

BAYS ROCKED

Richmond

West	4.6	8.12	14.14	19.16	(130)
Woodville	2.2	7.7	10.9	16.10	(106)

BEST — WEST: Fielke, Lamb, Shaw, Grosser, Burgess, Twomey, Wittwer. **WOODVILLE:** Schwarz, Jakovich, Martin, Champion, Negri.
GOALS — WEST: Wittwer 6, Patterson 3, Fielke 2, Lamb 2, Twomey, Shaw, Grosser, McKinnon, Bayes, Larkins. **WOODVILLE:** Jakovich 7, Harper 4, Cronan 3, Newton, Klemm.
UMPIRES: Jeff Jeans, Laurie Argent.
INJURIES — WEST: Miller (gashed forehead). Spalding.

Football Park

Norwood	2.3	5.7	10.8	13.10	(88)
Glenelg	3.4	5.8	8.8	11.11	(77)

BEST — NORWOOD: Payne, Payne, Hall, Thomas, Fosdike, Weston, Warhurst, Hein.
GLENELG: Hewett, Thompson, West, Chigwidden.
GOALS — NORWOOD: Payne 3, Hein 2, Visser 2, R. Maynard, Hall, Thomas, Payne, Aish, Staritski.
GLENELG: Garton 3, West 3, Chigwidden 2, Hewett, Mansell, Christie.
UMPIRES — David Elliott, Rick Kinnear.
INJURIES — GLENELG: Gibbs (calf).

Alberton

Port	2.2	12.3	15.7	23.9	(147)
Sturt	6.7	7.10	12.11	17.14	(116)

BEST — PORT: Phillips, Obst, Abernethy, Ginever, Fiacchi, Boyd, Hynes. **STURT:** Whittlesea, Paynter, McWilliam, Field, Lienert.
GOALS — PORT: Hodges 4, Williams 4, Ginever 3, Smith 2, Hynes 2, Warton 2, Abernethy 2, Obst 1, Tregenza 1, Fiacchi 1, Tylor 1. **STURT:** Kitschke 5, Paynter 3, Ey 3, Field 2, Dutton 1, Lennon 1, Veale 1, Welsby 1.
UMPIRES — Mark Mackie, Neville Thorp.

Adelaide Oval

Torrens	3.3	9.7	16.10	20.11	(131)
South	3.6	5.7	9.8	16.12	(108)

BEST — TORRENS: Schache, Morphett, B. Lindsay, Foote, Toohey, McGrath, Clarke, Edmonds. **SOUTH:** Bickley, Butler, Kappler, Bennett, Hewitt, Winton, Dillon, White.
GOALS — TORRENS: Schache 4, McGrath 4, Toohey 4, M. Edmonds 2, C. Lindsay 2, M. Hannam 1, Morphett 1, Spiel 1, Payze 1. **SOUTH:** Schmid 3, Stoeckel 3, Winton 3, White 2, Bickley 2, Kappler, Copping 1, McIntyre 1.
UMPIRES — John Hylton and Randall Deverson.
INJURIES — TORRENS: Edmonds (hamstring), Schache (leg knock). **SOUTH:** Bennett (slight concussion).

Ladder

	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
PORT	1	0	0	147	116	55.89	2
WEST	1	0	0	130	106	55.08	2
TORRENS	1	0	0	131	108	54.81	2
NORWOOD	1	0	0	88	77	53.33	2
GLENELG	0	1	0	77	88	46.67	0
SOUTH	0	1	0	108	131	45.19	0
WOODVILLE	0	1	0	106	130	44.92	0
STURT	0	1	0	116	147	44.11	0
NORTH*	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
CENTRAL*	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0

* Playing tomorrow.

Goalkickers

	Games	Y'day	Total
A. Jakovich (Woodville)	1	7.3	7.3
D. Wittwer (West)	1	6.3	6.3
D. Kitschke (Central)	1	5.3	5.3
S. McGrath (Torrens)	1	4.0	4.0
G. Toohey (Torrens)	1	4.0	4.0
L. Schache (Torrens)	1	4.1	4.1
P. Harper (Woodville)	1	4.1	4.1
S. Williams (Port)	1	4.0	4.0
S. Hodges (Port)	1	4.4	4.4

Crowds

Football Park	12235
Adelaide Oval	4772
Alberton	9569
Richmond	2918

SA draw

ROUND 1
 Tomorrow
 North v Central, Football Park
ROUND 2
 Saturday
 Torrens v Central, Football Park
 Norwood v Sturt, Norwood
 Monday, April 24
 West v South, Football Park
 Tuesday, April 25
 Port v Glenelg, Football Park
 North v Woodville, Adelaide

Reserves

Norwood	4.3	10.6	14.12	20.13	(133)
Glenelg	1.4	9.6	11.11	16.15	(111)

BEST — NORWOOD: Robran, Young, Nicholls, Anderson, Ducker, Ker, Halfpenny, Molloy.
GLENELG: Jameson, Cameron, Poynton, McDonnell, Kruse.
GOALS — NORWOOD: Sheedy 3, Rowe 3, Ducker 3, Robran 2, Ker 2, B. Maynard, 2, Tauchnitz 2, Anderson, White. **GLENELG:** McDonnell 5, Rugless 2, Thorne 2, Hallahan, Jameson, Poynter, Russell, Lovelock, Giles, Bartlett.

Under 19

Glenelg	5.4	9.6	16.10	22.12	(144)
Norwood	7.0	10.3	13.5	15.10	(100)

BEST — GLENELG: Reubenicht, Petrucco, Thornborrow, Ryan, Cook, Parr, Miles, McNamara, McGuinness. **NORWOOD:** Kelly, Dwyer, Brownrigg, Morley, King, Jackson, Laing.
GOALS — GLENELG: Bowering 3, Barton 3, Cook 3, Moss 2, Wingard 2, McGuinness 2, Parr 2, Hele 2, Reubenicht, Case, Gepp. **NORWOOD:** Laing 4, King 4, Morley 2, Calapari 2, Box, Pope, Wagner.

Under 17

Norwood	3.2	8.7	9.7	13.12	(90)
Glenelg	4.3	4.3	5.10	6.10	(46)

BEST — NORWOOD: James, Zimmerman, Ross, R. Kelly, Signoriello, T. Kelly, Pike, Ziemelis, Stevens. **GLENELG:** Chandler, McIntosh, Carroll, Sodomka, Cunningham, Betterman, Symonds, Knapp, Roehrich.
GOALS — NORWOOD: Ross 3, Sandercock 2, Wilkinson 2, Bristow, Oaten, Stevens, James, Zimmerman, Mellow. **GLENELG:** Symonds 3, S. Copping, Betterman, Sodomka.

Gibbs out for six matches

By Ashley Porter

Glenelg back pocket Ross Gibbs ripped his left calf muscle during yesterday's big clash with Norwood at Football Park and could be out for six weeks.

The new season had been going for less than five minutes when he suffered the injury after kicking the ball.

Gibbs was assisted off the field by trainers and club officials later predicted he would miss four or six matches.

It was the most serious injury from the four matches, in what was a relatively tame start to the premierships countdown.

While Glenelg suffered a 11-point loss, West Adelaide surprised by beating Woodville by 24 points, Port Adelaide struggled before tossing Sturt by 31 points and West Torrens beat South Adelaide by 23 points.

The opening series will be completed tomorrow night at Football Park when North Adelaide meets Central District.

There were no reports, and Woodville's Northern Territory recruit Allen Jakovich recorded the best goalkicking effort with seven.

North-Central clash should attract at least 8000 fans

Most of the clubs reported relatively minor injuries and none of the players are expected to miss next week's series.

Norwood's Rohan Helyar and West Torrens's Michael Edmonds had slight hamstring strains, West's Stephen Miller received five stitches to a gashed forehead, and South's Michael Bennett suffered slight concussion.

Torrens centre half-forward Laurence Schache suffered a heavy knock to a leg, but according to coach Andy Bennett, he should be available next week.

Yesterday's four matches attracted 29,494 fans, with the Norwood-Glenelg match being the most popular with 12,235 at Football Park.

This compares favorably with the 1987 opening round when 37,548 attended the same five programmed matches. (Last year's first round was split because of Easter).

Tomorrow's match, which starts at 8pm, deserves at least 8000 fans.

Norwood 'cons' hard win



ASHLEY PORTER reports

Battling Glenelg looked tired, flat

NORWOOD, for all of its naches, pains, bruises and breaks, was still able to field a highly competitive side and topple Glenelg by 11 points at Football Park yesterday.

It was a super confidence trick. Few rated it a chance because Glenelg had played so magnificently in the Foundation Cup grand final and Norwood had an influx of players who would normally play in the reserves.

Everyone outside of the club seemed more concerned with the long list of injured players than those selected, and forgot they could still play football.

Even after the win, coach Neil Balme was repeatedly asked about the players who were still recovering from injuries. To dwell on the absent would rob those present yesterday of the plaudits they deserve for having the physical and mental capacity to triumph against the odds.

Balme said he was grateful for the two premierships points but confessed he did not know why his team won, adding: "I guess we just kicked a bigger score than they did."

Hidden by a wry grin was a proud man rewarded by players given a chance to play league football.

Norwood won because it wanted to. It was not one of the great matches, but it was tough and Norwood simply refused to give in despite comebacks by Glenelg midway through the third and last quarters.

Glenelg played as if it was tired and flat, and did not produce the dazzle or ferocity for which it has been feared and respected for years.

If battled well and its commitment could not be disputed but too often Norwood was able to clear from defence and short pass around the ground because the opposition was not alert and did not check closely.

Norwood named Michael Aish at full forward but he started in his customary role as a follower.

However, he spent most of the match at full forward, switching with Rodney Maynard who was also used at half-forward and centre half-back.

Neil Hein and John Hall took turns in ruck and in a forward pocket, Paul Weston was shifted from the half-back line and had a late stint at half-forward, and the followers and rovers were shuffled in the forward lines like a pack of cards.

Despite these moves, and the fact Norwood won, it still lacks a giant-killing forward.

It was this deficiency which prompted Balme to say he was grateful for the win, and admitted the problems in the forward lines still existed.

Norwood relied on teamwork and an array of talent to produce the goals, and once again its top goalkicker had no more than three to his name.

On paper, Glenelg appeared to have the better forward set-up with Adam Garton at full forward and Jim West at centre half-forward, and options including Chris Melican and Gary Christie should they fail.

Garton and West each kicked three goals and were valuable contributors, but it was the lack of bite from its smaller players which made Glenelg appear ordinary in the forward lines.

Both sides also had solid and reliable defences, making it difficult to score and sometimes turning the match into a scramble.

They were able to clear from defence after behinds had been scored without too much difficulty but then ran into walls of strength, forcing players into packs and denying easy passage to the forward lines.

It was across half-back where two players shone — James Pyke for Norwood and Robert Thompson for Glenelg.

Neil Balme . . .

"It was a good contest all day and there were no easy kicks mid-field. "At half-time I asked the players to keep on persisting and to their credit they did."

Graham Cornes . . .

"The game looked a bit scrappy at times, but the pressure was right on. "It was one of those close, hard games of football, and at no stage was there slick movement."

Pyke did not play football last year because of cricket commitments, and his magnificent effort yesterday was a reminder of how much he was missed.

He is one of the finest exponents of kicking the ball, and his confidence was a delight to watch.

Thompson did a lot of hard work in defence and is rapidly earning a tag as one of the most improved players in the competition.

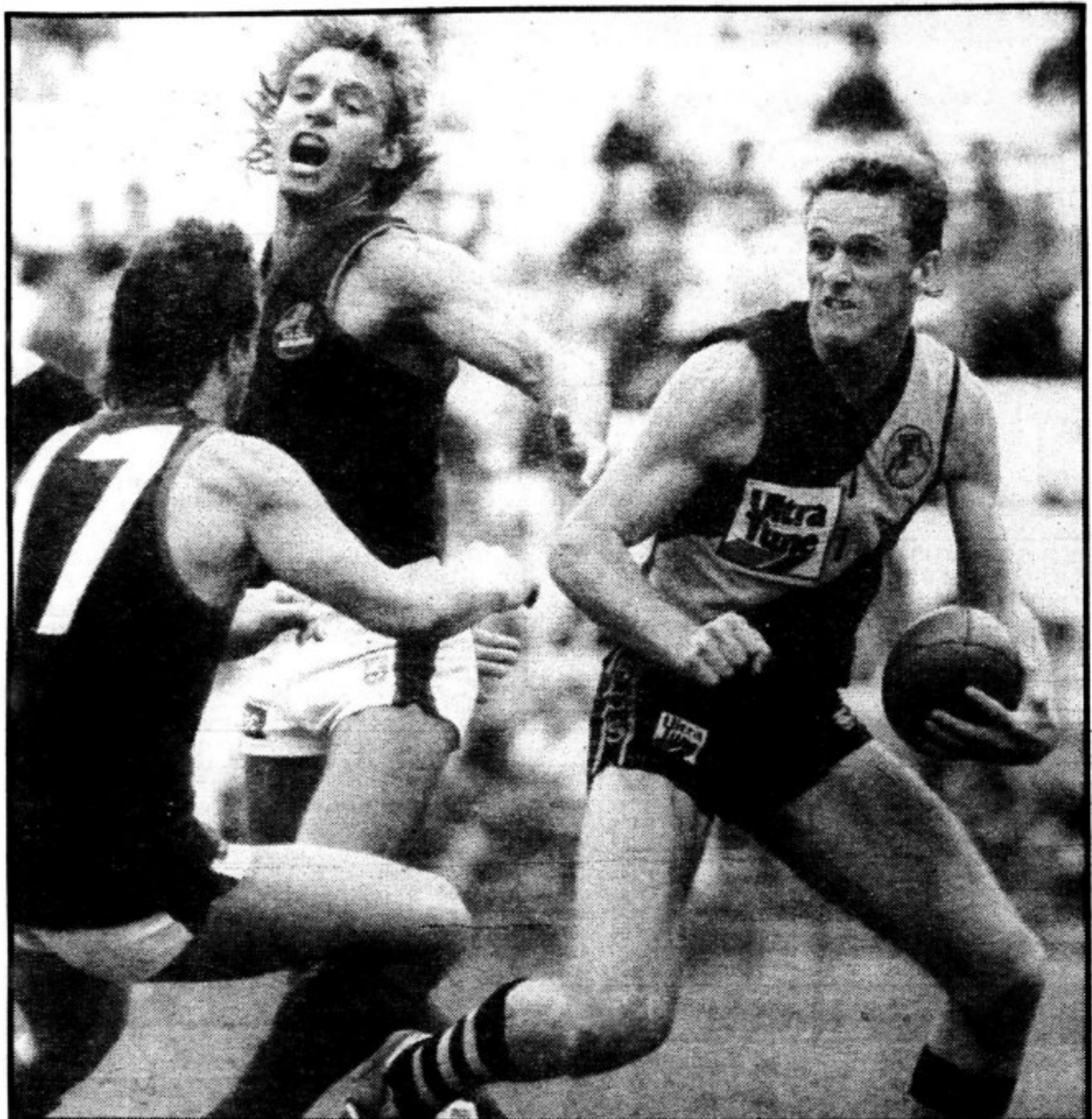
The area in which Norwood asserted its greatest authority was in ruck, especially with Hall who produced a fine effort in his return from injury.

However, many of the opportunities he presented in the first half were not accepted by teammates.

Glenelg suffered a setback after only three minutes of play when back pocket player Ross Gibbs tore his left calf muscle.

But its habit of giving away foolish free kicks and making unforced errors cost dearly.

Glenelg fought back in the last term, but it had neither its normal running power nor skills to overhaul Norwood, even though it got within five points minutes before time-on.



One of Glenelg's best, defender Robert Thompson (right), tries to evade a tackle from Redleg David Payne (left) after giving Stephen Richardson the slip. Picture: NEON MARTIN