NORTH ALONE AT THE TOP

The Sunday Mail
FOOTBALL SECTION

By SAM GALLAGHER

Finishing strongly in a magnificent exhibition of football at Prospect Oval, North Adelaide defeated West by 12 points to remain the only unbeaten team in the league competition.

As a result, North are two points clear at the head of the premiership table, leading Port and West, separated only by percentage.

Although beaten by 41 points at Thebarton, Sturt retain fourth position by percentage over Norwood.

At Adelaide Oval Norwood took control of the game in the second quarter, when Bill Wedding got on top.

South's finish was the stronger but the Redlegs were 18 points clear at the end.

Glenelg were no match for Port at Alberton, the Magpies winning by 88 points.

Although the 12,000 crowd at Prospect was disappointing for a game which promised so much and more than fulfilled its promise, today's total attendance of 36,100 brings the season's aggregate so far to less than 1,000 below the aggregate at the completion of the fourth series last year.

Today's series was the first clash between last season's finalists and the sides which finished out of the four.

FITNESS TOLD

North came through their first big test brilliantly.

Reporting this game, Bob Hank said it was the best game he had seen for a long time.

West led by a goal at the last change, but North's physical fitness told in a wonderful finish that had the crowd in a continuous uproar.

At Thebarton today Sturt lost whatever chance they had against Torrens by inaccurate kicking in the first half.

The Blues outplayed the Eagles for the greater part of the first two quarters but Torrens' strong second half suggests that the Eagles are on the up grade.

Winning rucks and strong roving by Oatey and Amery provided the drive for Norwood to be well clear of South at the last change.

They had to withstand a determined last term by the Panthers.

With Potter and Traynor again in great form, Port barely noticed the eclipse of Hannaford by Haydn Linke as they turned the heat on Glenelg at Alberton.

Next week's series will throw further light on the hopes of last year's also-rans.

North, of course, are now established. They will trouble Port across centre, where the Red-and-White trio are all playing well, but I doubt whether they have the power in ruck or on the fringes to topple the Magpies.

Sturt's form so far has been alternately good and bad. They are due for a good one next week but Norwood should make it three in a row at Adelaide — or will it be Kensington?

West should return to winning form against Glenelg at Richmond and Torrens look likely winners over South at Thebarton.

Today's details at a glance

GROUND: Good. WEATHER: Ideal.

AT ADELAIDE

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Norw'd	4—3	7—9	11—11	13—12	90
South	1—6	2—9	5—12	9—18	72

BEST PLAYERS—**NORWOOD:** Oatey, Kneebone, Harrison, Wedding, McMahon, Hillman, Amery, Woodcock. **SOUTH:** Kantilla (best on ground), Day, Schmidt, Judd, Darley, Ross, Foster, Durbridge.

SCORERS—**NORWOOD:** Hillman 3.3, Amery 3.2, Skinner 3.0, Oatey 2.1, Sawley 1.3, Wedding 1.0, Gurney 0.2, McMahon 0.1. **SOUTH:** Backman 3.6, Day 3.3, Johnston 1.1, Minervini 1.1, Silva 1.0, Foster 0.3, Kantilla 0.2, rushed 0.2.

REPLACEMENTS—**SOUTH:** Silva (leg injury) replaced by R. Roennfeldt at three-quarter time. **NORWOOD:** Gurney (injured leg) replaced by Oakey in the last quarter.

AT ALBERTON

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	5—5	11—6	16—10	22—12	144
Glenelg	0—2	4—6	6—6	8—8	56

BEST PLAYERS—**PORT:** Potter, Traynor, T. Obst, Fabian, Philp, Matters, P. Obst. **GLENELG:** H. Linke, Hunt, Blackburn, Sinclair, Abley, Long, Richens.

SCORERS—**PORT:** Traynor 5.3, Potter 4.0, Matters 3.1, T. Obst 3.0, Johns 2.4, Philp 2.0, Luke 1.2, Hannaford 1.0, Virgo 1.0. **GLENELG:** Cutten 3.1, Kernahan 2.2, Payne 1.0, Staite 1.0, Webber 1.0, Sinclair 0.2, Richens 0.1, Gregory 0.1.

REPLACEMENTS—**PORT:** Nyland (slight concussion) replaced by Bray in second quarter. T. Obst (broken nose) replaced by Virgo last term. **GLENELG:** Payne (abrasions) replaced by Webber at three-quarter time. Long (kicked knee) replaced by Beal last term.

AT PROSPECT

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
North	2—3	6—3	9—6	13—9	87
West	2—0	9—2	10—6	11—9	75

BEST PLAYERS—**NORTH:** Barbary, Bloch, Gilbourne, Hill, Thomas, Hammond, Knuckey, Trenorden, T. Lindner. **WEST:** Bray, Eustice, Barker, Day, Kerley, Campbell, Benton, Reu.

SCORERS—**NORTH:** Gilbourne 3.1, Sheridan 3.0, Martin 1.2, Dixon 1.2, Murch 1.1, W. Thomas 1.1, Barbary 1.0, T. Lindner 1.0, Bloch 1.0, Geisler 0.1, D. Lindner 0.1. **WEST:** Campbell 2.2, Ryan 2.1, Benton 2.1, Barker 2.0, D. Thomas 1.2, Shrubsole 1.1, Thompson 1.0, Roach 0.2.

REPLACEMENTS—**WEST:** Day (leg cramp) replaced by Hewitt during final term. **NORTH:** Nil.

AT THEBARTON

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Torrens	0—0	4—2	9—5	13—9	87
Sturt	1—5	3—9	5—16	5—16	46

BEST PLAYERS—**TORRENS:** Braidwood, Bills, Head, Cowling, Blight, Graham, Shearman. **STURT:** Schoff, Cunningham, Rigney, Shepherd, Adcock, Ryan, Hill.

SCORERS—**TORRENS:** Kingston 5.0, Head 3.2, Gould 2.0, Livesey 1.1, Shearman 1.1, Gibson 0.3, Pill 0.2. **STURT:** Shepherd 3.2, Jarrett 1.4, Langridge 1.2, Jones 0.3, Rigney 0.2, Halbert 0.1, rushed 0.2.

REPLACEMENTS—**TORRENS:** Connolly (injured leg), and Dix (injured leg) replaced by Martin and Wright in last quarter. **STURT:** Langridge (shin) replaced by Short in last quarter.

REPORTS—M. Hill (Sturt) reported by umpire Mackay for allegedly having struck E. Dix (Torrens) in the first quarter.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	Points For	Agst.	Prem. Pts.	%
North	4	—	407	283	8	58.99
Port	3	1	425	239	6	64.01
West	3	1	292	256	6	53.28
Sturt	2	2	292	346	4	45.77
Norwood	2	2	231	308	4	42.86
Torrens	1	3	218	228	2	48.88
Glenelg	1	3	278	414	2	40.17
South	—	4	310	379	—	44.99

GOALKICKERS

	Today	Matches	Total
Potter (Port)	4-0	4	15-8
Traynor (Port)	5-3	4	12-8
Langridge (Sturt)	1-2	4	10-11
R. Johns (Port)	2-4	4	10-8
Shepherd (Sturt)	3-2	4	10-7
Benton (West)	2-1	4	9-13
Backman (South)	3-6	4	9-11
I. Day (South)	3-3	4	9-8
Kingston (Torrens)	5-0	4	9-3

ATTENDANCES

Prospect	12,000
Thebarton	8,536
Adelaide	8,000
Alberton	7,564

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES

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

Fumbling Bays outclassed

By STAN WICKHAM

Port's 88-point win could be put down to Glenelg's very bad play, rather than Port's good play.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Port	5—5	11—6	16—10	22—12	144
Glenelg	0—2	4—6	6—6	8—8	56

I could count on the fingers of one hand the number of times Glenelg have gone as badly as they did today.

With Port below top strength, it was a wonderful chance for the Tigers to get into the game but, apart from a brief period in the first and third terms, they fumbled their way ingloriously for the whole game.

Port were late on the ground and the game began seven minutes after time, with Port going to the Alberton end.

Kernahan set Glenelg goalwards early, but the Port defence ganged up well to keep them out.

When Port eventually got cracking, they found Linke and Hunt in the road, but Trevor Obst let them in and, helped by several frees, they rattled on three smart goals from Philp, T. Obst, and Traynor.

Sub-standard

Glenelg had opportunities, but their ball handling was sub-standard. All Port had to do was wait for Glenelg to drop marks, knock one another over, and miskick badly, before they stepped in and took it away.

The second quarter saw Port away quickly for a Potter goal.

As their rucks were killing Glenelg in this department, they were not wanting in scoring chances.

Glenelg fought back to get into attack, but the Magpie defence belted the Bay forwards unmercifully to force them into more errors.

Glenelg could not break into the open.

A burst of businesslike goals from Traynor, Luke, and Johns came after strong play from Potter, Philp, and Traynor in the rucks.

Long's effort

A goal to Payne was answered by goals from T. Obst and Matters. Glenelg finished the term with further goals from Cutten and Staite.

Port lost Nyland in the second term with slight concussion and after half-time Glenelg switched Gregory and Butler at half-forward and half-back. Cutten and Kernahan switched half-forward and full forward.

From the start of the third term Glenelg were in attack repeatedly through captain-coach Doug Long as he strove to lift his team. They rallied to him with two quick goals from Cutten and Kernahan.

After this brief period it was all Port and, had it not been for the individual defensive work of H. Linke, Hunt, Blackburn, Long, and Abley, Port would have kicked far more than 5-4 for the term.

The last term continued in much the same pattern, with Port kicking 6-2. Once again it was only individual efforts on the part of Linke, Hunt, and Blackburn, plus a slackening by Port, that prevented a bigger rout.

Port, as always, backed up well and combined effectively either get out of trouble or to go into attack, whereas Glenelg players were continually fighting two or three opponents without any help from team-mates.

Even though Port won by such a huge margin, it was not a good game for spectators. If the three umpires dropped this week umpired like Durbridge did today, then their relegation was justified.

Great effort

Best man on the ground was a toss-up between Potter and Traynor.

Potter gets my vote by a nose for the manner in which he went in and got the ball fearlessly. It is amazing the number of times he comes out of seemingly impossible crushes with the ball. Add to that his four goals and it all means a great effort.

Traynor is the most improved footballer I've seen this year. No more is he the gangling, awkward youngster. His marking is more certain, while his rucking takes on a dominating appearance. Traynor has always done well around the goalmouth and five today places him on the "Danger, watch carefully" list of opposing backmen.

Traynor Hunt

Haydn Linke shut Hannaford right out at centre half-back for Glenelg to be their best. He outmanoeuvred Hannaford, marked well, and kicked strongly.

Hunt, alongside Linke, was next best. He had the better of Luke, although Luke did get away on occasions.

Doug Blackburn crashed his way through the Port players in his clearing dashes and was still going strongly at the finish.

After these players, Glenelg fell away badly, but Thompson was promising at centre.

★ ★

GEFF Payne, who came off at three-quarter time for Glenelg, had nearly all the skin missing from the left shoulder to the elbow, as well as from the left side of his face. He lost it by sliding along the turf.

Glenelg's captain-coach, Doug Long, could be in doubt next week as the result of a painful kick on the inside of his left knee.

SECONDS

Glenelg's finish was too much for Port, who were at a disadvantage with both reserves on and ruckman Chevarton having to leave the field half way through the final term.

To half time there was nothing in it, with Port one point up.

In the last half, Fraser and Howard came more into the game for Glenelg. With Rowe back to his top at the goalfront — he finished with seven goals — the Bays stepped up the pressure in the final term, outscoring the Magpies by three goals for a comfortable win.

Port's Freeman, continued to command respect as a promising full forward. He kicked nine of Port's twelve goals.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Fin.	Pt.
G'nelg	2.1	7.3	9.4	15.8	98
Port	3.3	7.4	10.5	12.8	80

Goalkickers—Glenelg: Rowe 7, Howard 3, Richards 2, Fraser, Peek, Grose. Port: Freeman 9, Campbell, McGowan, Powell.

Best Players—Glenelg.: Rowe, Fraser, Howard, Moss, Button, Anesbury. Port: Freeman, Thompson, Powell, Mead, Rose, Huddleston.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	%
Torrens	4	—	271	133	8	67.08
North	3	1	284	230	6	55.25
Glenelg	3	1	364	296	6	54.99
W'ville	3	1	263	240	6	52.29
Port	2	2	284	265	4	51.73
Sturt	2	2	265	255	4	50.96
C'trals	1	3	283	294	2	49.05
N'wood	1	3	307	379	2	44.75
South	1	3	252	322	2	43.90
West	—	4	165	321	—	33.95

LEADING GOALKICKERS

Freeman (Port), 15; Blewett (North), 13; Morton (Sturt), 9; Sheppard (North), 9; McFarlane (South), 8; Rowe (Glenelg) 7; Jarman (Centrals), 7; Peek (Glenelg), 7; Kelly (Woodville), 7; Moss (Glenelg), 7.