

SANFLS

SA ladder

Table with columns: W, L, D, F, A, %, Pts. Rows: PORT, EAGLES, NORTH, GLENELG, WEST, South, Norwood, Central, Sturt.

SA goalkickers

Table with columns: Games, Rd 21, Total. Rows: M. Tylor (Port), S. Morphet (Eagles), M. Jones (Norwood), M. Russell (Glenelg), C. Lamb (Glenelg), G. Molloy (Norwood), C. Burton (North), T. Modra (West), D. Borlase (Port), J. Fidge (Glenelg).

Football Park

Table with columns: NORWOOD, Central. Values: 0.2 2.10 9.11 16.20 (116), 3.7 4.8 6.12 8.12 (60).

BEST - NORWOOD: Pittman, Aish, Balme, Rowe, Smart, Burn, Jones. CENTRAL: Girdhan, Chaplin, Lynn, Reimers. SCORERS - NORWOOD: Jones 4.2, Molloy 3.3, Kelly, Pike 2.1, Aish 1.2, Rowe 1.1, Tanner, Smart, Pierri 1.0, Patterson 0.2, James, Thomas, Pittman, Robinson, Hyde, D'Antiochia 0.1, rushed 0.2. CENTRAL: Handley 3.1, Girdham 2.1, Coffee 1.3, Chaplin 1.1, Mandemaker 1.0, Hocking, Tongerie 0.2, Stevens 0.1, rushed 0.1. INJURIES - NORWOOD: Molloy (corked thigh). UMPIRES: Ron Bettridge, Simon Henderson.

Alberton Oval

Table with columns: PORT, Eagles. Values: 2.5 6.6 11.9 16.12 (108), 1.1 4.6 4.8 7.11 (53).

BEST - PORT: Hutton, M. Williams, Delaney, Ginever, Mead, Buckley, S. Williams, Hughes. EAGLES: Nicol, Bulluss, Neave, Pyman, Tape, Klemm. SCORERS - PORT: Tylor 5.1, Hutton, M. Williams 3.0, Smallridge 2.0, D. Smith 1.2, Ginever, Kemp 1.1, S. Williams, Buckley 0.1, rushed 0.5. EAGLES: Niemann 2.0, Taylor, Phillipou, Neave, Pesch, James 1.1, M. Hamman, S. Sziller, Klemm 0.1, rushed 0.3. INJURIES - EAGLES: Bulluss (broken nose). UMPIRES: Kevin Chambers, Richard Williams.

Richmond Oval

Table with columns: SOUTH, West. Values: 4.1 7.4 12.10 20.16 (136), 9.2 10.5 13.7 14.10 (94).

BEST - SOUTH: Brockhurst, Bennett, Page, Rogers, Heath, Groom, Stoeckel, Naley, Grummet. WEST: Banfield, Grosser, Carlson, Goss, Fogden, Morris. SCORERS - SOUTH: Brockhurst 5.0, Bone 4.2, Powell 3.1, Webb 2.2, Osborne 2.0, Cameron 1.1, Naley, Heath, Bennett 1.0, Koster, Rogers 0.2, Groom, Mills 0.1, rushed 0.4. WEST: Banfield 3.2, Grosser 2.4, Woosnam, Byrne 2.0, Mellor, Simpson, Fitzsimmons, Deptula, Carlson 1.0, Fielke 0.1, rushed 0.3. INJURIES - SOUTH: Osborne (knock to head), Clarke (twisted ankle). UMPIRES: Mark Mackie, Tim Pfeiffer.

Prospect Oval

Table with columns: NORTH, Glenelg. Values: 2.5 6.6 6.11 8.18 (66), 2.2 5.3 7.7 7.11 (53).

BEST - NORTH: Sims, Klomp, Sanders, Phillips, Hamilton, Ryan, Krieg, Redden. GLENELG: Salisbury, Lamb, Seebohm, Bow, Fidge. SCORERS - NORTH: Parsons 3.1, Krieg 2.0, Sims 1.5, Burton 1.2, Hamilton 1.0, Mancini 0.3, Phillips 0.2, Bennett, Atkinson 0.1, rushed 0.3. GLENELG: Fidge 4.2, Chigwidden 1.3, Symonds 1.1, Hallahan 1.0, Kretschmer 0.2, Lamb, West 0.1, rushed 0.1. INJURIES - NORTH: Perkins (hamstring). UMPIRES: David Elliott, Craig Doddridge.

SA crowds

Table with columns: Football Park, Alberton Oval, Richmond Oval, Prospect Oval, Total. Values: 2532, 6917, 1963, 2898, 14,310.

SA draw

Round 22: Saturday - Norwood v. Glenelg (Football Park), South Adelaide v. Sturt (Adelaide), Central District v. Port Adelaide (Elizabeth Oval), West Adelaide v. North Adelaide (Richmond Oval). Bye - Eagles.

Reserves

Table with columns: GLENELG, North. Values: 3.4 7.10 7.11 14.12 (96), 4.3 5.5 9.13 11.16 (82).

BEST - GLENELG: Barton, Donovan, McRae, Thornborrow, McIntosh, McCully, McGuinness. NORTH: Savage, Chambers, Mail, Morton, McCarthy. GOALS - GLENELG: McRae 5, Budarick, Keast 2, McIntosh, Thornborrow, Stuart, Barton, McGuinness. NORTH: Hann 3, Smith, Morton 2, Roberts, Mail, Savage, Ellis.

Table with columns: Kicks, Marks, Handballs, Frees, Scores, Hit, Tackles. Rows: North players (C. BURTON, M. PARSONS, B. ATKINSON, P. KRIEG, P. BENNETT, S. SIMS, S. HAMILTON, D. SANDERS, B. PHILLIPS, R. SAUNDERS, T. PERKINS, S. BARRATT, S. RILEY, R. GERKE, B. RYAN, M. REDDEN, K. KLUMP, T. NUNAN, N. HOLLAND, B. MANCINI).

Summary table for North with columns: FREES, PENALTIES, GOALS, DIST. OF GOALS.

North eyes double chance

North Adelaide took a giant stride towards grabbing the double chance in the finals by beating Glenelg by 13 points at Prospect Oval yesterday.

Third-ranked North now is one win behind the Eagles and one win ahead of Glenelg, and has a much better percentage than both - so the Roosters effectively are two wins clear of the Tigers.

North has to play West Adelaide at Richmond Oval, Central District at Football Park and the Eagles at Woodville Oval before a bye in the last minor-round series. Glenelg meets Norwood at Football Park, a bye, then fronts up to Central and Sturt, both at Glenelg.

Glenelg's loss yesterday was its fourth in five matches and its

By ALAN SHIELL

third in succession, and was another rude shock for a team which, not long ago, was being touted as the main threat to Port Adelaide for the premierships - and still might be, at full strength.

Down two points at three-quarter time yesterday, North sailed home with a strong wind favoring the north-eastern end.

North coach Mike Nunan said: "Hard work won it for us. We had more of the ball. In these conditions, anything can happen and the only way to make certain of things is to have more of the ball."

Glenelg coach Kym Hodgeman said: "It was a better, more com-

mitted effort today than last week (against the Eagles). It got down to where we're lacking at the moment - not enough players running up to support each other."

North's match-winning momentum was mounted and maintained largely by the consistent feats of its on-ball and centre-line workers - Steven Sims, Kim Klomp, David Sanders, Brenton Phillips, Steven Hamilton and Peter Krieg.

Clayton Lamb was an elusive, strong-marking half-forward for Glenelg, John Seebohm was unobtrusively effective at centre half-back, Lynden Bow had some productive moments on a wing and John Fidge kicked four of Glenelg's seven goals.

Port flag Buckley's top priority

Port ace Buckley undecided on future

By PETER PRIME

Port Adelaide centreman Nathan Buckley, the most sought-after young footballer in the country, is adamant.

He will make a firm decision on his playing future at the end of the season - and only at the end of the season.

Buckley's priority is the Magpies and their quest for premierships glory in 1992 ... nothing else matters.

The Brisbane Bears-listed player last week made no secret of his desire to play AFL football, perhaps next year.

Furthermore, Buckley, 20, an odds-on favorite to win the Magarey Medal, says he would prefer to play with a successful AFL club ... or remain in Adelaide.

Speculation has been rife across the border concerning the future of Buckley. Collingwood is one of a number of sides mentioned, with talk of player swaps and other clandestine deals involving the Bears.

But Buckley has chosen to ignore all rumors. His thoughts remain focussed on the Magpies - and a possible premierships.

"I haven't been taking any notice of all the rumors that have been flying around," Buckley said. "I am just trying to concentrate on this season."

"Basically, I am a Brisbane Bears-listed player.

"If I was to consider making a decision on next year now, it wouldn't benefit my form. It would be distracting and I wouldn't be able to play at my peak for the rest of the season."

"So I've chosen to wait until the end of the season and then I'll speak to whoever is involved. We'll see what happens."

"But obviously I am keen to go to Melbourne because I want to go to a successful club. So the option at this stage is to stay here next year or go to Melbourne."

Has Buckley felt any pressure from the football media on his future and the fact he is a strong favorite to win the Magarey Medal?

"There was a lot of pressure from the start but I've just chosen to shut that out altogether," Buckley said. "I'll read what's been said. I suppose it's hard not to take some of it in."

"I may be playing well, but then I don't look at the success that will come from that. I look at the extra pressure."

"The people in the opposition sides are going to see what's been written about me and then they'll try that little bit harder just so they can beat me. I just try and do my best every week."

Buckley, who is leading the Sunday Mail's Booze Brothers Stats Star Award, made his State debut with SA against WA last May. He's created a huge impression - in SA and interstate - since arriving from Darwin early last year.

Refreshingly honest and personable, there is no doubt Buckley feels right at home at Alberton.

"It's excellent," he said. "When I first came down to Adelaide to look for a club I had skills but I wasn't much of a footballer at that stage. "Dad (former Woodville utility player Ray Buckley) sent me to Port Adelaide purely because they had so much tradition."

"If a player is going to become better in his football, I suppose going to a club like Port is the way to do it."



Nathan Buckley ... speculation rife about the Magpie star's future. Picture: Ray Titus

"With that sort of atmosphere and expectation to succeed all the time, my football has improved to the stage where I can give a little bit back to the club I suppose."

"I think that's the way most of the blokes see it. That's why they do so well."

A second year student of town planning at Adelaide University, Buckley is under no illusions. There is life after football. "This year I've been struggling a bit trying to match time with the footy and the study," Buckley said.

"I find myself tired a lot of the time, but obviously football is not going to last for your whole life. You have to have something to fall back on, so that's why I am doing the course."

Buckley may be attracting considerable attention from opposition and interstate scouts but he believes there is still much work to do on his game. "I've had to work a bit on my close-in game - getting in under the packs a bit more," he said.

"As well as that I haven't developed my marking fully. Obviously I can improve that and I think I can get a lot stronger."

Historic AFL clubs to merge

MELBOURNE: Two of football's greatest teams - Melbourne and Richmond - are set to merge soon with the new team to be known as the Melbourne Tigers.

The merger appears inevitable and could be as close as 1994, depending on Richmond's acceptance of the futility of its plight.

I've been informed talks have been held at the very highest level of both clubs, something the AFL is aware of, and despite my reservations about mergers I think the AFL's incentives to merge will be

From GERARD HEALY

seen as an attractive option.

Their biggest problem is their lack of a social club, meaning they miss up to \$40,000 per week from poker machine revenue.

Melbourne could survive in the short-term whereas no such guarantee exists with Richmond. For this reason Melbourne holds the upper hand in any merger proposal, particularly in areas such as names and jumper colors.

It is believed both teams look

favorably on the merger but would rather not be the instigator.

Melbourne's finances are far shakier than many may believe, particularly after losing Drake as its major sponsor. It is, however, far stronger than Richmond's, which despite the injection of sufficient public monies to survive has probably only delayed an unfortunate finish to a proud history.

Melbourne made the finals for the past five years yet struggled to gain a big sponsorship, so where does that leave Richmond if its Government sponsor withdraws?

Table with columns: Kicks, Marks, Handballs, Frees, Scores, Hit, Tackles. Rows: North, Glenelg players (P. HALLAHAN, J. FIDGE, M. RUSSELL, A. SYMONDS, J. WEST, C. LAMB, C. FLOWER, S. SALISBURY, L. BOW, A. MCKAY, J. SEEBOHM, M. VISA, R. GIBBS, A. BARTLETT, C. DUTHY, C. MELICAN, D. KRETSCHMER, N. CHIGWIDDEN, R. THOMPSON, G. CHRISTIE).

Summary table for North and Glenelg with columns: FREES, PENALTIES, GOALS, DIST. OF GOALS.