

Dominant Eagles send flag message



	EAGLES	4.3	10.11	10.12	16.15	111
	GLENELG	1.1	1.1	3.7	4.9	33

BEST
Eagles: Foote, J. Hayes, Wehr, Sinor, McNeil, Tsitas, Rowland, Rowe.
Glenelg: Snook, Partington, Nicholson.
GOALS
Eagles: Foote 3, J. Hayes, N. Hayes, Von Bertouch, Lee 2, Rowe, Lonergan, Tsitas, Poole, Redden.
Glenelg: McBean 2, Kluske, Reynolds.
INJURIES
Eagles: Lonergan (calf), Mansell (Achilles), Goldsworthy (glute).
Glenelg: Bradley (head knock).
UMPIRES
 Bowen, Scott, Bryce.
CROWD
 1399 at Woodville Oval.

Woodville West-Torrens' Jordan Foote snaps a goal as Glenelg's Callum Park is shepherded out of the contest yesterday. Picture: Dean Martin

ANDREW CAPEL

THAT'S how you make a premierships statement. Red-hot flag favourite Woodville-West Torrens yesterday flexed its muscle to ruthlessly dismantle reigning premier Glenelg and show why it is the team to beat in next month's finals. Sending an imposing message to their rivals, the Eagles were so dominant they made last year's heavy-weight look like a light-weight, winning by 78 points at Woodville Oval in a highly-anticipated match which was effectively over at quarter-time. Kicking against a four-goal wind in the opening term, the Eagles made all the running,

booting 4.3 before the Tigers had scored and restricting the visitors to just one major – after the siren – for the term. They put the game to bed with a 6.8 to scoreless second quarter to break away to a match-winning 64-point lead, before cruising to victory in the second half. The Eagles' emphatic win sewed up a top-two spot and the double chance in the finals with two rounds left. And it left Glenelg embarrassed and locked in a fight with South Adelaide and Norwood for the bottom two spots in the top four. Significantly, the Bays' percentage took a big hit, slumping from 52.6 to 50.3. In contrast, the Eagles percentage rose from a competit-

ion-best 59.3 to 61. This was their best performance for the season, which has netted 10 wins and just two losses. The statistics said it all. When the game was on the line in the first half, the Eagles – playing a side which had won five of its previous six games – showed their class and toughness. They restricted Glenelg to a paltry eight inside-50s in the opening half, while having a whopping 38 themselves. Midfielders Jordan Foote (32 disposals, three goals) and Jo Sinor (30 disposals, eight clearances), key utility Jack Hayes (21 disposals, two goals) and play-making defender Jacob Wehr (29 disposals) were outstanding for

the home side. Top AFL draft prospect Lachlan Jones – tied to Port Adelaide as a Next Generation Academy prospect – took a high-flying mark of the year contender. First-year Eagles coach Jade Sheedy said he was proud of his team's performance and ruthless attitude. "We base our game around pressure and we brought that early against the wind, which set the tone for the rest of the game," he said. "I'm proud of the group for being able to come mentally switched on every week, but we need to stay humble because while we've given ourselves an opportunity, there's still a lot of work to do."

	NORTH	3.3	5.11	13.17	15.20	110
	CENTRAL	1.1	5.3	5.3	12.6	78

BEST
North: C. Combe, Chalmers, Harvey, W. Combe, Allmond, Jarman, Hewett.
Central: Boyd, J. Schiller, Presbury, T. Schiller, Pisani.
GOALS
North: W. Combe 4, Hender, Miller, Szekely, Young 2, Harvey, Allmond, Ramsey.
Central: Butcher, Hoskin 3, J. Schiller, Milne, Boyd, Stephenson, Fort, Habel.
INJURIES
North: Barns (cut knee), Smith (ankle).
UMPIRES
 Crosby, Burke, Bennett
CROWD
 1692 at Prospect Oval.

	NORWOOD	2.4	4.11	6.13	10.16	76
	STURT	4.4	4.5	7.7	11.7	73

BEST
Norwood: Bastinac, Barry, McKenzie, Shenton, Rokahr, Douglas, Nunn, Baulderstone.
Sturt: Battersby, Colquhoun, Davis, Page, Henderson, Lewis, Wundke.
GOALS
Norwood: Barry 3, Bastinac, Wilson 2, Pinyon, Rokahr, Nunn.
Sturt: Evans 3, Grivell, Houlahan, Morrison 2, Davis, Aidyn Johnson.
UMPIRES
 Sobieraj, Schramm, Harris.
CROWD
 2729 at Norwood Oval.

	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
Eagles	12	10	2	0	957	613	60.96	20
North Adel	12	9	3	0	909	775	53.98	18
South Adel	12	7	5	0	924	764	54.74	14
Glenelg	12	7	5	0	924	914	50.27	14
Norwood	12	6	6	0	888	909	49.42	10
Sturt	12	6	6	0	751	789	48.77	10
Central District	12	2	9	1	781	1050	42.65	3
West Adel	12	1	10	1	723	1043	40.94	3

	SOUTH	1.5	6.8	12.11	17.13	115
	WEST	2.1	4.3	6.4	8.7	55

BEST
South: Hunter, Cross, Heaslip, Haines, Broadbent, Schwarz, Milsom, Andrews.
West: Johnson, Turner, Stevens, Fairlie.

GOALS
South: Schwarz, Cross 3, Wilkinson, Milsom 2, Hunter, Horne, McCreery, Heaslip, Sampson, Andrews, Overall.
West: Johnson 3, Ellem, Haysman 2, Keough.
UMPIRES
 M. Sboro, S. Morgan, R. Hundertmark.
CROWD
 1297 at Hisense Stadium.

By ZAC MILBANK

Woodville-West Torrens has all but sewn up the Statewide Super League minor premierships after a 78-point demolition of reigning premier Glenelg at Maughan Thiem Kia Oval. Still a game clear of second-placed North Adelaide in top spot, the well-balanced Eagles appear set to strengthen their hold on first-ranking with clashes against bottom pair West and Central to close out the minor round. And if their Round 12 performance against the Tigers is anything to go by, Jade Sheedy's charges are going to be very tough to shake with a double-chance in the major round. Setting up the convincing victory with a commanding opening term into the wind, the Eagles were then able to cruise to victory across the final three quarters while holding Glenelg to its lowest score for the season. With Jordan Foote returning to his top form with 32 disposals and three goals, coupled with exciting teenager Lachie Jones soaring high for a contender for Mark of the Year, the hosts were simply irresistible. The only concern for the Eagles will be possible injuries to veteran Matt Goldsworthy (glute), Jesse Lonergan (calf) and Rhyhan Mansell (ankle), with the latter two sporting ice packs after the final siren. "Hopefully it's (glute injury) not too serious, we'll get it scanned and see how it is," Goldsworthy told Channel 7 after the match.

"Our first quarter into the breeze really set us up for the day. "It's important to get that top two so you get two shots at winning the grand final, we've got West and Central to come but we can't take them lightly either." The Eagles were on from the first bounce as they booted 4.3 to 1.1 in the opening quarter into the strong wind which was favouring the northern end. Their dominance was beginning to show on the scoreboard but it was well and truly on the stats sheet as they collected 39 more disposals, five more clearances, five more inside 50s and 15 more marks in the opening half-an-hour. Glenelg's sole major for the first half came when Carl Nicholson intercepted passed to Jack Kluske, who goaled from a 35m set shot on the quarter-time siren. Either side of the Bays' lone goal, the Eagles created havoc as they set up a 64-point half-time lead while piling on 6.8 to no score, resulting from having the first 17 inside 50s of the second term. And the play of the day came in the 24th minute of the second stanza when Jones flew from the back of the pack to take an eye-catching mark worthy of winning the 2020 Digital Pass Mark of the Year. The ball ended up in the hands of Jack Hayes, who made the most of a relayed free kick to put his side up by 56 points with a goal from point-blank range. As Foote returned to the touch which earned up last year's Eagles Club Champion Award,

he had plenty of helpers as Joseph Sinor (30 disposals, 12 tackles, eight clearances), Lachie McNeil (25 disposals) and James Tsitas (23 disposals and a goal) joined in on the act. Impressive defender Jacob Wehr had 29 touches in defence while Sam Rowland had 25 as Jack Hayes was again a strong influence with 21 disposals, six marks, six tackles and two goals. It was an afternoon to forget for the Bays, who had Matthew Snook and Luke Partington collect 47 disposals between them as former captain Andrew Bradley flew the flag for the visitors with his tremendous courage. After taking a gutsy mark running back with the flight in the second term, Bradley was at it again in the middle of the ground midway through the third term. The Tigers veteran didn't flinch as he collided with Eagle Mansell, leaving Bradley dazed and forced to leave the ground with a possible fractured cheekbone. Eagles veteran Pat Giuffreda gets around Glenelg's Todd Slade. Picture – Cory Sutton



Eagles veteran Pat Giuffreda gets around Glenelg's Todd Slade. Picture – Cory Sutton