Prime grabs thriller with late hat-trick

Norwood	1.5	8.7	11.11	15.12	(102)
Glenelg	4.3	9.8	11.10	13.18	(96)

BY LEO SCHLINK

Composed Norwood yesterday snatched a cliff-hanger victory over gallant Glenelg in a tense finish to a brilliant contest at The Parade.

Down 10 points midway through the final term, Norwood rallied to grab a six-point victory with bullocking forward Chris Prime delivering a hat-trick of goals in the dying moments.

Seventh-placed Glenelg seemed to have Norwood on its heels when James West booted his fifth goal to spear the visitors to an apparently impregnable lead.

But Prime helped the Redlegs conjure a spine-tingling triumph with three goals in seven minutes – the last of which came at the behest of umpire Jeff Jeanes, who penalised Mark Viska for illegally holding Prime off the ball.

The Adelaide defender was immediately benched by Tigers coach Tony Symonds, whose hopes of leading Glenelg into the finals may have turned dramatically on yesterday's result.

Glenelg had threatened to steal the match with a brilliant surge which started late in the first quarter and did not stall until midway through the second.

Inspired by Tony Hall – one of three Crows players to start on the bench (Redlegs Rodney Maynard and Matthew Robran were the others) – the Tigers surged to a 32-point lead eight minutes into the second term.

Hall was unstoppable, first destroying Dale Fleming and then turning his attentions to Maynard. Introduced after seven minutes, the former Hawthorn premiership forward had accumulated 12 kicks, three marks, two handpasses and seven crashing tackles by half-time. His efforts, however, were strikingly swept away by resurgent Norwood.

Stung into action by captain Garry McIntosh, ruckman Matthew Primus, forward flank James Thiessen and rover Stephen Rowe, the Legs rebounded fiercely to slash the half-time deficit to seven points.

Goals from industrious wingman Roger James, who had bettered Matthew Liptak, and Thiessen, Rowe, McIntosh, Prime and Anthony Pierri wiped out Glenelg's early superiority.

West, jeered from the ground at half-time after remonstrating with Norwood defender Paul McCormack, was Glenelg's most productive forward in the first hour.

He combined smartly with Dean Caldow, Paul Hallahan, Phil McGuinness and outstanding young wingman Ben Moore, who twice punished opponent Simon Cowham for sloppy work.

The Legs duly closed in for the kill during a brutal third term.

In the final quarter, Norwood had no plans to relinquish its home-ground superiority, despite West's fourth major late in the term, and eventually snatched the lead through Pierri.

It was rocked again midway through the final term when Glenelg converted a six-point deficit into a 10-point lead before Norwood contrived a tremendous last-gasp triumph.

No-merger vow as winless Sturt plans player hunt

BY ANDREW CAPEL

Sturt Football Club has ruled out merging with another club and has vowed to embark on a major recruiting drive aimed at getting it back into the finals next season.

Club president Neville Cunningham said the expected merger of the Sturt licensed club and Adelaide Sports Club within the next few weeks would put the club back on an even financial footing and allow it to continue as it has since it entered the league in 1901.

"Everything's in place. It's just a matter of finalising the paperwork," he said. "Once we've done that we can address the issue of player strength which is something we couldn't do this year because it was always going to be a year of survival only."

Cunningham said Sturt, winless this season, was desperate to assemble a team capable of playing in the finals.

"Good on-field performances are paramount to our success and we have to recruit quality players. Our goal is to raise enough money to be able to do that," he said.

Cunningham admitted because of financial difficulties the club was on the brink of folding 12 months ago. But, with those fears allayed, it had made a decision to stand on its own feet.

"We'll listen to what the SANFL has to say about mergers, but we really won't entertain the idea. We haven't discussed mergers with other clubs and no one has approached us," he said.

Cunningham said Sturt was reviewing its entire structure and examining its strengths and weaknesses. "One of our major tasks is to produce a plan aimed at raising the finances needed to supplement our recruiting needs," he said.

Cunningham said Sturt would continue to be based at Oxford Tce and urged members and supporters to rally behind it. "People don't like identifying with losers, but we're heading in the right direction," he said. "We've shown before when we have success the supporters come flooding back and we need their support to guarantee our long-term future."

Cunningham confirmed coach Phil Carman would be asked to honor his two-year contract.

"We've been very pleased with what he's done in difficult circumstances," he said.

Glenelg's Mark Viska (left) closes in as Norwood big man Chris Prime attempts to break a tackle – PICTURE: MICHAEL MARSCHALL

SANFL SCOREBOARD

SANFL ladder

	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
NORWOOD	18	13	5	0	2009	1388	59.14	26
CENTRAL †	17	12	4	1	1771	1218	59.25	25
PORT	18	12	6	0	2001	1577	55.93	24
NORTH	18	11	7	0	1624	1517	51.70	22
SOUTH	17	10	7	0	1593	1606	49.80	20
West*	17	8	8	1	1664	1459	53.28	17
Glenelg	18	7	11	0	1713	1754	49.41	14
Eagles †	17	5	12	0	1361	1768	43.50	10
Sturt	18	0	18	0	1217	2666	31.34	0

† To play today. * Bye

SA goalkickers

	Games	Rd 20	Total
D. Del-Re (South)	17	12	73
G. Coffee (Central)	13	0	52
S. Simister (West)	17	0	44
M. Tylor (Port)	13	1	44
J. Thiesson (Norwood)	16	1	43
D. Woosnam (West)	13	0	40
A. Pierri (Norwood)	14	3	39
D. Wheildon (West)	13	0	38
C. Waterhouse (Port)	17	1	36
J. West (Glenelg)	17	5	34
T. Olsen (Port)	14	2	33
C. Prime (Norwood)	10	5	32
B. Parker (North)	14	0	31
D. Squire (North)	18	2	27
B. Mancini (North)	16	0	25
S. Sutherland (Sturt)	18	0	23
M. Robran (Norwood)	10	0	23
T. Cook (Central)	17	0	23

Norwood Oval

NORWOOD	1.5	8.7	11.11	15.12	(102)
Glenelg	4.3	9.8	11.10	13.18	(96)

BEST – **NORWOOD:** McIntosh, Harvey, Primus, Clements, James, Maynard, Prime. **GLENELG:** Chigwidden, West, Moore, Hall, Liptak, Bailey.

SCORERS – **NORWOOD:** Prime 5.1, Pierri 3.2, James, Thiessen 1.2, Russell, Growden 1.1, Rowe, McIntosh, Harvey 1.0, Smart, D'Antiochia, Maynard 0.1. **GLENELG:** West 5.2, Caldow 2.3, Hall 1.4, Moore 1.1, Scripps, Bartlett, Hallahan, Symonds 1.0, Liptak, Chigwidden 0.2, McGuinness, Reubenicht 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES – **NORWOOD:** Stephen Rowe (sprained right ankle).

UMPIRES: Kevin Chambers, David Elliott, Jeff Jeanes.

Alberton Oval

PORT	5.2	9.3	13.4	15.8	(98)
North	1.3	5.5	6.8	9.11	(65)

BEST – **PORT:** Francis, R Smith, Northeast, Darcy, T Malakellis, Poole, West, Carter, Delaney, Ginever. **NORTH:** Perkins, Nunan, Bamford, Sandford, Phillips, Saunders, Viney.

SCORERS – **PORT:** Francis 5.3, T Malakellis 2.1, Borlase 2.0, Olsen 2.0, Tylor 1.1, R Smith 1.1, D Smith 1.0, Waterhouse 1.0, West 0.1, Ginever 0.1. **NORTH:** Squire 2.1, Bennett 1.2, Hollitt 1.2, Sanders 1.0, Atkinson 1.0, Bamford 1.0, Allan 1.0, Tasker 1.0, Gerke 0.3, Francou 0.1, rushed 0.2.

UMPIRES: Craig Doddridge, Greg Inge, Andrew Swaffer.

Noarlunga

SOUTH	7.4	10.5	17.5	23.7	(145)
Sturt	0.0	2.4	3.5	8.9	(57)

BEST – **SOUTH:** Del-Re, Polkinghorne, M. Powell, T. Powell, Battams, West, Jackson, Mills, Sholl. **STURT:** Sutherland, Feast, Lennon, Thredgold, Geddes, Weatherald.

SCORERS – **SOUTH** Del-Re 12.1, Cameron 2.1, Grummett 2.0, T. Powell 1.1, West, Lade, Battams, Mills, Trevena, Polkinghorne 1.0, Sholl 0.2, Stoeckel 0.1, rushed 0.1. **STURT:** Obst 2.2, Feast, Lennon 2.1, Nash 2.0, Hicks 0.2, Burton, McEvoy 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES – **SOUTH:** Peter McIntyre (knee), Andrew Osborn (corked thigh), Jamie Lamb (hamstring).

UMPIRES: Ron Bettridge, Tim Slaven, Garry Wyld.

SA crowds

Alberton	7575
Noarlunga	1737
Norwood	4855
Total	14,167

SA draw

ROUND 21 – **Saturday:** Port v Norwood (Football Park), Central v North (Elizabeth), West v South (Richmond). **Sunday:** Eagles v Glenelg (Woodville). **Bye:** Sturt.

NORWOOD

	Kicks 1	2	3	4		Marks 1	2	3	4		Handballs 1	2	3	4		Frees F	A	Scores G	B	Hit Out	Tackles
J.THIESSON	0	5	2	3	10	0	2	0	1	3	0	1	2	0	3	0	1	1	2	0	1
A.PIERRI	0	4	2	1	7	0	3	1	1	5	2	2	0	0	4	0	1	3	2	0	0
K.RUSSELL	6	1	1	3	11	2	1	0	4	7	1	1	3	4	9	0	1	1	1	0	0
A.HARVEY	1	4	4	8	17	1	1	2	2	6	0	5	2	3	10	1	2	1	0	0	0
S.SMART	3	3	2	1	9	0	1	2	0	3	1	2	3	0	6	4	3	0	1	4	1
C.PRIME	3	2	1	3	9	1	0	1	2	4	0	1	2	0	3	2	3	5	1	0	1
S.COWHAM	1	4	3	1	9	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	1
T.GROWDEN	7	7	1	2	17	3	3	0	1	7	1	3	0	0	4	1	1	1	1	0	2
R.JAMES	5	7	5	2	19	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	4	2	8	5	2	1	2	0	1
T.CLEMENTS	2	0	4	5	11	2	0	0	3	5	1	3	2	0	6	1	1	0	0	0	4
J.MILLAR	2	1	1	1	5	2	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	3
D.FLEMING	2	0	2	0	4	2	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	7	9	0	1	0	0	0	1
J.D'ANTIOCHIA	3	2	5	1	11	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	5	1	1	0	1	0	5
J.TUMES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
P.MCCORMACK	1	1	2	2	6	1	1	2	1	5	1	0	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	1
M.PRIMUS	3	4	2	2	11	1	1	1	1	4	2	0	2	1	5	6	5	0	0	25	2
G.MCINTOSH	1	4	5	3	13	0	1	0	0	1	5	5	1	3	14	0	4	1	0	0	3
S.ROWE	4	6	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	4	0	12	3	1	1	0	0	1
M.ROBRAN	0	1	2	7	10	0	1	2	6	9	0	1	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
R.MAYNARD	0	3	3	4	10	0	3	4	4	11	1	0	4	5	10	0	1	0	1	0	0
																RUSHED 0					
TOTALS	44	59	47	49	199	16	21	15	27	79	25	36	33	32	126	26	32	15	12	29	27

FREES				PENALTIES		GOALS				DIST. OF GOALS			
BACKS	CENT.	FOR	TOTAL	50 M	GOALS	FREE	PLAY	MARK	TOTAL	0-15	15-30	30-40	40 +
7	12	7	26	0	0	2	4	9	15	4	5	5	1

GLENELG

	Kicks 1	2	3	4		Marks 1	2	3	4		Handballs 1	2	3	4		Frees F	A	Scores G	B	Hit Out	Tackles
J.WEST	2	1	1	3	7	2	1	2	3	8	0	0	2	4	6	0	0	5	2	0	3
D.CALDOW	0	3	0	3	6	0	3	0	1	4	1	2	0	2	5	0	0	2	3	0	0
P.HALLAHAN	2	3	6	3	14	1	2	1	0	4	2	3	1	3	9	0	2	1	0	0	3
T.HALL	6	6	1	2	15	2	1	0	1	4	1	1	3	2	7	5	5	1	4	0	9
A.BARTLETT	2	3	3	5	13	0	2	0	2	4	0	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	0	2	2
J.SCRIPPS	1	2	0	1	4	0	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
M.LIPTAK	1	1	3	2	7	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	2	4	7	0	2	0	2	0	7
D.BAILEY	5	5	6	4	20	1	1	0	0	2	4	5	2	1	12	1	0	0	0	0	0
B.MOORE	7	3	6	4	20	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	5	2	2	1	1	0	1
M.VISKA	2	2	1	3	8	1	2	0	0	3	2	2	1	0	5	4	1	0	0	0	4
B.ROEHRICH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	1	3
L.BOW	4	2	2	4	12	1	0	0	3	4	2	1	2	3	8	2	3	0	0	0	3
S.ANGOVE	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
J.HOCKING	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	0
G.REUBENICHT	3	2	3	1	9	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	1	4	6	1	0	1	0	3
S.MCCULLY	2	2	4	1	9	0	1	3	0	4	1	0	4	2	7	4	2	0	0	18	1
N.CHIGWIDDEN	1	1	3	7	12	0	0	0	1	1	3	5	2	4	14	4	0	0	2	0	4
P.MCGUINNESS	7	5	6	7	25	2	0	0	2	4	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	4
P.HAMILTON	0	3	1	1	5	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	4
J.SYMONDS	1	0	2	4	7	0	0	1	1	2	0	3	1	3	7	0	2	1	0	0	0
																RUSHED 2					
TOTALS	47	45	49	58	199	10	18	10	19	57	24	29	28	35	116	32	26	13	18	21	51

FREES				PENALTIES		GOALS				DIST. OF GOALS			
BACKS	CENT.	FOR	TOTAL	50 M	GOALS	FREE	PLAY	MARK	TOTAL	0-15	15-30	30-40	40 +
16	8	8	32	0	0	0	6	7	13	1	2	5	4