

Double Blues' burst of glory

Zac Milbank

A CRITICAL 11-minute third term burst allowed Sturt to all but seal its September berth after overcoming a wasteful Glenelg by 37 points at the Bay yesterday.

Despite enjoying a three-goal buffer at the main change, the Double Blues had a game on their hands after enigmatic Tiger bigman Josh Krueger narrowed the margin to seven points after finishing off a spectacular mark with his second goal in five minutes.

But it only seemed to jolt Brenton Phillips' men into action as Sturt returned to its brilliant best with five unanswered goals - three to Power forward Toby Thurstans - in a brief display reminiscent of their premiership year of 2002.

"I said in the box that when we came out after half-time the next 30 minutes of footy will determine whether we as a club wanted to play finals," Phillips said.

"The challenge was set for us and we responded."

Sturt revelled in the dry conditions as it used its trademark run and handball to full effect by finishing off with an efficient forward structure which helped boot its equal-highest score (133 points) for the year.

Brant Chambers (5.2), Thurstans (4.2), Michael Coad (2.1) and even the resting ruckman Jake Bowen (2.1) provided Sturt's midfielders with an avenue to goal as they managed to co-ordinate when to lead within the confines of the Bay oval.

"I thought Jake Bowen provided not only a marking target but also a hole by leading up the ground, which left a lot of space for Chambers and Thurstans to move into," Phillips said. "If we can get them (Chambers and Thurstans) to work in unison together we'll go along way toward achieving some success in the finals series."

The Double Blues' tall timber were helped by some precision passing from their skillful midfielders, in particular Damian Squire who continues to defy his age by shouldering the midfield load left by injured duo Jade Sheedy and Ben Colreavy.

Squire, together with Ben Eckermann and Daniel Wicks, rarely wasted any of his 31 disposals.

Even debutantes Jace Bode and Marty Wilson got in on the act, Bode using his first kick in league football to find Thurstans on the lead with a worm-burning pass, resulting in Sturt's 16th goal.

The Tigers continued to have problems with their decision-making and on occasions found the most indirect route to goal.

"There's no doubt about that," Glenelg's interim coach Tony Burgess said.

"We've been working on those plans and not only the decision-making side of it but our ability to actually deliver the footy. We certainly need to continue to work ... on that, and while there's only one week to go we've still got to try and get as much as we can out of the season."



GLENELG

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
MITCHELL	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
CRANSTON	2	1	6	1	2	0	0	17	3
BACKWELL	16	4	13	1	0	1	0	0	1
GAMBLE	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
DULDIG	7	6	9	2	0	0	0	0	1
ALLEN	9	0	11	3	3	1	0	0	2
FISHER	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
HINGE	12	5	5	0	2	1	0	0	4
GIBBS	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
BUTCHER	15	4	6	1	0	1	0	0	4
SHERWOOD	6	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
STATHAM	5	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
MULES	9	2	10	3	2	1	0	0	2
KRUEGER	5	3	2	0	1	2	1	0	0
BURDETT	8	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	1
KIRK	8	4	5	3	2	1	1	4	0
CULPITT	18	2	8	2	1	3	1	1	0
NEELY	16	5	12	3	3	1	0	0	2
DOSWELL	4	4	7	0	0	1	0	0	3
ROGERS	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
SCHUBACK	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	163	53	112	24	17	15	6	22	29



STURT

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	F/ag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
THURSTANS	9	4	3	2	1	4	2	1	1
CHAMBERS	10	8	1	0	1	5	2	0	0
COAD	11	9	2	2	0	2	1	0	0
JARJOURA	10	4	8	0	2	2	0	1	0
BOWEN	10	7	6	0	0	2	1	7	1
KLUN	5	1	8	0	0	1	0	0	3
SQUIRE	18	3	13	2	3	0	0	0	2
WHITEMAN	7	2	10	2	1	0	0	0	4
WICKS	13	6	7	0	2	0	0	0	1
BEVERIDGE	9	4	8	1	2	0	0	0	1
MCLEAY	9	9	7	0	0	0	0	0	2
ECKERMAN	12	3	7	0	2	1	0	0	0
CURTIS	3	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	0
SMITH	7	4	6	0	2	0	0	0	1
NELSON	6	6	10	1	1	0	0	0	2
OLIVER	6	4	5	2	0	0	0	12	1
BODE J	4	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	2
WEATHERALD	10	1	6	1	0	2	1	0	0
FEAST	4	2	1	1	2	1	0	7	0
HURSE	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
WILSON M	6	3	5	1	2	0	0	0	3
Totals	170	81	122	17	24	21	7	28	24

LADDER

TEAM	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Str	%	Pts
CENTRAL	19	14	5	0	2021	1447	W11	58.28	28
EAGLES	19	14	5	0	2017	1568	W1	56.26	28
NORTH	19	12	7	0	1871	1692	L1	52.51	24
PORT*	19	11	8	0	1937	1749	W5	52.55	22
STURT	19	10	9	0	1658	1710	W1	49.23	20
Norwood*	18	8	10	0	1499	1648	W1	47.63	16
South**	19	7	12	0	1687	1813	L8	48.20	14
Glenelg	19	6	13	0	1786	2015	L4	46.99	12
West	19	3	16	0	1341	2175	L3	38.14	6

**Bye *Yet to play this round

SCOREBOARD

STURT	133	96	GLENELG
8.1 11.3 17.4 21.7		4.1 8.2 12.2 15.6	

GOALS

Chambers 5; Thurstans 4; Coad, Weatherald, Bowen, Jarjoura 2; Klun, Feast, Eckermann, Hurse

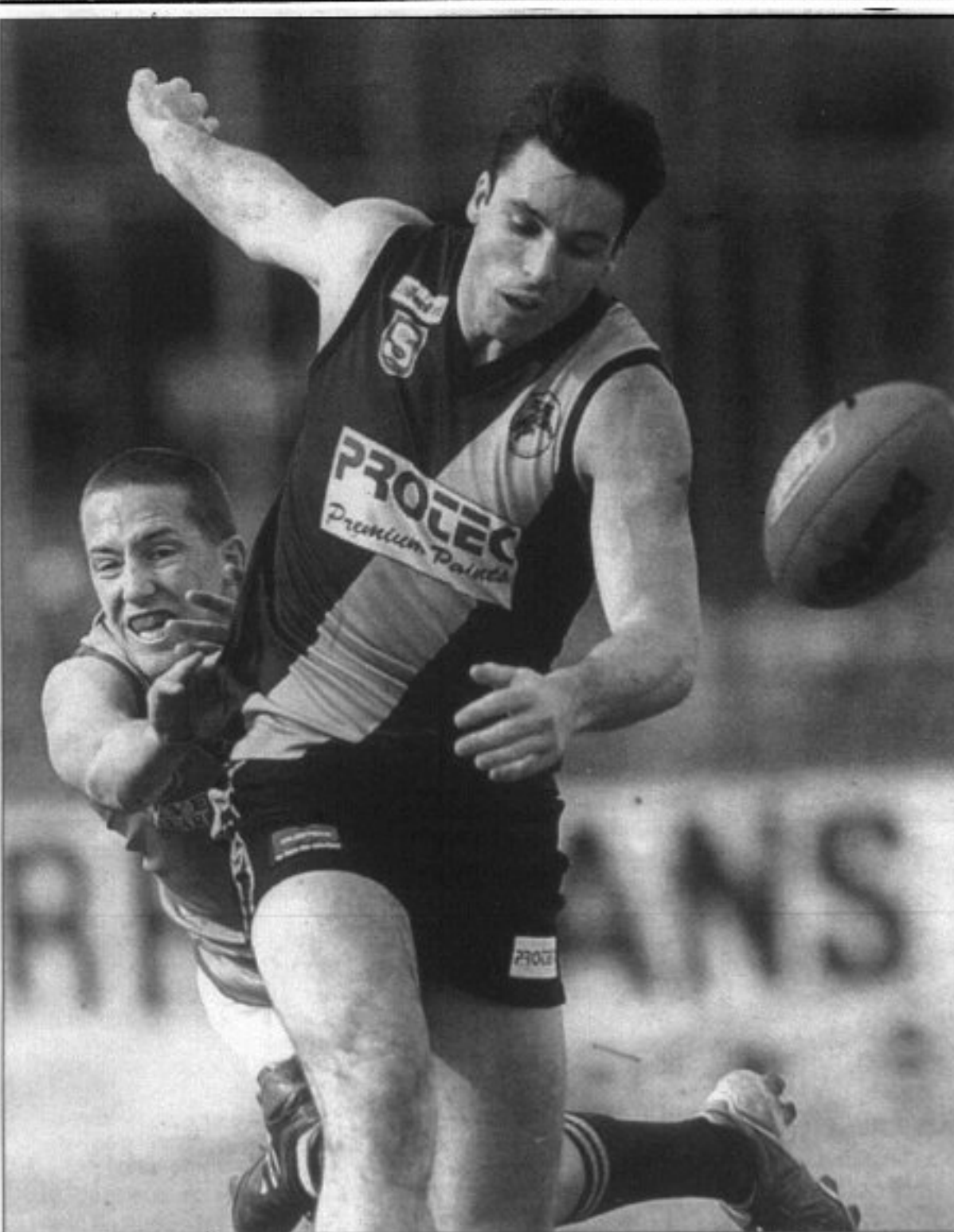
BEST

Squire, Wicks, Eckermann, Whiteman, Chambers, Coad, Thurstans, Jarjoura, Bowen

INJURIES/REPORTS

STURT: Thomson (thigh) replaced in selected squad by Bode
GLENELG: Sherwood (hamstring), Herbert (knee) withdrew from selected squad, Salopek (Power) withdrew from selected squad

Umpires: R Lindner, T Philp, R Williams



PRESSURE-PACKED: Paul Sherwood (Glenelg) gets the ball away despite plenty of pressure

SCOREBOARD

EAGLES	155	55	WEST
10.4 14.5 20.13 23.17		3.1 6.4 6.6 8.7	

GOALS

Passador 8; Rugolo 5; Cicolella, Inkster 2; Colville, McKenzie, P Fiacchi, Lindsay, Knights, Watts

BEST

Passador, Stokes, P Fiacchi, Colville, Lindsay, Rugolo, Cicolella, McKenzie, Shattock

INJURIES/REPORTS

EAGLES: Nil
WEST: Dray (flu) replaced by Fisher; Fisher (shoulder)

Umpires: D Joyce, A Meade, S Thompson

SCOREBOARD

CENTRAL	110	82	NORTH
5.6 10.11 14.15 15.20		4.3 5.7 8.8 12.10	

GOALS

Schell 5, Arnott 3, Slade 2, Bello, S. Cochrane, McCabe, Scoullar, J. Gowans.

BEST

Symes, S. Cochrane, Arnott, McCabe, R. Cochrane, Bello, Slade, C. Gowans.

INJURIES/REPORTS

CENTRAL: Hopwood (calf) withdrew from selected squad, Hay (calf), Cowan (hamstring). **NORTH:** Ladhams (shoulder). **REPORTS:** Slade (Central) by umpire Rowston for allegedly striking Ladhams during the second quarter.

Umpires: S Hay, C Rowston, D Kowal

GOALS

Rank/Player	(R22) Tot
1 Schell (CD)	(5) 73
2 Waterhouse (P)	(*) 69
3 Warren (SA)	(-) 60
4 Hargraves (NA)	(-) 49
5 Mitchell (G)	(1) 44

BOOTS 'N ALL

BEN SCADDEN

Got some goes? Email me
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Tigers avert board spill

A MAJOR reshuffle of the board at lowly Glenelg Football Club has averted a potentially volatile clash with aggrieved members.

A passionate Bays' supporter group was preparing to launch an all-out challenge to "spill" the board.

The group planned to present a petition carrying 300 signatures to the club tomorrow night calling for major changes to the board.

"This latest move has suspended that action ... but we were ready to do whatever it took to get some results," supporter group spokesman Greg Sproule said. "We weren't prepared to wait until the AGM in December, when there's an opportunity to vote out just two board members at the most."

Sproule, a fanatical Glenelg man,

was chief statistician at the Bay for 15 years and was named Club Person of The Year in 2001. He was suspended in 2002 when he attempted a similar coup.

"The petition carried signatures from a lot of ex-players, members of the Hall of Fame, and life members of the club," he said.

"They all recognised that things needed to change if the club was going to improve."

"The board members didn't all go willingly ... but our group is now more than happy to get behind the new people of the board and give them a chance to prove themselves."

Glenelg - 6-13 after yesterday's loss to Sturt - has been the target of some heavy criticism recently, particularly following its handling

of a decision to sack coach Peter Simmons earlier this month.

It may be more than a coincidence, therefore, that any potential fireworks were snuffed out by Friday's announcement that five members of the board - president Graeme McCreery, football director Bob Anesbury, Steve Newport, Ron Redford and David Wright - had stepped down from their positions at a meeting the previous evening.

They have been replaced by former players Nick Chigwidden, Paul Rouvray, Rod Jameson and Simon Angove, along with Glenelg Cricket Club president Bob Snewin. Gary Metcalf, who has been on the board since 2003, has taken over the president's role.