

Tigers' depth roars in huge statement

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NO Turner, no Durdin, no problem.

A ruthless and well-drilled Glenelg sent a message to the rest of the competition that it could still be a serious premiership contender this season, despite being robbed of key men Brett Turner and Sam Durdin in the AFL mid-season draft, with a commanding 67-point win against Sturt at the Bay Oval on Monday.

The Tigers turned the Queen's Birthday blockbuster into a surprisingly one-sided affair by producing an outstanding defensive display that kept the Double Blues goalless in the first half and to only four goals for the game.

Playing its second match – the first was an unconvincing five-point victory against winless West Adelaide – since cruelly losing explosive mid-fielder Turner (to Adelaide) and key defensive pillar Durdin (Carlton) in the mid-year draft, Glenelg made a statement against a strong Sturt side that it has the depth to still be a major player.

With emerging tall Jordan Moore admirably filling Durdin's big boots in defence, and Brady Searle and Cole Gerloff, who shut down Double Blues playmaker Patrick Wilson, covering for the loss of Turner, the Bays took a big step towards securing a coveted top three spot and the double chance in the finals with their most complete performance of the season.

"That was probably the first four-quarter game we've played since I've been here," second-year Tigers coach Brett Hand said of his 8-2 side, whose losses against Port Adelaide and North Adelaide were by less than a kick.



Glenelg's Darcy Bailey is tackled by Sturt's Jared Dakin at Glenelg Oval. Picture: Matt Loxton

"We've always had lapses of concentration but not this week, which showed some maturity, and I was really impressed with the way we went about things.

"You can't replace Brett or Sam but it creates opportunities for others, and Moore's been screaming to get into the league side for 18 months, and Searle has relished his opportunity to play league footy."

Sturt's 4.10 (34) was its lowest score against Glenelg – nine points fewer than its previous lowest total of 43 points in 1988 and 2003.

The Tigers were magnificent defensively, stopping the Double Blues' short kick and mark game from the back half and applying elite pressure all over the ground.

Offensively, Glenelg also reigned supreme.

Midfielders Matthew Snook, who was best afield with 31 disposals, nine clearances and two goals, Corey Lyons, Luke Partington and Gerloff (11 tackles) were dominant while key forwards Liam McBean (four) and Lachie Hosie and Luke Reynolds (two) kicked eight goals between them.

Small forward turned defender Darcy Bailey made his 100th game memorable with a game-high 35 disposals.

Sturt, which lost key forward Daniel Schoell to what appeared to be a serious knee injury after only three minutes, has now lost three of its past four games to slump to fifth, with a 6-4 record, after

sitting top a month ago.

It took until three minutes into the third term to kick its first goal through Josh Rentsch.

With Wilson (16 disposals) being blanketed by former

Redleg Gerloff, and tough ballwinner Tom Lewis sidelined by injury, the Double Blues could not get any drive in the centre square, where Snook, Lyons and Co. flexed their muscle.

	GLENELG	2.3	6.6	10.11	15.11	101
	STURT	0.2	0.4	2.5	4.10	34

BEST
Glenelg: Snook, Bailey, Lyons, Gerloff, Partington, Bradley, McBean, Proud.
Sturt: Page, Battersby, Voss, Thiele.

GOALS
Glenelg: McBean 4, Reynolds, Hosie, Partington, Snook 2, Yates, Lyons, Searle.
Sturt: Rentsch, Richards, Wilson, Hone.

INJURIES
Sturt: Schoell (knee), Wundke (ankle).

UMPIRES
Hundertmark, Hughes, Lewis.

CROWD
4364 at Glenelg Oval.

	PLAYED	WINS	LOSSES	FOR	AGAINST	POINTS	PERCENT
NORTH ADELAIDE	10	8	2	856	644	16	57.07%
GLENELG	10	8	2	850	674	16	55.77%
ADELAIDE	10	7	3	959	741	14	56.41%
STURT	10	6	4	746	695	12	51.77%
WOODVILLE-WEST TORRENS	10	6	4	691	645	12	51.72%
NORWOOD	10	5	5	735	669	10	52.35%
SOUTH ADELAIDE	10	5	5	672	694	10	49.19%
PORT ADELAIDE	10	3	7	683	831	6	45.11%
CENTRAL DISTRICT	10	2	8	604	840	4	41.83%
WEST ADELAIDE	10	0	10	628	991	0	38.79%

Tigers make a huge statement against Double Blues

– Brett Hand, Senior Coach

glenelg.com.au

ACH Group Stadium, Monday 13th June, 2:10pm

With a perfect winter morning greeting us on the Queen's Birthday, it provided the ideal weather for a bumper crowd and a good game against a highly rated young team in Sturt. We knew we hadn't played our best footy over the past couple of weeks, and so after the 10 day break we came in well prepared for a tough contest against Sturt.

Our defensive pressure and full team defence was as good as it has been for the year, and in the first half we managed to keep Sturt goalless while kicking six goals ourselves. Our stoppage work was very good and I was happy with our tackling pressure which

allowed us to capitalise on turnovers. Jordan Moore has been waiting for his chance to cement a spot in the league team and he grabbed his chance this week with both hands. He was very good with his 1v1 contests, started some good ball movement and looked comfortable at this level. Cole Gerloff was playing a role for us in the midfield and was providing great tackle pressure and nullifying Sturt's influence at stoppage.

Sturt came out after the main break with some real energy and were able to kick the first two goals of the quarter. It was pleasing to see that we had learned from the last time we played

them, where they kicked a few in a row and we were unable to stem the flow. Our midfield played a significant role winning the next few stoppages and getting the ball inside 50 and allowing us to score the next two goals of the quarter. We were able to keep the ball in our half of the ground, kicking four goals five and restricting Sturt to two goals one.

This week we had a real focus of playing a full four quarter game, and I was pleased with the way we went about the last quarter of football. We kicked five goals straight on the back of some very good stoppage work, but more pleasing was our defensive set up which

allowed us to score on turnover. Leading the way with our contested ball effort was Matt Snook, who was instrumental in the middle of the ground with 11 clearances but was able to sneak forward and reward himself with a couple of goals. Cole Gerloff and Jack Yates both played critical roles on the day and applied outstanding pressure across the ground. Our backline was ably led by a couple of our more mature men in Andrew Bradley and Max Proud, but it was Darcy Bailey (our 100-gamer) who was instrumental in setting up a number of our movements from the back half of the ground.