

FIRST STURT WIN DUE TO MAY, FITZGERALD

By VIC JOHNSON

Two ex-Victorians, Wally May and Len Fitzgerald, played a major part in Sturt's first victory of the season at Adelaide Oval today. They beat Glenelg by 13 points.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	3-2	5-4	8-8	12-10	82
Glenelg	2-3	7-3	7-5	10-9	69

May gave a really intelligent exhibition of ruck-work and was invaluable when placed.

Fitzgerald was brilliant in practically every part of the game, particularly when the pressure was on.

Apart from these two players, who in my opinion stood head and shoulders above the others, the teams were evenly matched.

But the difference between class players and the average footballer makes all the difference between winning and losing. Such was the case today.

Nothing spiteful

I saw nothing really spiteful in the game, but I attribute this to the firm control umpire Aplin had of the game.

The turf was splendid and Fitzgerald sent Sturt toward the cathedral goal after winning the toss.

The breeze had little effect on the game.

Teams were unchanged. Marshall (Sturt) was suffering from a slight disability as a result of a motor cycle fall last night.

From the initial bounce May and Fitzgerald jumped right into their stride and May's first kick, a punt pass to Fitzgerald, was a goal on the board to Sturt in the opening minutes of play.

The term was even enough. Sturt led at the first change by five points. But I think it could have been more.

Both of Sturt's champions are quick-thinkers. On many occasions they think too fast for their teammates and their hand-passes often find the others flatfooted.

However, Glenelg were not altogether idle in their efforts.

Guy began well at centre and Rundle, too, was showing out well in attack. But his half-forwards lacked direction in their efforts to get the ball to him.

At the other end Wickham was defending ably, as was Baillie at half-back.

In his first term Sturt took 13 marks, were awarded nine frees, while Glenelg marked on 10 occasions and received 14 frees.

In the second term Glenelg were at their best for the game.

It was the only time Sturt were really challenged in the packs.

Crabb tried desperately to stem the tide, and the rovers, King and McPherson, backed him up well.

They scored five goals without a point, while Sturt could add only two goals two behinds to change a five-point deficit into an 11-point lead.

They were forced into miskicks and fumbling by the close-checking and hard-hitting methods of their immediate opponents, and never had a chance to settle down.

Anyone's game

However, with only nine points showing on the board in Sturt's favor, it was still anyone's game at the last change.

In the third term Sturt took 15 marks, received six frees. Glenelg took 13 marks and were awarded five frees.

The last term began with Glenelg setting the pace and McPherson gained an easy goal for them.

Sturt, however, quickly replied with goals from Sims and Kotaris.

Tension mounted as the scores remained within touch, but Kotaris again figured in a forward movement, from which D. Paech goaled to put Sturt 10 points clear.

Settled issue

A couple more points were scored, but Hill settled this issue with an easy goal to give Sturt victory by 13 points.

In the final term Sturt took 14 marks, Glenelg 15. Both received three frees.

Throughout the game, Sturt took 57 marks and received 25 frees. Glenelg took 54 marks and received 29 frees.

I give my choice for Sturt's best to May, because of his fine rucking effort.

He was seldom beaten for a knock and they were always intelligently placed.

Close behind him was Fitzgerald for another fine exhibition of all-round ability, with perhaps his footpassing just a little astray at times.

Scorers—Sturt: Fitzgerald 3.3, D. Paech 3.0, Sims 2.1, Goodchild 1.2, Kotaris 1.1, Bantshaw, Hill 1.0, May 0.1, rushed 0.2. Glenelg: Rundle 3.1, Potter, King, Davies 2.1, McPherson 1.0, Hall 0.2, Alf Bailey 0.2, rushed 0.1.

Best Players—Sturt: May, Fitzgerald, Tester, Phillips, Rattigan, Goldfinch, Goodchild. Glenelg: Guy, Alf Bailey, Potter, Crabb, R. Baillie, Wickham, King.

Replacements—Sturt: Kutcher (facial injury), replaced by Shanks in second quarter; Sims (injured leg), replaced by Bellingham in last quarter.

LEFT: It was a case of all in to try to get the ball during this incident during the Sturt-Glenelg match at Adelaide Oval this afternoon. J. Paech and S. Kotaris (Sturt, left foreground) fell over a Glenelg player. Others are (from left) G. McPherson (Glenelg) holding Wally May (Sturt), B. Rundle (Glenelg), and F. Tester (Sturt). At extreme left is Len Fitzgerald. BELOW: Flying together to try to gain possession are Glenelg vice-captain, Alan Crabb, and Wally May (Sturt). Waiting down is D. Paech (Sturt).

Port are still in top place

By Vic Johnson

As a result of today's games Port and West, as yet unbeaten, lead the premiership table with Port on top with a better percentage.

South, who defeated Norwood, are back in the top four, being third. Norwood remain in fourth position with a slightly better percentage margin than Torrens.

In the fourth round of league games next Saturday South meet Port at Adelaide. Sturt face North at Unley. West play Norwood at Kensington, and in the country fixture at Port Lincoln Torrens meet Glenelg.

I choose Port, Sturt, West, and Torrens as the likely winners.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

Team	W.	L.	For	Ag.	Pts.	%
Port	3	—	326	285	6	6
West	3	—	233	234	6	6
South	2	1	192	177	4	4
Norwood	1	2	241	214	2	2
Torrens	1	2	212	189	2	2
North	1	2	232	275	2	2
Sturt	1	2	172	276	2	2
Glenelg	—	3	285	283	—	—

TOP GOALKICKERS

Player	Today	Total
McKenzie (North)	2	10
Garland (Port)	3	9
Brown (West)	3	9
Fosdike (Norwood)	3	9
Rundle (Glenelg)	3	9
Dalwood (Norwood)	3	8
Willis (Torrens)	2	8
Motley (Port)	3	7
Packham (West)	1	7
Vivian (Norwood)	—	7
Williams (Port)	2	7

ATTENDANCES

Adelaide Oval	8,500
Alberton	9,100
Thebarton	9,000
Norwood	6,500



North never in the hunt

By HUBERT BIGGS

Brilliant combined play by Port Adelaide gave them a sweeping 43-point win over North at Alberton today.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	4-3	9-7	16-10	18-13	121
North	1-2	1-5	4-7	11-12	78

The first half was practically a massacre, with Port supreme in every department.

North outscored the winners in the second half—10-7 to Port's 9-6.

I bracket two Port players as best on the ground—Geoff Motley, at centre half-forward, and Pos Williams for his tigerish roving.

North's Dean Stringer put up a good fight against Motley in the first quarter, but found him too much of a handful because of his speedy ground work afterwards.

Williams inspired his team by his determination and skill on the ruck fringes.

Davey Boyd was on top at centre — he is having a great season — and Roger Clift turned in a

sterling defensive effort. Tom Garland, full forward, and Harold McDonald, wing, were also useful.

Seventeen-year-old Peter Sheppard, North's new rover, gets my first vote for his side. While inexperience told against some of the other North men, Sheppard fought an uphill task well.

Mervyn Way, dashing on a wing, had the edge on such a fine opponent as McDonald.

Best Players—Port: Motley, Williams, Boyd, Clift, Garland, McDonald, Jaggard, Kretschmer, North: Sheppard, Way, McCann, Stringer, Huppata, Ducker, Tanner.

Scorers—Port: Kretschmer 4.0, Motley 3.2, Garland 3.1, Williams 2.5, Hall 2.1, Jaggard 2.0, Whelan 1.0, Leaver 1.0, Hayes 0.2, McDonald 0.1, Boyd 0.1. North: Sheppard 5.2, McKenzie 2.3, Carlson 1.1, Griffin 1.1, Bunton 1.0, Walter 1.0, Huppata 0.2, Bluncoe 0.2, Lindner 0.1.



SOUTH SCRAPE HOME

By LEN SWAN

South scraped home by two points from Norwood at Norwood Oval today in a last-minute effort.

South	1-9	2-12	5-16	9-22	76
Norwood	1-1	4-1	6-2	11-8	74

South looked certain to be beaten because of their inaccuracy in front of goals.

It was a game packed full of excitement, and interest, with the lead changing nine times.

South looked the winners early, but Norwood took over in a devastating burst at the start of the last quarter.

Racing to a 13-point lead, they looked the winners.

But South fought on so impressively that they must be regarded as a danger to any side.

No longer are they dependent on a few stars.

There were only seconds to go when Des Panizza kicked the winning goal—Norwood were on the move in reply when the bell rang.

Hausen good

For South, Hausen is mentioned first because of his sustained effort. Always in the picture and never admitting defeat, he did a lot towards South's victory — his three goals were invaluable.

Marriott was best on the ground. He put up a mammoth performance today whether on the ball or resting.

Best Players—South: Hausen, Graze, Linke, Abbott, Hewitt, Des Panizza, Nelson, Couch, Fosdike, Gallagher, Roberts, Young.

Scorers—South: Hausen 3.3, Read 2.3, Des Panizza 2.0, Zubrinich 1.3, Austin 1.2, Prazer 0.2, Thomson 0.2, Fuss 0.1, Linke 0.1, R. Panizza 0.1, East 0.1, rushed 0.3. Norwood: Fosdike 3.2, Dalwood 3.1, Nicholls 2.0, Skinner 1.1, Marriott 1.1, Sawley 1.1, Young 0.1, rushed 0.1.

WEST CAME GOOD TO WIN CLOSE GAME

By RAY BARBER

One minute West were just a side — the next they were transformed to one that could kick four goals in five minutes. Result was they got their third successive three-point win — at the expense of the 1953 premiers, Torrens, at Thebarton Oval.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	1-5	2-7	7-12	10-15	75
Torrens	2-3	6-8	7-9	10-12	72

Eglinton, with a consistent dashing game at centre wing, where he won against Errol Lodge, was West's best man.

Colin Brown came right into his own after a tardy beginning, and his goals had a lot to do with West's win.

Lynch gave West winning wings with his cleverness and pace.

Thomas has developed into a capable full-back, as shown by his subjection of Willis today.

Ken McGregor had a good first half and was prominent at times after. He will be a star for West soon. Stoll and Lovegrove were both sound units in defence.

Best on field

Charlie Pyatt was best man on the ground. He gave Torrens plenty of impetus with his good position play and strong kicking for four goals without a miss.

Alf Roberts again turned in a fine full-back performance, meeting the ball

with judgment and kicking long and accurately.

Lindsay Head won centre on the day without giving the Bob Hank drive. Ron Ashby was solid and dependable at centre half-back, while Chown was prominent, not only in the ruck but also in the field play.

Bradford was nippy and effective at times.

Scorers—West: Brown 3.4, Chynoweth, Williams, Wright each 1.3, Packham 1.1, Burkett, Stoll, Costello 1.0, Slattery 0.2, Cannon 0.1, rushed 0.1. Torrens: Pyatt 4.0, Coverlid 2.3, Willis 2.2, Ray Hank 1.2, Bradford 1.0, Head 0.2, Chown 0.1, rushed 0.2.

Best Players—West: Eglinton, Brown, Lynch, Thomas, McGregor, Lovegrove, Stoll. Torrens: Pyatt, Roberts, Head, Ashby, Chown, Coverlid.