

Glenelg earns break after its Bloods-bath

WARREN PARTLAND

THE minor premiership and the rest in the first week of finals belongs to Glenelg after smashing West Adelaide by 75 points at the Bay on Saturday.

With just one round left, the Tigers cannot be dislodged from top spot on the ladder and will contest their first finals series since 2011. As for the disappointing Bloods, they must hope North Adelaide drops its final two games to stave off the wooden spoon.

The Tigers overcame a sloppy first-half performance, when the Bloods were competitive, to go on the rampage after half-time, with six goals in the third quarter and seven in the final term.

"We knew the Bloods would come at us and credit to them, they dig in and have a crack," Tigers coach Mark Stone said.

"We got on top of them in the second half, but there are a few things to work on. I'm really happy with our position and we can manage the list.

"I'm happy on a number of fronts and will certainly sleep

SANFL PREMIERSHIP ROUND 17



	Ply	Won	Lost	Dr	For	Against	Pts	%
Glenelg	17	13	2	2	1593	1102	28	59.11
Port Adelaide	17	12	5	-	1535	1251	24	55.10
Adelaide	17	11	5	1	1384	1164	23	54.32
Sturt	17	10	7	-	1244	1136	20	52.27
Norwood	17	10	7	-	1488	1427	20	51.05
South Adel	17	8	7	2	1343	1231	18	52.18
WW Eagles	17	8	9	-	1382	1430	16	49.15
Centrals	17	5	12	-	1164	1515	10	43.45
West Adel	17	2	15	-	936	1485	4	38.66
North Adel	17	3	13	1	1121	1449	3	43.62

better tonight."

It took 15 minutes for the Tigers to register a goal, courtesy of accurate Luke Reynolds, with the Bloods' pressure putting the heat on the Tigers for a response.

But the Bloods can be their own worst enemy at times, with skill errors often putting themselves under pressure. There is also an inability to nail those critical moments.

Midway through the third quarter, Tiger Tom Schott had to be helped from the field after collapsing with a knee injury. The loss of their teammate seemed to spark the Tigers into action and they

nailed four goals in seven minutes to take the game all but out of reach of the Bloods.

The final quarter was a minor premiership celebration for the Tigers and an embarrassment for the Bloods.

The Tigers dominated the clearances and constantly raided its attack, with Matthew Snook, Magarey Medal favourite Luke Partington and Marlon Motlop racking up the possessions.

The Bloods had the wind, yet the Tigers had 15 inside 50 entries before the visitors had their third.

"We had a poor period in the third and the backs got

	GLENELG	2.5 5.6 10.11 17.17	119
	WEST ADEL.	1.1 3.4 5.5 6.8	44

BEST

Glenelg: Snook, Bradley, Reynolds, Partington, Motlop, Joseph, Bailey
West: Batley, Ryan, C. Fairlie, Hill.

GOALS

Glenelg: Reynolds 4; Bailey 3; Motlop, Close 2; McBean, Snook, Partington, Bradley, Slade, Martini.
West: C. Fairlie 3; Thilthorpe 2; Karpany.

INJURIES

Glenelg: Schott (knee), Gregson (corked hip).
West: Stevens (eye).

UMPIRES

Beyer, Harris, Bowen.

CROWD

2580 at ACH Group Stadium, Glenelg.

sloppy with their positioning, and we got hurt." Bloods coach Gavin Colville said.

"In the last quarter we were completely out-run again, we got completely out-worked."

Glenelg Seals Minor Premiership

By ZAC MILBANK

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Glenelg secured its first minor premiership since 2009 with a strong second-half performance to eclipse West Adelaide by 75 points at ACH Group Stadium on Saturday.

Despite a scratchy first half, the Tigers clicked into gear during the third quarter as they engineered their biggest win of the season.

And it took an unfortunate knee injury to Bays utility Tom Schott to spark the hosts, who made the most of a lengthy stoppage as Schott left the field.

Within 30 seconds of the former Bloods player limping to the boundary, Brad Agnew fed Luke Reynolds who goaled on the run from 40m.

Mark Stone's men then piled on the next three goals in succession – with another to Reynolds, his Ken Farmer Medal rival Liam McBean and youngster Todd Slade, who was appearing in his first game of the season.

It allowed the Bays to stretch the half-time margin of 14 points to a match-defining 36 at the final change as they booked direct entry to the Second Semi-Final and a week's rest at the start of the major round.

"It was a good win in the end as we had a bit to play for – to win the minor premiership and get that week off," Glenelg captain Chris Curran told Channel 7 after the match.

"This (Glenelg FC) has been a pretty dark place for the last few years and

I've been on that journey (back up the ladder) but it's certainly not finished yet.

"It's a matter of embracing it, we still want to hunt teams and go after them each time."

Reynolds, who has now closed the gap on McBean in the race to be the competition's leading goal-kicker, finished with 4.3 to with his 20 disposals, six marks and seven tackles. He now sits on 43 goals for the season, just three behind McBean, who only managed one against the Bloods.

"Hopefully I will put him (McBean) out at training this week and keep him on the sidelines," Reynolds said with a laugh.

"It's just good working with Beany, he's a big lad so playing alongside of him is very enjoyable."

But Reynolds, McBean, Darcy Bailey (three goals) and Brad Close (two goals) wouldn't have had the opportunities they received without the outstanding midfield work done by Matt Snook, Luke Partington and Marlon Motlop.

Snook was tremendous in the clinches before finishing with 37 disposals and a mammoth 16 clearances to shade Partington and Motlop who both tallied in excess of 30 possessions.

In defence, Aaron Joseph marshalled the back six with great composure and with fierce tackling as Tiger team-mate

Brad Agnew continually put the clamps on his opponents.

The only negatives from the Bays' final home match of the season came in regard to the injury to Schott and former Cat Cory Gregson, who didn't return after half-time after copping a knock to the front of his knee.

After a spirited first-half performance, the Bloods were unable to sustain their effort following the main change, mirroring several of their matches this season.

The Round 17 fadeout was due in part to the loss of star midfielder Kaine Stevens, who left the field early in the second term after receiving an accidental poke in the eye.

In Stevens' absence, Nathan Batley and Patrick Fairlie led the way on the disposal count with 26 each, while Fairlie's older brother Connor looked lively throughout the afternoon en route to kicking three goals.

Former skipper Chris Schmidt also had 26 touches while spending time through the midfield while teenager Riley Thilthorpe continues to show plenty of promise, booting two goals and taking six marks from limited opportunities.

West, just one premiership point ahead of tenth-placed North Adelaide, still has plenty to play for in its final match of the season against Norwood next Friday night as it looks to avoid the wooden spoon.

GLENELG	2.5	5.6	10.11	17.17	(119)
WEST	1.1	3.4	5.5	6.8	(44)

Leading Disposals

Glenelg: Snook 37, Partington 34, Motlop 31, Bradley 27, Joseph 24, Agnew 23, Curran 23, Gould 23, Scharenberg 21, Reynolds 20.

West: Batley 26, P. Fairlie 26, Schmidt 26, Wasley-Black 26, Dunkin 24, Hill 23, Willsmore 23, Waite 21, Anderson 20, Levicki 20.

Goals

Glenelg: Reynolds 4, Bailey 3, Close 2, Motlop 2, Bradley, Martini, McBean, Partington, Slade, Snook.
 West: C. Fairlie 3, Thilthorpe 2, Karpany.

Magarey Medal: 3 – M.Motlop (Glenelg) 2 – M.Snook (Glenelg) 1 – J.White (Glenelg)

Round 17 Match Results

16-Aug-2019

Norwood Oval Cent.Dist 13-16 94 d. Norwood 11-9 75

17-Aug-2019

Glenelg Oval Glenelg 17-17 119 d. West Adel 6-8 44

18-Aug-2019

Unley Oval Port Adel 6-13 49 d. Sturt 4-10 34

Noarlunga Oval South Adel 15-9 99 d. North Adel 2-8 20

Woodville Oval WW Eagles 5-10 40 d. Adelaide 4-8 32