

MAGPIES ARE ON WAY BACK

By SAM GALLAGHER

Beating Norwood by 57 pts. in an impressive return to winning form at Alberton, Port Adelaide today showed it is only a matter of time before they are back in the four.

However Port's rise from fifth place could be held up.

QUICK LOOK AT LEAGUE GAMES

GROUND: Heavy — WEATHER: Fine.

AT ALBERTON

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	3-4	6-9	8-14	14-19	103
Norwood	2-1	4-3	4-4	7-4	46

BEST PLAYERS—PORT: Matters, Motley, P. Obst, Philp, Cooper, Hannaford, Potter, T. Obst (until injured). **NORWOOD:** Kneebone, Wedding, Johnson, Harrison, Bowe, Sawley, Gimm, Modra.

SCORERS—PORT: Johns 4.3, Matters 4.2, Philp 3.0, Virgo 2.0, T. Obst 1.1, Potter 0.6, Cahill 0.2, Errey 0.1, Traynor 0.1, rushed 0.3. **NORWOOD:** Kite 3.0, Skinner 1.1, Amery 1.1, Sawley 1.0, Wedding 1.0, McMahon 0.1, rushed 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS—PORT: T. Obst (shoulder injury) replaced by Virgo in the third quarter. **NORWOOD:** Graham (leg injury) replaced by Nelson in the third quarter. Wedding (leg injury) replaced by Lawton late in the last quarter. Umpire—K. G. Cunningham.

AT KENSINGTON

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
North	3-1	5-6	7-10	9-11	65
South	4-3	4-5	6-7	9-8	62

BEST PLAYERS—NORTH: Knuckey, Pascoe, D. Lindner, Trenorden, Thomas, Geisler, Paull, Sheridan, Murch. **SOUTH:** Shaw, Day, Johnston, Roennfeldt, Kantilla, Walker, Ploenges, Christie.

SCORERS—NORTH: Thomas 3.2, Sheridan 1.2, Murch 1.2, Page 1.1, Hill 1.1, Paull 1.0, Martin 1.0, Geisler 0.1, Jones 0.1, rushed 0.1. **SOUTH:** Backman 2.2, Lewis 2.1, Christie 1.0, Day 1.0, Shaw 1.0, Judd 1.0, Wilson 1.0, Tattioli 0.2, McPharlane 0.1, rushed 0.2.

REPLACEMENTS—NORTH: Page (cramp) replaced by Gilbourne in the last quarter. **SOUTH:** McPharlane replaced by Stewart during final term. Umpire—W. A. Henderson.

AT THEBARTON

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	4-6	4-7	9-8	12-11	83
West	2-4	5-4	7-8	8-10	58

BEST PLAYERS—TORRENS: Bills, Pill, Kingston, Head, Livesey, Howell, Gould, Payze, Blight. (All went well). **WEST:** Bray, Kerley, Roach, Thompson, Reu, Hooper, Thomas.

SCORERS—TORRENS: Kingston 4.5, Head 4.2, Gould 1.1, Isaac 1.1, Russell 1.1, Pill 1.0, Young 0.1. **WEST:** Roach 5.0, Hooper 2.1, Thomas 1.2, Eustice 0.2, Kerley 0.1, Wallace 0.1, Sara 0.1, rushed 0.2.

REPLACEMENTS—TORRENS: Young (torn shoulder ligament) replaced by Connolly in the second term. Dix (bruised hip) replaced by Gilbert in the last term. **WEST:** Bennetts (thigh muscle) replaced by Brooks at half-time. Benton (bruised hip) replaced by Schramm in the last term. Umpire—N. L. G. Mackay.

AT ADELAIDE

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	2-3	3-6	3-7	11-13	79
Glenelg	4-7	6-8	10-11	11-11	77

BEST PLAYERS—STURT: Halbert, Langridge, D. Hicks, Short, Hill, Saddington, Whicker, Schoff. **GLENELG:** Beal, Richens, Peek, Linke, Fraser, Kernahan, Long, Howard, Cutten.

SCORERS—STURT: Langridge 3.1, D. Hicks 2.4, Dunn 1.2, G. Hicks 1.1, Hill 1.0, Ryan 1.0, Gunn 1.0, Wiebusch 1.0, Halbert 0.2, Murphy 0.1, Whicker 0.1, Rigney 0.1. **GLENELG:** Fraser 3.2, Howard 3.1, Kernahan 2.1, Blackburn 1.1, Long 1.1, Beal 1.0, Sinclair 0.1, Staite 0.1, Westley 0.1, rushed 0.2.

REPLACEMENTS—STURT: Wiebusch (leg) replaced by Dunn at half-time. Rigney (leg) replaced by Schwarz in the last quarter. **GLENELG:** Staite (gashed thigh) replaced by Rowe in the last quarter. Umpire—R. M. Le Cornu.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

Team	W.	L.	Points		Prem.	%
			For	Agst.		
North	8	2	796	761	16	51.12
Torrens	6	4	690	566	12	54.93
West	6	4	694	613	12	53.09
Norwood	6	4	740	754	12	49.53
Port	5	5	861	645	10	57.17
Sturt	5	5	722	767	10	48.48
Glenelg	3	7	694	911	6	43.23
South	1	9	625	805	2	43.70

LEADING GOALKICKERS

Player	Today	Matches	Total
R. Johns (Port)	4.3	10	34.90
Amery (Norwood)	1.1	10	24.14
W. Thomas (North)	3.2	10	21.17
Skinner (Norwood)	1.1	10	21.13
Langridge (Sturt)	3.1	10	20.18
Potter (Port)	0.6	9	20.15
Head (Torrens)	4.2	9	19.18
Backman (South)	2.2	10	18.23
Matters (Port)	4.2	8	17.10
Benton (West)	—	9	16.19
Rowe (Glenelg)	—	7	16.9

ATTENDANCES

Alberton	12,589
Thebarton	9,403
Adelaide	8,742
Kensington	4,514
Total	35,248

The Magpies' first chance to make it by their own efforts will come when they meet Torrens at Thebarton on July 20.

Port meet North at Alberton on July 13, but the Red-and-Whites are two games clear at the top of the ladder and Port's first cut at one of the teams immediately above them will be the clash with the Eagles.

However, Torrens' form in winning by 25 points from West at Thebarton today establishes the Eagles as a definite premiership threat.

Although North have a two-game break on the field, their form last week against a weakened West and today in beating South by only three points, clearly shows that margin to be exaggerated.

Incredible

At Adelaide, Sturt stayed in touch with the leaders by staging an incredible finish against Glenelg.

Down 46 points at the last change the Blues, following almost an accepted pattern this season, paralysed the Tigers by kicking 8-6 to a goal and snatched a two-point win in the time-on period.

If Sturt do not make the final four, their habit of playing in fits and starts will be largely to blame.

At Alberton, Port played like a side determined to prove that five defeats in 10 games was not a true measure of their worth.

The Redlegs' performance suggested they also subscribed to that belief.

From nine points up at quarter-time, Port gradually went away to a big win.

Stronger roving and better teamwork were Port strongpoints against a poor Norwood display, brightened only by a few strong individual efforts.

Stan Wickham, reporting the Thebarton game, said Torrens beat West at their own game — precision teamwork.

In his best performance for the season, Geoff Kingston filled in for Neil Hawke at full forward in fine style, getting 4-5.

Kingston's return to form could be the answer to the problem of Hawke's probable replacement for the return match against Victoria on Saturday week.

An edge across centre and a slightly greater efficiency in attack won North a narrow decision over South.

North could strike trouble next week when they meet Torrens at Prospect.

The Eagles' form since beating North a month ago has been consistently good.

Best defence

Their centre line, particularly the wings, is probably underrated. The statistics show they have the best defence in the league, and their attacking power is undoubted, if slightly uncertain.

In next week's other games, West should beat South at Adelaide; and Port, at home again, look too strong for Sturt.

Norwood go to Glenelg. The Redlegs struck trouble at the Bay last year and will need to establish a roving superiority to win.

BUTTON (Glenelg)

flies high to mark over teammate Cutten at Adelaide Oval today, while Sturt's captain Halbert (centre), is caught on the hop. Glenelg captain Long (left) and Sturt's G. Hicks await the outcome.

STURT KICKED 8-6 IN LAST TERM

By SAM GALLAGHER

Down 46 points at three-quarter time, Sturt kicked 8-6 in a fantastic last quarter to beat Glenelg by two points at Adelaide Oval.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	2-3	3-6	3-7	11-13	79
Glenelg	4-7	6-8	10-11	11-11	77

Nothing Sturt had done up to this point gave any indication that they would finish as they did.

The Bays, winning both wings comfortably and going better in attack, seemed to have the game safely in their keeping for 31 quarters.

Their lead stretched from 16 points at quarter-time to 20 points at half-time and 46 points at the last change.

From the grandstands at least there was a minor exodus at three-quarter time.

Sturt's switch of Murphy to centre half-forward and Ryan to ruck for the last quarter seemed only a desperate move.

Jumped in

Twice Sturt went through Murphy for a behind and then a goal to Gun, but Kernahan regained the initiative for the Bays with a good knock followed by a goal as he moved down into the forward lines.

Glenelg supporters sat back and waited for victory.

The players must have had the same impression, and as they relaxed, Sturt jumped into the breach.

Although Kernahan got several good knocks from the centre, Sturt's half-back line quickly rebounded the ball into attack.

Once ahead of centre the Blues were a different side from the combination that had muddled its way through the first three quarters.

Langridge and D. Hicks ran the Glenelg defence ragged as Sturt, finding the man ahead with great precision, hardly wasted a kick.

Rigney and Dunn missed from easy range just before Rigney was replaced by Schwarz, and C. Hicks shifted into the forward lines.

Dunn redeemed himself when he passed to G. Hicks for a goal.

Then Langridge took a hand. Halbert drove in from centre, and the former Victorian got two goals, one a beauty from an acute angle.

Nineteen points down with five minutes to go, Sturt smelt victory.

The Bays were rattled. Hunt, clearing in defence, ran too far and then Kendall's clearing kick went to Ryan.

Taking advantage of a confused Bay defence, Ryan ran on from the mark and drove the ball through for full points.

Eleven points the difference then 10, and incredibly four, as Darryl Hicks goaled.

With a minute to play, Sturt rebounded from a Glenelg knock at the centre bounce.

The ball went to Dunn

on the grandstand half-forward flank.

Coolly stepping round two Bay defenders, Dunn drove to Hill 35 yards out on a slight angle.

It couldn't have gone to a better player from the Sturt point of view.

Hill made no mistake with the mark and calmly lined up the shot which was a goal from the time it left his boot.

Outscored 8-6 to 1-0, Glenelg had no comeback.

Criticism after the game was that Doug Long should have stacked the Bay backlines, but Sturt's onslaught was so sudden and so unexpected that his failure to take preventive measures is hardly surprising.

Stirred up

For three quarters and more the Bays were clearly the better side, but Sturt, stirred up by coach Jack Oatey at three-quarter time, responded with that wonderful finish.

This has been consistently the Sturt pattern this year, alternating between irresistible brilliance and mediocrity.

Halbert, for a consistent if not spectacular effort at centre, was Sturt's best, although Anesbury provided strong opposition.

Langridge was always dangerous at half-forward, and his effort in the last quarter was decisive.

Hicks did some good work early when Sturt were battling, and was right in it at the finish as he was against South a fortnight ago.

For Glenelg Beal was best. He and Peek gave Glenelg what should have been a match-winning advantage on the wings for three quarters, lessened



Langridge Beal

briefly by Adcock's effort on Peek in the second quarter after Sturt had switched wings.

Richens played strongly throughout. He, like the rest of the Bay defence, was swamped in the end. But on the last line of defence, with Long in particular and Abley, he formed a line that Sturt took a long time to crack.

Linke was solid before the avalanche, and the rovers, Fraser and Howard, with six goals between them, could have been matchwinners.

