

BIG CROWDS, GOOD FOOTBALL OPEN SEASON

Port's Sound Defeat Of 1945 Premier

STRONG FINISH BY WEST

Conducted By HARRY KNEEBONE

Large crowds, officially estimated at 26,000 who paid £1,517 at the stiles (compared with £729 at the 1945 opening series) watched the first of the 1946 League football matches on Saturday. Features were:—

*Port Adelaide's 17-point defeat of West Torrens, 1945 premier, at Thebarton.

*West Adelaide's overpowering last quarter against Sturt at Unley, to turn a 19-point deficit into a winning margin of 10 points.

*Laurie Taylor's feat in kicking eight of West Adelaide's 15 goals.

*Norwood's comfortable win over North Adelaide at Norwood.

*A closely-fought game at Adelaide in which South Adelaide defeated Glenelg by 14 points.

HOW TEAMS STAND

	W.	L.	P.	A.	P.c.	Pts.
Norwood	1	—	120	77	60	2
Port Adel.	1	—	83	66	55	2
South Adel.	1	—	98	84	53	2
West Adel.	1	—	107	97	52	2
Sturt	—	1	97	107	47	—
Glenelg	—	1	84	98	46	—
West Torr.	—	1	66	83	44	—
North Adel.	—	1	77	120	39	—

LEADING GOALKICKERS

L. Taylor (West Ad.)	8
Cocks (Nor.)	5
Veitch (South Ad.)	4
Betson (Glen.)	3
Burt (Glen.)	3
Coad (West Ad.)	3
Hender (Glen.)	3
Hodgins (West Torr.)	3
Hoffman (Port Ad.)	3
Reynolds (St.)	3
Schober (St.)	3

SOUND WIN BY PORT ADELAIDE

West Torrens Off Target At Thebarton

Usually teams visiting Thebarton Oval experience difficulty in finding the goals with their kicks. The boot was on the other foot on Saturday, for Port Adelaide scored 12 goals in 23 scoring shots to defeat West Torrens, the home team (only eight goals from 26 scoring attempts).

Scores:—

Port	2-3	7-6	10-9	12-11
Torrens	2-5	3-6	7-14	8-18

Goalkickers:—Port Adelaide—Hoffman, 3.3; Dangerfield and Jolly, each 2.2; Quinn, 2.1; Mills, 2.0; Skelly, 1.0; Dayman, 0.2; Dolman, 0.1. Dolman hit a goal post. West Torrens—Hodgins, 3.4; Turner, 2.1; McInnes, 1.4; Coverlid, 1.3; Prior, 1.0; Nicholls, 0.3; Wood, Kellaway, and Palmer, each 0.1. McInnes hit a goal post.

WEST ADELAIDE HAS NARROW WIN

Sturt's Last-Minute Bids Fail

Holding a slender two-point lead with only six minutes of play left, West Adelaide managed to stave off several last-minute bids by Sturt at the Unley Oval on Saturday and to win by 10 points.

West	0-2	7-7	8-12	15-17
Sturt	7-7	8-7	11-13	13-19

Goalkickers:—West Adelaide—L. Taylor (8.5), Coad (3.3), O'Donovan (2.2), Scott (1.3), Clarke (1.0), Semmler (0.2), Cahill and O'Donoghue (each 0.1). Sturt—Schober and Reynolds (each 3.2), Langley (2.4), Zucker (2.2), Gibson (1.6), Merchant (1.1), Tilley (1.0), rushed (0.2).

NORWOOD WINS EASILY

North Adelaide's Lame Finish

Better condition, and particularly purposeful play by its backmen, gave Norwood a 43-point victory over North Adelaide at Norwood Oval.

Scores:—

Norwood	2-2	9-10	12-14	16-24
North	4-4	7-4	10-8	11-11

Goalkickers:—Norwood—Cocks, 5.1; Reilly and Dalwood, each 2.5; Way, 2.4; Oatey, 2.1; Blackmore and Smith, each 1.3; Powersaker, 1.0; Bell, 0.2. North Adelaide—Shaw, 2.4; O'Leary, 2.2; Rex and Pash, each 2.0; Mitchinson, 1.2; Arbon, 1.1; Hoskins, 1.0; West, 0.1; one behind was rushed. For Norwood, Reilly hit the goalpost twice and Oatey once.

SOUTH ADELAIDE WINS BY 14 POINTS

Vigorous Game At Adelaide

After a gruelling game in which both teams showed surprising pace and vigor for the first match of the season, South Adelaide beat Glenelg by 14 points at Adelaide Oval.

Glenelg, which looked the smaller side, began with a burst of speed and bustle, but failed to upset South Adelaide's more open style of play.

Betson, ex-Victorian and coach and captain of Glenelg, came into prominence in the second quarter, and instilled more precision into his rucks, with the result that Glenelg had gained a slight advantage by half time.

Betson, although he did not get many kicks, continued to maintain a strong influence in the ruck during the third quarter by intelligent knocking and shepherding.

The game had been fought with plenty of fire and bone-shaking collisions were numerous. At the end of the quarter, Deane, who had been playing well for South Adelaide, at half forward, left the field with an injured wrist, and Boyle (SA) was also assisted off the ground suffering from concussion. Later he was admitted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital for observation.

South Adelaide brought Pryor from centre half back in the last quarter to check Betson's ruck work, and the move was immediately effective. Scores:—

South	2-4	6-6	11-13	13-20
Glenelg	2-4	6-8	9-9	12-12

Goalkickers:—South Adelaide—Veitch, 4-2; Templeton, 2-3; Panizza, 2-3; Apilin, 1-2; Boyle and Deane, 1-1; Balnaves, 1-0; Laphorne, 0-3; Pryor, 0-2; Searle, 0-1. 0-2 rushed. Glenelg—Hender and Burt, 3-2; Betson, 3-1; Crabb, 2-1; Haussen, 1-3; Cock, 0-2. 0-1 rushed.

Brown Brilliant

For South Adelaide, Brown at centre was probably best. Although not perhaps as speedy as some League centre men, he combined intelligent position play with a flair for finding his forwards with accurate passes.



K. Brown

Templeton at centre half forward was very consistent, and led many attacks, while Boyle, until he was injured, carried South Adelaide's main ruck burden.

Of the newer players Hickinbotham, half back, showed speed and courage. Others who played well were Laphorne (a fine roving effort in the last half), and A. S. Smith (one of the team's best in the last quarter).

For Glenelg, Betson, because of his inspiring ruck effort was probably the best although Keane (at centre half back) would press him very closely for that honor. Betson, as is only natural, has not gained anything in speed over the past few years, but he has certainly not lost any of his football cunning. When he knocked the ball out of the ruck, it was almost invariably into the arms of a waiting team mate.

Keane brought down many brilliant marks, and gave a splendid exhibition of ground play. Burt (roving) and resting in a forward pocket, was the most effective rover on the ground, and Hunt (full back) gave a very solid display. Others to do well were Hender (half forward), Ormond (roving), Low and Hall (half back) and Crabb (centre half forward).

Best Players & Goalkickers from 'The Mail' at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page4643597>

Best Players—South: Brown, Pryor, Templeton, Panizza, Ryan, Deane (until injured), Hickinbotham, Smith, Glenelg: Hunt, Keane, Haussen, Betson, Burt, Cock, Hender, Hall.

Goalkickers—South: Veitch (4), Templeton, Panizza (2), Boyle, Smith, Apilin, Balnaves, Deane, Glenelg: Betson, Hender, Burt (3), Crabb (2), Haussen.

South Backs: Cornish, Vaughan, Ryan Half-backs: Tabe, Pryor, Hickinbotham. Centres: Parnell, Brown, Bray Half-forwards: Deane, Templeton, Panizza. Forwards: Smith, Veitch, Apilin Ruck: Boyle, Balnaves, Laphorne, Searle (19th), Schulze (20th).

Glenelg—Backs: Corbett, Hunt, Hall, Half-backs: Robent, Keane, Low. Centres: Owens, Askew, Croucher. Half-forwards: Ormond, Cock, Watts. Forwards: Burt, Crabb, Hender, Ruck: Betson, Wedd, Haussen, Tippins (19th), N. Edwards (20th).