked Bob Tardif's high kick and then scored his first goal. Ted Osborne then kicked a point, Glenelg had reduced Sturt's lead to just 20 points after 10 minutes of the term. But then the rain began to fall. The conditions made ball handling difficult and reduced the influence of Glenelg ruckman Peter Carey.

However, the Tigers kept their hopes alive with a goal from rover Craig Marriott. Paul Weston swapped from the middle of a pack, but his kick had been touched off the boot. Then Neville Caldwell cleverly gathered in the ball, but his long kick hit the post.

Sturt troubled the scorers at last as

Robert Oatey's snap shot registered a behind as time on began, to give the Blues a handy lead of 12 points at half time.

Rick Davies and Mike Nunan were causing problems for the Bays, although Bob Tardif was gaining his share of knockouts, but the Blues defence had been too tight all day. Peter Marker and Brendon Howard were having a great tussle at centre, while respective followers in Graham Cornes and Paul Bagshaw were picking up many kicks.

Fred Phillis had an early opportunity (in the third term) but his kick just missed. However, Sturt fared no better as Graham's shot sailed over the goalpost, and Robbert Klomp's shot hit the post while Bob Oatey's free kick was rushed through for another behind.

Then, at the 15 minute mark of the third quarter, Fred Phillis marked strongly and from 45 metres out he registered the first goal of the game kicked against the strong breeze. Just 5 minutes later, MacFarlane's handball shot to Caldwell who kicked truly to cut Sturt's lead to only 4 points.

Glenelg were playing like a team possessed, as they tackled brilliantly and were continually first to the ball. This quarter appeared to be a matchwinner with Sturt adding only 6 points with the breeze to the Tigers' 2.1.

Sturt began the final term full of running and added points from Robert Oatey and Robert Barton. Then at the 5-minute mark, full-forward Ken Whelan was freed some 30 metres from goal. As his kick sailed through, Sturt's hopes for victory soared. They led by 13 points.

Both sides were defending strongly, but it was always going to be Sturt's Premiership as Whelan's handball to the unmarked Graham saw the Sturt half forward score his second goal and the Blues eighth. When Robert Barton goaled at the 15 minute mark Sturt had an unassailable lead of 25 points.

Despite late goals for Glenelg, from John MacFarlane and Ted Osborn, it was a comfortable victory to Sturt by 15 points.

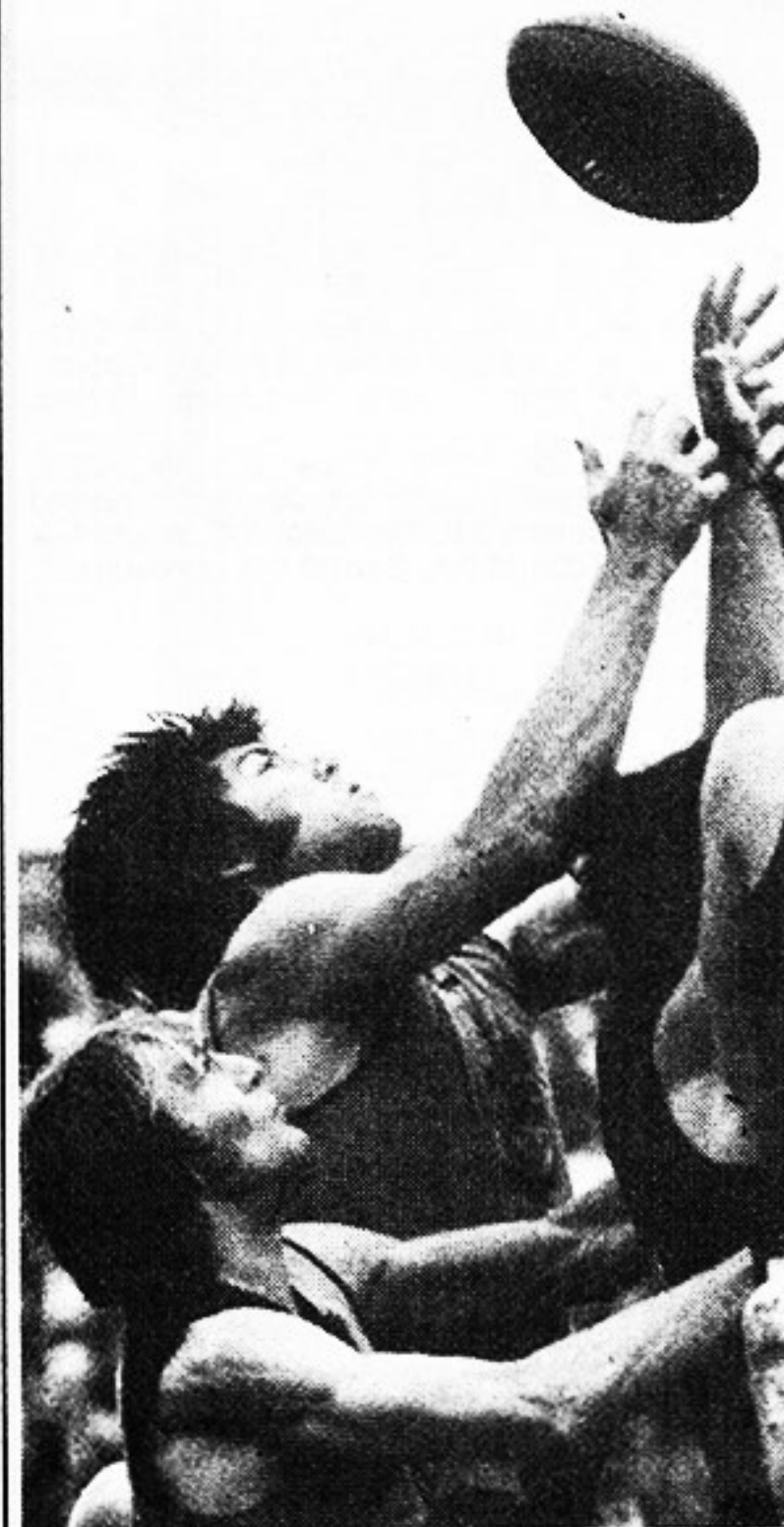
|         |     |     |      |      |    |
|---------|-----|-----|------|------|----|
| STURT   | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.12 | 9.16 | 70 |
| GLENELG | 0.1 | 4.6 | 6.7  | 8.7  | 55 |

**Scorers:** Sturt — Graham 2.2, Klomp 2.2, Whelan 2.0, Barton 1.2, Davies 1.0, Burgan 1.0, R. Oatey 0.2, Nunan 0.1, Miels 0.1, Lauder 0.1, Rushed 0.5. Glenelg — D. Phillis 3.2, Caldwell 2.1, Marriott, 1.1, Osborn 1.1, Cornes 1.0, Weston 0.1, Hodgeman 0.1.

**Best Players** — Sturt — Davies, Nunan, Bagshaw, Wild, Adcock, Klomp, Murphy. Glenelg — Marker, Tardif, MacFarlane, W. Phillis, Tregenza, Cornes, Osborn.

**Replacements** — Sturt — Lauder (cramp) by Barton at three quarter time. Glenelg — Bennett (leg) by Hodgeman, first quarter, P. Obst (leg) by Wickens, third quarter.

ATTENDANCE — 58,042.  
UMPIRE — M. E. Ducker.



Rick Davies flies over Graham Cornes in the 1974 Grand Final.