

Surprise scare but Sturt has what it takes

Doug **ROBERTSON**

STURT has position and enough potential improvement to make a genuine assault on its second premiership in three seasons. As expected the Blues beat Glenelg on Saturday - although the slim six-point margin surprised many - and it did so with the same steely toughness that underpinned its 2002 premiership. The win firming Sturt in third spot two games clear of North Adelaide. They meet at Unley in four weeks in a match which will confirm who has the double-chance in September.

Sturt also had four premiership players watching on Saturday and three other stars - Andrew Beveridge (ribs), Andrew Whiteman (concussion) and Simon Feast (groin) - sidelined by the end of the day.

Damian Squire has a sore neck which is not responding quickly enough to treatment but he insists he will be back soon. Daniel Wicks (ankle) and Matthew Powell (hamstring) should return in two weeks while Brett Howman was one of the best in the twos and might be right to face Norwood at Unley on Saturday. Squire's liking for opportunist goals is priceless to Sturt and something it lacked on Saturday. If Crows Brent Reilly and Marty Mattner are permitted to play finals the Blues will have even more goalsneak options to take pressure off marking forwards Brant Chambers and Stephen White.

Add that versatility to its trademark skills

SCOREBOARD	1	2	3	4	
STURT	6.3	7.5	10.11	11.13	(79)
GLENELG	1.1	8.2	10.6	11.7	(73)

BEST - Sturt: Cooper, Sheedy, Weatherald, Coad, Oliver, Smith, Klun. **Glenelg:** Culpitt, Sherwood, Mules, Cranston, Parker, Neely, D. Reavill.

SCORERS - Sturt: Sheedy 2.2, Roberts-Thomson 2.1, Weatherald 1.2, Cooper 1.1, Chambers, Klun, Jarvis, Smith, Bowen 1.0, White 0.2, Richardson, Feast, Scott-Toms, Oliver 0.1, rushed 0.1. **Glenelg:** Duldig 2.1, Statham, D. Reavill 2.0, Krueger 1.2, Cranston, Block, Jamie Vlatko, J. Horan 1.0, Ruwoldt, Moore 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES - Sturt: Beveridge (suspected bruised ribs), Whiteman (mild concussion), Feast (groin).

REPORT - Sturt: Chambers, for allegedly striking Parker, 26 minutes into second term.

UMPIRES - D. Joyce, D. Kowal, C. Carey. **CROWD -** 2586 at Glenelg Oval.

and creativity and Sturt will have enough firepower to press for its 14th Thomas Seymour Hill trophy.

"If I get another real sharp quick bloke I reckon that will top us up through the midfield," coach Brenton Phillips said. "We're always working on (finding goalkicking options). We tried (the Power's) Brett Montgomery down there in the last quarter."

Sturt edged out Glenelg, which moved to within six points with five minutes to play, because of superior skills under real pressure.

"I wouldn't put it (the win) all down to skills," Phillips said. "We had a lot of grunt in that first quarter then we had no grunt. We tried to play pretty outside footy and they got on the inside of us."

Phillips rightly concluded that Chambers, who was reported for allegedly striking Aidan Parker in the second term, and White, who had his first possession nine minutes into the

last, would have been better served with cleaner delivery.

"One of the things I do like is they've got a pretty good punch when it comes down to the crunch," Phillips said.

Tigers coach David Noble could say the same. With five changes after last week's record low score and six players with less than 10 league games, all contributing, Noble sees a future. "There was no point in turning up today and walking away... without something positive coming out of the day," Noble said. "A win or loss was probably irrelevant, it's the way we go about it."

"We've just got to keep persevering and working away to bring those (young) guys forward until we are able to increase and improve some of our A-grade quality. You just need a group around who you can graft off for the young guys and maybe we don't have enough of that A-grade quality."

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pc	Pts
Eagles	15	13	2	-	1360	983	58.1	26
Central	15	12	3	-	1524	979	60.9	24
Sturt	15	10	5	-	1308	1024	56.1	20
North	14	8	6	-	1224	1225	49.9	16
Port	15	6	9	-	1211	1172	50.8	12
South	15	6	9	-	1089	1269	46.2	12
West	15	6	9	-	1155	1424	44.8	12
Glenelg	15	3	12	-	1023	1391	42.4	6
Norwood	15	3	12	-	1073	1498	41.7	6

LEADING GOALKICKERS

		Rd 17	Total
D. Schell	(Central)	2.5	41.18
R. Chambers	(Sturt)	1.0	40.21
B. Tregenza	(South)	2.2	35.22
D. Hargraves	(North)	-	34.8
S. Phillipou	(Eagles)	2.2	28.7

SANFL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

EAGLES v WEST ADELAIDE

Salim Hassan (West Adelaide)	3
Shannon Rusca (West Adelaide)	2
Peter Fiacchi (Eagles)	1

SOUTH ADELAIDE v PORT ADELAIDE

Craig Parry (Port Adelaide)	3
Chad Davis (Port Adelaide)	2
Clay Sampson (South Adelaide)	1

CENTRAL DISTRICT v NORWOOD

Adam Switala (Central District)	3
Chris Gowans (Central District)	2
Richard Cochrane (Central District)	1

GLENELG v STURT

Matthew Cooper (Sturt)	3
Jade Sheedy (Sturt)	2
Tim Weatherald (Sturt)	1

LEADERS - 15: Matthew Slade (Central), 12: Salim Hassan (West), 11: Paul Thomas (Central), Jade Sheedy (Sturt), 9: Andrew Beveridge (Sturt), Mark McKenzie (Eagles), Clinton King (South), Brett Backwell (Glenelg), 8: Simon Feast, Andrew Whiteman (Sturt), Hayden Skipworth, Gavin Colville (Eagles), William Neely (Glenelg), 7: Tyson Hay, Daniel Schell (Central), Mathew Stokes (Eagles), Heath Culpitt (Glenelg).

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	
CENTRAL	7.4	11.7	14.10	17.14	(116)
NORWOOD	4.4	7.6	7.8	9.12	(66)

BEST - Central: Switala, C. Gowans, Cochrane, Thomas, Bello, Kreig, Steinberner, Scoullar. **Norwood:** Borlace, Clements, B. James, Daniels, Dawes, Grundy.

SCORERS - Central: Kreig, Switala 3.0, Schell 2.5, Prokapek 2.2, Scoullar, 2.0, C. Gowans 1.3, Cochrane 1.1, Bello, Steinberner, Pfitzner 1.0, J. Gowans 0.2, rushed 0.1. **Norwood:** Grundy 3.0, Bown 2.0, Hill 1.6, Carslake 1.1, Bartemucci, Clements 1.0, Borlace 0.2, Hazell, Bratton 0.1, rushed 0.1.

UMPIRES - D. Joyce, D. Kowal, C. Carey.

CROWD - 2420 at NAP Oval.

STURT

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
CHAMBERS	7	4	6	2	2	1	0	0	2
BOWEN	3	2	5	1	2	1	0	5	3
SHEEDY	20	1	11	0	0	2	2	0	2
PEARCE	15	4	7	0	3	0	0	0	2
WHITE	2	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
RICHARDSON	6	2	4	0	3	0	1	0	2
ROBERTS-THOMSON	9	2	8	1	2	2	1	0	3
KLUN	7	1	13	1	1	1	0	0	0
WHITEMAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CURTIS	6	1	13	0	1	0	0	0	3
COAD	11	7	11	1	1	0	0	2	0
BEVERIDGE	3	3	7	0	1	0	0	0	2
MONTGOMERY	5	5	11	1	1	0	0	0	1
SMITH	17	4	8	3	1	1	0	0	1
NELSON	4	2	7	0	1	0	0	0	1
OLIVER	6	4	7	0	1	0	1	24	3
WEATHERALD	23	4	13	0	1	1	1	0	6
COOPER	12	1	15	3	0	1	2	0	5
FEAST	5	4	3	2	4	0	1	10	2
JARVIS	2	1	11	1	2	1	0	0	0
SCOTT-TOMS	7	4	8	2	0	0	1	0	4
Totals	170	58	169	18	27	11	13	41	42

GLENELG

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
MILLER	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
DULDIG	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	0	0
RUWOLDT	8	3	5	1	1	1	0	0	3
D. REAVILL	14	9	3	1	0	2	0	0	1
JAMIE VLATKO	8	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	1
MCENTEE	10	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	0
MOORE	14	2	8	4	0	0	1	0	0
CULPITT	20	6	11	1	3	0	0	1	2
COOK	9	2	8	1	2	0	0	0	1
BLOCK	6	1	4	1	0	0	1	0	5
PARKER	15	10	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
MULES	14	3	8	2	0	0	0	0	1
CRANSTON	3	1	14	4	0	1	0	18	1
SHERWOOD	12	7	6	2	1	0	0	0	1
RAIDIS	4	0	5	4	1	0	0	0	1
ANDREWS	6	4	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
NEELY	12	4	16	0	2	0	0	0	2
HORAN	13	1	7	0	0	1	0	1	2
KRUEGER	6	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
STATHAM	6	3	3	0	1	2	0	0	0
MacFARLANE	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	187	71	125	27	18	11	7	22	25

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	
PORT ADELAIDE	4.1	6.2	10.3	13.7	(85)
SOUTH ADELAIDE	2.4	6.6	8.7	9.7	(61)

BEST - Port: Parry, Davis, Ilett, Biacsi, DePasquale, AhChee. **South:** Sampson, Walton, Wright, Kruger, C. King, Griffen.

SCORERS - Port: AhChee 2.2, McDowall 2.1, Wilson, Parry 2.0, Davis 1.1, Brown, Ashley, DePasquale, Ilett 1.0, Elstone, Biacsi 0.1, rushed 0.1. **South:** Wright 3.2, Tregenza 2.2, C. King 1.1, Warren, Sampson, Sadler 1.0, Jackman 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES - Port: Evans (calf), Fitzgerald (back), replaced in selected side by Bamford, King (neck), replaced by Duncan. **South:** Daly, Hedge, Cobb, Wilson (omitted), replaced by Walton, Sadler, Footner, B. King.

UMPIRES - A. Meade, R. Williams, T. Philp. **CROWD -** 1642 at Noarlunga Oval.

SCOREBOARD

	1	2	3	4	
EAGLES	3.5	5.8	6.12	8.13	(61)
WEST	0.2	2.8	4.10	8.10	(58)

BEST - Eagles: P. Fiacchi, Stokes, McKenzie, Rugolo, Lindsay, Pedler, Westbrook. **West:** Hassan, Rusca, Norman, Howard, H. Slattery, Glover.

SCORERS - Eagles: Phillipou 2.2, Rugolo, Passador 2.1, Treeby, Toia 1.0, Inkster 0.2, Merriman, Westbrook, P. Fiacchi 0.1, rushed 0.4. **West:** Norman 1.3, S. Chadwick 1.2, Shepherd, Rusca 1.1, H. Slattery, Howard, Donaldson, Malinowski 1.0, Kent, Champion 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES - Eagles: Colville (general soreness), replaced in selected side by Powell, Rugolo (cut lip). **West:** Crowell (groin), replaced by C. Slattery, C. Slattery (ribs).

REPORT - West: Howard, for alleged misconduct against Rugolo.

UMPIRES - C. Doddridge, G. Symons, P. Williams. **CROWD -** 1725 at Woodville Oval.

THIS WEEK'S DRAW

Round 18 - Saturday: South v Central (Noarlunga Oval, 2.20pm), Sturt v Norwood (Unley Oval, 2.20pm). Sunday: Glenelg v Eagles (Glenelg Oval, 2.20pm), North v West (Prospect Oval, 2.20pm). Bye: Port.