

New-look Tigers give McGuinness hope

'What a relief'

By DOUG ROBERTSON

GLENELG is already ahead of last season. Not only did it beat Woodville-West Torrens by 22 points on Saturday, the Tigers did it in a fashion they rarely showed last year.

They tackled hard and often, were relentless at the ball, took risks and stuck to a system which produced the tough 8.8 (56) to 5.4 (34) win in wet and windy conditions at Glenelg.

After being stunned by the Eagles' key forward Matthew Pavlich's two goals in the first two minutes, Glenelg proved it had grit by fighting back against worthy opposition.

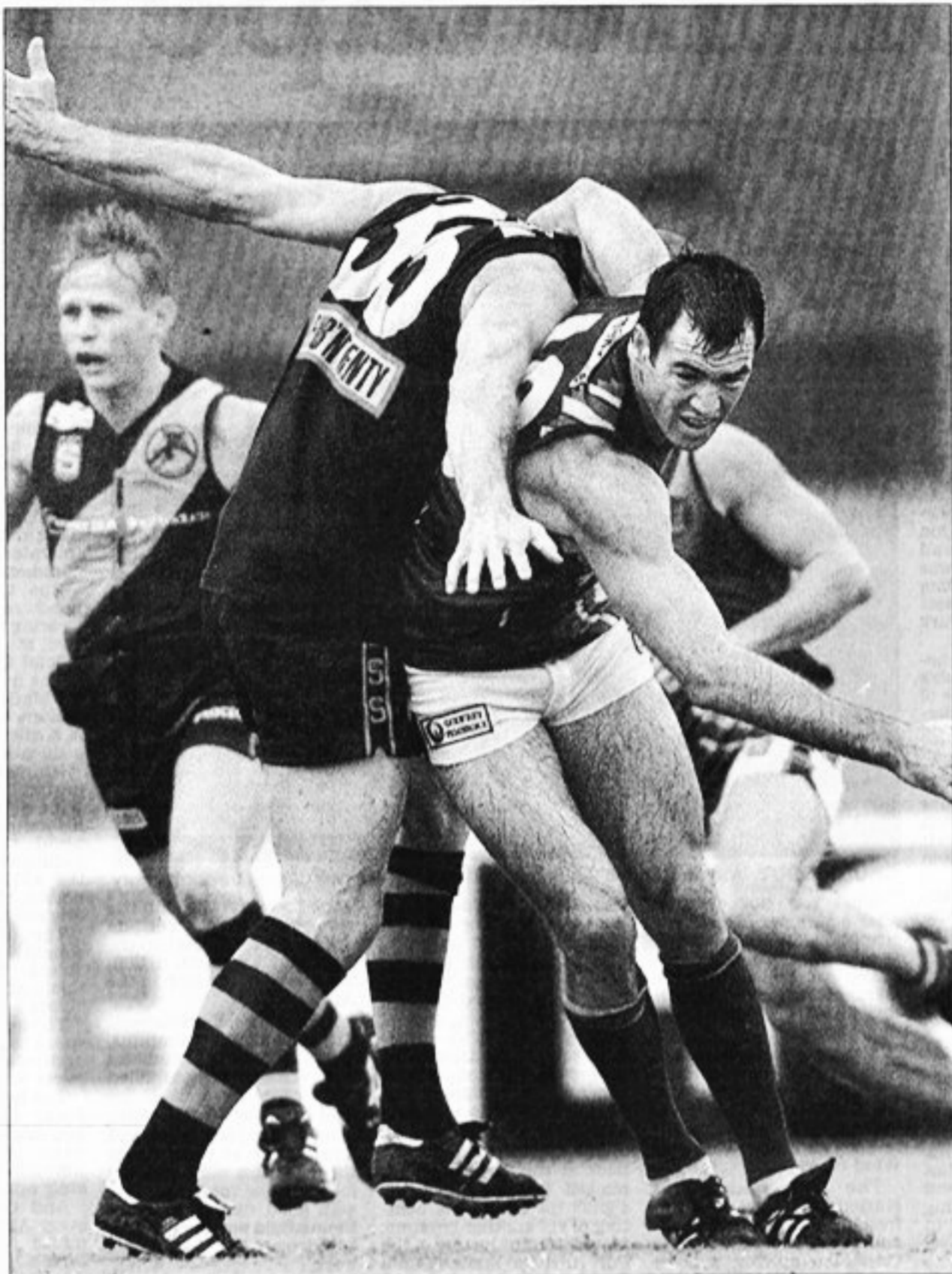
The Tigers did not fade as they did often last season and they spread the workload among their team. Glenelg has reinvented itself with about 15 newcomers - nine debutants on Saturday - but it had unity. Coach Tony McGuinness is not about to start celebrating, yet, and he admitted the win was as much a "relief" as a confidence booster.

"You do all the hard work in the pre-season and bring in a lot of recruits but you're never sure until after the first game," he said. "We wanted to be hard and ferocious all day and the gang-tackling is an extension of that pretty broad statement. But I would have liked us to be on the bottom of the pack a bit more in the first quarter."

Glenelg showed the flair of a good team. Super-smooth Matthew Bode and James Byrne (ex-Sydney) burnt in the midfield. Defenders Paul Rouvray and Rod Jameson were creative and Chad Cornes gave a hard-working target at half-forward, and when rucking in attack.

After Tiger skipper Nick Chigwidden came off the half-back flank to the middle to subdue gutsy Adam Pearce - easily best-afield to that point - and Power recruit Josh Carr picked up Nick Pesch after half-time, the Eagles lost drive to Pavlich.

The Eagles' bullocking 190cm John McCarthy made an eye-catching debut in conditions that probably reminded him of the past two seasons at North Hobart. But he was forced to ruck to support talented Wade Kingsley. Apart from Pavlich, the Eagles' best were in the midfield, leaving them short in attack. Geoff Wiggins (knee) and Doug Bailey, who



LOSING HIS HEAD: Glenelg's Rod Jameson is grabbed by the Eagles' Matthew Pavlich in the Bays' impressive 22-point opening-round win at Glenelg Oval on Saturday. Picture: SARAH REED.

passed his time trial requirements on Friday, are several weeks away and Rhett Biglands needs to show more competitiveness in the twos to be considered.

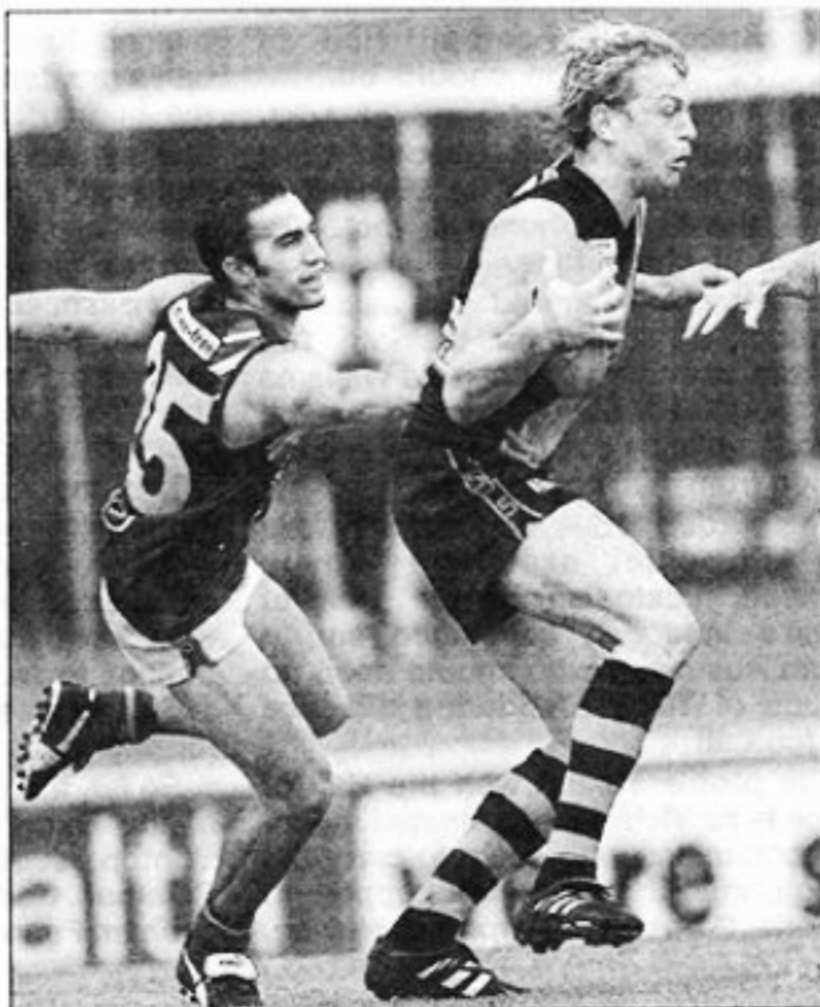
But the Eagles' main problems were in concentration, according to coach Mark Mikan.

"It's always disappointing to lose but the way we went about it in the second half was really disappointing. We didn't have the same intensity at the ball as we did in the first half," he said. "We didn't get it (forward) quickly any more... you need to be at the footy to do that and to be consistently winning it."

"They were just harder at the ball than us - why should it change? We're not working hard enough. The players know what their role is - it's very clear - but if they're not doing it I've got to help them understand what they've got to do. I thought they would have known by now."

Mikan would not accept Glenelg's taggers were an excuse to lose

Glenelg 8.8 (56) d Eagles 5.4 (34)



HARD TO CATCH: Glenelg's Chad Cornes escapes the clutches of the Eagles' David Barnes on Saturday. Picture: SARAH REED.

drive. He said it was up to his players to run at the ball than us (after half-time)," he said.

Details

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

SMOKE FREE CUP SEASON

	W	L	D	F	A	P.c.	Pts
Port	1	-	-	41	18	69.50	2
Glenelg	1	-	-	56	34	62.22	2
West	1	-	-	70	57	55.12	2
North	1	-	-	56	49	53.33	2
Norwood	-	1	-	49	56	46.67	0
Sturt	-	1	-	57	70	44.88	0
Eagles	-	1	-	34	56	37.78	0
South	-	1	-	18	41	30.50	0

Central District had the bye

LEADING GOALKICKERS

	Club	Rd 1	Total
B. Parker	(North)	4	4.1
G. Mellor	(West)	3	3.0
D. Grenvold	(Glenelg)	3	3.1
C. O'Brien	(Norwood)	3	3.1

North	3.6	4.10	6.10	7.14	(56)
Norwood	1.4	2.7	5.11	6.13	(49)

BEST - North: Sutherland, Viney, Naish, Pech, Ebel, Parker, Cash. **Norwood:** Harvey, Neill, Cunningham, Yerbury, Warrior, Clements.

SCORERS - North: Parker 4.1, Jeffries 1.3, Cash 1.2, Naish 1.1, Setchell, Lehmann, Kelleff 0.1, rushed 0.4. **Norwood:** O'Brien 3.1, Cunningham, Downsborough, Neill 1.2, Harvey, Miller 0.1, rushed 0.4.

INJURIES - Norwood: Obst (knock to head). **North:** Ebel (back), Setchell (cut head).

REPORTS - Norwood: Cotton for allegedly deliberately attempting to trip Davis 11 minutes into the third term.

UMPIRES - K. Chambers, M. Avon, C. Rowston.

CROWD - 4981 at The Parade.

BEST ON GROUND - S. Sutherland (North).

TOP TEAM MAN - J. Viney (North).

Port	1.1	2.3	5.5	6.5	(41)
South	0.0	1.2	1.3	2.6	(18)

BEST - Port: Poole, Beinke, Carter, Leys, Obst, Bamford. **South:** Koster, Murton, Bone, Talbot.

SCORERS - Port: Beinke 2.0, Bamford 1.2, Obst 1.1, Evans, Tregenza 1.0, Carter 0.1, rushed 0.1. **South:** Bone, Hams 1.1, Palmer, Koster, Perrie, Johnson 0.1.

INJURIES - Port: Evans (groin). **South:** Koster (shoulder).

UMPIRES - K. Chambers, D. Joyce, G. Inge.

CROWD - 2196 at Noarlunga Oval.

BEST ON GROUND - D. Poole (Port).

TOP TEAM MAN - D. Talbot (South).

West	1.0	4.2	5.2	11.4	(70)
Sturt	5.4	6.4	7.12	7.15	(57)

BEST - West: Bruhn, Banik, Stewart, DiRosa, Symes, Andriske, Bird. **Sturt:** Maloney, Lennon, Geddes, Powell, Weatherald, Richter, Robinson.

SCORERS - West: Mellor 3.0, Bird, King 2.0, Kirey 1.2, DiRosa 1.1, Bruhn, Ansell 1.0, Twomey 0.1. **Sturt:** Ferguson 2.0, Burton 1.3, Richter 1.1, Lennon, Graham, Maloney 1.0, White 0.3, Woosnam, Kartinyeri, Geddes 0.1, rushed 0.5.

REPORTS - Sturt: Soderstrom for allegedly tripping Mellor.

UMPIRES - D. Ryan, A. Barnett, A. Meade.

CROWD - 2479 at Richmond Oval.

BEST ON GROUND - M. Bruhn (West).

TOP TEAM MAN - A. Banik (West).

Glenelg	1.0	3.3	5.3	8.8	(56)
Eagles	3.3	3.3	4.3	5.4	(34)

BEST - Glenelg: Bode, Rouvray, Byrne, Cornes, Raidis, Hele, Golding. **Eagles:** Pearce, McCarthy, Rogers, Pavlich, Pesch, Cicollella.

SCORERS - Glenelg: Grenvold 3.1, Bode 2.1, Cornes 1.2, Higgins 1.1, Hosking 1.0, Radis, Hele 0.1, rushed 0.1. **Eagles:** Pavlich 2.1, Dylan 1.1, Cicollella, Frewen 1.0, Pesch, Pearce 0.1.

INJURIES - Glenelg: Smelt (ankle sprain).

UMPIRES - D. Woodcock, A. Vickers, T. Pfeiffer.

CROWD - 2504 at Glenelg Oval.

BEST ON GROUND - M. Bode (Glenelg).

TOP TEAM MAN - W. Kingsley (Eagles).

THIS WEEK'S DRAW

Thursday: Port v Norwood (Adelaide Oval, 8pm). **Saturday:** Eagles v West (Woodville Oval, 2.20pm), Central v South (Elizabeth Oval, 2.20pm), Sturt v North (Unley Oval, 2.20pm). **Bye:** Glenelg.