Round 12, 2019 – Glenelg v Eagles @ Woodville – Won 15 pts

Tigers roar back to clinch thriller

ROB GREENWOOD

GLENELG	6.1	7.2	10.5	14.6	**90**
EAGLES	2.3	7.4	10.5	11.9	**75**

BEST **Glenelg** Partington, Snook, Agnew, Bradley, Close, Schott, Curran. **Eagles** Boyd, Hall, Rowe, Foote, Lonergan, Sharrad.
GOALS **Glenelg** Schott 3, McBean, Sumner, Partington, Close 2, Reynolds, Agnew, Bradley. **Eagles** Rowe 4, Boyd, Gaffney, Guilhaus, N. Hayes, Petrenko, Comitogianni, Moore **UMPIRES** Harris, Philp, Crosby.
CROWD 1975 at Maughan Thiem Kia Oval, Woodville.

ADVERTISER.COM.AU

HIGH-flying Glenelg has produced a late flurry to see off a spirited Woodville-West Torrens fightback, and win a gripping SANFL contest at Woodville Oval yesterday.

The scores were locked at 10.5 at three-quarter time, as a thrilling encounter between two high-quality teams headed for a dramatic finish.

Tigers standout Luke Partington (43 disposals) goaled on the run to edge his side in front midway through the final term, only for Nick Moore to strike back for the Eagles.

Timmy Sumner then kicked a clever major around the corner for the visitors and dribbled one through soon after, as time-on approached.

Brad Close sealed the Bays' 15-point success with a composed effort at the death. The gritty win ensured second-placed Glenelg stayed close to ladder-leader Adelaide.

Tigers coach Mark Stone was proud of his charges' response after squandering a 22-point quarter-time lead.

"It's great to win, but it was a hell of a game," Stone said.

"It was tough and had all the elements that you want.

"It was a big challenge for us ... and when they get on a bit of a roll, you've really got to dig your heels in and be quite tough and stick to your plan.

HARD WORK: Glenelg's Marlon Motlop is tackled by Eagle Jack Firns. Picture: MATT LOXTON

"They got under our skin a little bit with some physical stuff ... and good teams are going to challenge you in that way. But one of our mantras is play to the end and that's how it played out."

The gutsy Eagles, meanwhile, lost for the first time in six matches. Coach Sam Lonergan praised his players' commitment and hunger, but rued a string of missed goalkicking chances early in the last term.

"It was one of the best games of SANFL footy I've seen for a long time," Lonergan said. "We're obviously disappointed to lose because we're out here to win, but I was relatively pleased with the way we played today.

"Because the game was so fast backwards and forwards ... whoever landed that first blow in the fourth quarter was going to get a bit of an advantage.

"But we just couldn't capitalise on that."

Glenelg bolted out of the blocks to build a commanding quarter-time advantage.

Luke Reynolds nailed a classy left-footed snap and surprise-packet Tom Schott booted three quick-fire goals to get the Tigers off to a flyer

Spearhead Liam McBean marked strongly and converted, before James Rowe (four goals) benefited from a turnover to notch the hosts' first, 18 minutes into the opening term.

Close hit back for the Bays, but Jack Gaffney nailed a beauty on the move to keep the Eagles in it.

The home side roared back in the second term, kicking five goals to one to take the lead.

Eagles big man Seb Guilhaus was on target from a tricky angle, before Brad Agnew's reply for Glenelg.

From there it was one-way traffic, as Nick Hayes and James Boyd goaled. Rowe bagged two in as many minutes, the second a smart finish after a sweeping team move, to put the Eagles up by two at half-time. The teams went goal-for-goal to end an action-packed third term level.

Eagles Nick Hayes, Guilhaus and Angus Poole blew chances to build a decisive buffer early in the final term, before the Tigers rallied late.

Sumner Springs to Life for Tigers

By ZAC MILBANK

WWW.SANFL.COM.AU

Glenelg's Tim Sumner made the most of his late inclusion to propel his side to a hard-fought 15-point win against Woodville-West Torrens at Maughan Thiem Kia Oval.

Called upon to replace Josh Scott, Sumner booted two late goals and ushered another one over the line to ensure the visitors would break their seven-game losing streak at Oval Avenue.

With scores locked away on 10.5 each at the final change, the Eagles and Tigers traded blows to start what proved to be a pulsating fourth quarter.

Inform Tigers midfielder Luke Partington – who finished with a season-high 43 disposals, six tackles and nine clearances – gave his side a three point lead after positioning himself perfectly to crumb front and centre before snapping truly from 20m.

This came after a run of three consecutive behinds from the Eagles, who were able to restore their advantage when Jack Hayes took a juggled contested mark at centre-half forward.

Returning from a knee injury, Hayes then nailed a composed foot pass to fellow forward Nick Moore, who was left alone in the forward pocket.

Moore converted his set shot from 30m on a slight angle to set the visitors a challenge to wrestle back the lead.

Then former Eagle Sumner made his imprint on the encounter by marking a long ball in from Brad Close who kicked a deep ball to his advantage in the pocket.

Sumner swung around on his right foot and snapped truly to give his side a four-point lead.

Bays forward Darcy Bailey then streaked through the corridor before putting a long ball inside 50m for Sumner to run onto, with the former Gold Coast Sun gathering the loose ball and kicking a checkside grubber under pressure from 10m.

Then Sumner placed his body to advantage on the goal line to ensure Close would finish off a nice piece of play from Bailey to win the ball from 45m out.

It was a frantic flurry for the Bays, who skipped out to a commanding 28-point lead early in the first term as Tom Schott loomed as the unlikely dangerman with three early goals.

But the Eagles, who had won their past five in succession, fought back by restricting the visitors to just one goal in the second stanza as they took a surprise two-point lead into the main change.

James Rowe – who finished with four goals – was regularly hitting the scoreboard while Chris Hall, James Boyd and Jordan Foote were finding more of the ball.

But the Tigers continued to fight with best afield Partington receiving vital support from Andrew Bradley, Matt Snook and Brad Agnew through the centre square.

GLENELG	**6.1**	**7.2**	**10.5**	**14.6 (90)**
EAGLES	**2.3**	**7.4**	**10.5**	**11.9 (75)**

Leading Disposals

Glenelg: Partington 43, Bradley 26, Snook 26, Agnew 23, Curran 23, Chalmers 20, Close 20, Motlop 20, McCarthy 18, Uebergang 18.

Eagles: Hall 30, Boyd 26, Foote 26, Lonergan 24, Poole 17, Sharrad 17.

Goals

Glenelg: Schott 3, Close 2, McBean 2, Partington 2, Sumner 2, Agnew, Bradley, Reynolds.

Eagles: Rowe 4, Boyd, Comitogianni, J. Gaffney, Guilhaus, N. Hayes, Moore, Petrenko.

Magarey Medal: 3 – L.Partington (Glenelg) 2 – A.Bradley (Glenelg) 1 – J.Boyd (WW Eagles)

Round 12 Match Results and Premiership Table

6-Jul-2019							
Elizabeth Oval	**North Adel**	17- 5	107	**d.**	**Cent.Dist**	11-13	79
7-Jul-2019							
Woodville Oval	**Glenelg**	14- 6	90	**d.**	**WW Eagles**	11- 9	75
Norwood Oval	**Adelaide**	13-10	88	**d.**	**Norwood**	6-15	51
Alberton Oval	**Port Adel**	14-15	99	**d.**	**West Adel**	3- 4	22
Noarlunga Oval	**Sturt**	15- 8	98	**d.**	**South Adel**	9- 8	62

	Teams	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst	Pts	%
1	**Adelaide**	12	10	1	1	1025	804	21	56.04
2	**Glenelg**	12	9	2	1	1158	814	19	58.72
3	**Port Adel**	12	8	4	-	1109	937	16	54.20
4	**Sturt**	12	7	5	-	878	788	14	52.70
5	**South Adel**	12	6	4	2	947	868	14	52.18
6	**Norwood**	12	7	5	-	1004	1053	14	48.81
7	**WW Eagles**	12	6	6	-	1055	1003	12	51.26
8	**Centrals**	12	2	10	-	767	1140	4	40.22
9	**West Adel**	12	1	11	-	694	1028	2	40.30
10	**North Adel**	12	2	10	-	861	1063	-	44.75