

North top of roost

NORTH Adelaide snatched the minor premiership and West and Sturt overcame the Central District challenge for a position in the final five as a result of yesterday's last minor round matches.

North earned the right to have a week's break while Norwood and Glenelg do battle in Sunday's qualifying final. West and Sturt meet in the cut-throat elimination final on Saturday.

West put paid to any hope Central may have had of making the finals

point win at Adelaide Oval yesterday.

Central coach Kevin "Cowboy" Neale said: "We have no excuses for not making the finals. It's disappointing and we will still struggle to get up there until we get another forward capable of kicking 100 goals in a season."

Sturt cemented its finals berth with a 34-point triumph against Glenelg, which sent the Bays falling from top

CAREY ON CHARGE

And 'Legs 4 in doubt



Peter Carey: Reported

Glenelg captain Peter Carey was reported, and Norwood suffered injuries to four key players in yesterday's dramatic end to the minor round season.

By Laurie McCauley

Carey was reported by field umpire John Hylton for allegedly striking former teammate John Paynter, of Sturt, with a clenched fist.

The first-term incident occurred in the game at Unley Oval, which Sturt won to clinch its spot in the final five.

The veteran Glenelg ruckman will face the league tribunal on Tuesday night and will be hoping history does not repeat itself.

Last year Carey was reported for striking during the qualifying final match against Central and was suspended for two games. Glenelg lost both those matches and was eliminated from the premiership race.

Glenelg meets Norwood

In this year's qualifying final at Football Park on Sunday and the Bays will find it difficult to replace their on-field leader.

Doubt

Teammate Tony Hall also is in doubt after being carried off the field with an injury to his left knee.

Norwood was hardest hit by injuries with captain Neville Roberts, wingmen Phil Gallagher and Duncan Fosdike and versatile Justin Scanlon under a cloud.

Scanlon fractured the fibula bone of his leg while attempting a comeback in the reserves.

He had missed the past eight matches with a groin injury and was ex-

pected to try to force his way back into the league side.

The leg already is in plaster and he will not play again this year.

Roberts was carried off the field during the final term of the game against Port with strained medial ligaments to his left knee.

Gallagher and Fosdike suffered hamstring injuries during the second term.

All three are doubtful for next week's final but the club will discover more on the extent of damage during training.

West emerged from its victorious game against Central without injury and will meet Sturt in Saturday's elimination final.

Sturt centreman/follower Paynter suffered a suspected broken nose against Glenelg but this is not expected to rule him out.

FOOTBALL PARK

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Norwood	2-8	8-8	14-11	20-14	134
Port	3-7	7-14	11-18	14-25	109

BEST — NORWOOD: Neagle, K. Thomas, Michalanne, G. Thomas, Warhurst, M. Aish, Taylor. **PORT:** Clifford, Bradley, Evans, Baker, Lawson, Ebert.

SCORERS — NORWOOD: Neagle 4-1, Michalanne 3-4, K. Thomas 3-1, O'Dwyer 2-1, Roberts 2-0, Ross 1-1, Gallagher 1-1, Button 1-1, Jenkins 1-1, M. Aish 1-0, Fosdike 1-0, rushed 0-3. **PORT:** Evans 6-4, Russell 2-0, Goch 1-3, Clifford 1-2, Ebert 1-2, R. Smith 1-0, Harrison 1-0, R. Boyd 1-0, rushed 0-7, Bradley 0-3, G. Boyd 0-2, Kennedy 0-1, Anderson 0-1.

INJURIES — NORWOOD: Roberts (medial ligament), Gallagher and Fosdike (hamstrings).

UMPIRES: Graham Hilton, David Trembath.

ADELAIDE OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	5-6	11-13	17-17	24-23	167
Central	3-3	5-6	11-9	21-11	137

BEST — WEST: D. Herbert, Fielke, P. Winter, Meuret, McKinnon, Grosser, Mickan. **CENTRAL:** Cousins, Platten, Beythien, Connelly, Van Dommelle, Hurn.

SCORERS — WEST: Meuret 5-1, Fielke 4-4, Andrews 4-3, Lamb 3-5, D. Herbert 3-1, Smith 2-2, Mickan 1-1, Burton 1-1, C. Herbert 1-0, Morris 0-2, Grosser 0-1, rushed 0-2. **CENTRAL:** Platten 6-2, Cousins 4-1, Wilson 3-0, Krieg 2-0, Robertson 2-0, Shields 1-2, Connelly 1-1, Beythien 1-1, Collins 1-0, P. Buhner 0-1, Hurn 0-1, Trigg 0-1, rushed 0-1.

INJURIES — CENTRAL: Norsworthy (hamstring), Buhner (ankle).

UMPIRES: Laurie Argent, Rick Kinnear.

PROSPECT OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
North	6-7	11-11	15-17	22-20	152
Woodville	5-2	9-4	14-5	18-6	114

BEST — NORTH: Antrobus, Hart, Redden, Hill, Campbell, Tiller, Bennett. **WOODVILLE:** Blight, Harris, Parker, Fuller, Jackson, Dettman, Rogers.

SCORERS — NORTH: Dietrich 7-3, Hart 4-1, Antrobus 2-1, Robertson 2-1, Bennett 2-1, Tiller 2-0, Sanders 1-3, S. Riley 1-0, Armfield 1-0, Campbell 0-5, Jarman 0-2, Hill 0-1, rushed 0-2. **WOODVILLE:** Blight 6-2, Fuller 4-0, Grant 2-1, Beecroft 2-0, Harris 2-0, Jolly 1-0, Jackson 1-0, Dettman 0-2, Sewer 0-1.

INJURIES — NORTH: Jarman mild concussion.

UMPIRES: Stephen Ardill, Jim Field.

THEBARTON OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	8-3	14-4	17-10	26-16	172
South	3-5	9-9	12-11	17-19	121

BEST — TORRENS: Sims, Payze, Roberts, Stretch, Meehan, Enright, Collier. **SOUTH:** P. Martin, Naley, Bennett, Christie, David Kappler, Darren Kappler, Davies.

SCORERS — TORRENS: Roberts 8-4, Johnston 4-0, Payze 3-2, Meehan 3-0, Stretch 2-1, Turner 2-0, Cunningham 2-0, Sims 1-2, Collier 1-0, Foote 0-2, B. Lindsay 0-1, rushed 0-4. **SOUTH:** Davies 5-6, P. Martin 3-2, Naley 3-0, Eddy 2-1, Darren Kappler 2-1, Ryan 1-2, Hewitt 1-0, Campbell 0-3, Harris 0-2, Stockel 0-1, rushed 0-1.

UMPIRES: Darryl Schramm, David Weston.

UNLEY OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	7-3	12-9	16-12	21-14	140
Glenelg	3-9	7-13	10-20	14-22	106

BEST — STURT: Motley, Craig, Paynter, Smith, Spiel, Reid, Wark, Martin. **GLENELG:** McDermott, McGuinness, Copping, Symonds, A. Stringer, Marshall.

SCORERS — STURT: Motley 4-2, Willmott 3-2, Fielke 3-2, Hollis 3-0, Smith 2-1, Frost 2-0, Fry 1-1, Martin 1-1, Whittlesea 1-0, Wark 1-0, Craig 0-1, Paynter 0-1, Derrington 0-1, rushed 0-2. **GLENELG:** Copping 5-4, McGuinness 3-3, Carey 2-2, Marshall 2-0, McDermott 1-2, S. Kernahan 1-1, Thomson 0-3, Henwood 0-2, Gibbs 0-1, Symonds 0-1, A. Stringer 0-1, rushed 0-2.

INJURIES — STURT: Paynter (suspected broken nose).

REPORT — GLENELG: Carey, for allegedly striking Paynter with clenched fist during last quarter, by field umpire John Hylton.

UMPIRES: John Hylton, Neville Thorp.

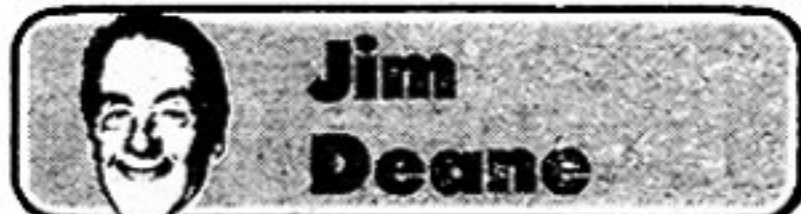
LEADING GOALKICKERS

	Games	Yesterday	Total
BLIGHT (Woodville)	21	6-2	126-69
WILLMOTT (Sturt)	21	3-2	111-40
DAVIES (South/Sturt)	21	5-6	88-47
ROBERTS (Torrens)	19	8-4	81-38
EVANS (Port)	16	6-3	80-36
COPPING (Glenelg)	19	5-4	70-25
DIETRICH (North)	17	7-3	68-28
BEECROFT (Woodville)	21	2-0	68-17
JOHNSTON (Torrens)	20	4-0	66-29
PLATTEN (Central)	20	6-2	63-43

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	%
North	15	—	7	2738	2460	30	52.67
Norwood	14	1	7	2602	2302	29	53.06
Glenelg	14	—	8	2704	2263	28	54.44
West	13	—	9	2856	2591	26	52.43
Sturt	12	1	9	2681	2470	25	52.05
Central	11	—	11	2649	2546	22	50.99
Port	8	—	14	2164	2786	16	46.93
South	8	—	14	2315	2693	16	46.22
Torrens	8	—	14	2481	2916	16	45.71
Woodville	6	—	16	2752	3185	12	46.33

Captain Craig key to skilful brigade



As told to Peter Cornwall

Sturt now is in the fight with a real show — with one proviso that captain and followed Neil Craig, an inspiration yesterday, remains fit.

The Blues discounted doubts over being worthy of a finals place with a convincing 34 point win against Glenelg, ending the Bays' winning streak of seven games and knocking it from top of the table at Unley.

When things were tough in the early stages of the game, Craig, along with John Paynter and Darryl Smith were the motivators.

Although Peter Motley, Craig, Paynter and Smith were Sturt's outstanding contributors on the day, it was Frank Spiel, who, after again starting in the unaccustomed position of full back, played with devastating effectiveness when moved into ruck.

He brought Sturt's skilful brigade into the game.

Blues defender Peter Reid's statistics rarely are flattering, but his influence in subduing Kernahan to normal proportions, made it tough for Glenelg.

Excellent

Yesterday, the renowned Sturt skills were on full display but the best aspect of their game was their desperate tackling and fierce approach on the ball.

It was surprising, in view of the excellent conditions, that Glenelg, despite many opportunities, could not kick accurately for goal.

The opening for the game was like a finals match, as the teams looked nervous, and this was reflected in Glenelg's bad kicking for goal in the first quarter.

The Bays had 12 scoring shots to Sturt's 10, yet still trailed by 18 points at the first break.

In the second quarter, it became obvious the hard approach by players from each side was contributing to the poor goalshooting, and Sturt too was affected.

Even though the Blues led by 26 points at half time, Bay supporters must have thought they were still in with a chance of seeing a Glenelg victory.

Desperate

But the abundant talent of Motley, Paynter, Craig and Smith became even more evident after half time.

Although Chris McDermott and Tony McGuinness were at their best, the only forward Glenelg had to capitalise on the opportunities they presented was the strong-marking Stephen Copping.

He finished the game with 5-4.

At three-quarter time, Sturt led by 28 points.

Glenelg made a desperate last-quarter effort to get back into the game and retain its top place, but by this time Sturt's confidence was soaring and new young players in the side in David Wark and Geoff Martin showed they have bright futures.

And the genius of Motley in the last quarter made sure the Blues were going to hold on to their hard-earned lead.

Although Motley did not play with the same degree of dominance as he did against South last week, which is hardly surprising as he then gave the best individual display I have seen all season, his effort, particularly after half-time, demoralised Glenelg.

His well-timed marking and body balance, along with the opportunities he created for other players, added to his claims for the Magarey Medal.

But although Kernahan was comparatively quiet yesterday, he still ranks with Motley as my favorite for the honor.



Neil Craig ... inspiration.

If Neil Craig had not suffered so badly from injuries during the season, it is obvious Sturt would not be playing in the cut-throat final next week. Instead, it would have been in the top three.

Right from the first bounce, Craig was the biggest motivator in the Sturt side. His handballing opened the game up on many occasions and his foot passing was a delight.

John Paynter, who played in the centre, is, along with Norwood's Phil Gallagher, the best value-for-touches player in the game.

He won many hard balls and kicked with pin-point accuracy. There was hardly a kick of his that didn't go to a teammate.

Critics who like to knock Glenelg's finals record will be saying the Bays are up to their old habits again. But there is no way they should be written off because things really did not go for them yesterday.

Although their kicking from many easy scoring opportunities was atrocious, they met a fiercely determined, rejuvenated Sturt side on their own ground, before their own ecstatic Sturt supporters, and their champion Stephen Kernahan didn't exert his normal matchwinning influence.

Talent

And they still had their chances to win it.

If there is any joy in losing an important game before going into the finals, it is that McDermott is in great touch and McGuinness is roving at his best. His goal when the issue had been settled in the last quarter was the goal of the day.

In the final analysis, Sturt won the game because it had too much talent up forward and its defence stuck relentlessly to its task.