

# High-flying Roosters' flag statement

ANDREW CAPEL

NORTH Adelaide has one hand on the SANFL minor premiership after making a major flag statement against Glenelg at the Bay on Saturday afternoon.

The impressive Roosters, whose 51-point victory pushed them a win plus percentage clear at the top of the table with two minor round series remaining, were too classy, too quick, too tough and too disciplined for a disappointing Tigers team that hardly gave a yelp after quarter-time.

After trailing by seven points at the first change in a battle of the top two teams, North kicked nine of the next 10 goals in the second and third quarters to blow the game wide open.

Its convincing win, along with its league-best percentage of 57.7, has virtually guaranteed it a precious top-three spot and the double chance in the finals.

The minor premiership is also its to lose.

"We really set ourselves for this game, it was a real test and we wanted to make sure that we passed the test, which we did," Roosters coach Jacob Surjan said of a result that was crucial in the context of the season.

"Glenelg was second on the ladder for a reason and we know the importance of finishing near the top of the table heading into the finals and this is a good step towards that.

"I thought we were ruthless from the start of the game to the end of the game, that we were at Glenelg all day and that our pressure and speed was first-class."

North slaughtered Glenelg in the ruck, where Mitch Harvey was dominant with 19 disposals, eight clearances and 33 hit-outs against the inexperienced pair of Angus Cole and Nick Minchin, helping his side win centre clearances 15-6.

Harvey's influence helped his gun midfielders Campbell Combe (26 disposals and a remarkable 20 tackles) and Aaron Young (27 disposals, two goals) control the centre square, while Frank Szekely shone on the wing with three classy goals and explosive forward Nigel Lockyer Jnr booted four.

Key defender Karl Finlay restricted triple Ken Farmer Medallist Liam McBean to only one goal.

The Tigers, who lost their previous clash against the Roosters in round 6 by two points following a late Young goal, had little drive through the midfield, with Magarey Medallist Luke Partington having just 14 disposals and his star sidekick Matthew Snook (19) unusually subdued.

Glenelg also paid the price for some undisciplined acts, particularly from forward Michael Virgin, who was given the task of tagging North captain Alex Spina.

Coach Brett Hand said the Tigers were "beaten at our own game".

"We were beaten in contested ball and groundball-gets and were really outthunted around the contest," he said. "We also turned the ball over too many times and wasted opportunities to kick goals, which killed us."

	<b>NORTH</b>	2.3 8.6 13.9 16.12	<b>108</b>
	<b>GLENELG</b>	3.4 4.8 7.10 7.15	<b>57</b>

**CAPEL'S BEST**

**North:** C. Combe, Young, Harvey, Szekely, Lockyer, Finlay, W. Combe, Wigg. **Glenelg:** Allen, Bradley, Searle, Rayson.

**GOALS**

**North:** Lockyer 4, Brazel, Szekely 3, Young 2, Ramsey, W. Combe, Grubb, Minervini. **Glenelg:** Allen 2, Yates, Reynolds, Searle, Hosie, McBean.

**UMPIRES**

Lewis, Scott, Medlin.

**CROWD**

2047 at ACH Group Stadium, Glenelg.



North Adelaide's Nigel Lockyer Jr celebrates one of his four goals in the Roosters' 51-point win against Glenelg. Picture: Morgan Sette

	P	W	L	FOR	AGNST	PTS	%
<b>NORTH ADELAIDE</b>	16	12	4	1449	1037	24	58.2
<b>ADELAIDE</b>	16	11	5	1507	1112	22	57.5
<b>NORWOOD</b>	16	11	5	1171	1003	22	53.8
<b>GLENELG</b>	16	11	5	1212	1133	22	51.6
<b>STURT</b>	16	10	6	1143	1038	20	52.4
<b>WOODVILLE-WTORRENS</b>	16	8	8	1141	1152	16	49.7
<b>SOUTH ADELAIDE</b>	16	7	9	1017	1056	14	49.0
<b>CENTRAL DISTRICT</b>	16	4	12	982	1254	8	43.9
<b>PORT ADELAIDE</b>	16	4	12	941	1349	8	41.0
<b>WEST ADELAIDE</b>	16	2	14	999	1428	4	41.1

## Tigers fall to the ladder-leaders

– Brett Hand, Senior Coach

[glenelgfc.com.au](http://glenelgfc.com.au)

ACH Group Stadium, Saturday 6th August, 2:10pm

It turned out to be a good winter's day for football despite the forecasts, but unfortunately we didn't produce the type of football we were hoping to for long enough against a very strong North Adelaide team.

After giving up two early goals from poor turnovers, the first quarter turned out to be a good quarter of football and we were able to put good pressure on North around the ground. Although we failed to make the most of our chances. The players were

upbeat at quarter time and we were pleased with the way we were going about things. We just needed to reduce our errors and make the most of our chances.

In the second quarter, North managed to give themselves the lead after kicking another couple of early goals on the back of some good passages of play. While we then managed to take the sting out of the game and keep the ball in our forward half for a good period of time, we were only able to kick one goal four to North's six

goals three, with three late goals coming from a couple of undisciplined acts.

Scoreboard pressure is critical in games and we weren't able to do this on Saturday. Instead of going into half time right in the game, we were 22 points down. The second half continued in the same vein as the first, with equal inside 50s and us winning clearances. But we were unable to score from these which was disappointing, kicking three goals seven to eight goals six.

The playing group were disappointed with themselves and our inability to impact the scoreboard. We have had a good look at this and will continue to work on this, ensuring we are prepared for the final two games of the minor rounds. We know the importance of our next game and we look forward to the big challenge ahead of us against Norwood. We looking forward to seeing you all there on Friday night.