

## West victory eases pressure on Cahill STURT BACK AS A POWER

By Peter Cornwall

Sturt, with its fourth win in five matches, yesterday proved it was back as a genuine power in SA football.

The Blues, led by champion follower Peter Motley claimed an impressive 23-point win in a pressure game against West Torrens.

The Blues' last five games have seen impressive wins against Woodville, Central, West and now Torrens, while losing just to North Adelaide.

Sturt's loss at Unley by five points was an unlucky one. Indeed the Blues came closer to defeating the top side than any other team.

Yesterday, with Motley and ruckman Frank Spiel again outstanding, Sturt combined superbly to shoot out to a 54-point lead early in the second quarter before the Eagles hit back to make a game of it.

And Escort Cup champion West Adelaide reversed a sequence of four losses with an upset 27 point win over reigning premier Norwood at the Parade.



The strain showed on John Cahill during yesterday's match... but he was smiling after it

### Critical

Indeed there was probably no more relieved man in SA football circles after the ninth round of matches than Bays coach John Cahill.

He conceded that a loss at the hands of the Redlegs, after successive defeats against Glenelg, North, Sturt and Port, could have been critical.

"If we had lost, we would have just about been out of it. Now it gives us a chance," Cahill said after the game.

"We all knew how important this game was. It's certainly nice to win. "It was an aggressive and courageous win."

While Cahill had reason to be relieved after the Bays' much-needed win, former team-mate Russell Ebert saw his Port Adelaide side slip to ninth place on the premiership table with only its fourth defeat at the hands of Woodville.

The Warriors, again inspired by captain-coach Malcolm Blight, who booted nine goals, downed Port by 19 points as the Magpies slumped into further trouble.

Woodville captain-coach Malcolm Blight had no doubt the Warriors played their best football this season in the defeat of Port.

"It's been coming for a while," Blight said.

Central coach Kevin Neale also had reason to be pleased with his charges after their nine-point win against Glenelg.

"They showed spirit and kept fighting," Neale said of the win which came about with two goals in the dying moments from Magarey Medal rover John Platten.

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes was not to panic over the Rays third successive loss, however.

"Every team has its slumps — the worst thing to do is panic."

## Platten snatches it for Bulldogs



Courageous Central District rover John Platten proved the old adage that you can't keep a good man down for long when he snatched a remarkable victory for his side against Glenelg at Football Park yesterday.

Platten booted the last two goals of the game to give the struggling Bulldogs a morale-boosting nine point win against the Bays.

The spirited little rover was battered and bullied throughout the game and was kept down to just one kick in the first quarter.

But he, like so many of his team-mates, refused to let the pressure of the Tigers and when the game was there for the taking, Platten rose to the occasion.

While Platten emerged the hero, it was a gutsy team performance that enabled Central to be in with a chance near the end of the game.

The win was by no means stylish or impressive — but the manner about which the Bulldogs persevered with the task at hand speaks volumes for the club spirit.

Glenelg had its chances to wrap up the game but wilted in the face of the continual pressure from the Bulldogs.

The lead changed hands 11 times during the hard-fought but scrappy game.

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes summed it up best when he said: "It was pretty much a game of defences but they found a bit more up forward when it counted."

"It (the loss) was not good, but it's not the end of the world — we're still in third spot," Cornes said.

"Every team has its slumps — the worst thing to do is panic."

"But it was disappointing to lose and we should not have lost it."

Glenelg has now lost its last three games — to North, South and Central.

Three weeks ago, Central was sitting in the eighth position on the premiership ladder, but has now lifted itself up to sixth spot.

### Honest

The Bulldogs were able to stay in touch with Glenelg and eventually "steal" the game thanks to gargantuan efforts from ruckman Richard Cousins, Ian Dearaugo (six goals), Mark Prior, Peter Bubner, Platten and Stephen Trigg.

Glenelg also had its fair share of honest workers, led by the irrepressible Chris McDermott, Ross Gibbs, Mark Hewett, Adam Garton, Gavan Walsh and David Marshall.

To say the game could have swung either way is perhaps an injustice to Central — to the victor the spoils and all that — but it is fair to say that with three minutes left in the game it would only take one lucky break to clinch a win.

It's now history that Platten made his own luck twice to put the issue beyond question.

What went on before his final outburst faded to obscurity because the final scoreboard told the only story worth telling about the match.

"We have a way to go before we're playing top-class football," said Central coach Kevin "Cowboy" Neale.

"But they showed spirit and kept fighting."

"During games this year they've packed it in after getting behind by a couple of goals."

"We were conscious of that during the week and I was pleased that they did come back a couple of times yesterday."

"They kept persisting and kept at it."

"We're just very pleased to have won."

Whether Central has arrived as a force in the competition will be best determined after the match against undefeated North Adelaide at Football Park on June 10.

Glenelg also must prove itself in a testing game against Port Adelaide at Football Park next Saturday.

Glenelg is sitting in third position on the premiership ladder, but sides out of the five, like Central, West and Woodville, are doing enough to suggest that the Bays will have to find form in a hurry if they want to stay in the running for a finals berth.

### FOOTBALL PARK

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Central	3-1	7-3	12-8	17-9	111
Glenelg	3-0	8-6	10-10	15-12	102

BEST — CENTRAL: Cousins, Dearaugo, Prior, Bubner, Platten, Trigg. GLENELG: McDermott, Gibbs, Hewett, Garton, Walsh, Marshall.

SCORERS — CENTRAL: Dearaugo 6.1, Fraser 4.0, Platten 2.3, Norworthy 2.0, Robertson 1.2, Cousins 1.1, Roe 1.0, Boehm 0.1, rushed 0.1. GLENELG: Copping 4.1, Seebohm 3.0, S. Kernahan 2.1, Gibbs 1.1, Marshall 1.1, Motlop 1.1, Kidney 1.1, Hewett 1.0, A. Stringer 1.0, Garton 0.1, D. Kernahan 0.1, rushed 0.4.

UMPIRES — Bob Schofield, Neville Thorp.

### PROSPECT OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
North	7-2	11-8	15-13	21-23	149
South	4-0	5-2	8-4	10-9	69

BEST — NORTH: Jarman, Hart, Bennett, Antrobus, T.H. Hay, Robertson, Cambell. SOUTH: Christie, David Kappler, Would, Davies.

SCORERS — NORTH: Dietrich 5.4, Antrobus 5.0, Campbell 4.4, Hart 2.2, Robertson 2.1, Parsons 1.1, Tiller 1.0, Jarman 1.0, Bennett 0.3, Phillips 0.2, Hill 0.1, Brealey 0.1, rushed 0.4. SOUTH: Davies 3.1, Schneebichler 3.0, Would 1.2, Darren Kappler 1.0, Harris 1.0, Slattery 1.0, Lockman 0.2, Na'ey 0.1, David Kappler 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES — SOUTH: Palmer (foot).

UMPIRES — Laurie Argent, Steve Ardill.

### ADELAIDE OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Woodville	6-2	8-4	14-8	19-14	128
Port	3-4	11-4	16-8	16-13	109

BEST PLAYERS — WOODVILLE: Blight, Schwarz, Sewer, Woodhall, M. McDonald, Mackereth, Harris. PORT: Bradley, Ginever, Johnston, Smith, Evans, Simpson, Curtis.

SCORERS — WOODVILLE: Blight 9.2, R. Fuller 2.1, Haylock 2.0, Butterworth 1.2, Mazy 1.2, Harris 1.1, Stephens 1.1, Beecroft 1.0, Schwarz 1.0, Lynch 0.1, M. Fuller 0.1, rushed 0.3. PORT: Evans 7.2, Ginever 2.1, A. Kennedy 2.0, Curtis 1.3, O'Brien 1.1, Owens 1.0, Simpson 1.0, Belton 1.0, Bradley 0.2, Harrison 0.2, R. Ebert 0.1, rushed 0.1.

UMPIRES — Peter Francis, Geoff Bowles.

### THEBARTON OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	7-7	9-9	13-12	20-17	137
Torrens	0-2	8-7	11-10	17-12	114

BEST PLAYERS — STURT: Motley, Spiel, Fry, Martin, Paech, Paynter, Fielke. TORRENS: Sretch, Lindsay, Payze, Roberts, Dillon, Sims.

SCORERS — STURT: Motley 5.4, Martin 4.1, Fielke 4.1, Willmott 3.3, Smith 1.1, Viney 1.0, Klomp 1.0, Spiel 1.0, Hollis 0.1, Zubrinich 0.1, Gumley 0.1, rushed 0.4. TORRENS: Roberts 5.1, Johnston 5.0, Dillon 4.2, Taylor 1.3, Payze 1.1, Sims 1.0, Turner 0.1, Hanna 0.1, rushed 0.3.

UMPIRES — John Hilton, Steve Semmler.

### NORWOOD OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	5-5	7-6	13-7	17-10	112
Norwood	2-0	7-2	12-4	13-7	85

BEST — WEST: D. Shaw, Fielke, Hamilton, Goodwin, Woodhall, M. Kinnon, Williams, Andrews. NORWOOD: McIntosh, Hall, Winter, Kelly, Ross, Payne, Aish.

SCORERS — WEST: Woodhall 6.2, McKinnon 3.1, Mican 2.2, Winter 2.0, Fielke 1.2, Miller 1.0, Herbert 1.0, Falting 1.0, Shaw 0.2, rushed 0.1. NORWOOD: Roberts 6.1, Payne 2.1, Kelly 1.1, Hein 1.0, Warhurst 1.0, Posdike 1.0, McGrath 1.0, K. Thomas 0.1, Aish 0.1, McIntosh 0.1, Scanlon 0.1.

UMPIRES: Rick Kinnear, Jim Field.

### LEADING GOALKICKERS

Name	Games	Yest	Total
Blight (Woodville)	8	9.2	55.36
Copping (Glenelg)	9	4.1	42.11
Willmott (Sturt)	8	3.3	39.18
J. Roberts (Torrens)	8	5.1	38.14
Dietrich (North)	8	5.4	37.16
Beecroft (Woodville)	9	1.0	34.10
Antrobus (North)	9	5.0	29.19
Johnston (Torrens)	8	5.0	29.8

### PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	L	F	A	Pts	%
North	9	—	1290	905	18	58.77
Norwood	7	2	1086	913	14	51.33
Glenelg	5	3	1165	974	10	54.46
Torrens	5	3	1186	1053	10	52.97
Sturt	5	3	1113	1039	10	51.72
Central	4	5	1065	1150	8	48.08
West	3	6	1051	1169	6	47.34
Woodville	3	6	1071	1299	6	45.19
Port	3	6	1010	1290	6	45.09
South	1	8	848	1100	2	42.14

### CROWDS

Football Park	7042
Adelaide	4520
Norwood	1997
Thebarton	9135
Prospect	4436

### NEXT WEEK

Port v Glenelg (Football Park)	West v Torrens (Richmond)
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