

Bulldogs hold off Tigers to maintain hope for finals spot



IMPACT: John Butcher was among the Bulldogs' best in yesterday's win over the Tigers in a scrappy affair.

Picture:
BRENTON EDWARDS/AAP

WARREN PARTLAND

IF you want some evidence why Central District and Glenelg are on the bottom half of the SANFL ladder, watch a replay of their clash at Elizabeth Oval yesterday.

Even the frenetic final minutes when the Tigers pushed for victory and the Bulldogs hung on grimly to win by two points could not hide an awful spectacle lacking in intensity.

The positive for the Bulldogs is they jumped above Port Adelaide into the sixth on the points table and only four points behind South Adelaide. Port will front Woodville-West Torrens today.

"It did not feel like we brought a hard edge to the game, our tackling count was really poor," Bulldogs coach Roy Laird said.

"Glenelg looked like it was running on top of the ground late. I take out of that that we were not physical enough early. We were not hard enough, not aggressive enough in all facets of the game."

The Tigers put the home side on notice early with their hunger and ability to find space and work the ball well into attack. Their fine work was rewarded with the first two goals of the contest in the opening eight minutes against a strong wind.

It took 14 minutes for the Bulldogs to string together a polished attacking raid from defence and set up a John Butcher goal.

The stats reflected a tight battle, on the scoreboard any-

 **CENTRAL**
4.1 5.3 7.8 9.11 **65**

 **GLENELG**
2.1 4.4 6.6 9.9 **63**

BEST

Central: T. Schiller, Hanna, Dew, Habel, Barmby.

Glenelg: Nicholson, Curran, Scharenberg, Scott, Proud.

GOALS

Central: Butcher, Hoskin, Richardson 2, Dew, Furnell, Mahoney.

Glenelg: Nicholson, Reynolds 2, Scharenberg, Uebergang, Snook, Scott, Cox.

UMPIRES

Bryce, Schramm, Scott.


CROWD

1482 at My Money House Oval, Elizabeth.

SANFL ROUND 13



| | P | W | L | D | For | Agst | % | Pts |
|------------------|----|---|----|---|------|------|-------|-----|
| North Adelaide | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 1020 | 756 | 57.43 | 18 |
| Norwood | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 1204 | 933 | 56.34 | 18 |
| Eagles | 11 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 908 | 683 | 57.07 | 17 |
| Sturt | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 934 | 729 | 56.16 | 14 |
| South Adelaide | 12 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 988 | 818 | 54.71 | 14 |
| Central District | 12 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 929 | 961 | 49.15 | 10 |
| West Adelaide | 12 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 842 | 995 | 45.84 | 10 |
| Port Adelaide | 11 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 759 | 860 | 46.88 | 9 |
| Glenelg | 12 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 835 | 1016 | 45.11 | 6 |
| Adelaide | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 698 | 1366 | 33.82 | 0 |

| | |
|---|---|
|  NORWOOD 2.9 7.12 9.17 13.24 102 |  WEST ADL 2.2 6.5 7.6 10.10 70 |
|  ADELAIDE 4.3 5.3 7.5 7.9 51 |  SOUTH ADL 1.4 2.8 5.11 6.13 49 |

BEST

Norwood: Grigg, Johnston, Nunn, Panos, Shenton.

Adelaide: Gibson, P Wilson, Murphy, Knight, Jarman.

GOALS

Norwood: A Wilson 3, Johnston, Grigg, Panos, Glenn, Fuller, Dawe, Baulderstone, Shenton, Gerloff, Nunn.

Adelaide: Leigh 3, Atkins 2, Gibson, P Wilson.

UMPIRES

Lewis, Sobieraj, Sboro.

CROWD

2236 at Norwood Oval.

BEST

West: Schiller, Stevens, Middleton, Keough, Anderson, J. Noble.

South: Haines, Cross, Liddle, Cailotto, Heaslip, Brooksby.

GOALS

West: Middleton 3, Burgess, Keough 2, Karpany, Stevens, J. Noble.

South: Heaslip, Fairlie, Biemans, Haren, Liddle, Brown.

UMPIRES

Hundertmark, Bowen, Burke.

CROWD

1410 at Hickinbotham Oval, Noarlunga.

way, and the biggest margin was when the Bulldogs led by 13 points midway through the final quarter.

Both teams got plenty of free players back in defence and the Tigers backline, led by Max Proud, fed off poor movement by the Bulldogs deep into attack to have little trouble escaping. The Tigers found loose players with ease and the uncontested mark tally was extremely high. As was the dropped mark count for both teams.

The Bulldogs put Butcher into the midfield for the final quarter and he secured vital clean possessions.

Tigers coach Mark Stone said the game "slipped away a bit" and he lamented wasted opportunities in front of goal.

"Credit where it is due, they beat us," he said. "We kicked 2.6 from turnovers so we have only ourselves to blame."