Eagles seal the deal, yet again

ANDREW CAPEL

HOW Glenelg must have wished it had sealed the deals.

Two players it coveted over summer yesterday put it to the sword at Woodville Oval as the Eagles reaffirmed their premiership credentials by romping to their biggest win of the year.

Full forward Michael Wundke (from South) and midfielder James Boyd (Central) were interviewed by the Tigers but opted to join Woodville-West Torrens and are leading the Eagles' flag pursuit.

Wundke had 11 scoring shots and kicked 5.6 yesterday while Boyd was influential with an equal game-high 27 disposals in the easy 50-point victory.

They helped ignite the Eagles, with the home side booting four goals without reply in the opening 13 minutes.

From there it was a cakewalk for Michael Godden's men, who led by a game-high 68 points before conceding three goals in the last three minutes. "They've been terrific pick ups,'" Godden said of his new pair of difference-makers.

"We needed a forward running midfielder and when Boydy, who is very classy, came onto the market it was a no-brainer for us to try to get him.

"And Wundke is just that real power forward who, when you kick it to his advantage, you know 75 per cent of the time he's going to mark it.

"We targeted them and they have been really important to our structure."

After winning just three of their previous eight quarters in wins against top-three contenders Sturt and South Adelaide, the Eagles — entrenched in the top three with a 5-1 record — dominated. They were on track to win all four quarters before slipping up late. But Godden, while disappointed at the final few minutes, was delighted to put a side away early and keep the foot on the throttle until late. "It's a tough competition so any time you win by that sort of margin you've got to be pretty happy," he said.

Eagles veterans Luke Powell (27 disposals) and Luke Jarrad stood tall and young defender Nathan Batley starred, also kicking two goals.

It was a different story for Glenelg. Last year's wooden-spooner was disappointing and has a mountain of work to do to regain credibility.

It sits bottom with a 1-5 record and lacks class and leg speed. However coach Nick Stevens, while keeping his players behind closed doors for 30 minutes after the match, believes it is improving.

"We've got a long way to go and we are under no illusions about that," he said.

"But we are a young group and we are improving.

"Let's judge us in about 10 weeks because we'll have a better idea then of where we are at."

The Tigers had only three goalkickers, with Ruory Kirkby the star performer with four goals against the odds.

SANFL LADDER

	P	W	L	For	Agst	Stk	%	Pts
Port Adelaide	6	5	1	747	403	W5	64.96	10
South Adelaide	6	5	1	582	416	W1	58.32	10
Eagles	6	5	1	518	469	W3	52.48	10
Sturt	6	4	2	547	444	L1	55.20	8
North Adelaide	6	3	3	509	528	L2	49.08	6
West Adelaide	6	2	4	421	452	W2	48.22	4
Norwood	6	2	4	367	452	L1	44.81	4
Central District	6	2	4	401	507	W1	44.16	4
Adelaide	6	1	5	474	625	L3	43.13	2
Glenelg	6	1	5	389	659	L2	37.12	2

DRAW

ROUND 7 **Friday** Norwood v Adelaide (Coopers Stadium). **Saturday** Port Adelaide v South Adelaide (Alberton), Glenelg v Central District (Glenelg), Eagles v North Adelaide (Woodville). **Sunday** Sturt v West Adelaide (Unley).

SANFL DETAILS

SATURDAY

CENTRAL DISTRICT	4.1	8.3	9.7	14.8	92
NORTH ADELAIDE	3.2	6.4	9.6	13.7	85

BEST Central: Glenn, Thomas, McIntyre, Hoskin, Gilbee, Retzlaff. **North:** Campbell, Thiele, Anderson, Shannon, Mitchell, O'Keeffe. **GOALS Central:** Retzlaff 3, Collier, Gilbee, Hill 2, Goodrem, Mabon, McIntyre, T. Schiller, Williams. **North:** Mitchell 5, Thiele 3, Boles, Campbell, Combe, O'Keeffe, Shannon. **INJURIES Central:** Hoskin (hamstring), Goodrem (hamstring). **North:** M Thring (shoulder). **UMPIRES** Haussen, Cook, Hosking. **CROWD** 1774 at Elizabeth Oval.

WEST ADELAIDE	6.1	6.2	11.4	12.7	79
ADELAIDE	2.0	4.2	5.3	6.6	42

BEST West: Beech, Schmidt, Keough, Fielke, Tuck, Caire, Macreadie. **Adelaide:** Lyons, Otten, Thompson, Knight, Siggins, O'Malley. **GOALS West:** Fielke 3, Schmidt, Silverlock, Tuck 2, Fisher, Milne, Nelson. **Adelaide:** McKernan, Knight, Spina, Burns, Robinson, Carroll. **INJURIES Adelaide:** Spina (knee). **UMPIRES** C. Bowen, T. Medlin, M. Sboro. **CROWD** 1750 at Richmond Oval.

SOUTH ADELAIDE	3.2	7.3	9.7	13.13	91
NORWOOD	2.2	2.5	5.7	7.9	51

BEST South: Cross, Gotch, Macleod, Liddle, Giddings, Haines, Fields. **Norwood:** Murphy, Baulderstone, Webber, McGuinness, Bampton. **GOALS South:** Macleod 3, Eddy, Haines 2, Crabb, Gotch, Rolfe, McDonald, Murphy, Veide. **Norwood:** Newton, Panos, Persinos, Phillips, Murphy, Baulderstone, Davis. **INJURIES Norwood:** Chippendale (knee). **UMPIRES** Avon, Schramm, Glouftsis. **CROWD** 1934 at Noarlunga Oval.

YESTERDAY

PORT ADELAIDE	6.5	11.6	17.11	19.12	126
STURT	2.1	6.3	8.5	11.10	76

BEST Port: Biemans, Newton, Clurey, Moore, Gray, Summerton, Logan. **Sturt:** Tambling, Kirkwood, Kane, Hansen, Page. **GOALS Port:** Butcher, Biemans 3, Harvey, Moore, Stewart, Summerton 2, Ah Chee, Bruggemann, Gray, Haren, Neade. **Sturt:** Coad, Hansen, Kurtze 2, Duldig, Evans, Kane, Krause, Tambling. **INJURIES Port:** Haren (hip), Slattery (Concussion), Amon (concussion). **Sturt:** Stephens (jaw). **REPORT Port:** Slattery (misconduct). **UMPIRES** Deboy, Hundertmark, Lally. **CROWD** 2672 at Alberton.

EAGLES	5.5	7.9	14.9	17.12	114
GLENELG	1.3	2.5	6.6	9.10	64

BEST Eagles: Wundke, Powell, Boyd, Jarrad, Batley, Raymond, Lloyd, Lewis. **Glenelg:** Kirkby, Bradley, Thorp, Bailey. **GOALS Eagles:** Wundke 5, Ainger, Batley, Lewis 2, Boyd, Jarrad, Hall, Dunstan, Goldsworthy, Allmond. **Glenelg:** Kirkby 4, Bailey 3, Hooper 2. **INJURIES Glenelg:** Agnew (hamstring), Proud (shoulder), Tapp (ankle). **UMPIRES** Philp, Burke, Sobieraj. **CROWD:** 1747 at Woodville.

HOLD ON: Tiger Lachlan Button and Eagle Luke Jarrad come to grips. Picture: TAIT SCHMAAL