Top Tigers can't shake Roosters

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WARREN PARTLAND

NORTH ADELAIDE	0.3	1.8	4.10	4.15	39
GLENELG	1.7	2.9	3.12	4.15	39

BEST **North** C. Craig, Keller, Smith, Slee, Laurie, T. Schwarz. **Glenelg** Proud, Close, Partington, Betterman.
GOALS **North** Olekalns, Hender, Laurie, Keller. **Glenelg** Reynolds, Partington, Betterman, Close.
UMPIRES Beyer, Crosby, Hundertmark.
CROWD 2454 at Prospect Oval.

GLENELG is all but guaranteed the minor premiership, despite surprisingly being held to a draw by bottom-placed North Adelaide at Prospect Oval yesterday.

The Tigers have climbed five points clear of second-placed Adelaide, but have left the door slightly ajar for the Crows, who will play their Round 16 contest on Sunday.

To claim top spot, the Crows would have to beat West Adelaide, Woodville-West Torrens and South Adelaide, and hope the Tigers lose to the Bloods and Sturt.

The Double Blues and Magpies can still finish top, but would need a miracle.

The inside 50 count gives every indication the Tigers should have claimed the win, having 48 visits compared to 33 for the Roosters. But poor delivery deep into attack and their forwards' inability to break free of the committed Roosters' defence meant they failed to capitalise on the territorial dominance.

"We could not get any flow or movement in our game," Tigers football manager Paul Sandercock said.

"We struggled most of the day to get some clean possession and our entry to the forward line was poor for most of the day.

"I thought we overused the footy by hand and were not as clean with our decision making, handballing rather than kick it and hit up the options."

There was committed pressure from both teams from the outset, and it took 13 minutes for a goal, from Tigers' forward Luke Reynolds, who was accurate from 50m on the run.

Glenelg was impressive when not in possession, with smothers, tackles and harassing, but could not finish off the solid work and get the scoreboard rewards.

The Roosters were using Tanner Smith effectively on the wing, while Jarrad Allmond and Tom Schwarz got their hands to plenty of ball.

Luke Partington racked up disposals, as usual, Brad Close continued his fine season and down back, Max Proud stood firm for the Tigers.

The Roosters' first goal came 12 minutes into the second quarter, when Jake Keller dribbled the ball through from close range.

The inefficiency of both teams continued for most of the contest and there was just one goal in the final term, from young Tiger Finn Betterman.

The Roosters' desperation side was demonstrated by Alex Spina's smother late in the fourth quarter to prevent the Tigers from going inside 50.

"It was a hard, physical game and it ebbed and flowed," Roosters football manager Darryl Wintle said. "The guys are still keen to fight the season out and get ready for an assault on next year."

SANFL PREMIERSHIP ROUND 16

	Ply	Won	Lost	Drw	For	Agnst	Pts	%
Glenelg	16	12	2	2	1474	1058	26	58.21
Adelaide	16	11	4	1	1352	1124	23	54.60
Port Adel	16	11	5	-	1486	1217	22	54.98
Sturt	16	10	6	-	1210	1087	20	52.68
Norwood	16	10	6	-	1413	1333	20	51.46
South Adel	16	7	7	2	1244	1211	16	50.67
WW Eagles	16	7	9	-	1342	1398	14	48.98
Centrals	16	4	12	-	1070	1440	8	42.63
West Adel	16	2	14	-	892	1366	4	39.50
North Adel	16	3	12	1	1101	1350	3	44.92

Tigers snatch last-gasp draw

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By PETER CORNWALL

Tiger Darcy Bailey's last-gasp shot for goal bounced through for a behind to leave scores locked in a pressure-packed, low-scoring draw between league leader Glenelg and bottom-placed North Adelaide on Sunday at Prospect Oval.

Reigning premier North looked like it was finally set to haul itself off the bottom of the ladder, within seconds of pulling off the upset of the season as it led by a solitary point deep into time-on. But Bailey sharked the ball from the front of a pack at centre half-forward and his bouncing shot went this way, then that way before narrowly missing at the southern end. It was fitting a behind ended the hard-fought clash between these old rivals because scores were incredibly level on 4.15 apiece when the final siren sounded.

The draw was the second for the season for the Tigers, who shared the premiership points with South after a thriller at the Bay in Round 3. The Panthers also drew with Adelaide in Round 4, meaning Glenelg still all but sealed the minor premiership for the first time in 10 years, moving five premiership points clear of the second-placed Crows. The Crows have three games to play before the major round – they face West when the split round is completed on Sunday August 11 – while Glenelg has games against West and Sturt to come.

The Tigers overwhelmed North by 43 points at Glenelg in Round 9 but it soon became obvious the Roosters weren't going to make it easy for them on their home patch. Glenelg's attack has been the most potent in the league this season and the Bays have the two leading goalkickers in Liam McBean and Luke Reynolds but the Roosters' desperate defence shut them down and all over the ground their intense pressure stifled Glenelg's free-flowing ball movement and handball. The Roosters now are one premiership point behind ninth-placed West with games against South and the Eagles to come.

Emilie Hill became the second woman to goal umpire a SANFL league game in the North-Glenelg clash. Teenager Allanah Bruno had created history last year in Round 9 when she became the first female goal umpire to officiate in a SANFL league game in the Sturt-West clash.

North threw everything at the Bays early on, Alex Barns, Tanner Smith and Lewis Hender missing set shots at goal before a scrambly game was ignited by a touch of class from Magarey Medal hopeful Luke Partington – again one of the best-afield with 28 possessions – and left-footer Reynolds. Partington set up the running Reynolds who perfectly curled around the first goal of the game after 12 minutes. But the clash was fast becoming one of wasted opportunities and, despite fine conditions and little breeze, the last five scoring shots of the opening term were behinds to the Bays, although young gun Darcy Lecornu hit the post and Jonty Scharenberg's set shot from half-forward was touched on the line.

By the nine-minute-mark of the second quarter a sorry-looking scoreboard showed Glenelg leading 1.8 to 0.5. Livewire Brad Close showed why he is attracting interest from AFL scouts, leaping over the pack for a quality mark, then coolly slotting a goal from 45m on an angle.

The Roosters broke their drought at the 11-minute-mark when Jake Keller read the ball off hands and ran into an open goal. But by half-time there were only three goals to show for a hard-fought game, the Bays burning plenty of chances in leading the forward-50s 26-14 but being only seven points up.

And Glenelg started the third term with three more behinds, Jesse White's long bomb touched on the line and the Bays leading 2.12 to 1.8. But the Roosters were making life difficult for the top side and a patient build-up led to a Billy Laurie mark and a 25m penalty made sure of the goal. Partington put Glenelg back out by nine points and it wouldn't have been surprising if the Tigers had kicked on from here. But with Tom Schwarz, Jarred Allmond and Aidan Tropiano having a strong influence and last year's leading goalkicker Hender starting to look dangerous, the local crowd suddenly was up and about. Hender goaled from a free kick and when dashing Maris Olekalns belted one through on the run in time-on North was in front for the first time since early in the first quarter.

There was another flurry of behinds early in the last quarter, North out by six points before Finn Betterman sharked the ball from a boundary throw-in and snapped a sensational goal, scores level at 4.13 apiece. The Bays momentarily snatched the lead when Brad Agnew bounced a snap through for a behind but Campbell Combe's snap levelled the scores just before time-on.

Lee Minervini looked like being the last-gasp hero for the Roosters when his banana kick from the boundary thundered into the goalpost at the 22-minute-mark. North desperately battled for the win, Alex Spina pulling off a sensational smother from Michael Virgin's attempted shot on goal and big Mitch Harvey holding on to an outstanding pressure mark against Tiger McBean. But then Bailey stepped up with his snapped behind, only seconds left after Ben Jarman booted the ball back out, the siren sounding with the umpire about to bounce the ball on the outer wing.

While the gap between the top and bottom teams didn't look like much, neither side looked delighted with the result. But it was probably a fitting one.

Leading Disposals
North: Schwarz 29, Allmond 27, Craig 22, Smith 21, Spina 21, Tropiano 21.
Glenelg: Partington 28, Scharenberg 25, Snook 25, Proud 20, Close 19.

Magarey Medal: 3 – T.Schwarz (North) 2 – L.Partington (Glenelg) 1 – M.Snook (Glenelg)