Bulldogs cannot be muzzled at the Bay

WARREN PARTLAND

CENTRAL District's form this season has been patchy and it hasn't enjoyed the drive to Glenelg Oval in recent years.

But the Bulldogs gave their season a huge injection of confidence and belief with a comprehensive 33-point victory over the Tigers yesterday.

It was a classic Bulldogs performance under seventimes premiership coach Roy Laird built on relentless pressure, especially in the first half when the visitors all but had the premiership points with a commanding 46-point buffer.

The Tigers responded with improved movement in the second half, but the damage had been done.

"We've won a half in every game," Bulldogs coach Roy Laird said. "At times we have a dominant performance similar to today.

"We had excellent pressure and forced a lot of mistakes in the first half. It was frustrating that we lost the second half.

"We have to get bit more of a killer instinct into us and more consistency."

The Bulldogs' pressure was outstanding in the first half and their hunger for work failed to be matched by the Tigers.

The Tigers had much more of the ball, but were forced into constant turnovers. Each time the ball was coughed up by the Tigers, the Bulldogs pounced with terrific rebound and often found a player in space to create an avenue to goal.

Bulldogs ruckman Darcy Fort had a heavy influence to feed the likes of Travis Schiller. Kyle Jenner shadowed Matthew Snook with telling effect, defender Luke Barmby is back to his best and youngsters Jackson Hately and Cooper Dahms offer plenty.

Perceived pressure was an issue for the Tigers and at times they looked confused with possession. Over use of the handball early led to skill errors.

The inside-50 count at halftime was 30-12 in favour of the Bulldogs.

It took two minutes into the third term for the Tigers to put a goal on the scoreboard, courtesy of Lachlan Hosie when he grabbed the loose ball in the goal square.

The Bulldogs' workrate around the contest dropped away and the Tigers secured more quality ball and were able to travel inside their attacking 50 with more penetration.

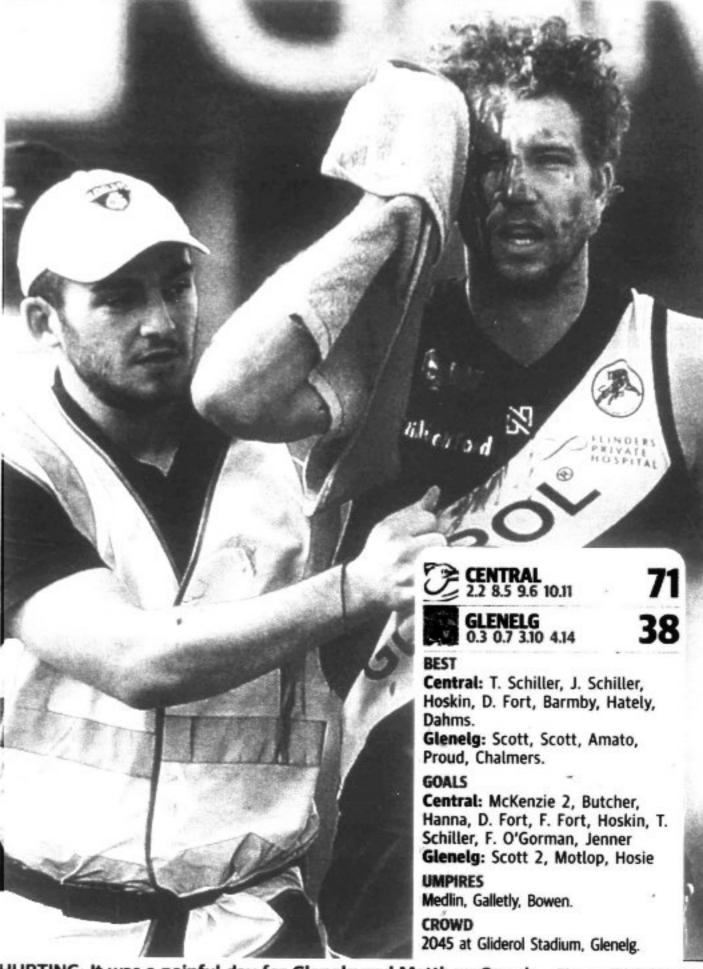
The Tigers cut the margin to 26 points in the third term, but improved Bulldog Isaya McKenzie nailed a late goal.

Josh Scott never stops working for the Tigers and his long bomb against the breeze four minutes into the final term gave the home side some hope.

There was to be only one more goal for the quarter though when defender Fraser Fort kicked truly from 50m to ensure the Bulldogs were safe.

"In the first half we struggled to adapt to the spare they were playing," Tigers football manager Paul Sandercock said.

"In the second half we had more control of the ball and used it better."



HURTING: It was a painful day for Glenelg and Matthew Snook. Picture: TAIT SCHMAAL

SANFL LADDER ROUND 5

ROUND 5					LEAGUE			
	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	%	Pts
Eagles	4	3	1	0	324	202	61.6	7
North Adelaide	4	3	0	1	406	282	59.01	6
Central District	5	3	0	2	441	313	58.49	6
Sturt	4	3	0	1	321	239	57.32	6
Port Adelaide	4	2	1	1	307	233	56.85	5
South Adelaide	4	2	0	2	314	306	50.65	4
Norwood	5	2	0	3	454	472	49.03	4
West Adelaide	4	2	0	2	225	386	36.82	4
Glenelg	5	1	0	4	344	448	43.43	2
Adelaide	5	0	0	5	295	550	34.91	0



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