

TWO ON A KNIFE EDGE

And three vie for top spot

Football Park

TORRENS	3.7	6.11	12.16	18.20	(128)
WOODVILLE	5.1	11.6	13.8	14.11	(95)

BEST — TORRENS: Spiel, Long, Lindsay, Geyer, Werner, Graham, Enright, Harper, Foote. **WOODVILLE**: Dettmann, Lunn, McDonald, Champion, Fuller, Klug.

GOALS — TORRENS: Werner 7.3, Foote 4.7, Edmonds 1.2, Lindsay 1.1, Spiel 1.1, Graham 1.1, Enright 1.0, Hodson 1.0, Christensen 1.0, Hanna 0.1, Long 0.1, rushed 0.3. **WOODVILLE**: Nichols 4.1, Klug 3.0, Harper 2.1, Jolly 2.1, Klemm 2.0, Grant 1.1, Cox 0.1, Templeton 0.1, Panizza 0.1, rushed 0.4.

INJURIES — TORRENS: Hanna (knee). **UMPIRES**: Leslie Harrison, Neville Thorpe.

Football Park

WEST	3.3	6.4	9.6	14.11	(95)
GLENELG	3.7	8.12	11.14	11.17	(83)

BEST — WEST: Lamb, Burgess, Fielke, Goss, Shaw, Patterson. **GLENELG**: McDermott, A. Stringer, Carey, Hodgeman, Schneebichler, West.

GOALS — WEST: Lamb 4.2, Sporn 2.2, Kreuter 2.1, Burgess 2.1, Shaw 2.1, Larkins 2.0, Porter 0.1, D. Laube 0.1, rushed 0.2. **GLENELG**: Hodgeman 3.3, Gibbs 2.2, Maynard 1.2, Schneebichler 1.1, McDermott 1.1, Hewett 1.1, Carey 1.0, MacTavish 1.0, Melican 0.2, Chigwidden 0.1, rushed 0.4.

UMPIRES — Laurie Argent, Davis Schultz.

Adelaide Oval

STURT	4.3	9.7	14.13	19.16	(130)
SOUTH	4.4	6.7	8.10	9.13	(67)

BEST — STURT: S. Russell, Dilena, Field, Paynter, Schache, Reid, Lennon. **SOUTH**: Tatterson, Schmid, Smart, Brooksby, Kappler.

GOALS — STURT: Ey 3.0, Willmott 2.2, Field 2.1, Kitschke 2.1, Underwood 2.1, Paynter 2.0, S. Russell 1.2, Schache 1.2, Lennon 1.1, Whittlesea 1.0, Dilena 0.1, Reynolds 0.1, K. Russell 0.1, Wark 0.1, rushed 0.2. **SOUTH**: Schmid 4.1, Tatterson 2.2, Hampel 1.1, Whitford 1.1, Copping 1.0, Aitken 0.2, Kappler 0.2, Brookes 0.1, rushed 0.3.

INJURIES — STURT: Reid (back). **SOUTH**: Aitken (shoulder). **UMPIRES** — Ross Campbell, David Weston.

Alberton Oval

PORT	2.2	4.5	11.8	13.16	(94)
CENTRAL	0.3	2.7	3.9	6.12	(48)

BEST — PORT: Delaney, Abernethy, Williams, Leslie, Chenoweth, Ginever, Phillips, Kerr, Harrison. **CENTRAL** — Bubner, Braddy, Prior, Thomas, Handley.

GOALS — PORT: Hodges 4.4, Foster 2.2, D. Smith 2.2, O'Brien 1.2, Williams 1.2, Kerr 1.1, Ginever 1.0, Brown 1.0, Mahney 0.1, rushed 0.2. **CENTRAL**: Kickett 1.2, Hocking 1.1, Thomas 1.1, Bubner 1.0, Lally 1.0, Graham 1.0, Mandemaker 0.2, Handley 0.2, Allan 0.1, Chaplin 1.1, rushed 0.2.

UMPIRES — Michael Abbott and Rick Kinnear.

Prospect Oval

NORWOOD	3.4	3.5	8.8	11.11	(77)
NORTH	2.0	6.5	9.6	10.7	(67)

BEST — NORWOOD: Payne, Hall, Warhurst, Ducker, Aish, Francis, Pettitt. **NORTH**: D. Jarman, Hamilton, Bennett, Arnold, A. Jarman.

GOALS — NORWOOD: R. Maynard 4.0, Payne 2.1, Balme 1.2, McNeil 1.2, Fosdike 1.0, Ducker 1.0, B. Maynard 1.0, Rowe 0.3, Aish 0.1, Francis 0.1, rushed 0.1. **NORTH**: D. Jarman 3.3, Sims 1.0, Klomp 1.0, Roberts 1.0, Roe 1.0, Parker 1.0, Arnold 1.0, Hamilton 1.0, Sanders 0.1, A. Jarman 0.1, S. Riley 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES — NORTH: Sims (broken left hand). **REPORTS** — McIntosh (Norwood) for allegedly striking D. Jarman (North) by field umpires David Elliott and John Hylton during second term.

UMPIRES — David Elliott, John Hylton.

Premiership table

	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
PORT	15	6	0	2341	1847	55.90	30
CENTRAL	14	6	1	2444	1845	56.98	29
NORWOOD	14	7	0	2328	1723	57.47	28
STURT	13	8	0	2383	2119	52.93	26
GLENELG	12	9	0	2291	1779	56.29	24
North	11	9	1	2084	1866	52.76	23
Woodville	8	13	0	2233	2496	47.22	16
West	8	13	0	1971	2301	46.14	16
Torrens	8	13	0	1908	2360	44.70	16
South	1	20	0	1438	3085	31.79	2

Leading goalkickers

	Games	Y'day	Total
S. Nichols (Woodville)	19	4.1	94.32
J. Roberts (North)	21	1.0	80.41
S. Hodges (Port)	20	4.4	64.32
L. Schache (Sturt)	21	1.2	54.23
R. Mandemaker (Central)	16	0.2	51.27
I. Willmott (Sturt)	12	2.2	49.22
D. Smith (Port)	21	2.2	48.21
R. Maynard (Norwood)	21	4.0	47.19
J. Klug (Woodville)	19	3.0	42.20
D. Payne (Norwood)	16	2.1	40.20
I. Hanna (Torrens)	21	0.1	37.25
D. Kickett (Central)	17	1.2	38.25
D. Kitchschke (Sturt)	21	2.1	37.18
S. Lally (Central)	21	1.0	35.13
K. Harris (Woodville)	20	0.0	33.28
M. Aish (Norwood)	18	0-1	33.14

Next week

ROUND 22:
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3: North v Woodville (Football Park, 12.30 p.m.). Port v Norwood (Football Park, 3.20 p.m.). Glenelg v Sturt (Glenelg). Torrens v Central (Thebarton). West v South (Richmond).

Port Adelaide, Central District or Norwood could finish as minor premier and North Adelaide could still replace Glenelg in the top five.

By **ASHLEY PORTER**

North's hopes were kept alive an hour after it lost to Norwood by 10 points at Prospect when West Adelaide scored a stunning 12 point victory over Glenelg in the second match of a double-header at Football Park.

However, the combinations of the make-up of the final five were reduced by Port's surprisingly comfortable 46-point win over Central, and Sturt's 63 point triumph over South Adelaide.

This is the draw for the last minor round: North v Woodville; Port v Norwood (Football Park); Glenelg v Sturt (Glenelg); West Torrens v Central (Thebarton); West v South (Richmond).

And the possibilities left are:

■ **PORT** could finish minor premier if it beats Norwood at Football Park. ■ **CENTRAL**, which surrendered top spot for the first time since the twelfth round, could get back there should it beat West Torrens at Thebarton while Port loses. ■ **NORWOOD** could finish top and have a week off the following weekend should it beat Port and Central lost to Torrens.

■ **GLENELG** would contest the elimination final against Sturt if it beat Sturt at the Bay this week or if North lost to Woodville.

■ **SHOULD** Sturt win, and North beat Woodville in the first match of a double-header, North would replace Glenelg in the final five.

■ **THERE** is also a remote chance Sturt could claim a double-chance. It would need to thrash Glenelg while Port crushes Norwood, bridging a huge gap in percentage between Norwood and Sturt.

In fact, every position on the ladder except bottom, which South has held for 19 of the 21 rounds, could change.

No one was more pleased, possibly surprised, by West's upset win over Glenelg than North coach Mike Nunan.

An hour before West celebrated, Nunan spoke of the disappointment of not making the finals.

He praised his players for the commitment they showed against Norwood, but claimed it was 20 matches too late.

"To the people who have lived on last year's success, all I can say is that the joy ride is over in a shattering way," Nunan said.

"We were unable to live up to last year's success because of a number of

reasons, our minds being the first factor.

"This was complicated by the fact that a number of our top 20 players missed a quarter of the season because of either injuries or suspensions.

"Adding to this, our players numbered 21 to 28 in the order of ability were also injured which prevented them from keeping the pressure on the players whose minds were not on the job.

"What I was pleased about today was that you know a club is alive when you see that commitment.

"We've had a rotten year for a lot of reasons but it's an even greater challenge for us all next year."

Nunan said North would begin its pre-season training in November, two months earlier than last year, and would immediately look at recruiting players.

When asked what type of players, he replied: "Anyone with two arms, two legs and wants to play for the North Adelaide Football Club."

Nunan finished the interview by saying: "I think I'll go surfing straight after next week's match."

An hour later, when told West trailed Glenelg by four points with about five minutes remaining, he said: "... I'm going inside to hear the end of the game."

Maybe, just maybe, Nunan might have to let the waves thunder in without him for another week.

Tigers in trouble

By **PETER HAYNES**

A sensational 52-point turnaround by West Adelaide has put Glenelg in deep trouble before the finals series.

In fact, there is no guarantee Glenelg will play in this year's finals, and on its second-half performance in the late game at Football Park yesterday, there is enough evidence to suggest it would only play a minor role.

For the second time in successive weeks, Glenelg was overrun after setting up a lead which should have been enough of a cushion to allow it to win.

Now, it must play its first "final" a week ahead of schedule.

Glenelg's pitiful capitulation yesterday means it must defeat Sturt next week or face the possibility of seeing North Adelaide gain a finals spot at its expense at the death-knock, providing of course the Roosters can defeat Woodville.

There is certainly no guarantee that Glenelg will defeat Sturt.

West's 12-point win yesterday was a tribute to persistence. It did not play pretty football and players made a number of errors. But throughout they continued to have a go until finally things started to happen.

At half time, Glenelg had managed to set up a 20-point lead following an excellent second quarter while kicking into a stiff wind, which was blowing almost straight down the ground.

Goals to John Schneebichler, Ross Gibbs and Mark Hewett allowed Glenelg to increase that lead to 40 points at the 11-minute mark of the third term, a target which seemed almost impossible to bridge, especially given the way West had been playing.

But slowly, West began to get back into the match.

The defence tightened and Glenelg's game began to disintegrate as players began to kick short, hold on to the ball too long and fail to check.

By three-quarter-time West had managed to regain the 3.2 Glenelg had kicked in the first 11 minutes, but even so, there would have been plenty of people prepared to let the gambler name his own odds on a Bloods win.

But in the final term, things began to fall into place.

It was one of the worst games of football in which we have participated, and I'm ashamed to say we were the worst team out there.

— Graham Cornes (Glenelg)



Tony Burgess, used as a follower most of the day, Grantley Fielke in the centre, followers Neville Shaw and Dale Laube and Clayton Lamb at centre half forward lifted their work rate.

Glenelg's handling became second rate and suddenly, after goals to Shaw and two to Lamb, West was only two points down, making good use of the wind and with momentum behind it.

It was only a matter of time before Glenelg was over-run and it took West only a further minute to grab the lead.

Why has Glenelg been overrun twice in two weeks and can it overcome whatever the problem is in time to make an impression on this year's premiership battle?

Graham Cornes was unable to provide a definite answer last night, although he was critical of his players for in playing short and mis-using the ball.

West was well served by Lamb at centre half forward. He provided something to kick to and was a solid worker, especially after half time. Burgess, named at centre half back but moved onto the ball early in the game, was tireless, while Fielke in the centre was a good kick winner.

Goss at full back kept the backlines intact, shut Glenelg full forward Chris Melican down to just two points and beat Schneebichler when he was moved to full forward.

Stephen Miller worked hard in ruck, while rookie Simon Porter did enough to suggest he has a big future.

Glenelg was best served by the reliable Chris McDermott and Kym Hodgeman, while Alan Stringer in the centre, Schneebichler at centre half forward, Ross Gibbs and David Marshall played well.

But their performances were not enough and Glenelg now has only a week to find the problem and plug it.