HARDER FIGHT FOR FINAL FOUR

Sam Gallagher's football review

QUICK LOOK AT LEAGUE GAMES

GROUND: Heavy—WEATHER: Fine.

At Adelaide

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	1—1	8—8	10—8	15—11	101
South	1—3	1—5	2—6	5—6	36

BEST PLAYERS—**TORRENS:** Shearman, Head, Payze Connolly, Bills, Dix, Isaac. **SOUTH:** Darley, Day, Ploenges, Kantilla, Walker, Ross, O'Brien.

SCORERS—**TORRENS:** Hawke 4.5, Connolly 3.1, Isaac 2.1, Dix 2.0, Head 1.3, Kingston 1.0, Gould 1.0, Cowling 1.0, Shearman 0.1. **SOUTH:** Ross 1.2, Jackson 1.1, McFarlane 1.0, Backman 1.0, O'Brien 1.0, Kantilla 0.1, Darley 0.1, Christie 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS—**TORRENS:** Cowling and Pill replaced by Rankine and Gilbert in the last quarter. **SOUTH:** Nil.

UMPIRE—B. A. Lees.

At Alberton

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	4—5	7—5	10—9	11—10	76
North	1—0	4—2	5—4	7—11	53

BEST PLAYERS—**PORT:** Potter, Hannaford, T. Obst, Philp, Gill, Cooper, Elleway, Hayes. **NORTH:** Hill, Jones, Hammond, Knuckey, Sheridan, Sutter, Geisler Trenorden.

SCORERS—**PORT:** Potter 3.0, Philp 2.3, Errey 2.0, Hannaford 1.3, Johns 1.1, T. Obst 1.0, Gill 1.0, Matters 0.2, Mead 0.1. **NORTH:** Geisler 3.0, Hill 2.1, Thomas 1.1, Trenorden 1.1, Murch 0.2, Martin 0.1, Paull 0.1, Sheridan 0.1, D. Lindner 0.1, rushed 0.2.

REPLACEMENTS—**PORT:** Traynor (facial injury replaced by Marrett at three-quarter time. Matters (leg injury) replaced by Virgo in the last quarter. **NORTH:** T. Lindner (leg injury) replaced by Kent at three-quarter time.

UMPIRE—W. A. Henderson.

At Norwood

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Sturt	2—3	5—7	9—9	10—10	70
Norwood	1—0	5—3	7—5	8—5	53

BEST PLAYERS—**STURT:** Jarrett, Saddington, Short, Langridge, Dunn, Hicks, Schoff, Webster, Halbert. **NORWOOD:** Ashby, Harrison, Kelly, Kneebone, Oatey, Wedding, Graham, Modra, McMahon.

SCORERS—**STURT:** Hicks 3.1, Dunn 3.1, Jones 2.2, Schoff 1.0, Gunn 1.0, Shrier 0.2, Rigney 0.1, Murphy 0.1, rushed 0.2. **NORWOOD:** McMahon 2.0, Amery 1.2, Harrison 1.1, Modra 1.1, Oatey 1.0, Wedding 1.0, Skinner 1.0, Kite 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS—**STURT:** Schreier (torn thigh muscle) replaced by Schwarz during second term. Cunningham (knee ligaments) replaced by Gunn at half-time. **NORWOOD:** Gimm (concussion) replaced by Wiesner during the second quarter. Ashby replaced by Hillman during final quarter.

UMPIRE—K. G. Cunningham.

At Richmond

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	7—2	12—5	19—13	19—16	130
Glenelg	0—2	3—5	4—7	10—9	69

BEST PLAYERS—**WEST:** Eustice Day, Kerley, Ryan, Bray, Reu, Pope (all went well). **GLENELG:** Fraser, Button, Richens, Linke, Kernahan, Abley, Payne.

SCORERS—**WEST:** Ryan 4.0, Benton 3.2, Hooper 2.2, Shrubsole 2.2, Garnett 2.1, Roach 1.2, Kerley 1.2, Thomas 1.1, Thompson 1.1, Day 1.1, Sara 1.1, Brooks 0.1. **GLENELG:** Kernahan 3.1, Fraser 3.0, Rowe 2.0, Button 1.5, Payne 1.1, Sinclair 0.1, rushed 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS—**WEST:** Hooper (bruised thigh) replaced by Brooks during the third term. **GLENELG:** Long (groin) replaced by Blackburn at half-time. Peek replaced by Croser during the last term.

UMPIRE—N. L. G. Mackay.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst.	Pts.	%
North	8	3	1	914	902	17	50.33
West	8	4	—	922	736	16	55.61
Torrens	7	4	1	856	667	15	56.20
Port	7	5	—	1018	734	14	58.10
Norwood	6	6	—	863	910	12	48.67
Sturt	6	6	—	828	901	12	47.89
Glenelg	4	8	—	849	1111	8	43.32
South	1	11	—	715	1004	2	41.59

LEADING GOALKICKERS

R. Johns Port)	1-1	12	37-26
W. Thomas (North)	1-1	12	25-24
Amery (Norwood)	1-2	12	25-17
Potter (Port)	2-0	11	25-16
Skinner (Norwood)	1-0	12	24-18
Head (Torrens)	1-3	11	23-23
Langridge (Sturt)	—	12	21-18
Rowe (Glenelg)	2-0	9	21-11
Benton (West)	3-2	11	20-25
Backman (South)	1-0	12	20-25

NEXT WEEK

South v. Glenelg at Adelaide
West v. Norwood at Kensington
Torrens v. Port at Thebarton
Sturt v. North at Unley.

ATTENDANCES

Alberton	9,697
Norwood	8,463
Adelaide	6,648
Richmond	5,336
	30,144

Port's defeat of North in today's league football has intensified the fight for the top four.

Only three points separate North (first) and Port (fourth).

Norwood, down to Sturt at Norwood for the first time in 26 years, have slipped a game behind the leaders and could slide further next week. They strike West at Kensington.

Trailing Norwood by percentage only, Sturt will make a strong claim to a place among the leaders when they meet North at Unley.

Torrens had an easy win over South but will have third ranking at stake against Port at Thebarton in their next game.

Thrashed by West at Richmond today, Glenelg are three games out of the four. With only eight matches remaining the Tigers are virtually out of the running.

With breeze

Grounds today showed an improvement on last week but Adelaide and Norwood were still very heavy.

A bleak wind kept crowds down but attendances should rise next week when the sides still with a chance of making the four are opposed at Unley, Thebarton, and Kensington.

At Alberton today Port jumped away with the breeze, led by 23 points at the first change, and won by that margin.

The Magpies played Potter as an extra man in defence in their two quarters against the wind. Their three goals into the breeze in the second quarter were decisive.

North got a fair share of the knocks in ruck, where Hannaford's improved form was a pleasing feature for Port, but the Magpies took the ball away more consistently.

Inspired

West played brilliantly to crush Glenelg by 10 goals at Richmond.

The Red-and-Blacks' interstate representatives were in top form and Ryan made a great comeback to lift the attack.

A great defensive last quarter by Sturt allowed them to hold a 16-point last change lead to beat the Redlegs.

Sturt, strong all day at half-back, were inspired by a great last term effort in defence by Saddington.

This was Norwood's third successive defeat and the Redlegs do not look likely finalists at this stage.

Torrens' teamwork was too much for South at Adelaide. Once they turned with the breeze the Eagles made the game safe with a powerful second quarter.

Struggling

Port and Torrens at Thebarton will be the highlight of next week's series.

Port are right back in the picture, while Torrens have not been beaten in their last six starts.

Both teams are stronger in defence than in attack, although the Eagles' forward potential is probably greater.

Torrens could be struggling in ruck where they will feel the loss of Butler.

I think a Magpie advantage here and at least an equal share across centre will just give them the drive to win.

Sturt and North at Unley should be another great clash.

Having broken through Norwood at home, Sturt can see no reason why they shouldn't go on with the good work and make their way into the finals.

May improve

They have the rucks and particularly the rovers to worry North, but the latter's power on the wings will be hard to counter.

While the game is a desperation one for Sturt, North will be no less desperate to hold top position.

If the Blues can match North's wings they should win.

At Kensington, Norwood should improve on today's effort, but West look to be flexing their muscles for the finals.

They appear too skilful and well organised for the Redlegs.

Glenelg should beat South at Adelaide Oval in the remaining game of the series.

USED WIND WELL

West played like premiers

By STAN WICKHAM

West showed premiership class at Richmond to outclass Glenelg with fine team-work and intelligent use of the wind.

They were in command throughout except for the opening 10 minutes and the last term when the result was apparent.

West's great showing was sparked off by four players—Day and Eustice across centre, Kerley in the ruck, and Ryan at half-forward and roving.

West had first use of the strong wind from the south, but Glenelg jumped them and went forward immediately, only to find Bray, Reu, and Pope in the way across half-back.

The signal

When West did drive forward from Day's ascendancy at centre, Abley, Richens, and Fraser, who was playing loose in defence, fought them out, but could not get past Day, Eustice, and Bennett (also loose) across centre.

When Thomas was placed in position for West's first goal from Ryan's handpass it must have been the signal for West to get moving and take more advantage of the breeze.

Kerley took over the rucks to give rovers Ryan, Hooper, and Shrubsole chances to kick West into attack, and in no time they rattled on goals from Ryan (2), Garnett, and Hooper.

Fraser was getting his share of kicks while playing loose, but West were persistent with their long driving kicks and goals from Benton and Roach were added to complete an excellent term with the wind.

Where West had combined well while going with the wind, Glenelg kicked blindly and lacked method in attack when it was their turn with the breeze.

9-goal lead

The Bays struggled to get two goals from Harry Kernahan. These were matched by goals to Kerley and Benton for West, and the Richmond boys were really turning it on although facing the wind.

A magnificent 60-yard punt from Button for a goal seemed only to sting West into blazing action to rip the Bay defence wide open with a speed and slick hand and foot passing.

They crashed on well-earned goals from Thompson, Hooper, and Ryan to lead by nine goals at half-time.

Long (groin) was replaced by Blackburn for Glenelg.

The Red-and-Blacks raced in for the kill on resumption and had quick goals up from Shrubsole and Day. Day's goal was a 60-yarder after another Ryan handpass found him on his own.

Eustice had an amazing third term. It made no difference whether the ball were in the air or on the ground, he won it with one grab and put it to advantage with well-directed kicks to team-mates ahead of him.

Garnett snapped one from the goal square, Shrubsole added another on the run, and Ryan goaled after marking neatly.

West's accuracy deserted them briefly to run on four points, but just before the bell two long-distance goals were punted through by Sara and Benton, for them to be 96 points clear.

The last term saw West taking it easy, and they no longer drove at the ball with the fire of the first three quarters.

Glenelg appreciated this respite and drove in for Payne and Rowe to bring up goals following good overhead grabs.

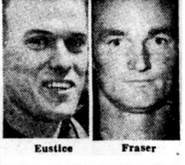
Fraser continued to play well and with Beal getting on top on his wing, the Bays played their best brand of football to put on two more goals from Fraser.

West had lazily added three points and when Kendall stopped them in the back pocket, it was relayed the length of the ground through Blackburn, Croser, Rowe to where Kernahan was freed.

West	7—2	12—5	19—13	**19—16**	**130**
Glenelg	0—2	3—5	4—7	**10—9**	**69**

He goaled to make it five in a row for the Tigers in this term.

Fraser added another goal just before time to make their score look healthier.



Eustice Fraser

It would be splitting hairs to name Eustice, Day, or Kerley best on the ground, but I go for them in that order. They all played great football in their various positions until the "rest period" in the last term.

Pope, Bray, and Reu were a tough crew across half-back, while Johnny Ryan made a great return to the game after a six-week lay-up with a thumb injury.

Graham Fraser played the loose man well for Glenelg to be their best and did his share of ball getting when roving. With three goals in the last term it was a good game from him.

Ray Button, at centre half - forward, although beaten by Bray, gave him some trouble with good marking and long kicking.

Richens has settled into the back pocket well, while Kernahan (ruck), Linke, and Abley (defence) also played their part on occasions.

The game was played in such a manner that it should have been relatively easy to handle, but umpire McKay made a hash of it.

STAB KICKS

QUICK thinking by Glenelg back pocket man Colin Richens prevented West from scoring a possible goal at Richmond today.

West rover Ryan was lining up for a shot for goal in the right forward pocket with Richens standing the mark. Ryan saw Kerley on his own nearer the goals and passed to him, but Richens had anticipated the move and nipped across in front of Kerley to take it. He played on and cleared up to centre wing.

★ ★

GLENELG captain-coach Doug Long could be doubtful for next week's game against South following a re-occurrence of a groin injury that has plagued him for some time.

★ ★

THE West Adelaide accuracy during their opening burst of 7-2 was under notice not only for the fact that they kicked more goals than points, but also that six of the seven goals really went through near enough to dead centre.

The goal umpire did not have to move on those six occasions as he stood and watched them sail cleanly through.

THIRDS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Fin.	Pt.
G'nelg	4.2	8.6	11.9	14.11	93
C. Dist	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	9

Goalkickers—Glenelg: Sykes 4, Moroney 4, Rowray 2, Mortimer, Rowe, Cormack, Skuse. Central Districts: Secombe. Best Players—Glenelg: Moroney, Johnson, Drew McCarthy, Angove, Sykes. Central Districts: Secombe, Fulton, Phillips, Argent, Sloan, Dixon.

SECONDS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pt.
Glen'g	6.5	2.9	3.11	10.14	74
C. Dis.	2.3	3.3	5.6	5.7	37

Goalkickers—Glenelg: A. Long 2, Parker 2, Gregory 2, Richards, McNamara, Roehrich, Pattison, Cent. Dist.: Evans 2, Menadue, Wilsdon, Page. Best Players—Glenelg: Fitzgerald, Webber, Thompson, McNamara, Barnes, Long, Hancock. Cent. Dist.: Johnson, Wilsdon, Middleton, Evans, Window, Daly.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	L	F	A	Pts.	%
Torrens	11	—	803	526	22	60.42
Port	8	3	909	644	16	58.53
Woodvle.	7	4	712	673	14	51.41
Norwood	7	4	887	892	14	49.86
Glenelg	6	5	846	762	12	52.43
South	5	6	848	819	10	50.87
Centrals	3	8	697	772	6	47.45
Sturt	3	8	718	809	6	47.02
North	3	8	666	814	6	44.99
West	2	9	596	845	4	37.45

Leading Goalkickers.—Freeman (Port), 43; Allen (Norwood), 29; Morton (Sturt), 22; Sheppard (North), 21; Kelly (Woodville).

BRAY JUST IN LEAD

A second vote to Linosay Head today took the Torrens player closer to Jeff Bray in the Mildara Football Trophy competition.

J. Bray (WA)	18½
L. Head (WT)	18
P. Bills (WT)	15½
M. Hill (SL)	14½
K. Wedding (N)	14½
N. Kerley (WA)	14½
J. Potter (PA)	14
K. Eustice (WA)	14
I. Day (SA)	14
R. Kneebone (N)	13½
D. Kantilla (SA)	13½
C. Hunt (G)	13½