

# Blues cast off post-flag doubts



Sturt's Brant Chambers tries to break a tackle from Glenelg's Trevor Cranston. Picture: Sarah Reed

By Zac Milbank  
at Glenelg Oval

SMOOTH-moving Sturt shrugged off any lingering effects of the past six months — including the tragedy of the Bali bombing — by cruising to a workman-like 46-point triumph over a lacklustre Glenelg in its season opener at Glenelg Oval yesterday.

After an intense first term, the reigning premier cracked the game wide open in the second stanza by running in numbers and using several forays of chain handball to punish the fumbling Tigers.

Vice-captain Tim Weatherald and Matthew Cooper worked their way into the match by typically burrowing into the bottom of the packs, surfacing with some customary sharp handballs to set up their fellow mid-fielders.

Jade Sheedy, Clark Roberts-Thomson and Daniel Wicks were the chief beneficiaries as they broke lines driving the ball long into the Blues' forward arc.

Brant Chambers and Stephen White continued their 2002 aerial dominance with another strong display yesterday, in particular Chambers who kicked five straight goals and was able to get the better of Tiger defenders Leigh Brockman and later, Paul Sherwood.

Both Paul Kennedy (three

goals) and former Eagle Andrew Beveridge suggested they will make the Double Blues an even more daunting proposition to overcome.

By slamming on six goals to the Tigers' meek two behinds, Sturt had created a match-winning ascendancy going into half-time with a comfortable 47-point break.

"I thought there was one quarter (second) that really hurt us," Glenelg coach David Noble said.

"They were able to hold sway after that because when you give Sturt free ball, they're going to punish you."

During the second half, the match lost its sting as players from both sides seemed resigned to the fact Sturt was going to walk away with its first win in 2003.

"It exorcises a few demons," Sturt coach Brenton Phillips said of the win.

The Sturt players' determination to again prove their standing in the SANFL was emphasised just as much off the field as on, as they sang the club song with gusto, loud enough for the fans

waiting outside to join in.

"I really think this group of blokes just want to play football," Phillips said. "They want to leave all the other stuff that happened behind them and that's what they really focused on today."

Despite its being a fresh start under the guidance of Noble, the Tigers were unable to work their way back into the game after the main change.

But they did prevent Sturt from making the game a complete walkover, particularly through the stoic defensive efforts of Simon Nicholas and Ben Mules, both of whom carried their promising trial game form into round one.

Brett Backwell tried hard in his first outing with the Tigers, while young Daniel McEntee, a late inclusion for Ben Moore, adjusted to the pace of league football by kicking two goals in his debut.

"Daniel came in and played fantastically," Noble said.

		116 points			
●	STURT	4.1	10.4	13.5	18.8
●	GLENELG	2.3	2.5	5.9	10.10
		70 points			

## Norwood v Port

Norwood — Friday

NORWOOD	4.3	10.8	15.11	20.14	(134)
Port	3.2	3.8	7.12	9.14	(68)

**BEST - Norwood:** Gallagher, Hobby, Dreen, Clements, Turner, Dawes, McEntee, Daniels, Bartemucci, Massie. **Port:** Barrett, Funcke, Burns, Beinke, Bamford.

**SCORERS — Norwood:** McEntee 4.0, Gallagher 3.2, Carslake 3.0, Turner, Thiessen, Bartemucci 2.1, Massie 2.0, Bobby 1.3, Dreen 1.2, Ahmat, Vidic 0.1, rushed 0.2. **Port:** Beinke 2.2, Burns 1.2, Evans, Poulton 1.1, Lohde, Cockatoo, Collins, Clayton, Cooke 1.0, Plapp 0.4, McDowall, Peucker, Smith 0.1, rushed 0.1.

**INJURIES — Port:** Ebert (eye) replaced in selected side by Poulton.

**UMPIRES —** R. Williams, P. Williams, R. Fox.

**CROWD —** 6626.

## Glenelg v Sturt

Glenelg Oval

STURT	4.1	10.4	13.5	18.8	(116)
Glenelg	2.3	2.5	5.9	10.10	(70)

**BEST — Sturt:** Cooper, Weatherald, Sheedy, Roberts-Thomson, Beveridge, Wicks, Nelson, Chambers, Maloney, Howman, White. **Glenelg:** Nicholas, Mules, Backwell, S. Cook, McEntee.

**SCORERS — Sturt:** Chambers 5.0, Kennedy 3.0, Graham 2.0, White 1.3, Roberts-Thomson, Sheedy 1.1, Conway, Beveridge, Cooper, Squire, Weatherald 1.0, Wicks, Howman 0.1, rushed 0.1. **Glenelg:** Backwell, Golding 2.1, McEntee 2.0, Bennett, Smyth 1.1, Sherwood, Cranston 1.0, Robinson 0.2, Koster, Panozzo, Manfield 0.1, rushed 0.1.

**INJURIES — Sturt:** Dent (thigh) withdrew from selected squad, Roberts (groin). **Glenelg:** Moore (calf) withdrew from selected squad replaced by McEntee.

**UMPIRES —** S. Przibilla, T. Dey, A. Meade.

**CROWD —**

## North v Central

Prospect Oval

CENTRAL	6.1	11.4	16.5	32.5	(197)
North	2.1	7.4	9.7	11.8	(74)

**BEST - Central:** Arnott, C. Gowans, J. Gowans, Slade, Hopwood, Schell, Healy, Graham, Haraida. **North:** O'Connor, Davis, James, Ivens.

**SCORERS — Central:** Schell 6.0; C. Gowans 5.1; J. Gowans, Graham, Walton 4.0; Coulter 3.0; Cochrane, Slade 2.0; Arnott 1.1; Healy 1.0; McArdle 0.1; rushed 0.2. **North:** Hargraves 4.5; O'Connor 2.1; Davis 2.0; Bamford 1.1; Ivens, Leal 1.0; McGahey 0.1.

**INJURIES —** nil.

**UMPIRES —** T. Pfeiffer, K. Broadbridge, G. Symons.

**CROWD —**

## South v Eagles

Noarlunga Oval

EAGLES	7.4	11.6	15.7	21.12	(138)
South	4.0	10.6	13.8	18.9	(117)

**BEST - Eagles:** Cicolella, Pesch, McLoughlan, Hentschel, Passador, Shirley, Skipworth. **South:** Bradley, Berry, Bennett, Mills, Johnson, Doughy, Hall.

**SCORERS — Eagles:** Hentschel 4.4, Pesch 3.3, Passador, Cicolella 3.1, Shirley, Stokes 2.0, Jeffries, Treeby, Powell, Colville 1.0, McLoughlan 0.1, rushed: 0.2. **South:** Berry 5.1, Warren 4.2, Davis 2.1, Tregenza 2.0, Hall, Mills 1.1, Bradley, Hutchinson, Johnson 1.0, Sampson, Demasi 0.1, rushed: 0.1.

**INJURIES —** nil.

**UMPIRES —** D. Joyce, J. Brown, D. Kowal.

**CROWD —**

	P	W	L	For	Agst	%	Pts
1 CENTRAL	1	1	0	197	74	72.69	2
2 NORWOOD	1	1	0	134	68	66.34	2
3 STURT	1	1	0	116	70	62.37	2
4 EAGLES	1	1	0	138	117	54.12	2
5 South	1	0	1	117	138	45.88	0
6 Glenelg	1	0	1	70	116	37.63	0
7 Port	1	0	1	68	134	33.66	0
8 North	1	0	1	74	197	27.31	0
9 West	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0

## Reserves

GLENELG 15.11 (101) d Sturt 8.4 (52). **BEST — Glenelg:** Tasborski, Krueger, Statham, D. Yeomans, J. Pearce, Liston, Norman. **Sturt:** Gatto, Coad, Jarvis, Braun, Scott-Toms. **GOALS — Glenelg:** Tasborski 5, D. Yeomans 3, Ahmat 2, J. Pearce, Statham, Krueger, Liston, P. Cook. **Sturt:** Coad, Jarvis, Kells 2, Bowen, Lavender.