

Bloods steal a cliffhanger

By Paul Kermode
at Glenelg Oval

WEST Adelaide has extended its winning streak to a club record-equaling 10, scoring its most courageous victory of the season over Glenelg at Glenelg Oval yesterday.

The Bloods went into the game without late withdrawals skipper Ed Richardson, influential midfielder Salim Hassan and ruckman Ben Marsh and were down by 20 point at three-quarter time, having kicked just two goals in the previous two quarters combined.

Yet West managed to dig deep into its well of resolve and boot four goals to one in the final term to win by two points in one of their best victories of a season already laden with memorable results.

In doing so, the Bloods ruined Tiger recruit Jacob Schuback's first game against his old club.

Schuback was a livewire up forward with five goals, including one which restored Glenelg's lead 16 minutes into the final term.

He had one more shot at goal — from 50m on the scoreboard flank with his side trailing by one point 22 minutes into the term — but his shot slewed off the side of his boot and failed to register a score.

It proved to be the Tigers' last chance as West celebrated its 10th consecutive victory, ty-

First on the ladder 78 points				
West	5.0	6.2	7.5	11.12
Glenelg	2.3	7.5	10.7	11.10
Eighth on the ladder 76 points				

ing a club record set in 1911.

"I'm just really proud of everyone who pulled on the Westies guernsey today because we made history with 10 wins," coach Shaun Rehn said.

"Their sense of history obviously spurred them on in the last quarter. It's terrific. You continually look for reasons to get yourself up and push yourself on.

"Having won nine in a row, you don't want it to be the week you drop off. We probably did a little bit but to be able to throw up 10 wins as a sense of history is obviously an extra spur to get them up.

"They've got some real ticker to come back and want to win it — they could have easily let it slip."

West hauled itself back into the game on the backs of midfielders Paul Koulouriotis and Ryan Ablett, who combined for 16 last-quarter possessions as the Bloods began to win a marked advantage in the centre of the ground.

They also capitalised on two crucial Glenelg turnovers in the final term which led to goals by Dion Myles — West's first in the final term — and Darren Bradshaw, whose first-half work had kept his side in the contest.

The Tigers will rue

those mistakes, as well as a return of 1.3 in the final term as they contemplate another game which slipped from their control against a top team. Playing at home, Glenelg held handy three-quarter time leads against Norwood and yesterday's game against West and easily was on top of Port Adelaide at half-time in round 12 yet was not able to put the finishing touches on any one of those matches to seal a victory.

"That's maybe where we're at, too, and we've got to get better at that side of it," coach David Noble said.

"We understood where we were at the start of the year that you've got to be able to match it with those guys and sooner or later when you match them like we did today, you're going to bowl them over.

"There's more on the positive side for us than the negative side, I think.

"It had a real finals atmosphere about it — they're going for a bit of history and we're trying to make some statements in the second half of the year — so it was probably positive for us to go through that.

"We played some good footy."

Central v Eagles

NAP Oval, Elizabeth

CENTRAL	3.6	4.12	8.15	10.18	(78)
Eagles	3.0	5.2	6.4	9.6	(60)

BEST — Central: Hay, Slade, C. Gowans, Scoullar, J. Gowans, Switala, Steinberner, Thomas, Healy. Eagles: Skipworth, Powell, Hentschel, Passador, Lindsay, McLoughlan.

SCORERS — Central: J. Gowans, Cowan 3.2, Coulter, Switala, Sansbury 1.1, McKenzie 1.0, C. Gowans 0.3, Arnott 0.2, Healy, Walton, Krieg, Bello, Slade 0.1, rushed 0.1. Eagles: Passador 4.1, Hentschel 2.2, Niemann, Skipworth, Ellis 1.0, Bock, Rugolo, Inkster 0.1.

INJURIES — Central: Arnott (thigh), Slade (shoulder), Currie (ankle). Eagles: Frewen (groin) replaced in selected team by Joe Pedler Mathews (driver).

UMPIRES — D. Wright, T. Pfeffer, C. Doddridge.

CROWD — 2892.

Glenelg v West

Glenelg Oval

WEST	5.0	6.2	7.5	11.12	(78)
Glenelg	2.3	7.5	10.7	11.10	(76)

BEST — West: Koulouriotis, Bradshaw, Ablett, Slattery, Dabrowski, Donaldson, Tuck, Rutten. Glenelg: Moore, Neely, Backwell, Schuback, M. Raidis, Culpitt, Duldig, Sherwood.

SCORERS — West: Bradshaw 5.0, Ablett 2.0, Dabrowski, Myles 1.1, Rutten, Slattery 1.0, Koulouriotis 0.3, Charles, Malinowski, Rattley 0.1, rushed 0.4. Glenelg: Schuback 5.2, Duldig 3.2, Ah Mat 1.1, Culpitt 1.0, Nicholas 0.2, Cranston, Sherwood 0.1, rushed 0.1.

INJURIES — West: Hassan (general soreness), Richardson (hamstring) and Marsh (general soreness) replaced in selected side by Rattley, Malinowski and Slattery; Norman (back). Glenelg: Kreuger (back).

UMPIRES — J. Brown, D. Ryan, M. Johnston.

CROWD — 2583.

South v Norwood

Noarlunga Oval

SOUTH	8.0	11.5	18.9	22.11	(143)
Norwood	2.5	4.9	7.9	10.10	(70)

BEST — South: Bradley, Warren, Davis, Doughty, Newberry, Hall, Parker, Webb. Norwood: Tamlin, Gallagher, James, Verco, McEntee.

SCORERS — South: Warren 6.1, Berry 4.0, Davis 2.2, Bennett, Tregenza 2.1, Walton 2.0, Mills, Doughty 1.1, Cotton, Kruger 1.0, Love 0.3, rushed 0.1. Norwood: Verco 3.0, McEntee 2.1, Cunningham 1.2, Bartemucci, Gallagher 1.1, Daniels, Tamlin 1.0, Yerbury 0.2, Bratton 0.1, rushed 0.2.

INJURIES — Norwood: Knights (shoulder).

UMPIRES — D. Kowal, G. Symons, C. Rowston.

CROWD — 1305.

North v Sturt

Prospect Oval

STURT	5.2	9.3	14.7	18.12	(120)
North	3.1	5.1	7.3	7.6	(48)

BEST — Sturt: Graham, Weatherald, Mattner, Nelson, Maloney, Klun, Howman, Wicks, Smith. North: Bamford, McGahey, Sutherland, James, Herbert.

SCORERS — Sturt: Chambers 3.1, Beveridge 3.0, Weatherald 2.3, White, Klun, Maloney 2.0, Nelson 1.2, Sheedy 1.1, Feast, Cooper 1.0, Graham, Howman 0.1, rushed 0.3. North: Hargraves 3.2, Bamford 1.2, James, Wintle, B. White 1.0, Leal, Davis 0.1.

INJURIES — Sturt: Squire (corked thigh) replaced in selected side by Dent, Mattner (cut head). North: Morgan (knee).

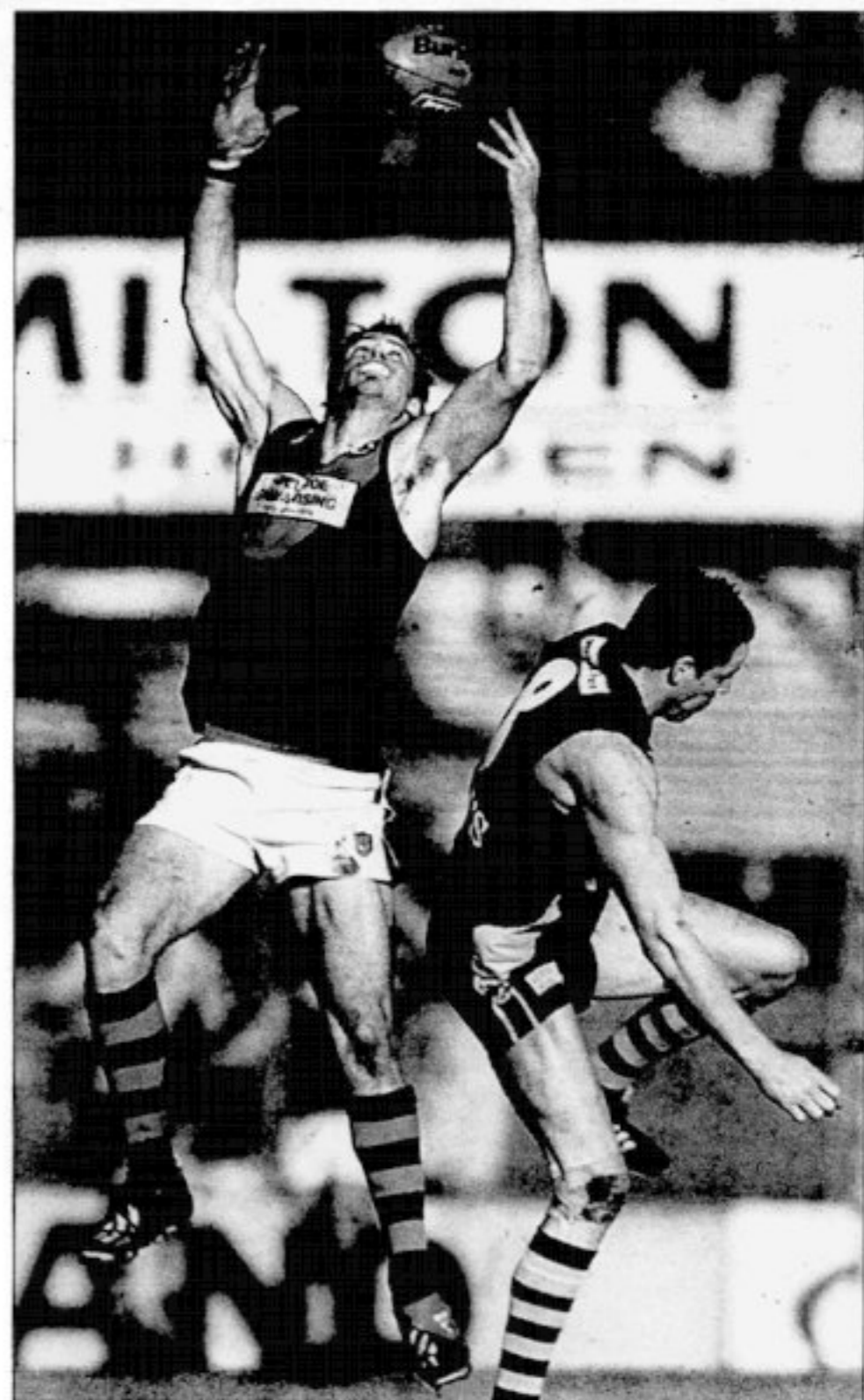
UMPIRES — T. Dey, K. Broadbridge, A. Meade.

CROWD — 2244.

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	%	Pts
1 WEST	13	12	1	0	1431	970	59.60	24
2 CENTRAL	13	10	3	0	1545	845	64.64	20
3 STURT	13	8	5	0	1232	938	56.77	16
4 EAGLES	13	7	6	0	1139	1092	51.05	14
5 Port	13	6	7	0	1348	1316	50.60	12
6 Norwood	13	5	7	1	1073	1261	45.97	11
7 South	14	4	9	1	1226	1712	41.73	9
8 Glenelg	13	4	9	0	1019	1229	45.33	8
9 North	13	1	10	2	990	1640	37.64	4

SANFL goalkickers

	P	R14	Total
D. Bradshaw (WA)	11	0	53
D. Hargraves (NA)	12	1	35
R. Tregenza (SA)	12	0	32
P. Evans (PA)	12	2	31
B. Beinke (PA)	12	3	29
M. Passador (E)	12	3	28
B. Chambers (St)	10	1	28
R. Neill (Nwd)	10	0	27
J. Gowans (CD)	12	4	27
C. Gowans (CD)	12	5	26



Ben Rutten (West) sets himself to mark. Glenelg's Leigh Brockman awaits the outcome. Picture: Neon Martin