

Tigers scrape a draw in dogfight

ZAC MILBANK

GLENELG and Central District each walked away with a premiership point in yesterday's draw at the Bay.

And while there's usually mixed emotions after the siren when scores are tied, you couldn't help sense the Tigers - who trailed all afternoon - drew more satisfaction than the Bulldogs.

Mark Mickan's men, chasing their 10th win in succession, finally looked set to be punished for their woeful goalkicking when last year's premiers led by 22 points seven minutes into the final term.

But after spraying shots on goal most of the day - the Bays kicked 11.15 after a shocking 8.21 last week against Port - Tiger Justin McConnell converted when it counted most.

Less than two minutes after teammate Richard O'Grady put his side within six points, McConnell marked a neat Josh Willoughby pass on the lead, 30m from goal.

Just as the enigmatic forward - who was playing his first league game in more than six weeks - kicked truly, the final siren sounded with scores locked on 81 points, ensuring the hosts stayed perched on top of the premiership ladder.

"He (McConnell) looked threatening all day and it was good for him to be able to nail that goal when we needed it at the end," Glenelg coach Mickan said of the man who finished with 3.2.

While he praised the persistence of his charges, Mickan also noted the Tigers had 31 more disposals, 22 more inside 50m entries and six more scoring shots - giving him plenty to work on.

"We had more of the ball and we needed to do more with it," said Mickan.

"We had wasted opportunities which cost us, so I think

SCOREBOARD

CENTRAL DISTRICT v GLENELG
Gliderol Stadium, crowd 4551

CENTRAL	5.4	8.5	11.9	12.9	81
GLENELG	2.2	4.7	7.11	11.15	81

BEST PLAYERS: CENTRAL: Thomas, Dutschke, C. Gowans, J. Gowans, Callinan, O'Hara, O'Sullivan. **GLENELG:** Hall, Fisher, Ruwoldt, Mills, McConnell, Cranston, Willoughby. **GOALS: CENTRAL:** Dutschke 4, Callinan, O'Sullivan, Schell 2; Sansbury, Slade. **GLENELG:** McConnell 3, Grima 2; B. Kane, Hall, Panozzo, Button, Fisher, O'Grady. **INJURIES: CENTRAL:** J. Gowans (corked leg). **GLENELG:** Nil. **REPORTS:** Nil. **UMPIRES:** Williams, Philp, Dey.

there's a lot of areas for improvement. The players identified that and while they came away from the game with a smile on their face... they're understanding that we can do a lot better."

This was certainly the mandate of deflated Central coach Roy Laird, who in his club's 1000th SANFL match watched his men squander a golden chance to edge ahead in the race for the minor premiership.

"It's certainly negative from our point of view," Laird said.

"We had a pretty good half in the first half but again we just can't play good footy for long enough, so it's back to the drawing board. It's a very disappointing result for us

bearing in mind we were in control of the game (at half-time).

"We had some blokes who cut some corners today and it cost us badly."

Dogs co-captain Paul Thomas worked hard for his 15 possessions, also laying a game-high 10 tackles for his side, while Scott Dutschke (4.0) threatened to tear the game apart with three clever goals before the main change.

"We didn't have too many dominant winners. Dutschke was valuable," Laird said.

"It's a sign when we're going all right that we get an even contribution, but all of us in some area just couldn't sustain it for long enough and that was the key."



BUCKETS: Central's Jason Mackenzie wins the ball out of a ruck stoppage yesterday. Picture: Morne de Klerk



GLENELG

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	Flag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
ADLINGTON	5	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
ALLEN	2	0	10	2	0	0	0	0	5
BLOCK	7	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	2
BUTTON	4	5	7	0	1	1	1	14	1
CRANSTON	2	1	7	0	4	0	0	28	4
FISHER	10	1	8	1	3	1	0	1	6
GRIMA	6	2	5	1	0	2	2	0	0
HALL	14	5	10	1	0	1	1	0	4
KANE	11	4	6	0	1	1	1	0	3
KANE	3	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
KIRK	3	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
KIRKBY	6	5	6	3	2	0	1	2	3
McCONNELL	10	5	2	2	1	3	2	0	0
MILLS	4	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
MULES	6	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
MURPHY	10	4	10	2	0	0	1	0	1
O GRADY	9	5	5	0	1	1	0	0	5
PANOZZO	12	6	8	2	0	1	1	0	1
PLANT	5	2	5	0	1	0	2	0	1
RUWOLDT	11	1	10	4	1	0	0	0	6
WILLOUGHBY	11	3	8	4	1	0	0	0	2
Totals	151	67	124	25	24	11	15	45	44



CENTRAL

	Kicks	Mks	Hbl	F/for	Flag	Gls	Pts	H/O	Tkl
CALLINAN	12	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	1
COCHRANE	7	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	3
DUTSCHKE	7	1	5	1	1	4	0	0	5
GOODREM	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
GOWANS	5	2	12	2	0	0	0	0	3
GOWANS	7	4	9	1	3	0	0	0	4
GRIFFIN	7	1	4	1	0	0	0	22	1
HADDEN	5	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	4
HAYES	4	4	8	1	1	0	0	2	3
LAWRY	9	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
MACKENZIE	1	0	4	2	1	0	0	20	7
O'HARA	13	5	1	0	2	0	1	0	5
O'SULLIVAN	5	0	8	1	4	2	1	0	5
SANSBURY	9	4	7	0	0	1	0	0	1
SHELL	7	4	2	3	0	2	1	4	6
SIBENALER	1	2	6	0	2	0	0	0	1
SLADE	10	1	7	2	3	1	0	0	2
SPURR	8	3	7	1	0	0	0	0	2
THOMAS	9	0	6	2	3	0	0	1	10
WESTHOFF	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
WILLIAMS	4	2	5	1	1	0	0	0	2
Totals	130	42	106	24	25	12	9	50	67

SANFL ROUND 16

Eagles	3.1	8.3	8.3	13.6	84
North	1.5	2.7	7.11	9.13	67

Injuries: Sumner (Eagles). **Reports:** Allan (North). **Crowd:** 2113 at Woodville Oval.

Central	5.4	8.5	11.9	12.9	81
Glenelg	2.2	4.7	7.11	11.15	81

Injuries: J. Gowans (Central). **Reports:** Nil. **Crowd:** 4551 at Gliderol Stadium.

Sturt	4.5	6.10	15.11	19.15	129
Port	0.1	0.3	2.3	5.7	37

Injuries: Bowen (Sturt), Meiklejohn (Port). **Reports:** Nil. **Crowd:** 3611 at House Brothers Oval.

Norwood	2.3	9.5	11.6	14.10	94
Panthers	2.3	4.4	6.7	7.9	51

Injuries: Nil. **Reports:** Nil. **Crowd:** 2066 at Coopers Stadium.

	P	W	L	D	FOR	AGST	STR	PTS	%
Glenelg	15	12	2	1	1372	1136	D	25	54.7
Central	15	11	3	1	1446	1211	D	23	54.4
Sturt	15	11	4	0	1505	1022	W4	22	59.6
Eagles	16	8	7	1	1318	1418	W1	17	48.1
North	14	8	6	0	1199	1018	L1	16	54.1
West**	14	5	8	1	959	1230	L1	11	43.8
Norwood	15	5	10	0	1264	1303	W1	10	49.2
Port	15	4	11	0	1274	1449	L2	8	46.8
Panthers	15	1	14	0	974	1523	L14	2	39.0

*Yet to play this round **Bye

SCOREBOARD

EAGLES v NORTH ADELAIDE
Woodville Oval, crowd 2113

EAGLES	3.1	8.3	8.3	13.6	84
NORTH	1.5	2.7	7.11	9.13	67

BEST PLAYERS: EAGLES: Rimington, McGregor, Grocke, Allmond, Salter, Cicolella, Hentschel. **NORTH:** Allan, Sloane, Davis, Wright, Ackland. **GOALS: EAGLES:** Salter 7, Cheep, McGregor 2; Grocke, Goldsworthy. **NORTH:** Ackland 2; Schwarze, Wright, White, Younie, Motlop, Davis, Thiele. **INJURIES: EAGLES:** Sumner (shoulder). **NORTH:** Nil. **REPORTS: EAGLES:** Nil. **NORTH:** Allan (striking). **UMPIRES:** Pfeiffer, Raiston, Crosby.

STURT v PORT ADELAIDE
House Brothers Oval, crowd 3611

STURT	4.5	6.10	15.11	19.15	129
PORT	0.1	0.3	2.3	5.7	37

BEST PLAYERS: STURT: Trenrove, McGlone, Gum, Coad, Bratton, Jaensch, Cubillo, Bode. **PORT:** Elstone, Summerton, Kirkwood, Burgoyne. **GOALS: STURT:** Chambers 4, Crane 3, Evans, Sheedy, Vassal 2; Coad, Gum, Herring, Jaensch, Johncock, Plant. **PORT:** Lokan 2; Elstone, Perry, Beard. **INJURIES: STURT:** Bowen (ankle). **PORT:** Meiklejohn (N/A). **REPORTS:** Nil. **UMPIRES:** Hay, Bowen, Fleer.

NORWOOD v PANTHERS
Coopers Stadium, crowd 2066

NORWOOD	2.3	9.5	11.6	14.10	94
PANTHERS	2.3	4.4	6.7	7.9	51

BEST PLAYERS: NORWOOD: Jericho, Trotter, Walker, Zorzi, McGuinness, Puopolo, Schulz. **PANTHERS:** Williams, Sandery, Handby, Boyd, Cockshell. **GOALS: NORWOOD:** Walker 7, Rowe 3; Zorzi, Phillips, Evans, Donohue. **PANTHERS:** Williams, Cook, Schmidt, Warren, Handby, McKenna, Thewlis. **NORWOOD:** Nil. **PANTHERS:** Nil. **REPORTS:** Nil. **UMPIRES:** Fila, Cousins, Deboy.