

# Tenacious Tigers hold on in thriller

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WARREN PARTLAND

GLENELG is closing in on the minor premiership after holding off a final-quarter charge from Adelaide in a clash of the SANFL titans at the Bay yesterday.

The thrilling confrontation reflected the ladder positions, with the Tigers and Crows the top two and challenging each other with a relentless desire for the contest.

Crows veteran Richard Douglas had a chance to snatch victory, only for his set shot fall short.

The siren sounded just seconds later with the ball in the goalsquare as the Tigers hung on desperately.

The win lifted the Tigers two games clear of the Crows.

"We have passed a few tests in the past 12 months. They keep coming and it is a sign of the growth and belief," Tigers coach Mark Stone said.

Both teams had their moments of supremacy, but there was always a response as the two talented, well coached

## SANFL PREMIERSHIP ROUND 15



	Ply	Won	Lost	Drw	For	Against	Pts	%
Glenelg	15	12	2	1	1435	1019	25	58.48
Adelaide	15	10	4	1	1247	1084	21	53.50
Sturt	15	10	5	-	1160	978	20	54.26
Port Adel	15	10	5	-	1364	1158	20	54.08
Norwood	15	9	6	-	1304	1283	18	50.41
WW Eagles	15	7	8	-	1283	1276	14	50.14
South Adel	15	6	7	2	1165	1162	14	50.06
Centrals	15	4	11	-	1021	1361	8	42.86
West Adel	15	2	13	-	852	1261	4	40.32
North Adel	15	3	12	-	1062	1311	2	44.75

units continually fired their best shots.

The Tigers led by 18 points after just eight minutes. The Crows led by 15 midway through the second term and the Tigers had a 20-point buffer at three-quarter time. But there was always an answer.

The Crows' big guns turned up and there was some special moments from Edde Betts and Sam Jacobs, as well as a heavy influence from Bryce Gibbs.

The Tigers had their own highlights, such as the two exceptional marks by the competitions leading goal kicker,

Liam McBean, early in the second term. Young gun Will Gould, who belted Gibbs with a terrific bump, is an 18-year old enforcer.

The pressure from the Crows was often a disruption for the Tigers' movement and created opportunities for the visitors. But the home side kept fighting to find a way.

And captain Chris Curran was one of the Tigers who stood up when the Crows kept coming and coming.

Crows coach Heath Younie said the game deserved to end in a draw.

	<b>GLENELG</b> 4.2 8.3 15.4 15.6	<b>96</b>
	<b>ADELAIDE</b> 4.4 8.7 11.8 14.10	<b>94</b>

### BEST

**Glenelg:** Snook, Partington, Agnew, Curran, McBean, White, Proud.

**Adelaide:** Douglas, Gibbs, Betts, Greenwood, Hutchesson, Seymour.

### GOALS

**Glenelg:** McBean, Reynolds 4; Agnew 2; Close, White, Le Cornu, Partington, Motlop.

**Adelaide:** Betts 4; Douglas 3; Jacobs 2; Gallucci, Fogarty, Greenwood, Jones, Wright.

### UMPIRES

Hundertmark, Lewis, Broadbent

### CROWD

4011 at ACH Group Stadium, Glenelg.

"As a spectacle, that was a great brand of footy," he said.

"Congratulations to Glenelg. They have been the form team for the majority of the year and deserve where they sit.

"We continually strive to put ourselves in winning positions and today we did that. Unfortunately, we were on the other side of the ledger."

By ZAC MILBANK

### It was nothing short of a monumental minor round victory for the Glenelg Football Club.

In an encounter befitting of a finals clash, the Tigers got the ideal tune up for September when it hung tough to overcome a star-studded Adelaide line-up by two points at ACH Group Stadium.

Still without hard-working forward Josh Scott and classy Geelong recruit Cory Gregson, the Bays stayed true to their team mantra to hold firm against the likes of Eddie Betts, Bryce Gibbs, Sam Jacobs and Richard Douglas.

"It's a huge win for the club – that's four big wins in a row," Glenelg midfielder Luke Partington, who led the way for his team with 31 disposals, told Channel 7.

"They (Adelaide) were quality opposition and fortunately we had enough to hold on in the end."

After bolting out of the blocks to kick the first three goals of the game, the hosts went toe-to-toe with the Crows in an entertaining first half which continued to ebb and flow with significant momentum swings.

Former Tiger Darcy Fogarty appeared to give the visitors some meaningful purpose when he nailed a set shot from 40m to give his side an 11-point lead three minutes into the third quarter.

Second-game Tiger forward Darcy Le Cornu had his hair ruffled after his first career goal before a defining three-goal cameo from classy Glenelg forward Luke Reynolds late in the third quarter gave the Bays punch leading into the final change.

"It certainly helps when the ball is coming out of the middle the way it did so it was good to have an impact in the third term," said Reynolds, who booted 4.1 to match his fellow forward Liam McBean.

Powerade Breakthrough Player contender Brad Close nailed a long set shot on the three-quarter time siren to earn a 20-point lead for the Tigers with a quarter to play.

But there was still plenty of sweat to be spent by the Bays as Adelaide veteran Betts, making his Statewide Super League debut, showed why he's been one of the best small forwards in the modern era.

Just three minutes into the fourth quarter, Betts kept his feet to swoop on a loose ball and snap truly along the ground from 15m.

Midway through the final stanza, Betts struck again when he snuck up on Tiger defender Will Gould to catch him holding the ball 20m out directly in front, trimming the lead to just two points.

After Hugh Greenwood's quick snap in traffic fell wide for a behind, McBean soon after had a chance to put the Crows out of the contest when he had a set shot from 45m on a slight angle.

But his shot sailed wide, allowing Heath Younie's men to quickly sweep the ball through to the other end where Greenwood marked strongly and passed to another experienced Crow in Richard Douglas.

Douglas, who finished with 34 disposals and three goals, was unable to boot a fourth when his set shot from 55m fell short at the top of the goal square.

After two stoppages with the Tigers' defenders – including captain Chris Curran who took two memorable marks with the game on the line – desperately holding the ball in, the final siren sounded much to the joy of the Bays' faithful.

"It was a bit shaky towards the end but I was always confident we could win – it was like finals footy really," Curran told Channel 7.

"I was down a bit early so it was good to snare a couple of marks towards the end."

Securing the premiership points has all but sewn up the minor premiership for the Bays, who now boast a four-point advantage over the Crows at the top of the table.

Matthew Snook, Andrew Bradley and Marlon Motlop all played strong roles in the win to assist Partington in the centre square while tough-tackling Brad Agnew enjoyed a strong first half with two goals.

Gibbs was the only player on the ground to crack 40 disposals, displaying strong work-rate to get his touches at various points on the field while Douglas also pushed his claims for an AFL recall.

First-year Crows draftee Chayce Jones lifted his output to tally 19 touches and a goal while Betts' attitude was typically superb as he booted four goals without a miss to go with his 14 disposals.

Veteran ruckman Sam Jacobs had a hard-fought duel against former Collingwood bigman Jesse White, with "Sauce" booting two clever goals in the first term to make his intentions felt.

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### Leading Disposals

Glenelg: Partington 31, Snook 24, Bradley 21, Motlop 21, Curran 19, Scharenberg 18, Agnew 17, Schott 17.

Adelaide: Gibbs 40, Douglas 34, Greenwood 23, Sholl 22, Jones 19, Seymour 19.

### Goals

Glenelg: McBean 4, Reynolds 4, Agnew 2, Close, Le Cornu, Motlop, Partington, White. Adelaide: Betts 4, Douglas 3, Jacobs 2, Fogarty 2, Gallucci, Greenwood, Jones, Wright.

### Round 15 Match Results

27-Jul-2019

Richmond I Centrals 11-11 77 d. West 10-2 62  
Glenelg Glenelg 15-6 96 d. Adelaide 14-10 94

28-Jul-2019

Norwood Norwood 22-11 143 d. North 10-12 72  
Noarlunga Port 15-9 99 d. South 10-11 71  
Woodville Sturt 13-8 86 d. Eagles 8-13 61

### Magarey Medal:

3 – L.Reynolds (Glenelg)

2 – B.Gibbs (Adelaide)

1 – L.Partington (Glenelg)

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