

Bays on a high

Tigers leave AAMI Stadium with two premierships in tow

■ SANFL

By STEVE BARRETT

THE disappointment of Glenelg's straight-sets League finals exit was masked to a degree with the Tigers' "miracle" come-from-behind 12-point triumph over Woodville-West Torrens in Sunday's Reserves Grand Final.

The 14.14 (98) to 12.14 (86) victory – on the back of the Bays' win in the Under-18s decider against Port Adelaide – at least gave Glenelg supporters some reason to celebrate.

The win gave the club its second Reserves flag in three years.

The Bays were battle-hardened after overcoming a series of sudden-death finals on top of a host of minor round mini-finals, their 1-5-1 start to the season and fifth-placed minor round finish belying the fact they were the competition's form side at the right time.

"If you fight all the way to the line, miracles can happen," said elated Tigers coach **Michael Godden**, who ironically will take the Eagles' League reins in 2010.

"Today was a miracle. We've got that belief and we never wave the white flag."

Glenelg jumped the Eagles early, scoring the first two goals, but the majority of the first half was on the Eagles' terms before the margin blew out to 41 points early in the third, the Bays desperately needing to lift.



TOO GOOD: Glenelg went from fourth place to the Reserves Grand Final, then came from 41 points down to beat Woodville-West Torrens on Sunday. Picture: Stephen Laffer HF428679

And lift they did. The likes of skipper **Aaron Day** and **Cam Hitchcock**, who proved dangerous in attack, **John Hinge** in the midfield and at the stoppages, and **Matty Duldig**, effective in attack as well as in the unfamiliar role as ruckman in the injury-forced absence of **Warrick McGinty** in the second half, pitching in to help peg the

gap to 13 points at the final change. Day was the money man in the fourth period, his free kick conversion putting Glenelg in front shortly before time-on, giving the Bays' their first lead since the opening stanza.

The Eagles replied through **David Westbrook** three minutes later before goals to Day and then **Tom Couch** – the son of 1989

Brownlow Medallist **Paul** and recruited from Woodville in the off-season – sealed the flag.

Even when trailing by plenty in the third, Godden never felt the match was lost. "Probably not – with this group I never think that," he said.

"Once they got a sniff, they just went for the throat and that's what our trademark's been all year."

Simply the best all season, Tigers deliver

■ UNDER-18S

By REECE HOMFRAY

SILKY smooth Glenelg capped a magnificent season with a 64-point win over Port Adelaide in the SANFL under-18 Grand Final.

The Tigers, minor premiers after dropping just two games during the season, were never really threatened on Sunday and ran out big winners, 16.11 (107) to 6.7 (43).

"It's a massive relief but we were confident all week. We've done a power of work and thought we were the fittest side in the competition," coach **Ian Cox** said.

"And I thought we'd push Port with our height, especially with **Darcy (Armfield)** coming back in."

Armfield played a big role for the Tigers, booting three goals along with **Josh Trembath**.

Craig Pitt (25 possessions) was his team's

best while **Matthew Snook**, **Josh Teakle** and **Nick Ramsey** also worked hard through the middle.

Hayden Jolly showed why he's heading to the Gold Coast, putting his dazzling skills on display, while ruckman **Michael Bennett** dominated with 25 hit-outs.

Cox said it was his team's work-rate and skill level that set the Tigers apart from the rest of the competition.

"Great work-rate, we use the footy well and our handball from the back half creates run and we had good key forwards," he said.

"We did 5.30am sessions in the pre-season and were doing 3km time trials with the League boys and beating them, so we knew we had the legs and the discipline."

"They (Port) had some great midfielders, but probably didn't have the depth to go with us. We had Ramsey, Pitt, Jolly, Contin, **McIntyre**, **Snook** and

Noonan and that was our key today.

"Hopefully we get a number drafted because we've got a number ready to go to the next level."

One in particular is **Christian Howard** who missed out on the state squad mid-season but Cox said had "come from the pack" in the last 12 weeks. "He's ready to play AFL footy, he's courageous and he's really stepped up."

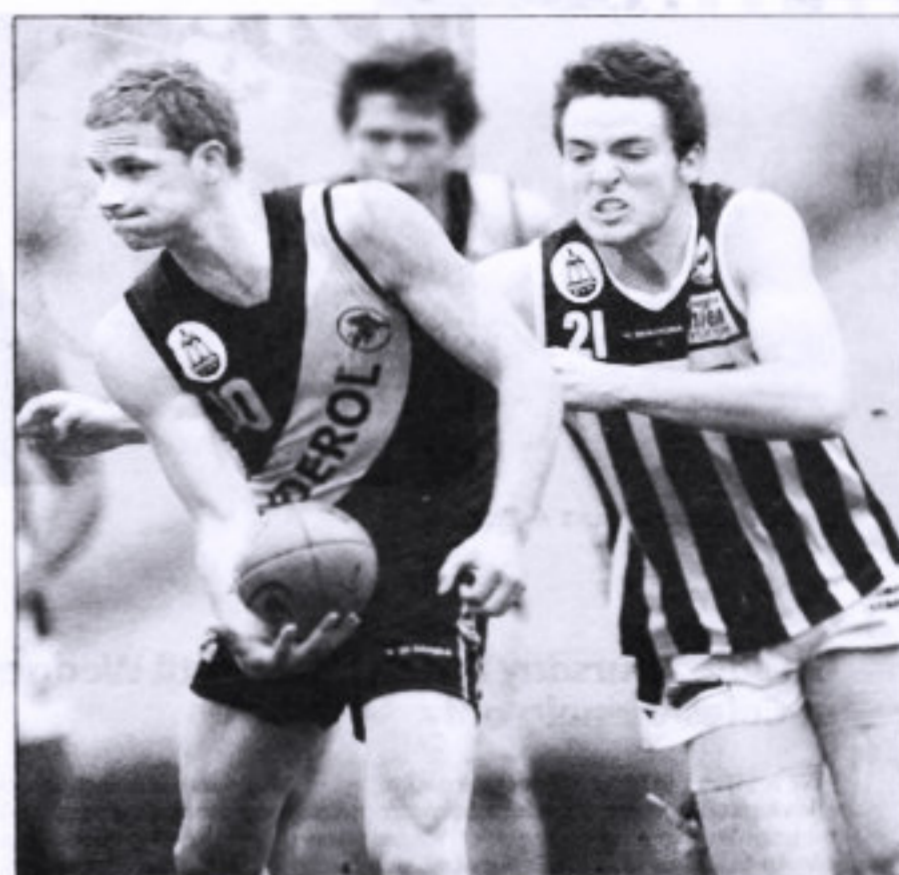
It was Howard's first full season with Glenelg after playing school footy with Sacred Heart last year.

"That's (premiership medal) what I've been wanting all year," Howard said.

"We've been top since the start and after the second half of the season I thought we were really in with a chance."

"I've won knockout titles with Sacred Heart but I've never won a proper premiership before."

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TOUGH: Nick Cane tries to evade a tackle during Sunday's Grand Final. Picture: Stephen Laffer HF428677

Reserves

Glenelg	2.3	4.8	9.10	14.14	(98)
Eagles	4.2	10.5	11.11	12.14	(86)

BEST - Glenelg: O'Grady, Day, Liebelt, McConnell, A. Grima, Snook. **Eagles:** Rowntree, Hill, Sumner, Westbrook, Redden, Hicks. **GOALS - Glenelg:** Day, Snook 4, Basir, Couch, Duldig, A. Grima, Hinge, Hitchcock. **Eagles:** Westbrook, Hill 4, Wright, Rowntree, Staple, Batley.

Under-18s:

Glenelg	5.3	8.6	13.11	16.11	(107)
Port	3.1	4.3	5.5	6.7	(43)

BEST - Glenelg: Tape, Pitt, Snook, Ramsey, Cane, Teakle, Jolly. **Port:** Lindsay, Robertson, Hoskin, Stoll, Wilson, Stringer, Rawlings, Crettenden, Hand. **GOALS - Glenelg:** Armfield, Trembath 3, Jolly 2, Ramsey, Pitt, Bradley, Scott-Collings, Contin, Howard, Giddings, Teakle. **Port:** Solty, Howell, Hood, Milera, Hand, Wanganeen.