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BAYS BACK INTO IT AS EAGLES FEEL THE PINCH



CAPEL'S BEST

Gleneig: Snook, McBean, Bailey, Pink, Allen, Gerloff, Partington.

Eagles: Clarke, Knight, Hardie, Ballenden, Mutch, Ellis-Yolmen.

GOALS

Gleneig: McBean, Hosie 3, Leck, Reynolds 2, Allen, Bradley, Snook. Eagles: Ballenden 3, Ellis-Yolmen, Pearce 2, Guilhaus, Hardie.

INJURIES

Gleneig: Moore (ankle), Proud (nose).

UMPIRES

Sobieraj, Hardy, Hundertmark. CROWD

1533 at Glenelg Oval.

ANDREW CAPEL

GLENELG coach Brett Hand called for a response and he got it.

After losing flag favouritism by being thumped by a total of 129 points in the previous two weeks by Adelaide and South Adelaide, the Tigers on Saturday produced a stunning form turnaround.

Under serious minor round pressure for the first time in the Hand era, Glenelg convincingly beat back-toback premier Woodville-West Torrens by 25 points at the Bay, casting major doubt over the Eagles' threepeat hopes.

The margin wasn't reflective of the Tigers' superiority, as they led by 50 points at half-time – having kept the Eagles goalless – and a game-high 57 points early in the final term.

"We had some chats with the leadership group and players during the week, we came with a good attitude and executed our game plan really well," Hand said. "We changed a few things up personnel and position-wise and it worked. We needed to respond and we responded well, which was really pleasing."

The Tigers, led brilliantly by veteran midfielder Matthew Snook, quickly turned the re-match of last year's grand finalists into a one-sided affair. They matched their dismal three-goal effort against South last week – their lowest return in 11 years – in the opening 12 minutes.

Young midfielder Brady Searle set the ball rolling with a powerful run through the centre square before delivering the ball superbly to forward Nick Leck as the Tigers took early advantage of the strong wind blowing towards Glenelg Primary School.

Key forwards Lachie Hosie and Liam McBean then got in on the goalkicking act as the Bays continued to go long and direct, using the wind with great effect.

Displaying a ferocious desire for the ball and gang-tackling its opponents, Glenelg raced 41 points clear at quarter-time, while keeping the Eagles scoreless.

It then sealed the game in the second quarter, kicking two goals into the wind while restricting the visitors to four behinds, to lead by 50 points at the long break.

"The way we defended in the second quarter set the game up for us," Hand said.

Woodville-West Torrens, which had Ken Farmer Medal leader Daniel Menzel blanketed by Toby Pink, took until 19 minutes into the third quarter to register its first major, when Connor Ballenden waltzed into an open goal following a defensive turnover.

It kicked three consecutive majors in nine minutes and six goals to two in the final term to add some respectability to the scoreboard. But it was a case of too little, too late.

"Glenelg was tougher around the ball early, wanted it more than we did, which was disappointing," said Eagles coach Jade Sheedy, whose side slumped to sixth.

"We fought the game out well, but it was too late and the scoreboard flattered us.

"We didn't play our Eagles brand, which is unsociable and contested, and we have to get back to that."



