

# Bloods tune-up for big games

By GEOFF BOTH

**W**EST Adelaide was off key for much of the game against Glenelg, but the Bloods tuned up beautifully in the last quarter and their supporters will now be hoping for beautiful music for the rest of September.

Pony-tailed Ed Richardson was the maestro for West at centre half-back. Glenelg played an unusual five-man forward line with no centre half-forward - a horse-shoe formation. It did not prove lucky on Saturday though. Richardson refused to be drawn out of position and ended up with 12 marks, stopping numerous Glenelg attacks. West coach Michael Taylor had done his scouting on Glenelg's forward set-up. "They didn't have a centre-half forward. I knew that before I got here because they have played like that for the past three weeks," he said.

As well as a solid defence led by Sam Jones and disciplined John Parker - he kept Glenelg full forward Sean Tasker goalless while kicking one himself - West was well-served by industrious Matthew Twomey in the midfield and Dion Myles across half-forward. Ben Watkins also won the rucks and did well around the ground,

## West 12.10 (82) d Glenelg 7.6 (48)

while Adam Richardson kicked five valuable goals, although kept honest by Rod Jameson. Mark Power was lively in the first half and Adam Hooper did well after coming on.

Seventeen-year-old Chris Chubb had some good touches too, in only his second league game. He has been commuting from Berri to play with West and when Michael Taylor was asked how many AFL clubs have inquired about him he replied: "How many are there? We won't have him next year - he'll get drafted for sure. He made the All-Australian under-16 team last year so he's a good scout."

For Glenelg the season has finished with some general improvement in form and a respectable loss on Saturday - but that's no comfort for coach Tony McGuinness.

"It's about winning," he said, "and the scoreboard and the premiership table tell the tale. We were highly competitive for most of the year but that's not good enough - it's all about the end results. We need to win, we need to get a certain hardness about us, we need to use the ball better, and we need to get a couple of key for-

wards." Despite only four wins for the year McGuinness has enjoyed his first year of coaching. "Yes, I do genuinely enjoy working with the boys, trying to improve their personal and professional development. I enjoy putting the game plans together and I enjoy the pressure of the three hours when we play."

He is keen to continue next year, but marshalling resources and support off the ground is as crucial as simply coaching the players. "I've been critical of some areas of the club off the ground. It's important that you have support behind you, and I'm not meaning board level but from football people, and that hasn't always been there. But we're rectifying that. I think we can fix it, but support off the field will determine to a degree whether I continue. The club has got some work to do and I'm waiting for the results of that, but I would assume I'd be going on next year and we are already putting things in place."

So while McGuinness and Glenelg plan for next year, West has some unfinished business in 1998. It was pushed for most of the game on Saturday, but ended up striking good form to finish with a solid win, the double-chance and no injuries.

The Bloods are in good nick... dare they dream of a premiership?



### PREMIERSHIP TABLE

#### LIVING HEALTH CUP SEASON

	W	L	D	F	A	P.c.	Pts
Sturt	16	4	-	1760	1385	55.96	32
West	13	7	-	1701	1534	52.58	26
Norwood	13	7	-	1511	1409	51.75	26
Port	12	8	-	1649	1417	53.78	24
Central	9	11	-	1619	1523	51.53	18
Eagles	9	11	-	1608	1590	50.28	18
South	9	11	-	1525	1619	48.51	18
North	5	15	-	1383	1845	42.84	10
Glenelg	4	16	-	1317	1751	42.93	8

Sturt wins the Living Health Cup as minor premier.

#### LEADING GOALKICKERS

A.	Club	Rd 23	Total
A. Richardson	(West)	5	82.30
J. Burton	(Sturt)	4	64.21
R. Fitzgerald	(South)	0	39.14
S. White	(Sturt)	1	33.28
R. Pyman	(Eagles)	2	33.10

Norwood	5.2	12.7	18.10	19.15	(129)
Eagles	3.3	4.6	7.11	11.12	(78)

**BEST - Norwood:** Cunningham, Obst, Carslake, Bowman, O'Brien, Neill, Direen, Fleming, Cook, Clements, Harvey. **Eagles:** Pesch, Rintoul, Biglands, Palfreyman, Frewen.

**SCORERS - Norwood:** Neill 5.2, O'Brien 4.1, Obst 2.1, Harvey 1.2, Carslake, Downsborough, McIntosh 1.1, King, Pascoe, Clements, Borlase 1.0, Cook 0.2, Direen, Cunningham 0.1, rushed 0.2. **Eagles:** Pesch 4.1, Pyman, M. Kluzek 2.0, Burton, Biglands 1.1, Frewen 1.0, McLure, Wiggins 0.2, Higgins, Sziller, Rogers 0.1, rushed 0.2.

**INJURIES - Norwood:** Direen (thigh), Pitt (thigh). **Eagles:** Payze (calf), DiBiase (knee).

**REPORTS - M. Kluzek (Eagles)** for allegedly striking Bowman three minutes into the last quarter.

**UMPIRES - M. Avon, D. Ryan, C. Doddridge.**

**CROWD - 2733 at Norwood Oval.**

**BEST ON GROUND - Nick Pesch (Eagles).**

**TOP TEAM MAN - Lachlan Bowman (Norwood).**

West	4.4	5.4	7.7	12.10	(82)
Glenelg	2.0	5.1	6.3	7.6	(48)

**BEST - West:** E. Richardson, Twomey, Jones, Myles, Watkins, Parker. **Glenelg:** Burke, Jameson, Flower, Raidis, Hele, Chigwidden.

**SCORERS - West:** A. Richardson 5.1, Gray 2.0, Myles 1.2, Twomey 1.1, Symes, Parker, Patterson 1.0, Power 0.3, Howard 0.1, rushed 0.2. **Glenelg:** Copping, Chigwidden 1.1, Scripps, Burke, Growden, Hosking, Smith 1.0, Kelly, Picicane 0.1, rushed 0.2.

**INJURIES - Glenelg:** Kelly (corked hamstring).

**UMPIRES - D. Woodcock, G. Wyld, T. Pfeiffer.**

**CROWD - 1693 at Glenelg Oval.**

**BEST ON GROUND - E. Richardson (West).**

**TOP TEAM MAN - J. Parker (West).**

Sturt	0.4	3.6	7.9	14.12	(96)
Central	2.4	2.8	7.13	8.14	(62)

**BEST - Sturt:** Powell, Weatherald, Atkinson, Pitura, Geddes, Kennett, White, Maloney. **Central:** Cook, Macgowan, Steinbemer, Casserly, Hopwood, Hicks, Wakelin.

**SCORERS - Sturt:** Burton 4.2, Powell 2.1, Twitt 2.1, French 2.0, Atkinson 1.2, White, Kennett 1.1, Richter 1.0, AhChee 0.1, rushed 0.3. **Central:** Wakelin 3.3, Macgowan 2.0, Rae 1.1, Casserly, Switala 1.0, Cook, Hopwood 0.2, Luhrs, Jones, Conway, Schwerdt 0.1, rushed 0.2.

**INJURIES - Central:** Arnold (back), replaced in selected side by Demasi, Hulm (ankle), replaced in selected side by Willis.

**UMPIRES - K. Chambers, G. Inge, M. Humphreys.**

**CROWD - 2993 at Adelaide Oval.**

**BEST ON GROUND - Matthew Powell (Sturt).**

**TOP TEAM MAN - Justin Casserly (Central).**

Port	7.9	9.11	11.17	16.20	(116)
North	1.0	4.0	6.1	8.4	(52)

**BEST - Port:** Brown, Vines, Beinke, Ormond-Allen, Steed, Tregenza, Poulton, Smith, Jaques. **North:** Nunan, Sutherland, Ladhams, Herbert, Wintle, Lehmann.

**SCORERS - Port:** Hodges 5.5, Smith 3.0, Beinke 2.1, Bamford 2.0, Vines, Steed 1.2, Brown, Borlase 1.1, Hahn 0.5, Clayton 0.1, rushed 0.2. **North:** Lehmann, Squire, Jeffries 2.0, Ladhams 1.1, King 1.0, Fowden 0.2, Sutherland 0.1.

**REPORTS - Fiegert (Port)** for allegedly striking North's Jeffries in the final quarter.

**UMPIRES - R. Bettridge, T. Slaven, C. Rowston.**

**CROWD - 2650 at Prospect Oval.**

**BEST ON GROUND - David Brown (Port).**

**TOP TEAM MAN - Alf Steed (Port).**

#### RESERVES

Norwood 18.17 (125) d Eagles 6.8 (44); Port 21.8 (134) d North 10.9 (69); West 9.10 (64) d Glenelg 2.9 (21); Sturt 11.9 (75) d Central 8.6 (54). **Premiership Table:** Sturt 30, Norwood 28, Port 26, Central 22, West 18, North, Eagles 16, South 14, Glenelg 10.

#### SANFL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The Eagles' Nick Pesch snatched the SANFL Player of the Year award from Sturt ruckman Simon Feast by one vote with a best-on-ground performance against Norwood on Saturday.

#### STURT v CENTRAL

Matthew Powell (Sturt)	3
Tim Weatherald (Sturt)	2
Tim Cook (Central District)	1

#### NORWOOD v EAGLES

Nick Pesch (Eagles)	3
John Cunningham (Norwood)	2
Damian Obst (Norwood)	1

#### PORT v NORTH

David Brown (Port Adelaide)	3
Paul Vines (Port Adelaide)	2
Bryan Beinke (Port Adelaide)	1

#### WEST v GLENELG

Ed Richardson (West Adelaide)	3
Matthew Twomey (West Adelaide)	2
Alistair Burke (Glenelg)	1

**FINAL STANDINGS - 19:** Nick Pesch (Eagles). **18:** Simon Feast (Sturt). **15:** Matthew Twomey (West). **14:** Tim Weatherald (Sturt). **13:** Brodie Atkinson (Sturt). **12:** Simon Crawshaw (South), Darryl Borlase (Port). **10:** Adam Richardson (West), Anthony Harvey, Damian Obst, Steven Pitt (Norwood), Trent Mills, Andrew Osborn (South). **9:** Tim Cook (Central), Dean Talbot (South), Lucas Herbert (North), Garry McIntosh (Norwood). **8:** John Cunningham (Norwood), Tim Cook (Central), Darryl Wintle (North), Geoff Wiggins (Eagles), Anthony Banik, Simon Hele (Glenelg). **7:** David Brown (Port), Jason Sziller (Eagles), Tim Nunan (North). **6:** Ed Richardson, Matthew Bruhn (West), Matthew Powell, Julian Burton, Bruce Lennon (Sturt), Rick Macgowan, Justin Casserly, Daniel Hulm (Central), Bryan Beinke, Danny Morgan, Brian Leys (Port). **5:** James McLure (Eagles), Rod Jameson (Glenelg), Gilbert McAdam (Central), Scott Direen (Norwood), Peter Johnson, Ryan Fitzgerald (South). **4:** Richard Kelly (Glenelg), Brenton Daniel (Central), Nathan Genovese (South), Andrew Rogers (Eagles), Brett Chalmers, Stephen Carter (Port), Brenton Phillips (North), Stephen White, Nathan Irvin, John Richter (Sturt).

#### THIS WEEK'S DRAW

**Saturday:** Elimination final: Port v Central (12.30). Qualifying final: West v Norwood (3.20, Football Park).