

Tigers top up percentage against West

Glenelg continued its inexorable climb to the top of the league football premierships with a percentage boosting 66-point victory over West Adelaide at Adelaide Oval yesterday.

The win catapulted Glenelg into third place and dumped West into sixth place.

Glenelg coach Graham Cornes described his side's performance as "pretty good... although we did lairise a bit at the end". West coach John Cahill said "it was the worst game we have played for 10 weeks — by a mile!"

West had impressed as having the firepower to stop Glenelg dead in its tracks. But instead it failed miserably and the game — as a contest — was a fizzer.

West looked competent early and seemed undaunted by Glenelg's confidence, which even in the first quarter was bordering on arrogance.

But midway through the second term West was "gone". Its capitulation was abrupt — like the lifting of the needle off a long-playing record.

In hindsight there was probably a hint in the first half that West was going to finish a long way behind Glenelg because of the confusion and chaos in the West forward lines.

Even at that early stage Steve Miller and David Twomey were shuffling between centre half-forward and full forward. And Clayton Lamb was also spending time in the key outer attack position. But none of them was able to exert any long-term influence on the game. Michael Murphy, Wayne Stringer, David Grenvold, Mark Donovan, Ross Gibbs and Jim West were just too fairdinkum for the strangely tentative West players ahead of centre.

West was also disadvantaged and angered by some bewildering and inconsistent umpiring decisions in the first half when Glenelg was handed 22 frees to West's 11. It was a huge imbalance that looked unreasonable. But that was not the reason for Glenelg's total dominance in the second half.

By
GEOFF KINGSTON

Glenelg ruckman Peter Carey again embarrassed his younger and more athletic opponents with another all-conquering performance and with David Marshall in the centre triggered most of Glenelg's assaults.

Marshall's use of the ball with either hand or foot was from the pages of the football textbook. That he was allowed to do it so consistently was difficult to understand. The defensive discipline of his opponent Paul Belton — as indeed it was with most of the West side — was appalling. And until he left the game at three-quarter time to enable Robin Kidney to have a run, Marshall was the best player on the ground.

So it was Marshall and players of his ilk — followers and rovers like the indomitable Chris McDermott, the elusive Tony McTavish, Kym Hodgeman, whose courage and ability to do the right thing under pressure was at times inspirational, and the effervescent Peter Maynard.

It was Maynard's birthday yesterday and he blew away the West defence as if they were candles on his cake. He finished with six wonderfully taken opportunist goals and assisted in the making of many more.

Scott Salisbury's role also should not be overlooked. He took on West dangerman Merv Harbinson every time he went on to the ball and while the West follower finished the game with 18 kicks and nine handballs he was never the serious threat of past weeks — because of Salisbury's dogged reluctance to allow him much free time.

While West did not have a consistent winner in attack Glenelg boasted the efficient but unspectacular Max Kruse at centre half-forward and John Seebohm at full forward. It seems Glenelg has settled on those two players to take the brunt of the responsibilities up forward. On yesterday's performance against two highly credentialed opponents, they looked quite capable of spearheading Glenelg's drive for a third flag in a row.

GLENELG	5.4	12.10	19.17	26.20	(176)
WEST ADELAIDE	4.4	6.7	10.8	16.14	(110)

SCORERS — Glenelg: Maynard 6.3, Seebohm 4.4, Budarick 4.3, Hodgeman 3.3, McTavish 2.1, Gibbs 2.1, McDermott 1.2, Hewett 1.1, Kruse 1.0, Carey 1.0, Marshall 1.0, rushed 0.2. **West:** Lamb 4.4, Miller 3.1, Harbinson 2.1, Sporn 2.0, Shaw 1.2, McKinnon 1.1, Twomey 1.1, Forster 1.0, Belton 1.0, Grosser 0.2, rushed 0.2.

BEST — Glenelg: McDermott, McTavish, Marshall, Carey, Maynard, Hodgeman, W. Stringer. **West:** Shaw, Harbinson, Grosser, Burgess, Kennedy, Lamb.

NORTH	0.3	2.7	7.13	10.16	(78)
NORWOOD	4.4	8.6	9.7	9.11	(85)

SCORERS — North: Roberts 3.4, Slattery 2.2, Sanders 2.0, Hart 1.2, Burton 1.1, Cartaw 1.0, A. Jarman 0.2, Bennett 0.1, rushed 0.4. **Norwood:** Ducker, Disbury 2.1, Kelly 2.0, Rowe, Neagle 1.1, Pyke 1.0, Aish, Neave 0.2, Payne, Maynard, Hall 0.1.

BEST — North: Hart, D. Jarman, A. Jarman, Sanders, Roe, Bennett. **Norwood:** Taylor, Pyke, Richardson, Aish, Rowe, Scanton.

PORT	4.4	5.7	11.9	17.12	(114)
CENTRAL	4.1	6.6	9.8	14.9	(93)

SCORERS — Port: D. Smith 5.4, O'Brien 4.1, Borlase, Ginever 3.1, Fiacchi 1.1, Phelps 1.0, Hodges 0.1, rushed 0.3. **Central:** Shields 4.2, Braddy 2.1, Mandemaker, Graham 2.0, Flintoff 1.3, Griffiths, Smith, G. Thomas 1.0, D. Bubner 0.2, P. Schwerdt 0.1.

BEST — Port: Abernethy, Curtis, O'Brien, Ginever, Fiacchi, Delaney, Hutton. **Central:** Krieg, Prior, Shields, S. Schwerdt, Graham, Lawton.

WOODVILLE	3.1	6.4	10.7	14.14	(98)
TORRENS	5.1	8.4	10.5	15.7	(97)

SCORERS — Woodville: Nichols 4.4, Sewer, Harris 3.0, Haylock 1.2, Schwarz, McDonald 1.1, Martin 1.0, Parker, Rogers 0.1, rushed 0.4. **Torrens:** C. Lindsay 7.0, Foote 3.0, Edmonds 2.1, Christensen 2.0, Baker, Payze, Barratt, Morphett 0.1, rushed 0.2.

BEST — Woodville: Rogers, Parker, Templeton, McDonald, Lambert, Martin. **Torrens:** Christensen, Weston, Payze, Foote, Robson, C. Lindsay.

SOUTH	0.5	1.7	7.12	11.14	(80)
STURT	2.4	4.9	9.11	11.13	(79)

SCORERS — South: Stasinowsky 2.2, Harris 2.1, Pitman, Stoeckel 1.1, Dickinson, Schneebichler, Fairclough, Kappler, Brockhurst 1.0, Butler, R. Pearce 0.2, Hampel 0.1. **Sturt:** Willmott 3.2, Kitschke, Worner 2.0, Whittlesea, Russell, Field 1.1, Dilena 1.0, Benson 0.3, Smith, Klomp, Reynolds 0.1.

BEST — South: Jarvis, Pitman, Harris, Dickinson, Kappler, Dewhurst. **Sturt:** McCarthy, Underwood, Paynter, Paech, Whittlesea, Richter.

League ladder

	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	P.c.
NORTH	10	2	1390	1097	20	55.89
W'VILLE	9	3	1388	1282	18	51.99
GLENELG	7	5	1512	1269	14	54.37
NORWOOD	7	5	1281	1216	14	51.30
PORT	7	5	1249	1233	14	50.32
WEST	6	6	1414	1424	12	49.82
TORRENS	4	8	1137	1198	8	48.69
CENTRAL	4	8	1280	1438	8	47.09
STURT	3	9	1189	1405	6	45.84
SOUTH	3	9	1078	1354	6	44.28

Crowds for 12th series

FOOTBALL PARK (Woodville v Torrens)	4688
ADELAIDE OVAL (South v Sturt)	3653
ALBERTON OVAL (Port v Central)	6417
NORWOOD OVAL (North v Norwood)	7070
ADELAIDE OVAL (West v Glenelg)	11,577
Total	33,415

Draw for 13th series

SATURDAY — FOOTBALL PARK: Woodville v North. ADELAIDE OVAL: South v West. GLENELG OVAL: Glenelg v Sturt. SUNDAY — FOOTBALL PARK: Port v Norwood; Torrens v Central.

Leading goalkickers

	Sat.	Total
J. ROBERTS (North)	3.4	62.26
S. NICHOLS (Woodville)	4.4	60.26
R. MANDEMAKER (Central)	2.0	58.22
D. SMITH (Port)	5.3	46.23
J. SEEBOHM (Glenelg)	4.4	43.24
I. WILLMOTT (Sturt)	3.2	39.22
C. STASINOWSKY (South)	2.2	38.21
D. STOECKEL (South)	1.1	29.11

Neale just about quit

Central District football coach Kevin Neale thought about resigning on Saturday night following Central's 21-point loss to Port Adelaide at Alberton Oval.

The defeat — Central's sixth in a row — had seemed like the last straw and in the heat of the moment Neale admitted yesterday he had thought of quitting.

"I was so disappointed," he said yesterday. "I began to think that perhaps it is my fault entirely; that maybe I should stand down — as I understand some people are suggesting."

"But I had a long think about it last night and decided to keep going. I know we are in a tough position and I am not going to duck it. And while I know it might sound crazy I still think we can make it to the finals."

Then last night, in a spontaneous show of support for Neale, 28 senior players went to his home to tell him how they felt.

"Craig Braddy rang me and asked if some of the players could come over," Neale said. "I didn't know how many were coming but eventually there were 28 in the house. I didn't mind them coming over for a drink but it was unusual and so I asked them was there any special reason for doing so. That was when they said they wanted me to know that I had their total support."

"It was a nice gesture. I appreciated it very much."

Earlier in the day Central chairman Robert Zerella discounted any suggestion that Neale had been, or would be, asked to resign.

Zerella and Neale had talked yesterday morning and later Zerella said: "There is no way I will be asking him to resign and as far as I

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am concerned he will not be sacked. He has my total support for 1987.

"Of course we have a problem at the club. And we are all concerned. Kevin, Kris Grant (Central's general manager) and I will meet tomorrow to investigate what can be done about our continued losses. We won't run away from the problem but sacking Kevin won't solve it. In fact, that would only serve to split the club wide open."

Neale said yesterday that while he still believed Central could make it to the finals "I am the only bloke who can turn it around."

"And I am resigned to the fact that I won't be coaching Central next year. But regardless of what happens between now and the end of the season I am determined to keep going to see if we can salvage something from the wreckage so far."

But Neale must surely be running out of initiatives. Three weeks ago he flew to Melbourne to speak with his mentor and long-time friend Hawthorn coach Allan Jeans in a bid to find some answers to Central's slump.

"I spent about four hours with Jeansey," Neale said. "And we worked out some things that seemed to be paying dividends — especially some things associated with our training routines."

"I thought two weeks ago against North there were some good signs and while we did lose to Woodville it was nonetheless a very good effort."

"But against Port we were terrible again. It was shocking. Port was without Greg Phillips, Greg Anderson and Russell Johnston — it was one of the weakest Port sides I have

seen and if ever we were going to beat them, Saturday was the day — and we couldn't."

"On Sunday we play West Torrens and we have a problem. So this week again we have to sit down and reassess ourselves and try to work our way out of it."

Sturt coach Merv Keane remains optimistic about the club's prospects this year despite its lowly position on the league premierships ladder.

The Blues have suffered losses in their past three matches, including the ultimate frustration of losing by a point to bottom side South Adelaide at Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

Sturt is now in ninth place, four wins behind fifth-placed Port Adelaide, with only 10 minor round matches remaining, but last night Keane was far from depressed and spoke enthusiastically about Sturt's future.

"I still think we're the best side in the competition and we'll surprise a few clubs by the end of the year," he said.

"We've got a lot of young guys out here who want to play league footy and some of them will get their chance. I feel we're on the right track."

Meanwhile, West Torrens Football Club is hoping technical and development officer David Cearnis will reconsider his decision to resign.

Cearnis tendered his resignation two weeks ago, citing personal reasons.

Club chief executive Tony Farrugia said last night the club was hoping Cearnis would reconsider his position.

"David has done an enormous amount of work around the club, and we're hoping he'll change his mind," Farrugia said.

GLENELG

WEST

Player	Kicks	Mks	H'ball	H.O.	Player	Kicks	Mks	H'ball	H.O.
Budarick	13	6	5		Belton	12	1	9	
Carey	8	4	8	34	Burgess	12	5	7	1
Donovan	10	4	3		Dreher	9	4	10	
Gibbs	12	4	3		Forster	7	3	6	
Grenvold	7	2	5		Grosser	16	4	8	
Hewitt	17	1	6		Harbinson	18	4	9	
Hodgeman	14	5	5		Kennedy	12	5	8	
Kernahan	16	3	4		Kreuter	1	4	5	4
Kidney	3	-	5		Lamb	14	8	5	
Kruse	7	4	7	2	Larkins	2	4	8	
Marshall	16	1	11	1	Laube	3	3	3	
Maynard	24	6	8	1	Malcolm	3	3	7	26
Murphy	2	5	11		McKinnon	11	5	8	
McDermott	17	6	14		Miller	9	7	2	1
McTavish	14	4	20		O'Riley	5	3	8	
Salisbury	9	1	10		Ryan	11	4	8	
Seebohm	9	5	1		Shaw	23	6	11	
Stringer, A.	2	2	5		Sporn	13	8	4	
Stringer, W.	17	3	8		Twomey	10	3	4	
West	5	6	11	6	Williams	3	7	1	
Totals	222	72	147	45	Totals	194	84	137	33