

ROUND 1 - SUNDAY, MARCH 30

GLENELG v SOUTH ADELAIDE at HICKINBOTHAM

Glenelg	3.3	6.6	7.8	12.11	(83)
South	3.3	7.6	11.7	15.7	(97)

Club champion votes: Logan 16; Holmes 11; Mules, Murphy 10; B. Kane 7; Fisher 5; Grima 4; Backwell, Panozzo, Rudolph, Sherwood 3; Sugars 2; Allen, Bode, Hinge 1.

Goals: Grima, Logan 3; McConnell 2; Bode, Kirkby, Fisher, Ruwoldt.

Glenelg’s season of high expectation got off to a shocking start as it was trounced by a John Cahill-inspired Panthers outfit at Noarlunga. After leading by 13 points in the second term, the Tigers paid for a lack of discipline and too many unforced errors, falling four goals behind at the last change and failing to capitalise on a big advantage in inside-50s. Power-listed Tom Logan in his only game for Glenelg all season was the Bays’ best with 25 disposals and three goals.

COACH’S COMMENT

“What we know is we can win a lot of the ball from the middle of the ground but we were struggling to score despite the amount of opportunities we had. Discipline is certainly one of our issues ... and there was a severe lack of efficiency.”

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 23.15 (153)	Glenelg 16.13 (109)	Glenelg 20.8 (128)
South 10.11 (71)	South 11.4 (70)	South 10.10 (70)

ROUND 4 - SUNDAY, APRIL 20

GLENELG v WEST ADELAIDE at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	2.3	7.5	14.12	17.19	(121)
West	2.3	7.6	8.7	9.13	(67)

Club champion votes: Holmes 13; Backwell, Fisher 11; Rudolph 10; McConnell8; Allen 6; Cranston 5; Sugars, Murphy, Panozzo 3; Bode 2; Duldig, Grima, B. Kane, Kirkby, Sherwood 1.

Goals: McConnell 4; Grima, Bode, Duldig 3; Sellar, Kirkby 2.

After a tight first half which saw it trailing by a point, Glenelg broke the Bloods’ resistance in the third quarter, booting seven goals to one on the way to a commanding 54-point victory. The Bays fell into the trap of playing short, possession football in the opening two quarters but a longer, more direct approach in the second half paid dividends with key forwards Todd Grima, Matthew Duldig and Justin McConnell taking advantage to boot 10 goals between them. Trevor Cranston was again a tower of strength in the ruck while Ty Allen and Tom Holmes were terrific at ground level.

COACH’S COMMENT

“The key was just to keep at it and not get frustrated, to keep your head about you. You have to keep focusing on moving the ball quickly because that’s what everyone wants to do and if you do it well you tend to score better. I thought our execution was pretty good in the third term.”

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 19.17 (131)	Glenelg 13.7 (85)	Glenelg 20.9 (129)
West 10.9 (69)	West 13.14 (92)	West 14.13 (97)

ROUND 2 - SATURDAY, APRIL 5

GLENELG v EAGLES at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	3.2	8.7	14.12	19.16	(130)
Eagles	3.2	6.3	9.5	13.10	(88)

Club champion votes: Allen, Duldig, Murphy 11; Bode 9; Fisher 8; Kirkby 6; B. Kane 5; Cranston, Holmes, Mules 4; Panozzo, Rudolph 2; McConnell, Sherwood, Sugars 1.

Goals: Duldig 5; Kirkby 4; Bode 3; McConnell, B. Kane 2; Sellar, Fisher, Holmes.

This was a different side to the one which disappointed at Noarlunga, tackling and running hard from the opening bounce. The Tigers continually punched the ball forward and worked tirelessly to deny the Eagles any momentum before breaking the game wide open with a six-goal third quarter. Delisted Crow Matthew Bode showed he would be a key player in 2008 with 28 disposals, five tackles and three goals as a small forward, Trevor Cranston dominated the ruck and Adam Fisher was terrific in the middle with 30 possessions.

COACH’S COMMENT

“We were very stagnant and slow last week. We addressed that and tried to play quicker and more direct. I thought our response was very good.”

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 14.14 (98)	Glenelg 12.13 (85)	Glenelg 14.3 (87)
Eagles 19.11 (125)	Eagles 13.10 (88)	Eagles 21.11 (137)

ROUND 5 - SATURDAY, APRIL 26

GLENELG v STURT at HOUSE BROTHERS

Glenelg	4.3	8.6	12.10	15.14	(104)
Sturt	3.1	6.4	10.7	13.12	(90)

Club champion votes: Allen 17; Cranston 13; Holmes, Murphy 8; McConnell 6; Bode, Panozzo 5; Backwell 4; Mules, Sherwood 3; Fisher, B. Kane, Sugars 2; Hinge, Rudolph 1.

Goals: McConnell 5; Grima, Kirkby 2; Duldig, Backwell, Holmes, Bode, Hinge, Sellar.

Glenelg made a statement to the rest of the competition that it was a premiership contender with a courageous, slogging win against the previously unbeaten Sturt. The Bays gained a slight advantage in the wet at Unley in the opening term and never relented, continually holding off mini-comebacks from the Double Blues with crucial goals. In a game in which hard-as-nails skipper Ben Mules played his 100th match, the Tigers took a leaf from his book, winning the majority of hard balls with Ty Allen leading by example with his ferocious attack at the contest. Justin McConnell kicked five goals while Trevor Cranston eclipsed Simon Feast and Fabian Deluca.

COACH’S COMMENT

“I thought we kept putting the game to Sturt. The players deserve to be proud of themselves.”

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 8.9 (57)	Glenelg 7.18 (60)	Glenelg 9.10 (64)
Sturt 13.10 (88)	Sturt 14.7 (91)	Sturt 12.10 (82)

2008 LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP TABLE AFTER ROUND 5

Teams	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agnst	Pts	%
Sturt	5	4	1	–	533	299	8	64.06
South Adel	5	3	1	1	375	439	7	46.07
Glenelg	4	3	1	–	438	341	6	56.23
Centrals	4	3	1	–	360	294	6	55.05
WW Eagles	5	2	3	–	525	539	4	49.34
North Adel	4	2	2	–	332	403	4	45.17
Norwood	5	1	3	1	357	490	3	42.15
Port Adel	4	1	3	–	388	370	2	51.19
West Adel	4	–	4	–	260	393	–	39.82

ROUND 6 - SUNDAY, MAY 4
GLENELG v CENTRAL DISTRICT at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	0.5	6.6	10.7	13.15	(93)
Central	1.2	3.6	10.10	13.12	(90)

Club champion votes: Allen, Fisher 11; Cranston 10; Backwell 9; Grima, Murphy 8; Sherwood 6; McConnell 5; Bode, Rudolph 3; Holmes 2; Hinge, Kirkby, Panozzo, Sugars 1.

Goals: McConnell 5; Grima 4; Fisher, Backwell, Holmes, Duldig.

First Sturt, now Central. The Tigers continued their early push for a top-three spot with a thrilling win against a team which had had their measure for 10 years. After opening a three-goal lead at half-time, Glenelg trailed by three points at the final change but came charging home to kick an inaccurate 3.8 to 3.2 to win by three points. Midfielders Adam Fisher and Brett Backwell (36 disposals) and ruckman Trevor Cranston (30 hitouts) got the ball rolling in the middle Glenelg had 62 inside-50s to the Dogs' 42 while gun recruit Todd Grima had a monster second half and five-goal Justin McConnell's finishing was significant.

COACH'S COMMENT

"We've certainly worked on our intensity but we're still aspiring to play a tough four quarters. If there's a drop in our intensity you certainly notice it. But our strength today was through our clearances."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 15.18 (108)	Glenelg 14.14 (98)	Glenelg 13.10 (88)
Central 13.9 (87)	Central 12.9 (81)	Central 13.10 (88)

ROUND 7 - SATURDAY, MAY 10
GLENELG v NTH ADELAIDE at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	8.3	11.7	18.9	22.11	(143)
North	2.1	9.6	10.8	18.9	(117)

Club champion votes: Allen, Fisher 11; Cranston 10; Backwell 9; Grima, Murphy 8; Sherwood 6; McConnell 5; Bode, Rudolph 3; Holmes 2; Hinge, Kirkby, Panozzo, Sugars 1.

Goals: McConnell, Duldig 4; Bode 3; Ruwoldt, Grima, Sellar 2; B. Kane, Kirkby, Fisher, Sherwood, Holmes.

Glenelg hit Rivalry Round running, slamming on eight goals in the first quarter to shellshock its great rival from the 1980s. Matthew Duldig and Justin McConnell were unstoppable up forward, finishing off the good work of midfielders Ty Allen, Adam Fisher and Brett Backwell (32 disposals) as the Tigers burst to a 38-point lead. By early in the second term, Glenelg had extended its advantage to 50 points. But then it took its foot off the pedal, allowing North to close to within 13 points at the long break. With the game on the line, the Bays responded like a good side, kicking the first six goals of the third stanza to blow the match wide open.

COACH'S COMMENT

"We dropped off in the second quarter and paid the price but it was pleasing from our point of view that we were able to steady and hold it together mentally in that third quarter."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 13.12 (90)	Glenelg 16.13 (109)	Glenelg 8.9 (57)
North 14.17 (101)	North 16.9 (105)	North 20.16 (136)

ROUND 8 - SATURDAY, MAY 17
GLENELG v SOUTH ADELAIDE at HICKINBOTHAM

Glenelg	6.2	8.3	12.8	16.10	(106)
South	3.1	3.5	3.5	5.8	(38)

Club champion votes: Backwell 13; Allen, Fisher 11; Cranston 8; Rudolph 6; Hinge, B. Kane, Murphy 5; Bode, Panozzo 4; McConnell, Sherwood 2; Duldig, Holmes, Sugars 1.

Goals: McConnell 6; Duldig, Grima 2; Sellar, B. Kane, Holmes, Block, Cranston, Ruwoldt.

The Tigers exacted some revenge for their shock loss to South in round one by dominating this contest from the start. Still smarting after its season-opening defeat, Glenelg put its stamp on the match early and romped to a comprehensive 68-point win - its sixth consecutive victory. Mark Mickan's men defied the slippery and windy conditions, using a relentless attack on the ball to kick 16 goals to five and impressively keep the Panthers goalless in the second and third quarters. The midfielders again starred while Justin McConnell (six goals) was a class act in attack.

COACH'S COMMENT

"We didn't need to say anything in the preparation because it (the first-round loss) has been grinding away at the players. This was ideal - that we could come here and challenge the players to get their mental approach right. They did that very well and it was a good four-quarter effort."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 15.9 (99)	Glenelg 14.25 (109)	Glenelg 5.13 (43)
South 7.12 (54)	South 11.6 (72)	South 14.12 (96)

ROUND 9 - FRIDAY, MAY 23
GLENELG v NORWOOD at COOPERS

Glenelg	3.4	5.7	11.11	13.15	(93)
Norwood	0.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	(9)

Club champion votes: Murphy 12; Bode 10; Block, Fisher 9; Holmes 8; Allen, Cranston 6; Panozzo 4; Grima 3; Sellar, Mules, Rudolph, Sherwood 2; Duldig, Hinge, Kirkby, McConnell, Sugars 1.

Goals: Grima, McConnell 3; Holmes, Bode 2; Kirkby, Fisher, Sellar.

What a difference a year makes. After being convincingly beaten in the corresponding fixture in 2007 and being kept to an embarrassing 1.4 at the Parade in 2004 under David Noble, Glenelg made a statement to Norwood and the rest of the competition. In restricting the Redlegs to their lowest score against the Bays (1.3), this Tigers outfit produced its most devastating performance of the first nine rounds and showed it would take a power of beating for the flag. Glenelg - which moved to the top of the SANFL table with the win - produced a four-quarter display of high-class, team football to keep Norwood scoreless for two quarters and gain another good dose of redemption. Byron Murphy was the star with 25 possessions while Lucas Block (22 disposals) played one of his best games for the club.

COACH'S COMMENT

"That was a watershed (loss to Norwood) game last year and we bottomed out. To turn it around and play so well this time was very pleasing."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 15.9 (99)	Glenelg 18.13 (121)	Glenelg 10.11 (71)
Norwood 11.13 (79)	Norwood 20.11 (131)	Norwood 17.14 (116)

2008 LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP TABLE AFTER ROUND 9

Teams	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agnst	Pts	%
Glenelg	8	7	1	-	873	595	14	59.47
Sturt	8	6	2	-	835	511	12	62.04
Centrals	8	6	2	-	757	574	12	56.87
North Adel	8	4	4	-	789	795	8	49.81
Norwood	8	3	4	1	546	713	7	43.37
South Adel	8	3	4	1	530	783	7	40.37
WW Eagles	8	3	5	-	808	824	6	49.51
Port Adel	8	2	6	-	697	773	4	47.41
West Adel	8	1	7	-	517	784	2	39.74

ROUND 10 - MONDAY, JUNE 9

GLENELG v PORT MAGPIES at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	3.1	5.11	11.16	15.21	(111)
Port	4.4	9.6	10.7	14.9	(93)

Club champion votes: Murphy 16; Cranston 11; Panozzo 10; Bode 8; Block, Rudolph 6; Sherwood 5; Fisher, Kirkby 4; Duldig, Sugars 3; Backwell 2; Allen, Holmes 1.

Goals: Duldig 3; McConnell, Kirkby 2; Hinge, Liebelt, Fisher, Allen, Backwell, Bode, Block, Murphy.

Glenelg overcame a tardy start to storm to its eighth consecutive win with a come-from-behind 18-point victory against Port. In front of a bumper crowd of 7711, the Tigers were led a merry dance early by Magpies Magarey Medallist Jeremy Clayton and paid the price for some shocking inaccuracy in front of goal, kicking 2.10 in the second term, to trail by 19 points at the long break. But they came out a different side in the third quarter. Byron Murphy shut down Clayton, keeping him to four possessions in the second half, Trevor Cranston took control in the ruck and Luke Panozzo provided devastating run from defence to inspire a six-goal-to-one third term charge which set up the win.

COACH'S COMMENT

"Our second half was pleasing and even late in the second quarter we started to make our way back into the game. I thought we were a bit sharper with our skills, we manned up better and didn't allow the (early) run that Port was generating from its backline."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 21.15 (141)	Glenelg 19.13 (127)	Glenelg 15.13 (103)
Port 7.8 (50)	Port 10.9 (69)	Port 5.9 (39)

ROUND 13 - SATURDAY, JUNE 28

GLENELG v STURT at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	4.4	7.7	7.9	10.13	(73)
Sturt	1.3	8.4	9.7	9.11	(65)

Club champion votes: Rudolph 16; Sherwood 14; Panozzo 13; Cranston 9; Holmes, B. Kane, Sugars 6; Mules 3; Bode, Murphy 2; Backwell, Duldig, Block 1.

Goals: Holmes, Kirkby 2; Bode, Grima, B. Kane, Hinge, Backwell, Duldig.

A red-letter day at the Bay as a bumper crowd of 11,827 attended the top-of-the-table clash between Glenelg and Sturt. The crowd was the biggest at the ground since the inception of the Crows in 1991 and the biggest SANFL minor round attendance for seven years. The Tigers got off to a flier to lead by 19 points at the first change but were stymied by the Double Blues in the second and third quarters and went into the last quarter trailing by 10 points. But - despite kicking into a slight breeze - the home team lifted its intensity to kick the only three goals of the final term to grind out a vital eight-point victory to chalk up its 10th straight win. Defenders Sam Rudolph, who kept Sturt centurion goalkicker Brant Chambers to just one goal, Paul Sherwood and Luke Panozzo were the heroes.

COACH'S COMMENT

"We've played a lot better than that and lost. It was one of those wins where you look at the players and give them great respect for the fact they were able to grind out a win from a difficult position at three-quarter time."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 11.10 (76)	Glenelg 21.18 (144)	Glenelg 12.15 (87)
Sturt 7.10 (52)	Sturt 16.11 (107)	Sturt 15.8 (98)

ROUND 12 - SATURDAY, JUNE 21

GLENELG v CENTRAL DISTRICT at HAMRA HOMES

Glenelg	7.5	9.5	13.12	15.13	(103)
Central	1.2	3.6	6.7	12.10	(82)

Club champion votes: Allen 17; Panozzo 12; Fisher 11; Murphy 8; Ruwoldt 7; Hinge 6; Cranston 5; Grima, McConnell 4; Backwell 3; B. Kane, Rudolph, Sugars 1.

Goals: McConnell 4; Bode, Ruwoldt, Grima, Sellar 2; Backwell, Hinge, Liebelt.

Mark Mickan's team took over as flag favourite after crushing premier Central District at Elizabeth. In impressively breaking their 16-year drought at the Bulldogs' home ground, the Tigers stretched their winning run to nine and showed they deserved to be ranked among the competition heavyweights. Refusing to be pushed around by the experienced Dogs, Glenelg hit in hard from the outset and broke to a remarkable 53-point lead in the third quarter before holding off a late rally from Central. Ty Allen was superb in the middle, Luke Panozzo won the ball 27 times and took 13 marks and Adam Fisher had 26 disposals.

COACH'S COMMENT

"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."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 15.8 (98)	Glenelg 11.16 (82)	Glenelg 16.13 (109)
Central 13.7 (85)	Central 10.8 (68)	Central 5.5 (35)

ROUND 14 - SUNDAY, JULY 6

GLENELG v NORTH ADELAIDE at PROSPECT

Glenelg	2.1	5.2	11.6	17.9	(111)
North	1.3	3.6	5.9	7.12	(54)

Club champion votes: Bode, Grima 11; Panozzo 10; Mules 8; Cranston, Holmes 7; Hinge, Rudolph 6; Allen, B. Kane 3; Backwell, Fisher 2; Adlington, Duldig, Sherwood, Sugars 1.

Goals: Grima 5; Bode 4; Hinge 2; Block, Fisher, Kirkby, Backwell, Holmes, McGregor.

Battling for its finals survival, North came to play at Prospect. Kicking against a strong wind in the opening term, the Roosters - with James Allan and Rhys Archard winning plenty of the ball - held the Bays to just three scoring shots and had most of the play. In a tough second quarter, Glenelg managed to outscore North by four points to hold a narrow eight-point advantage. In the third term the Tigers showed why they were the new flag favourites by booting six goals in a super-impressive 15-minute blitz to put a space between the teams. Matthew Bode (19 disposals, four goals) and full forward Todd Grima (17 disposals, nine marks, five goals) sparked the onslaught while Luke Panozzo had 26 possessions.

COACH'S COMMENT

"The players were workmanlike again and that is what we have to remember who we really are as footballers and as a team. We are just workmen and if we work together we can get a result."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 8.15 (63)	Glenelg 25.23 (173)	Glenelg 14.18 (102)
North 8.12 (60)	North 5.9 (39)	North 9.16 (70)

2008 LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP TABLE AFTER ROUND 14

Teams	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst	Pts	%
Glenelg	12	11	1	-	1271	889	22	58.84
Sturt	12	9	3	-	1310	790	18	62.38
Centrals	12	8	4	-	1103	948	16	53.78
Norwood	12	6	5	1	959	1041	13	47.95
North Adel	13	6	7	-	1211	1284	12	48.54
Port Adel	12	5	7	-	1037	1068	10	49.26
WW Eagles	13	5	8	-	1218	1295	10	48.47
South Adel	12	3	8	1	844	1198	7	41.33
West Adel	12	1	11	-	783	1223	2	39.03

ROUND 15 - SATURDAY, JULY 12
GLENELG v WEST ADELAIDE at BROADSPECTRUM

Glenelg	1.3	2.8	9.11	13.13	(91)
West	0.3	1.6	2.7	4.9	(33)

Club champion votes: Panozzo 15; Grima 12; Hinge 9; Backwell 7; Block, Fisher 6; Bode, McConnell, Sherwood, Sugars 4; Allen 3; Holmes, Rudolph 2; Cranston, Mules 1.

Goals: Grima 5; Duldig 2; Rudolph, Bode, Hinge, McConnell, Fisher, Block.

Rampant Glenelg - aiming for a 12th consecutive win - was swallowed by a "Bloods Flood" in the first half at Broadspectrum. Employing a massive defensive flood for the first time all season - "we felt we had to try something different to surprise them," - West coach Andy Collins said the Bloods often had only one player in their forward line in the first half as they tried to close down the Tigers. However it took Glenelg just six minutes in the third quarter to smash West's unlikely resistance. After booting just two goals in the first half, the Bays kicked four (two to Matthew Bode) in a six-minute blitz in the third term to turn an eight-point lead into a 32-point advantage. Luke Panozzo (28 disposals) and Todd Grima (five goals) again starred.

COACH'S COMMENT

"The main thing we get out of that is the importance to persist. We knew it was going to be a difficult game, we knew we'd have to persist and we did."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 15.9 (99)	Glenelg 21.25 (151)	Glenelg 17.20 (122)
West 10.7 (67)	West 12.3 (75)	West 1.7 (13)

ROUND 17 - SATURDAY, JULY 26
GLENELG v NORWOOD at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	4.2	6.4	12.4	19.7	(121)
Norwood	0.2	3.4	6.6	11.10	(76)

Club champion votes: Grima 18; B. Kane 15; Backwell, Murphy 8; Mules 6; Fisher 5; Cranston 4; Block, Holmes, Sherwood 3; Horan, Kirkby, Rudolph 2; Button 1.

Goals: Grima 7; B. Kane 3; Fisher, Holmes 2; Horan, Backwell, Allen, Kirkby, Block.

The Tigers responded to their shock loss in emphatic fashion, opening up an early four-goal lead against the Redlegs and never being threatened. With strong-marking Todd Grima continuing his purple patch of form in attack with seven goals and 13 grabs, Glenelg regained some of its swagger in a good team performance against an improving opponent. Ben Kane was outstanding with 33 disposals and three goals, Brett Backwell was back to his Magarey Medal-winning best with 25 quality possessions and Mr Consistent Byron Murphy rebounded well from defence.

COACH'S COMMENT

"To play with the intensity we did for three-and-a-half quarters was good. Last week came out of the blue to be so poor. We'd identified we hadn't been setting the world on fire but we didn't anticipate playing that badly. Today was a response."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 8.14 (62)	Glenelg 6.18 (54)	Glenelg 12.22 (94)
Norwood 14.11 (95)	Norwood 9.7 (61)	Norwood 8.7 (55)

2008 LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP TABLE AFTER ROUND 18

Teams	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agnst	Pts	%
Sturt	16	13	3	-	1725	1046	26	62.25
Glenelg	16	13	3	-	1633	1206	26	57.52
Centrals	16	11	5	-	1428	1232	22	53.68
Norwood	16	7	8	1	1317	1404	15	48.40
Port Adel	15	7	8	-	1302	1274	14	50.54
North Adel	16	7	9	-	1413	1542	14	47.82
WW Eagles	16	6	10	-	1453	1526	12	48.77
South Adel	16	5	10	1	1136	1581	11	41.81
West Adel	15	1	14	-	936	1532	2	37.93

ROUND 16 - SATURDAY, JULY 19
GLENELG v SOUTH ADELAIDE at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	5.1	8.5	9.6	14.12	(96)
South	6.3	10.5	15.7	17.7	(109)

Club champion votes: Murphy 12; Block, Mules 11; Bode 10; Sherwood 9; Duldig 8; Grima 7; Kirkby 6; Fisher 5; Allen 1.

Goals: Duldig, Grima 4; Kirkby 2; McConnell, Hinge, Allen, Murphy.

Glenelg's remarkable run of victories ended in shocking fashion against eighth-placed South. Starting a white-hot favourite against a team which was in disarray and under a new coach (Clay Sampson), the Tigers were unbackable \$1.02 favourites but paid the price for playing like millionaires, as coach Mark Mickan put it. Glenelg appeared cocky from the opening bounce, failing to show its opponents due respect, as the Panthers seized an early advantage and maintained their lead throughout. After trailing by 37 points at the last change, the Tigers made a late charge before falling 13 points short. In a damning statistic, South had 41 more possessions and 25 more tackles.

COACH'S COMMENT

"The way we see ourselves, we need to be workmanlike in order to do well. I thought we tried to play like millionaires for three quarters and that's not who we are. It doesn't work and we know it doesn't work, just like it didn't in round one."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 23.29 (167)	Glenelg 22.21 (153)	Glenelg 12.13 (85)
South 11.12 (78)	South 5.3 (33)	South 7.9 (51)

ROUND 18 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
GLENELG v CENTRAL DISTRICT at HAMRA HOMES

Glenelg	1.1	2.3	6.4	8.6	(54)
Central	2.3	6.4	11.5	15.9	(99)

Club champion votes: Allen, Panozzo 15; Fisher 11; Mules 9; Murphy 8; Backwell, Willoughby 5; Hinge, B. Kane 4; Sherwood 2; Button, Cranston.

Goals: Panozzo 4; Willoughby, B. Kane, Hinge, Duldig.

Glenelg was given a reality check when it ran into competition powerhouse Central under lights in its own backyard. The Bays were kept to a miserable two goals in the first half and were completely brushed aside by a stronger-bodied Bulldogs outfit which was determined to send a message to the rest of the competition that it was far from a spent force. Central set the tone for the game with 19 tackles in the first quarter and never allowed Glenelg into the contest. It wasn't until running defender Luke Panozzo was moved forward in the second half that the Bays applied any scoreboard pressure. Panozzo kicked four goals to join hard-working Ty Allen as the Tigers' best.

COACH'S COMMENT

"That was a finals-type game and a good experience for our blokes, who have emerged in the past 12-to-24 months, against a side which has been there for 10 years. It was a football lesson for us on how to step up to the plate at this time of the year."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 16.13 (109)	Glenelg 19.16 (130)	Glenelg 13.21 (99)
Central 10.6 (66)	Central 8.8 (56)	Central 5.3 (33)

ROUND 20 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

GLENELG v NORTH ADELAIDE at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	3.3	7.3	10.8	16.12	(108)
North	3.2	5.5	8.7	12.7	(79)

Club champion votes: Fisher 13; Cranston, B. Kane, Murphy 9; Rudolph 8; McConnell, Mules 6; Allen 5; Panozzo 4; Block, Holmes 3; Bode 2; Grima, Kirkby, Sherwood.

Goals: McConnell 5; Grima, Kirkby 3; Block 2; Duldig, Fisher, Holmes.

Looking to rebound after a Bulldogs belting, Glenelg had to fight tooth and nail to survive a massive fright against a desperate North at the Bay. After leading by 25 points midway through the third quarter, the Tigers were in deep trouble in the last when former Adelaide 36er Jordan Dodman goaled to give the Roosters a four-point lead 12 minutes into the quarter. Andrew Jarman's side - playing for a finals berth - looked on the verge of a big upset before Glenelg lifted. Inspired by midfielders Adam Fisher (29 disposals) and Ben Kane (24) and ruckman Trevor Cranston (33 hit-outs), the Tigers took control of the centre square to pile on six goals in 10 minutes to blow North away. Apart from the on-ballers, forward Justin McConnell made a welcome return to form with five goals.

COACH'S COMMENT

"I thought it was a really courageous performance. North had real momentum with 15 minutes to go and for us to get it back and then score quickly was very encouraging. It gives us another thing to refer to, knowing that if we're in this position again and in trouble then we know what's required."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 20.10 (130)	Glenelg 17.7 (109)	Glenelg 11.10 (76)
North 12.11 (83)	North 5.9 (39)	North 14.17 (101)

ROUND 21 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

GLENELG v EAGLES at WOODVILLE

Glenelg	4.3	7.7	8.9	9.12	(66)
Eagles	0.5	5.6	9.10	11.12	(78)

Club champion votes: Block 19; Rudolph 14; Sherwood 8; Allen, B. Kane, Mules 6; Bode, Cranston, Panozzo 5; Duldig 3; Fisher, Holmes, Kirkby.

Goals: Grima 2; Duldig, Panozzo, B. Kane, Willoughby, Hinge, Guilhaus, Kirkby.

The Tigers' late-season slumber continued against the Eagles. After getting off to a flier and leading by five goals close to half-time following a strong mark and goal to young ruckman Seb Guilhaus, Glenelg appeared to go into its comfort zone and paid a heavy price. The Eagles kicked three goals in time-on in the second term to draw to within 13 points at the long break before controlling the second half to win by 12 points. The Bays kicked only two goals in the second half to earn the ire of coach Mark Mikan, who was moved to question his team's hunger. Todd Grima was the only Tiger to kick multiple goals while Justin McConnell's five straight behinds proved costly. Lucas Block was best with 22 possessions.

COACH'S COMMENT

"There should be no more desperate team than us from here on in. Before today we had it (the minor premiership) in our hands and now it's not. We have to be a lot harder in terms of our mental capacity."

RESERVES	U19	U17
Glenelg 19.12 (126)	Glenelg 12.15 (87)	Glenelg 22.10 (142)
Eagles 9.17 (71)	Eagles 18.10 (118)	Eagles 13.5 (83)

ROUND 22 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

GLENELG v PORT MAGPIES at ALBERTON

Glenelg	1.5	4.7	7.10	13.14	(92)
Port	1.3	2.5	2.7	5.9	(39)

Club champion votes: Murphy 15; Block 11; Allen, Mules 8; Sherwood 7; Cranston 6; Bode, Rudolph 5; Kirkby, B. Kane 3; Fisher, Holmes, Panozzo, Ruwoldt 2; Duldig.

Goals: Ruwoldt, Duldig 2; Block, Grima, B. Kane, Bode, Panozzo, Murphy, Kirkby, Mules, Kirk.

Glenelg coach Mark Mikan asked for a response from his players and he got it in emphatic fashion against the Port Magpies. The Bays ended their 15-year drought at Alberton and showed they were back in flag contention with a strong, four-quarter effort against the in-form Magpies. Displaying a ferocious, unrelenting attack on the body and ball, Glenelg beat Port at its own game, taking its best shot in the first half and then breaking clear with some sizzling run from defence in the second. Midfielders Ty Allen (26 disposals) and Lucas Block (25) were inspirational while captain Ben Mules (22) and Byron Murphy were standouts in defence.

COACH'S COMMENT

"We got our style of play back - our effort on the ball was where it was supposed to be. We were strong and contested. The second and third efforts were good - that was at the heart of our performance."

RESERVES	U19
Glenelg 11.9 (75)	Glenelg 18.14 (122)
Port 10.15 (75)	Port 9.9 (63)

ROUND 23 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

GLENELG v NORWOOD at CHALLENGE RECRUITMENT

Glenelg	2.2	5.5	6.11	11.14	(80)
Norwood	3.0	5.4	8.6	9.7	(61)

Club champion votes: Allen 15; Fisher, Panozzo 9; Bode, Kirkby, Rudolph 8; Mules 7; Block, Murphy 4; Cranston 3; Holmes 2; Duldig, Grima, Ruwoldt.

Goals: Duldig 3; Bode 2; Ruwoldt, Backwell, Willoughby, Grima, Kirkby, Lally.

After Central's upset win against Sturt, Glenelg was playing for top spot and the week's break in the first week of the finals when it met finals-bound Norwood at the Bay. For a long time it looked as if the Tigers' first minor premiership since 1981 would slip away as they trailed by seven points in the wet at the last change after missing some easy shots at goal. But with so much at stake and a healthy crowd cheering it on, Glenelg lifted when it had to, piling on five goals to one in the final quarter to march to a hard-fought 19-point win against a tough opponent. Hardnuts Ty Allen, Adam Fisher and Matthew Bode inspired the Bays' spirited finish while Luke Panozzo's run from the back half was crucial in what was a red-letter day for the club.

COACH'S COMMENT

"I thought Norwood controlled the game for the first quarter-and-a-half but then our blokes were able to step up in hard-ball possessions. That was not a bad game for us going into the finals against quality opposition. We had to really earn that win."

RESERVES	U19
Glenelg 17.11 (113)	Glenelg 24.18 (162)
Norwood 7.6 (48)	Norwood 5.7 (37)

2008 LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP TABLE - END OF MINOR ROUND

Teams	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agnt	Pts	%
Glenelg	20	16	4	-	1979	1463	32	57.50
Sturt	20	15	5	-	2064	1296	30	61.43
Centrals	20	14	6	-	1771	1525	28	53.73
Port Adel	20	10	10	-	1692	1621	20	51.07
Norwood	20	9	10	1	1585	1692	19	48.37
WW Eagles	20	9	11	-	1771	1791	18	49.72
North Adel	20	9	11	-	1761	1863	18	48.59
South Adel	20	5	14	1	1282	1979	11	39.31
West Adel	20	2	18	-	1218	1893	4	39.15

SECOND SEMI-FINAL - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

GLENELG v CENTRAL DISTRICT at ADELAIDE

Glenelg	3.1	6.5	7.7	11.9	(75)
Central	4.3	7.5	13.6	16.9	(105)

Club champion votes: Grima 20; Mules 12; Kirkby 11; Cranston 9; Panozzo 8; Fisher, Willoughby 5; Allen 4; Block, Lally 2; Hinge, Murphy 1.

Goals: Panozzo 3; Grima, Lally 2; Bode, Backwell, Duldig, McConnell.

Playing in its first second semi-final since 1990, Glenelg was rocked when veteran defender Paul Sherwood withdrew before the game with a hamstring injury. With key forward Ruory Kirkby shuffled back into defence to cover for him, the Tigers looked lost early, falling 19 points behind, as the finals-hardened Dogs grabbed the initiative. However the Bays - boosted by two goals from Angus Lally, the tireless work of Trevor Cranston in the ruck and a fearless attack on the body and ball by full forward Todd Grima - hit back hard to hit the front late in the second quarter. Glenelg looked to be in control but could not finish off its good work in front of goal, which allowed the Dogs to stay in the game, regain the lead and take a slender six-point advantage into the long break. The Tigers were made to pay a heavy price, with Central showing why it had been the SANFL's power club since 2000 by dominating the third quarter. Inspired by the Gowans twins, Chris and James, the Bulldogs started winning the hard ball and when Trent Goodrem nailed two freak goals from deep in a pocket and Ian Callinan kicked one from a similar angle minutes later the Dogs were on the way to a SANFL record ninth consecutive second semi-final victory. Grima (17 possessions, seven marks, two goals) was Glenelg's standout but too many players went missing in the heat of battle, leaving coach Mark Mickan searching for answers.

COACH'S COMMENT

"The third quarter told the game. They got on top at the stoppages, our accountability dropped off and they moved the ball to too many uncontested players too easily. That has been an emphasis this year - playing every minute of the game. We have to look at that."

PRELIMINARY FINAL - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

GLENELG v STURT at ADELAIDE

Glenelg	4.4	10.10	13.12	17.17	(119)
Sturt	3.4	4.4	6.5	8.5	(53)

Club champion votes: B. Kane 12; Rudolph 11; Cranston 9; Backwell, Block 8; Sherwood 7; Bode, Fisher 5; Murphy 4; Grima 3; Kirkby, Ruwoldt 2; Hinge, Holmes, Mules 1.

Goals: Kirkby, Grima, B. Kane 3; Duldig, Ruwoldt, Holmes 2; Bode, Willoughby.

It was evident from the opening bounce that this was a different Glenelg side to the one which had surrendered so meekly in the second half against Central. The Tigers' on-ball brigade was tough and hard, giving Sturt playmakers Luke Crane, Jade Sheedy and Adam Thomson no room to move while their defence completely blanketed the Double Blues' high-profile forward line. After leading by a goal at quarter-time, Glenelg broke the game wide open with a brilliant 6.6 to 1.0 second quarter to take a matchwinning 42-point lead into the long break. With Paul Sherwood back in the side and convincingly beating Ian Perrie and Sam Rudolph - knocked out in the second semi - blanketing Ken Farmer Medallist Brant Chambers, the Tigers increased their lead at every change to charge into their first grand final since 1992. Trevor Cranston starred in the ruck, Adam Fisher,

Ben Kane and Brett Backwell were dynamic in the midfield and Ruory Kirkby showed why he was needed in attack, combining with Todd Grima to kick six goals. Rudolph restricted Chambers to only one major and was so good that the centurion goalkicker was benched twice. Sturt coach Rick Macgowan, whose side fought a titanic struggle with Glenelg for the minor premiership, said the Bays deserved to meet the Dogs in the premiership decider. "Both sides play finals-type football, they love the contested ball, love the collisions and they give it everything no matter what the contest," he said.

COACH'S COMMENT

"The result was largely brought about by the response of the whole playing group to the feeling of disappointment in themselves after the loss to Central. The level of commitment at the ball and to applying pressure by every player was a key factor. But the fact that there is still work ahead is not lost on the playing group. Their challenge is to maintain the attitude which gives rise to high-quality performance in games that really count."

GRAND FINAL - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

GLENELG v CENTRAL DISTRICT at AAMI STADIUM

Glenelg	3.1	4.6	6.7	10.11	(71)
Central	3.2	5.4	12.8	17.11	(113)

Club champion votes: Sherwood 11; Block, Bode, Kirk, Rudolph 9; Holmes 7; Cranston 6; Allen, Grima, Murphy 5; Panozzo 3; C. Kane 2.

Goals: Kirk 3; Grima, Backwell, Panozzo, Duldig, Bode, Allen, Murphy.

The Glenelg army rolled into AAMI Stadium with the crowd of 34,128 the biggest for a SANFL grand final in years. The Bays started brightly, kicking the first goal from a strong mark through Daniel Kirk, and at quarter-time had overcome their nervousness to trail by just one point. When the inspirational Ty Allen - playing under duress because of a dislocated shoulder suffered in the preliminary final - capped off some excellent work from his team-mates to snap a brilliant goal midway through the second quarter, the Tigers were nine points up, on top, and eyeing their first premiership since 1986. But things quickly turned sour. Just like the second semi, they were made to pay for failing to capitalise on their dominance. Missed shots at goal came back to haunt them as the Dogs regained the lead at half-time and then flexed their muscle to blow the game open in the third quarter, kicking seven goals to two. Jason Mackenzie ignited Central's second half dominance to win the Jack Oatey Medal as best afield while midfielders James and Chris Gowans and Ian Callinan and defender Paul Thomas played key roles in the win, displaying the strength and experience which has been behind the Dogs' golden run. The Bays did not have enough contributors when it counted most, missing key tackles and key goals when the game was on the line. Loyal stalwarts Paul Sherwood and Matthew Bode were among Glenelg's best in what would be their final games for the club.

COACH'S COMMENT

"This was an opportunity lost to the Glenelg Football Club. There is absolutely no sense of near enough is good enough or it was a good effort to get there. Yes, progress has been made and the players have worked extremely hard but we were not there (in the grand final) to make up the numbers. We were there to win. It is a lesson for everyone. You have got to make that crucial tackle, take that one ball clean - it is a fine line. There is only a sense of disappointment and a commitment to get better as a football club. The hard work to improve begins now."