

Glenelg runs amok late to ruin farewell

ANDREW CAPEL

PREMIER Glenelg spoiled Sturt's retirement party as Liam McBean kicked two late goals to grab a share of the Ken Farmer Medal at Unley yesterday.

The Tigers tuned up for the finals – and the defence of last year's drought-breaking flag – with a superb final quarter comeback after they looked dead and buried at the last change, trailing by 19 points.

With the Double Blues trying valiantly to give retiring premiers trio Sam Colquhoun, Tom Harms and Byron Sumner a winning send-off, Glenelg flexed its muscle to show it could play a major role in next month's finals.

The Tigers, who fell 22 points behind late in the third quarter and were without key men Luke Partington, Max Proud and Luke Reynolds as they cast an eye towards the finals, dominated the last term.

They had the first 12 inside 50s and kicked 5.2 without reply to win by 13 points.

Star full forward McBean, who won last year's Ken Farmer Medal as the SANFL leading goal-kicker, booted goals at the 11 and 13-minute marks of the final quarter to finish with four and tie for the medal with Woodville-West Torrens small forward James Rowe on 38.

Rowe started the day three goals clear, but managed just one in the minor premier's shock loss to Central District.

"It was a terrific final term from our boys," Glenelg acting captain Marlon Motlop said.

"We knew that Sturt would come out swinging because they had some really good clubmen playing their final games, but we got back to the contest in the last quarter, put our heads over the footy and were able to generate some scoring shots from it.

"It was nice to win and take

consecutive victories (they beat Central last week) into the finals."

Glenelg finished the minor round with a 9-5 win-loss record and will play South Adelaide in the knockout semi-final at Adelaide Oval next Sunday.

Small forward Darcy Bailey made the most of a rare chance in the midfield, finishing with 27 disposals and a goal, while Magarey Medal fancy Matthew Snook, tough midfielder Brad Agnew, McBean and Motlop were other key contributors in the win.

Sturt, whose players chaired best-afield Colquhoun (31 disposals, two goals), Harms and Sumner from the ground, could have put the game out of the Tigers reach early, kicking 2.8 in the opening term.

It was the better side for three quarters, but left the door ajar and Glenelg pushed it wide open.

"It's always disappointing to

	GLENELG	3.2	6.5	7.6	12.8	80
	STURT	2.8	5.9	9.13	9.13	67

BEST

Glenelg: Bailey, Snook, Agnew, Motlop, Parks, Allen, McBean, Park.

Sturt: Colquhoun, Fahey-Sparks, Harms, Davis, Battersby, Wundke, Henderson.

GOALS

Glenelg: McBean 4, Kluske, Motlop 2 Slade, Weir, Yates, Bailey.

Sturt: Evans, Grivell, Colquhoun 2, Fahey-Sparks, Penfold, McEntee.

UMPIRES

Crosby, Sobieraj, Harris.

CROWD

1224 at Unley Oval.

finish the year with a loss and particularly in that manner," said Sturt coach Nathan Grima, whose side finished sixth with a 5-9 record.

"It would have been nice to have sent the retiring boys off with a win."

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By ZAC MILBANK

Glenelg's Liam McBean earned his second Ken Farmer Medal in succession when his four-goal haul helped the Tigers overrun Sturt by 13 points at Peter Motley Oval.

Trailing the Eagles' James Rowe by three goals going into the contest, McBean was within one of Rowe when he booted two first-half majors as the Bays led by two points at the main change.

But when Rowe kicked his solitary major for the afternoon against Central in the third term, McBean's hopes of finishing at the top of the goal kicking list were diminishing rapidly.

The Tigers had endured a lacklustre third quarter against the Double Blues, who led by 19 points at the final change in their desperation to honour retiring premiers trio Tom Harms, Sam Colquhoun and Byron Sumner.

Things changed rapidly in the last quarter though, when Jack Kluske's third major for the afternoon inside the opening two minutes put the Tigers within 13 points.

Then McBean produced a stunning goal assist for Marlon Motlop, palming the ball behind his back into the path of the Bays' smooth-moving goal sneak who kicked truly along the ground to trim the deficit to five points.

McBean's show was just getting started as he then tapped the ball into his own path, gathered the bobbling ball and snapped truly from 35m to give Glenelg the lead and pull himself within one major

	Standings							
	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
Eagles	14	11	3	0	1151	735	61.03	22
North Adel	14	10	4	0	1039	916	53.15	20
South Adel	14	9	5	0	1127	851	56.98	18
Glenelg	14	9	5	0	1081	1057	50.56	18
Norwood	14	6	8	0	977	1082	47.45	12
Sturt	14	5	9	0	872	954	47.75	10
Central District	14	3	10	1	945	1211	43.83	7
West Adel	14	2	11	1	814	1200	40.42	5

of Rowe.

The Tigers' No.1 then nailed a 50m set shot on a slight angle to put his team out to a seven-point advantage, simultaneously putting himself level with Rowe in the race for the Ken Farmer Medal with 38 goals.

It would be enough to secure his side a come-from-behind victory once Darcy Bailey capped off one of his best games of League footy with the sealing goal entering time-on of the final term.

Bailey made the most of the absence of Magarey Medallist Luke Partington – rested with knee soreness – thriving on his midfield time to collect 27 disposals, five clearances and nine tackles.

Jack Oatey Medallist Matthew Snook tallied 27 disposals, six tackles and six clearances while former West Coast Eagle Matt Allen registered 21 touches and eight tackles for the visitors.

Veteran midfielder Brad Agnew successfully returned from his ankle injury to have 18 disposals and a massive 15 tackles while premiers captain Chris Curran played just his fifth game of the season to tally 17 possessions and six marks.

The Double Blues appeared headed for a strong finish to the season by opening up their three-goal lead at the last change, built on an advantage at the clearances and to that point – inside 50 entries.

But they couldn't sustain their effort in the last half-an-hour as Colquhoun led the way on the disposal sheet with 31 to go with his five tackles and six clearances.

Strong-bodied Abe Davis had 25 disposals while Sturt captain James Battersby filled his stat categories with 21 possessions, 11 tackles and 10 clearances.

Dual premiers defender Tom Harms finished his career with a solid performance, having 18 disposals five tackles and a near contender for Channel 7 Goal of the Year had it not faded to the right for a behind after weaving through a series of opponents in the first term.

And the final retiree Sumner – who had 13 disposals and three tackles – showed his trademark dash through the corridor to set up Jack Penfold with a goal in the opening quarter.