

ON FORM, STURT BY A STREET!

By Stephen Middleton

There are still eight minor round games and five finals matches to go but on current form the 1978 premiership flag will hang in the Sturt clubrooms on September 30.

In the past two weeks the two teams most highly fancied as threats to Sturt — Norwood and Glenelg — have both found themselves lacking when up against the Blues.

Sturt coach, Jack Oatey would not be drawn yesterday when asked which team he saw as the biggest threat to a Sturt premiership.

"There are too many games to be played yet before you can start talking about the finals," he said.

But yesterday Sturt showed there isn't another

team in the SANFL that can currently be considered a better bunch than the Blues.

Mince meat

Sturt have made mince-meat of the top contenders week after week. But they face their bogey team, West Adelaide, at Football Park next Saturday.

West are the only team to have beaten the Blues this season — in a shock win at Richmond on May 6.

With the Bloods breaking the drought at Central Districts' expense yes-

terday, next week's clash could be one to watch closely.

While Sturt steamrollered on the revitalised Eagles continued their run with victory over South to open up a one-game break over Woodville and establish a useful percentage margin.

But take a close look at Sturt on the top of the ladder. They are now two games clear of Glenelg, with a whopping 7 per cent. margin to make their standing even stronger they're virtually three wins clear.

Barnstorming Blues step up the pace

Sturt 16-15, Glenelg 11-17

Jack Oatey's mighty Blues continued their charge toward the 1977 premiership when they shrugged off yet another challenge at Unley Oval yesterday.

This time it was Glenelg who found themselves in the unenviable position of showing the rest of South Australian football how good Sturt really are.

"I was very proud of our blokes," said Glenelg coach, John Nicholls after the game. "I thought they played very well."

They did, too, but there is no doubting which is the top side in SA football at present. Despite the fact that the Bays held the lead for two-thirds of the game, they couldn't keep it when Sturt really began to fire.

For Jack Oatey it was an "excellent team effort," with his team under pressure at half-time but responding to a man.

And for the fans who made it to Unley it was a classic game of football, with every facet of the game to be seen.

Glenelg opened brilliantly and took the game away from Sturt, with Peter Carey playing an inspired game in ruck against the brilliant Rick Davies and the desperate Trevor Sims.

Devastating

Feeding off Carey were Peter McInerney and (to a lesser extent early) Kym Hodgeman. The pair shovelled the ball down the ground with devastating effect, always on the hunt for Graham Cornes who started at full forward even though he wasn't expected to play.

Cornes goaled from his first use of the ball, prompting Jack Oatey to switch Colin Casey into the back pocket and bring Peter Hargreaves on to the Bay champion.

And while Glenelg kept the pressure on the Sturt defence, their own backline was firing well, with Chris Hercock, Steve Hywood and Michael Farquhar doing the job to perfection.

Consequently, when Sturt pushed the play up the ground into the wind they had little time to run the ball systematically.

Carey was in everything and, with the two rovers, plus Cornes and Stephen Copping providing the required sting around the goals, Glenelg appeared to have the goods.

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Their biggest problems at that stage appeared to be across half-forward, where Geoff Wiseman was providing the Blues with tremendous rebound and giving Robbert Klomp valuable help as the bearded backman struggled under the weight of Glenelg's attacking thrusts.

Cornes went to a half-forward flank during the second quarter and suddenly dropped out of the game as Wiseman went from strength to strength.

With the Bay champion out of the goals, Casey returned to his normal defensive position and Hargreaves returned to the back pocket.

It was during the third quarter that the match started to go right for Sturt.

As Hargreaves came out of the pocket and on to the ball, Davies began to

exert more influence on the game, while Klomp established himself as a rebounding defender and Paul Bagshaw and Bruce Winter opened up in attack.

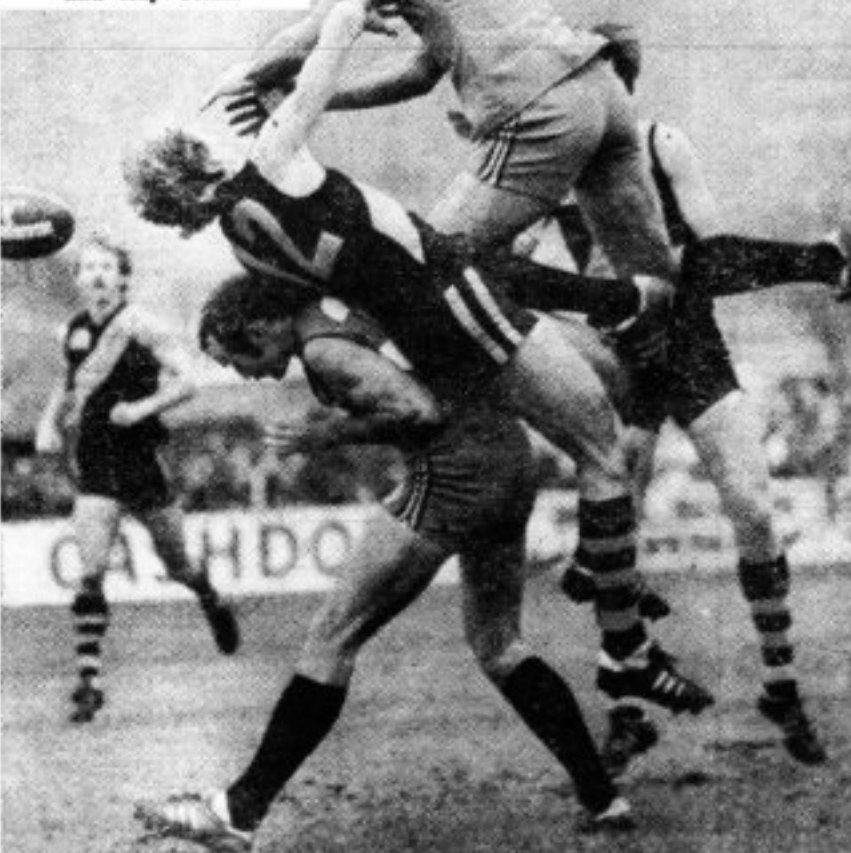
At the same time, Michael Graham exploded having come on to the ground late in the second quarter.

Confidence

With Bagshaw dominating Steve Hywood and kicking goals for the first time, Sturt began to steamroll the Bays.

With their tails in the air Sturt stormed home, with Graham playing dynamic football and the whole Sturt side lifting around him. Glenelg threw Graham Cornes on to the ball and gave Stephen Copping a commission closer to the play than he had been in the forward lines, but it was all over.

RIGHT: Glenelg captain Graham Cornes, gets a brief respite on his way to the ground as he lands on the back of Sturt's Geoff Wiseman after being caught out of position by high-leaping Rick Davies. Pictures by Dennis Rogers and Ray Titus.



SPINNING WHEEL TYRES LEAGUE DETAILS

RICHMOND OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	2-5	8-10	11-15	15-17	107
Cent.	2-6	2-7	3-9	5-11	41

BEST—WEST: Morris, Weideman, Meuret, Stevenson, Loveday, Grimwood, Kennedy, Hamilton. **CENTRALS:** O'Brien, Rae, Vivian, Stone.
SCORERS—WEST: Morris 5.2, Meuret 4.3, Davoren 3.0, Weideman 2.4, Hazen 1.2, Grimwood 0.2, Reynolds 0.1, rushed 0.3. **CENTRALS:** George 2.4, Stone 1.0, Vivian 1.0, Boehm 1.0, Mobbs 0.2, Ruciak 0.2, Norsworthy 0.1, rushed 0.2.
INJURIES—CENTRALS: Koch (split lip) third quarter.
UMPIRES—Des Foster and Rick Kinnear.

NORWOOD OVAL

Nwd.	4-3	7-8	10-13	15-14	104
W'ville	3-3	6-7	9-8	10-12	72

BEST—NORWOOD: Armour, Olsen, Rosser, Clarke, Taylor, Gallagher. **WOODVILLE:** Sewer, Maylin, Goodingham, Hutton, Ruth, Heaven.
SCORERS—NORWOOD: Phillis 3.2, Woodcock 3.1, Sapwell 2.1, Michalanne 2.0, Von Bertouch 2.0, Armour 1.2, Adler 1.1, Button 1.0, Gallagher 0.2, Rosser 0.1, Grex 0.1, Clark 0.1, rushed 0.2. **WOODVILLE:** Ruth 4.1, Roberts 2.2, Howard 1.2, Close 1.0, Ford 1.0, Crane 1.0, Sewer 0.3, Goodingham 0.2, Denness 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES—NORWOOD: Adler (cheek, second quarter), Dunstan (corked thigh, fourth quarter). **WOODVILLE:** Ruth (calf, fourth quarter), Stemper (knee, second quarter).
REPORT—B. Goodingham (Woodville) reported by field umpire Ric Charlesworth for alleged misconduct in the fourth quarter.
UMPIRES—Ric Charlesworth, and Mark Coombe.

PROSPECT OVAL

Port	8-5	12-9	17-14	22-19	151
North	3-3	8-5	11-8	14-9	93

Best — PORT: Ebert, Belton, Porplycia, Clifford, Enright, Cahill. **NORTH:** W. Stringer, Pelle, Roach, Jaworskyj, Redden, umford.
SCORERS — PORT: Cahill 4.1, Evans 4.5, Enright 3.2, Belton 3.4, Cunningham 2.1, Clifford 2.1, Porplycia 1.1, Schulz 1.0, Sorrell 1.0, Granger 1.1, rushed 0.3. **NORTH:** Roach 2.0, W. Stringer 3.0, Russell 2.0, Pelle 2.1, Redden 2.1, Baruzzi 2.1, Ellis 1.1, Lofts 0.2, Jaworskyj 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES — PORT: Porplycia (corked thigh fourth quarter). **NORTH:** B. Stringer (ankle, half-time).
UMPIRES—Roger Magor, Brenton O'Connor.
REPORTS—North's Tony Roach by boundary umpire for striking Port's Paul Belton.

UNLEY OVAL

Sturt	2-0	6-4	10-10	16-15	111
Glen.	4-5	8-9	10-14	11-17	83

BEST PLAYERS — STURT: Wiseman, Weatherald, Klomp, Winter, Davies, Bagshaw, Graham. **GLENELG:** Hodgeman, Carey, McInerney, Lihou, Weston, Copping.
SCORERS — STURT: Bagshaw 4.4, Winter 3.2, Graham 2.3, Sims 2.0, Burgan 2.0, Hunt 1.1, Davies 1.0, Downes 1.0, Heinrich 0.1, Howard 0.1, Hargreaves 0.1, rushed 0.2. **GLENELG:** Copping 3.0, Cornes 2.4, Rady 2.3, Hodgeman 2.1, McInerney 1.4, Whiting 1.0, Carey 0.2, Caldwell 0.1, rushed 0.2.
UMPIRES — Peter Mead, Bob Scholefield.

FOOTBALL PARK

Tor.	1-1	6-3	9-6	13-9	87
South	2-6	7-8	9-9	11-10	76

BEST PLAYERS — TORRENS: Jackman, Hanna, N. Roberts, Marriott, Florean. **SOUTH:** Butler, Baynes, Palmer, Hines, Bennett.
SCORERS — TORRENS: Jackman 5.2, Marriott 2.0, Giles 2.0, Inglis 2.0, Hanna 1.1, McKay 1.1, Roberts 0.3, M. Pavlich 0.1, McSparran 0.1. **SOUTH:** Hines 3.1, Green 3.0, Fry 1.2, Farrer 1.1, Dry 1.1, Baynes 1.0, Hateley 1.0, Bennett 0.2, Cox 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES — SOUTH: Wayne Slattery (bruised hip) second quarter.
UMPIRES — Laurie Argent and Trevor Thomas.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	For	Agst.	Pts.	%
Sturt	13	1	1855	1175	26	61.35
Glenelg	11	3	1563	1301	22	54.57
Norwood	9	5	1388	1032	18	56.89
Port	8	6	1432	1368	16	51.18
Torrens	7	7	1380	1382	14	49.96
Woodville	6	8	1329	1527	12	46.53
Centrals	5	9	1310	1601	10	44.81
West	4	10	1178	1319	8	47.18
South	4	10	1200	1478	8	44.81
North	3	11	1371	1805	6	43.17

LEADING GOALKICKERS

	Yesterday	Matches	Total
Bagshaw (Sturt)	4.4	13	57.29
George (Centrals)	2.4	8	44.30
T. Evans (Port)	4.5	14	41.37
Winter (Sturt)	3.2	14	39.27
Hodgeman (Glenelg)	2.1	14	37.22
Copping (Glenelg)	3.0	14	34.22
Davoren (West)	3.0	13	32.18
Phillis (Glenelg)	—	8	32.18

CROWDS

Unley	14,085
Prospect	6,528
Football Park	6,264
Norwood	5,424
Richmond	2,699
TOTAL	35,000

PROGRAM

SATURDAY — West-Sturt (Football Park), Centrals-Norwood (Elizabeth), North-Glenelg (Prospect), Woodville-South (Woodville).
SUNDAY — Port-Torrens (Football Park).