

Hard-tackling Tigers hold off late Redlegs charge

ANDREW CAPEL

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GLENELG overcame a clearance shellacking to hold off fast-finishing Norwood in the SANFL premiership season opener at the Bay on Saturday.

Belted 47-30 in clearances by the Redlegs, with midfielders Nik Rokahr (nine) and Matthew Nunn (six) and ruckman Harry Boyd (eight) combining for 23 between them, the Tigers were able to withstand the on-ball assault through tenacious tackling and a more potent attack to win by 15 points.

“We pride ourselves on our clearance numbers and to be beaten so comprehensively in that area wasn’t good enough from us,” Glenelg coach Brett Hand said. “Full credit to Norwood, which was really good around the ball, so we’ve got some work to do there but we were strong in some other areas we’ve worked on during the pre-season.

“I thought our defence held up really well, our front half pressure was good, we scored from turnovers and there was some good ball movement.

	GLENELG	76
	2.4 5.6 10.9 11.10	
	NORWOOD	61
	0.5 3.8 5.9 8.13	

CAPEL'S BEST

Glenelg: Stretch, Durdin, Partington, McBean, Turner, Lyons, Allen.

Norwood: Hamilton, Rokahr, Boyd, Kennerley, Nunn, Jarvis, Donnelly.

GOALS

Glenelg: McBean 3, Allen, Yates, Hosie, Leck, Stagg, Kuller, Partington, Holder.

Norwood: Jarvis 3, Rokahr 2, Taheny, Kennerley, Nunn.

UMPIRES

Harris, Galletly, Medlin.

CROWD

2674 at Glenelg Oval.

“But Norwood’s contest work was very good and our midfield needs to get better.”

After a tardy start, Glenelg broke to a six-goal lead in the third quarter and then held off a late charge from a young, re-

built Redlegs team. Norwood kicked the final three goals in eight minutes to give the home side a late fright.

“I thought the game was very even for big parts of it but Glenelg was able to do some damage in short bursts in the second and third quarters,” Redlegs coach Jade Rawlings said. “To get back to within

three goals late was a good effort but we missed some opportunities to mark inside 50 and also with some goalkicking.”

The Redlegs had the game’s better players, with Declan Hamilton starring with 34 disposals, while the Tigers’ best were defenders Billy Stretch and Sam Durdin.



Norwoods Henry Nelligan tries to break clear against Glenelg on Saturday. Picture: Brenton Edwards

Tigers take down Redlegs in season opener

– Brett Hand, Senior Coach

glenelgfc.com.au

ACH Group Stadium, Saturday 2nd April, 3:10pm

Welcome back to the 2022 season! It was so good to see so many supporters here at ACH Group Stadium for our round 1 game against Norwood. With the reserves pulling off a remarkable win in the last minute of the game it provided a good starting platform for the league team.

With nine changes to the grand final team and six debutants, it was an exciting day for the club and the debutants’ families. Congratulations to Hugh Stagg, Cole Gerloff, Corey Lyons, Riley Holder, Nick Leck and Nic Minchin on making their debuts for the club. It was particularly a

long time coming for Nick Leck, who has waited five years to make his league debut. It was exciting to see these young guys rewarded for outstanding preseasons. All performed well and their work rate on the day was impressive, with Nick, Hugh and Riley kicking their first goal for the club.

We always knew Norwood were going to be a formidable opponent and that is what we got. It was a tough, hard contested game which saw them win the stoppage battle, but we were able to capitalise on turnovers and score from them. I thought our defence stood up really

well. It was great to see Billy Stretch back, fully fit and providing run for us, along with Jordan Murdoch, who has returned to club after 11 years in the AFL System, and Matt Allen, who provided some good run and carry for us.

It was pleasing to see our effort and work rate at a level that allowed us to pressure Norwood and keep at them for four quarters. Claiming the points was a good way to start the year and I look forward to seeing improvement in the squad as the season progresses.