Eagles bounce back after Bays' blitz

By PAUL DOWLING

Bruce Winter, in his brief career as a league coach, always has had the ability to remain calm in a crisis.

And it was never more evident than at Football Park last night when Woodville-West Torrens reversed a 41-point first quarter deficit, absorbed a courageous Glenelg counter-punch and finished utterly convincing winners of a remarkable round two contest.

Winter finished the game with a splitting headache but at no stage had he pushed the panic button. Instead he maintained a belief in his players who in turn believed in the team system and achieved the most satisfying of wins.

Winter was entitled to make wholesale changes after only 18 minutes of the game. Glenelg, oozing class, had slammed through seven goals with a Laurence Schache point the solitary reply.

The Eagles did make one decisive change but Winter could not take credit for it.

Incredibly, the switch of full forward Andrew Taylor and centre half-forward Sam Phillipou was initiated by Taylor himself.

The move did not only demonstrate the value of on-field leadership, it also turned the game.

Suddenly, Taylor was winning possessions across the half-back line and in the centre, consequently opening up the attacking third and allowing the likes of Scott Morphett, Mark Hannam, Schache and the Sziller brothers to wreak havoc across halfforward.

By quarter-time the Eagles had sliced the deficit to just 15 points.

Eight minutes into the second quarter — when Schache kicked his fourth goal in 12 minutes — they were in front.

"It's not easy to stop a team when they're on a roll like that," Winter said of Glenelg's explosive opening. "If you're going to do it it normally takes two quarters at least.

"The tremendous thing for us was we turned it around within the (first) quarter."

Glenelg coach Mark Williams, in deep consultation with the Glenelg brainstrust for more than half-anhour after the game, turned his team upside down in an attempt to rediscover the formula which had produced such dynamic football in the opening stanza.

Some moves worked, like Hamish Stuart's shift on to Schache, and the introduction of Stephen Rattray from the interchange bench.

In fact it could be argued that faced with a similar task last year Glenelg would have been down for the count. To its credit it staged its own recovery in the third quarter and could have gone 14 points clear entering time-on had Simon Cox converted a relatively easy shot.

Nevertheless, the Tigers still

EAGLES 4.3 10.8 12.13 20.20 (140) GLENELG 7.0 9.1 14.4 16.6 (102)

BEST — Eagles: Morphett, Negri, J. Sziller, Taylor, Kluzek, M. Hannam, Chapman. Gleneig: McGuinness, Reubenicht, Hamilton, Stuart, Hele.

SCORERS — Eagles: Hannam 4.3, Schache 4.1, J. Sziller 4.0. Phillipou 3.1, Taylor 1.3, Morphett 1.2, S. Sziller 1.1, Totham, Chapman 1.0, Pesch, DiBiase 0.2, rushed 0.5. Gleneig: Barton 3.1, McGuinness 3.0, McRae, Cox 2.1, Rattray 1.1, Reubenicht, Bow. Bartlett, West, Bailey 1.0, McNamara, Deane 0.1.

UMPIRES — Kevin Chambers, David Elliott. CROWD — 3745.

TURNING POINT — Paul Chapman's 40 metre goal from a trademark Scott Morphett handball after 10 minutes of the last quarter. It gave the Eagles an 11-point cushion and the necessary momentum to win the game.



Best on ground Scott Morphett (Eagles)



Top team man Romano Negri (Eagles)

went into the last quarter with a three-point advantage and looked a chance of snatching victory.

But the Eagles, in vintage fashion, seized control of the match when it counted, bombarding the southern end goals for 8.7 in a stunning last quarter.

Glenelg became the second team in a week to push the defending champion before being flattened in the final term. However, like South, the Tigers can take heart from a performance that suggested they will play an active part in this year's finals. If Glenelg can reproduce more often the intensity of last night's first 18 minutes it will beat most opponents. With natural improvement through the season and fortune with injuries, the Bays might even avenge last night's defeat in a more important encounter.

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SANFL LADDER

	w	L	D	F	A	P.c.	Pts
Port	2	-	-	279	158	63.84	4
Eagles	2	-	-	251	175	58.92	4
Sturt	2	-	-	256	211	54.82	4
Central	1	1	-	180	181	49.86	2
Glenelg	1	1	-	198	234	45.83	2
West	-	1	_	103	111	48.13	0
Norwood	-	1	-	156	203	43.45	0
North	_	1	_	108	145	42.69	0
South	-	2	-	158	271	36.83	0

THIS WEEK'S DRAW

Round 3: Saturday - Norwood v Port (Football Park), Glenelg v South (Glenelg), West v North (Richmond), Eagles v Central (Woodville). Bye: Sturt.

PORT 4.3 10.7 16.11 24.16 (160) SOUTH 4.3 6.5 9.7 13.7 (85)

BEST — Port: Malakellis, Northeast, D. Smith, Williams, Chalmers, R. Smith, Ginever, Spalding, Hodges, Wakelin. South: Trevena, Lush.

SCORERS - Port: Hodges, Tylor 5.2, D. Smith 4.2, Malakellis 3.1, Ginever 2.0, Spalding 1.2, Gaffney, McKay, Williams 1.1, R. Smith 1.0, May, Rizonico 0.1, rushed 0.2. South: Lush, Stoeckel 3.0, Cameron 2.0, Draper 1.2, Cook, Trevena 1.1, Clifton, Lamb 1.0, Heath, Wittman 0.1, rushed 0.1.

UMPIRES - Michael Abbott, Garry Wyld. CROWD - 3809.

STURT 4.3 12.4 13.5 23.7 (145) NORTH ADELAIDE 5.5 7.8 10.18 14.24 (108)

BEST - Sturt: Richter, Obst, Williams, Lienert, Arnol, Wigney, Brooks, Lennon, North: Turner, Tasker, Mail, Sanders, Nunan, Atkinson.

SCORERS — Sturt: Arnol 6.1, Wigney 5.0, Ahchee 3.1, Sutherland 2.2, Williams 2.1, Copeland 2.0, Baker 1.1, Richter, Brooks 1.0, rushed 0.1. North: Turner 3.3, Nunan 3.2, Mancini 3.0, Hart 2.3, Jeffries 1.5, Soderstrom 1.2, Tasker 1.0, Francou 0.2, McNamara, Sanders, Squire, Bennett, McCarthy 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES - North: Rosenboom (dislocated left shoulder).

UMPIRES - Andrew Vickers, Richard Williams. CROWD - 2382

CENTRAL DISTRICT 0.4 5.7 10.10 15.17 (107) NORWOOD 2.6 2.9 4.12 8.14 (62)

BEST - Central: Ingerson, MacGowan, Schwerdt, Tongerie, Haraida, Girdham, Potter, Pyman, Luhrs, Handley. Norwood: Ross, Burns, Patterson, Kelly

SCORERS — Central: Richardson 4.0, Tongerie 3.4, Healy 2.3, Schwerdt 2.0, Reimers, Green 1.1, Stevens, Haraida 1.0, Chaplin, Girdham 0.2, Roberson 0.1, rushed 0.3. Norwood: Patterson 2.3, Prime 1.4, Rowe 1.2, Fleming 1.1, Pitt, Hyde, Burns 1.0, D'Antiochia, Balme, Irvine 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES - Norwood: Modra (leg).

UMPIRES - Ron Bettridge, Greg Inge. CROWD - 2619.