

We were embarrassed: Laird

WARREN PARTLAND

CENTRAL District coach Roy Laird held his players behind locked doors for as long as any Bulldogs official could remember in his successful reign. He was far from impressed with the 21-point loss to Glenelg at Elizabeth on Saturday.

"If anyone (in the team) mistakenly thinks that we're the most talented group in the competition, they are kidding themselves," Laird said.

"To be competitive from this point on we are going to need every individual to get the maxi-

mum out of himself, to train as professionally as they can. We will need to be at our absolute maximum to be our best competitive against the good teams."

Are you behind the eight ball to win the premiership?

"Yep," he replied. "We had a talk on Monday about issues that have been evolving over the past three weeks. We addressed those on Monday night but you are kidding yourselves if you think that is going to transform over within one week of playing good footy."

"This has been festering for five weeks and it became an issue against a very good side."

"The bokes have to wear criticism that is going to come their

way and be man enough to address it and improve in those areas we are talking about.

"It looked to me like we thought we were infallible, that we were offended by the fact a team stood up against us. We were embarrassed. Mentally a lot of players are not where they need to be."

No such worries at Glenelg. Coach Mark Mickan had nothing but praise for his squad after claiming a ninth successive win and the prized scalp of the Bulldogs at Elizabeth - their first win at the ground in 16 years.

Disciplined, hard-working, relentless, skilful, committed, desperate - the adjectives just keep flowing for a superb performance.



TOP TWO SHOW THEIR CLASS: Glenelg's Byron Murphy is tackled by Central's Paul Thomas at Hamra Homes Oval and Sturt's Ian Perrie kicks under pressure from Eagles' Ken McGregor at Woodville as the Tigers and Double Blues score superb drought breaking wins. On Saturday they clash for top place. Picture: DYLAN COKER

SANFL DETAILS



SATURDAY

Table with columns for teams (Sturt, Eagles), scores (4.8, 8.11, 16.11, 19.15), and goal counts (129, 48). Includes text for scorers, injuries, umpires, and crowd.

Table with columns for teams (North, South), scores (4.2, 7.6, 13.8, 15.11), and goal counts (101, 54). Includes text for scorers, injuries, umpires, and crowd.

Table with columns for teams (Glenelg, Central), scores (7.5, 9.5, 13.12, 15.13), and goal counts (103, 82). Includes text for scorers, injuries, umpires, and crowd.

Table with columns for teams (Port, West), scores (6.2, 9.6, 10.10, 13.15), and goal counts (93, 57). Includes text for scorers, injuries, umpires, and crowd.

YESTERDAY

Table with columns for teams (Port, West), scores (6.2, 9.6, 10.10, 13.15), and goal counts (93, 57). Includes text for scorers, injuries, umpires, and crowd.

DRAW

ROUND 13 - Saturday June 28: Eagles v Central (Woodville Oval, 2pm), Norwood v West (Coopers Stadium, 2pm), Port v North (Alberton Oval, 2pm), Glenelg v Sturt (Challenge Recruitment Oval, 2pm). Bye: South.

PREMIERSHIP TABLE

Table with columns for team, P, W, L, D, F, A, Pc, Pts. Lists Sturt, Glenelg, Central, North, Norwood, Eagles, South, Port, and West.

LEADING GOALKICKERS

Table with columns for player, team, Rd12, Total. Lists B. Chambers (Sturt), D. Hargraves (Port), J. McConnell (Glenelg), M. Passador (Eagles), B. Warren (South), and I. Perrie (Sturt).

RESERVES

Table with columns for teams (West, Port), scores (2.2, 6.9, 10.9, 18.13), and goal counts (121, 74). Includes text for scorers and premiership table.

UNDER-19

Table with columns for teams (West, Port), scores (2.2, 6.9, 10.9, 18.13), and goal counts (121, 74). Includes text for scorers and premiership table.

UNDER-17

Table with columns for teams (West, Port), scores (2.2, 6.9, 10.9, 18.13), and goal counts (121, 74). Includes text for scorers and premiership table.

SANFL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Table with columns for player, team, and score. Lists Luke Crane (Sturt), Jade Sheedy (Sturt), Ryan Herring (Sturt), Clint Alleway (North Adelaide), James Allan (North Adelaide), Nathan Lonie (North Adelaide), Ty Allen (Glenelg), Adam Fisher (Glenelg), Trevor Cranston (Glenelg), Daniel Elstone (Port Adelaide), Mark Dolling (Port Adelaide), Damian Cupido (West Adelaide).

Glenelg player statistics table including columns for Kicks, Mks, Hbl, F/for, F/og, Gls, Pts, H/O, Tkl and a list of players like McConnell, Duldig, Backwell, etc.

Central player statistics table including columns for Kicks, Mks, Hbl, F/for, F/og, Gls, Pts, H/O, Tkl and a list of players like Westhoff, Havelberg, Dutschke, etc.

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Tigers firm as favourites

16-year drought broken

WARREN PARTLAND

GLENELG must be rated as the SANFL premiership favourite after crushing premiers Central District with a high-class performance at Elizabeth yesterday.

The Tigers ended a 16-year drought to claim their first win at the ground since 1992 with an impressive 21-point victory.

Six goals in the last quarter saved face for the home side and masked the true dominance of the Tigers, whose advantage ballooned to 53 points late in the third term. It was a superb team effort from the Tigers, showcasing all coach Mark Mickan's teachings in a performance which confirms their legitimate claims for the SANFL crown.

They have now won nine successive games with the only loss for the season being to South Adelaide in the opening round. Asked if Glenelg deserved to be labelled favourite for the flag it was a typical Mickan response: "You tell

SCOREBOARD

GLENELG v CENTRAL DISTRICT Hamra Homes Oval - 3114

Scoreboard table showing Glenelg 7.5 9.5 13.12 15.13 103 and Central 1.2 3.6 6.7 12.10 82.

BEST PLAYERS: GLENELG - Allen, Fisher, Cranston, Hinge, Sugars, Panozzo, Murphy. CENTRAL - O'Sullivan, J. Gowans, Thomas, Slade, Havelberg. GOALS: GLENELG - McConnell 4; Bode, Ruwoldt, Grima, Sellar 2; Backwell, Hinge, Liebelt. CENTRAL - Havelberg 4; L. Westhoff, O'Sullivan 3; McCabe, Gowans. INJURIES: Nil. REPORTS: CENTRAL: Thomas (striking). UMPIRES: Dey, Carey, Rowston.

me. We are exactly half way through the year so I let other people make those decisions.

"That was a wonderful performance - really disciplined and bold and a real team performance. Beating Central at Elizabeth is as good a win as there is in this competition.

"This is a club which has been dominant for a decade and it is a while since it happened for Glenelg (a win at Elizabeth).

"It rates right up there, no doubt about that. But on the scoreboard is just another two points."

The Bulldogs kicked the first goal after just 40 seconds, but that was it for the home side as Glenelg went on the rampage with seven goals for the opening term. Ruckman Trevor Cranston fed the likes of Ty Allen to

smash the Bulldogs at the stoppages and continually push the ball into attack.

The Bulldogs were camped in their defence for lengthy periods and when they did attempt to clear the ball the Tigers had set up a zone to halt the opposition movement.

Glenelg's relentless pressure has become a trademark under Mickan and the Bulldogs were forced into a swag of mistakes and poor decisions.

When you are hot you are hot, and Glenelg's Justin McConnell's amazing goal from deep in a pocket late in the first term was evidence of this.

The Bulldogs had too many passengers and too few answers to the run of their opponents and the willingness of the Tigers to support team-mates to create op-

portunities.

A 26-9 free kick count in the Tigers' favour to three-quarter time also helped, with Tony Dey and Colin Rowston having a shocking day with the whistle.

The Bulldogs, with Chad O'Sullivan and James Gowans among the very few to provide a four-quarter effort, found some momentum and fight in the last quarter,

finally playing in front and getting some ball from the ruck contests.

"We were comprehensively beaten in all areas - our pressure at the opponent, ability to handle that pressure was poor, skill errors," said Bulldogs coach Roy Laird, who kept his players behind closed doors for a lengthy period at the end of the game.