



2019 SANFL FINALS SERIES

Yellow and back - after long drought

WARREN PARTLAND

GLENELG will challenge Port Adelaide for the SANFL crown after conquering Adelaide by 27 points in the preliminary final at Adelaide Oval yesterday.

It is the Tigers' first grand final appearance since losing to Central District in 2008, with their last flag in 1986 in beating North Adelaide.

In breaking the long drought, Glenelg overcame a shaky second quarter with a brilliant second half.

Magarey Medal winner Luke Partington and Brad Agnew had an influence on the ball and Liam McBean, Luke Reynolds and Josh Scott combined for 12 goals.

"I knew we'd fight back," Tigers coach Mark Stone said.

"We needed to lift after being outplayed in the second quarter when we missed tackles, missed kicks and were not playing our way.

"That second quarter, as bad as it was, we knew it could be fixed."

The Tigers were on fire early in the warm conditions, bagging four goals inside the first eight minutes.

Just a minute into the game, ruckman Jesse White kicked long to the square and Reynolds pulled down a strong mark and nailed the goal.

Reynolds had a quiet game against Port Adelaide in the second semi-final but he was back to his best with his second goal after only five minutes.

The Tigers were doing to the Crows what the Crows had done to Norwood in the first semi-final with the blistering start. The clearances favoured the Tigers 6-0 when Ken Farmer Medallist McBean gave his side a 24-point buffer.

The Tigers were ferocious at the contest and it took the Crows time to settle into the rhythm of the battle.

As the first quarter lengthened, so, too, did the composure of the Crows. Tyson Stengle produced an Eddie Betts impersonation to cut the deficit to 12 points, giving the Tigers plenty to ponder.

The Crows turned up the heat in the second term to take control, getting their hands to more ball and using it effectively to dominate territory.

The Tigers continually fumbled the ball and their defence was under the pump.

But for all the Crows' supremacy, they added just one goal before the Tigers steadied with two of their own.

Patrick Wilson was his usual busy self and racked up many disposals for the Crows while Darcy Fogarty worried the Tigers defence, having a significant influence in the team bagging the final four goals of the second quarter. Shane McAdam, who has also been a positive for the Crows, was again having an impact.

The Tigers had 10 more tackles for the first half, but it was the missed tackles which were punished by the Crows.

Needing a spark, the Tigers got tremendous service from Agnew on the ball as he secured some crucial clearances.

They also began to use McBean far more effectively deep in the forward line, and he rewarded his teammates' improved delivery with three goals for the third quarter to give the Tigers a handy 18-point lead.

In a repeat of the first and third terms, the Tigers put a goal on the scoreboard just a minute into the final quarter when Matthew Snook snapped truly.

The goal inspired the Tigers, fuelled their confidence and gave them belief as they took control to stretch the advantage to 32 points on the back of outstanding enthusiasm and ball movement.

The Crows wasted several prime chances to eat into the gap, but they were being challenged by a side hungry for the lucrative prize.

"We were playing our way and getting some field position, locking the ball in," Crows coach Heath Younie said.

"Even in the third quarter we had our opportunities.

"To their credit, they squeezed the vice and were too good in the end."

Coach so proud of efforts

ANDREW CAPEL

GLENELG coach Mark Stone said he was "enormously proud" of his troops after they rose from the canvas against Adelaide to storm into their first SANFL grand final in 11 years.

The Tigers gave up a four-goal lead to fall eight points behind at half-time of yesterday's clash and their poor finals record appeared to again be haunting them.

But second-year coach Stone has instilled character and toughness into his team and, with the minor premier's season hanging by a thread, they responded emphatically.

Glenelg kicked five goals to one in the third quarter and 10 to four in the second half to win by 27 points as it closed in on its first premiership in 33 years.

"I'm enormously proud," an emotional Stone said. "We had a few sore boys and all we could ask them to do was to hang in, hang tough, and they did.

"We didn't have a lot of rotations at the end and some of the individual efforts, I thought, were unbelievably tough.

"There was a Josh Scott tackle, Marlon Motlop when he beat three (opponents), Aaron Joseph to bring a guy down in the goal square in a tackle.

"I'm probably going to do a couple of our guys an injustice but I'm just enormously proud of their ability to fight through any adversity."

Stone said the grand final was a "massive thing".

"Because it was only a few years ago that they had the tins out and were battling to survive," he said.

"There are a few (Glenelg) teams in the past that have tried to win that elusive flag since 1986 and haven't been able to do it.

"We're certainly not over the line yet and we know it's not going to be easy. It's going to be a massive challenge but we're up for the fight."



CRUNCH TIME: Glenelg's Luke Reynolds and Adelaide's Myles Pohlke compete for the ball as Crows teammates Andy Otten and Matthew Wright join the fray.
Picture: SARAH REED



EYES OF THE TIGER: Tempers flare between Glenelg's Joshua Scott and the Crows' Andy Otten.
Picture: SARAH REED

SCOREBOARD

GLENELG	4.3 6.4 11.7 16.9	105
ADELAIDE	2.2 7.6 8.7 11.12	78

BEST

Glenelg: Agnew, Reynolds, Partington, Scott, White, McBean, Joseph.
Adelaide: Wilson, Fogarty, Boyle, Sholl, McHenry.

GOALS

Glenelg: Reynolds 5, McBean 4, Scott 3, Motlop 2, Snook, Partington.

Adelaide: Gallucci, Stengle, McAdam, Fogarty 2, Hunter, Davis, Mathews.

UMPIRES

Crosby, Hundertmark, Bryce.

CROWD

8974 at Adelaide Oval.

Glenelg's three-headed monster stands tall on the big stage

ANDREW CAPEL

ONE had a game to forget, one got hurt and was in doubt for the preliminary final and the other has hardly played this year because of a badly broken arm.

But with minor premier Glenelg's season on the line against the favoured Crows yesterday, star goalkickers Luke Reynolds and Liam McBean, and attacking powerhouse Josh Scott, stood tall.

Former Port Magpie Reynolds cut a disconsolate figure at the Magarey Medal count on Monday night following one of his worst games of the season in the second semi-final against his former club.

Second for this year's Ken

Farmer Medal behind McBean, with 45 goals, he made some uncustomary mistakes, including missing a shot from the goalsquare and coughing up a goal at the other end with a horrible defensive error.

McBean, who won the medal with 46 majors, bagged three goals but finished the game on the interchange bench with a sore hamstring.

He spent the week rehabilitating the injury and his spot in the preliminary final side wasn't confirmed until just before the game.

Fellow key forward Scott thought his season was over late in the minor round when he had problems with the arm he shattered against South

Adelaide in Round 3.

But with the Tigers' strong season in danger of slipping away — and the club's long, painful ride without a finals win heading towards 4004 days — the star trio stood tall in the cutthroat final at Adelaide Oval.

Reynolds, a former Carlton rookie list player, started the ball rolling. He took a spectacular mark in the goalsquare in the opening minute over Adelaide tall Jordon Butts.

Four minutes later he marked and goaled from 40m as Glenelg got the sizzling start it desperately wanted.

It booted four goals in the blink of an eye to seize a crucial 24-point lead at the eight-minute mark.

McBean was solid early but really turned it on in the third quarter when the Tigers were staring at a straight-sets finals exit, trailing by eight points at the long break after the Crows had dominated the second quarter. He goaled in the opening minute of the term — from a superb pass from Reynolds — and kicked three majors for the quarter.

And Scott, who had been a shadow of his best prior to this contest as he overcame huge odds to play, rose like a Goliath. He kicked an important third quarter goal and a match-sealer in the final quarter, taking several powerful marks.

Reynolds finished with five goals and 11 marks, McBean

booted four majors and took six grabs and Scott bagged three while hauling in six marks. That's 12 goals and 23 marks between them.

On a day where impressive second-year coach Mark Stone needed his key trio to fire, they did, steering Glenelg to its first major round win since the 2008 preliminary final against Sturt.

While midfielders Brad Agnew and Magarey Medallist Luke Partington were terrific, the Bays' triple-headed monster proved the difference.

Glenelg, which hasn't won a premiership since 1986, is now into its first grand final since 2008 — against bitter arch rival Port Adelaide.

