

FANS SWARM BACK

By Alan Shiell

Spectators swarmed back to league football yesterday, with the first four matches of the eighteenth series drawing a total attendance of 41,375.

Biggest crowd was at Football Park — 17,765.

It proved three things

●Port Adelaide still is the biggest crowd-puller of all clubs.

●Central District WILL draw good crowds in the finals.

●People WILL go to Football Park if the weather is fine and the match appealing.

Adelaide Oval, the sentimental favorite with many football followers, again drew well, having the second best crowd of 9874 yesterday.

Norwood and Woodville attracted 7091 spectators to Norwood Oval — exactly 1000 below the 1973 record figure for a Norwood-Woodville match at Norwood.

Injection

A crowd of 6015 saw West Adelaide come Glenelg by 39 points at Glenelg Oval.

Woodville on the other hand have the worst followings in the league.

Harassed league administrators will breathe a little easier this week, with the final figure for the eighteenth round likely to be around the 50,000 mark after today's Football Park meeting between North Adelaide and West Torrens.

"Now stop bashing the crowds," they'll say, with ample justification after yesterday's excellent figure.

But there is still concern among some league and club officials that Central, South Adelaide, and Wood-

ville will not draw as many people to Football Park in September as normally attend the finals.

It is a fatuous forecast at this stage.

The three clubs con-

cerned are entitled to believe they will attract good-size crowds, if only because they will be injecting new blood into what has been a familiar format for too long.

PECKERS GRAB SPOT IN FINALS

By Alan Shiell

Woodville, football's poor relation for most of its previous 15 seasons in league company, is poised to play in the finals for the first time.

And Central District, which also was admitted to the league competition in 1964, is headed for the minor premiership.

The final five virtually is settled — with four minor round series still to play.

If the five stays intact, as expected, there will be three changes from last season—Central, Woodville, and South Adelaide in. Sturt, Glenelg, and West Torrens out.

South's 37-point win against Sturt at Adelaide Oval yesterday almost certainly has ruined Sturt's hopes of climbing into the final five.

Main interest now centres on the fight for the top three positions and the double chance that goes with them.

A Central-Woodville grand final is a real possibility.

It would be an appropriate finale to the 1979 season, one of the most

16-year struggle pays off

unpredictable, if not THE most unpredictable, in the game's 102-history in South Australia.

In beating Norwood by seven points at the Parade yesterday, Woodville set a club record of 10 wins in a season.

It also was only the third time, and the second this year, that the Peckers had won four consecutive matches.

"We have every chance of winning the premiership," Woodville coach Barry Goodingham declared last night. "We have only to get second or third spot, and anything can happen."

West comes of age

Youngsters thrash Glenelg

West Adelaide's youngsters virtually came of age to hand out a 39-point hiding to Glenelg at Glenelg yesterday.

When inexperience normally would have let the young bloods down, they proved this was not the case, and notched their third successive win.

Glenelg, particularly in the final term, offered little resistance as West continually charged forward.

In fact West was so enthusiastic about gaining possession coach Trevor Hughes could do little more than watch as his charges sometimes battled each other with pary a Tiger in sight.

Glenelg had chances, especially in the third term when it was neck and neck, but encouraging passages of play broke down when it mattered most.

The Wolves would bounce back, weave through a suspect Glenelg defence and kick match-winning goals.

They always looked like they could take the game away. Then at crucial times there were lapses which kept the Tigers in the game.

Champion

While West did itself proud it was the end of the road for Glenelg. The Wolves hammered

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	5-4	10-11	16-15	23-19	157
Glen.	5-5	9-8	14-14	17-16	118

home the message.

It was a great team effort but the Tigers could count on one hand the players earning full pay.

Ruckman Peter Carey proved a true champion with 27 hitouts, 13 handballs, 11 marks and constant covering up for his wayward teammates.

Captain Paul Weston was one of the main reasons Glenelg was still in the game at three-quarter time.

Follower Graham Cornes was limping heavily with a slightly corked thigh late in the match but his performance, despite touches of brilliance, was nothing out of the ordinary.

West had wingman Geoff Morris picking up a host of possession, follower Ian Borchard turning in a great last term and young Mark Weideman playing in the rucks and defence with class which belied his years.

Trevor Pierson silenced his critics with six goals

and centre-half forward Peter Mueret plugged away to annoy the Glenelg defence, but should have kicked better than 3.6.

Kevin Beswick was staunch in defence, taking timely marks, and Dean Dunhill completed his role with authority.

It was West Adelaide's highest score at The Bay since 1928.



Peter Carey

LEAGUE DETAILS

FOOTBALL PARK

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Central	4-7	10-15	13-19	18-25	133
Port	4-3	4-4	9-7	11-13	79

BEST. — CENTRAL: Jonas, Vivian, Gillies, Duckworth, Schultz, B. Norworthy, Mobbs. PORT: Phillips, Cunningham, Faletic, M. Williams, Abernethy, Dawson.

SCORERS — CENTRAL: Jonas 4.4, Van Dommele 3.0, Duckworth 2.4, Gillies 2.1, Wilson 2.1, Beythien 2.1, Lehmann 1.5, Schultz 1.1, B. Norworthy 1.0, Stevenson 0.3, Mobbs 0.1, rushed 0.4. PORT: Evans 5.2, Dawson 2.0, Sorrell 1.2, Cunningham 1.1, Clifford 1.0, Boyd 1.0, Cahill 0.2, Hoffner 0.2, Giles 0.1, rushed 0.3.

INJURIES. — CENTRAL: R. Cochrane (cut head), M. Norworthy (bruised buttocks). PORT: Clifford (ankle), G. Natt (ankle).

UMPIRES.—Rick Kinnear, Trevor Thomas.

NORWOOD OVAL

Woodville	3-1	8-2	14-9	15-9	99
Norwood	1-2	7-7	10-11	13-14	92

BEST. — WOODVILLE: D. Hewitt, Maylin, Sewer, Darmody, Roberts, Heaven, Howard, Scheer, Goodingham. NORWOOD: Button, Rosser, Nunan, Kerley, Gallagher, Adler, Armour, Taylor, Thiel.

SCORERS — WOODVILLE: Carty 4.0, D. Hewitt 3.2, Maylin 2.2, Mildenhall 2.0, Roberts 1.1, Darmody 1.0, G. Hewitt 1.0, Crane 1.0, Sewer 0.2, Parker 0.1, rushed 0.1. NORWOOD: Thiel 4.1, Adler 4.1, Barton 3.3, Rosser 1.2, Adamson 1.1, Armour 0.2, Nunan 0.1, Holliday 0.1, Gallagher 0.1, Wynne 0.1.

INJURIES. — WOODVILLE: Maylin (ankle), Carty (cut ear). NORWOOD: Woodcock (bleeding behind eye) off first quarter, Craig (shoulder) off half-time.

Umpires—Peter Mead, Mark Coombe.

ADELAIDE OVAL

South	2-2	7-5	12-10	17-14	116
Sturt	2-4	4-7	8-9	11-13	79

BEST.—SOUTH: Butler, Fry, Baynes, Bennett, Hateley, Collins, Cox, STURT: Davies, Hardean, Reed, Lloyd, P. Heinrich, Sanders, Bagshaw.

SCORERS.—SOUTH: Hateley 3.1, Collins 3.0, Hines 2.3, Coleman 2.3, G. Brooksby 2.1, Harradine 2.1, Cox 1.1, Keam 1.0, Fry 1.0, Butler 0.1, Bennett 0.1, rushed 0.2. STURT: Bagshaw 4.2, Davies 2.2, P. Heinrich 2.2, Whelan 2.0, Zilm 1.0, Coulls 0.2, B. Howard 0.1, Brand 0.1, rushed 0.3.

INJURIES.—SOUTH: Bracegirdle (ankle), White (leg). STURT: M. Heinrich (ribs), K. Warren (knee).

UMPIRES.—Des Foster, John Hyton.

GLENELG OVAL

West	5-4	10-11	16-11	23-19	157
Glenelg	5-5	9-8	14-14	17-16	118

BEST.—WEST ADELAIDE: Morris, Weideman, Dunhill, Grosser, Beswick, Borchard. GLENELG: Carey, Weston, Hodgeman.

SCORERS — WEST: Pierson 6.2, Bennett 4.1, Meuret 3.0, Luders 3.3, Grosser 2.3, Dunhill 2.1, Dunlop 1.2, Drew 1.1, Borchard 1.0. GLENELG: Copping 4.2, Weston 3.3, Hodgeman 2.3, Cornes 2.1, Caldwell 2.0, Hurley 1.1, P. Johnston 1.0, Greenslade 1.0, Harrison 1.0, Farquhar 0.1, MacVicar 0.1, McInerney 0.1, rushed 0.3.

INJURIES. — GLENELG: Cornes (thigh), Marshall (thigh).

UMPIRES — Frank McHugh, Rob Scholefield.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	%
Central	18	12	5	1	1843	1755	25	51.22
Port	18	11	7	—	1743	1622	22	51.80
South	18	11	7	—	1643	1644	22	49.98
Norwood	18	10	8	—	2010	1622	20	55.34
Woodville	18	10	8	—	1808	1624	20	52.68
Sturt	18	8	10	—	1785	1850	16	49.11
*North	17	7	10	—	1626	1823	14	47.14
Glenelg	18	6	11	1	1691	1783	13	48.67
West	18	6	11	1	1810	1935	13	48.33
*Torrens	17	6	10	1	1501	1803	13	45.43

* Play today

LEADING GOALKICKERS

	Games	Yest	Total
G. Hewitt (Woodville)	18	1.0	67.45
Evans (Port)	14	5.2	53.35
Carty (Woodville)	18	4.0	46.22
Luders (West)	17	3.3	44.34
Pierson (West)	16	6.2	44.20
P. Heinrich (Sturt)	18	2.2	42.32
Whelan (Sturt)	15	2.0	38.25
Slattery (South)	17	—	37.28

CROWDS

Adelaide Oval	9874
Glenelg	6645
Football Park	17,765
Norwood	7091
Total	41,375

PROGRAM

SATURDAY — Sturt v Woodville (Football Park), Port v South (Alberton), Torrens v Norwood (Thebarton), North v Glenelg (Prospect).
SUNDAY — Central v West (Football Park).

INTERSTATE FOOTBALL

MELBOURNE: Melbourne 21-8 (134), Essendon 16-9 (105); Fitzroy 15-25 (115), Hawthorn 15-14 (104); Carlton 21-15 (141), North Melbourne 18-11 (119); South Melbourne 31-9 (195), Footscray 15-16 (106); Richmond 28-22 (190), St Kilda 18-11 (119); Geelong 18-16 (124), Collingwood 9-9 (63).

PERTH: Swan Districts 23-12 (156), Claremont 15-19 (109); South Fremantle 21-12 (138), Subiaco 12-13 (85); Perth 23-13 (151), West Perth 10-16 (76); East Perth 31-10 (196), East Fremantle 13-15 (93).

SYDNEY — League: Western Suburbs 21, Manly 13. HOBART — Clarence 16-17, North Hobart 15-9; Glenorchy 27-18, Hobart 13-15; Newfolk 9-18, Sandy Bay 6-9; Uiverstone 13-21, Penguin 9-20; Cooree 19-12, Devonport 14-16; Burnie 20-20, East Devonport 13-15; Wynard 16-27, Latrobe 11-7; Launceston 10-10, Longford 6-6; City South 10-14, Scottsdale 8-11; North Launceston 22-16, East Launceston 8-14.