

Tigers' finals hopes now hang in the balance



BIG WIN: North's Luke Wharton gets a handball away.

ROB GREENWOOD

GLENELG has blown a golden opportunity to all but seal its first finals appearance since 2011 after falling to a shock loss to struggling North Adelaide.

The Tigers were slow out of the blocks and wasteful in front of goal as they went down by 16 points to the previously bottom-placed Roosters at Glenelg Oval yesterday.

The result left the Bays fifth heading into next weekend's final minor round, with South Adelaide, Central District and Adelaide snapping at their heels just one win back.

North for its part was hungry, determined and cleaner with the ball as it recorded just its fourth win of a frustrating campaign to climb off the foot of the ladder.

The visitors booted seven unanswered goals in the opening term and dug deep when it mattered to hold off the fast-finishing Glenelg.

The Tigers closed to within 12 points late in the final term thanks to two goals from Ian Milera (three majors) and one to brother Terry Milera.

But teenager Maris Olekalns, who caught the eye throughout, iced the victory in time on with his third goal to complete a rare bright spot for North coach Josh Carr.

"I challenged the players to make a strong start and they responded really well today," Carr said.

"We've almost had to go back a step at times this year ... but I think there's a lot of positives to take into next season." North exploded out of the

	NORTH 7.1 7.5 11.7 15.9	99
	GLENELG 0.3 4.6 8.7 12.11	83

BEST

North: Olekalns, Schwarz, M. Thring, Barns, Clisby, Anderson, Wharton.

Glenelg: Earl, Sawford, Scharenberg, I. Milera, Curran, Vitkunas.

GOALS

North: Olekalns 3, M. Thring, Barns 2, McInerney, Kirk, J. Craig, Ramsey, Anderson, Hender, Harvey, Driscoll.

Glenelg: I. Milera 3, Vitkunas, McBean, T. Milera 2, Barry, Scott, Nicholson.

UMPIRES

Crosby, Galletly, Hundertmark.

blocks to build an unlikely 40-point quarter-time lead.

James Craig got the ball rolling, before impressive big man Alex Barns (two goals) and Olekalns (20 disposals) were on target.

Lewis Hender teed up Keenan Ramsey, Max Thring (24 possessions) goaled twice and the gutsy Joe Anderson (11 tackles) kicked truly as the Roosters ran riot.

Glenelg rallied in the second term to cut North's lead to 17 at the main break.

Josh Scott snapped home to finally get the hosts on board, before two classy goals by the Tigers' Ziggy Vitkunas.

The Roosters bounced back in the third to gain a decisive three-goal advantage, after majors to Lewis Hender and debutant Frazer McDonald.

SANFL ROUND 17



	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	%	Pts
Eagles	16	13	3	0	1262	1006	55.64	26
Sturt	17	12	5	0	1459	1187	55.14	24
Port Adelaide	16	11	5	0	1606	1109	59.15	22
Norwood	16	10	6	0	1406	1284	52.27	20
Glenelg	17	8	9	0	1293	1443	47.26	16
Central District	17	7	10	0	1408	1378	50.54	14
South Adelaide	17	7	10	0	1228	1322	48.16	14
Adelaide	16	7	9	0	1220	1373	47.05	14
North Adelaide	17	4	13	0	1214	1525	44.32	8
West Adelaide	17	4	13	0	1118	1587	41.33	8

	CENTRAL DISTRICT	2.4 8.6 9.11 15.16	106	
	WEST ADELAIDE	3.1 4.6 7.8 7.10	52	

VENUE My Money House Oval, Elizabeth

	NORTH ADELAIDE	7.1 7.5 11.7 15.9	99	
	GLENELG	0.3 4.6 8.7 12.11	83	

VENUE Gliderol Stadium, Glenelg

	STURT	4.2 9.4 12.7 15.10	100	
	SOUTH ADELAIDE	1.1 3.3 7.7 10.10	70	

VENUE Peter Motley Oval, Unley

	CENTRAL	2.4 8.6 9.11 15.16	106		STURT	4.2 9.4 12.7 15.10	100
	WEST	3.1 4.6 7.8 7.10	52		SOUTH	1.1 3.3 7.7 10.10	70

BEST
Central: D. Fort, Hoskin, Holman, Stephenson, F. Fort, Jansen.
West: Green, Burgess, Hill, Noble, Schiller, Rankine.

GOALS
Central: Hoskin 7, Butcher, Holman 2, Waldhuter, Stephenson, Hannath, Presbury.
West: Karpany 2, Middleton, Wasley-Black, K. Stevens, Caire, Keough.

UMPIRES
Morgan, Medlin, Harris.

CROWD
N/A

BEST
Sturt: Battersby, Beard, F. Evans, Wilson, Sutcliffe, Slimming.
South Adelaide: Cross, Bass, Gulden, Rose.

GOALS
Sturt: Beard 6, Sutcliffe 3, Wilson 2, Kirkwood, Slimming, Hansen, Battersby.
South Adelaide: Cross, Rose 2, Veide, Newell, Gulden, Ellison, Bass, Seccull.

UMPIRES
Philp, Broadbent, Burke.

CROWD
N/A

TODAY

EAGLES V ADELAIDE
2.10PM, MAUGHAN THIEM HYUNDAI OVAL, WOODVILLE

PORT ADELAIDE V NORWOOD
2.10PM, ALBERTON OVAL