

Tigers' old-school grit beats Crows' structure

SCOTT WALSH

BAYS fans, rejoice. Glenelg ended its winless start to the season and dragged itself from the bottom of the SANFL ladder with a defiant 37-point win over Adelaide last night.

The Tigers were wasteful in front of goal - horribly so, at times - but discovered the sort of ticker so absent in the opening three rounds.

A massive crowd - many, no doubt, drawn by the return game of Adelaide forward Taylor Walker (three goals), crammed into Gliderol Stadium to see Glenelg fire, falter and fire again with an impressive Anzac Day performance.

Ruckman Lachie Button was a force in the ruck for Glenelg but it was the clearance work of Tigers Sam Lonergan, Andrew Bradley, Hayden Jolly and Brad Agnew that hurt Adelaide.

Adelaide had responded from a first-half lapse with a



NOT SO FAST: Tiger Hayden Jolly pulls up Riley Knight of Adelaide in a tackle last night. Picture: SARAH REED

dominant third quarter to trail by just eight points at the final change before Glenelg kicked back with five goals inside the first 14 minutes of the last term.

By the time Andrew Hooper booted his fourth, eight minutes into the last term, it was game over and the Tigers' malaise, for now, was over. The Crows

seemed a chance of stealing the points when Brodie Martin kicked Adelaide's fourth successive goal on time-on in the third quarter. Instead, Glenelg found a way to storm away.

Adelaide started strongly in a messy opening term before Glenelg answered through Hooper, but it was a rare piece

of accuracy for the Tigers.

The home side had patches of brilliance, almost always when it was prepared to move the ball quickly, but too often it wasted its chances.

Mitch Thorp held a superb mark running back with the flight on the end of a long Lachie Earl kick, but missed the set shot from 15m. Then, barely a minute later, Andrew Bradley missed another chance from inside the 50.

When Shaun McKernan goaled for Adelaide in the third minute of the second term, it looked like a repeat of Glenelg's capitulation against Port Adelaide might be on its way.

But suddenly the Tigers got angry. Glenelg kicked seven of the next eight goals in the second quarter to go 27 points clear.

Perhaps it was the unexpected drizzle, perhaps it was a firm "not again".

GLENELG	2.5 10.9 11.14 17.21	123
ADELAIDE	3.4 6.6 11.6 13.8	86

BEST
Glenelg: Lonergan, Button, Alway, Bailey, Thorp, Earl, Bradley.
Adelaide: Cameron, Ellis-Yolmen, Martin, Walker, Battersby, L. Thompson.

GOALS
Glenelg: Hooper 4, Kirkby 3, Thorp 3, Alway 2, Woodall 2, Bailey, Muir, Stretch.
Adelaide: Cameron 4, Walker 3, Martin 3, McKernan, Callinan, Davis-Neale.

UMPIRES
 Avon, Schramm, Glouftsis.

CROWD
 9299 at Gliderol Stadium.

But as conditions got tougher, so did the Tigers. It was classic state league footy - ground-level grit, instinct and quick, direct kicking - that left the handball game of their structured AFL-trained opposition without an answer.

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	%	Pts
South Adelaide	4	4	0	0	416	280	59.77	8
Port Adelaide	4	3	1	0	489	240	67.08	6
Sturt	4	3	1	0	362	270	57.28	6
North Adelaide	4	3	1	0	376	327	53.49	6
Eagles	4	3	1	0	319	330	49.15	6
Central District	4	1	3	0	275	324	45.91	2
Adelaide	4	1	3	0	345	414	45.45	2
Norwood	4	1	3	0	246	308	44.40	2
Glenelg	4	1	3	0	272	475	36.41	2
West Adelaide	4	0	4	0	244	376	39.35	0

PORT ADELAIDE 6.1 8.3 15.4 21.8 (134)
WEST ADELAIDE 2.4 6.6 6.9 11.10 (76)
Goals: Port Adelaide: J Butcher 5 B Newton 3 C Hitchcock 2 A Moore 2 K Mitchell 2 M Harvey 2 B Renouf C Heath A Bruggemann B Haren R Young.
 West Adelaide: .
Best: Port Adelaide: S Summerton B Newton S Colquhoun K Mitchell D Byrne-Jones T Logan.
 West Adelaide: .

SOUTH ADEL 4.0 5.2 8.8 12.12 (84)
CENTRAL DIST 3.5 8.7 9.9 11.10 (76)
Goals: South Adelaide: B Eddy 6 J McMahon E Irra B Macleod N Liddle M Rankine J Cross.
Central District: L Habel 5 B Retzlaff 2 J Glenn T McIntyre S Milne T Goodrem.
Best: South Adelaide: N Liddle B Eddy N Daniel J Cross F Dale J Veide. **Central District:** L Habel T Goodrem J Schiller T Schiller T McIntyre.

EAGLES 6.2 11.4 15.7 17.11 (113)
STURT 6.1 7.6 12.12 15.17 (107)
Goals: Eagles: M Wundke 4 A Ainger 4 M Borholm 2 J Boyd N Batley M Goldsworthy S Lewis L McGregor C Lloyd C Hall. **Sturt:** M Coad 5 M Dulgid 2 B Kane 2 L Krause 2 Z Kirkwood C Calabrese B Hansen M Crocker.
Best: Eagles: M Borholm J Boyd L Powell J Almond N Batley M Wundke. **Sturt:** M Coad B Kane R Tambling A Kurtze C Calabrese M Crocker.

NORTH	3.2 4.3 7.4 14.7	91
NORWOOD	1.2 5.7 7.12 9.16	70

BEST
North: Shannon, Miles, Amato, Mitchell, Campbell, Thiele, Ryswyk.
Norwood: Baulderstone, Panos, Jefferies, Murphy, Webber, Allan.

GOALS
North: Mitchell 4, Miles 3, Burton 2, Campbell, Amato, M. Thring, Shannon, Thiele.
Norwood: Roocke 2, Newton, Bartlett, Bampton, Phillips, M. Evans, Murphy, Donohue.

INJURIES
North: De Leonardis (ankle).

UMPIRES
 Philp, Haussen, Hundemark.

CROWD
 10,014 at Adelaide Oval.

BOB QUINN MEDAL
 Jay Shannon (North Adelaide).

Birthday boy Tex has strong return

SCOTT WALSH

THE knee's good, the hands still work and the goalkicking boot, well, it's as trusty as ever.

Taylor Walker's return to football passed with flying colours last night as the Adelaide forward booted three goals for the Crows' reserves against Glenelg in an extended comeback that lasted until midway through the final term at Gliderol Stadium.

The only thing missing in Adelaide's 37-point loss to the

Tigers was singing the song - but, under the watchful eye of coach Brenton Sanderson and virtually the entire Adelaide playing list and football department, Walker's comeback was never about competition points.

It was about getting through.

And the Broken Hill boy, on his 24th birthday, ticked every possible box despite unexpected drizzle that lasted most of

the game.

The final tally was 12 disposals, 10 of them kicks, for 3.3 with six marks, a tackle and three inside-50s.

Playing without a brace or any strapping on the rebuilt right knee he injured 363 days earlier, Walker was strong and certain on his feet.

The star forward played with total confidence as he kicked a goal in the opening quarter and two more when

the Crows mounted a third-term charge.

It took just seven minutes for Walker to announce he was officially back. His first major came on a breaking lead that he marked and converted from 40m.

He missed another set shot eight minutes later but soon passed a major test when he gathered, stopped, changed direction and snapped on his left boot. The shot missed, but the

knee held tight.

There were a few scares - Walker almost ran head-first into the Adelaide dugout after marking inside the boundary line, then sent Glenelg players flying like tenpins at another marking contest on the wing.

Having played more time than the half most had expected, Walker was eventually put on ice in the final term when the game was beyond Adelaide's reach.