

Sharp Bays blast Bloods

By ALAN SHIELL

Glenelg was as sharp as the proverbial tack. West Adelaide had a severe case of Mondayitis on a public holiday.

Therein lies much of the reason for Glenelg's conclusive 50-point win in front of 4423 loyal fans at Football Park yesterday.

The Tigers were hungry after having the bye, then losing to Port Adelaide by 26 points at the Bay Oval. The Bloods looked as if they had fed too well on their victories against Sturt (76 points) and Norwood (30) in the previous two weeks.

Last night, Glenelg coach Kym Hodgeman talked enthusiastically about his players' "big preparation" and the planning that had gone into this match.

West coach Neil Kerley conceded he was "disappointed" with his players' "poor attitude" immediately before the game.

Hodgeman said: "We hadn't had enough players at the fall of the ball and we hadn't been getting it out of the centre regularly.

"So we set plans and they worked well. The players were told to run and use quick hands, and they did. They were always trying to be creative.

"And we dominated the centre square and it gave us an enormous advantage. Our on-ball players and ruckmen dominated the game.

"Chris Duthy was outstanding, the way he held our backlines together. And Scotty Salisbury, who had a fitness query about him during the week, showed just what a committed player he is.

"Now we have only five days to come up for Saturday's game against South Adelaide back here again. It's no use winning like we did today and putting in only an average effort on Saturday.

"We've tended to be on and off. We've got to string three or four good games together."

Kerley said Glenelg had been "far more desperate" than West.

"And our ballhandling and disposal, with hand and foot, were sub-standard," he said.

"Normally, when you do things properly, you attribute it to preparation. But it's amazing — as hard as you work on your preparation, it's still up to the individuals and we were lacking in that department today.

"I sensed in the room before the game that the players' attitude was poor. There was no feeling in the room. It just wasn't right. They weren't as sharp as they had been in the last couple of weeks.

"When they're like that, it's impossible to do much about it. You can try as hard as you like, but you can't turn players on and off like a tap when they bring that type of attitude and preparation to a ground.

"The players let down themselves, their club and their supporters. Now they have to fight their way out of it."

Kerley said some West players had had "other commitments on their minds", with Darren Carlson and Matthew Simpson having played for Queensland against New South Wales in Sydney last Tuesday night, just as Grant Fielke, Paul Patterson and Peter Banfield had played for South Australia against Western Australia at Football Park the same night.

And Kerley expressed his dissatisfaction with West — or any teams — having to play on the Adelaide Cup holiday, immediately after two local league matches on Saturday and another on Sunday, plus the Adelaide Crows' battle against Collingwood on Sunday.

With hindsight, and in this new era of smaller local-league crowds because of the advent of the Crows, Glenelg and West should have played last Saturday. Yesterday's match always was going to be too much of an anti-climax after a full-house crowd and the dramatic, high-standard heroics of Sunday night's spectacle at Football Park.

Glenelg adjusted better than West and deserved its fourth win in eight matches.

David Marshall, as classy, as elusive and as constructive as ever at centre, and Michael Murphy, with five goals from centre half-forward, reminded the Crows' selectors of their credentials, as did West wingman Fielke, whose 25 kicks and 16 handpasses made him a strong contender for best-afield honors.

Nick Chigwidden and Dwayne Kretschmer roved superbly and shared seven goals (and Phillip McGuinness also booted three). Andrew McKay shut his half-back flank, Chris Melican rucked usefully, follower Salisbury

was his usual terrier self ... and so on and so on for the Tigers, who have too much ability not to finish in the final five.

West, which simply made too many errors, especially with its over-use of ill-directed handpasses (in a whopping total of 175), took its consolation mostly from the industry of wingmen Fielke and Mark Ricciuto, captain-rover Leon GROSSER and young ruckman Brooke Fogden.

Scoreboard: GLENELG 6.4 10.10 16.12 22.17 (149); WEST 4.3 7.4 10.6 15.9 (99)

SCORERS — Glenelg: Murphy 5.1, Chigwidden 4.1, McGuinness 3.1, Kretschmer 3.0, Mansell 2.4, Salisbury 2.1, Russell 2.0, Lamb 1.2, Melican 0.2, McKay 0.1, rushed 0.4. West: Deptula 4.1, Patterson 3.2, GROSSER 2.1, Fielke 2.0, Byrne 1.1, Woosnam, Fitzsimmons, Banfield 1.0, rushed 0.4.

BEST — Glenelg: Marshall, Murphy, Chigwidden, McKay, Melican, Salisbury, Kretschmer, Viska. West: Fielke, GROSSER, Ricciuto, Fogden.

UMPIRES — Laurie Argent, Craig Doddridge. CROWD — 4423.



UNDER WRAPS ... West Adelaide's Robin McKinnon keeps Michael Murphy away from the ball this time, but Murphy was outstanding in the Bays' win. Picture: NICHOLAS WILSON

SANFL PREMIERSHIP TABLE. Table with columns: Team, W, L, D, F, A, P.c., Pts. Lists teams like Port, West, Eagles, Norwood, South, Glenelg, North, Central, Sturt with their respective records and points.

RESERVES. Table with columns: Team, Reserves, P.c., Pts. Lists reserves for WEST and GLENELG.

GLENELG statistics table. Columns: Kicks, Marks, Handballs, Frees, Scores, Hits, Tackles. Lists player names and their stats.

WEST statistics table. Columns: Kicks, Marks, Handballs, Frees, Scores, Hits, Tackles. Lists player names and their stats.

Summary statistics for GLENELG: FREES, PENALTIES, GOALS, DIST. OF GOALS.

Summary statistics for WEST: FREES, PENALTIES, GOALS, DIST. OF GOALS.