

COPPING BURNS AS TOP TIGERS CLICK

...and West hits back

By Lawrie McCauley

A 10-goal spree by forward Stephen Copping was the highlight of Glenelg's demolition job against Sturt at Football Park yesterday.

The 71-point victory reaffirmed popular belief that Glenelg is the side to challenge North Adelaide for the number one spot on the premiership table. West Adelaide, with a stirring nine point win against Central at Elizabeth, also re-established itself as a side that can't be written off.

While Glenelg has shown more promise in these early games, the Bloods yesterday issued notice that they can, at their best, be a force in the competition.

The Tigers, with Copping and Stephen Kernahan at their dominating best up forward, kicked 22 goals in three quarters of exhilarating, inspirational football.

Sturt was unable to match it with the slick Tigers except for the second term.

While the Glenelg forwards had a field day, the Sturt forwards were held on tight rein for most of the match.

Field day

Rick Davies, Matt Benson and Ian Willmott, who had booted four goals apiece against South last weekend, found the going a lot tougher against the awesome Tiger defenders.

Chris Duthy, John Seebohm, Ross Gibbs and Tony Hall deserve their reputations as being among the meanest defenders in the league.

Not only did they hold their Sturt opponents at bay but they were instrumental in setting up many good passages of play from their own last line of defence.

Glenelg held sway in the backlines, its forwards were dominating and centreline players David Marshall and Tony Symonds controlled that area of the field. Follower, Craig McDermott also turned in a best on ground performance on the ball.

It was a Glenelg performance that must point to better things to come.

Glenelg takes on Woodville next weekend and then confronts North Adelaide in what is looming as a powerful showdown.

North remains the only unbeaten side in the competition—one game clear of Glenelg and Norwood.

The fight for the other two positions in the final five is being waged by Central, Torrens, Woodville and West.

After last weekend's drubbing at the hands of Woodville, West came back into contention yesterday with a fighting nine point win against Central after a goal-for-goal struggle.

The lead changed hands 16 times in a game that was vitally important to both clubs.

West has disappointed since taking out the Escort Cup series and is still a long way off recapturing the form that earned it the 1983 premiership flag.

Even more disappointing has been the efforts of Port, Sturt and South.

Port has recorded just one win (against Sturt) while Sturt also has tasted victory just once against the winless South Adelaide Panthers.

Although it is still early days, these three clubs have lacked the sparkle and initiative of years gone by.

FOOTBALL PARK

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
Glenelg	7-3	10-7	17-10	25-17	167
Sturt	2-3	6-4	10-7	14-12	96

BEST. — GLENELG: McDermott, Marshall, Copping, Gibbs, Symonds, S. Kernahan. STURT: Motley, Smith, Derrington, Paynter, Keane, Gumley. **SCORERS.** — GLENELG: Copping 10.1, S. Kernahan 4.2, McDermott 3.2, Marshall 2.3, Walsh 2.1, McGuinness 1.3, Henwood 1.1, Carey 1.0, Maynard 1.0, Kidney 0.2, Thomson 0.1, rushed 0.1. STURT: Willmott 3.1, Gumley 3.0, Martin 2.2, Benson 2.1, Davies 2.1, Motley 1.1, Derrington 1.1, Smith 0.1, Viney 0.1, rushed 0.3.

INJURIES. — STURT: Grant Zubrinich (left elbow), during third term.

UMPIRES. — Mark Mackie, Neville Thorp.

ELIZABETH OVAL

	1st	2nd	3rd	Final	Pts.
West	6-5	10-9	15-14	20-15	135
Central	6-2	11-6	15-7	19-12	126

BEST. — WEST: Fielke, Bennett, Herbert, Conlen, Mickan, Smith, Williams, Miller. CENTRAL: Platten, Connelly, Thomas, Krieg, Pitman, Robertson, Fraser. **SCORERS.** — WEST: Luders 5.5, Smith 5.4, Fielke 3.1, Conlen 2.1, Herbert 2.0, Woodhall 1.2, Mickan 1.0, McKinnon 1.0, Meuret 0.1, Grosser 0.1. CENTRAL: Platten 5.6, Fraser 5.1, Robertson 3.3, Bubner 1.1, Beythien 1.1, Lee 1.0, Krieg 1.0, Pitman 1.0, Roe 1.0.

INJURIES. — WEST: McKinnon (bruised hip).

UMPIRES. — Jim Field, Darryl Schramm.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	L	F	A	Pts	%
North	4	—	640	441	8	59.20
Glenelg	3	1	553	397	6	58.21
Norwood	3	1	483	435	6	52.61
Central	2	2	548	516	4	51.50
Torrens	2	2	496	477	4	50.97
Woodville	2	2	528	557	4	48.66
West	2	2	499	554	4	47.39
Port	1	3	492	623	2	44.12
Sturt	1	3	421	561	2	42.87
South	—	4	393	492	0	41.48

LEADING GOALKICKERS

	Games	Yesterday	Total
BLIGHT (Woodville)	3	—	27-12
DIETRICH (North)	4	5-3	21-7
COPPING (Glenelg)	4	10-1	19-5
PLATTEN (Central)	4	5-6	17-11
S. KERNAHAN (Glenelg)	4	4-2	15-6
J. ROBERTS (Torrens)	4	4-0	15-6
ANTHONY (North)	4	4-2	11-7
FOYNTON (North)	3	—	14-7

CROWDS

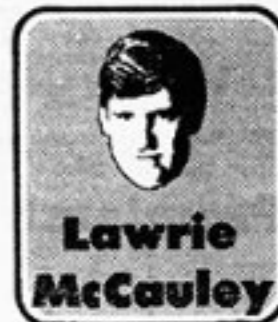
Football Park	11,631
Elizabeth	6885
THURSDAY (Anzac Day)	
Football Park	31,797
Adelaide Oval	6951

NEXT WEEK

North v Port (Football Park), South v Norwood (Adelaide), Torrens v Central (Thebarton), West v Glenelg (Richmond), Woodville v Sturt (Woodville).

Bay blitz sinks Blues

Copping kicks 10



Glenelg looked a million dollars as it pressured and eventually humbled a disappointing Sturt side at Football Park yesterday.

Sturt could be likened more to the Australian dollar—frequently dropping to new lows with only spasmodic lifts in performance.

Glenelg boasted a dogged defence, an attacking centreline and a fluent forward zone, immaculately led by Stephen Copping and Stephen Kernahan.

Copping notched 10-1 and Kernahan 4-2 after continually frustrating and undermining all attempts by the Sturt defenders to curb their impact on the match.

No matter who they stood — their opponents were changed regularly—they were just unbeatable.

But it was players like Craig McDermott (19 kicks, 26 handballs) and David Marshall (21 kicks, 13 handballs) who did the real damage for Glenelg.

They roamed the ground in constant pursuit of the ball, which they all too frequently found and more often not put to good use.

While Copping and Kernahan were going on their goalkicking spree, the Sturt forwards were guilty of wasting opportunities and failing to get out and do the hard work needed to gain possession.

The lack of a decent spearhead crippled any chance Sturt may have had in keeping pace with the Tigers.

Two things contributed to Sturt's demise in front of goal — lack of endeavor by its forwards and the efficiency of Glenelg's defensive unit led by Chris Duthy, John

Seebohm, Ross Gibbs and Tony Hall.

Glenelg jumped Sturt from the start and was five goals clear by the first break.

Sturt coach Merv Keane was forced to make a number of positional changes late in that term and more before the second quarter got underway.

As a result, Sturt enjoyed its only brief passage of constructive football.

It outscored Glenelg 4-1 to 3-4 in the second term thanks to some aggressive and determined efforts.

Tempers became frayed in the second and third terms when players from both teams made vigorous attacks on the ball and the body.

The crowd loved every minute of it — especially the Glenelg fans, who also were able to see their side gradually force the initiative and run away with the game.

Keane did try every trick in the book to get the side motivated, including shifting Motley to just about every position on the field. But nothing seemed to work.

Glenelg also made a number of positional changes — but everything seemed to go right for coach Graham Cornes.

"Our first quarter was excellent," Cornes said.

"They stole the initiative in the second term but even though they played vrey well, we were still able to go in (at half time) four goals up."



Stephen Copping looks worried here but his 10-goal performance had him all smiles after the game.